



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, 16 October 2014

Subject	Page
PRIVILEGE	3463
Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee.....	3463
PETITIONS	3463
TABLED PAPERS	3464
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	3464
Queensland Economy.....	3464
Infrastructure.....	3464
Queensland Economy.....	3465
Disaster Recovery.....	3466
Pirates of the Caribbean 5.....	3467
Cost of Living.....	3468
Error in Answer to a Question.....	3468
MOTION	3468
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date.....	3468
ABSENCE OF MINISTER	3469
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	3469
Reports	3469
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 52—Portfolio Subordinate	
Legislation tabled between 6 May 2014 and 5 August 2014.....	3469
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 53—Annual Report 2013-14.....	3469
EDUCATION AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE	3469
Report	3469
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 38—Subordinate Legislation	
tabled between 7 May 2014 and 5 August 2014.....	3469
AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	3469
Report	3469
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee: Report No. 48—	
Subordinate legislation tabled between 4 June and 5 August 2014.....	3469

Table of Contents – Thursday, 16 October 2014

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE	3469
Report	3469
<i>Tabled paper: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 77—Subordinate</i>	
<i>legislation tabled between 5 August 2014 and 25 August 2014.....</i>	3469
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	3470
Police Union; Government Advertising	3470
Police Union; Sale of Public Assets, Consultants.....	3470
Ipswich West Electorate, Economy.....	3471
Electricity Prices	3472
Morayfield Electorate, Economy.....	3472
Lease of Public Assets.....	3473
Beaudesert Electorate, Economy	3474
Strong Choices, Government Advertising.....	3474
Maryborough Electorate, Economy.....	3475
Sale of Public Assets, Consultation.....	3476
Ferry Grove Electorate, Economy	3476
Gold Coast City Council.....	3477
Albert Electorate, Economy.....	3478
Biodiesel	3478
Gympie Electorate, Strong Choices	3479
Police Union	3480
Queensland Economy	3480
Biosecurity.....	3481
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT.....	3481
School Group Tour	3481
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	3481
Report No. 12, Motion to Take Note	3481
LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE	3486
Report No. 73, Motion to Take Note	3486
Report No. 74, Motion to Take Note	3486
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	3488
Report No. 55, Motion to Take Note	3488
QUEENSLAND BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	3491
Second Reading	3491
<i>Tabled paper: Article from the Reporter, Brisbane, dated 19 September 2014, titled 'Affordability</i>	
<i>key to housing plans'.</i>	3495
<i>Tabled paper: Media release, dated 13 September 2014, by the Minister for Housing and Public</i>	
<i>Works, Hon. Tim Mander MP, titled 'New era for Logan housing'.</i>	3495
<i>Tabled paper: Department of Housing and Public Works: Logan Renewal Initiative—Information</i>	
<i>for tenants and applicants.</i>	3495
<i>Tabled paper: Letter, dated 13 September 2014, from Mr Neil Castles, Director-General,</i>	
<i>Department of Housing and Public Works, to an applicant.</i>	3495
<i>Tabled paper: Letter, dated 13 September 2014, from Mr Neil Castles, Director-General,</i>	
<i>Department of Housing and Public Works.</i>	3495
<i>Tabled paper: Webpage, dated 16 October 2014, titled 'Issue 10, September 2014, Department</i>	
<i>of Housing and Public Works'.</i>	3495
<i>Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from Mr Neil Castles, Director-General, Department of Housing</i>	
<i>and Public Works, to Ms Deborah Aldridge, Manager, Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc.</i>	3495
Consideration in Detail.....	3496
Clauses 1 to 80—	3496
<i>Tabled paper: Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation</i>	
<i>Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes to Hon. Tim Mander's amendments.</i>	3500
Clauses 1 to 80, as amended, agreed to.....	3500
Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.....	3500
Third Reading	3500
Long Title.....	3500
QUEENSLAND PLAN BILL.....	3500
Second Reading	3500
<i>Tabled paper: Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 51—Queensland Plan Bill</i>	
<i>2014, government response.</i>	3501
<i>Tabled paper: Queensland Government: A plan for the future: the Queensland government</i>	
<i>response to the Queensland Plan, infrastructure.....</i>	3504
<i>Tabled paper: Webpage titled 'The Queensland Plan: Queenslanders' 30-year vision'.</i>	3504
<i>Tabled paper: Queensland Government: A plan for the future: the Queensland government</i>	
<i>response to the Queensland Plan, regions.....</i>	3504
PRIVILEGE.....	3507
Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member	3507
ETHICS COMMITTEE.....	3507
Reports	3507
<i>Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 149—Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar</i>	
<i>on 16 June 2014 relating to an alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members'</i>	
<i>Interests.....</i>	3507
<i>Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 150—Report on a right of reply No. 27.</i>	3507
<i>Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 151—Matters of privilege referred by the Speaker</i>	
<i>on 8 and 15 May 2014 relating to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by a member.</i>	3507

Table of Contents – Thursday, 16 October 2014

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	3507
V8 Supercars	3508
Currumbin Electorate, Cost of Living	3508
Wynnum and Manly Districts Meals on Wheels Association	3509
Kuranda Festival; World Cassowary Day; R4 World Rafting Championships	3509
Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service; Tuberculosis Treatment Services	3510
Teacher Aides and School Cleaners	3510
Water Prices	3511
Beaudesert Town Centre Bypass	3511
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Bundle of documents regarding the Beaudesert Town Centre bypass	3512
Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service	3512
Safe Night Out Strategy	3513
Agribusiness	3513
Freedom Park, Hervey Bay	3514
Algeria Electorate, School Funding	3514
Communify; Spring Hill Alive Festival; Kadri, Mr A	3515
Moranbah, Fly-in Fly-out Workforce	3515
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Email, dated 26 September 2014, to the member for Dalrymple, Mr Shane Knuth MP, from Mr Peter Finlay, regarding the loss of jobs at BMA Coal	3516
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 27 September 2014, to the member for Dalrymple, Mr Shane Knuth MP, from Trehan Stenton, regarding the redundancy of 700 employees from the Isaac region	3516
Carina Leagues Club Lady Spartans Basketball Team	3516
Cleveland Electorate, Infrastructure Survey	3517
Lease of Public Assets	3518
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 10 October 2014, to the member for Gaven, Dr Alex Douglas MP, from Mr Arthur L Miller, Managing Director of the Earle Haven Retirement Village, regarding the Gold Coast City Council water rates notices of July 2014	3518
Ipswich West Electorate, Roads	3518
Police Union; Yeerongpilly Electorate, Industrial Odours; Member for Ashgrove	3519
Biggera Waters State School	3520
Central Queensland	3520
Herbert River Improvement Trust	3521
Southport CBD	3521
Kurilpa Riverfront Renewal Plan	3522
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Non-conforming petition referring to the brief period of time that residents have to respond to the Kurilpa Riverfront Renewal Draft Master Plan	3522
Bulimba Electorate, Public Transport	3522
Greenslopes Electorate, Sporting Clubs	3523
St David's Neighbourhood Centre	3524
Stretton Electorate	3525
Glencore Greek Fest	3525
PRIVILEGE	3526
Ethics Committee Report No. 149	Error! Bookmark not defined.
MOTION	3526
Citizen's Right of Reply	3526
QUEENSLAND PLAN BILL	3527
Second Reading	3527
Division: Question put—That the bill be now read a second time	3538
Resolved in the affirmative	3538
Consideration in Detail	3538
Clauses 1 to 7, as read, agreed to	3538
Clause 8—	3538
Division: Question put—That clause 8, as read, stand part of the bill	3539
Resolved in the affirmative	3539
Clause 8, as read, agreed to	3539
Clause 9—	3539
Division: Question put—That clause 9, as read, stand part of the bill	3542
Resolved in the affirmative	3542
Clause 9, as read, agreed to	3542
Clause 8—	3543
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Plan Bill 2014, explanatory notes to Hon. Andrew Powell's amendments	3543
Clause 8, as amended, agreed to	3543
Clauses 10 to 41—	3543
Clauses 10 to 41, as amended, agreed to	3544
Schedule 1, as read, agreed to	3544
Schedule 2—	3544
Schedule 2, as amended, agreed to	3544
Third Reading	3544
Long Title	3544
MOTION	3544
South East Queensland Regional Plan	3544

Table of Contents – Thursday, 16 October 2014

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	3545
ADJOURNMENT	3545
Goodna Rugby League	3545
Mount Ommaney Electorate, Schools.....	3545
Breast Cancer Awareness Month	3546
Woodridge Electorate, University Placements	3546
Fraser Coast, Anzac Centennial Projects	3547
Keperra Bowl	3547
Cairns Regional Air Services, Rex Airlines.....	3548
Caboolture Hospital; Burpengary Meadows State School.....	3549
Mount Isa-Townsville Rail Line.....	3549
Albert Electorate, Rural Fire Brigade	3550
ATTENDANCE	3551


THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2014

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee

 **Madam SPEAKER:** On 18 June 2014 I received a letter from the Minister for Education, Training and Employment about a matter of privilege relating to statements made by the Leader of the Opposition. The minister alleges that the Leader of the Opposition intentionally misled the House in her budget reply speech by referring to the last two state budgets and claiming that there have been 'massive budget cuts' in relation to Education and that there were 'teachers losing their jobs'. The minister disputes both assertions and provides evidence that the budget for Education has actually increased in the last two budgets and that no teacher has lost their job because of budget decisions made by the government.

I sought further information and in correspondence received on 8 July 2014 the Leader of the Opposition provided further information regarding her statements. In relation to the first issue of alleged budget cuts, the Leader of the Opposition accepts that the budget for Education has increased in total in the last two budgets but contends that the make-up of funding sources which constitute the total budget support her statement. As I have stated in previous rulings, the nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different statistics or methods of calculation. Of course, this does not preclude the question of whether, in using different methods of calculation, a member was deliberately misleading the House.

In relation to the second aspect of the complaint regarding 'teachers losing their jobs' because of the budgets, the Leader of the Opposition refers to various answers to questions on notice to support the statement made. The claim that teachers have lost their jobs through the budgets referred to is a very specific and serious claim. However, the information provided to me by the Leader of the Opposition does not necessarily support the statements made. If the assumption cannot reasonably be made from the material it leaves open the issue of intent.

I remind all members that, if a matter of privilege is raised regarding their statements, it would help if the member chose to provide in the House a clarification or apology at the earliest opportunity. It has been refreshing to see this occur in this session of parliament and I expect the hardworking members of the Ethics Committee probably find it equally refreshing.

Referral to the Ethics Committee should not be interpreted as a determination of guilt but on this matter, in the absence of sufficient explanation and with a prima facie matter to be investigated, this stands referred to the Ethics Committee.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petitions, lodged by the honourable members indicated—

Moreton Bay Regional Council, Draft Planning Scheme

Mrs D'Ath, from 317 petitioners, requesting the House to require the Moreton Bay Regional Council to release the new draft planning scheme to the public and undertake wide ranging and proper consultation with all affected residents and the broader community and businesses for a minimum of six weeks [\[6267\]](#).

Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, Claim Limit

Mr Wellington, from 134 petitioners, requesting the House to implement measures to remove the claim limit that is currently set at the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal [\[6268\]](#).

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

Cannon Hill Train Station Parking

Mrs Trad, from 348 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise funding for a feasibility study to determine the most effective way to provide for better parking options around the Cannon Hill Train Station for Cannon Hill commuters [6269, 6270].

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3)—

Edmonton, Mill Road

689 petitioners, requesting the House to retain the parcel of land at Mill Road, Edmonton which has been strategically acquired for the provision of future hospital health and services for the greater Cairns area [6271].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

SPEAKER'S PAPER TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following Speaker's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

[6272](#) Queensland Integrity Commissioner—Annual Report 2013-14

MEMBER'S PAPER TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following member's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Mulgrave (Mr Pitt)—

[6273](#) Non-conforming petition relating to a request to retain Queensland Health land at Mill Road Edmonton

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Queensland Economy



Hon. CKT NEWMAN (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (9.35 am): This government is working hard to get our economy firing, to get businesses powering on and to deliver more jobs for Queenslanders. The latest ANZ-Property Council survey of business confidence released today confirms that we are succeeding. It shows that confidence in Queensland's construction sector has risen by seven points in the December 2014 quarter, up to 143 points. That is eight points above the national average and rates second, just behind New South Wales. That is five consecutive quarters above the national average of business confidence in the construction sector here in Queensland. The survey also showed that respondents expect strong growth in their forward work schedules and staffing levels.

These results are no accident. We have worked hard to get the construction industry going. We have reformed Queensland's planning system to encourage new development. We have signed off more than 8,390 Great Start Grants, providing cost-of-living relief for families and boosting construction. We have also had compliments from the likes of Harry Triguboff, a Sydney based developer, who says that our criminal gang crackdown has given new life to the construction industry on the Gold Coast.

Our ongoing support for the construction industry and all of our four-pillar industries is all about jobs for Queenslanders. Recent ABS figures confirm that Queensland's annual trend jobs growth of 1.4 per cent remains higher than the national average at 1.2 per cent. In the year to September, around 31,600 jobs were created in Queensland in trend terms, the second highest of any Australian state.

We remain focused on growing the economy and creating jobs. That is why we have a strong plan to invest in new projects. Our \$8.6 billion Strong Choices Investment Program will build infrastructure, creating up to 25,000 new jobs for Queenslanders. It will also put new investment into Queensland based innovation and entrepreneurship to stimulate even more business and jobs growth. Our \$3.4 billion cost-of-living fund will put more money back into the pockets of everyday Queenslanders, also helping to stimulate the economy and jobs. This government has a strong record and a strong plan to invest in job-creating infrastructure, get cost of living down and further grow the Queensland economy to create the jobs of the future.

Infrastructure



Hon. JW SEENEY (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.38 am): Our government understands how important it is to create an environment in which the private sector once again has the confidence to invest in projects and

infrastructure that will grow new jobs and new business opportunities for Queenslanders. We recognise the desperate need in regional Queensland in particular to work with councils to build the catalytic infrastructure that builds communities—infrastructure that will facilitate the growth of cities and towns where Queenslanders want to live and work in the future; infrastructure projects that will support growth in industry, retail and residential developments; projects that will get things moving in the Queensland economy.

Our regional economic development strategy, RegionsQ, illustrates that commitment and will ensure a whole-of-government approach to supercharging regional economies to create strong and vibrant communities. Our Priority Development Infrastructure program—or PDIs—is a co-investment program that will enable Economic Development Queensland to invest in catalytic projects such as road, water supply, sewerage and stormwater infrastructure that will enable further investment to get developments happening.

Importantly, EDQ's investment in PDIs will be recoverable as development is enabled so it can be reinvested in further catalytic infrastructure in the future. Today I am announcing the first three priority development infrastructure projects where EDQ will be a co-investor: one in Far North Queensland, one in Central Queensland and one in Southern Queensland. In Cairns we will partner with the Cairns Regional Council and Satterley Property Group to fund infrastructure for the Mount Peter Master Planned Area. Our co-investment through EDQ will enable the construction of trunk water and sewer infrastructure for residential development to begin on the first 1,000 lots in the long awaited Mount Peter Master Planned Area. Covering over 3,300 hectares in total, Mount Peter will ultimately provide an estimated 18,500 homes for 40,000 residents.

We will also partner with the Rockhampton Regional Council and Central Queensland University to fund a new four-way signalised intersection in the first stage of the main street for the CQU Rockhampton Priority Development Area. This relatively small start-up investment will be a catalyst for the development of the CQU Rockhampton Priority Development Area into a world-class mixed use village incorporating university, residential, retail and commercial spaces for the community to enjoy. We anticipate that between 2,000 and 2,500 new homes, including a mix of detached houses, townhouses and units, will be built within the priority development area over the next 10 to 15 years. It will be a big boost to the Rockhampton economy.

Finally, I can announce that in the third priority development infrastructure project, we will partner with the Scenic Rim Regional Council, the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Mirvac and Eureka Funds Management to fund the Beaudesert town bypass. Again we believe that this development will be the catalyst for the Bromelton Industrial Estate, a major transport and logistic hub, and we will also support future redevelopment of the Beaudesert CBD. The Beaudesert bypass is a key project in the ongoing development of the 15,000 hectare Bromelton State Development Area about six kilometres west of the Beaudesert township.

By supporting priority development infrastructure projects like these, our government is helping to create communities, jobs and business opportunities for all Queenslanders. Economic Development Queensland's co-investment in priority development infrastructure will be recovered from the new developments and rolled into future catalytic infrastructure projects that will provide jobs, business opportunities and economic growth for all Queensland communities.

Queensland Economy



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (9.42 am): Growing the Queensland economy and supporting businesses so they can create jobs has been a key focus of this LNP government. We have focused on developing the four pillars of our economy: agriculture, tourism, construction and resources. We have also cut red and green tape to make it easier for businesses to invest and grow in our great state. But we do know that we need to do more and this government has a strong plan to securely fund the future and develop job-creating infrastructure. Our Strong Choices plan will allow us to pay down debt by \$25 billion and put \$8.6 billion into building the infrastructure our growing state is going to need. We are also putting \$3.4 billion into a cost-of-living relief fund.

Treasury modelling shows that the measures we are proposing could support up to 33,600 new jobs over the period from 2015-16 through to 2027-28. According to Treasury modelling, our \$8.6 billion series of infrastructure investment funds would generate up to 25,000 full-time jobs.

Importantly, our proposed cost-of-living relief fund would support a further 8,600 jobs. The modelling by the independent officers of Queensland Treasury and Trade finds that implementing our Strong Choices plan would lead to an additional \$8.1 billion in gross state product in the period to 2027-28. In other words, additional expenditure as a result of our plan would be equivalent to a once-off 0.4 percentage point contribution to economic growth.

Our Strong Choices plan delivers for Queenslanders wherever they live. So I was absolutely astounded to hear on the radio this morning that, given the opportunity, the crossbenchers in this parliament, led by the member for Mount Isa, intend to vote against the plan. Apparently they are going to vote against \$1.5 billion for rural and regional roads, \$1 billion for future schools, \$700 million for rural and regional economic development, \$300 million for community hospitals and \$500 million for dealing with natural disasters. That is what the Independents in this place want to deny people in rural and regional Queensland. How will the member for Mount Isa explain to the family of two adults and two children in his electorate that he wants to cost them \$860 by voting against electricity price relief? How will these members defend a position that will constrain economic development and keep jobs away from their electorates? And when it comes to paying down the \$80 billion debt that we have, what is their plan? What do they say they are going to do? Let me tell members. The member for Mount Isa enlightened us on ABC Radio this morning that, just like the Labor party, they have no plan.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Just like the member for Mulgrave, the shadow Treasurer, who says he has no plan—except perhaps his secret plan to increase taxes—the member for Mount Isa’s plan, as he told ABC 612 Brisbane this morning, is ‘the bottom line will sort itself out’.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: As Steve Austin said, ‘Well, that’s not much of a plan.’ I pity the household finances of the member for Mount Isa because the only way he personally gets an outcome out of this is because the bottom line will sort itself out. The future of Queensland, the future of rural and regional Queensland, the future of the students who will need the new schools we will be building, the future of those people who are ageing and will need the hospitals that we are providing, the future of businesses throughout the state who will need the infrastructure that we will be providing is too important to be left to a cacophony of no plans from the Labor Party and someone who thinks that the bottom line will sort itself out.

The only government that has a strong plan to pay down debt, invest in infrastructure and provide cost-of-living relief is this government—a strong united government with a strong plan for a bright future.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Knuth interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members! I warn the member for Dalrymple under standing order 253A. I have the call.

Disaster Recovery



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (9.47 am): When disaster strikes, the economies of local communities take a hit. How big that hit is depends on how quickly vital infrastructure like roads, bridges and water treatment plants can be repaired and put back online. The government recognised this and put in place a range of improvements to up the speed of recovery in local communities. An example of the success of these improvements is the recovery from Cyclone Oswald in Bundaberg. Flood devastated Bundaberg has recovered quickly with rebuilding roads, water infrastructure and bridges. In 2011 it took the Bundaberg Regional Council 18 months to get \$25 million worth of repair work to market. In 2013 it took four months to get \$40 million worth of work to market. This is testament to the relationship that the state and local governments now share and is in stark contrast to the centralist paternalistic recovery that Labor oversaw.

If vital roads and bridges are taken out, commerce stops. People cannot get to the shops, and even if they could there is no stock. Employees struggle to get to work, and even if they could there is no power. The longer this goes on, the greater the impact this has, particularly on small business.

Communities have the double whammy of taking the hit of the initial disaster and then not being able to trade their way out of it. The key to helping communities get back on their feet is speed. Nowhere is that better demonstrated than the Bundaberg port. The restoration, dredging and repairs at the Port of Bundaberg after Oswald were undertaken and funded under the NDRRA to open the port to large export vessels. The January floods damaged the shipping channel and navigation markers, stranding 180,000 tonnes of the previous season's sugar crush in storage.

The speedy restoration of the port's infrastructure meant that that region was open for business in time for the 2013 season. Queensland Sugar Ltd thanked the state and federal governments for ensuring that the Bundaberg port was brought back to full operation and for the urgency with which the work was undertaken.

However, it is not just recovery that is important to the economy. Business and communities need to have confidence that sensible decisions are made. What business is going to set up operations in a community where the infrastructure is constantly destroyed and built back the same way? That is why we instigated the Betterment Fund, to give confidence to business that they can reinvest in recovering communities. A classic example is the Gayndah water intake project, which was the first betterment project approved. It was rebuilt but then, just as works were finished, it was destroyed in 2013. The Gayndah water intake betterment project saw the construction of a new raw water main to the water treatment plant, a new submersible-style pumping station and a water intake upstream of the Claude Wharton Weir. The water supply intake on the Burnett River provides the town's only water supply and supports a population of approximately 2,000, as well as local primary industries. Making that piece of infrastructure more flood resilient will help secure Gayndah's water supply and improve the efficiency and reliability of that important piece of community infrastructure in the case of extreme weather.

One thing the government has really taken hold of is the importance of mitigation. One of the big killers of local economies is the ability of business to access or afford insurance. We have embarked on the biggest disaster mitigation program seen in the state for some time and it has delivered results. This week is Get Ready Week and we are encouraging business to use this time to put in place some contingency plans to make sure they can continue to trade in the aftermath of a disaster. The business community, large or small, can look at the performance of the government and have confidence that everything is being done to lower the risk to their business and give them the best conditions to increase their investment in local communities.

Pirates of the Caribbean 5



Hon. IB WALKER (Mansfield—LNP) (Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts) (9.51 am): The only eagerly awaited pirates in the world are about to raise the Jolly Roger in Queensland. It gives me great pleasure to update the House on my recent announcement that the fifth instalment of *Pirates of the Caribbean* will be filmed exclusively in Queensland. Make no mistake: Queensland hunted hard and smart to secure this deal. We fought off challenges from Mexico and from southern states, and we worked closely with our federal counterparts, most notably Queensland senator and Federal Minister for Arts, the Hon. George Brandis QC, to broker this deal exclusively for Queensland.

Pirates 5 will be the largest international feature ever to film in Australia and is confirmed for the Gold Coast Studios and Port Douglas, with more Queensland sites to be announced. The film is an important boost to Queensland's screen industry and the state's economy, bringing in at least \$100 million to Queensland and creating thousands of local jobs for cast, crew, stunt performers, extras and contractors. One of the first hires on *Pirates 5* was a Queensland production manager, Jennifer Cornwell, who has just finished working on the local film *My Mistress*.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr WALKER: Not my mistress; *My Mistress*. These international blockbusters offer an unprecedented stage for our Queensland screen professionals. *Pirates 5* is a considerably larger production than *San Andreas*, which employed more than 3,000 Queensland crew, cast, extras and contractors. It is also larger than Angelina Jolie's *Unbroken*, which employed about 3,180 locals.


Honourable members interjected.

Mr WALKER: Madam Speaker, I cannot help it if I mix with the stars. It is what it is. Rockhampton-born actor Alex Russell, who secured a role in *Unbroken*, has already gone on to act in two further international features, giving us a clear example of the success that breeds success. As the pirates go up the coast, an estimated 20,000 bed nights will be booked in Far North Queensland during the tourism low season, which will provide an incredible boost to the region.

By attracting *Pirates 5* we stimulate tourism, meeting one of our four-pillar economic objectives to double tourist expenditure in Queensland by 2020. *Pirates* will promote our state to the film's global fan base, which is represented by 24.4 million followers on its official Facebook site. That is 1.1 million more people than the Australian population. More than 15,000 *Pirates 5* results appear on Google, including headlines from countries such as Malaysia, India, USA and UK. Together with our tourism colleagues, we intend to fully maximise the exposure to Queensland, particularly tropical North Queensland, in the lead-up to the film's release in 2017.

That is just a taste of what we are going to do with *Pirates*. If it is the world's best rum that Captain Jack Sparrow has a thirst for, we have that, too.

Cost of Living

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.54 am): This government understands what Queensland families need and that they are feeling cost-of-living pressures, and we are doing everything we can to help solve those issues. Over the past 2½ years, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General has overseen some landmark red-tape reduction reforms that have helped boost our economy. Reducing red tape for business and consumers not only makes life easier but also removes the barriers to trade that help create jobs and opportunities for Queenslanders.

Whether it be in the property industry, the construction industry or the tourism industry, I am proud to have overseen some very practical changes to make life easier for people. Let us look at some examples: I can announce to the House today that next month when we proclaim the property agencies and motor dealers legislation, as a consequence of the bills that will pass through this House government forms will reduce from 38 to 21. That is a 44.7 per cent reduction in government forms to buy and sell property in Queensland. Of course, those changes are on top of reintroducing the principal place of residence stamp duty concession, the Great Start Grant and the removal of the sustainability declaration.


I can advise the House that, in just under two years, the medium processing times that we talked about with liquor licensing have decreased by 50 per cent, for a restaurant by 42 per cent and for licence transfers by 27 per cent. Members will remember the Monto amendment affecting community groups, local shows and rodeos. No longer do 4,500 not-for-profit community organisations have to fill out community liquor permit applications. That is a 73.5 per cent reduction in permit applications. In the tourism industry, no longer do 17,000 hospitality workers have to fill out paperwork and pay \$215 for licence and renewal fees for gaming. We are serious about reboosting our economy. Only the LNP has a strong plan to reduce debt, free up the funds for job-creating infrastructure and lower the cost of living for Queensland families.

Error in Answer to a Question

Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (9.57 am): I rise to correct the record. In a reply to a question asked during question time yesterday, I referred to the number of social houses that the Labor government had sold. I said between 2000 and 2013. Of course, I meant between 2000 and 2011.

MOTION

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.57 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the report date for the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's inquiry on strategies to prevent and reduce criminal activity in Queensland, referred by the House on 22 May 2014, be extended to 28 November 2014.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.58 am): I wish to advise the House that the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing is absent from the House today due to short-term ill health.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Reports

 **Mr DAVIES** (Capalaba—LNP) (9.58 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 52 of the Finance and Administration Committee. This report covers the portfolio subordinate legislation tabled between 6 May 2014 and 5 August 2014 considered by the committee. The subordinate legislation has a disallowance date of 30 October 2014. The committee did not identify any issues regarding consistency with fundamental legislative principles or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation.


Tabled paper: Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 52—Portfolio Subordinate Legislation tabled between 6 May 2014 and 5 August 2014 [\[6274\]](#).

I also lay upon the table of the House report No. 53 of the Finance and Administration Committee. This annual report covers the 2013-14 financial year. In the report the committee has made one recommendation regarding explanatory notes. I take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to the work of the committee over the year. I commend the reports to the House.

Tabled paper: Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 53—Annual Report 2013-14 [\[6275\]](#).

EDUCATION AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE


Report

 **Mrs MENKENS** (Burdekin—LNP) (9.59 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 39 of the Education and Innovation Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 7 May 2014 and 5 August 2014*. The committee has considered the six pieces of subordinate legislation and has found no significant issues, particularly in respect of fundamental legislative principles or lawfulness. Three pieces of subordinate legislation—Nos 100, 102 and 125—are proclamations of commenced acts, and no issues were identified. Subordinate legislation No. 101 prescribes CQ University as a dual sector university—the first of its type in Queensland. Subordination legislation No. 103 prescribes requirements relating to apprentices and trainees. Subordinate legislation No. 126 requires 10 matters to be the subject of guidelines developed by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 38—Subordinate Legislation tabled between 7 May 2014 and 5 August 2014 [\[6276\]](#).

AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE


Report

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (10.00 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 48 of the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 4 June and 5 August 2014*.

Tabled paper: Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee: Report No. 48—Subordinate legislation tabled between 4 June and 5 August 2014 [\[6277\]](#).

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report


 **Mr BERRY** (Ipswich—LNP) (10.00 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 77 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 5 August 2014 and 25 August 2014*. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 77—Subordinate legislation tabled between 5 August 2014 and 25 August 2014 [\[6278\]](#).

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Madam SPEAKER: Question time will go to 11.01 am. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Police Union; Government Advertising

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (10.01 am): My question is to the Premier. I refer to Police Union comments that Queenslanders' lives are being put at risk because of a lack of funding, and I ask: will the Premier explain why he is breaching his own advertising code of conduct and wasting tens of millions of taxpayer dollars on the Strong Choices asset sales advertising campaign?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for her question. I am delighted to respond. Firstly, let me say that I have the utmost respect for the Queensland Police Union and we have had a very productive working relationship with them in the last 2½ years that we have been in government. I am very confident that that will continue. However, I must say that I am rather surprised by the comments of the last 24 hours because I do not see anything really that has any basis in fact or truth.

The fact is that the Police Service budget is \$180 million a year more than it was in the last Labor budget. In addition, on a number of occasions we provided supplementary funding to the Queensland Police Service to meet certain needs. For example, when about 12 months ago we promised Queenslanders we would go after criminal gangs we provided significant additional funding to the Queensland Police Service over and above the budget that had been approved by this parliament. I think the figure was around \$12 million extra.

The other example I give members is that I had a request from the Police Commissioner a few weeks ago for \$1½ million extra for certain operational costs—a million dollars of that was for overtime for a 60-day period alone—to ensure that we had all available police out on the beat. That approval was given by the Treasurer and I within, I think, 72 hours of the request being made. We are delighted to do just that to support the commissioner and the Police Service.

I point to two new police helicopters. I point to 1,500 iPad type devices which are out there right now. I point to the secure digital radio network that we are rolling out and that the Labor Party would never deliver.

In relation to the issue about advertising, I assure the House and all honourable members that the guidelines are being followed to the letter by the government advertising committee. But my final point is this—and I am always delighted to answer questions about advertising—I remind all members that we did make a commitment to reduce spending on advertising by 20 per cent compared to the previous Labor administration. In fact, the government that I lead is proud today to report that we have delivered on that promise. In fact, we are spending 37 per cent less on government advertising than the former Bligh government.

We are about strong government. We are about supporting our hardworking men and women who wear the blue uniform. We are about saving money by spending less on advertising. We have the runs on the board.

Police Union; Sale of Public Assets, Consultants

Ms PALASZCZUK: My question is to the Treasurer. I refer to Police Union comments about the Treasurer's financial priorities, and I ask: will the Treasurer explain to Queensland families how much he has spent on asset sales consultants at the very time that police are saying he is putting lives at risk due to a lack of funding?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for her question because it gives me the opportunity to again reinforce my respect and admiration for the hard work that is being done by the men and women in the Queensland Police Service. We know that they often have an unpleasant and difficult job as they go out and protect the community. That is why we made a commitment prior to the last election to increase the number of police—to provide more and better safety and security.

That is why, to date, there are an additional 800 police officers serving Queenslanders. That is why we have moved police officers away from filling in paperwork and forms to actually getting out and doing what they want to do—that is, policing and making Queensland safer for Queenslanders.

As a government, we have been absolutely supportive of the Queensland Police Service. I am able to detail, for example, the extra \$181.8 million that is being spent in the Queensland Police Service—\$181.8 million more than was spent under Labor in 2011-12. We have provided

\$32.35 million to combat criminal motorcycle gang activity, including \$25 million to the Queensland Police Service, and \$5 million extra for Crime Stoppers to help the community help the police deal with these issues.

Our Safe Night Out Strategy has been funded to the tune of \$44.5 million, including additional funding for drug testing. We have provided additional services in terms of policing hubs. We have introduced hub policing for the Gold Coast and Townsville. They are highly mobile and proactive task forces that spend more time on the beat cracking down on crime. We have the toughest antihooning laws in the country. We have tougher monitoring of child sex offenders thus making the job easier for police. We have cracked down on criminal gangs. We have tougher penalties for those who assault police, introduced by the Attorney-General.

We have a comprehensive Safe Night Out Strategy recognising that police do have a tough job in some of those Safe Night Out precincts dealing with drunken and drug fuelled violence. We have put in place a strategy not just to combat it at the tail end, but to get in at the front end as well and make sure that we are doing what we can to reduce the incidences where our police men and women are called out to deal with those matters.

We will continue to do so, whether it is additional funding, as the Premier has indicated, to support police overtime to ensure that our diverse communities are protected in their places of worship, in their homes and in their gathering places. These are all importance things. There is no government in Queensland in the last decade that has stood behind the men and women of the Queensland Police Service with more funding and more services than the Newman LNP government.

(Time expired)

Ipswich West Electorate, Economy

Mr CHOAT: My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier please outline how the government is working to grow the economy, help businesses keep costs down and create jobs in my electorate of Ipswich West?

Mr NEWMAN: I really thank the honourable member for his question because he is one of those members in this House who is truly a local community champion. He is out there all the time working very hard. When I talk to people out in his part of the world—and I do on occasions do absolutely that—the feedback I get is that they know and respect the hardworking local member for Ipswich West, Sean Choat.

Mr Hopper interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: I take the interjection from the member for Condamine. I wonder whether he has managed to make it to the Mount Tyson school lately, but I will move on. We said that we would restore the state's finances. Indeed, the member for Ipswich West has been part of a team that has made the tough calls, the strong choices, and is exactly delivering on that promise—bringing the budget back for the first time in a decade to a surplus position. By getting to a surplus position we immediately take the pressure off the cost of living for all Queenslanders, because when governments spend your money wisely and sensibly they do not have to tax and charge you for their mistakes, unlike the Labor Party, who did just that over their period in office, particularly in the period from 2007 to 2012. We are taking the state forward now and, because of the important choices we have made and because of the plan that we are putting forward for the next election, we are taking more cost-of-living pressure off Queenslanders. Particularly we are doing that, of course, with the \$3.4 billion in the cost-of-living relief fund.

The member has been active in his community, as I have said, and particularly he has told me a story about a business that has done it tough for too long. I am referring to Robbo's Bakery at Karalee. This is a great local business, but it was hit hard particularly by the carbon tax, and the high electricity prices that arose from the carbon tax, and the ill-conceived green schemes of federal and state Labor. That is why he is supporting the \$3.4 billion cost-of-living relief fund that comes from the Strong Choices plan. This initiative will provide real relief to Robbo's Bakery because it means that small businesses like Robbo's Bakery that are on tariff 22 could save \$1,400 over a five-year period if they use more than the averages that have been used for the calculations. It could well be for the case of a bakery that will use a lot of energy in baking bread and pastries and the like. They could save even more. So this is an example firstly of the way the member has worked hard and listened and also of the way the government has a plan to reduce the cost-of-living pressures on families but also on businesses.

Electricity Prices

Mr PITT: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to the statements by financial economist Dr David Willis, who said in relation to the \$3.4 billion sell-off subsidy, 'This very modest family discount does not stop the new power company from increasing prices as it searches for profit for its new shareholders,' and '... the \$5 a week will be wiped out in the first year's price increase.' I ask: is the government raising the expectations of Queenslanders on power prices yet again when the evidence points to prices rising under the LNP's plans for a private power monopoly?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the honourable member for his question and for the opportunity to further discuss the real plan that we have to force down the cost of living, because that is indeed what we are talking about this week in this team. So I thank the member for that question.

I note that there are other commentators around as well in the field of economics. I particularly draw the attention of the honourable member to the words of Professor Quiggin, who is often wheeled out by those opposite to justify some of their arguments in this field. I note that Professor Quiggin has said it does not matter who owns the assets or who is even running them, from what I can see. He says it does not matter. I think the honourable member should be listening perhaps to someone he gives a lot of credibility to. I urge him to think about that.

May I say this in response to the comment also that has been put to me—and I did table this the other day; I certainly talked about this the other day—these are some figures that have been made available by Ernst and Young. They studied price rises in the electricity sector in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. We saw a period from the financial year 1996-97 to 2012-13 being examined. This is what happened to network prices in New South Wales. They went up 122 per cent in that period. In Queensland, prices went up 140 per cent. However, in Victoria, where the assets were privately owned, the network charges went down 18 per cent. In South Australia, in a slightly different period under examination—1998-99 to 2010-11—prices in the network went down 17 per cent.

So there is a very interesting picture here that has developed. We have a plan to take out a huge amount of cost in the system. It is the cost from the ill-conceived and poorly executed former Labor government's solar feed-in tariff scheme. We will meet the obligations to those who quite rightfully have an expectation of getting their 44c—and so they will. But we are taking the cost out of the electricity industry and putting it into the arms of government. The obligation to pay the 44c will be funded from the \$3.4 billion in the cost-of-living relief fund that comes from the Strong Choices plan. It will be guaranteed that the people who quite innocently signed up to this scheme will get their money. However, everybody else in the system will see a huge amount of cost come out—essentially \$3.4 billion worth of cost—and it will put downward pressure on the cost of living for Queensland families and also small businesses, and we are delighted to take that to the election.

Morayfield Electorate, Economy

Mr GRIMWADE: My question without notice is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade. Can the Treasurer outline how the government is working to grow the economy and create more local jobs in my electorate of Morayfield?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Morayfield for his question. The member for Morayfield is a hardworking local who spends plenty of time in his electorate making sure he knows what is going on, working hard even over the weekends in order to make sure that he knows what is going on. He comes from a small business background—a man who prior to coming to government owned and operated three small businesses and employed hundreds of locals including school based trainees and people who had struggled with long-term unemployment. So, coming from that background, it is no surprise that he is such a fierce representative for the small business owners in his community. It is no surprise that the member for Morayfield has been such a fierce advocate for the removal of Labor's taxes on small business such as the job-destroying carbon tax and the job-destroying waste levy. On this side of the House we understand that when you lower the cost of doing business and get government out of the way it makes it easier for the mums and dads who own these small businesses to grow and employ more people.

Unlike those opposite, the government does have a plan for growing the economy and delivering more opportunities for Queenslanders. We are completely focused on doing what we can to grow the four pillars and we are working hard every day to remove unnecessary red tape that is an impediment to business. It is clear that our plan for growing Queensland is starting to bear fruit.

Where economic growth averaged just 2.2 per cent in the last term of Labor, over the next four years it is set to average almost double that. We are seeing increasing economic activity. State-wide trend building approvals have increased 13.2 per cent over the year to August 2014. The number of state-wide trend building approvals has increased by 41.9 per cent since this government's election.

In the Moreton Bay region, in the member's area, building approvals are up 29 per cent—higher than they were 12 months ago—and the value of these approvals is almost \$200 million higher. When you consider that almost 30 per cent of all businesses in the Morayfield electorate are construction businesses, you get a true idea of how important these numbers are to the member's local economy—increased dollars, increased expenditure for a large portion of the business community in Morayfield. That \$200 million will mean more jobs and will lead to increased activity.

We have been working hard to grow construction as one of the four pillars, and of course one of the very first things we did was remove Labor's increase in the transfer duty on the sale of the family home. We introduced the \$15,000 Great Start Grant, and that has helped more than 8,000 Queensland families move into new homes. The numbers show that our focus on construction as one of the pillars is paying dividend. Indeed, the quarterly NAB residential property survey released yesterday shows Queensland has now overtaken Victoria as the strongest performing state. Unlike those opposite, we have a plan for a strong future for Queensland.

(Time expired)

Lease of Public Assets

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. In light of the LNP government's endeavour to convince Queenslanders to agree to asset sales or leases at the next election, will the minister agree to an independent assessment of the projected income that Queensland will lose from those assets over the next 20 years so voters have a clear understanding of what this government is intending to do?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Dalrymple for his recognition that the government is proposing no assets sales but is in fact in its *Strongest & Smartest Choice* final plan proposing the lease of a small number of Queensland government businesses. So I acknowledge that the member for Dalrymple understands that is the case.

Why are we embarking on this program in order to lease some of these businesses on 50-year leases with 49-year options subject to strict conditions? We are doing that, as the member for Dalrymple well knows, because the former Labor government racked up debt. The member for Dalrymple spoke about the fact that the former Labor government racked up debt and had Queensland on a path heading towards \$85 billion worth of debt which the independent Commission of Audit found would go beyond \$100 billion unless restorative action was taken. So we started taking that action and we wound back the debt trajectory from \$85 billion to \$80 billion. We have done that by making some strong decisions, but it is not enough. In order to pay down the debt, we need to do more. The Commission of Audit indicated clearly that just relying on growth would not be enough. In fact, the midterm projections put out by the independent officers of Queensland Treasury and Trade show that if we continued on the same path debt would go to about \$120 billion. A business-as-usual scenario, which I think is what some of those opposite are talking about, would see debt get to \$121 billion. So we have to take some action and that is why we are proposing it.

Unlike those opposite, we are not saying one thing before an election and doing another after. We are remaining absolutely true and faithful to our commitment, and that is that we would have a mature discussion with the people of Queensland about the economic problems we face. I note the member for Mount Isa yesterday in the supplementary appropriation bills debate said we should have a mature debate, and we are doing that. I spent six months travelling the state doing it. We spoke about the choices that we face: massively increasing taxes, reducing services or considering the sale or lease of assets, and we listened to Queenslanders. We listened to them after our draft plan, and we released our draft plan.

Member for Dalrymple, in relation to the assessment of income, if you go to I think page 45 of the final plan it addresses quite frankly and quite upfront that, yes, income will be lost but the loss of income will be about the same as the loss in interest payments due under it. I recommend the strong plan to you for your information.

(Time expired)

Beaudesert Electorate, Economy

Mr KRAUSE: My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier please outline how the government is working to grow the economy and support businesspeople to grow jobs in my electorate of Beaudesert?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the honourable member for the question. One of the immediate things I can do is draw his attention to comments made earlier by the Deputy Premier about infrastructure planning and spending in his electorate, but I also refer to some of the activities of the honourable member in supporting businesses in his community. I am referring to him bringing people together at an energy forum with Minister McArdle recently in Boonah. That is what this government is all about: bringing people together, listening to their issues and coming up with policy responses and programs to ensure that business is supported, to see them employing more people, to support them investing in Queensland and to grow our economy. We are working very hard every single day to facilitate this, but it is really important that it is not just the executive who do this through the departments of state; it is also through the work of local members like the member for Beaudesert. That is why I am very confident that the state is working towards a bright future and very much in the right direction.

By next year we are forecast to once again be the fastest growing state in Australia. Economic growth over the four years to 2016-17 is set to average four per cent, almost double what the Labor Party achieved in its last term in government—almost double. It has not happened by accident. It has happened because of the strong policies and very sensible plans that this government has. Despite being 2½ years into the electoral cycle, the opposition has consistently refused to outline its plan for Queensland. Today, as we saw yesterday and the day before, we see questions it has simply been able to get off Google and in some cases perhaps Wikipedia—authoritative sources indeed, I might say.

It was interesting to note that, despite being asked three times by Steve Austin on ABC Radio last week, the shadow Treasurer refused to outline Labor's economic plan. In contrast, on this side of the chamber we have a very clear, very strong plan. Our plan is about cutting red tape and keeping business costs low. It is about restoring the budget to give business further confidence that the government has control of its finances. That is obvious when looking at the local perspective in Beaudesert and at what the member is doing. The member has told me particularly about Russell and Jenny Jenner, who live in Kalbar and who run a small business called Scenic Rim Lucerne. They will be saving on their electricity prices because of the Strong Choices Cost of Living Fund. They can look forward to those cost savings but only with a strong LNP government.

Strong Choices, Government Advertising

Mrs D'ATH: My question is to the Premier. I refer to the Premier's confirmation this week that his asset sales plan would be implemented through the use of 99-year leases—as he said, '50 years with an option to renew for 49,' which is effectively the same arrangement the Treasurer condemned in 2010 as giving away the farm. So I ask: in the interests of truth in advertising, will the Premier order the scrapping of all Strong Choices advertisements carrying the claim 'no asset sales'?

Mr NEWMAN: Firstly in relation to advertising, I again proudly point out that we made a commitment to cut it by 20 per cent and we have cut it by 37 per cent, based on what the former Labor government was spending. So that is good news. In relation to the question, there were some assertions there. We are not selling assets; we are leasing assets.

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: I will take the interjection from the member for Mulgrave: oh dear, he is wrong. People do believe there is a difference. We know because we have been listening to them.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. I warn members on my left. The Premier has the call and he is answering the question. I call the Premier.

Mr NEWMAN: Over the period of consultation between handing down the budget and releasing the final Strong Choices plan, Queenslanders told us that leasing was far more acceptable. That is why we have this plan: no asset sales. What we are putting forward is a 50-year-lease proposition with an option to renew for 49. It is different from 99 years because to get the option to renew that lease they have to have done the right thing by Queensland families. They have to have delivered on

what they said they were going to do. They have to have maintained the assets that will continue to be owned by the people of Queensland. They have to make sure that they plough investment dollars back in if they want the chance to go again for 49.

Ms Palaszczuk: Truth in advertising; it's gone.

Mr NEWMAN: I will take the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition because it is also part of the answer to the member for Redcliffe's question. What does the material say the government is putting out? It says 50 years with an option to renew for 49. Shall we compare this with the Labor Party? I revealed this week that when they did a deal with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation to see public open space in the member for South Brisbane's electorate go across to the ABC we saw—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. I remind members that there has been a general warning. I will start naming people under the standing orders. Your interjections are not being taken. I call the Premier.

Mr NEWMAN: I remind those opposite that the lease term was 120 years. It was not a 99-year lease; not 50 with an option to renew for, say, 70; not any controls or measures to protect the interests of Queenslanders and perhaps get that public open space back. It was 120 years at the bargain basement price of I think \$100,000 a year for precious inner-city open space. They can ask me any question they like about this Strong Choices plan. It is the right plan because it invests in the infrastructure of this state, it creates 25,000 new jobs and it will lower the cost of living through lower prices in electricity.

Maryborough Electorate, Economy

Mrs MADDERN: My question without notice is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade. Can the Treasurer please outline how the government's strong plan to grow the economy will boost regional communities like Maryborough in my electorate?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Maryborough for her question. On the occasions that I have visited the member for Maryborough's electorate—and there have been a number of them—she has been a fierce advocate for the area she represents. It is a telling fact that she is someone who has been in that area for more than 30 years and she understands it deeply and well, and I congratulate her for her representation. She knows what it takes to start and run her own local business and the unique challenges our regional communities face. The member has been working hard with the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils to identify opportunities for business investment in the region. I also know that the member is not backwards in coming forwards when promoting projects in her region which are worthy of investment, and I have seen that firsthand. In fact, we have had meetings with the development council, the mayor and the member in relation to opportunities in her electorate.

That is why it is so pleasing to stand up here today and talk about the government's strong plan for growing the Queensland economy. We remain steadfastly committed to growing the four pillars of the Queensland economy—in particular, pillars like construction, which accounts for 20 per cent of all businesses in the Maryborough electorate. We have already heard here today about the return to confidence we are seeing in the construction sector. I want to take a moment to pause and reflect on what the National Australia Bank residential property survey for the third quarter of 2014, which was released yesterday, says. This is what the NAB Group Chief Economist, Alan Oster, said—

While the overall index was unchanged, the picture was mixed across the country, with Queensland overtaking Victoria as strongest state ...

House price expectations are stronger in all states, led by Queensland. The Queensland index reached 37 points—which was up 10 points from the previous quarter—overtaking Victoria at 36 points. The demand for investment in existing property by local investors has peaked at 28 per cent in Queensland, the highest level of local market investor activity. As members can see from those figures, the construction industry—one of our four pillars—is doing well.

We have also steadfastly committed to paying down the \$80 billion of Labor debt. I know that the member for Maryborough understands that if we want to see more investments—like the increase in the number of front-line nursing staff we have seen at the Maryborough Hospital—we have to deal with Labor's debt legacy. Our Strong Choices plan released last week outlines just how we are going to do that through a series of asset leases. As I have said before, we are being open and upfront with the people of Queensland about our plan. Importantly, we will not be implementing it until we take it to

the people of Queensland at an election. I am particularly excited about the \$8.6 billion identified for investment in new infrastructure. It will create 11 separate funds, many of which will support communities like the member for Maryborough's, whether that is regional roads or otherwise.

(Time expired)

Sale of Public Assets, Consultation

Dr LYNHAM: My question without notice is to the Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts. Minister, how much in taxpayer funding was spent on numerous consultancies to support the government's decision to put CITEC on the market?

Mr WALKER: The House will be well aware that the Commission of Audit into the government's activities here in Queensland and the disastrous situation in which the government found itself following the departure of the Labor government recommended that CITEC be outsourced from government. The necessity to do that meant that we had to get appropriate professional advice to ensure that we did this in the right way. It is not an easy matter—it is a complex matter—and we wanted to be sure we did it in a way that, firstly, protected the services that CITEC provided not only to the government but also to outside providers and, furthermore and most importantly, ensured that those who worked in CITEC continued to have job security and continued to know that they had a future within the industry. So we make no apology for the fact that consultants have been engaged in order to allow the disposal to proceed.

In doing that, we have made sure that the way in which CITEC will be disposed of, firstly, gives the best return to the Queensland taxpayer, secondly, ensures that the services provided by CITEC will continue to be provided and, thirdly, continues to give job security to those who are employed in CITEC. In regard to that last matter, I can confirm to the House the announcement the government made in relation to those who are working within CITEC—that is, if there is any situation involving a CITEC worker in which anyone who acquires CITEC outside of government is not able to offer a position to that worker then that worker will be provided with a position back in government. In getting the advice we have been able to get from external consultants in ensuring that we are in fact doing the best we can for both the Queensland taxpayer and the employees of CITEC, we have been able to give that assurance, which I think is a very important one to do.

I should say when I am talking about the important changes the government has made in this area of technology that of course we inherited a dreadful situation from the former government. We are all aware of the Health payroll debacle which we were left with by the previous government. I can say that my department has been doing a tremendous job in ensuring that the disaster we were left with is no longer a millstone around the necks of the taxpayers of Queensland. We have through our audit of IT ensured that those at-risk systems are now being attended to. I know that the Minister for Health within his department is dealing with the Health payroll matter. We have put up a dashboard of all of our IT projects so that everything is transparent and what we are doing can be seen by everybody. Any risky projects are there for all to see and for us to be alerted to, and steps have been taken—

(Time expired)

Ferny Grove Electorate, Economy

Mr SHUTTLEWORTH: My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier please outline how the government is working to help the economy and community grow in the electorate of Ferny Grove?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the member for the question. He, as are all members of the LNP team, is an extremely active local member. He is out and about in his electorate; he is out and about in my electorate too with his darn marquee, but that is another story.

One of our key election commitments was to lower the cost of living by cutting waste. We have heard in the last two days about how the government is putting money back into the pockets of Queenslanders. Isn't that an interesting difference compared to what the former government used to do? It used to put its hand in people's pockets and pull their wallets out; we are actually putting money back into people's wallets and ladies' purses because we are working on cutting the cost of living. For the first time ever, public transport fares are going to go down—down by five per cent at the start of November—and there will be no increase in 2015. Did the Labor Party have that in their lexicon? No. Things were going to go up 15 per cent every year.

What about car registration? That is right. The Leader of the Opposition, as a former minister, had something to do with that as well. Family car rego under Labor went from being very economical to being the most expensive in Australia. We have frozen family car rego and I know that there are real savings there for people in the honourable member's electorate. What about buying the most important investment for any Australian and any Queenslander—that is, buying the family home? The average purchase is \$7,000 cheaper today than it was under Labor after they cranked up the tax massively in the 2011 budget.

I know that the member is very active in helping his constituents around the very suburban areas of his electorate. He has been particularly talking to them about how to shop around for the best electricity prices, and I know he has provided a lot of advice on that issue. Stan Marsh, a senior resident from Keperra, took this advice and now has peace of mind knowing that his existing provider is the best option for now. Stan, as well as all pensioners, will be able to benefit from the state government's \$54 million commitment boost to pensioner and senior concessions in the face, I am sorry to say, of those federal government cuts. That means more money in Stan's pocket. As I was saying before, money is going back into his pocket, not being lifted out by a greedy Labor government who were poor and reckless financial managers. But there is more to come, and of course I am referring to the \$3.4 billion Strong Choices Cost of Living Fund which will see significant costs coming down out of the cost base of electricity. So a single person who is energy conscious in their home will save \$300 over five years.

(Time expired)

Gold Coast City Council

Dr DOUGLAS: My question is to the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience. The Gold Coast City Council mayor has been cancelling the full council meetings for prolonged periods in a consistent pattern for over one year. Resolutions of council from committees are being delayed for no reason as the mayor is away on private business. I ask: can the minister please inform the public of the Gold Coast what steps his department has taken to ensure the mayor's actions are not negatively interfering with Gold Coast City Council service delivery?

Mr CRISAFULLI: Another day, another very long and incoherent question from the member for Gaven, but then again I expect you cannot teach an old 'pup' new tricks! If the honourable member had listened to anything I have said in this place he would know that at my heart is a philosophical view that when people sign up to run for local council they deserve the right to be able to put forward all sorts of things such as policies and the way they wish to run their affairs. They will be judged not by this House but by the people who put them there. So if they choose to run on an issue, for example providing a piece of infrastructure, and an unsuccessful candidate who runs on opposing that infrastructure gets rolled—

Dr Douglas interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI:—we would expect that unsuccessful candidate would take a back seat and accept the views of the public, the views of the majority. The Local Government Act—

Mr Judge: Is that why the Premier is polling so low in Ashgrove?

Madam SPEAKER: Just pause the clock. I warn the member for Yeerongpilly. There were other members interjecting and your interjections are not being taken. I call the minister.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Not only is the member for Yeerongpilly an old 'pup', but he cannot decide which kennel to live in! The Local Government Act asks councils to meet obligations on the number of times they meet per year. The Gold Coast City Council well and truly does that. I will say that, if the community believes that the council is not fulfilling its obligations, they have a way of holding the council to account. They have a way of doing that. It is a democratic way in the same way that they hold the people in this House to account.

What have we done for local government? I can tell honourable members what we have done. We have removed the shackles that were once binding local officials from this place. So when someone runs for council, they can do it and stand on their record. They do not have to be puppets of people in this House. They do not have to be hamstrung to deliver for their community. They are able to run and deliver what they see fit and they will be judged positively or negatively on what they put forward to the community.

The member for Gaven may have an ulterior motive in all of this. There may be another reason. In the same way that my good friend the police minister highlighted a link between some questioning the other day and a certain election that was coming forward, I sense something very similar on this

one. I say to the member for Gaven that if he believes there is something untoward with the way the council is operating, by all means he should test it with the relevant authorities. If he does not, he should man up and serve his constituents in the role he has been given.

Albert Electorate, Economy

Mr BOOTHMAN: My question without notice is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade. Can the Treasurer outline to the House the strong plan that is helping to grow the economy and supporting businesses in my electorate of Albert?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Albert for his question. It is another good question from another hardworking member of the LNP team who is out immersing himself in his local community, making sure he gets around and talks to people. In that vein, I know that the member for Albert regularly attends local business events such as the Northern Gold Coast Networking Lunch Series. I know that he has also been a big supporter of the Buy Local campaign, personally delivering hundreds of stickers to local businesses as part of Small Business Week, which was so successfully run last month.

The member understands that when the state government implements good policies that foster state-wide growth, it reverberates and has effect in local communities. At a state-wide level, there are a lot of good things happening in Queensland under the LNP government. Queensland is once again reclaiming its mantle as the economic powerhouse of Australia. This year we are expected to have the equal fastest-economic growth of any state in the nation. It is forecast to strengthen to six per cent next year by which time we will once again have the fastest growing economy of any state in Australia. Those strong growth numbers are also mirrored in the many good things we see taking place in the local economy in and around the electorate of Albert. We have seen a real return to confidence in the construction sector on the Gold Coast, and that confidence is also reflected in the activity we see taking place in the northern parts of the Gold Coast.

I would like to take the opportunity to direct members' attention to an article published in the *Australian Financial Review* last week entitled 'Housing boom buoys industry: Developers confident of rise in business demand on Gold Coast'. That article states—

According to the CBRE Industrial Director, David Corke, since the start of 2014, developers have come back to the Gold Coast, driving increased housing and providing a larger community which is in turn driving industrial and commercial markets.

The article continues, and the good news continues in the member's electorate. It states—

The Yatala industrial park—

which is included in the electorate of Albert—

the largest of its kind in South-East Queensland, will be the epicentre for the action as businesses prepare for the housing market recovery.

These sorts of articles are confirmation that the LNP government's four-pillar approach to growing the economy is working. The uptake in construction activity will have a real impact in the Albert electorate where more people work in construction than in any other industry and where more than one in four businesses is from this particular sector. The government has worked tirelessly to stimulate activity in the construction sector, and I have detailed the things we have done to make buying and owning your own home cheaper, including reintroducing the principal place of residence concession and the Great Start Grant, which has seen almost 300 people in the Albert electorate move into their first home. There is more to be done, but with the support of members like the member for Albert, we will get there.

(Time expired)

Biodiesel

Mr HOPPER: My question is to the Minister for Agriculture. Does the minister have a policy on biodiesel and, if so, what is it?

Dr McVEIGH: I thank the member for his question. As our government has explained to Queensland at large a number of times, between both Minister Mark McArdle's department and my department, the government is working on a range of energy issues that are being considered at the highest levels, including the agriculture cabinet committee. This government, the LNP government, is the first government in Queensland to have put in place an agriculture cabinet committee such is the

importance that we place on agriculture as one of the four pillars of our economy. Of course, as we work across Queensland looking at energy and agriculture related issues, we are very cognisant of the range of views. There are those who promote biodiesel and other bioenergy proposals for the state, which is a slightly different issue to ethanol production, for example, which is another energy proposal related to agriculture across the state. It is very important to move through the considerations shown by various sectors of the community, particularly in regional Queensland obviously, and various representatives of agricultural industries.

I draw the attention of the House to the example of the feedlot industry which, as the member I am sure is aware, is vehemently opposed to concepts—at least through some of the key representatives associated with agricultural produce—for example, grain going down the production track of bioenergy industry interests. So it is very important to consider all of those issues, and that is exactly what the Queensland government, the LNP government, is doing through our agriculture cabinet committee. In terms of that opportunity for agriculture possibly going forward, it is very important to also consider the challenges, and I have mentioned the feedlot industry and I have mentioned the interest, for example, expressed to me by the grain industry around the country. The fact that we are bringing grain into Queensland to feed stock in these times of drought just shows the balance that must be maintained.

As I consider that I reflect upon the Katter party's comments suggesting that the government should be subsidising feed supply for producers in Queensland. When feed supply is in short supply and being brought in from interstate, one does not need to be a professor of economics to understand that a direct cash subsidy would only assist the pockets of feed producers in other states, thus escalating the price of feed for struggling farmers in Queensland. It is important to get the balance right, which is what the Katter party always misses out on.

(Time expired)

Gympie Electorate, Strong Choices

Mr GIBSON: My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier please outline how the government's Strong Choices plan can help families, businesses and communities get ahead in my electorate of Gympie?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the member for the question. It is another great question from a member who is very involved in the local community and knows only too well the impacts on the community of the poor planning, waste and mismanagement by the previous Labor government. He has been in this chamber for some time and he has seen firsthand the problems of mismanagement. When government does not perform people suffer in a variety of ways, and they certainly suffer in the hip pocket. The member particularly knows about waste and mismanagement. When you think about the Traveston dam debacle and the hundreds of millions of dollars spent, the disruption to the community, the trauma, the turmoil, the protests, the angst, the heartache, the breaking up of families and the straining of relationships, at the end of the day the government of the day had not ticked the boxes with their federal Labor colleagues.

On a more positive note, the member tells me that the Cooloola BMX Club has benefited from Get in the Game grant vouchers, which have increased club membership because more families are able to afford to go along. It is all about ensuring that children from families who are doing it tough are able to be subsidised into community sport. I understand that the club has received 15 vouchers, which means that there are 15 families or 15 children who do not have to worry about those joining fees and who can spend the money instead on safety gear and equipment. That is what we are all about in this government. We want Queensland to be the best state in Australia to raise your family, and initiatives like Get in the Game are delivering at the coalface in a very practical way in local communities.

The member also knows the importance of paying down Labor's \$80,000 million worth of debt. Eighty billion dollars is \$80,000 million worth of debt, and money is being lifted out of the pockets of Queenslanders because of the interest payments that the Labor Party has imposed on us all. We cannot afford to leave that debt for our children or grandchildren to pay off; we have to do something about it. The Strong Choices plan deals precisely with the issue that the member for Mulgrave has never grappled with, has never come to grips with and has never acknowledged: a plan for \$25 billion worth of debt reduction, saving approximately \$150,000 an hour in interest payments on Labor's debt. What does that mean? It means a lower cost of living for Queenslanders, and only the LNP has that strong plan.

Police Union

Mrs SCOTT: My question without notice is to the Premier. Did the Premier leak Cabinet Budget Review Committee deliberations to the Police Union in order to help them attack the Treasurer and support his premiership?

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Woodridge, had you finished asking your question?

Mrs SCOTT: Yes, Madam Speaker.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members! We will have silence. I call the Premier.

Mr NEWMAN: The answer is no. The answer is no because, sadly, what the Police Union said yesterday was completely erroneous because the requests that have come to the Cabinet Budget Review Committee to increase the funding of the Queensland Police Service to provide supplementary funding for the Queensland Police Service for equipment and human resources have been met. That is why yesterday's comments mystify me so much. The Police Service receives \$180 million a year more under this government than it did under the previous Labor government. The Police Service today has over 800 more men and women on the beat. This is the strength of the Queensland Police Service on 1 July each year for the last few years: on 1 July 2010 the strength of the service was 10,458; in 2011 it was 10,557; in 2012 it was 10,695—so we have just taken over at this stage—in July 2013 it was 11,055; in July 2014 it was 11,605; and as of 1 October it was 11,612.

In terms of police per head of population, this Police Service is the best resourced police service in the nation with two new police helicopters, three new police boats and 1,500 iPad-type devices, meaning the police do not have to come back into the police station to do their paperwork. They can stay out on the beat protecting Queenslanders, our kids and families, and submit the details of their work on the streets immediately back into the system. When you talk about the Safe Night Out Strategy, the budget that was asked for was delivered by this government.

Another example is the government's wireless network. The former Labor government and the Leader of the Opposition who sat in that cabinet thought it was okay for police on the beat to have the insecurity of knowing that criminals could listen into their conversations on the radio and that the operational security of the police was compromised by not having a secure digital network. This is the government which has spent over \$1 billion to give the police the secure digital radio network that they deserve so that they can protect our community.

Queensland Economy

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade. Can the Treasurer outline for the House how the government's four-pillar plan is helping to grow the economy in my electorate of Burleigh?

Mr NICHOLLS: I do thank the member for Burleigh for his question. It is a good question from a member who also knows what it means to employ Queenslanders and to run his own business. He has done so very successfully too, and he makes a welcome addition to this side of the House. He is a member who understands the complexities and challenges that business owners face in this state. I know that the member for Burleigh has not given up on business. He is now actively involved as a representative with his local business community. I know that because I have been invited to address business meetings that the member for Burleigh has held, particularly following our 2014-15 budget where we announced no new taxes, no increases in taxes and increased services for Queenslanders. I know the member for Burleigh also releases a fortnightly Burleigh bulletin which puts small business owners in the spotlight and outlines the many worthwhile programs that this government runs to help small business.

We have been hearing all throughout the morning how the government is working to support businesses, cut red tape, grow the economy and deliver more job opportunities for Queenslanders. On this side of the House we have a plan. We are open and upfront with the people of Queensland about our plan, and every LNP member is working hard to deliver on our plan for Queensland. Our plan involves growing the four pillars of the Queensland economy, and there are some really positive things happening in each sector. We are seeing a return to confidence on the Gold Coast, and I mentioned earlier what is happening in Albert around the property and construction sectors, but this is being reflected all across the Gold Coast, where building approvals have increased by 76.2 per cent in the last 12 months.

We are also seeing a return to confidence in another sector so vital to the Gold Coast economy: tourism. Over the last two years the economic contribution of the tourism industry has increased by \$3.5 billion and we have seen 27,000 new jobs created in the sector. Based on the latest Tourism Research Australia data, in the year to June 2014 there were 29.5 million visitor nights spent in Queensland by overseas tourists. That is 10.9 per cent higher than the number of nights in the year to June 2011.

These good numbers have been supported by the additional funding from the LNP government. We provided \$11.6 million this year to support destination marketing, promoting major events and developing world-class tourism products and experiences. We also launched the \$15 million Theme Park Capital of Australia campaign, which reinforces the Gold Coast's position as Queensland's leading tourist destination by focusing on its world-class theme parks. I know that the member for Burleigh is particularly excited about the tens of thousands of people who will be visiting the glitter strip in a week's time for the Gold Coast 600 V8s race. This will provide a real boost to the local economy. I congratulate the Morris family for their big win at the mountain last Sunday. We are working hard to grow the economy, including tourism on the Gold Coast.

(Time expired)

Biosecurity

Mrs CUNNINGHAM: My question without notice is to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Emerging threats to our primary production from overseas disease incursions are occurring now. How is the state government responding and how are both state and federal governments pushing back against those risks?

Dr McVEIGH: I thank the honourable member for her question. I will focus on just two key points in response. The first is the topical issue of concern about ginger imports into Australia. My colleague Andrew Powell, the member for Glass House, spoke about that in parliament earlier this week. The second is the issue of impact on pineapples.

The federal government maintains an import risk assessment process, about which I have expressed concerns on behalf of those industries. We have seen evidence of nematodes being included in imported ginger in just the last few weeks. We are supporting the industry very strongly, particularly the Australian Ginger Growers Association, the president of which I met with here at Parliament House just yesterday.

The new Queensland Biosecurity Act, which I introduced and which passed this House earlier this year, will also assist greatly in Queensland's future.

(Time expired)

Madam SPEAKER: The time for questions has finished.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tour

Madam SPEAKER: I would like to acknowledge a school visiting today: Calliope State School in the electorate of Gladstone.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Report No. 12, Motion to Take Note



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.02 am): I move—

That the House take note of Committee of the Legislative Assembly report No. 12: *Report on the 2014 budget estimates trial process*.

I rise to speak about the estimates process that Queenslanders witnessed this year. This was the key example of the arrogance of this Newman government. What the Newman government decided to do was a travesty. There has been a long-held convention, of nearly 20 years, of the estimates process running over a period of two weeks, but this arrogant Newman government decided that they knew better. This government consolidated all of the estimates hearings into two days. This was not about integrity and accountability in government—something the Labor Party and we in the opposition are passionate about.

During the Stafford by-election campaign I announced our policy, and our policy was to bring integrity and accountability back to this House by restoring the estimates hearings to the full two weeks, as has happened over many, many years. But this government thought they knew better. They wanted to hide not only from scrutiny from the opposition and the crossbenches but also from the media. What a failure! What an absolute, miserable failure we saw from government members.

Did the ministers answer the questions? No, they did not. One of the key issues I raised during estimates hearings and I am still raising in this House today relates to how much taxpayers' money is being spent—wasted—on the Strong Choices campaign. We are hearing that that figure is close to \$20 million. That is \$20 million that could be going to improve services across this state. But this arrogant Newman government knows better, doesn't it?

We are now six months out from the next state election, and this government must be held responsible for breaching their own advertising code of conduct. Their own advertising code of conduct states very clearly that there should be no advertising within six months of the scheduled date for an election unless there is an urgent, emerging issue.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We are considering the CLA report, which has no relevance whatsoever to advertising the government is spending its money on.

Ms PALASZCZUK: These are issues I raised at the estimates hearing. Very clearly, I asked questions of the Premier and the Treasurer.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): I am going to allow some latitude in the debate in terms of that matter. The Leader of the Opposition has the call.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. We are now six months out from the election, and the massive taxpayer funded ads have started again. This is a political campaign that the LNP should be paying for. The LNP should be paying for political advertising, not the taxpayers of Queensland. We have been trying to find out from this government how much is being spent. We know that the television advertising campaign is about to ramp up again. This is in breach of the government's own advertising guidelines.

I return to the estimates process. This government is arrogant. Make no mistake. That is why they came in here and changed the estimates process: to suit themselves. That is exactly what this government did. The people of Queensland will know better. The people of Queensland will know when they go to the polls in six months time that this government wanted to hide from scrutiny, that this government wanted to break long-held democratic conventions in this parliament to get their own way. That was absolute arrogance, because they did not want each of their ministers to face full scrutiny from the opposition and the crossbenches. That is what it was all about. If we want to talk about policies, here is the Labor policy in relation to estimates committees. I thank the LNP for adopting Labor policy. Thank you for adopting Labor policy.

Finally, the estimates process will revert to normality next year. We believe in transparency and accountability in government and Labor will always maintain it.



Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.07 am): I rise to speak to the CLA report on the 2014 trial of the estimates committee process. I am disappointed to hear the Leader of the Opposition ranting about opportunities that she has not had to question correctly through that estimates process the machinations of the government and the budget that is brought forward, which is the correct and proper process for estimates.


I point out to the Leader of the Opposition that, with 22 staff at their disposal, they are the most well resourced opposition ever for nine members of a parliamentary team, costing the Queensland taxpayers somewhere, I believe, in the vicinity of \$2.7 million. That they cannot get these political servants to come up with questions to test the budget in the time that was allotted, to make themselves into a relevant opposition, is a very sad state of affairs, when they had more time.

Those opposite had more opportunity to question the Treasurer. The member for Mulgrave had a far longer session to question the Treasurer on matters and completely failed in his capacity as an opposition Treasury spokesman to ask any relevant question whatsoever or put the government

under pressure. However, I certainly want to take the opportunity to thank the Parliamentary Service, which did a wonderful job under new circumstances doing the hard work to ensure the trial of simultaneous hearings held on 15 and 17 July was conducted successfully and delivered the appropriate outcome. As the report outlines and as was the intention of the government at the time, significantly more time was available—significantly more time was available; I will say it again: significantly more time was available—for members to question ministers and senior public servants in relation to budget estimates. Also, generally the amount of time spent asking non-government questions increased from the time spent in 2013. There is nothing wrong with reviewing processes and trying to improve outcomes for both the public and for the opposition given its incapacities and its vacuous sinkhole of political knowledge to deal with matters put before it in more time and space.

However, following consultation and community feedback and the actual hearings and putting in place the hearings right across-the-board, the government considered the results of the trial and has decided to not continue with the trial arrangements and revert to the usual estimates committee process for future years. This government is about improving its performances in all areas. That includes media access to information that the opposition should be providing through the grilling of the government under the Westminster system, which was obviously lacking and missing from this particular overresourced opposition, unfortunately. Perhaps next year when we revert to the previous system it will again maybe go out and hire through its own moneys some extra political advisers to give it a set of questions that actually puts some real hurt on the government and brings the government to further account rather than the very poor and puerile efforts that opposition members showed during the estimates of this year. We do not resile from the fact that we are always looking to improve access to government information, as evidenced by our open data initiative. From the Premier's perspective and the government's perspective, we are the most open, accountable and transparent government. We will continue to try ways to improve information delivery to the taxpayers of Queensland and it is up to opposition members to get their act together to make sure that extra time is not wasted through political inadequacies—

(Time expired)

 **Mr BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (11.12 am): I take this opportunity to look at the estimates process again. I fondly remember 2 April this year when at 3.30 pm the Leader of the House, who has just spoken in defence of the indefensible, stood up in this House and moved a motion without notice to bring in the estimates process trial. For the benefit of members, the estimates process over two weeks had been long established. That is what the opposition said at the time. That is what we reinforced and that has been our constant view, as reflected by the Leader of the Opposition in terms of Labor policy. It was all about an extended period to allow the scrutiny of ministers individually. That was the whole construct of estimates. The trial from this government was dropped into the House as a motion without notice—without consultation, without any consultation whatsoever. If those opposite were genuine in any way, shape or form about genuine scrutiny of the executive—if the backbench were genuine, and today it probably wishes it had been genuine—as a government they could have come over here and spoken to us offline in a bipartisan fashion for the good of the people of Queensland about genuine scrutiny of government action. But, no! There was none of that. It was just dropped in here and rammed through as a single, unprepared surprise motion to go with the flow.

The purpose of it all was so clear. It was brutal and simple. It was simply to reduce the media exposure that estimates over a two-week period generates. Let us not forget that in the aftermath of the first and second LNP budgets the government got flogged in the media cycle. That is exactly what happened. It lost every single engagement over a two-week period in the media cycle and the last thing it could afford was to go forward into the final budget process and estimates hearings and have the same effect leading into an election year. So the construct of all of this was to limit the media exposure that would come from an estimates process from a third budget that delivered nothing for Queensland. That is exactly what the tactic was. It has been sugar coated and wrapped up in the most ridiculous mathematics. When the motion was being debated I remember vividly the contribution from the Deputy Premier. His mathematics suggested more scrutiny. It was a nonsense then and it has proven to be a nonsense now by the backflip from the government in the aftermath of the recent by-elections.

Estimates is the only real opportunity for the parliament—that is, the crossbenches and the LNP backbench—to in fact scrutinise ministers. The assumption is that any member—let us take someone like the member for Gladstone—should have the opportunity to enter any committee and scrutinise any minister. That opportunity was deliberately denied by the running of parallel hearings

during the estimates process so that someone like the member for Gladstone could not conceivably, practically, sit in on estimates hearings of committees because this government wanted to reduce the opportunity—an opportunity set for other members of the parliament, either opposition, backbench or crossbench—to scrutinise what this government did. Let us not be confused about this experiment. It was about minimising media damage. Some from the government might say, 'We've got question time all year.' We have heard the defence that we have question time before. My recollections after being in this parliament for one term is that there has only ever been one minister in this House who has ever attempted to answer a question honestly. He was the member for Moggill. When Bruce Flegg was a minister he was the only person that I could recall who ever stood up in this House and genuinely tried to answer an opposition question or someone else's question honestly and openly and transparently. That is a pretty sad reflection on this government, and we have seen how the member for Moggill has been rewarded by the LNP as being the only minister who I would say has stood in this House and ever answered frankly and honestly! There are a couple of other points that I want to reflect on. The subsequent backdown that we have seen afterwards, particularly in light of the Leader of the House's statement, cannot be reconciled. The Leader of the House has just stood up and defended the process that those opposite have walked away from, and it proves absolutely what a nonsense and a political tactic this whole estimates process was. They stand condemned as a government.



Mr PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (11.17 am): I rise to speak to this motion and join with my colleagues to suggest that the government tried something, has failed at that and, of course, is now running away with its tail between its legs. Earlier I heard the member for Gaven yell out something which I think was a little bit unparliamentary, but I think it was right. This was all about making sure that this government avoided scrutiny at a time when it did not need it at all. We have seen a backlash from the community. We have seen a backlash from the media. In fact, I noticed that today there is some suggestion in the Victorian parliament that it is going to try to outlaw dorothy dixers being asked. The media would love that, just as I am sure it now loves the fact that the government has taken on Labor's policy of reinstating estimates back to its original state. That is the most important decision we have seen this government do probably this year, because the rest of its decisions have done nothing but harm Queensland. Finally, this is something that is going to open ourselves back up to some scrutiny, and that is important.

I completely share the view of my honourable colleague from the electorate of Rockhampton. He very much put forward a very important part of this estimates hearing process. It is all about the members of this parliament. It is about the crossbenches. It is about the Independents. I felt for them the most, because it was practically impossible for one person as an Independent to get right across all of those estimates committees. They are the people who I felt for the most.

Of course, again we saw the Leader of the House come into this place to berate me about apparently ineffectual questioning. I really think that is an important point to address. We had the Treasurer here who, because he had not been asked a direct question for some time, continued to say, 'I have no questions. I have not been asked any questions. I am never asked a question. Why won't you ask me a question?' When it comes to what happened at the estimates hearing, he has amnesia. We have asked hundreds of questions of the Treasurer at estimates hearings—many questions of the Treasurer—but they were not answered and this was at a time when they should have been answered.


The whole estimates process was a time-wasting exercise as well. It was not just the fact that we had long, drawn-out answers; we had particularly long, drawn-out answers to those dorothy dixers that I mentioned earlier. Of course, when it came to answering questions from the opposition or the crossbenches, the Treasurer's answers were far more succinct—'We will give you next to nothing.' The worst example was when the Treasurer got the Under Treasurer, in answer to a question, instead of tabling a document that referred to the dividends from government owned corporations and TEPs and what that was going to mean going forward, to read it out, line by line, box by box, wasting the committee's time. I thought that was one of the worst examples of time wasting and slowdown that we have seen. That is the sort of thing that we have come to expect from this government.

Of course, the estimates committee process was all about burying the government's worst performers. Last night I said that the Attorney-General has not been seen for some time. He has finally popped his head up. When we were having our discussion this morning about pirates, it was

good to see the Attorney-General again being the parrot on the Premier's shoulder. That was wonderful. The Attorney-General seems to have gone into some LNP-sponsored witness protection program. No-one knew where he was. He had completely disappeared. He had been buried in a committee room that at one stage I think was not going to have any television coverage. That is how much they wanted to bury the problematic Attorney-General.

Of course, this motion raises the matter of the questions that were asked during the estimates committee process. The opposition leader has talked about the fact that she and I both asked questions about the Strong Choices advertising campaign—'How much money are you spending? What are you going to be doing into the future? Will you be spending more money? How much have you spent to date?' None of those questions were getting answered, certainly not to the satisfaction of the opposition and, I would argue, not to the satisfaction of Queenslanders, either.


This morning we had the Premier answering questions about a range of things, again trying to pretend that a lease is not an asset sale. I keep finding that very funny. He is saying that a lease is not an asset sale. If he thinks that and all of those other members opposite think that as well, then very clearly they are all still drinking the Kool-Aid.

 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (11.22 am): I wish to speak to this motion quite briefly. In the sort of parliament that we have here, where we have no upper house, there is very little opportunity for review of legislation generally. However, the budget is one of those pivotal pieces of legislation and it is critical that the people of Queensland can have confidence that it is properly interrogated by all in this parliament.

The observation is—and it is not a hard observation to make—that the estimates process over the 19 years that I have been here is divided into two categories: members asking dorothy dixers and members asking questions with an intent to try to find out information that perhaps is not easily identified. The change that was proposed to the estimates committee process in this parliament was numerically flawed from the beginning. I will take the politics out of it. Others will speak about the politics. The estimates committee process was numerically flawed. The former process, where estimates hearings were carried out over a two-week period, allowed an opposition that is small in number to physically fulfil their obligations, as it did for the crossbenches, to properly interrogate the budget to the best of their ability. To have all the estimates hearings held on the same two days meant that that was practically impossible for a small opposition to do, let alone provide the opportunity for some members who had the responsibility for multiple shadow portfolios to be able to get to other portfolio meetings. For the government to change the way the estimates hearings were held—and one could be sceptical and say that it was for political purposes only—was injurious. It was not so much for the members of this parliament—it was frustrating for us—but it was injurious to the people of Queensland because they did not have any confidence that the budget was being examined properly.

I commend the government for re-establishing the former process, although I have to say that providing a full day for each minister to respond to the budget was wonderful. It was a real bonus and I commend the government that that extra time was available. If I had my druthers we would have that format held over the two-week period. We would still have the ministers available for an entire day and have the estimates committee hearings held over a two-week period. Both could be melded to become what I would see as being a truly successful and truly effective review process.

So moving back to the former estimates committee hearing process is essential. I have said this before: those in government never know when they are going to be less than a cricket team in opposition. It has happened before, it happened this time and it will happen again. So everybody who contributes to this decision making needs to put the politics out of the decision and look at our responsibilities to the people of Queensland in terms of proper, adult, mature, effective examination and reporting on the budget. That needs to be the driver of any decisions made in relation to estimates committee hearings.

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (11.26 am): I start by acknowledging the contribution from the member for Gladstone to this debate. I think it was a very well-considered, very mature contribution to the debate on the motion before the House, particularly in relation to the conduct of the estimates committee process this year.

If ever there was an example of how a small group of passionate, hardworking people could hold a large, arrogant government to account, it was the previous estimates committee processes in 2012, then in 2013 and also in 2014, but to a lesser extent because of the abuse of the parliamentary

process that was pursued by this government. I have to put on record that this side of the House, the small group of Labor opposition members, worked incredibly hard in 2012 and 2013 to fulfil their obligations to hold this government to account and we did so over two weeks. We did so tirelessly and, because of that, because of our effectiveness and particularly because of the effectiveness of the Leader of the Opposition during the estimates committee process over those two years, this government came into this House and changed the process in order to limit, to mitigate, to reduce the effectiveness of the opposition and also the media scrutiny of the most important scrutiny that any of us must bring to our jobs in this House and that is the scrutiny of the budget.

I am also glad that the government members have seen fit to acknowledge the failure of its system—the abused system—that they brought in earlier this year in relation to the estimates committee process. I am glad that they have acknowledged their failure. It had to take an almost 20 per cent swing in the Stafford by-election for them to hear the message loud and clear, but I am glad that they heard that message. But to date, every indication is that they have stopped listening to that message. They may have made a few cosmetic changes but there are still a lot of changes to be made.

I now turn to my attention to a number of issues that were raised at the transport estimates committee hearing. I particularly want to place on record the atrocious attention to detail that the Minister for Transport paid to his budget estimates papers that were presented for scrutiny. For example, the minister allowed for the SDS to state that 300,000 trips had been taken in the 2013-14 financial year on the Gold Coast rapid light rail project.

Any casual observer would know that the light rail project had yet to be opened, but the minister had accounted for 300,000 trips on that piece of fantastic Labor infrastructure in the SDS. What was his explanation? You could drive a truck through his explanation it was so wobbly and porous. That was an indication of the level of attention to detail that the minister brings to his obligations not only in this House but at the estimates committee process. It is obvious that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads is positioning himself as the alternate candidate for the leadership post the next state election because the LNP party room will be left without a leader.

The other issue I did want to bring to the attention of the House, because the Minister for Transport and Main Roads is, of course, very, very apt at distorting issues and being deceitful, is that in 2013 I asked for the cost of forgone revenue from the nine trips then free journey program, with which he obliged, but when I asked exactly the same question in 2014 the minister said the figures were unavailable. They had disappeared. Their ability to calculate from 2013 to 2014 had disappeared. Yesterday the minister got up in this House and made some assertions about what I had said in relation to my previous employment. It goes to show that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads cannot be trusted to do his job and to actually tell the truth in this House or anywhere else.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report No. 73, Motion to Take Note

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

Report No. 74, Motion to Take Note



Mr BERRY (Ipswich—LNP) (11.32 am): I move—

That the House take note of Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report No. 74: *Oversight of the Office of the Information Commissioner*.

As chairman of the committee, I cloak this report and its recommendations in the context in which the report was made. Every report needs to be considered in the light of many other matters and I address those matters for the benefit of this House.

The report makes two recommendations, both of which are consistent with the duties of my committee to report to this House, and I comment on those recommendations. The first recommendation concerns the status of the vacant position of the Privacy Commissioner and the


recruitment process which ordinarily precedes any permanent appointment. The second recommendation concerns the undertaking of the strategic review of the Office of the Information Commissioner under the Right to Information Act 2009 as to when and who will conduct that review.

The context in which this report is tabled in this House is that this government is undertaking a major overhaul of the transparency of government. We must all acknowledge that an open government is an effective government. This process is driven by no less than the Premier of this state. A forum was convened with the Premier at the helm. Specialists and academics, recognised in this state for their knowledge, expertise and governance acumen, provided valuable input and robust exchange on how the Queensland government could proceed on its journey of open and transparent government. It is to be recognised and applauded that the government, while continuing with this open government review, has already undertaken unprecedented steps in commencing this journey, firstly, as I have said, by convening the open government forum about which I have spoken. The establishment of the Callinan-Aroney inquiry and the consideration of that report and its recommendations was also a very important step.

So why has the Newman LNP government undertaken this journey? A comparison between Queensland governments is warranted. Under the Labor administration, integrity developed into an art form. For example, under the previous Labor administration, the right to information was determined by ministerial officers under the control of ministerial offices. What the Newman LNP has done has handed that role back to the Public Service, a role in which the Public Service should have always been in charge. It is a non-partisan role, one which the Public Service has administered in the past and will continue to do so in the future. Under the previous Labor administration ministerial diaries were not ever released. To this day the opposition still has issues with releasing shadow ministerial diaries. The release of ministerial diaries by this government is an unprecedented monument to the transparency of modern good governance.

In this House Premier Newman has invited the Labor opposition to in fact fulfil the role of transparency. If those opposite want to come to this House and espouse good governance and the proper role of open government then they should take up the invitation and disclose those diaries. This invitation continues to this day. I say to the people of Queensland that it is now for the opposition to make a stance on modern governance. Until it does so it really cannot be considered as a viable alternative government for the people of Queensland, particularly when one hears the comments in relation to the previous motion.

Finally, this House must note the obvious: the previous Labor administration did not appoint a Privacy Commissioner before it was removed from government. The job was left vacant for a considerable period of time. The position became vacant in 2011 and was not filled by the time that the Labor administration lost government. The essence of it is that this government is undertaking an unprecedented course of making government open, accountable and transparent. It is an unprecedented step in Queensland government history. I applaud the Premier for undertaking this process and I certainly commend the report and the context in which that report was made.

 **Mrs D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (11.37 am): I rise to speak to the report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee in relation to its oversight responsibility for the Office of the Information Commissioner. The Right to Information Act 2009 requires that a strategic review of the act be conducted within four years of the commencement of the act. The act commenced on 1 July 2009 so the obligation was to conduct the review by 1 July 2013. The act also provides that each strategic review must be undertaken by an appropriately qualified reviewer appointed by the Governor in Council who must give a report on the review. No review has been commenced; no reviewer has been appointed. It is no wonder then that one of the recommendations of the committee is that the Attorney-General confirm whether the government intends to conduct a strategic review of the Office of the Information Commissioner as required by the act and, if so, when it will commence and when a reviewer will be appointed.

Similarly, the position of Privacy Commissioner was established under the Information Privacy Act 2009. The OIC website advises that the role of Privacy Commissioner has been vacant since November 2011. The committee has recommended that the Attorney-General update the House on the status of the current vacant position and finalise the outstanding recruitment and selection processes as soon as possible. The tardiness of this Attorney-General in filling vacant positions is legendary. He started this illustrious career by neglecting to fill the position of Public Guardian. The former Attorney-General did not appoint a permanent person to the position after the Weller report recommended the abolition of the position, but after considering this recommendation the government decided to retain the position. There was, however, someone acting in that position until 6 May 2012.

When that acting appointment expired the Attorney failed to appoint anyone, even in an acting capacity. That meant the position remained vacant until it was permanently filled on 13 August 2012, a period of three months. There was not even an acting Public Guardian, a position that the Attorney had been insisting on the importance of for years.

Then we come to the Law Reform Commission. The terms of the previous commissioners expired in December 2013 and replacements were not appointed until August 2014. Those positions remained vacant for eight months. We all know about the chair of the CMC and now CCC. The previous chair resigned in March 2013 and an acting chair was appointed whose position had to be legislatively renewed past the statutory limit of 12 months because a new chair had not been appointed. Similarly, the two other commissioners whose terms expired were not replaced, despite everyone knowing the vacancies were coming up as there was then a five-year limitation on appointments. In fact, the department sent a briefing note to the Attorney-General dated 25 January 2013 for vacancies that would be created in June and November 2013. This meant that acting appointments had to be made. Whilst one commissioner has resigned, still the other position, which is a permanent position, has not been filled.

Then there is the position of the Public Trustee, which has been vacant since April this year. The director-general's diary shows a short-list presentation for the Public Trustee back on 15 April 2014. I also note that on 19 May 2014 an email was sent to the attorney's chief of staff from the director-general, John Sosso, advising of the proposed selection panel, yet there is still no appointment in sight for the Public Trustee. Currently, the Legal Aid Board cannot meet because it does not have a quorum. Three of the board members' positions expired on 16 July this year, leaving two voting members remaining. Those three vacant positions have not yet been filled, which means that, as at today, they have been vacant for three months. Let us not forget the Legal Services Commissioner. The previous commissioner served in the position for 10 years until his term expired in May this year. An acting commissioner has been filling that vacancy since that time, but that means that the position has been vacant for five months.

Those are all important statutory positions. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General provides ample notice of any upcoming vacancies to allow adequate time to undertake an appropriate selection process. By failing to fill the position of Privacy Commissioner and by failing to commence the strategic review of the Office of Information Commissioner, the Attorney-General has been derelict in his duty. If the job is too much for the Attorney-General, he should just accept it and resign.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Report No. 55, Motion to Take Note



Mr RUTHENBERG (Kallangur—LNP) (11.42 am): I move—

That the House take note of Health and Community Services Committee report No. 55: *Inquiry into telehealth services in Queensland*.


This is an important body of work. Telehealth services and opportunities in this state have proved to be fantastic in regard to patient outcomes. The potential for patient outcomes, both in rural and in metro areas, is unknown, it is phenomenal and it is fantastic. I note that in the past 12 months we have seen about a 40 per cent upswing in the use of telehealth services, but I also note that we have a long way to go. We have some of the world's best examples of the use of telehealth. Probably the foremost and best example is provided by Dr Sabe Sabesan and his work around teleoncology out of Townsville. In fact, I think that body of work, which has been compiled over the past eight or so years, really is worthy of an OAM nomination. Groups such as the Cairns Diabetes Centre provide a real team approach using telehealth to follow up on diabetic patients all over Far North Queensland. There are many other excellent examples, such as Professor Len Gray and his use of telehealth in the treatment of geriatric patients in Dalby out of Brisbane, Professor Peter Soyer and his work with teledermatology and Toowoomba Hospital and its use of pre-admission visits. All of those save significant dollars and time for patients.

I thank the staff who helped us in this effort, led by Sue Cawcutt, the research director. I thank the committee members. There were no dissenting or reservation reports made to this report. In February 2014, the committee resolved to use its powers under section 94 of the Parliament of

Queensland Act to conduct a public works inquiry into telehealth as a consequence of an allocation of \$30.9 million from 2013-14 to 2016-17. The terms of reference were that we would examine the implementation of telehealth services by the department of health and the hospital and health services, consider the value for money of the delivery of telehealth services, examine the factors that support successful implementation, identify any barriers to successful implementation and consider strategies to address any barriers to successful implementation. The committee invited submissions through its website and by direct invitation and 39 submissions were received. The committee held a public briefing on 5 March and public hearings on 9 May, 21 May and 1 July.

The committee visited a number of sites during its inquiry to view telehealth facilities and discuss issues with staff and consumers. Locations included Retrieval Services Queensland and the Telehealth Emergency Management Support Unit at Kedron, the Princess Alexandra Hospital, the Roma Hospital, the Cairns Hospital and Health Service and the Thursday Island Hospital and Health Service. During its visits to those places, the committee used telehealth facilities to talk with clinical staff and consumers in remote areas. The committee also held consumer forums in Roma and Cairns to hear from consumers about their perspective and experience in telehealth. In August the committee held a round-table discussion with clinicians to explore the barriers and enablers to the effective implementation of telehealth. The committee tabled its report on 12 September.

The committee believes that the most significant benefits to delivering services by telehealth accrue to patients. Improved access to health services, particularly timely, specialist and emergency advice, can in turn lead to improved health outcomes. The committee heard about people travelling considerable distances, sometimes requiring more than a day in travel, for a short outpatient appointment. The committee believes that in many instances the unreasonable burden of travel on patients could and should be avoided. On behalf of the committee I thank those who assisted the committee and provided it with the benefits of their experience and insights. People who contributed made written submissions, demonstrated their work with telehealth and talked with the committee during its site visits, gave evidence at its public hearings and shared their experiences with the committee at consumer forums and clinical discussions. We appreciate all of those contributions.

 **Mr SHUTTLEWORTH** (Ferry Grove—LNP) (11.47 am): I rise to speak to report No. 55 on the inquiry into telehealth services in Queensland that was undertaken by the Health and Community Services Committee. As the chair of the committee, Mr Ruthenberg, has just outlined, the report was actually initiated by the committee in terms of its public account powers under section 94 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 following an allocation of \$30.9 million towards telehealth. While the committee deliberately sought to diversify its viewpoints by travelling across this great state into regional and remote areas so that it was not a South-East Queensland centric outcome, it was not entirely surprising that a number of consistent themes were expressed right across the state. The themes that were most commonly expressed in terms of the deployment and uptake of telehealth centred around things such as how we manage the difficulty of cost recovery and the billing of services that are being undertaken; of course, technology featured fairly highly in discussions, especially in the more regional and remote areas that we visited; as did network connectivity, although not necessarily in terms of bandwidth but in terms of how a physician outside a Queensland Health facility may access reports, files and patient information using any number of BYO devices or other technologies that are in place. As the chair indicated earlier, one of the main drivers for the continuation and expansion of telehealth throughout Queensland must be centred on patient care and effective outcomes.

There were a large number of submissions to the inquiry that expressed that one of the primary benefits to Queensland and patients centres around the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. We heard examples of a patient west of Mount Isa who is undertaking oncology treatment having to undertake extensive road travel to get to Mount Isa and then fly to Townsville and then fly further on to Brisbane. It may mean an overnight stay in Townsville. When they get to Brisbane they may have to stay overnight here. They rock up to the hospital in the morning and maybe have a 15-minute appointment with their physician. They then have to do it in reverse to return home.


That has enormous impacts on families, children going to school, family businesses and all those things. If telehealth is deployed into those regions the patient is disrupted less, their family is disrupted less and business can continue. The outcome of all of that is hopefully that patient care is improved and recovery times are significantly enhanced.

The chair outlined some fantastic deployments of telehealth and the utilisation of this service across the state. He mentioned the great work being done by Dr Sabesan. He has developed a

remote chemotherapy service. I think it is also important to add that Dr Sabesan developed a range of supporting documentation that outlined the policies and procedures around how those services are deployed. That had an enormous impact on the take-up of those services and future consultations. We have heard of great improvements in take-up. There has been a 36 per cent increase in telehealth services from 2012-13 to 2013-14.

We heard about the fantastic work being undertaken in Cairns through the Diabetes Centre. Amputations have decreased significantly from 9.3 per hundred thousand patients to 7.4 per hundred thousand patients. There have been fewer than 10 amputations this year. That is a fantastic result and due to those services being provided in those remote areas.

There is fantastic work currently underway in telehealth, but a hell of a lot more needs to be undertaken in the future. The changes will result largely from cultural shifts more than technological shifts. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr HATHAWAY** (Townsville—LNP) (11.52 am): I rise today as a member of the Health and Community Services Committee to speak to the committee's report on its inquiry into telehealth in Queensland. I also take this opportunity as I was probably the most regional member on the committee and as such was keen to learn of the access benefits to health that telehealth can bring to rural, regional and remote Queenslanders.

The committee's inquiry was conducted under the auspices of the review of the expenditure and efficacy of \$30.9 million invested over four financial years. This was a comprehensive and very interesting review to participate in. I thoroughly enjoyed being part of this inquiry. I was pleasantly surprised by the headway being made and also the challenges that are faced in telehealth but also the uptake of the system. I was also surprised at our foray into telehealth in Queensland and its progress compared to other jurisdiction both in Australia and overseas.

I was largely interested in the issue of access for remote and regional Queenslanders, particularly patients, families and also practitioners. I was also interested in the quality of emergency advice, the remote chronic disease management, the specialist follow-up, the accurate referrals and also, as we found, the health education for patients and their families and also practitioners and up-and-coming specialists that telehealth provides. It provides speed of access, the ability for patient reviews, efficiency of specialist advice and, as we have heard briefly already, savings in travel costs. Largely, the benefit that is derived for the patient is a reduced travel impost. It also enables treatment and review to be conducted either at home or at a location closer to their home. It can include their patient carers and also importantly the primary health care giver for that patient.

I note the chair of the committee mentioned Professor Sabe Sabesan and his remote oncology service from Townsville into Mount Isa. I also note the recognition of this approach by the college of oncologists. It has enabled specialists to be trained remotely from Townsville in Mount Isa.

We have heard mention of the benefits that have been derived from Cairns Diabetes Clinic. The incidence of diabetes and renal issues is the highest in the country amongst our northern, remote, rural and Indigenous populations. We also heard some interesting testimony and submissions about the benefits telehealth provides in some disciplines in terms of the improvement in speed of remote diagnosis. This is particularly the case amongst dermatologists.

My overwhelming out-take from the inquiry is quite simple. Telehealth and its associated technology is simply an enabler. We should compare its progress in health support with the progress in referrals after the advent of the telephone, fax and email. We have seen through telehealth e-transmission, be it by email or real time, the transmission of referrals, patient records, test results and imaging and also real-time vitals monitoring.


One of the key things I took away from the inquiry was the importance of dedicated telehealth coordinators or a coordination system both in the hubs and in the remote areas to maximise utilisation and to reduce any potential inefficiencies for specialists. We made a number of recommendations. In my remaining time I will highlight a few.

Recommendation 1 draws attention to the need for the Medicare Benefits Schedule to be amended to include telehealth consultations. Recommendation 2 relates to the variety of connectivity or network issues that are experienced, particularly in TI. We need to give some priority to those. Recommendation 3 relates to priority broadband access for remote communities.

In closing, there is a whole lot of information that I could draw attention to. I encourage all members of this House to read the report. I would like to thank the secretariat. It was a complex inquiry. In particular I thank Sue Cawcutt, Karl Holden and all the staff. I acknowledge the help of Queensland Health staff, in particular the telehealth coordinators and boards of the areas we visited.

In particular, I thank the clinical staff whom we visited. I thank and acknowledge all the contributors and submitters to our committee. It was a quite comprehensive inquiry. I thank my colleagues on the committee.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): I call the member for Beaudesert. There are three minutes on the clock.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (11.57 am): It is a pleasure to commend report No. 55 of the Health and Community Services Committee to the House. This was a committee inquiry initiated under our ability to review expenditure of the government. The government has committed some \$30 million over the next four years to telehealth initiatives across the state. There are a couple of recommendations that I wanted to touch on. These views came out very strongly across all of the areas that the committee visited—Roma, the Torres Strait, Brisbane and South-East Queensland.

Recommendation 3 in particular is one that needs to be given some weight. Priority needs to be given to the rollout of the National Broadband Network in remote communities. When we were in Thursday Island there was a teleconference set up at Thursday Island Hospital with about a dozen of the community health centres and other facilities across the Torres Strait. Whilst there was reasonable connectivity between those centres, the quality of that connection could certainly be improved. This is a recommendation that our government and the Commonwealth government should give some attention to to improve access to telehealth in those communities.

We also recommended that the department of health give greater priority to the implementation of improved interconnectivity for clinicians to the Queensland Health network from personal devices. In Queensland Health at the moment it is a somewhat restricted system. Clinicians need to log on to a Queensland Health based system and access through personal devices is limited. It would be good if there was greater flexibility in that regard.

We also recommended that the performance of telehealth services becomes more part of business as usual of Queensland Health so it is not something the doctors do as an add-on or on an ad hoc basis but it becomes part of business as usual for all Queensland Health services.

Telehealth has been rolled out in a number of areas including in my electorate in the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service region. In 2013-14, 69 non-admitted patient telehealth services were provided. That might not sound like many, but the benefits to those 69 people who do not have to travel from their home in the region into metropolitan areas for specialist consultation are considerable, and the team at Boonah Hospital have a keen interest in utilising those telehealth services to enable that to occur. It saves money on the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme and it also contributes to the mental health and wellbeing of both patients and carers who utilise telehealth services.

(Time expired)

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

QUEENSLAND BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 15 October (see p. 3456), on motion of Mr Mander—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (12.00 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will start by speaking on the first part of the name of the bill. I will just talk about three of the changes and why I feel they are beneficial. Then I want to get to the other bit. Often the other bits are the rats and mice. In this case I think it is something very, very powerful and certainly worthwhile. I thank the minister for his work. It is great to have him here. It has been the worth the wait.

The first thing is creating a new part of the act to talk about the different levels of contract. Call it a bit of a tidy up, but I see it as a good step forward. The other is introducing a demerit points system. I think that is a really good thing in cracking down on a very small element of the industry where those unscrupulous builders seek to make hay and profiteer out of misery. I think the changes are sensible. They are very well done, and I again commend the minister. The third thing is about the rapid dispute adjudication. Again, the fact that there is early disputability I think is just such a great step forward when it comes to interaction with consumers.

Let me get to the reason I want to make a contribution, and that is to discuss the changes to the residential tenancies act. Let's boil it down to what this is about. This is about enabling the government to engage those not-for-profit providers in the market to continue our thirst to create more opportunities for those who want social housing. That will be the great legacy of this minister. You can judge people on all sorts of things. You can talk about the amount of money spent. You can talk about the number of hours worked. But here we have a guy who is outcomes focused. The fact that we are streaking ahead of other states when it comes to being able to engage that sector is testament to what has been a great turnaround in the Queensland social housing sector. Judge the minister on many things but, above all, judge him on what he has done to reduce that waiting list.

We can talk about social compassion. Social compassion is getting outcomes for people who deserve them. Every person you take off a long waitlist who deserves to be in social housing is a win for that family and a win for common sense, delivering good social outcomes. Getting good social outcomes is not the monopoly of those who feel that it is all about taking the easy road.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Often it is the difficult decisions that can lead to the best outcomes for those who need that social assistance. I know that the member for Nanango has a keen interest in this. I can feel by her interjections just how passionate she is. I think that is tremendous. She is someone with a strong plan indeed for a bright future.

I want to talk about a social housing provider in my electorate of Mundingburra by the name of Yumba-Meta. They are indeed, as the member for Nanango knows all too well, a wonderful organisation. Later on this month on 31 October I will be attending their 40th birthday celebration.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am not representing them. I have seen this organisation's progression in my short time in public life over the course of the last decade. They have been such a wonderful servant to the community they wish to assist. They are also great citizens in the community. When I have had trouble with the tenants in their property they have risen to the challenge. They have always struck a balance in understanding that social housing is not a right; it is a privilege. Those who use it as an opportunity to better themselves and to be able to get their kids off the streets and who use it as an opportunity to go to the next level are those whom we must strive to put in there. Those who abuse it should not be given that privilege. I have every faith in working with organisations like Yumba-Meta to deliver that outcome. Whilst the member for Nanango is urging me to continue, I will end my contribution there by saying there are some excellent changes in this bill, and I commend them to the House.



Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—Ind) (12.06 pm): I rise to participate in the debate on the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I note the bill is in a number of parts and I would like to touch on first the public housing sector reforms. I understand that the reforms aim to have approximately 90 per cent of the housing tenancies managed by the not-for-profit sector by 2020. I understand the rationale of this, but my concern is that this might simply be the thin end of the wedge, that once this all goes through, another government may come in and take it the next step, as the previous minister was very keen to do in wanting to sell off the public housing component. I can vividly recall that the Woombye caravan park, which is not far from the Big Pineapple, was front and centre at one stage.

So, whilst there is merit in what the government is proposing and there is support within this chamber for that, I do have a concern that a potential future government will come in and say, 'We will take it to the next step.' I hope that never happens because I believe the government has an important role to play in public housing in Queensland. It is about government services. There are some core services that I think we need the government to remain directly involved in. Yes, there are opportunities for the not-for-profit sector to be involved, but I would hate to see a future government walk away from their core responsibility of providing this very important public housing service for

many, many people who are desperate for that accommodation. I also note that earlier in the debate the minister stated—

This bill will also enable us to get tougher on builders doing the wrong thing and will enable heavy penalties to be applied. To improve compliance the current demerit point system will be strengthened. Demerit points will be increased to encourage licensees to do the right thing. It will also enable the QBCC to remove recalcitrant licensees from the industry.

He then said—

The commission often receives complaints from subcontractors in relation to head contractors not paying in accordance with the contract or using commercial leverage to force subcontractors to accept lower amounts than originally agreed to. We need to protect subcontractors so that they are paid for the work that they do.

The minister went on to say—

The bill extends the grounds for disciplinary action to include the failure of a contractor to pay a subcontractor in accordance with the contract. It should be noted that these amendments also provide for such disciplinary proceedings to be reviewable in QCAT.

There certainly are some forward steps. As I think the member for Mount Coot-tha and some other members said, the bill is giving the commission a bit of a bite. I think they were the exact words used. The bill is giving the commission a bit of a bite, and it is about time I think the member said and other members repeated. I think it is time for the government to not give the commission just a bit of a bite but to give it a bulldog bite so that we can have security of the payments system. The whole issue with subcontractors is that they work on a job and the next minute that money which should be secured for that project is being frittered around to other projects. Mr Deputy Speaker, if you or I as the secretary of an association received money into the association and then siphoned that money off somewhere else or to another association because we are also the secretary or treasurer of another association and two or three months later brought some money back from another association that we are the treasurer of, we would have been charged with stealing. Yet here all the government can come up with is a bit of a bite. Well, I say it is not jolly well good enough. We have had Walton Construction on the Sunshine Coast devastating families, sending families into bankruptcy. They had to sell their business, their house and go and rent because no government is prepared to make sure that the dollars are secure; that the money that should be secured on that contract is secured. The reason why no government is prepared to do it is that it knows that is how all the big players in the construction company operate. They use the money and they shift it around so they can keep operating.

I think it is time that practice was brought to an end. I know that will have significant ramifications, but we have to start somewhere and at some time. If this government is not prepared to do it, I jolly well hope the next government will. If I am elected, I am keen to play my part in trying to make sure that money is secured and if something goes wrong the fewest number of people are impacted by that collapse. At the moment we see many, many people affected by the collapse.

There are significant improvements in the bill, and I recognise those. There are improvements to the Queensland Home Warranty Scheme, the Queensland building disputes process and the mandating of mediation processes. In the past mediation meant that you had to volunteer if you wanted to go along. Heck, if you have a neighbourhood dispute and you want to have mediation and the neighbour says, 'I'm not interested; go and whistle for it,' the mediation process cannot proceed. So I will be interested to see how the mandatory mediation process is going to work and how successful it will be.

I am concerned because of all the issues we have seen and the massive loss of funds. The Walton group comes to mind because it directly affects many families in my electorate and in the surrounding areas of the Sunshine Coast and parts of Queensland. It is a major company. Clearly it was able to get away with juggling funds when it should not have been able to. I think it is time the government had the strength of character to take the big players on. I suppose with the way the government has amended electoral donations so that people can donate up to \$12,400 and no-one will know that you have donated, and other people in their little group may have also donated \$12,400 and no-one will ever know, they will be able to ask for a return of the favour.

I think it is the start of a slippery slope under this Campbell Newman Liberal National Party government. Other state governments are saying that we need to bring back transparency in political donations, but here in Queensland we want to go the other way. I say that it is wrong. It is only the Independents and minor parties who will have any capacity to see that changed. I recognise that Labor has also been very vocal publicly in relation to those changes. Labor has also said that it will revisit and overturn those disgraceful amendments to the Electoral Act.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Minister, what is your point of order?

Mr MANDER: Surely this is not relevant to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, I have been listening carefully to your speech and I would ask you to return to the bill.

Mr WELLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I did get a little sidetracked because another member of the government used a phrase that I liked and it really captured how I was feeling. The bill gives the commission a bit of a bite. That resonated with me because people have been saying, 'We really want the commission to have a bulldog's bite.' We will not get that under Campbell Newman's Liberal National Party government, but under a different formula you jolly well might. And who knows, that new formula might include some Independents and minor parties. I see a couple of ministers glaring. They are not smiling over there. By crikey, let's bring on the election and see how it goes.

I thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for allowing me the opportunity to participate in this debate. Other members of the crossbench and I have just signed a historic accord against asset privatisation. It is a very powerful document. I think it will give Queenslanders an opportunity to make a difference at the next election.

Mrs RICE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I again go to relevance to the bill that we are debating.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask the member again to return to the bill.

Mr WELLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will resume my seat. I look forward to the matter proceeding to be debated in the clauses. I also really look forward to the day the Premier announces the election date.



Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (12.15 pm), in reply: I thank honourable members for their interest and contribution to the debate last night and today. I once again thank the members of the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee for their diligence and hard work in examining this legislation. I again acknowledge all those who have made a submission on the bill. I also acknowledge and thank the staff of the QBCC and the Department of Housing and Public Works who have put a lot of work into these changes. Of course I also thank my own ministerial staff.

I want to refer to a number of points made by some members. I turn to the member for Rockhampton first. He said that while the opposition supports the transfer of tenancy and property management to the community housing sector it does not want us to do it en bloc. The opposition wants us to be methodical. It wants us to take our time. I remind the member for Rockhampton that this strategy is called Housing 2020, not 'Housing 2015' or 'Housing 2016' but Housing 2020. When we came into government, 25 per cent of our houses were managed by the community housing sector. By the end of this year that figure will go to around 35 per cent. So we still have a heck of a long way to go to get to 90 per cent. That is why we have another six years to roll out this strategy.

There will not be a more controlled and methodical method than that which we are adopting. We will have regional plans across every part of Queensland where we will be consulting with community housing providers and special housing providers in those areas to try to work out what the capability is, what our need is, mapping those and consulting, consulting, consulting. We cannot be accused of not talking to those who know best. It is part of the style of this government and particularly mine in this department. The member for Rockhampton can rest assured that we have taken great measures to undertake that consultation. Do not forget that a lot of the changes to the QBCC were a result of a parliamentary inquiry. Many people made submissions. Many people came and gave their opinion, and we have responded to that through our 10-point action plan with the QBCC.

I turn to the contribution by the member for Redcliffe, which was quite astonishing. If it was not so serious, it would be funny. She said that she has not seen anywhere where we have publicly announced the successful proponent for the Logan Renewal Initiative—the model for the way that we are going to deal with community housing in the future. Her and the 22 staff who support the opposition have not noticed—

Ms Palaszczuk: Her?

Mr MANDER: I take that point. The member for Redcliffe and her staff have not noticed what is probably one of the major announcements in community housing in the history of social housing in Queensland. Let me just remind her of some of the ways that we made those announcements. I held a media conference on 13 September to announce the successful proponent, the story was on the evening news that night and it was reported in two local papers. I will table one of those newspaper stories and also one of the media releases that were given to all of the media announcing who the successful proponent was.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Reporter*, *Brisbane*, dated 19 September 2014, titled 'Affordability key to housing plans' [6279].

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 13 September 2014, by the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Hon. Tim Mander MP, titled 'New era for Logan housing' [6280].

If you google the phrase 'Logan Renewal Initiative', the first result is a link to my department's website and the very second sentence on that page reveals the identity of the successful proponent. Let me read from that website—

As part of this initiative, Logan City Community Housing (LCCH) will take over the management of public housing tenancies in Logan by mid next year.

LCCH is a newly created entity, established solely for the Logan Renewal Initiative.

It comprises Compass Housing Services, an experienced social housing service provider and BlueCHP, a not-for-profit company specialising in developing affordable housing.

I table that document as well.

Tabled paper: Department of Housing and Public Works: Logan Renewal Initiative—Information for tenants and applicants [6281].

Details of the new proponent are also on the department's website. Not only have we done that but I have written personally to every social housing tenant in the Logan area advising them of the new proponent. We have written to the community housing providers in the area. We have written to the support providers in the area. I table all of those documents.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 13 September 2014, from Mr Neil Castles, Director-General, Department of Housing and Public Works, to an applicant [6282].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 13 September 2014, from Mr Neil Castles, Director-General, Department of Housing and Public Works [6283].

Tabled paper: Webpage, dated 16 October 2014, titled 'Issue 10, September 2014, Department of Housing and Public Works' [6284].

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from Mr Neil Castles, Director-General, Department of Housing and Public Works, to Ms Deborah Aldridge, Manager, Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc [6285].

The only people we did not communicate directly to were the Labor advisers. I am very happy to put them on the email list in the future so that they can be kept up to date with something that the whole world knows about, but the 22 advisers from the best resourced—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. They are the best resourced opposition in the history of the Queensland parliament and they have missed this simple announcement. I acknowledge the member for Yeerongpilly, who also has said that he supports these amendments we are making to both of these acts. It is amazing how he has become far more amenable since he left the PUP party. That is good to see and I hope that continues in the future. I acknowledge the ranting of the member for Nicklin and I acknowledge the fact that he said these changes we are making bring improvements to the way the QBCC is managed and the way community housing is managed as well.

I thank all of the government members for their contributions. They recognise the great changes that have happened in housing where we have now brought the housing waiting list down below 18,000. That is an incredible figure; it is an improvement of around 42 per cent compared to when we came to government. That has not happened through trickery or through changing eligibility; it has happened through better management of the system and by using innovative ways of getting people into housing to make sure that those who are most needy are actually provided with our houses.

I also want to acknowledge the members who can see the great changes that are happening in the QBCC. The rapid dispute adjudication that is taking place is incredibly exciting. There are trials

happening at the moment and I believe they are being resolved on average every 15 days—whereas, prior to this, cases going to QCAT would take an average of 28 weeks to resolve. What a massive change, what a massive difference. Imagine the amount of money that is being saved because of this rapid dispute adjudication—not to mention the incredible angst that is involved with the biggest investment in your life, which is your house, when you have got a dispute that drags on and on and on and on.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of those who made a contribution. I thank once again the officials from the Department of Housing and Public Works, the officials from the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and my personal staff for all of the hard work they have put into these amendments.


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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 80—

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (12.25 pm): I seek leave to move the following amendments en bloc.

Leave granted.

Mr MANDER: I move the following amendments—

1 Clause 36 (Replacement of pt 5 (The statutory insurance scheme))

Page 45, line 28, after 'increase'—

insert—

by \$5000 or more

2 Clause 36 (Replacement of pt 5 (The statutory insurance scheme))

Page 46, line 20, after 'increase'—

insert—

by \$5000 or more

3 Clause 36 (Replacement of pt 5 (The statutory insurance scheme))

Page 47, line 12, after 'increase'—

insert—

by \$5000 or more

4 Clause 37 (Replacement of pt 6 (Rectification of building work))

Page 58, lines 18 to 24—

omit, insert—

71J Requests for rectification of building work or remediation of consequential damage

- (1) A consumer may ask the commission to give a direction to rectify building work the consumer considers is defective or incomplete.
- (2) The owner or occupier of a residential property adjacent to a building site may ask the commission to give a direction to remedy any consequential damage to the property.
- (3) A person making a request under subsection (1) or (2) must give the commission—
 - (a) details of—
 - (i) for a request under subsection (1)—the building work the consumer considers is defective or incomplete; or
 - (ii) for a request under subsection (2)—the consequential damage to the property; and
 - (b) other details the commission reasonably requires to consider the request; and
 - (c) the fee prescribed by regulation.

5 Clause 38 (Insertion of new pt 6A)

Page 69, lines 13 and 15, '74F(4)'—

omit, insert—

74F(5)

6 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 97, line 26, 'level 2 regulated'—

omit, insert—

domestic building

7 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 99, lines 29 to 32 and page 100, lines 1 to 25—

*omit, insert—***practical completion**, for a domestic building contract, means the day when the subject work is completed—

- (a) in compliance with the contract, including all plans and specifications for the work and all statutory requirements applying to the work; and
- (b) without any defects or omissions, other than minor defects or minor omissions that will not unreasonably affect occupation; and
- (c) if the building owner claims there are minor defects or minor omissions—the building contractor gives the building owner a defects document for the minor defects or minor omissions.

8 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 102, lines 9 and 10—

*omit, insert—***written form**, for a regulated contract, means—**9 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)**

Page 102, lines 23 to 33 and page 103, lines 1 to 5—

omit, insert—

another person.

- (2) However, the **contract price** does not include an amount a person, other than the building contractor, is entitled to receive directly from the building owner for any of the following matters if the matter for which it is payable relates to the carrying out of the subject work—

- (a) conveying services to the building site;
- (b) connecting or installing services for use at the building site;

Examples of services—

gas, electricity, telephone, water and sewerage

- (c) issuing a development approval or similar authorisation.

10 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 112, lines 23 and 24—

omit, insert—

- (5) The contract has effect only if it complies with subsection (2).

11 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 113, lines 29 to 35 and page 114, lines 1 to 14—

omit, insert—

- (4) If the contract price is fixed, it must be stated in a prominent position on the first page of the contract schedule.
- (5) If the contract price is not fixed, the method for calculating it, including any allowances, must be stated in the contract schedule.
- (6) If the contract price may be changed under a provision of the contract, the contract must also contain—
 - (a) a warning to that effect; and
 - (b) a brief explanation of the effect of the provision allowing change to the contract price.
- (7) The warning and explanation mentioned in subsection (6) must be in a prominent position on the first page of the contract schedule.

12 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 114, line 15, '(9)'—

omit, insert—

- (8)

13 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 114, line 26, '(10)'—

omit, insert—

(9)

14 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 114, lines 28 and 29—

omit, insert—

(10) The contract has effect only if it complies with subsection (2).

15 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 122, line 23, '2 years'—

omit, insert—

1 year

16 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 123, lines 27 to 33—

omit, insert—

(6) In proceedings for a breach of a statutory warranty, it is a defence for the defendant to prove that—

(a) the deficiencies of which the plaintiff complains arise from instructions given by the person for whom the work was done contrary to the written advice of the defendant or the person who did the work; or

(b) the defendant was not reasonably given access to rectify the deficiencies of which the plaintiff complains.

17 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 125, after line 5—

insert—

(3) However, subsection (2) does not apply if—

(a) the building contractor is not lawfully entitled to enter the land at the building site to obtain the foundations data before entering into the contract; and

(b) the contract guarantees that there will be no increase in the contract price because of the foundations data.

18 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 125, line 6, '(3)'—

omit, insert—

(4)

19 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 125, line 11, '(4)'—

omit, insert—

(5)

20 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 125, line 18, '(5)'—

omit, insert—

(6)

21 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 125, line 18, '(4)'—

omit, insert—

(5)

22 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 125, line 21, '(6)'—

omit, insert—

(7)

23 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 125, line 22, '(4)'—

omit, insert—

(5)

24 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 125, line 26, '(7)'—

omit, insert—

(8)

25 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 126, line 3, '(8)'—

omit, insert—

(9)

26 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 126, line 3, '(7)'—

omit, insert—

(8)

27 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 126, line 7, '(9)'—

omit, insert—

(10)

28 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 133, after line 20—

insert—

repair includes an alteration, improvement or replacement that it is necessary or reasonable to carry out instead of effecting a repair.

repair contract means a regulated contract under which the subject work is composed of any 1 or more of the following—

- (a) the repair of a home;
- (b) work associated with the repair of a home;
- (c) the provision, for the repair of a home, of services or facilities to the home or the property on which the home is situated;
- (d) site work relating to work mentioned in paragraph (a), (b) or (c).

29 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 134, lines 2 and 26, 'a written form'—

omit, insert—

writing

30 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 136, lines 18 and 20, 'the delay'—

omit, insert—

the cause and extent of the delay

31 Clause 60 (Insertion of new sch 1B)

Page 136, lines 22 and 23—

omit, insert—

- (d) the owner approves the claim in writing.

32 Clause 66 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 2A)

Page 147, line 17, '36.'—

omit, insert—

36;

33 Clause 66 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 2A)

Page 147, after line 17—

insert—

- (g) section 94C, 94D or 94E.

34 Clause 66 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 2A)

Page 147, line 24—

omit, insert—

or has been confidential information—

35 Clause 66 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 2A)

Page 147, lines 31 to 32 and page 148, lines 1 to 2—

omit, insert—

(2) The approved provider or employee must not disclose the information to anyone else.

36 Clause 66 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 2A)

Page 148, line 16—

omit, insert—

or has been information or a document—

37 Clause 66 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 2A)

Page 148, lines 23 and 24—

omit, insert—

document, to anyone else.

38 Clause 66 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 2A)

Page 149, line 21—

omit, insert—

or has been confidential information that must not be

39 Clause 66 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 2A)

Page 149, lines 24 to 27—

omit, insert—

(2) The approved provider or employee must not disclose the information to anyone else.

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes to Hon. Tim Mander's amendments [\[6286\]](#).

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 80, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (12.26 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. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (12.26 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.

QUEENSLAND PLAN BILL

Resumed from 26 August (see p. 2653).

Second Reading

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (12.27 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

It is with a great deal of pride today that I lead the second reading debate on the Queensland Plan Bill 2014, and I thank the Premier for giving me the opportunity to do so. The Queensland Plan Bill 2014 was introduced to this parliament on 26 August 2014, at which time a copy of the first

Queensland Plan was tabled by the Premier. Honourable members will recall that at that time the Premier read into the record the bold, ambitious and challenging vision that has been set by Queenslanders. This vision, generated from across all regions of our state and cutting across traditional political boundaries, is one that sets us apart from other states and territories and, as representatives in this House, we are obliged to do all that we can to make the vision of our constituents a reality.

The Newman government has been proud to respond to the community's desire for a long-term approach to state planning that extended beyond electoral cycles. That is why by working with Queenslanders the Queensland Plan was developed. The process that we followed resulted in some 80,000 Queenslanders from all electorates sharing their views and shaping a truly shared long-term vision. I would like to take a few moments to talk about the Queensland Plan and how it sets us apart. We believe that no state or territory in Australian history has undertaken such a comprehensive approach to developing a long-term vision. This is not an exercise that was undertaken lightly, partially or with undue haste. Our government invested in it because the people of Queensland took the time to invest in it too—to shape it and to own it. This included people taking time off work to participate in summits and engagement activities, and investing all of their passion and ingenuity in the process. For this commitment, the government is immensely grateful and it inspires our commitment to deliver on the vision of Queenslanders.

Today we continue on the journey to embed and implement the Queensland Plan as the 'people's plan'. We do this by focusing on a bill that aims to ensure that our state has in place a plan that establishes a long-term vision for the growth and prosperity of Queensland, that reflects the aspirations of the community, business and industry for the future of our state, that puts in place a strong implementation framework that includes state and local governments, and that encourages implementation by the community, business and industry.

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the fact that the bill before the House does not seek to establish a process to develop a government owned or created plan. On the contrary, it explicitly seeks to take the politics out of the long-term vision itself by providing for the development of a government response. At this point, it is appropriate to reflect on the participation of all honourable members in the process to develop the Queensland Plan. The process was deliberately bipartisan—government and non-government members were supported to participate; our briefings were open to all members. I acknowledge the contribution that members from across the chamber have made and say that the quality of the plan has been enhanced through our collective effort.

The bill establishes the process to develop a long-term plan and the seven principles against which the plan is to be developed, including that it is long-term; is visionary; has a strategic focus; involves community consultation; is bipartisan; importantly, has measurable outcomes with implementation being a joint responsibility involving state and local government, the community, business and industry. Importantly, the implementation framework that the bill establishes requires action by state and local levels of government respectively, it encourages implementation by the community, business and industry and it establishes an Ambassadors Council to advocate for implementation across the breadth of our state. The implementation framework also recognises the age-old maxim that what gets measured, gets done, and in this context sets a reporting and monitoring framework that culminates in an annual report on progress being made to implement the plan being delivered by the Premier.

The bill was referred to the Finance and Administration Committee, and I would like to thank the committee for its diligence and for the recommendations that it has made. I thank in particular the chair, the member for Capalaba. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge those individuals, stakeholders and entities who took the time to make submissions to the committee and for making a contribution toward this important bill. I note that the committee tabled its report on 10 October 2014 and recommended that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for making that recommendation. The committee made a further five recommendations in its report, and I now table the government's response to the recommendations that the committee made.

Tabled paper: Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 51—Queensland Plan Bill 2014, government response [\[6287\]](#).

I am pleased to be able to say that government has noted two of the recommendations made by the committee and either supported or accepted in principle the remaining four recommendations.

The government has listened to the committee. I would now like to work through the two committee recommendations that the government has accepted in principle and outline in greater detail the government's response.

Before proceeding, I note that in total the committee received 15 submissions to its inquiry, including from local government, universities, statutory bodies and non-government organisations. It is very encouraging that, of the submissions received, there was a high level of support for the Queensland Plan and for the extensive process that was undertaken to develop it. Indeed, many of the submitters participated in the process to develop the Queensland Plan itself and, given the prominence of their role in the community, will be instrumental in helping to achieve Queenslanders' 30-year vision. In this regard, I also acknowledge the positive comments made by the deputy chair of the committee and member for Mulgrave at the departmental briefing on the bill about his participation in the process to develop the Queensland Plan and his reflection that he thought it was a good process, notwithstanding other reservations that he may have about the bill before the House. Given the effort of the departmental officers and others to drive what was the most comprehensive exercise of its kind ever undertaken in our state's history and our bipartisan approach to developing the plan, I support those remarks and thank the member for Mulgrave for making them.

In recommendation 2, the committee recommends that legislative assurances be provided to ensure there is flexibility in how the core outcomes are to be achieved by authorities such as local governments and universities. The commentary preceding that recommendation focused on clause 8 of the bill relating to the government response to the Queensland Plan. The government has accepted in principle the recommendation made by the committee and is proposing to amend the bill to improve clarity and provide flexibility in terms of the public authorities that the legislation covers. In considering the committee's recommendation, it is noted that local governments are not considered public authorities for the purposes of clause 8 and, as such, are not captured by it. However, to the extent that local governments are covered by the bill, the bill has been deliberately designed to provide flexibility and not be prescriptive on how local governments achieve compliance. I note that the submissions received from local governments were supportive of the flexibility provided by the bill.

With respect to universities, there is no intention that the bill will add regulatory or administrative burden. The government's proposed amendments to the bill will ensure that the bill applies only to those Public Service offices and statutory bodies that are prescribed as public authorities.

The government has also accepted in principle the committee's recommendation 3, that public authorities whose independence is outlined in other legislation be provided with assurance that the bill does not impede their independence. The government, therefore, proposes to amend the bill to preclude a number of provisions from applying to a public authority to the extent that there would be an impact on the public authority's independence as required by legislation or government policy or as is a customary feature of the public authority.

Despite his previously positive comments, the member for Mulgrave provided a dissenting report to the committee report, and I would like to take some time to respond to that. In his dissenting report, the member for Mulgrave identified concerns about elements of the government's response to the Queensland Plan, and I would like to take this moment to again stress the difference between the Queensland Plan and the government's response to that plan.

The Queensland Plan was developed by 80,000-plus Queenslanders. It is the vision of all Queenslanders for the next 30 years. The government's response is how this, the Newman government, intends to respond and deliver on that vision in the short-, medium- and long-term. Therefore the comments made by the member for Mulgrave in his dissenting report are not relevant to the bill being considered by the House today. The issues raised in the dissenting report around universities and, in particular, public authorities are being dealt with in response to the recommendations made by the committee, as I just outlined. The government has also indicated support for the committee's recommendation to analyse and report on the annual reporting requirement following completion of the first Queensland Plan annual report. However, in terms of the practical action, as outlined by the department at the public briefing, it is the intention of the government to tap into existing reporting mechanisms and use appropriate administrative arrangements to work with local governments to deliver the Queensland Plan annual report.

Lastly, in response to concerns about local government and assuming that the concern relates to the application of principle 7 in schedule 1 of the bill, the government response to the committee's report provides clarity on this issue. As outlined by the department at the public briefing to the committee, there are already examples of local governments looking at the Queensland Plan, including Rockhampton Regional Council and the Whitsunday Regional Council, which has aligned its corporate plan, Whitsunday 2020, with the Queensland Plan.

This government is committed to actively playing our full role in helping the shared vision of Queenslanders to be achieved. Enshrining the requirement for a long-term plan and associated implementation framework in legislation is an important step to achieving Queenslanders' 30-year vision. I commend the bill to the House.



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.38 pm): I rise to speak in relation to the Queensland Plan Bill. All governments have a duty to plan for the future of their city, state or nation and its people. Labor has always, does now and will always, recognise this need, and our record in office shows that to be true. In Queensland we must plan to meet the future demands of communities separated by large distances and in distinct regions each with their own unique needs.

Unfortunately, the promises made by the LNP government about the Queensland Plan appear to have been broken just like a long list of other promises. When the people of our state are consulted on their views and ideas in developing long-range future plans, they need to have confidence that their views have been heard and acted upon. They need to have confidence that the government is sincere when it says that it wants a bipartisan plan. Instead of that confidence on the part of those Queenslanders who took part, we see a confidence trick being played on them by the Newman government. Unfortunately, the spirit of the Queensland Plan is not reflected in this legislation. As a result, Queenslanders who contributed to the Queensland Plan will be very disappointed with the Newman government and the way that the government has misused and abused the Queensland Plan to promote its asset sales privatisation agenda.

Mr POWELL: I rise to a point of order. I would ask for a ruling on relevance. The Leader of the Opposition is referring to the government's response to the plan; not the Queensland Plan and not the bill before the House today. We are not debating the government's response to the Queensland Plan. We are debating the legislation which is about enshrining the Queensland Plan in Queensland legislation. I ask you to make a ruling on relevance.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is the government's response.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! I am going to allow some latitude at this stage. The Leader of the Opposition has the call.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. People across Queensland went along to the summits in good faith because they believed the government was being genuine about listening to their concerns and ideas about shaping this state. I am passionate about Queensland and I am passionate about listening to people's ideas, but in the back of my mind I was always concerned whether there was a genuine attempt on behalf of the government to listen to Queenslanders. Queenslanders should be quite alarmed that that was not the genuine intent, because in the government's response to the Queensland Plan they are being tricky and deceitful to the people of Queensland. In the government's response—and you only have to look on the website, Minister—to see time and time again references to the 'Strong Choices campaign'. It is a trick and it is a con!

Mr POWELL: I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr POWELL: The website and the government response that the Leader of the Opposition is referring to are not what we are debating today. We are debating the Queensland Plan Bill. As I made very clear in my second reading speech, there is a distinction between the Queensland Plan and the government's response. If the Leader of the Opposition has an issue with the government response, that is fine and we would ask the opposition to provide their response to the Queensland Plan. But this bill is not about the government's response. It is about the Queensland Plan itself, and I ask you to rule on relevance.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. It states very clearly here '*A plan for the future: the Queensland government response to the Queensland Plan*'. We are debating the Queensland Plan. It is relevant to what the government's response is to the Queensland Plan.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have entered into this today to allow a wide-ranging discussion on the Queensland Plan. I take some technical points of order; however, my sense of it is that it is a very broad and very important bipartisan plan that has been put forward to the people of Queensland, and I am going to allow a wide-ranging debate on the bill. The Leader of the Opposition has the call.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. Once again on the website is the big “Q”, the symbol of the Queensland Plan that was used at the summits—Minister, you would agree with that—*A plan for the future: the Queensland government response to the Queensland Plan*. In this document we have a reference to the ‘Strong Choices Investment Program’, and I will table that document so all Queenslanders are aware of the manipulation that is going on here.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: A plan for the future: the Queensland government response to the Queensland Plan, infrastructure [6288].

Here is another document on the Queensland government website ‘The Queensland Plan: Queenslanders’ 30-year vision’. There it is, Minister, and what do we have here? A reference to ‘a suite of infrastructure packages totalling \$8.6 billion’—again a reference to Strong Choices. I table that reference for Queenslanders.

Tabled paper: Webpage titled ‘The Queensland Plan: Queenslanders’ 30-year vision’ [6289].

‘*A plan for the future: the Queensland government response to the Queensland Plan, regions*’. Then we have the big ‘Q’ again for the Queensland Plan, the symbol of the government. What do we have here? We have a reference to the ‘Strong Choices Investment Program’. Your Queensland Plan is backed up with asset sales, pure and simple. I table that for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: A plan for the future: the Queensland government response to the Queensland Plan, regions [6290].

While we are on the subject of the Queensland Plan let us talk about the use of taxpayers’ funds for the advertising campaign of the Queensland government’s Queensland Plan. Six months out from the election I witnessed another new ad on ‘your’ Queensland Plan that is backed up by asset sales. This has been the biggest con on Queensland, and everyone should have been very disappointed because we took the government at good faith. We went along to that Mackay summit, we sat there with our constituents and we listened to their ideas about the future of the state, but we were being manipulated from day one! Let us see if this government has the guts to go back to their communities and say, ‘The Queensland Plan is all about asset sales.’ If they were listening to Queenslanders, they would know that that is something Queenslanders do not want. Queenslanders do not want asset sales!

We have the twin pronged approach here: we have the government’s final plan of no asset sales, which everybody knows is another con. An asset lease is an asset sale. This week the Premier said that it is selling off the family silverware. In the past the Treasurer has said that it is selling off the farm. If you think that Queenslanders cannot see through your deceptive misinformation, you have to be kidding. Did they not understand the result of the last election? For goodness sake, it was about asset sales!

Mr POWELL: I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, what is the point of order?

Mr POWELL: Again I would ask you to rule on relevance. I would ask where in the legislation that we are debating today is there a reference to asset sales or leasing.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am listening very carefully to the—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Member for Nanango, I am trying to make a ruling and I do not appreciate your interjection. I am listening very carefully to the speech of the Leader of the Opposition. I am starting to get the sense that the speech is moving more and more away from the bill. I have said that I will allow a wide-ranging debate, but I do ask the Leader of the Opposition to return to the bill.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I move to section 3, which states—

The main purposes of this Act are to—

- (a) provide for the development and ratification of a plan, known as the Queensland Plan, that—
 - (i) establishes a long-term vision for the future growth and prosperity of Queensland ...

Their future vision is about asset sales. That is how it is directly linked to the Queensland Plan. This government has been using millions of dollars of taxpayers' money to promote the Queensland Plan, and I want to know from the minister and from the Premier how much is being allocated for phase 2? There is an advertising code of conduct that says you will not advertise six months out from an election. This is about, leading up to the election, spinning your message to the people of Queensland that the Queensland Plan is in their best interests.

Today in the House we are debating the Queensland Plan Bill. The government's website 'The Queensland Plan: Queenslanders' 30-year vision' makes references time and time again to Strong Choices. Queenslanders should go to that website and have a good, long look at it, because the government's 30-year vision is about 30 years of asset sales—assets that the people of Queensland will not own into the future. There will be lost revenue of around \$2 billion a year. Over 30 years, lost revenue could be in excess of \$60 billion. I think my analysis is actually quite conservative. We will lose \$60 billion in revenue to the Queensland government.

So many people went along to the summit believing that the Premier and the government were genuine about listening to their ideas. For the last 2½ years this government has failed to listen to Queenslanders. It is a great disappointment that this government has used the Queensland Plan in a sneaky fashion to cover up its asset sales. That is what this was all about. From day one it was all about asset sales and how we got to it at the end through the 30-year plan. Minister, you may well go and look at your own department website—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will cease using the direct term 'you' when speaking about the minister or whoever she is referring to and speak through the chair, please.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. When the people from my electorate went to Mackay they thought the government would be genuinely listening to them. They did not know that their response would be about selling off their assets.

Labor would support any genuine attempt at making bipartisan plans for the future, but we will not be supporting this bill for a number of important reasons: (1) it increases red tape; (2) it has absolutely no compliance measures, which means that organisations can simply ignore the plan; (3) the way in which it was originally drafted erodes the independence of important statutory bodies such as the Ombudsman, the Auditor-General and the Health Ombudsman; and (4), most importantly, it has been exposed as a sneaky and blatantly political way for the government to justify their asset sales agenda.

It is clear that the LNP is using this legislation in a thinly disguised attempt to legitimise its asset sales program and the multimillion dollar advertising campaign. I want details today. I want the minister to give me details today about how much taxpayers' money has been used to date and will be used to promote the Queensland Plan to the public.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Oh, they are awake today!

Mr Berry interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Member for Ipswich, I would not be interjecting; I would be out doorknocking, if I were you.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They may well laugh now, but they will not be laughing in six months time! The arrogance is there. The arrogance is very disappointing.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not hear the exact words, but it would certainly help the House if we could conduct ourselves in an appropriate manner. Let us just be mindful of the standing orders, please. The Leader of the Opposition has the call.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. In summary, the opposition cannot support the Queensland Plan. We cannot support the Queensland Plan—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Oh, the Attorney-General is awake as well! It is great to see you, Attorney. It is great to see that you are still there. We have not heard from you for such a long time, Attorney. We were just wondering whether you are one of the ministers that they are keeping at bay, that they are keeping quiet.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I again ask you not to speak directly to members but to speak through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I was merely taking an interjection from the Attorney. He has been so quiet lately. I have missed our interactions. I look forward to hearing from him in the not-too-distant future, perhaps.


I have made it very clear that the opposition, on behalf of Queenslanders, participated in the process of developing the Queensland Plan with the utmost hope that it was actually being carried out in a genuine, bipartisan manner. Unfortunately, from the government's response it is very clear that the whole 30-year plan of the Queensland Plan is linked to asset sales.

I also want to make it very clear that the opposition does not support any continued advertising of (a) the Queensland Plan or (b) the Strong Choices campaign six months out from an election. If the government wants to advertise those two measures then the LNP should pay for it. They have been fundraising. They have their slush funds out there—the half a million dollar dinner the other night at Gambaro's—

Mr POWELL: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I again draw your attention to relevance. What does this have to do with the legislation?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I again ask the Leader of the Opposition to return to the bill.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. We will not be supporting this bill because it is a waste of taxpayers' money. Advertising should cease six months out from an election. If the government want to go ahead with their asset sales agenda, it is a political matter and the LNP must pay for it, not the taxpayers of Queensland.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (12.57 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Queensland Plan Bill. I also support the government's response to the Queensland Plan Bill. I have actually read the bill. This debate is not about the government's response; this debate is about the Queensland Plan Bill. This bill continues this government's commitment to deliver on the desire of Queenslanders to have in place a long-term plan that sits outside of the electoral cycle. I sincerely congratulate the Hon. Andrew Powell for his hard work and dedication to the long-term future of Queenslanders.

In speaking today I acknowledge the more than 80,000 people whose views helped shape Queenslanders' 30-year vision. The process to develop the Queensland Plan was deliberately inclusive and sought the widest set of views, options and aspirations that could be gathered.

Mr Deputy Speaker, you will recall the Mackay summit. Delegates included representatives from all 89 electorates, mayors, local government CEOs and a youth delegation that stole the show with their energy and enthusiasm. I am sure everyone would agree that the summit was challenging, but we all worked together to develop the six questions that would shape Queenslanders' vision. The Mackay summit was followed by a three-month engagement period in which we took those six questions to Queenslanders, including businesses, industry, non-government organisations, local government, community groups and individuals. We saw communities come together at more than 200 engagement events held by local members, community groups and businesses across the state.

All of this input culminated in the Brisbane summit, which was truly a watershed moment for our state. More than 600 delegates, including members representing every electorate, came together. At this point I would love to acknowledge the delegates from my electorate of Nanango who accompanied me to both Mackay and Brisbane: Mr Lyal Giles, the principal of Nanango State School; Mr Bryce Camm from Wonga Plains Feedlot and an active member of the agricultural community; Mrs Beryce Nelson, a previous member of this House and an active member of the Somerset region; and Mrs Amy Wicks, a mother, a primary producer and a very busy woman who is the president of the Next Gen group through the Queensland Shows association and a full-time community volunteer with the Nanango Show Society and many other local groups. I would also like to thank the Nanango focus group, which met in both Kingaroy and Yarraman to provide me with feedback for the process.

These meetings were held with a wide range of people from my electorate. They were invaluable. The time the group volunteered was much appreciated. I know that many people from around the Nanango electorate also contributed to the process via online feedback. In particular I make note of Jeff Close from Crows Nest.

But the engagement process did not stop at the end of the Brisbane summit. On 9 December 2013 the Premier released *The Queensland Plan: a 30-year vision for Queensland—our working draft created by Queenslanders, for Queensland* for public review. During the three-month review period more than 550 people or organisations provided detailed feedback, with 71 per cent agreeing it was reflective of Queenslanders' feedback.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Would the member like to seek leave to have the remainder of her speech incorporated?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Yes. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

It would also be remiss of me not to reflect on the effort and diligence applied by the independent review group which was tasked with assessing the process for incorporating Queenslanders feedback into the final plan—The Queensland Plan: Queenslanders' 30-year vision—released on 31 July 2014.

The nine foundation areas, 35 goals and 20 targets that frame The Queensland Plan will drive the direction of our State for the next 30 years. It truly is a bold and inspiring vision. Delivering on Queenslanders' vision through our collective efforts, will secure a strong and prosperous future for our communities and the State.


The Bill that we are debating today is vital in ensuring that a strong implementation framework exists so that we can keep faith with Queenslanders to deliver on their vision. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Frecklington, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.30 pm.


PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

 **Mrs D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (2.30 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. During my contribution to debate last night on the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, I indicated that it was my understanding that the government had not to date announced the successful tenderer of the Logan Renewal Initiative project and had not conveyed that decision to public housing tenants. I wish to correct the record, as I have since learned that the government has made the announcement and conveyed that message to the affected public housing tenants.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Reports

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.30 pm), by leave: I table Ethics Committee report No. 149 titled *Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 16 June 2014 relating to an alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests*. I also table Ethics Committee report No. 150 titled *Report on a right of reply No. 27*. Finally, I table Ethics Committee report No. 151 titled *Matters of privilege referred by the Speaker on 8 and 15 May 2014 relating to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by a member*. I commend the reports and the committee's recommendations to the House.


Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 149—Matter of privilege referred by the Registrar on 16 June 2014 relating to an alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests [\[6291\]](#).

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 150—Report on a right of reply No. 27 [\[6292\]](#).

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 151—Matters of privilege referred by the Speaker on 8 and 15 May 2014 relating to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by a member [\[6293\]](#).

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS


V8 Supercars

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.31 pm): This afternoon I rise in the House to pay tribute to another Queensland sporting hero who arrived at the pinnacle of his profession at the weekend by becoming 'King of the Mountain' at Bathurst in the running of the time-honoured annual V8 series premier event. Gold Coaster Paul 'The Dude' Morris, at the tender age of 46, delivered on a lifelong dream by being first across the line with his co-driver Chaz Mostert in the Ford V8 supercar at Bathurst 2014 after 23 previous attempts.

There is no doubt that Mount Panorama holds pride of place in the hearts and the minds of Australian revheads. From the early years when Cooper Ss dominated the race through to the Torana years to the Aussie icons slugfest of recent years of Holden versus Ford, to win Bathurst is the ultimate dream of Australian drivers as a national championship without parallel. Paul has been supported by his powerfully family oriented parents, Terry and Lurleen Morris, throughout his long and dedicated race-driving career and it is fitting that they all share the accolades of this magnificent win as a culmination of a family passion delivered in the twilight years of Paul's driving career.

Paul's success is the perfect segue to remind Gold Coasters of our own fabulous V8 Supercar event on Gold Coast streets in two weekends time, the Gold Coast 600. This is a fantastic opportunity for all Gold Coasters and Queenslanders to smell the high octane and enjoy the trackside activities firsthand. It is another example of the Newman LNP government and the tourism minister, the Hon. Jann Stuckey, financially supporting motor car racing in Queensland so that all Queenslanders can enjoy the thrill, feel the vibe and soak up the atmosphere of V8 car racing on the Famous for Fun Gold Coast. It is important for Gold Coasters to show their support for this event through attendance on the track for motor racing enthusiasts, as the ongoing continuation of these major sporting commitments very much depends on public support, which unfortunately was missing from the IRB rugby 7s competition last weekend. Ladies and gentlemen: start your engines for the most fun filled ride you can ever have in paradise.

Currumbin Electorate, Cost of Living

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (2.34 pm): I am pleased to update the House on how this government's steadfast commitment to lowering the cost of living is benefiting families in Currumbin. In electorate-wide surveys I have conducted regularly over the years, residents have told me that cost of living is important to them. Since coming into government in 2012, the LNP has worked tirelessly to reduce living costs that escalated under Labor whilst also reducing the unsustainably high levels of debt left by that incompetent, self-serving government.


The recent announcement by the Premier, Treasurer and energy minister that power bills will be slashed through a \$3.4 billion Strong Choices Cost of Living Fund is welcome news to all Queenslanders. Exactly how much each household or business will save can be determined by the online savings calculator launched this week. I visited the website www.strongchoices.qld.gov.au and calculated the savings that my husband and I are set to see over the next five years. It totalled \$837—a significant sum of money. Larger families and those with a pool may save upwards of \$1,000. That is more money to invest in their kids' education, sport and recreation activities and the like.

For the first time in Queensland history, the LNP government is reducing public transport fares by five per cent from 3 November. Currumbin locals travelling from the Varsity Lakes train station to the Brisbane CBD will save \$360.36 per year as a result of these fare reductions and will save \$2,298.56 compared to Labor's planned fare hikes. Last year we also carried out a comprehensive bus review where I was successful in having the Pines Shopping Centre to John Flynn Hospital route reinstated. More examples of this government's commitment to affordability include the freezing of car registration for our entire first term of government, as well as the standard household electricity tariff 11. Families have saved \$7,175 off the cost of buying a home with the reinstatement of the stamp duty concession. In the last two months more than \$550,000 in funding has been announced for Currumbin roads under the Safer Roads Sooner project. Local schools share in more than \$2.3 million to slash the maintenance backlog left by Labor.

I also commend our local police officers for their ongoing efforts, with special mention to Senior Constable Kurt Foessel from the Elanora Police Beat for receiving the coveted titled of Gold Coast

Police Officer of the Year. Kurt works tirelessly in our community with local schools and residents and this award is truly fitting recognition of his unwavering dedication. We all salute you, Kurt.


Wynnum and Manly Districts Meals on Wheels Association

 **Mr SYMES** (Lytton—LNP) (2.37 pm): I rise to speak about a wonderful local community group on the Brisbane bayside which has done great work in assisting the elderly community, the Wynnum and Manly Districts Meals on Wheels Association. Earlier this year I had the pleasure of accompanying the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, the Hon. Tracy Davis MP, to showcase the Meals on Wheels program that has effectively been run out of the Waterloo Bay Leisure Centre for many years. We saw the ground-level, day-to-day work by the cooks, drivers and other volunteers who assist in producing a healthy meal option for elderly residents in the Wynnum-Manly community.

President Ken Edwards has for nearly five years been fundraising and lobbying the council for land to build a purpose-built facility to future proof the organisation for the coming years. Only recently Mr Edwards's dream has become a reality, with the Brisbane City Council granting land on Manly Road for the organisation to build a nearly \$2 million facility as outlined in its AGM last week which I had the honour and pleasure to attend as the chairman. Special thanks must go to my good friend and Brisbane City Councillor Ryan Murphy for his assistance in obtaining the land and for also providing the funding commitment to construct the car park for the facility. Construction of the new facility will commence in 2015, which will be a testament to both Ken and his lovely wife, Irene Edwards, for their hard work and determination in promoting Meals on Wheels throughout the bayside area. I would like to put on the public record my thanks to the committee and the volunteers who contribute to taking Meals on Wheels from strength to strength.

On another note, I also want to promote a local rugby league match that will be held this Saturday, the Murri versus Maori game. I want as many local residents as possible, but even people from the wider Brisbane area and the Logan area, to come to watch the match. If people have a free moment, the gates open at 12 pm. The main match between the two senior sides will be held at 4 pm. Many semiprofessional and professional players will be playing in this match. It should be a really good showcase of cultural diversity and sport.

Kuranda Festival; World Cassowary Day; R4 World Rafting Championships


 **Mr TROUT** (Barron River—LNP) (2.40 pm): Last weekend, our jewel in the rainforest, the iconic village of Kuranda, hosted the 2014 Kuranda Festival. Under the energetic leadership of Marc Sleeman, with assistance from this government and the local Mareeba Shire Councillor Jenny Jensen, Kuranda has reached new heights of appeal, emerging from the doldrums of the global financial crisis like a phoenix. Its renaissance is a classic example of an excellent strategy combined with creative talent and the focused energies of a team besotted with the product that it is selling and as protective of its welfare as parents. Jack Ferguson, Catherine Harvey, the charismatic Paul Webster and other Kuranda locals have ploughed time, commitment and creativity into creating an awareness of the amazing yet delicate environment of the Kuranda rainforest, remarkable in its extent of rich plant and animal life.

During the festivities at the weekend, for the second time in as many weeks, I dressed up as a cassowary. That is right: a cassowary. Our iconic southern cassowary is endangered, with perhaps only 1,000 in existence in its depleting habitat. As a large, somewhat slow moving flightless bird, it is under threat from vehicles, dog attacks and many other adversaries. Its extinction would have a dire effect on the rainforest environment in which it has a huge role to play in maintaining the fragile ecosystem.

Long-term Kuranda resident Paul Webster, a talented musician and songwriter, created the inaugural World Cassowary Day on 26 September this year, which was the day of my first experience of being dressed in the magnificent plumage of this iconic bird. Paul has taken the cassowary and placed it firmly in the eye of the Australian public. As an entrant on *Millionaire Hot Seat* in the middle of the year, Paul sat a stuffed cassowary toy on the console in front of him. The majority of the production team had no idea what it was. It was a moment of revelation and one that saw the birth of World Cassowary Day, a proud day for Kuranda and the birth of an annual event that will move through three rainforest areas of the far north on a cyclical basis.

The Kuranda Festival takes place over two days, with activities for adults and children, music and dance and something that I always associate with Kuranda and the tropics—a huge amount of colour. Once again, I was part of a team that strives to win the Barron River Raft Race. As I bravely joined my fellow team members in fighting the smaller current in the still waters of the gentle Barron River, out in South America, far from home, Down Under Thunder, our own incredible under-19s rafting team, had taken out the R4 World Rafting Championships in Brazil. What an amazing achievement for a young team that came together only last year. They left their international rivals in their wake. I do not think my team left anyone or anything in its wake, except perhaps a cap. I can hear the girls of Down Under Thunder saying, 'Keep trying, Trouty.'

Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service; Tuberculosis Treatment Services

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.43 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of and to support our senior doctors of Queensland Health, because this LNP Minister for Health will not. This week, the Cairns and Hinterland HHS stood down two very senior doctors for expressing long-held concerns about procedures to protect the public and the health workers against infectious diseases. Thankfully, we have not had an ebola outbreak in Australia, but we need to acknowledge the risk. We need to build our capacity to control infectious diseases now and not stand down doctors. We need to treat high-risk patients and be prepared for any risk.


This minister must get his head out of the sand, forget his personal leadership ambitions and reinstate the doctors that his department ordered the Cairns and Hinterland HHS to suspend. He needs to get his mind back on health and he needs to forget about his own personal ambition to try to become the LNP Premier of this state.

For some time Queensland has been at risk of a multidrug-resistant TB epidemic. MDRTB is endemic in the western provinces of PNG. There have also been increases in XDRTB—extensively drug-resistant TB—for which treatment is particularly difficult, prolonged and expensive. One doctor stood down on gardening leave is a medical specialist, an expert in managing TB, a fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the director of thoracic medicine at the Cairns Hospital. I know that this doctor would not have spoken publicly about infection control at Cairns Hospital unless he was very concerned about either preparedness for a real ebola outbreak or for the resources available to track and test potentially infected patients for either ebola or MDRTB. The other medical specialist, a director of emergency at Cairns Hospital, must be reinstated immediately. Both of them must be reinstated to do their jobs of caring for the people in our Cairns community, seeing lists of patients and doing the work that they have been trained to do for all their lives.

The executive of the Cairns and Hinterland HHS have not been listening to the concerns expressed internally for some time. What we see here is a health minister who attempted to close down the TB centre at the PA Hospital in 2012. In fact, they sacked the centre director, Dr Tom Konstantinos, for speaking out. We need these services rebuilt now.

This issue goes back to the doctors dispute, where this health minister could not even be bothered to turn up. I will stand up for the doctors. I will support them even though the LNP government will not.

Teacher Aides and School Cleaners

 **Mrs RICE** (Mount Coot-tha—LNP) (2.46 pm): It is typical of the union movement that scaremongering and fear is all they know. Last week, I met with a teacher aide and a school cleaner from one of the schools in my electorate, Pam and Anne. They were lovely and obviously incredibly hardworking and committed people and they should be commended for the fabulous contribution that they make in our state schools. I could see the passion they have for our young Queenslanders. But the reason for our meeting was so very disappointing and it was their union, United Voice, which had done nothing but incite fear in them about their job security. The most outrageous part of this matter is that United Voice's campaign is baseless and unnecessary and the leaders of that union know it.

Let me make it very clear this afternoon: this government has been clear and unequivocal about the fact that we are fully committed to honouring the terms of the current industrial agreement covering the conditions of teacher aides and does not have any plans to make any changes to these arrangements. Not only that, this government has implemented its \$54 million election commitment to provide even more teacher aide hours in prep. Similarly, the Queensland government is fully

committed—I repeat, fully committed—to honouring the terms of the current industrial agreement covering the conditions of school cleaners. On top of that commitment, it has been made very clear that the government will not seek to outsource school cleaners when negotiations for the next certified agreement commence later this year. The Premier, the Minister for Education, Training and Employment and the director-general of the department have all provided several written assurances to United Voice advising that the government has no plans to outsource cleaning services in Queensland state schools. What else does United Voice need?

I provided Pam and Anne the reassurance that United Voice so far has not: that the Queensland government is absolutely committed to strengthening front-line services and providing the best possible education for our children. School cleaners play an important role in ensuring that Queensland schools are safe and welcoming places for students, staff and the community and teacher aides play an equally important role to ensure that Queensland students have extra support to develop learning and social skills from an early age.

To the detriment of their members, United Voice has continued its deceptive campaign of misinformation. I cannot emphasise enough how incredibly disgraceful it is that United Voice continues to incite fear and uncertainty among its members. Pam and Anne expressed their genuine fear to me about their futures and it was so unfair to them that they had been experiencing so much worry when the government, as I said, has provided reassurances, both publicly and to United Voice.

All members of United Voice—in fact, all Queenslanders—should be completely outraged by the modus operandi of United Voice in using the everyday hopes and aspirations of its members as political leverage. I encourage and look forward to United Voice telling its members the truth and providing productive representation for our hardworking teacher aides and school cleaners rather than continuing to incite fear among its members.

Water Prices




Hon. MF McARDLE (Caloundra—LNP) (Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (2.49 pm): In November of last year I attended a water forum in the seat of Pumicestone organised by the local member, Lisa France. On that occasion there were between 400 and 500 people at Bribie Island who were very concerned about the cost of water. It was quite a heated night and we had much feedback from the people of that region about the cost of water and, more importantly, how it had escalated in price over the ensuing years since 2008-09. It is quite clear that the south-east corner is paying a very painful price for a very enduring legacy left by the water supply crisis of the Beattie and Bligh governments. In fact, the dollar value at the relevant time of construction of \$4.9 billion in regard to debt has blown out a lot more since then and the people of this state, and indeed Pumicestone, are paying on a regular basis for bulk water as a consequence of those charges.

Labor spent over \$700 million developing a dam that does not exist at Traveston, \$3.8 billion on a recycled water project and a desalination plant and over \$300 million on a dam that does not connect to a supply chain. Whether by incompetence—and I think it was incompetence—past Labor MPs booby trapped South-East Queensland's path to a more affordable water supply. The Newman government on coming to power in 2012 recognised the necessity to reduce the increase in bulk water charges and took the step of amalgamating the bulk water entities, thus saving a sum of \$80 million that enabled this government to reduce the bulk water increases from what would have been \$83 to \$49. I can assure the House that this government is committed to keeping the pressure on the reduction in water prices.

I make the point, as I have in this House on recent occasions, that there is no doubt in my mind that the Labor Party has lost touch with Queensland families. They simply do not comprehend what their actions have delivered and will deliver to the people of the south-east corner for many years to come in relation to the issue of water. The member for Pumicestone, Lisa France, organised that meeting, and has now conducted a number of other meetings for people who were there, to try to resolve a way forward for the people she represents. Ms France is a member who works very hard for her electorate, who has worked and strived to achieve outcomes for all concerned and we will work with her to achieve better water outcomes for the people of Pumicestone.

Beaudesert Town Centre Bypass

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (2.52 pm): This is a government that is delivering better infrastructure and front-line services for rural and regional Queenslanders. Today's announcement by the Deputy Premier that the Beaudesert town bypass will be funded as one of the first three projects under the Priority Development Infrastructure Fund has been a long time in the making. People in the Beaudesert region have been talking about this project for 30 to 40 years. It is extremely gratifying to be the local member to deliver funding for this project to the town of Beaudesert to enable the CBD to be rejuvenated, to get heavy vehicles out of the town centre and to encourage economic activity around the region. It has been a long time in the making and I know that the people of my electorate are happy to see funding announced for that. I refer to comments from the council and the chamber of commerce who have hailed this as an historic day for the town. I table some releases and documentation in relation to this announcement.


Tabled paper: Bundle of documents regarding the Beaudesert Town Centre bypass [6294].

The government is keeping the cost of living down for households and small businesses. I welcome the cost-of-living fund initiatives that have been announced to reduce the cost base of electricity for our households and small businesses. In particular, I make mention of irrigators in my electorate, particularly around the Fassifern region, who are small businesses that use a lot of electricity to make their product. Removing the cost of the solar feed-in tariff scheme from electricity on an ongoing basis will lead to lower electricity prices for those small businesses than there otherwise would have been if that had remained part of the cost base.

Utilising proceeds from the lease of some state assets to remove this cost from small business is just like a farmer leasing a spare paddock, but we are receiving all of the rent upfront to reduce the burden of debt that we have. It is the strongest option to free up that \$1.3 billion in interest to be used for \$1.3 billion worth of infrastructure funding. That is the equivalent of 52 Beaudesert town bypasses.

Just like we have restored maternity services and other procedural services in Beaudesert, we are delivering on the Beaudesert town bypass as well. It does not stop there. There are other projects coming along such as Safer Roads Sooner upgrades at Millstream Road at Jimboomba and Tamborine Mountain Road. I will continue to fight to get these things that need to be in our electorate to grow the economy, to get people into jobs and to make it a better place to live. It is a growing area. I support the government's policies to grow the economy and create jobs across the whole of Queensland.

Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (2.55 pm): This afternoon the member for Bundamba made an allegation that the doctors who spoke out in the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service did so appropriately in relation to the recent ebola scare. I would like to read into the record a letter to the chief executive officer of the hospital from Dr Roxanne Wu as the president of the FNQ SMSA. It states—

An extra-ordinary meeting of the Far North Queensland Senior Medical Staff Association Executive Committee was held at 6pm on Tuesday the 14th of October in response to the suspension of two senior clinicians.

After lengthy discussion and consideration of the interests of both the clinicians and the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, the SMSA Executive Committee has passed the following resolutions unanimously:

1. The SMSA regrets that comments made by the senior clinicians were used by the press in their reporting of the potential case of Ebola virus. The Association did not know of these comments until after they were made. The two senior clinicians involved were commenting on a rapidly evolving situation and with the benefit of hindsight have acknowledged that this was unwise.
2. The SMSA is committed to working constructively with the CHHHS management team to ensure the best health outcomes for the people of Far North Queensland. As a result of this situation, the SMSA has resolved to create a process for responsibly releasing statements to the media, if this is appropriate.
3. The SMSA requests that the District deal locally with the possible breach in the Code of Conduct, resulting in the suspension of the two clinicians. We request that the process described in the Contract of Employment between the District and the SMOs be implemented, as this is the agreed framework for dealing with these matters. It should be separate from the overall review of the management of the Ebola risk patient, to avoid prolonging the process to the detriment of the two clinicians and local services.


We look forward to your response and are available to meet with the CHHHS management team to work towards a speedy resolution of this issue.

Yours truly,

Doctor Roxanne Wu.

Thank you.

Safe Night Out Strategy

 **Dr LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (2.58 pm): This week we have seen the Police Union attempt to raise the serious concerns of their members in relation to alcohol fuelled violence and the Premier's Safe Night Out Strategy. Simply put, the Police Union does not support the government's Safe Night Out Strategy. They have been short-changed by Tim Nicholls and the Premier. There are no extra police available for the city and Valley nightclub areas. Police are being pulled from inner city areas to support the government's Safe Night Out Strategy. The mums and dads of my electorate of Stafford are unprotected on a Friday and Saturday night. Everyone here knows that I have a lot of respect for the work of our police. The Labor Party backs our police on the street and thanks them for the work they do to make Queensland a safer place.

My work as a surgeon has seen me at the end of a chain of events starting with young people wanting a good night out and ending with broken faces and wrecked lives. I have worked with the police over a number of years and came to the view previously held by the Queensland Police Union that we must, as part of a strategy, reduce trading hours to combat alcohol fuelled violence. The Police Union and Ian Leavers ridicule the government's Safe Night Out Strategy. I respect the police in Queensland and understand they are nothing without their honesty and integrity.


Honesty and integrity are vital and community confidence is vital to ensure convictions at court. Jurors look to the honesty of police in the conviction of offenders. To report incidents, victims need confidence that police behave ethically. If police are seen as untrustworthy, the whole system breaks down and sexual assault and domestic violence victims simply will not come forward to report matters to the police.

That is why this week the behaviour of the Premier, the police minister and the Treasurer has been simply disgusting. To say that the Police Union president and vice-president are saying untruths defies belief. They say that they are causing mischief, but for what possible purpose would they do that? They are honest and honourable people who provide an honourable and honest service.

My son is a serving police officer. I am immensely proud of my son, just as I am immensely proud of the Police Service. Labor will stand up for the police. Labor will back them against this LNP government and its intent to attack our police. It is Labor that will protect the safety of the police by reducing trading hours and making our cities safer.

(Time expired)

Agribusiness

 **Hon. JJ McVEIGH** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (3.01 pm): Two weeks ago I had the honour of opening the Ag in the Asian Century conference. I congratulate the organisers from the Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise and the local, national and international presenters that they attracted. It was indeed inspiring to hear of the development and potential in domestic and international markets for Queensland's beef, dairy, cotton, processed food and grain industries and to hear the update from industry operators themselves.


It is widely recognised that our international competitiveness remains somewhat encumbered by a sad lack of infrastructure maintenance and investment by the former Labor state government over many years. That is why it is a great pleasure to work with ministerial colleagues on the road and rail infrastructure investment required for agriculture across our great state; infrastructure such as the Bruce and Warrego highways and, most particularly, the Toowoomba second range crossing. It is why I have complimented and continue to compliment the efforts of the Wagner family and their employees on the development of the Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport site, the efforts of John Dornbusch and others on the InterLinkSQ inland rail terminal proposal and the very significant industrial land development by FK Gardener & Sons at Charlton.

Members should make no mistake: those developments, in an area known as the Toowoomba Enterprise Hub, are providing for an internationally acclaimed agricultural hub of great significance, not only to Queensland but also to Australia as a whole. Queensland's ambitious goals for agriculture are achievable because of the enormous opportunities in Asia and it is important that we continue to work with representatives and dignitaries, both here and overseas. With industry representatives, I

have travelled to Indonesia, China, Hong Kong and Thailand to assist in developing strong trade ties and to help rebuild, in particular, the live cattle industry so badly damaged by the previous federal Labor government.

Last month I returned to China, and visited Vietnam as well, to further strengthen and build our agribusiness relationships. Understandably, there are challenges. However, the opportunities are once in a lifetime. My cabinet colleagues and I are working hard, alongside industry, towards a brighter future for agriculture in Queensland. This is all in line with our agriculture strategy and its four key pathways: access to resource; of course, driving down costs of production; productivity right across the supply chain; and, ultimately, market access, be it domestic or international. That is what agriculture in Queensland needs and, despite the challenges, that is why it has a very bright future.

Freedom Park, Hervey Bay


 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (3.03 pm): I rise to talk about the dedication service held for our new memorial at Freedom Park in Hervey Bay last Saturday. Freedom Park is now host to a very impressive three-metre-high bronze statue depicting a light-horseman in full flight, jumping a trench at Beersheba. The Freedom Park project has been a necessary endeavour to accommodate the growing population of Hervey Bay, which is particularly important for the 1915 Anzac celebrations next year. Over a number of years, our park has been too small for the number of people who have been attending memorial services. Last year, many schoolchildren had to stand up during the ceremony. Freedom Park is now about four times its previous size and we are looking forward to the Anzac Day 2015 celebration.

The project was funded by a state government contribution of \$70,000, a federal government contribution of \$50,000 and private donations from people such as Con Souvlis, who donated around \$25,000. Con has been a great philanthropist in Hervey Bay over a number of years and I thank him for his contribution. Con is a World War II veteran. He fought in New Guinea. Only around four of his platoon survived New Guinea and he can certainly tell some stories. He has written a book, and has contributed proceeds from that book to a lot of community projects in Hervey Bay.

The bronze statue of the light-horseman arrived on Army trucks. They also brought up the Army cranes and put the stature in place for the RSL. The dedication was attended by people from far and wide. The National President of the RSL, Rear Admiral Doolan, was present, as well as the Belgium Ambassador who gave a really good speech about the contribution the Australians made to his country. Other attendees included the federal member for Hinkler, Keith Pitt; Senator James McGrath; and many other distinguished guests, especially Anne Maddern from Maryborough, who laid the wreath with me. Lieutenant Colonel Harry Smith was the patron of the project. He fought as a colonel in the Battle of Long Tan. It was sad that Buddy Lee did not get to see it. Buddy passed away about a month ago.

(Time expired)

Algester Electorate, School Funding

 **Mr SHORTEN** (Algester—LNP) (3.07 pm): I am very proud to be a member of this LNP government, which has a laser focus on education. Unlike Labor, we do not just give lip-service to the importance of education; we allocate significant funding to back up our commitments. We know that education is key to the future of our kids and it is key to the future of our state. Queenslanders know that as well, as education was front and centre of their responses to the Queensland Plan and it was again highlighted with our recent Education Accord.

The mums and dads of Algester have seen a significant investment in our local schools since our government was elected. Recently we saw \$741,000 invested in our schools to meet the huge backlog of maintenance that the former Labor government did not fund. In the 2013-14 financial year, we saw a further \$498,774 allocated to the Algester electorate schools. In the 2014-15 period, a further \$341,627 has been allocated. Over the past three years, schools in the Algester electorate have received \$1,581,401 in funding to clean up Labor's mess. Leaky toilets and flaking paint: that was the legacy of Labor.

On top of that \$1.5 million investment, schools in my wonderful electorate have also received \$1,143,674 in Great Results Guarantee funding for the year 2014 and will receive estimated funding to the tune of \$1,588,373. Let us go over those figures again: advancing Our Schools Maintenance

and Fixing Our Schools funding, \$1,581,401 over three years and Great Results Guarantee funding, \$2,732,047 over two years. Schools in the Algester electorate have had \$4 million in funding over and above their normal funding. In fact, for the record, the total figure is \$4,313,448.

It goes without saying that we want all our schoolkids to get to and from our schools in a safe manner. Again, this LNP government has kept its word on delivering flashing school zone lights to 300 schools across the state. Boronia Heights State School and Grand Avenue State School in my electorate have already had them installed. I am happy to announce that Algester State School will be getting a set. They will also cover the school zone outside St Stephen's Primary School. Pallara State School will also receive a set of flashing lights to make drivers aware that they are approaching a school zone and to slow down.

Communify; Spring Hill Alive Festival; Kadri, Mr A



Mr CAVALLUCCI (Brisbane Central—LNP) (3.10 pm): As tempting as it is to use my time today to respond to the constant drivel that comes out of the mouth of the member for Stafford, I think my time would be far better served talking about the lovely people of Brisbane Central.

Dr Lynham interjected.

Mr CAVALLUCCI: Look at him carping over there. He has more glass in his jaw than a G James glass factory.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Cunningham): Order!

Mr CAVALLUCCI: I seek your protection, Madam Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: You gave that away. I call the member for Brisbane Central.

Mr CAVALLUCCI: The lovely electorate and the wonderful peninsula down in New Farm has the lovely New Farm Neighbourhood Centre, which has been operating for a couple of decades under the stewardship originally of a lovely lady named Fiona Caniglia and more recently Fiona Hunt. But the more things change the more they stay the same. The neighbourhood centre had to change to fit the changing dynamics of the area. In the last month or so they merged with an organisation called Communify. My colleagues the member for Mount Coot-tha and the member for Ashgrove would be aware of the fantastic services that Communify provide within their communities. I am fortunate enough to have them in the electorate of Brisbane Central, in the suburb of New Farm, running our neighbourhood centre.

We have a strong community in the peninsula. We have so many people volunteering and helping out those on the down side of advantage in my electorate. I am really pleased that Karen Dare from Communify has used this opportunity to merge with New Farm Neighbourhood Centre to provide improved services and better outcomes for the people of New Farm. I wish them all the very best and congratulate them on the merger.

I would also bring to the attention of the House an event two weekends ago—the Spring Hill Alive Festival. This was an initiative of the Spring Hill Chamber of Commerce which is strongly supported by the Brisbane City Council and me. It occurred in Boundary Street, Spring Hill. This is an area that has been long neglected by previous members and previous governments. I am really pleased that we have been able to support the community and help assist in its re-emergence as a place in the inner city of Brisbane that many people call home. It is an up-and-coming area. I am really glad that we were able to support that festival.

In the last 30 seconds remaining, I would like to acknowledge a bloke named Ali Kadri. Ali Kadri is from the Holland Park mosque. I have had a lot to do with him in recent years. I want to congratulate him for his stewardship of and being the spokesman for the Muslim community. With all the difficulties we have been having recently he has been an outstanding member of the community. I congratulate him on his service to the community.

Moranbah, Fly-in Fly-out Workforce



Mr KNUTH (Dalrymple—KAP) (3.13 pm): This week I asked the Deputy Premier—

With over 300 vacant homes in Moranbah and Dysart, coupled with the lay-off of 700 BMA employees, mostly community based, will the minister negotiate a compromise agreement with mining companies for a gradual reduction of the 100 per cent FIFO workforce—

to 70 per cent over a period of three to five years and replace them with community based employees—

to generate confidence in the future of the region?

While the Deputy Premier again dodged the question, the reality is that the lifespan of mining towns in Central Queensland is in jeopardy if the state government and mining companies continue along this path.

The recent sacking of 700 BMA employees, mostly community based employees, rings alarm bells that the state government must start supporting the families and businesses that live and work around these mining communities. After these sackings, concern was so great that I had community members contacting me to discuss how we can address this serious issue. I will read part of an email from Peter Finlay, a former Moranbah Traders Association representative. He states—

The Moranbah community has suffered extreme downturn as a result of BMA Coal and other companies using 100% FIFO, and this is just another kick in the guts. It is going to create severe financial strain on individuals, families, and businesses here and we need your support. The market day is a perfect opportunity to speak to as many people as possible in a short time.

I table that email.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 26 September 2014, to the member for Dalrymple, Mr Shane Knuth MP, from Mr Peter Finlay, regarding the loss of jobs at BMA Coal [\[6295\]](#).

I was also contacted by Trehan Stenton, the President of the Moranbah Traders Association, seeking support for funding from both the state and federal governments to help keep businesses and specialist services in Moranbah. Part of that reads—

Dear Shane

I am writing to you regarding the announcement this week by BHP/BMA confirming the redundancy of 700 employees from the Isaac Region.

Obviously this decision will not just have a significant impact on Moranbah's Businesses and the local Community, but also a knock on implication across the entire State. This comes on top of other economic downturn factors that are now having a major cumulative effect.

We are seeking assistance for our Community to enable us to work through these impacts and the changes we need to make to ensure we can continue to provide sustainable business, both now and into the future. We are requesting that funds be released and allocated from Federal and State Government to allow for specialist support in our Community.

I table that letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 27 September 2014, to the member for Dalrymple, Mr Shane Knuth MP, from Trehan Stenton, regarding the redundancy of 700 employees from the Isaac region [\[6296\]](#).

So ridiculous is the situation that even though the local baker has received a tick for making the finest quality breads and pastries, the mining company sources its bread from coastal cities.

There is a remedy to this problem. That is to give mining employees an opportunity to live and work in the places where they are employed. Reports revealed that a fly-in fly-out lifestyle contributes to family disruption and separation. The simple solution would be for the minister to sit down with the mining companies and negotiate and introduce a gradual reduction in the FIFO workforce over a three- to five-year period.

Carina Leagues Club Lady Spartans Basketball Team



Mr MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.16 pm): I rise in this chamber today to proudly talk about one of the Chatsworth electorate's undoubted sporting success stories—the Carina Leagues Club Lady Spartans basketball team, which recently won the SEABL women's championship. A few weeks ago they travelled down to Melbourne and took on Hobart in the final and won the championship 75 points to 59.

To put this magnificent victory into context, the SEABL basketball league is the second highest competition in Australia—the South East Australian Basketball League—and is just below the NBL competition. The Southern Districts Basketball Association, of which the Lady Spartans are a part, is a proud association and boasts the strongest junior program in Queensland. They have recently reclaimed the Vince Hickey trophy for the best association in Queensland for the third year running and the Harold Peacock trophy for the best association in the greater Brisbane area for the sixth year

running. They have multiple state and Australian representatives and pride themselves on providing pathways for these talented junior players to continue playing basketball, both here and overseas.

Southern districts is the only Queensland association in this competition, having joined in 2006. In comparison to all the others playing, they are definitely the financial minnows. The majority of funds raised to enable these players to compete week in and week out is driven by a dedicated group of volunteers and a generous sponsor and supporter base. Barbecues, raffles and other forms of fundraising are a weekly occurrence around the Clem Jones Centre to ensure the teams can take the court week in and week out.

This year the Carina Leagues Club Lady Spartans defied all the critics and won their way into the national SEABL grand final. Of the 12 players who suited up for the final, six of them are Spartans juniors who have returned to their home association with a keen desire to bring success.

To take home the title the Lady Spartans had to beat the Hobart Lady Chargers. It was an incredible defensive effort from the Lady Spartans that saw them take out the women's championship after holding Hobart to their equal second lowest total of the season. Brisbane's nervous start had them trailing zero to 10 after three minutes. But switching to a full court press kicked them into gear and they took a two point lead into quarter time. They held that advantage for most of the game and, although Hobart closed within five in the final term, the Lady Spartans were always in control and streaked away.

The championship is the second in the Lady Spartans eight-year history and comes after three straight seasons of missing the play-offs. I had the honour of speaking to the players and coaching staff during the final series and was so impressed with their professionalism and skill. These ladies are indeed champions both on and off the court. I am incredibly proud of them all. I also congratulate all the club officials, coaching staff and supporters. It turned out to be a brilliant season for the Lady Spartans.

Cleveland Electorate, Infrastructure Survey



Dr ROBINSON (Cleveland—LNP) (3.19 pm): Today I announce to the parliament that the Cleveland infrastructure survey has been launched and will arrive in every letterbox before the end of October. The survey has been launched to gauge local opinion about Cleveland's top 10 infrastructure projects. The feedback from the community will guide the government in future decisions about major infrastructure affecting Cleveland. Since becoming the local member in 2009, I have had many discussions with constituents about what is the most important piece of infrastructure in the area. So my top 10 is based on those discussions and local knowledge over that period of time of listening.

The LNP government's strong plan will not only pay down \$25 billion of Labor debt but address Queensland's infrastructure needs and the cost of living. An LNP government will invest \$8.6 billion to support infrastructure vital to economic growth, jobs and the vibrancy of communities. To make sure that Cleveland receives its share, it is important that as a community we prioritise the local infrastructure projects that will take our city into the future. The Cleveland infrastructure survey asks Cleveland residents to 'rank' the top 10 local infrastructure projects that they believe are most important to our future. This feedback will help the government to put the proceeds from its asset leasing program to best use in Cleveland.


The top 10 infrastructure projects are as follows. They do not include Toondah Harbour, because that is already underway. No. 1 is the Redland Hospital precinct expansion. The hospital is being master planned for the next 20 to 30 years. This money will come from the Community Hospitals Fund. No. 2 is the Cleveland railway line duplication. Duplicating the line from Manly to Cleveland has been needed for many years and previous Labor governments over the last 22 years did not do it. No. 3 is the Ricketts Road duplication. This is in the northern part of the electorate and it is an important arterial road. No. 4 is the Eastern Busway. The people of Cleveland and the broader Redland City want this project to continue to be one of our top infrastructure projects as stated at the 2012 election.

No. 5 is the Mount Cotton Road duplication from Thornlands to Mackenzie. This road needs dual laning and was promised many times by former Labor governments. No. 6 is the Cleveland university campus. No. 7 is a family and community centre for domestic violence and family support, and a youth hub is also needed.

No. 8 is the Environmental Research and Education Centre on North Stradbroke Island and that will come from the Local Government Co-Investment Fund. No. 9 is the Dunwich Harbour redevelopment on North Stradbroke Island. That is also needed into the future. No. 10 is the Thornlands State High School. A new high school out of the Building our Future Schools Fund is desperately needed in the future.

In conclusion, through the Cleveland infrastructure survey we are listening to the priorities of local residents about what they want us to do with the proceeds of our asset leasing plan.

Lease of Public Assets

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—Ind) (3.22 pm): The most recent announcements about the rapid descent of Australians into poverty are all the evidence voters need when considering their votes at the next election—right-wing governments are even worse than left-wing governments on themselves and their families. Today nearly 14 per cent of all Australians are living in poverty. This is stated to be a weekly income for a single person of \$400 or \$841 for a family with two children. This figure represents 3.34 million Australians and 600,000 Queenslanders. This is occurring in tandem with rising state unemployment now 10 per cent on the most recent evidence this week and youth unemployment of 14 per cent with a 25 per cent underemployment rate in that same group. Nothing in the current plan of the Campbell Newman LNP government will reverse or is reversing those trends.

The federal response is to talk about budget honesty and implementing budget initiatives that unfairly compound the misery of those who have the least capacity to offer any more and remain very vulnerable. The \$7 GP copayment and the top-up superannuation subsidy for the lowest paid workers in Australia are cases in point. The government is not supporting the minimum wage case. Over the last two years of the LNP government, the state has driven up the price of water and energy to both residential premises and commercial businesses. Farmers have seen their water costs rise by 300 per cent in some cases in the Burdekin when they are not actually planting. I am going to table a letter here today from one of our retirement villages that has actually seen their electricity fees go up by the same amount—300 per cent—in that time as well. I table that and all the costings associated with that.


Tabled paper: Letter, dated 10 October 2014, to the member for Gaven, Dr Alex Douglas MP, from Mr Arthur L Miller, Managing Director of the Earle Haven Retirement Village, regarding the Gold Coast City Council water rates notices of July 2014 [\[6297\]](#).

In response, the state is proposing assets sales dressed up as 50 plus 49-year leases. The impact of this will drive up the costs of monopoly utilities even higher—the dreadful consequence of this being financial leases with long-term liabilities and debt not extinguished from other liabilities on the state balance sheet. This means our rating by the ratings agencies—that is all of them; the three majors being Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's—is locked in for 50 years at least with a fixed liability. So that is on our balance sheet.

The Treasurer will tell anyone that now, but in 2010 he correctly stated that leases are de facto asset sales. Today I, with the other Independents and the KAP, have signed an accord to stop these asset sales, and we have pledged that at the next election we will ensure that no-one is under any illusion about these matters. Those seven members have 70 years of parliamentary experience and they will not allow asset sales in the forthcoming parliament.

(Time expired)

Ipswich West Electorate, Roads

 **Mr CHOAT** (Ipswich West—LNP) (3.25 pm): My Ipswich West electorate covers approximately 604 square kilometres, which is large in comparison to the many Queensland urban electorates. The nature of the electorate and the fact that many of my people commute significant distances to work make the condition of roads critical to our quality of life. Some of my people have to travel 45 minutes to get to a major commercial centre or to seek medical care. Many must drive 20 minutes just to get a loaf of bread or the morning milk. That is why roads will continue to be a major focus for me.

For years our region was neglected and overlooked and, although it has been frustrating playing catch-up—just fixing things that should have been addressed years ago—it is great to see those outcomes in improved road conditions across Ipswich West. The biggest and most significant project I have been able to deliver has been the Blacksoil interchange. The fantastic overpass which crosses the Warrego is named in honour of the late great Tom Fountain, who was tragically killed 30

years ago this week with another great local Mr Ron Schmidt in a terrible road accident. The community is grateful for a safe intersection and having it named after a local hero.

This project was talked about and promised by Labor for years but all we got was rhetoric, delays and lies. Most notably, in January 2013, the Labor member for Blair, the member for South Brisbane and Labor Somerset Councillor Madden were out at the site making false claims about stalling and actually blamed me for cost blow-outs. Wouldn't you know it but within days those three were found to have knowingly misled the community, as they knew back in 2011 they had underfunded the project by \$24 million. What a disgrace! I am grateful the Premier and Treasurer agreed that the \$40 million required to make the project a reality was money well spent and I am also grateful for the transport minister's support for my idea of improving the design with a second highway access for local residents and businesses without additional cost.

There have been many other projects, and I often feel like Oliver Twist—the boy who wanted more. We had the One Mile Bridge upgrade; flood repairs on the roads in the Bremer Valley around Rosewood; repairs and upgrades at the Minden Crossroads, Mount Crosby Road and Marburg on the Warrego; new level crossings from Rosewood to Grandchester; safety improvements at the infamous Pine and Delacy corner at North Ipswich; a new rail bridge at Thagoona; and badly needed repairs to the Brisbane Valley Highway at Fernvale. I have also delivered unprecedented numbers of flashing lights at our local schools to warn motorists and to protect our children.

I make no apologies for being a needy MP when it comes to my roads and I will not stop until I have fixed all remaining problems. The Brisbane Valley Highway needs urgent attention at Wanora and I would like an overpass on the Warrego at Haigslea-Amberley Road, a higher bridge for Colleges Crossing and a Minden crossroads interchange. And when that is all done, I will go about looking for more projects and ensuring that our roads are maintained to the standard that my people deserve.

Police Union; Yeerongpilly Electorate, Industrial Odours; Member for Ashgrove



Mr JUDGE (Yeerongpilly—Ind) (3.28 pm): We heard this morning the Premier cast aspersions on the Queensland Police Union. I know personally the President, Ian Leavers. I know personally Detective Senior Sergeant Shayne Maxwell. I found those comments to be highly offensive, and I think the Premier owes the Queensland Police Union an apology for what he said. He owes an apology in particular to Detective Senior Sergeant Shayne Maxwell. It is a disgrace. The Queensland Police Union represent the good men and women of the Queensland Police Service who are dedicated to professionally serving the good people of Queensland. The Premier should make an unequivocal apology to the Queensland Police Union, particularly to the president and particularly to Shayne Maxwell, in relation to what was stated this morning.


I also call on the Premier to intervene in a failure by the state government and the local government to intervene in Yeerongpilly on behalf of local residents at Moorooka and Salisbury, in particular, who are being exposed to a noxious chemical odour. It has been the subject of media reporting in recent times. A business has been identified as a result of it. There is inaction at the local government level but it also has implications for the state government level. Letters have been written to ministers. A letter has been written to the Premier. Information has been passed on to the Brisbane City Council, and they want to duckshove it from one to another.

Local residents deserve action. It is impacting the health of the local community so much so that yesterday a local child-care centre described the smell of cat urine impacting children, and this issue is being passed back and forth between the state government and the local council to deal with. It is time for the government and the Brisbane City Council to have a meeting and share responsibility for rectifying this issue. I will certainly be standing up for my community on that particular issue.

Another matter of relevance in recent times is the obvious sandbagging of Ashgrove to try to protect our poor Premier from losing his seat. He is talking about \$80 billion worth of debt being incurred by Queenslanders and the daily and hourly interest rate that is flowing from that. Yet he has spent \$80 million in his own electorate to try to protect himself because he has failed to serve the people of Queensland. He has failed to show people that he is legitimately committed to their needs. He spoke about the four pillars of the economy. Three of those pillars are failing. Construction is probably the only one that is progressing in any reasonable manner. What we are seeing in relation to construction is a government that is failing to stand up for subcontractors by failing to pass security of payment legislation for hardworking subcontractors. It is not good enough.

(Time expired)

Biggera Waters State School

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.31 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise in the House this afternoon and inform the House of my successful campaign to see Biggera Waters State School in the great electorate of Broadwater receive flashing school zone lights for the safety and protection of the next generation of leaders of this great state. I have been campaigning long and hard to make sure that schools in my electorate of Broadwater would benefit from the strong commitment that this government has made of \$10 million over four years to see more than 300 schools across Queensland get flashing lights.


It was with great pleasure on Tuesday that I was able to let the school community know that I had been successful and the campaign in which they joined with me to help me fight to make sure our school and its nearly 850 students would be well protected was successful. I would like to thank the hundreds of members of the Biggera Waters State School community and the Broadwater community at large. I would like to thank the hundreds who took the time to sign my petition and express their great support for my campaign.

Coomababah Road is where the majority of students are dropped off. I noticed this every morning and every afternoon last week when I was there trying to get support for my petition. It is a road where lots of drivers scream past at more than 60 kilometres an hour, simply not aware that there is a school there. What I found even more galling was that some of the people who were speeding were people who dropped their own children off. What we have seen with this announcement is that the government is committed not only to flashing lights at schools right across Queensland but also to making sure that Queensland is the safest place to live, work and raise a family.

As the member for Broadwater in this strong can-do government, I am incredibly proud to be a local champion for my community, to make sure they have a voice in this parliament and a voice in the parliament so the wants and needs of my community are heard and acted on. This government has a strong plan for a bright future, and it is with local champions like me and other members of the government that we can continue to achieve great things like the flashing school zone lights commitment right across Queensland.

I would like to particularly thank Mrs Val Faulks, the Principal of Biggera Waters State School, for her support of my campaign for flashing lights. She made sure that the school community was well aware of my petition so that those who were not able to sign it at the school gates or in shopping centres were able to go into the school office to lend their support for this campaign to make our school safer for the next generation.

Central Queensland

 **Mr YOUNG** (Keppel—LNP) (3.34 pm): I rise to speak about the opportunities that lie ahead of the Central Queensland region. At a recent round table discussion at the university, we looked at the opportunities that can be achieved to enhance employment, trade and economic growth. We have seen the Wagner family from Toowoomba show great vision and commitment by investing more than \$160 million in the first privately owned public airport in Australia. The Wellcamp Airport has just secured two new western routes covering south-west Queensland and Mount Isa, servicing 10 regional towns. Wellcamp management is setting its sights on securing fly-in fly-out contracts with major mining companies.

The Wellcamp Business Park, adjacent to the airport, will be a warehousing and distribution centre combining aviation transport and logistics with the goal to export to the burgeoning Asian market. The Wellcamp management team will provide pulses—namely, chickpeas and mung beans—boxed beef, lamb, pork, dairy, fruit, vegetables, nuts and wine to the growing middle classes in China and India.

Rockhampton Regional Council is \$160 million in front of Wellcamp. We already have an airport that has international status. In fact, the biggest planes in the world can land in Rockhampton. I am passionate about growing our agricultural trade sector throughout Central Queensland. Our airport has the capability to bring our agricultural sector to the world.

Bindaree Beef, a privately owned beef processor in Inverell, New South Wales has signed a niche market deal to airfreight retail-ready beef to a changing Chinese palate. If Bindaree Beef can do

it, so can Rockhampton. With two abattoirs, surely we must look at what the Wagner's Wellcamp Airport is doing and apply that model to the Rockhampton airport. Take a snapshot of Wellcamp and fast-forward five years. They plan to employ 3,100 people, with produce and protein being exported and mining and farming related logistics coming in.

What of the international tourism trade to our beautiful Great Keppel Island and central region from an international airport located in Central Queensland? One only needs to look at the Gold Coast with Scoot, Jetstar, AirAsia X and Hawaiian Airlines. The fly-in fly-out transport strategy can replace our many drive-in drive-out mining employees. Air companies such as Rex and Alliance specialise in these areas of short-haul mining personnel transport. Rockhampton Airport is the front door to our central region. Now is the time for the Rockhampton Airport to explore every avenue to grow our business opportunities for tourism and trade.

Herbert River Improvement Trust



Hon. AP CRIPPS (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (3.37 pm): I rise this afternoon to talk about a very welcome development in my electorate of Hinchinbrook. This week I have had the pleasure of welcoming the approval of a development application lodged by the Herbert River Improvement Trust for the removal of vegetation from a number of sand islands in the Herbert River in my electorate of Hinchinbrook. This approval, which was issued by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, is a major step forward in the ongoing effort to reduce the impact of major flood events on communities in the lower Herbert.

The previous Labor government, unfortunately supported by their friends in the green movement, refused to contemplate let alone approve any effective works being done in the lower Herbert River to try to reduce the impact of major flood events on our local communities. However, under the Newman LNP government we have been working hard to try to unwind the unnecessary layers of red and green tape that have held us back in North Queensland for so long. Now that we have an approval in place, I very much thank the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, and I congratulate the Herbert River Improvement Trust for bringing that application forward. The DA provided approval to the Herbert River Improvement Trust to remove vegetation from sand islands at four locations in the lower Herbert River which had built up over time and which unfortunately impede the normal functioning of the river during flood events.

For years, the local community has been discouraged by the former Labor government—which had been captured by the Greens—from putting forward an application to take these steps to reduce the impact of flooding on local communities in the lower Herbert. I have always said that if an application did come forward I would work hard to ensure that the interests of our local community came first. Under this LNP government, the interests of my local community are coming first. We are working with the Herbert River Improvement Trust to deliver this positive outcome for communities in the lower Herbert. I have been working closely with the Herbert River Improvement Trust and DSDIP to ensure that the application was successful and the project, which has the potential to reduce the impact of flooding on towns like Macknade, Cordelia and Halifax in the lower Herbert, came to fruition.

I am very pleased to say that this is a tangible example of the difference between the former Labor government in this state and the Newman LNP government. We are a can-do government. This should have happened a long time ago, but it is now possible because of the positive attitude that we have towards supporting local community.

Southport CBD




Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (3.40 pm): On 4 October last year, the Deputy Premier and I had the pleasure of declaring the Southport CBD as a priority development area. Last month the state officially adopted the Southport PDA scheme—a huge milestone for the Southport business community. One of my primary reasons for running for parliament in 2012 was to fight for the reinvigoration of the Southport CBD. It has been a major focus since being elected. The declaration of the PDA has been a significant step forward for Southport and the Gold Coast. For many years, I have told anyone who would listen that Southport is and always has been the traditional business hub and CBD of the Gold Coast. All it needed was some formal recognition and some serious TLC. On the wall of my electorate office hangs a map of the Gold Coast from the city council's new City Plan 2015, which clearly identifies Southport with a higher order designation as the city's CBD. This is the first time that has ever been done in the history of our city.

So what is in a name? What does the PDA and the designation of Southport as the CBD of the Gold Coast really mean? As of 25 September this year, 29 new development applications had been submitted and approved, and these applications have been calculated to be worth more than \$1.96 billion in investment value; approximately 5,000 new apartments have been approved; some 41,000 square metres of office and commercial space have been approved, increasing the existing floor space in the area by a third; and the decision time on applications has been slashed, with the average approval time being fewer than 34 days.

The vision for Southport—which was long fought for by John Howe, Hans Torv, James Frizelle, Dr John Kearney, Charlie Schwerkolt and other members of the Committee for Southport, along with the Southport Chamber of Commerce's Brian Sohler, Laird Marshall, Noel Grummitt and Alan Rickard—is finally being realised. We now have a world-class sporting venue in the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre. We have a revitalised health and knowledge precinct, with a brand-new private hospital with 450 beds being built. We also have a brand-new integrated public transport system—all adding to the soon-to-be-revamped retail and hospitality precinct of Southport. The owners of Australia Fair have told us that since the light rail started operating retail sales have increased between 20 and 30 per cent in the centre alone in the last few months.

As a government, we have been busy cutting red tape for business. We have been investing in growth. The opportunities for business in Southport are just phenomenal. The new Chinatown is well underway, with a further \$12 million to be invested in Australia Fair West. That is without even mentioning the construction of the games village and some \$200 million that our government has committed to the upgrade of Smith Street.

Kurilpa Riverfront Renewal Plan

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (3.44 pm): I rise this afternoon to talk about a significant issue in my electorate of South Brisbane. However, this issue also has very much wider ramifications for the rest of the city. I am talking about the Kurilpa precinct draft master plan which was released by the government in August this year. This time last year, the government entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Brisbane City Council to redevelop this precinct within my electorate. For some 10 months, they worked behind closed doors with select developers and select individuals carving out and creating what they envisaged for the area. There was no public consultation, nothing. To be very clear, we are talking about absolutely the last large-scale riverfront area within proximity to the CBD where the Kurilpa Bridge begins at GoMA. This is the last large parcel of riverfront land in the CBD area, and the government has proposed to fill it with 40-, 30- and 20-storey buildings within a 25-hectare area. This plan, which was developed by council and the state government, was released at a private function which cost \$150 a head to attend. Many of my constituents would have liked to have gone along and had an opportunity to query both council and the state government, but they could not afford the \$150 to listen to the state government and the council deliver the plan.


Dr Lynham interjected.

Ms TRAD: They did not have to pay, no. It was \$150 a head, yes. On Tuesday this week, the Clerk read out the e-petition which had collected 1,104 signatures from petitioners who were calling for an extension to the public consultation period, which was only 30 business days. Today I am tabling a further 570 signatures to that petition.

Tabled paper: Non-conforming petition referring to the brief period of time that residents have to respond to the Kurilpa Riverfront Renewal Draft Master Plan [\[6298\]](#).

In total, about 1,600 people have signed a petition asking for an extension because they believe that this has been a shambolic process and that the government and council have ridden roughshod over the local community. The local community wanted to present the petition to the Deputy Premier so they rang the Deputy Premier's office and advised them that they would be coming along to present the petition, but what did the Deputy Premier's office do? They told the security guards in the Executive Building to shut the doors. This is from a government that purports to be all of a sudden listening now, but they just shut the door on these people. You are a disgrace—an absolute disgrace.

Bulimba Electorate, Public Transport

 **Mr DILLAWAY** (Bulimba—LNP) (3.47 pm): I rise today to speak on recent improvements to public transport and supporting infrastructure in the Bulimba electorate. It has been an exciting time

for commuters in the Bulimba electorate. I have delivered an additional go card top-up machine which has been installed at the Norman Park Central Newsagency. For a number of years, customers have asked for their go cards to be topped up there, and the owners can now finally meet this demand. Also, those go card top-ups will now stretch even further thanks to the Newman government. We have listened to Queenslanders and we will reinvest savings from the scrapping of the carbon tax into reducing public transport fares.

I have spent a number of mornings standing at my local transport hubs collecting votes for either more services or cheaper fares. I can announce that from 3 November the average commuter from the Bulimba electorate will now save an additional \$83.16 a year. Instead of receiving Labor's fare hikes, these commuters will now be up to \$620 a year better off under the Newman government. But the good news does not stop there. As I talked to commuters, I received some very positive feedback regarding the changes made to the Cleveland train line at the beginning of the year. The increased frequency and the all-time high reliability have meant commuters are getting to work, university and school on time and they can be more flexible in their travel plans.

I have not stopped fighting for further improvements for Bulimba, though. Currently, there is a serious parking situation at the Cannon Hill train station that is impacting on both commuters and surrounding residents. Many constituents have brought this matter to my attention. Instead of offering only lip-service, I have thoroughly investigated the situation and have developed a strong local plan. I have identified the significant potential for additional car-parking facilities on available land at Murarrie train station as a solution to the issue. Currently, I am collecting signatures for a petition calling for the expansion of the park-and-ride at Murarrie. I have actively doorknocked many areas of Cannon Hill and I look forward to further developing long-term solutions for my constituents.

Sadly, the inadequate volume of dedicated safe and secure parking facilities is a direct result of a Labor policy which was supported by the former Labor member for Bulimba. Under this policy, new or additional park-and-ride facilities were banned within a 10-kilometre radius of the CBD. The contrast between the strong local voice in an LNP government and the former member's performance could not be clearer not only on this issue but on all the public transport achievements that have been made recently.

Additionally, I welcome the recent announcement from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads about the flashing school lights program. As part of this program the Bulimba electorate will receive three sets of lights that are to be installed along Riding Road outside Bulimba State School, Saints Peter & Paul's Catholic School and Morningside State School. This is a fantastic outcome of strong community advocacy. Earlier this year, I received over 400 signatures on my parliamentary petition calling for the installation of the flashing school lights at these locations. Now students of these three primary schools and their parents can have peace of mind when it comes to their safety as they journey to and from school.

(Time expired)

Greenslopes Electorate, Sporting Clubs



Mr KAYE (Greenslopes—LNP) (3.50 pm): Having been involved in many award presentation ceremonies at various sporting clubs across my electorate in the past few weeks, I thought it might be timely to highlight some of these clubs. There are so many clubs doing great things in my electorate but today I would like to highlight a few whose outstanding work is integral to the fabric of my community.

With soccer being one of the fastest growing sports in Australia, the Holland Park Hawks have experienced enormous growth over recent years. Every week, more than 1,000 players play soccer in almost 100 teams. Pretty much every age group is represented, from three-year-olds playing junior soccer to seniors, illustrating that this really is a sport for all ages and demographics. The Hawks are extending their clubhouse and change rooms with the assistance of a \$100,000 Get in the Game grant at Whites Hill oval to cater to the growing popularity of the club and sport.

Last weekend I had the privilege of joining the Coorparoo Junior Australian Football League Club for its award presentation. I was impressed with the growth of the sport in our area, with more than 450 players from all age groups, more than 70 of whom are girls. The Coorparoo under-14 team was one of several that won their grand final against long-time rival Morningside, and I pass on my

apologies to the member for Bulimba. This fantastic local club is well known for its development of women in AFL, driven by coaches Sally Young and Damian Richards, each of whom both play and coach in the sport. The junior Auskick program run by Dave Doyle, a local volunteer, at Coorparoo is also one of the largest in Queensland, providing hundreds of children every year with an introduction to the sport.

One of the largest netball associations in Brisbane is located in the Greenslopes electorate. MDNA has a membership base in excess of 2,300. They are mainly girls but there is a growing interest by boys at the club. The season runs primarily over the winter months, but MDNA also hosts twilight and night competitions over the summer months for players who wish to play their sport all year round. Not only is MDNA well known for its mission of offering the sport to players of all abilities; it is very well known for producing players who go on to state and national level.

Recently I was privileged to participate in the award ceremony for another great club in the electorate, the Eastern Suburbs Junior Rugby League Club based at Holland Park. This is a friendly, welcoming club and is part of the Easts Rugby League Club—the senior club—at Coorparoo. Perhaps the most successful suburban rugby union club is Easts. With up to a dozen senior players from this club feeding into the national rugby seniors championships, the Reds and Wallabies at any given time, including two Wallabies captains, Easts is a club of the finest calibre. This great local club also shines at developing players of all levels, with more than 1,000 juniors and 240 senior players.

These are not the only sporting clubs based in the electorate of Greenslopes, but between them they represent more than 5,000 children from around the local area who are actively involved in regular club sport. I am proud to be part of a community with such strong local sporting clubs—a community where children are encouraged to be involved in sport from a young age.

Sporting clubs are a vital part of the intricate fabric of our communities not only because they provide valuable opportunities for players of all ages to stay fit, but also because they are gathering points. In them we connect with one another, build lifelong friendships and learn to value the contribution of all, no matter what their age or skill level. I am so proud of these and many other clubs in my local community. It is always a pleasure to join them in celebrating their season achievements each year.

St David's Neighbourhood Centre



Mr STEWART (Sunnybank—LNP) (3.53 pm): I rise to draw to the attention of the House the wonderful community work being undertaken by the St David's Neighbourhood Centre. The St David's Neighbourhood Centre in Coopers Plains is a great example of collective action achieving positive results. Its wonderful staff and volunteers are committed to enriching the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in my local community. The elderly, the socially isolated, those living with a disability and many others are able to find respite and support at the St David's Neighbourhood Centre.

At the centre's recent AGM I was able to see firsthand both the passion and the compassion of the remarkable individuals who have helped make St David's the exemplar of community support that it is today. I would like to make special mention of a number of the volunteers who each day help to live out the centre's motto of 'enter as strangers, leave as friends'. Together, these volunteers give more than 8,748 hours each year driving buses, providing meals, running social support services and playgroups as well as in-home care visits.

Of the centre's 75 volunteers, no-one has contributed more than Bruce and Muriel Pollock. For 25 years Muriel has volunteered at the centre while her husband, Bruce, has just notched up 18 years as a volunteer. Elma Dagg, Averil and Tom Tame, and Shirley Sullivan have all devoted more than 10 years of their time and care at St David's while Hec and Betty Cunning have also been longstanding volunteers. I personally have fond memories of attending the holiday care clinics that they used to hold in my younger years. Truly, as their saying goes, I entered as a stranger and left with many friends.

The passion from the volunteers is extremely encouraging. Many of them are continuing to support their local motto. The St David's Neighbourhood Centre is a place where people find the opportunity to meet their community, family and personal needs in a friendly and supportive environment. The centre is committed to empowering people to reach their full potential through friendship, education, social action and community building.

I also acknowledge and thank the centre's board of management and staff including the outgoing chairperson and deputy chairperson, Ivan Kirk and Sue Williams. I look forward to building a strong relationship with the current board of management chairperson, Anne Brand; deputy chairperson, Robyn Solomon; Treasurer, Peter Weymouth; Secretary Heather Dansie; as well as centre manager, Lynne Everett, and her capable staff. My local Sunnybank community is made stronger and more resilient through the tireless efforts of its volunteers and staff. The St David's Neighbourhood Centre in Coopers Plains has enriched the lives of so many individuals, enabling them to feel welcome, connected and part of a caring community.

(Time expired)

Stretton Electorate



Mrs OSTAPOVITCH (Stretton—LNP) (3.56 pm): I am very excited about the school maintenance backlog allocations to my Stretton schools. A total allocation of just under \$2 million has been spent on my seven state schools. The breakdown includes Calamvale Community College, which has received over \$413,000; Eight Mile Plains State School, \$223,000; Kuraby State School, over \$216,000—and that is on top of the million dollar administration building that has just opened; Runcorn Heights has received over \$183,000; and Stretton State College, amazingly, over \$700,000.

Residents will have seen me recently at bus stops and train stations asking them how they wanted the government to give back the carbon tax that we are now saving: more services or reduce fares by five per cent? The responses were 99 per cent in favour of cutting fares by five per cent. I am so thrilled to be part of a government that listens to the people's concerns about cost-of-living pressures while still tackling the duty of paying off a big, bad debt.

My community groups have also done well with millions being spent on associations like Kyabra, Multicap, Family Relationships Australia and many P&Cs. St John Ambulance has just received 28½ thousand dollars.

Road safety has been improved and every one of my state schools will now have flashing lights once Kuraby Special School has its lights installed in January. I might add that over \$200,000 has gone to my special schools as well.

Roads are also going to be improved with the extension of the turning lane from Beaudesert Road into Honeysuckle Way. This will be of advantage to Algester constituents as well. A new extension of Warrigal Road and a new busway in the Sunnybank electorate at Eight Mile Plains will make a huge difference to the residents in Eight Mile Plains, Runcorn and Kuraby who use Warrigal Road, which divides our two electorates.

Together with my two neighbouring MPs and our LNP councillors, who are improving local roads like never before, our electorates have never been so well looked after. We hear this every time—

Mr Pucci: We are a strong team.

Mrs OSTAPOVITCH: I take that interjection. We are a strong team. We hear this every time one of us knocks on our residents' door. Life is good in Stretton because I have put my community first for almost three years.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Cunningham): Order! I call the member for Thuringowa, two minutes.

Glencore Greek Fest



Mr COX (Thuringowa—LNP) (3.58 pm): I take this opportunity to briefly mention the Glencore Greek Fest, which was held in Townsville last weekend in my electorate of Thuringowa at the beautiful Riverway complex where many functions are held.

I attended on behalf of the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, the Hon. Jann Stuckey, and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Glen Elmes. It was my pleasure to officially open the Greek Fest, which has been organised and coordinated by Bill Malandris for some years now. He and his team do a fantastic job supported by Jim Manolis, who is the president of the Greek community in Townsville. Also in attendance were Mayor Jenny Hill and Daniel Christie, manager of the Glencore copper refinery in Townsville, which is a big employer in our city and sponsor of the Greek Fest.


Thirty thousand people attended this festival, which is in its 15th year. The government, through Minister Jann Stuckey and the Tourism and Events Queensland Regional Development Program, contributed \$30,000 to this event and Minister Glen Elmes, as the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, contributed another \$15,000 to ensure a great family day.

I wish to mention that it is the volunteers at these events who make them, and there are well over 200 of them who put this event together each and every year, approximately 180 of whom are from the Greek community. There were 80 local Hellenic dancers, 20 interstate dancing groups, the local HYATS basketball team and some charities. I wish to congratulate everyone for another successful Greek Fest 2014.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! The time for member's statements has expired.

PRIVILEGE


Ethics Committee Report No. 149

 **Mr TROUT** (Barron River—LNP) (4.00 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege to make a short statement and to apologise to the House. Prior to my election to this parliament on 24 March 2012, I was a director or shareholder of the companies FNQ Farmstay Outdoor Education Pty Ltd, which was a dormant company, NQ Investments Pty Ltd, another dormant company, and Kaurareg Land & Sea Management Corporation Ltd, which had never traded. I instructed my accountant in writing to resign and deregister these companies. These letters were tabled with the Ethics Committee. I failed to follow up with my accountant that he had in fact deregistered them. This has now been rectified and is reflected on my register.

I also apologise for not registering my interest as a director of Atherton Tablelands Promotion Bureau Pty Ltd, a not-for-profit organisation for which I volunteer my time. This was rectified on the register on 23 June 2014.

MOTION

Citizen's Right of Reply

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (4.01 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

- (1) That this House notes report No. 150 of the Ethics Committee and the recommendation of the committee that a right of reply be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*; and
- (2) That the House adopt the committee's recommendation and incorporate the right of reply into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

RESPONSE BY MR KELLY TO A STATEMENT MADE BY THE MEMBER FOR LOCKYER, MR IAN RICKUSS MP, ON 5 MARCH 2013

On 5 March 2013, the Member for Lockyer made the following statement in the Queensland Parliament:

He [Mr Kelly] has been one of the main instigators of the protest against this process. He wonders why it is difficult to take the protest group seriously, yet as one of the main instigators of the group he is saying, 'if you pay me out, I will dull the noise.'

And

I am more than happy to meet with them, but, as I said, it is a shame that people who are on the committee, such as Mike Kelly, are virtually trying to leverage funds for themselves. It is disappointing and corrupt.¹

The Member for Lockyer's comments are untrue and have adversely affected my standing and reputation.

I refute the assertion that I tried to leverage funds from the developer and that my conduct was corrupt.

I have attended multiple public meetings where I publicly disclosed the facts in relation to my contact with developers before the campaign commenced and this has also been published in local newspapers with full disclosure; openly and transparently.

No contact was made with the developer once the campaign commenced that could be considered in any way an attempt by me or the committee to leverage funds.

My conduct, as part of the Save Greenbank campaign, was legal, ethical and fully transparent.


¹ Queensland Legislative Assembly, Record of Proceedings (Hansard), 5 March 2013, p. 377.

QUEENSLAND PLAN BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3507, on motion of Mr Powell—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr STEWART** (Sunnybank—LNP) (4.02 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Queensland Plan Bill 2014. The Queensland Plan is the culmination of one of the largest public consultations ever undertaken in this great state of Queensland. It is the community's road map for a brighter future for all Queenslanders for the next 30 years. Too often in the past we have seen successive governments incapable of looking beyond the narrow limits of the electoral cycle. We have seen governments with no long-term plan and no vision to ensure the future prosperity for the next generation of Queenslanders.

The bill requires the Premier to develop a government response to the Queensland Plan to outline the state's approach and to contribute to its implementation. This requirement is important, as it reinforces the point that the Queensland Plan is not a government owned or created plan: it is to be developed by Queenslanders, and the bill explicitly separates government action by providing for the development of a government response. In responding to the Queensland Plan, the government must state the strategic direction for the state's contribution and recognise the role of the community, business and industry in achieving the targets established for the key areas of the Queensland Plan.

The Finance and Administration Committee was tasked with reviewing the legislation that would further enable the implementation of the Queensland Plan. It was asked to consider the Queensland Plan Bill 2014 not as some visionary abstract, but as the mechanism for enabling future governments to draw on the Queensland Plan to guide future policy and executive decisions. The committee recommends that the bill be passed.

There is no doubt that the Queensland Plan is one of the flagships of the Premier and the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, and they are to be commended for the foresight that they have shown in facilitating a plan that transcends the changes of political life. The Queensland Plan rightly vests the responsibility for the development and review of the Queensland Plan with the Premier. However, it is obvious that the plan touches on areas such as education, infrastructure and planning and communities and environment that fall within distinct ministerial portfolios. During the public hearing I was able to clarify that the relevant ministers will also have a role in promoting awareness of the Queensland Plan to the community as well as the industry and business sector.

However, while it is appropriate that the Premier and the relevant ministers are responsible for achieving the core outcomes outlined in the Queensland Plan, the committee has had some reservations regarding the impact of the bill on authorities and statutory entities separate from the Queensland government. Whilst the very scale of the Queensland Plan necessitates a whole-of-government approach, some of the core outcomes also require the involvement of local government and independent statutory officers.

The committee considered it important that these authorities maintain their independence while at the same time being required to have due regard to the Queensland Plan. Consequently, the committee recommends flexibility in how core outcomes are achieved by authorities outside of the state government. We must be mindful that we do not increase the regulatory burden on institutions by seeking to impose onerous reporting requirements, and this is particularly important given our government's tremendous record on cutting red tape wherever possible. I note from the minister's statement earlier that a lot of these recommendations have been taken into consideration.

Whilst I understand that the department has since stated that no new reporting requirements will be imposed and that universities and other bodies can choose how to respond to the requirements of the Queensland Plan, I believe the wording in the bill has caused some uncertainty as to what exactly is required and that further clarification was needed.

There was also the risk, despite the introduction of the Ambassadors Council, that community input on the Queensland Plan would effectively come to an end with the passing of this bill. It is important that the Queensland Plan be the collective aspirations of not only today's community but also the communities in years to come. A community is a living, changing thing and the Queensland Plan should, as much as possible, be a living document also. As such, it is important that the government continues to directly consult with the community on the Queensland Plan into the future.

The implementation framework ensures a number of things. First and foremost, it requires the government of the day to carefully consider what Queenslanders have said and put forward, transparency and how it intends to contribute to implementing Queensland's vision. Secondly, it ensures our public authorities are clear about the state government's priorities and are empowered to deliver them. The approach means that the state government can prioritise its activities and resources towards where it considers it can make the greatest impact or where it considers itself to have a critical role. Thirdly, the approach ensures that the government can be held accountable through planning and reporting requirements. It is important that governments be held to account to deliver on what they say they are going to do.

I note that the Premier released the government's response to the Queensland Plan on 15 September 2014 at the Keppel community cabinet meeting. In its response the government committed that every initiative that it introduces from that point forward will be aimed at helping to achieve Queensland's vision. This response demonstrates that the government has listened to the priorities, goals and aspirations of Queenslanders and will build on its strong plan for Queensland to be the best place to live, work and raise a family.

The government's response encompassed many areas that are important to families such as health, wellbeing, cutting the cost of living, growing regional Queensland and creating jobs. Education was also a key focus for Queenslanders, and it was great to see the government launch the Best Start initiative to improve early literacy through libraries. This \$20 million program is just one of the many programs that will make a contribution towards achieving the vision that Queenslanders gave us through their plan.

As I mentioned earlier, it is critical to remember that having a plan is one thing; adhering to a plan is something else entirely. With a time frame of 30 years, it will be easy for the Queensland Plan initiative to lose momentum and to be stifled by the seemingly more urgent demands of the everyday. This government and all future governments must rigorously report on their delivery of the Queensland Plan and maintain a strategic direction consistent with the tenor of the Queensland Plan. It is through its response and leadership role that the government will continue to encourage Queenslanders to work together to tackle future issues and seize every opportunity. This government is to be applauded for its commitment to making the Queensland Plan a reality and for its strong plan to achieve it.

I thank the chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, Mr Steve Davies. I thank the members of both sides for their contributions and the independent member for Gladstone. I acknowledge also the efforts and support of the Finance and Administration Committee staff, and I thank those who briefed and made submissions to the committee and assisted us with our inquiries. I must thank the people of Queensland and the people of Sunnybank who contributed to the Queensland Plan online and the members of the strong community in Sunnybank who attended the public consultations. I make special mention of the four community representatives who gave their time to attend and contribute to the Queensland-wide summits: Chris Burns, Simon Cole, Gary Hardgrave and Fred Carlsson. Thank you for laying the pathway for Queensland's success. I support the passing of the bill.



Mr DAVIES (Capalaba—LNP) (4.11 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise today to speak in support of the Queensland Plan Bill 2014, in particular focusing on why this piece of legislation is important for Queensland. As the chair of the committee that had the privilege of reviewing this piece of legislation, I would like to commend both the Premier and the responsible minister for the great work they have done in putting this plan together. It is refreshing to see a government that is truly thinking beyond the electoral cycle. The level of participation by the community, our businesses and Queensland industry to develop the Queensland Plan demands that we ensure it stays outside

politics. In fact, Queenslanders themselves expressed the need for long-term planning that goes beyond electoral cycles, and this legislation supports that aim.

The Queensland Plan has been created by Queenslanders, and it sets out their goals and targets for the next 30 years. Importantly, the bill puts in place a framework in which future iterations or updates of the plan will be undertaken, focusing on the same principles that helped drive the development of the first Queensland Plan. It is hard to think of a reason why any of the seven principles should not be used or would be inappropriate in the future to develop a long-term plan for the future.

However, simply having a plan is not enough. To ensure that the plan is acted upon, particularly when a plan is set out with a long-term horizon, it has to be supported by a comprehensive implementation framework. That framework needs to set out in clear terms the different roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in achieving that plan. The implementation framework proposed in the bill recognises that flexibility is needed, particularly when we talk about local government. Local government needs to be able to tailor its approach to implementing the plan to the needs of its citizens. What it means for Queenslanders in larger metropolitan councils like Brisbane is not the same as what it means for Queenslanders in some of our smaller councils in rural and remote Queensland. The non-prescriptive approach in the bill will always allow creativity and innovation to come to the fore in developing solutions to meet Queenslanders' vision.

I see from the transcript that comments were made at the Finance and Administration Committee public hearing on the bill by Mr Michael Moore, CEO of the Public Health Association of Australia, that there may be advantage in the legislation binding the government, requiring it to establish a clear direction for implementation and ensuring that there is government responsibility about delivering on the aspirations of Queenslanders. The bill supports that argument, and I commend the government not only for having the courage to apply the high standard to itself but also for recognising that without legislative safeguards the plan developed by Queenslanders could fall by the wayside. Given the time and effort that Queenslanders have put into contributing to the Queensland Plan, that would be an absolute travesty. In the same vein, we must also ensure that any future plans developed by either side of politics with similar levels of community participation, as required by the principles outlined in schedule 1 of the bill, are protected from short-termism. That is a real challenge.

I also reflect on the fact that one of the key elements of the implementation framework is the requirement to develop a government response to any long-term plan that is developed under this bill. The requirement for a government response is a clear acknowledgement of the fact that the Queensland Plan is not the government's plan but also ensures that the state cannot just walk away from what the people of Queensland have had to say. The bill is crafted to ensure that, whatever a state government does in respect of a long-term plan articulated by Queenslanders, its actions are transparent and it can be held to account.

This legislation is not about imposing penalties or increasing the regulatory burden on Queenslanders, their businesses or industry. It is about ensuring that we commit ourselves to taking a long-term, collective approach to state planning that is not about politics and is underpinned by an implementation framework that is clear about the various roles and responsibilities of the different parties. It is a bill that I thoroughly commend to the House.



Hon. AP CRIPPS (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (4.16 pm): I rise to speak to the Queensland Plan Bill 2014. In doing so, I commend the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection. The Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, in partnership with the Premier, has been a driving force behind the development of the Queensland Plan and delivering the Queensland Plan Bill 2014 to the House. It should not be underestimated the amount of dedication and skill the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection has brought to this process. Managing a consultation process of this magnitude cannot have been easy. I pay tribute to him for, in addition to his ministerial responsibilities as Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, also making a very significant contribution in overseeing, in partnership with the Premier, the delivery of the Queensland Plan. On behalf of all members, I thank him for the work he did. I think we should take one moment during the course of this debate to recognise that in particular.

When the Newman government came to office in March 2012 it brought a very strategic, very structured economic policy. That was based on our four pillars of tourism, construction, agriculture and resources. They are the traditional strengths of the Queensland economy. One thing we did say

was that we would be paying attention to them not just in the short term but also in the long term. We have delivered on that commitment. A 30-year plan has now been delivered for the tourism industry through DestinationQ. My friend the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry developed his 30-year plan for agriculture in Queensland with a goal to double agricultural production by 2040. As Minister for Natural Resources and Mines I am going through the process of finalising and delivering on the ResourcesQ strategy. And of course our colleague the Minister for Housing and Public Works, with the support of the Deputy Premier, is delivering on the construction industry's 30-year plan for Queensland.

I think it is fair to say that that was an election commitment and a policy of the LNP government. Quite above that, the Queensland Plan initiative, as was described by the chairman of the committee, very much transcends the partisan politics that is associated with the 30-year election commitment plans that we are delivering for our four economic pillars.

It is something that ought to survive the electoral cycle. If there is a criticism that has come through not just from people in the leadership of industry but from community right across the state it is that governments do tend to pay too much attention to the electoral cycle and the next electoral contest. The Queensland Plan is something quite different. With 80,000 Queenslanders having contact with the development of the Queensland Plan through this process, it brings with it a genuine expression of the values and the aspirations of communities right across Queensland.

Of course the first summit in Mackay in May last year and the summit in Brisbane in October last year on two occasions brought together very large numbers of people who drove the development of this particular plan for the state of Queensland. From my own electorate of Hinchinbrook I want to thank the delegates: Councillor Sue Blom, who is a councillor from the Townsville City Council and is also well connected to her community through the Northern Beaches Festival and is a small business owner; Mary Brown, who came from the Hinchinbrook Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism and also is a small business owner; and John Hughes, who is President of the Tully Chamber of Commerce and who is well connected to the community through the Golden Gumboot Festival and who also owns a small business in Tully. An alternate delegate from Mission Beach attended the summit in Brisbane, Jake Robertson, who is a local professional person who runs a small business. He is also involved in the local chambers of commerce and with Tully cricket. I thank them for their participation. They thought it was a unique opportunity to present the aspirations and the goals of a diverse electorate like Hinchinbrook, running from the Northern Beaches and the northern suburbs of Townsville all the way up to Innisfail.

I will take away from the Queensland Plan experience something which gave me great heart, and that was that the two biggest priorities for the whole of the people of Queensland—80,000 people participated in the process across the whole state—were education and the development of the regions. Education has given me every opportunity in my life. I do not come from a wealthy family, but I had great teachers and my parents sacrificed a lot for me to get a good education. The fact that the Queensland people have said that education is a very high priority for us is a great thing and is an enduring part of what has eventually come through in the Queensland Plan. The other thing that I take great heart from is the fact that, regardless of the fact that Queensland is a great big state and a lot of people live in South-East Queensland, the population of Queensland said very clearly that it was desirable to develop the regions. I take great heart from that and I think that those two priorities have great merit and I endorse their goals being enshrined in legislation so that governments in the future, regardless of whether they come from one or the other sides of politics, will certainly ignore the Queensland Plan at their peril. I commend the bill to the House.



Hon. IB WALKER (Mansfield—LNP) (Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts) (4.22 pm): Today I am pleased to speak in support of the Queensland Plan Bill 2014. I will divide my comments into three areas: firstly, just to talk about the process; secondly, to talk about the areas of my portfolio that have been picked up by the plan; and, thirdly, to talk about a specific proposal that has flown out of the plan that is already happening within my portfolio area. I speak first about the process. I must say that I for one was a bit of a sceptic when this proposal was put before us. It seemed to me to be an almost impossible undertaking to look forward 30 years and to get the right mixture of achievable but not immediate issues that needed to be dealt with over that time, and even more so to arrive at Mackay and see the number of people there and think, 'How on earth are we going to get any sensible direction out of this?' The thing was that we did. It was a remarkable effort, no doubt down to the Premier's vision and persistence, in pushing through the idea that we could do this and more so that the people in Mackay came along with a willingness and an openness to actually sit down and achieve what we achieved firstly in Mackay and then finally in Brisbane.

I also give credit to those from the Mansfield electorate who attended with me. Firstly, there was Mr Ian Lang, who is the chairman of the Mount Gravatt Community Centre. Ian has had a great wealth of experience in community related activities in the electorate, in particular looking at those who are the most needy in our community. He has great vision and has played a great part in giving input from that point of view. Secondly, there was Mrs Sharon Allison. At the time Sharon was the president of the Rochedale State School P&C. She is a great doer in the community, a person who gets involved in things. She particularly knew of the needs of my electorate at that end of my electorate. As members would be aware, my electorate has a fairly heavily populated area at the Mount Gravatt end and less so at the Rochedale end and I wanted to ensure that their views were presented to the meeting, as Sharon well did. Thirdly, there was Kimberly Hope. Kimberly is a young accountant. Of the four of us who went along, she is the one who is going to get most out of the Queensland Plan as it rolls out over 30 years. The three of them were great contributors. They also joined me at the meeting we held at the Mount Gravatt Bowls Club within the electorate to talk about the things that the plan was going to deliver, and the plan certainly has delivered well and truly in the areas in which my portfolio interests are situated.

The first that comes to mind is of course innovation, and innovation I think is probably mentioned as a word more than any other single concept within the plan, and I was very pleased to see that. I know the Chief Scientist, who attended the Brisbane meeting, was also very keen to see that innovation was highly featured in the plan. It certainly appears many times and is given great value, and so it should be. The area of science also features prominently within the plan. There is a great quote from those participants from Wide Bay-Burnett that is actually mentioned in the plan and I think it summarises what a lot of people said sitting around the tables in Mackay and Brisbane, and that was that we need to be the pioneers we once were in the areas of science, alternate energy and agribusiness. That is a sensible and well founded comment that again finds its way reflected into the plan.

The final part of my portfolio reflected in the plan is of course the arts, and there are a number of mentions of the arts in the plan. One of the broad issues that is interesting is that a lot of the talk was about attracting and keeping the best and brightest here in Queensland. I often refer to Professor Ian Frazer, who is of course one of our best and brightest, who says that he came to Queensland because of the great scientific work that was being done here but that he would not have come to Queensland if we did not have a great opera company. That is a great example of how the best and brightest need the arts as well as all of the other things that are more specifically related to their day-to-day job but that make the smart and bright community in which we are happy to live.

As I said at the beginning of my speech, already things are flowing out from the plan that are having an immediate impact on Queenslanders. I was very pleased to be able to join the Premier some weeks ago to announce the Best Start program which is about ensuring that our children, once they get to prep school, are ready and able to attack their school work in the best way possible, and that is that their literacy levels are at an appropriate level. One of the things that we have to acknowledge is that that has not necessarily been the case. Queensland in fact ranked second last of the states in preparedness of kids when they get to prep to have the right language skills. They should have a vocabulary of between 500 and 5,000 words; some of them have a vocabulary of in the area of 50 to 100 words. We know that time-poor parents need assistance to ensure that they are reading to their kids when they are young and that kids hit prep in the very best way and are as prepared as best they can be. That is a great example of the plan showing that long-term goal and the government immediately reacting with a program that is going to meet that. I stand here very pleased to support the Queensland Plan Bill. I pay due tribute to the Premier and to Minister Powell for their determination and enthusiasm for achieving the result that we see before us. I think all Queenslanders can be proud of it and I support the bill.



Hon. CKT NEWMAN (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (4.28 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Queensland Plan Bill 2014, a bill that continues our shared journey to develop and implement the Queensland Plan, the people's plan. This bill will ensure that we deliver on the commitment that this government has made to Queenslanders to act as a custodian and as the foremost advocate of their vision.

When I introduced the bill to the parliament on 26 August 2014, I read the vision of Queenslanders into the parliamentary record. I did that very deliberately and at the time said that it was a vision that we should all aspire to and strive to deliver. The Queensland Plan is not the government's plan. It is not my personal plan, nor that of a single minister. It is not a plan of one single citizen, interest group, organisation or agency. Therefore, it is truly the people's plan.

In the history of this state, all too often the views of the people who we represent have not been at the forefront of government action, with long-term plans for the state imposed from the Executive Building on George Street. The views of Queenslanders need to always be paramount when we are talking about setting our state on a path for the future. The Queensland Plan represents an exercise in planning together as a community on a scale that has never before been undertaken in Australia's history. Queenslanders have an expectation that their vision will be taken forward with the long-term goals and strategies that they identified achieved over time.

Queenslanders willingly participated in their tens of thousands in the process to develop this plan and as a government we acknowledge and respect their tremendous contribution, energy and insight. It is simply not good enough in the modern world to not engage with constituents, given the technology that is at our fingertips which helps us all in reducing the tyranny of distance. The Queensland Plan demonstrates clearly that Queenslanders want to be heard and want to participate. No government—not this one or any that follows it—can ever be allowed to contemplate going back to developing long-term plans that disenfranchise the people from the process. More than any other reason in support of this legislation is the protection that this bill provides Queenslanders. Never again will it be acceptable for a Queensland government of any political persuasion to develop a long-term plan for our future that does not seek the views of the people.

But I have to express great sadness when I heard earlier today that the Leader of the Opposition has decided not to support the Queensland Plan and, sadly, to thumb her nose at the wishes and vision of everyday Queenslanders. In doing so, the Leader of the Opposition and her ragtag rabble colleagues on the other side demonstrate their ignorance and lack of understanding of the whole process. There is a difference between the Queensland Plan, which is the people's plan, and the government's response to the Queensland Plan. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to play politics, she does not have to support the government response to the Queensland Plan, but she can and she should—indeed, she must—support the people of Queensland who contributed to the Queensland Plan including, I might point out, many of her own constituents. In ignoring their valuable views, the Leader of the Opposition is exhibiting the most breathtaking arrogance and a basic failure to listen to the people whom she seeks to represent.

This was the largest public consultation exercise in Australian history. It is in the running for two prestigious national and international awards for consultation and planning excellence. I see the member for Stafford laughing and smirking. Again, it shows the arrogance of the Australian Labor Party and its lack of empathy and contact with everyday people coming through loud and clear. The process and the outcome of the Queensland Plan has been lauded across the state, including by some of Labor's own. The Mayor of Mount Isa, Tony McGrady, a self-titled proud life member of the ALP—no Johnny-come-lately, I might say—and a member of the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council said recently—

This is neither an ALP plan, a LNP plan, nor a PUP or a Katter Party plan—this is a plan for Queensland and one that could have great outcomes.

Pioneer State High School principal, Mr Joel Bucholz, who is also on the Ambassadors Council, said—

I am excited by the opportunity to work with a range of stakeholders to ensure that The Queensland Plan remains a plan of the people. This plan has been developed through extensive community consultation and it is owned by the whole community.

Professor John Cole of the University of Southern Queensland and another member of the Ambassadors Council said on ABC Radio that the plan was a summary of ideas that came from broad consultation that the Queensland government ran over 18 months. Professor Cole stressed that the government was not the author of the plan. He said we were, 'Just a stakeholder along with local government, sports organisations, parents and all Queenslanders.' Some of the foundations for the plan came from the likes of the Queensland Conservation Council, the Queensland Teachers Union, the Heart Foundation, the Queensland Farmers Federation and the Queensland Council of Social Services. I understand that the Leader of the Opposition has said that she will produce her own plan. I wonder how widely she will consult on that one? We wait with bated breath to see the Palaszczuk plan.

Everyday Queenslanders have expressed their pride for the Queensland Plan and we should all be inspired by the call to arms that it represents. I would like to say once more that the Queensland Plan represents a massive opportunity for leadership from all levels of government. As our government outlined in our response, the Queensland Plan will be at the heart of our decision

making, priorities and actions. We also recognise local government as the front line in implementing the people's plan and look to the Commonwealth government to also play its full role. I have personally shown the Prime Minister the plan and written to him to this effect. We are committed to identifying new ways to partner and co-invest with local and Commonwealth governments to empower communities and deliver more effective services so that we can help achieve the outcomes sought by Queenslanders.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council and thank each of the members of the council for their willingness to step up and advocate for the Queensland Plan with the community, business and industry. Theirs will not be an easy role but, having attended their first meeting, held enthusiastically prior to their formal establishment as a group should the bill be passed, I can honestly say that they are exactly the right mix of Queenslanders that we need. I will be seeking the guidance of the Ambassadors Council and very much look forward to receiving its advice. Again, just like the development of the plan itself, the Ambassadors Council is not political. It is bipartisan with prominent Queensland community representatives from across the state. Queenslanders can have confidence that the people who are on the council will be advocating strongly in support of the 30-year vision and will make sure that it remains Queenslanders' plan.

I would like to conclude my contribution to today's debate by saying that our democracy is stronger for having the Queensland Plan. The legislation that is being debated today ensures that we never forget that Queenslanders know what their aspirations for the future are. This bill says that their voices have been listened to and that they matter. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr GULLEY (Murrumba—LNP) (4.37 pm): I rise to speak to the Queensland Plan Bill 2014 and I have risen to speak on behalf of Murrumba, the Aboriginal word for 'good place'. I am a member of the Finance and Administration Committee that reviewed the bill and I note report No. 51 on the bill of the Finance and Administration Committee. I will be supporting the bill and the recommendations within the report. Although the plan applies to all of Queensland, Murrumba, being a growth electorate, will benefit more than most from having a long-term Queensland plan.

This afternoon I will comment specifically on part 6 of the bill and discuss the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council. The bill provides for the establishment of an Ambassadors Council to advocate for the implementation of the Queensland Plan by the community, business and industry. The Ambassadors Council is to have the functions of promoting awareness and advocating for the implementation of the Queensland Plan within the community, business and industry as well as advising the Premier about matters that relate to the implementation of the plan. The bill provides for not more than 15 members to be appointed to the council, with eligibility for appointment based on a person representing one or more communities, business or industry or regional Queensland as well as having the ability to promote the vision established by the Queensland Plan for the future of Queensland.

That preamble to my contribution to today's debate is important, because the successful implementation of the Queensland Plan will require a collective effort from us all. State and local government action, either individually or in partnership, will not be enough for the goals and targets of the Queensland Plan to be achieved.

As I mentioned previously, the Queensland Plan will require a 30-year commitment from and to benefit Queenslanders. Individual citizens, families, non-government organisations, businesses and industry groups will need to take action along with all levels of government. It is clear that we all have a role to play in driving achievement of the Queensland Plan. For example, when we talk about highly valuing education, which is a specific target under the education foundation area, it is not something that we can collectively hand over to government to make happen on our behalf. We are going to need to take action as individuals, family members and business leaders, and not just by taking one action, but by acting concertedly over an extended period; perhaps by learning something new that we have always wanted to do to improve our skills, perhaps by giving a member of staff some flexibility to complete some training that will add to our business capacity, also by taking time to read to our kids at night. At this time I would like to apologise to Esther, my third daughter, for being a bit tardy in getting through *Prince Caspian* from the *Chronicles of Narnia*. Sorry, Esther.

The role of the Ambassadors Council is to keep us focused on the end game. It is there to help steward implementation of the plan. Achieving the vision set out in the Queensland Plan will mean that we are running a marathon, not a sprint, and that we all need to be prodded and guided from time

to time to get to where we want to be. The ambassadors announced in late July are an impressive group of Queenslanders. There is a good mix of experience, community and industry links and skill sets. What is most impressive about the ambassadors who have been announced is their lack of partisanship. The government is to be applauded for ensuring that the individuals selected represent us all. Arguably, the role of the ambassador is not to advocate on behalf of one group or interest but rather to come together to find the best way to advocate for the implementation of the plan collectively for all Queenslanders. Ambassadors, as one would expect, will need to draw on their personal qualities and experiences. While a person might be appointed because of their links to regional Queensland, that does not mean to say that they do not also have personal experience with running a business. Even in the case of local government, it is arguably more important that a person has experience with how local government works in practical terms and therefore how to engage with local government on various issues than it is to be a representative of local government.

It is instructive for the House to reflect for a moment on the 15 people who have accepted the invitation to be ambassadors: Ms Jordyn Archer, from Destiny Rescue Australia and Queensland Young Australian of the Year 2014; Mr Joel Buchholz, Principal, Pioneer State High School; Mr Andrew Chesterman, Chief Executive and Chair of the Public Service Commission; Professor John Cole, Executive Director of the University of Southern Queensland's Institute for Resilient Regions; Councillor Margaret de Wit, President, Local Government Association of Queensland; Professor Ian Frazer, CEO and Director of Research at the Translational Research Institute; Mr Daniel Gschwind, CEO of the Queensland Tourism Industry Council; Ms Joanne Grainger, President of the Queensland Farmers Federation; Mr Mark Henley, CEO and Deputy Chair of the Queensland Council of Social Services—and a great accountant as well; Professor Peter Høj, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Queensland; Ms Kathy MacDermott, Executive Director of the Property Council of Australia, Queensland Division; the Hon. Councillor Tony McGrady, Mayor of Mount Isa City Council and former Speaker of the Queensland Legislative Assembly; Ms Karen Tully, Conservation Sector Director, South West Natural Resource Management Ltd; Ms Laura Tyler, Vice-President of the Queensland Resources Council; and last but not least, Mr Leon Yeatman, CEO of the Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council. Additional information on the background of each ambassador can be found on the Queensland Plan website. Queensland can be proud of its Ambassadors Council and its formal establishment by this bill that will set the goals and targets of the Queensland Plan.

My electorate, as members know, is called 'good place'. I believe that Queensland is a great place with great opportunities. I look forward to the Queensland Plan playing its part in seeing Queensland become a greater place in the next 30 years. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr RUTHENBERG (Kallangur—LNP) (4.44 pm): I represent the people of Kallangur and they are most satisfied. Kallangur is a derivative of an Aboriginal word that means 'most satisfactory place'. My good friend the member for Murrumba, who consistently reminds us of Murrumba meaning 'good place', is actually utilising the origin of that word that comes from the suburb of Murrumba Downs. Murrumba Downs exists inside the electorate of Kallangur. So, not only is Kallangur a most satisfactory place; it is also a good place. That is where Queensland will be as a consequence of this plan.


I am really disappointed that members of the Labor opposition have chosen not to get on board with this. It shows an incredible ignorance and arrogance and a thumbing of their noses at what is current management best practice. I find that to be incredibly arrogant. When one considers that so many Queenslanders contributed to this vision, to this high-level strategy, to this directional document, it is stunning that the Labor opposition has chosen to say to all of those Queenslanders, 'You know what? We don't think you matter.' The plan does not give absolute detail about how to get to where we need to go; it gives all of us in this place a good indication of the type of Queensland that Queenslanders would like to see. It gives us a good indication of how Queenslanders would like to see this great state evolve and develop. For the opposition to simply thumb their noses at it is nothing short of arrogant.

Like my good friend the member for Murrumba, my good friend the member for Morayfield, my good friend the member for Pine Rivers and our good friend the member for Pumicestone, our area is booming. The minister who oversees this in a very personal way would understand the need to have good planning because his electorate also is rapidly growing because of population growth. Just to take that as an example, I will highlight my viewpoint here. If we allow population growth to continue unabated without actually determining where new schools are going to be, deciding how water is going to get in and out or considering public transport options for continued growth then we will end

up with sprawl and a big mess. Unfortunately, when one ignores modern management methodology and says, 'We know best,' it is telling the people of Queensland, 'You don't know best. We really don't care about what you think. We are going to do what we want anyway.'

I implore every member of this House to get on board with this bill. I implore every member to have a look at the opportunities within it and to see that this is a good idea. It is a good idea because it was the people of Queensland who participated in the whole process. I commend the minister and the Premier for going down this path. All good companies put strategic plans in place and have directional focus on their efforts. They identify where their resources should be by understanding the demands that will emerge in the future and start to plan for them.

Unless you have an idea of where you are going and what you want to accomplish, how can you do all of that in a grown-up and responsible manner? I thank the minister and I thank the members in this House for participating in this process, because it is a great idea. I certainly support the passage of this bill through this House.

 **Mr HATHAWAY** (Townsville—LNP) (4.49 pm): At the outset, I must say that I have looked forward to speaking on this bill as I truly believe it to be a watershed event for Queensland. It has enjoyed strong support from all quarters of our vast and diverse state: the city, rural, tropical, non-tropical, remote, social and I had written in my notes 'political', but I am sadly disappointed that regrettably the bill has not bridged the political divide. This is a plan for Queensland by Queenslanders and it will guide this state's course in all aspects. As a fast-growing state, we need the tools to navigate the many challenges that will face us over the next three decades. Those challenges include: the expectation that the population will almost double to eight million; living longer, with the average lifespan to increase by five to 10 years; a declining proportion of people in the workforce; while we will be living longer, we will need to be agile, trained and educated for future industries and technologies; and, as a function of our demographic, increasing lifestyle and related chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity and heart disease.

The Queensland Plan has resulted from the largest community engagement of its kind ever undertaken in this country. More than 80,000 people from across the state contributed to the process. After extensive consultation, one thing that is clear is that Queenslanders believe that the economy, education and regions are keys to a vibrant and prosperous Queensland. Queenslanders told us that they want an education target of 100 per cent of children having basic literacy and numeracy in school. I note the recent Queensland Education Accord engagement undertaken as a subsupporting plan to this plan. There is a desire to double our regional population, outside of the south-east, by building on what already makes our state great and our regions exceptional, that is, people, local enterprise and natural resources.

The key areas of focus for North Queensland residents were community cohesion, strengthening Queensland's economy, community health and wellbeing, balancing the economic priority with the environment and, of course, strengthening our regions. Those main areas were in line with the rest of Queensland. However, one specific subarea stood out, which is a greater focus on and investment in regional areas of Queensland. In response to questions on the Queensland Plan, many felt that to strengthen our economic future and sustainability, government needed to change to long-term financial plans and relax red tape. The strategy includes a plan for the future to drive regional growth.

In regional areas such as my electorate of Townsville, we know that more opportunities will arise from decentralising the state and supporting prosperous regional communities. Our first response will be to focus our new actions to help achieve those opportunities in regional areas, such as driving regional economic development through the development of the RegionsQ Framework. I note that the Deputy Premier is here today and I thank him for his work in this area. For regional infrastructure, while the initial framework development predated the passage of this bill, it amply demonstrates a government that is already working in full accordance with the Queensland Plan.


It is important for us to unlock and support resource areas. It is important for us to invest in productivity, enhancing regional infrastructure through the Royalties for the Regions and the Strong Choices investment programs. As part of this plan, we will be also looking at the Queensland regional migration strategy, working with the federal government to develop a strategy that will support population and industry growth in regional areas. It is also important to Queenslanders that they can access high-quality services in their regions.

The legislation has three main components: the development of the Queensland Plan, its implementation and progress reports on it, and establishing the Ambassadors Council. It has a

number of reporting requirements. The Premier will be responsible for preparing an annual report for each of the financial years on progress made to implement the Queensland Plan. During the preparation of the report, the Premier must consult with the Ambassadors Council. There will be annual reporting by public authorities. The chief executive of a public authority must ensure the yearly public authority's report includes a statement about the authority's progress in developing policies and programs and delivering services that are consistent with the strategic direction of the Queensland Plan. An annual report from local governments must also include a statement of how they are in concert step with the Queensland Plan.

On the behalf of the people of Townsville and North Queensland, I offer my congratulations to the 15 inaugural community ambassadors. They are all notable for their skill sets and achievements for the people of Queensland, as well as the broad and extensive networks that each will bring to bear on the rollout of the Queensland Plan. The Queensland Plan reflects the views, visions and aspirations of Queenslanders from right across this state.

In closing, I thank the government and, in particular, the Premier and Minister Powell for enabling and facilitating the Queensland Plan, its engagement, consultation and design. I also thank the many people of Townsville who contributed to the process, as well as our community sector and agencies. In particular, I wish to record my thanks and those of my constituents in Townsville to our delegates for their time and effort: Mrs Florence Onus, Dr Maree Corkeron, Mr Mick Reilly and my good friend and Mayor of Palm Island, Councillor Alf Lacey. I support the passage of this bill through the House.

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (4.55 pm), in reply: It is my honour to rise and conclude the second reading debate of the Queensland Plan Bill 2014. At the outset, I thank all of the government members who have contributed to the debate on this bill this afternoon. In particular, I thank the Premier, who, I must acknowledge at the outset, was the driving force behind engaging with Queenslanders in a way that no state, no territory and no jurisdiction in Australia and possibly the world has ever done before. For his inspirational leadership, we say thank you. I am sure the people of Queensland, particularly the 80,000 Queenslanders who participated in the preparation of the Queensland Plan, say thank you, too.

I thank the members for Nanango, Capalaba, Hinchinbrook, Mansfield, Sunnybank, Murrumba, Townsville and Kallangur for their words of endorsement and their commendation of the process and for standing alongside their delegates and their constituents, all of whom participated in the preparation of this great plan. After all, it is the people's plan. It is Queensland's plan. It is not any party's plan.

That takes me to the contribution by the Leader of the Opposition. I must admit that I am completely gobsmacked, I am amazed and I am appalled.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr POWELL: I take the interjection from the Leader of the House: I am incredibly disappointed that, at the eleventh hour, what has been a wonderful bipartisan approach has fallen to pieces with the politicisation of the Queensland Plan Bill 2014 by the Leader of the Opposition. In essence, what the Leader of the Opposition has done this afternoon is thumbed her nose at Queenslanders. Certainly she has thumbed her nose at the 80,000 Queenslanders who contributed to the Queensland Plan. My question for the Leader of the Opposition is: what does she have against Queenslanders? It is their plan made from their contributions. Why has she thumbed her nose at them?

I cannot say it better than the Premier, who, in his contribution today, quoted Mayor Tony McGrady from Mount Isa. The mayor got it spot-on. For many years Mayor McGrady served in this chamber under the Labor Party. He has agreed to be a Queensland Plan ambassador because he understands what this 30-year vision for the state means. The mayor said—

This is neither an ALP plan, an LNP plan, nor a PUP or a Katter plan—this is a plan for Queensland and one that could have great outcomes.

Well said, Mayor McGrady. I echo his words and thank him for them.

It comes as no surprise that the Leader of the Opposition does not support the government's response to the plan, but the Leader of the Opposition can and should support the voices of Queenslanders who contributed to the plan. She should support those Queenslanders who gave their time, their energy and, more importantly, their know-how to deliver a plan for Queensland that goes above and beyond the electoral cycle. Many members reflected on that today. The process and the outcome of the Queensland Plan have been endorsed and hailed as a success by many individuals and many groups, including the Queensland Council of Social Service and the Queensland

Conservation Council. We have received accolades from international experts who do community engagement day in, day out and who have never seen anything like this. I must admit that many people who have actually read the entire document are blown away by the quality of the commentary that has come through from the many people who had input into it.

I will now return to the Leader of the Opposition's speech earlier today where she rejected the bill on four counts. I would like to examine them a bit more closely. The Leader of the Opposition said that the opposition would be opposing this bill because of advertising. Quite frankly, colleagues, I will not be lectured to on appropriate government advertising by the Leader of the Opposition. This is the same member who, when she was in government, was forced to pay back \$8½ thousand for materials that her own Premier said were inappropriate.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. The member is misleading the House and I ask him to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Leader of the Opposition, that is not a point of order. I call the minister.

Mr POWELL: That is typical of the kind of opposition that we have. I again quite happily state that we will not be lectured to and I will not be lectured to by the Leader of the Opposition when it comes to appropriate government advertising. At the end of the day, how do you spell hypocrisy? You spell it A-L-P.

The Leader of the Opposition also claimed that they would be opposing the bill because of the red tape involved. This is responsible legislation to deliver on the expectations of Queenslanders that their vision will be implemented. After all the effort that 80,000 Queenslanders put in to preparing their plan, we, the members of this chamber, the members of this House, owe it to them to ensure that there is an implementation framework that will deliver on their desires and their vision for the next 30 years.

The legislation is designed to not be prescriptive and to reflect the diversity of contributions that will be needed to achieve the vision of Queenslanders. The approach, where possible, taps into existing processes and uses appropriate administrative arrangements. This was supported by local governments and the Local Government Association of Queensland. Amendments in the bill clarify coverage of the bill for public authorities and will assure appropriate application of the bill's requirements.

Let me make it very clear that this bill does not confer any red tape on business or community. The Newman government can be very proud of its very strong track record in red-tape reduction. As the independent Office of Best Practice report on reducing the burden of regulation in Queensland demonstrated, by the end of 2012-13, over 12 months ago, we had already removed more than 9,400 regulatory requirements. I again stress that the time, the energy and the passion that has gone into the preparation of the Queensland Plan by the people of Queensland needs to be reflected in appropriate implementation, and this legislative framework provides that.

The Leader of the Opposition also talked about a lack of compliance. Queenslanders will ultimately make the call about the job that is being done to deliver their vision. The annual progress report will provide a pulse check on how we are going to collectively achieve Queensland's goals and targets.

The state government is already refocusing its activities to implement the Queensland Plan. This includes cabinet now making decisions to deliver on the Queensland Plan objectives. Whilst the bill does not set out penalties for noncompliance, it does situate at the heart of performance management across government a clear requirement for chief executives of prescribed public authorities to ensure policies, programs and services align with the government response and clearly help to deliver on the vision of Queenslanders.

Finally, the Leader of the Opposition said that they would oppose this bill because of concerns around the independence of a number of public authorities. As I said in my second reading speech, the Finance and Administration Committee report recommendation No. 3 sought legislative assurances for statutory officers and other organisations that the bill does not impede their independence. The government has listened to the submissions and the recommendation made by the committee and by a number of statutory officers and will amend the bill to provide that assurance about independence.

I come back to one key point. There is a very clear distinction between the vision of Queenslanders, as expressed through the Queensland Plan, and how the government of the day responds to that plan. The Queensland Plan sets out where we want to get to. The government response is about how we get there. Each government of the day will determine the best way to play its role in making this happen. Again, it would be quite acceptable for the opposition to oppose the government's response, but to oppose the Queensland Plan and this legislation in its entirety is thumbing their noses at the people of Queensland—the mums and dads of Queensland. I again ask: what have they got against Queenslanders?

Before I conclude, I want to thank the Glass House delegates who attended the activities throughout the preparation of the Queensland Plan—Howard, Ursula, Ruby and Riley. I thank also the Glass House gang that sat behind them and also participated in many activities during the preparation of the plan.

I also want to thank the many government officers who have contributed to the plan, who have been involved in all of the events and who spent many hours sifting through the reports and submissions made by 80,000 Queenslanders. Can I particularly acknowledge Matthew Byrnes, Jamie Merrick, Natasha Neale, Grant Stidiford, Gary Ward and Anne Moffatt and those in the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel.

Every journey begins with a single step, and 80,000 Queenslanders have started along this journey with us. It is in the best interests of all Queenslanders now and into the future that the Queensland Plan Bill be passed. I commend the bill to the House.

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

AYES, 58:

LNP, 58—Bates, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Davies, T Davis, Dempsey, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, France, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Holswich, Kaye, Krause, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Robinson, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Walker, Watts, Woodforth, Young.

NOES, 13:

ALP, 8—Byrne, D'Ath, Lynham, Miller, Palaszcuk, Pitt, Scott, Trad.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

INDEPENDENTS, 3—Douglas, Judge, Wellington.


Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 7, as read, agreed to.

Clause 8—

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (5.13 pm): I rise to ask the minister to explain in detail—I would have liked to have put this question to the Premier because it was the Premier who was at the forefront of developing this Queensland Plan. Minister, clause 8 says quite clearly, 'Government response to the Queensland Plan.' It is part of the bill, members—part of the bill, pure and simple. It is clearly written in black and white. So the government's response clearly articulates the government's position about Strong Choices—the plan for assets sales—which is linked directly back to the Queensland Plan.

So, Minister, could you please enlighten the House, enlighten your colleagues and enlighten Queenslanders as to why you have put forward the biggest deception to the thousands of people who have contributed to the Queensland Plan, because we know that in that government response time and time again, as I have tabled earlier in this House, there are links back to Strong Choices—and Strong Choices is the government's plan to sell off state assets. Minister, Queenslanders do not want their assets sold. This is a government that is not listening, that does not care about the people out there. Why have you, Minister, gone ahead and deliberately deceived the people of Queensland when this Queensland Plan is nothing more than a front for the government's assets sales program. Answer that.

Mr POWELL: It really does not warrant further explanation than what I have provided already in my closing statement. What we have here is a politicisation of what has been a bipartisan approach that has seen 80,000 Queenslanders participate in the preparation of their vision for the next 30 years. If the Leader of the Opposition, as I said, has concerns about the government response then that is fine. We can have a discussion about the government's response outside of this chamber.

But it would help members on this side if the Leader of the Opposition actually showed us what the opposition's response is going to be to the Queensland Plan. What is the opposition's response to closing the gap between those who earn the most in this state and those who do not, to reducing the gap between regional and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders in terms of health and education outcomes, in terms of ensuring that people with a disability and seniors are able to access work opportunities well into the future?

What we have seen today is the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite thumb their noses at the 80,000 Queenslanders, at the mums and dads who participated in this process, all because they disagree with the government's response. If the question by the Leader of the Opposition is about concerns of the independence of public authorities then I again reiterate that this government has heard the feedback from the submissions to the committee and I will be shortly moving an amendment that will provide clarity and certainty for public authorities whose independence is required by legislation, government policy or is a customary feature of that authority by precluding clause 8(3) from applying to the extent there would be an impact on that authority's independence.

Division: Question put—That clause 8, as read, stand part of the bill.

AYES, 57:

LNP, 57—Bates, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Davies, T Davis, Dempsey, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, France, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Holswich, Kaye, Krause, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Robinson, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Walker, Watts, Woodforth, Young.

NOES, 13:

ALP, 8—Byrne, D'Ath, Lynham, Miller, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Scott, Trad.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

INDEPENDENTS, 3—Douglas, Judge, Wellington.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 8, as read, agreed to.

Clause 9—



Ms PALASZCZUK (5.23 pm): I would like to ask the Premier some questions about the promotion of the Queensland Plan—sorry, it is the minister who is answering the questions. Well, let us see if you can provide some answers.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Leader of the Opposition, I would ask you to direct your comments through the chair and not use the term 'you'.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you. This afternoon, I rise on behalf of all Queenslanders who want to know how much money has been spent to date on the Queensland Plan and how much is planned to be spent on the Queensland Plan over the next six months.

Mr SEENEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Consideration of the detail of the clauses is traditionally limited to the consideration of the clause. The opposition leader has made no reference to the clause.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I did. Madam Deputy Speaker—

Mrs Miller: You haven't read it, have you?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundamba—

Ms PALASZCZUK: Madam Deputy Speaker—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Point of order!

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just allow me to seek advice from the Clerk—

Ms PALASZCZUK: Clause 9 is 'Promotion of the Queensland Plan'.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I have the call and I said 'Order!'

Mr Seeney interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, please allow me to seek advice from the Clerk about the contents of the clause so that I may rule on your point of order regarding relevance. Leader of the Opposition, I would ask that you refer to the clause and remain relevant to the clause in your contribution.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The clause is in relation to 'Promotion of the Queensland Plan' and how the government wants to 'promote awareness of the key area within the community, business and industry'. This government has been promoting it in the community, in business and in industry through taxpayers' funds. So on behalf of members of this House and on behalf of the Queensland public, I want to know today how much is being spent and how much is being planned to be spent over the next six months. This is a fundamental budgetary question clearly linked to the clause. If this minister is so incompetent that he does not know the answer, you should resign from your office because we are sick and tired of an arrogant government hiding the truth from Queenslanders. Queenslanders want to know how much of their money is being wasted on the Queensland Plan. We know the Queensland Plan is now linked to Strong Choices, but I still cannot get answers on how much is being spent on the Strong Choices campaign. One thing is very clear: we are six months out from an election and if you want to promote your political plan—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I have already asked that you stop using the term 'you' and that you direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: If the minister wants to promote this plan through the government he should use LNP funds, not taxpayers' funds. You should use your party funds, Minister. If the minister wants to promote this plan, he needs to go and use the political funds.

In conclusion, the people of Queensland have been told a grave mistruth by this government. This government wants to sell your assets and they are using the Queensland Plan for their own political purposes. That is why the opposition is opposing this. Minister, I want the answers. The people of Inala, the people I represent, want to know how much money is being spent. You owe it to us to give me the answers today.

Mr POWELL: As I said before in my summary speech, I will not be lectured to by the Leader of the Opposition on appropriate government advertising. What we have seen here this afternoon is the difference between working with the people of Queensland to develop a vision for 30 years and small-minded politics.

Mrs MILLER: I refer to clause 9 of the bill which says—

A Minister whose principal ministerial responsibilities include a key area under the Queensland Plan must—

a) promote awareness of the key area within the community, business and industry ...

I understand that to promote awareness this government is planning to issue brochures, and I think this government has already done that. I believe that you also plan to have TV and radio ads. I also believe that you are going to have print ads—for example, in newspapers.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundamba, I would just ask—

Mrs MILLER: It is about promoting—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bundamba, I have the call—

Mrs MILLER: Yes.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: And if you would allow me to finish, I am going to ask that you refrain from using the term 'you', as I have directed the Leader of the Opposition. I would ask that you direct your comments through the chair.

Mrs MILLER: Thank you so much for your guidance. My understanding is that the minister will be printing brochures, taking time in television advertising spots, taking time in radio advertising schedules, using newspapers and maybe other publications—for example, journals—and perhaps even doing some polling in relation to the Queensland Plan. I am not sure whether or not the minister

will be looking at push polls or other areas. The government may be looking at having some sort of promotion in terms of social media. So in relation to clause 9(a), I ask the minister who is responsible what the government has expended so far in relation to this LNP plan, which is somehow called the Queensland Plan? Also, what is the proposed expenditure for clause 9(1)(a) into the future? I think it is very important that the people of Queensland know how much this government has set aside to promote this in accordance with the legislation.

People in my community are horrified that this particular plan and its promotion have been linked to asset sales. The people in my community are asking why should their tax dollars be spent to promote the Queensland Plan? In fact, clause 9 is headed 'Promotion of the Queensland Plan'. I believe that it is essential that the people of Queensland know exactly—to the last cent—how much is going to be spent in relation to clause 9. I would ask—

(Time expired)

Ms TRAD: I also rise to make a contribution in relation to clause 9 in this debate. I think that some very reasonable questions have been asked in relation to this clause. They are questions that go to the heart of the cost of this clause and particularly the cost over the next six months in the lead-up to the next state election. I think it is incumbent on ministers to understand the responsibility that they carry, that they bring into this House and that they execute their responsibility ethically and morally. They have a responsibility to come in here and answer questions truthfully, with integrity and in the spirit in which this parliament operates.

What we have seen in response to the opposition leader's question is complete and utter arrogance. It is the arrogance that Queenslanders are sick and tired of. It is the arrogance that Queenslanders resoundingly rejected in the Stafford by-election. It is the arrogance that Queenslanders voted against in the Redcliffe by-election. Queenslanders want a government that is listening to them and that is responding to them. When the government comes into this place and decides that they are going to decline to give Queenslanders answers to very important questions because they cannot be bothered being truthful, they cannot be bothered answering questions fulsomely, what they are saying to Queenslanders is, 'You don't deserve to know.' What they are saying to Queenslanders is, 'You are mugs. We will do what we want and when you ask, when you hold us to account, when you ask the questions, when you want information, we'll give you a bit of spin, we will pat you on the head and we will sit you back down because, quite frankly, we're all-knowing; we're all-seeing.'

The parallels between the Queensland Plan, the Strong Choices plan and the Liberal National Party spin that we have seen so far from those members opposite is quite compelling. The consistency and the interwoven messages are quite incredible. I will pay my respects to Crosby Textor. Obviously they are getting paid the big bucks.

Ms Palaszczuk: Aren't they LNP pollsters?

Ms TRAD: They are LNP pollsters. They are doing all of the work out there. They are probably doing a bit of work on the Queensland Plan and giving some advice to the government on how to pull it all together. Quite frankly, they should come clean with how much they are paying Crosby Textor and they should come clean with how much they are paying for the Queensland Plan's promotion. They should do so in this House, in the people's house.

(Time expired)

Mr BYRNE: I think the chamber gets the very clear message that the opposition has been asking a very simple question for an extended period of time that responsible ministers in this House understand clearly—a basic question. This is a government that has hung its hat on honesty, transparency and openness. 'We're the most accountable government this state has ever seen,' has been the mantra that has been hurled around this chamber with gay abandon. It is a simple question. How much money has been spent and will be spent to implement this clause?

Ministers on the other side of this chamber know the answer. It is not hard; it is not difficult; it is not rocket science. The impression that is given by the government is one of deliberate secrecy for reasons that completely escape me. What possible public interest is served by a minister who, when

asked a simple question which should roll off the tongue without the slightest problem, has difficulty doing so in this House? I think that is a question that all members opposite should ask themselves.

If this is the most honest and transparent government that Queensland has ever seen, why is it impossible for a minister with the knowledge to simply stand in this House and tell the truth? I do not need to restate that question a hundred times. It has already been asked repeatedly by the opposition and it is unacceptable that no reasonable answer has been provided.

Mrs D'ATH: Clause 9 could not be clearer. It states—

- (1) A Minister whose principal ministerial responsibilities include a key area under the Queensland Plan must—
 (a) promote awareness of the key area within the community, business and industry ...

So it is a reasonable question. It is absolute arrogance on the part of the minister to stand there and say he will not be lectured to because questions are put to him by the opposition. Those on this side represent Queenslanders, just like every other member in this chamber. We have the right to ask questions and our communities have the right to get answers from the minister and from the government. They have seen the billboards, they have seen the TV ads, they have seen the full-page ads as far as the asset sales are concerned. How much is going to be spent? How are they going to promote this? They have the right to know.

It is clear the minister has to encourage the community, business and industry in carrying out their activities to have regard to the key area and targets established by the Queensland Plan for the key areas. This is your principal ministerial responsibility. It is your principal ministerial responsibility. It is a simple question. It is a question we have the right to ask on this side of the chamber on behalf of the people of Redcliffe: how much is going to be spent? How much has been budgeted to promote this plan under clause 9 of this bill? You must have a budget—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Member for Redcliffe, I remind you, as I have many of your colleagues, that you should direct your comments through the chair and not use the term 'you'.

Mrs D'ATH: Minister, you cannot produce a bill like this without having a budget stating how much has been set aside to promote this plan. The people of Redcliffe have the right to know and the minister has a responsibility to answer that question.

Dr LYNHAM: I, too, rise to speak on the Queensland Plan Bill. In the Stafford by-election the people of Stafford voted against the arrogance of this government. The people of Stafford voted again against predetermined government policy camouflaged, as the community will. Advertising for this plan should be paid for by the LNP. It is LNP advertising that should be paid for by the LNP, not paid for by the taxpayers of Queensland. The people of Stafford deserve to know how much has been budgeted for this campaign. What happened to the six-month moratorium on government advertising before an election? What happened to that commitment? There is no commitment by this government. This government is just going to railroad taxpayer funded advertising right up until the election date.

The people of Stafford have to budget. The cost-of-living pressures for the people of Stafford are high. The members of my electorate are budgeting. They are counting every cent. Why can the minister not tell the people of Stafford how much he is budgeting for this propaganda that the people of Queensland really do not deserve? The LNP deserve to stump up for their own propaganda.

Division: Question put—That clause 9, as read, stand part of the bill.

AYES, 54:

LNP, 54—Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Davies, T Davis, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, France, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Holswich, Kaye, Krause, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, Menkens, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Robinson, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Symes, Walker, Watts, Woodforth, Young.

NOES, 11:

ALP, 8—Byrne, D'Ath, Lynham, Miller, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Scott, Trad.

INDEPENDENTS, 3—Douglas, Judge, Wellington.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 9, as read, agreed to.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! I remind members that if a further division is now required the bells will ring for the duration of one minute. The House will now reconsider clause 8.

Clause 8—

Mr POWELL (5.45 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 8 (Government response to the Queensland Plan)

Page 9, after line 22—

insert—

- (4) However, subsection (3) does not apply in relation to a public authority to the extent that stating a core outcome to be achieved, or requiring a strategy or action to be taken, by the public authority would affect a matter in relation to which the independence of the public authority—
 - (a) is required by legislation or government policy; or
 - (b) is a customary feature of the work of the public authority.

I table the explanatory notes to the amendment.

Tabled paper: Queensland Plan Bill 2014, explanatory notes to Hon. Andrew Powell's amendments [\[6299\]](#).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 8, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 41—

Mr POWELL (5.46 pm): I seek leave to move amendments en bloc.

Leave granted.

Mr POWELL: I move the following amendments—

2 Clause 10 (Policy, program and service alignment with government response)

Page 10, line 12, before 'The'—

insert—

(1)

3 Clause 10 (Policy, program and service alignment with government response)

Page 10, after line 16—

insert—

- (2) However, subsection (1) does not apply to the chief executive of a public authority to the extent that the public authority's independence in developing its policies and programs, or delivering its services—
 - (a) is required by legislation or government policy; or
 - (b) is a customary feature of the work of the public authority.

4 Clause 13 (Annual report—public authorities)

Page 11, after line 11—

insert—

- (1) This section applies to a chief executive of a public authority if, or to the extent that, section 10(1) applies to the chief executive.

5 Clause 13 (Annual report—public authorities)

Page 11, line 12, 'The chief executive of a public authority'—

omit, insert—

- (2) The chief executive

6 After clause 39

Page 20, after line 6—

insert—

39A Application of Act to public service offices

- (1) This section applies despite the *Public Service Act 2008*, section 22(2).
- (2) This Act applies to a public service office only if the public service office is a public authority under this Act.

39B References to chief executive of public authority

- (1) A reference in this Act to the chief executive of a public authority includes a reference to—
- (a) if the public authority is a public service office—the head of the public service office; and
 - (b) if the public authority is a statutory body—the person responsible for the management of the statutory body.

- (2) In this section—

head, of a public service office, see the *Public Service Act 2008*, section 21(2).

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 41, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Schedule 2—

Mr POWELL (5.47 pm): I move the following amendment—

7 Schedule 2 (Dictionary)

Page 23, line 24—

omit, insert—

- (b) a public service office prescribed by regulation; or
- (c) a statutory body prescribed by regulation.

Amendment agreed to.

Schedule 2, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (5.47 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. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (5.48 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.

MOTION

South East Queensland Regional Plan

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (5.48 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under section 66 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, the House ratify the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031 state planning regulatory provisions that were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 30 July 2014.

This is purely a procedural motion to ratify a document that was tabled in the House on 30 July 2014. In October 2013 the state government, with the unanimous support of the SEQ Council of Mayors, made a draft amendment to the SEQ Regional Plan SPRP. The changes proposed by the amendment allow greater opportunities for local governments to consider tourism, sport and

recreation activity outside the urban footprint and it is another example our government's commitment to empower local councils to make decisions about their local communities. This motion is the formal end of that process. I commend the motion to the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (5.49 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 28 October 2014.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (5.50 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Goodna Rugby League

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (5.50 pm): Every year I look forward to the Goodna Rugby League function which is held by the Goodna Old Boys. It is a great afternoon's entertainment for everyone, with comedians and lots of laughter, memories and merriment for all. This year's function will be held on Friday, 24 October, and it will feature a reunion of the A-grade premiership side of 2004. It will also feature ex-Queensland and Australian fullback Gary Belcher, rugby league scribe Steve Ricketts and as always it will be emceed by the remarkable Mark Forbes.


Each year Goodna has hosted rugby league greats like Mal Meninga, Wayne Bennett, the late great Graham Murray, John Cartwright and Tommy Raudonikis, just to name a few people who attend our great rugby league luncheon. This is a great achievement for a small club. Every guest has relayed to me what a fantastic time they have each year because they are able to mix it with knowledgeable and respectful rugby league fans and rugby league players.

This is an advertisement, unashamedly, for the Goodna Rugby League Old Boys. All for the low cost of \$90, anyone can come along to their luncheon. That price includes not only a lunch but also free wine, beer and soft drink. Because I do not really drink beer or anything like that, I think I am the great subsidy effect of this \$90 because the boys drink my share of the beer and wine. For more information people can contact the club or Ted Bradley, who is also known locally as 'Torpedo Ted' because he spends a lot of his time swimming in the Goodna pool.

This season the club did not reach its potential; however, the reserve grade won the premiership and the A-grade coach, who is known as 'Whermo'—his real name is Craig Whermen—was awarded the Ipswich Rugby League coach of the year. On behalf of everyone in Goodna, I would like to say: great work, Whermo!

Rugby league in our community is a strong grassroots, working-class sport that has great ties to the wider community in my electorate. We believe that there is no more fitting place into which to expand an NRL team than the rugby league heartland within my electorate. I also have rugby league teams over in Springfield, with the Springfield Panthers, and also in Redbank Plains. It is a great sport. If anyone wants to come along to the luncheon, we would love to have you there.

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Schools

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (5.52 pm): I am proud to be a member of a government that has shown such a strong commitment to developing the Queensland Plan with the Queensland people. This is based on a shared vision that Queenslanders have for our future. If we project ourselves 30 years hence—the year 2044—the people we will see around us in this place, in our hospitals, teaching in our schools and providing other essential services are at this moment mostly in schools themselves, learning and preparing themselves for the future. So it is great to see our schools stepping up to the plate to educate the citizens of the 21st century.

Let me tell you about some of the impressive students and schools in Mount Ommaney, where brilliant minds, sporting prowess, cultural achievements and social conscience are building a

foundation for that future. At just 14 years of age St Aidan's student Brynlea Gibson won the prestigious Australian ICTinMe Award. Brynlea has developed a robotic hand that has caught the attention of leading global technology companies. Her achievement was acknowledged last week. Brynlea already has plans to develop a fully fledged surgical robot, so you can only imagine what she will be up to in 2044.

Centenary State High School has been hitting the high notes and putting runs on the board. Centenary High was the only public school to be represented at the national a cappella championships held recently in Melbourne. I have had the pleasure of hearing this choir sing many times in the past. I guarantee that they are superb. Centenary was also well represented at the recent regional athletics carnival. Six podium finishes from one school shows the dedication and commitment that these students and the school put into preparation. Well done to Jordi Capdevila, Curtis Campbell, Riaan DuPlessis, Sean Drury, Charlotte Beguely and Chloe Bailey, who all won places in the region.

Finally, I congratulate Corinda State High School—the first high school to be part of the pilot program that was launched here at parliament called Glass Half Full. Under the project creator Elizabeth Venzin, the students are creating a complete self-esteem campaign which will be uploaded to You Tube in a world first. This project really helps kids in the classroom to be proud of themselves and have an understanding for others—values that are universal. Karolina Judd, Loi Nguyen, Lachlan Naolu, Samuel Pitts, Vivian Nguyen and Cathy Chow: you are all to be congratulated for this outstanding effort in helping your peers and potentially people all around the world. There is no doubt: the future will be in safe hands.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Mr HART (Burleigh—LNP) (5.55 pm): As we all know, October is national Breast Cancer Awareness Month. No-one does it better than the great electorate of Burleigh. Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in Australia. One in eight women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime, unfortunately. Since 1997, on average over 2,384 women have been diagnosed each year in Queensland, with 15,000 expected to be diagnosed in Australia this year. A total of over 25,000 have been diagnosed in Queensland during the past decade. On the Gold Coast, the number of breast cancer cases each year has increased from 200 to 400 for the period 1996 to 2011. The five-year survival rate has improved from 74 per cent in 1982 to 89 per cent in 2009.

The Pink Ribbon charity fund has funded over \$16.2 million in secondary breast cancer research across 27 projects since 1994. They have raised in excess of \$400,000 this year, and I urge everyone to consider donating to this worthy cause as they have set an ambitious target of \$9.47 million this year.

In Burleigh, the local champion of breast cancer month is Zeta Thomas, the chairperson of Burleigh in Pink. A group of ladies are putting together a number of events in Burleigh: High Tea at Teavine at Tallebudgera; The Breakfast at Burleigh Bowls Club on Monday morning—I will be attending that myself and wearing something pink; a ladies luncheon at the Fish House—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr HART: Very nice. The Leader of the House can come along to that if he would like to, but it is a ladies lunch. There is also a gala dinner at Oskars and a men's luncheon at the Burleigh Heads Mowbray Park surf club. That might be better suited to the Leader of the House. Also, last weekend I participated in a sausage sizzle at Bunnings. I spent two hours cooking sausages. We actually raised quite a bit of money for breast cancer. It was fantastic.

Mr Boothman: Did you eat any?

Mr HART: I did eat a couple, actually. I would like to thank the major sponsors at Burleigh for The Breakfast on Monday. I mention Baxters Solicitors, Jewellery on James, Lacey West Burleigh Heads, Mortgage Choice, the Professionals Black & Young—that is where Zeta was working until recently—Ray White Burleigh Heads and Rem Media. They are doing a fantastic job. I look forward to a wonderful breakfast on Monday morning.

Woodridge Electorate, University Placements




Mrs SCOTT (Woodridge—ALP) (5.58 pm): At this time of year many year 12s look forward to perhaps going to university in the new year. In my electorate and many others there are many Pacific Islander and Maori students wanting to go to university but the government in Canberra still has not

passed the required legislation to allow them to go to university and access HECS-HELP for fees. They not only get charged fees but also have to come up with the fees before they enter the doors of the university. Over the years countless hundreds and hundreds of people, organisations and so on have put huge effort into gaining this for our Pacific Islander and Maori students—that is, those who have come to Australia on New Zealand passports since 2001. Earlier this year our Prime Minister met with John Key, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, and he made a commitment that he would pass that legislation. It was to start in 2015 and we are now almost at the end of the year and that legislation still has not seen the light of day in Canberra.

Every year a considerable number of parents come through my door saying how bright their young people are and that they have a yearning to go to university but it is absolutely impossible. As members know, many Pacific Islanders are not on high incomes but many of their students wish to attend university. With five, six or seven children, it is not available to those who have arrived in this country since 2001.

There will be many bitterly disappointed students and parents if this legislation is not passed before next year. I call on the Minister for Multicultural Affairs to pick up the phone to Canberra and to chew the ear of the Prime Minister and his counterpart to ensure that this is passed and that the government keeps to its promise. Former minister Craig Emerson held a celebration and announced that it was going to happen and that it would be available to them in 2015. It will be a bitter pill to swallow if many of those students have to get a job and delay and delay and delay going to university. Mr Glen Elmes, please do what you can.


Fraser Coast, Anzac Centennial Projects

 **Mrs MADDERN** (Maryborough—LNP) (6.01 pm): We are currently in a time when safety and security are front of mind. Part of that concern results from the horrendous acts being undertaken by terrorists in the Middle East. We are also in preparation for the commemoration of the centennial of the landing of the Anzacs and the years of World War I. In thinking about this commemoration, we are reminded of the security issues faced by our forebears in that war and in all wars which have ensued—security issues which our nation is again facing today. Last week I was privileged to be invited to attend the dedication of the Hervey Bay RSL's memorial to Australia's light-horsemen, and I note that my colleague Ted Sorensen made note of this in a speech earlier today. This memorial is a wonderfully 'alive' sculpture of a light-horseman mounted and charging across a Beersheba trench on 31 October 1917. A particularly poignant part of the service was the poem dedicated to the horses who served their masters so faithfully in this theatre of war and the grief felt by the men when the horses were not allowed to return home with them. For me, this was a very special service as my grandfather James Burnside served in the Middle East as a light-horseman.

In Maryborough preparations are underway for the commissioning of a statue of Lieutenant Duncan Chapman, a resident of Maryborough who was in the first boat that landed at Gallipoli in April 1915. Historical records indicate that Lieutenant Duncan Chapman was the first Australian ashore. He enlisted at the Enoggera Barracks here in Brisbane but grew up in Maryborough and went to school in what is now my electorate. Local residents, led by the former editor of the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, Nancy Bates, and a subcommittee under the auspices of the Maryborough sub-branch of the RSL, with the assistance of President Bob Evans, are raising the funds for the statue. Further plans are underway for a light and sound show at the dedication of the statue planned for April next year and following that over coming years the construction of an interpretive centre featuring events and places of the Anzacs and in particular Lieutenant Chapman.

My point in mentioning these two outstanding Fraser Coast centennial projects is that Australians have long been, and hopefully always will be, as Prime Minister Abbott has described, foremost members of 'Team Australia'. As one of the world's great multicultural nations we have much to share regionally, nationally and globally. With considerable pride I can say that the light-horsemen and the Lieutenant Duncan Chapman memorials will bear testament to the Australia we are all so fortunate in being able to call home. May our soldiers and airmen now serving in the Middle East come home safe and sound, in body and mind.

Keperra Bowl

 **Mr SHUTTLEWORTH** (Ferry Grove—LNP) (6.04 pm): This evening I rise in the House to speak of a fantastic annual event which is currently underway in the fine electorate of Ferry Grove—that is, the Keperra Bowl, a leading amateur golf tournament currently enjoying its ninth year which is undertaken at the Keperra Country Golf Club. Over past years it has seen players such as Rory

McIlroy, Marc Leishman, Brady Watt and Jason Day undertake the challenges that the course presents. Those challenges have been mastered over the years by the club's current touring professional John Senden, who is currently 50th in the world ranking of professionals.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SHUTTLEWORTH: The honourable member for Everton is a member of that magnificent golf club as well. Last year the Keperra Bowl was won by 21-year-old Taylor MacDonald, who took the Bowl with an incredible 19-under after a four-round total of 269. At the end of the third round, which was undertaken today, Troy Moses from Bonnie Doon Golf Club is currently in the lead and has an eight-shot lead over Taylor MacDonald, who is currently at 18-under with one round to go. He has had some magnificent rounds to this point, so the 19-under of last year may well be under threat. It is a fantastic event, as I said. I have great privilege in being patron of the Keperra golf club.

Tomorrow the event wraps up with the trophy presentations at which I will represent the sports minister, who is unable to attend. I will be there with Gavin Lawrence, the general manager of the club; Leo Scott, the president; and Kurt Heiniger, the men's captain. I look forward to another fantastic afternoon where I will get to see the players wrap up over the final holes. No doubt it will be a very successful event, as it has been over the last nine years. I look forward next year at its 10th anniversary to also enjoying the great patronage that the club provides to the local area. It really is one of the most magnificent public golf courses in Brisbane and I would encourage anyone who has the time to come and see the challenges that the course presents. It is actually a 27-hole golf course as there are combinations that can be played. As I said, it is a most enjoyable day out. I would love to, as patron, play host to members who may wish to join me.

Cairns Regional Air Services, Rex Airlines



Mr JUDGE (Yeerongpilly—Ind) (6.07 pm): I have an article from the *Cairns Post* which says that Rex, a Sydney based airline, has taken over the Skytrans route in Cairns. It is notable that there is no-one here from North Queensland to represent their regional airline.

Madam SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Yeerongpilly, we do not refer to the absence of members from the chamber at this time. That is the convention because, as you would know, there are often very good reasons why people may not be physically here even if they are in the precinct. I call the member for Yeerongpilly and ask you to pay attention to the conventions.

Mr JUDGE: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I withdraw. I note that the member for Whitsunday is here, but he has not said anything. The article states—

Cairns business leaders have blasted a decision to hand a contract to operate flights throughout the Far North to a Sydney-based regional airline.

Queensland Transport and Main Roads Minister Scott Emerson—

the member for Indooroopilly—

yesterday announced the Gulf route would be serviced by Regional Express (Rex) from January 1, 2015 ...

Cairns-based airline Skytrans has operated the service between Cairns, Normanton, Mornington Island, Burketown, Doomadgee and Mt Isa for more than six years, and the move has sparked outrage among business and tourism leaders.

Tourism is supposed to be one of the four pillars of the economy, yet we are seeing the Newman government sell out Queensland tourism to a New South Wales company. According to Cairns Chamber of Commerce chief executive, Deb Hancock—

This will potentially translate into a significant loss of Queensland jobs and a massive loss in revenue for our regional economy.

This flies in the face of the State Government's philosophy of 'Buy Local'.

This just goes to prove that the Newman government is all talk, no action. It is a very self-serving government indeed. Deb Hancock stated further—

Not only has the State Government not bought locally, they have awarded the contract to a non-Queensland business.

This decision is absolutely appalling and is not supportive of the Tropical North Queensland business community.


It is amazing that a member of the crossbench has to stand up and do the job in this House to represent the good people of Queensland and North Queensland. Today, the crossbenchers signed an accord to reject asset sales and we are protecting North Queenslanders from the Newman government. What a disgrace.

As I indicated, the Cairns Chamber of Commerce has condemned this decision. Skytrans has invested in excess of \$5 million into Far North Queensland through a variety of initiatives over the past seven years, most importantly, the provision of services with the Return to Country program, sporting sponsorships throughout Cape York and support for Indigenous health and education programs throughout Cape York.

Some serious questions have to be answered by the Premier and by the transport minister about who made this decision. Was there, in fact, a decision made to bypass—

(Time expired)

Caboolture Hospital; Burpengary Meadows State School

 **Mr GRIMWADE** (Morayfield—LNP) (6.11 pm): A few weeks ago honourable members may have seen me out on the Speaker's Green making a recording. Many members have asked me what that was about. I rise tonight to update the House on what that was about and to update the House on the successful campaign that I ran, the 1,000 likes for \$1,000 for the children's hospital appeal for Caboolture Hospital. I went out to the Speaker's Green and made a video on the back of one of my corflutes, saying that if I get 1,000 likes on a social media—Facebook—campaign I would donate \$1,000 to my local children's hospital ward at Caboolture Hospital. I encouraged the community to get on board and to also donate and to match my contributions. To my amazement, it went very successfully, with over 58,000 views—58,000 people from all over the place sharing and liking this post. One business came on board and matched the \$1,000 donation. That business wanted to remain anonymous, but that was great. Plenty of other businesses and mums and dads also jumped on board, donating \$20, \$50 and \$100 through cheques to my office.


Last week, I was pleased to go to the children's ward at Caboolture Hospital to have a chat to the hardworking nurses, doctors and support staff there and to thank them for the great work that they do. Along with board chair, Dr Paul Alexander, I presented them with a cheque for \$2,515.75. I want to thank the members of the community who became involved in that awareness campaign and donated some money for the children's ward of the Caboolture Hospital and for being part of such a successful campaign.

As well, today I announced for my local community another great initiative for our kids and that was flashing school zone safety lights at Burpengary Meadows State School. Since I have been the member for Morayfield, I have been saying that safety around schools is paramount. I have three children myself who attend local schools. We have been able to deliver flashing school zone safety lights at Morayfield East State School, Narangba Valley State School and Minimbah State School. As I said, today we were able to deliver these flashing school zone safety lights at Burpengary Meadows State School.

The reason I have updated the House on the installation of these lights today is that I want to thank the Burpengary Meadows State School Road Safety Committee and the P&C. This campaign came about a few months ago when I met with that P&C and I spoke to the members of the road safety committee. They asked me, 'How come other schools have these safety lights around their schools and we haven't?' So we joined forces to run a campaign together. We engaged the local community and the mums and dads of the kids at the school. We were able to put a really good case to the minister as to why this school needed these lights.

I thank the minister for allowing us to install these lights around the school. It is a great addition for the kids as it allows them to make sure that they can get to school safely every day.

Mount Isa-Townsville Rail Line

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (6.14 pm): I rise to talk about the impact of the Strong Choices plan on the Mount Isa-Townsville rail line, specifically the town of Hughenden. Recently, Aurizon announced about 50 jobs going from that line. About 30 indirect jobs were lost from Hughenden which, for a town of that size, is devastating. During the term of the Goss government about 900 jobs went from that region of the line as well. So over the years that area has just been smashed.

Those rail jobs make up the economic fabric of that region. The area needs the Ergon workers and the rail workers to keep its schools viable and its health clinic viable. If the rug is pulled out from rail workers in that area, those things are gone.

When those jobs went the response from the minister was, 'It's out of my hands. It's privatised.' But people need to understand that the people who worked at the OSD shed at Hughenden that was shut down were asked to provide a business plan. They demonstrated that they were the most efficient workshop in Queensland and that they were needed. Now, the only service for above rail is between Townsville and Cloncurry, which is a distance of 900 kilometres between those two service centres. The service centre at Townsville is now complaining that it is overrun by the amount of work it now has to do. The business plan proved that that service centre was much less efficient than the 12 people who were directly involved in the OSD shed. So it was a poor outcome for Aurizon.

Lance Hockridge was a public servant who ran Queensland Rail when it was owned by the government. At that time he would have been on about a few hundred thousand—maybe even \$500,000. But he is now on \$6.1 million. He is one of the highest paid executives in Australia. Yet he is saying, 'We need to cut costs. So we are going to cut these jobs in Hughenden.' It was a bad idea, because Townsville is now complaining that it cannot keep up with the work.

We do not run any commercial freight along that line anymore. We are choking up the roads with heavy vehicles, because our rail line is not working. We do not have enough fettlers along the line keeping the lines maintained and straight. We do not do that work well now. How is that going to be done better privately? They are not magically going to invest a heap of money into something. They are going to take the existing income off it now and that is it. They do not care one iota about keeping the economic fabric going in those towns. We lose control of that.

This is a huge threat to our region, not just economically but socially. I beg everyone in here to consider this issue. It will be a terrible outcome if you sell any of these assets. If the government's job is to fix the economy and there is a basket of assets and it is asking itself, 'What are the ones that we can use to fix the economy?', I say to not sell the Townsville to Mount Isa rail line. That is not an asset that the government should sell. It will not help the government get out of debt.

Albert Electorate, Rural Fire Brigade



Mr BOOTHMAN (Albert—LNP) (6.17 pm): I rise tonight to pay homage to those who give up their time to protect our community, those who ask for so little, but give so much. They are our Rural Fire Brigade volunteers.

As I have mentioned many times in this House, the Albert electorate straddles the Northern Darlington Range of the northern Gold Coast and the southern area of Logan City. My electorate is blessed with the best Mother Nature offers. However, this natural beauty can sometimes place us in the way of potential dangers such as bushfires. It is with that in mind that I ask all residents to do all they can to protect their own homes. There are simple tasks like mowing lawns regularly, removing excess ground fuels and combustible materials, trimming trees near homes, clearing and checking gutters and, most importantly—and this is something that is overlooked on many occasions—making sure that driveways are clear so that if there is a bushfire in the area there is good access for Rural Fire Service vehicles. These vehicles are very large. If there is combustible material around these driveways, it is a potential deathtrap for our Rural Fire Service volunteers.

These volunteers are the guys down at the Coomera Valley Rural Fire Brigade, people like Tony Subiritizky, who is always the first to volunteer; Wayne Teece, who keeps the trucks operational; Paul Graham, who is the station's first officer; and Andy Boyd, a former first officer for many years. There are also the members of the Ormeau Rural Fire Brigade, who are also dedicated helpers for their local area. They always attend local fairs, informing my constituents of best practices to minimise the fire threat in their areas.

A government member: Is that Lewis?

Mr BOOTHMAN: People such as Lewis Truloff and First Officer Bevan Love, Wayne Partridge and Brett Bain to name just a few. These individuals give up their time and give demonstrations at local fairs and local schools, showing how quickly fire can burn uphill.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: As was demonstrated in Burleigh last night. Fire going up a hill burns so much faster and is far more unpredictable. We need to take extreme care, especially in the northern Gold Coast area.

Lastly, I would just like to mention the Wolffdene Rural Fire Brigade and people such as Col Veivers, who has been instrumental in getting a cadet program at his local rural fire brigade, teaching these young kids about teamwork, about becoming potential volunteers in the future. I thank our Rural Fire Service for all the hard work that they do for our local communities.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6.20 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Byrne, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Cunningham, D'Ath, Davies, T Davis, Dempsey, Dillaway, Douglas, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Hopper, Judge, Katter, Kaye, Kempton, King, Knuth, Krause, Latter, Lynham, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Palaszcuk, Pitt, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Robinson, Ruthenberg, Scott, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trad, Trout, Walker, Watts, Wellington, Woodforth, Young