



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 5 May 2015

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TUESDAY, 5 MAY 2015



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Peter Wellington, Nicklin) read prayers and took the chair.

For the sitting week, Mr Speaker acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land upon which this parliament is assembled.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

School Group Tour

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I note that we have students from the Mackay North State High School visiting our parliament this morning.

Vacancy in Senate of Commonwealth of Australia



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that His Excellency the Governor has been informed by the President of the Senate of the resignation of Senator Brett Mason. I table the correspondence for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 17 April 2015, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of a vacancy in the Senate [\[291\]](#).

The letter reads—

Your Excellency,

Pursuant to the provisions of section 21 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution, I notify Your Excellency that a vacancy has happened in the representation of the State of Queensland through the resignation of Senator Brett Mason on 15 April 2015.

Yours sincerely

Stephan Parry

President of the Senate

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 15 April 2015, from the President of the Senate, Mr Stephan Parry, to His Excellency the Governor advising of a vacancy in the Senate [\[292\]](#).

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 24 April 2015, pursuant to standing order 288, I issued a summons to members to a sitting of the House at 2.30 pm on Thursday, 7 May 2015 in the Legislative Assembly chamber for the purpose of electing a senator as provided in section 15 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (9.32 am): During his first speech the member for Pumicestone, Mr Rick Williams, made the following statements—

The Bribie Island Bridge always comes up ... The former member for Pumicestone said she had done a feasibility study but had not released it to the public ... I cannot understand why it would be kept secret ... There has been no public consultation as to where the bridge might be best situated and which roads would be affected.

A quick perusal of the Transport and Main Roads website will bring you to the Bribie Island Bridge corridor study page which, lo and behold, includes links to both the Bribie Island Bridge corridor study report and the Bribie Island Bridge preferred corridor report. The *Brisbane Times* on 3 September 2014 reported the release of the feasibility study and even included a link to that study.

Mr Speaker, I believe it is clear that the member for Pumicestone, Mr Rick Williams, has deliberately misled parliament. I will be writing to you asking that you refer the member to the Ethics Committee.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Glass House. I look forward to receiving your letter.

REPORTS

Auditor-General

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General three reports: report No. 14 for 2014-15, titled *Follow up audit: tourism industry growth and development*; report No. 15 for 2014-15, titled *Results of audit: education sector entities 2014*; and report No. 16 for 2014-15, titled *Results of audit: local government financial statements for 2013-14*. I table the reports for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 14 for 2014-15: Follow up audit: tourism industry growth and development [[293](#)].

Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 15 for 2014-15: Results of audit: education sector entities 2014 [[294](#)].

Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 16 for 2014-15: Results of audit: local government financial statements 2013-14 [[295](#)].

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contempt of Parliament

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 27 April 2015, the member for Cook wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition had improperly interfered with the free performance of the member for Cook's duties as a member of the Legislative Assembly and may, therefore, have committed a contempt of parliament. The member for Cook alleged that the Leader of the Opposition publicly named and released confidential information about the member for Cook's two minor children to the media at a press conference on 23 April 2015. The member for Cook also stated that at the same press conference the Leader of the Opposition publicly accused him of misleading parliament during his personal statement on 27 March 2015.

Section 37 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 provides that conduct is not a contempt of the Assembly unless it amounts, or is intended or likely to amount, to an improper interference with the free exercise by the Assembly or a committee of its authority or functions or the free performance by a member of the member's duties as a member. Standing order 269(3) provides that a member must formulate, as precisely as possible, the matter and, where a contempt is alleged, enough particulars so as to give any person against whom it is made a full opportunity to respond to the allegation.

In his correspondence to me the member for Cook offered no explanation, beyond the assertion itself, of how the Leader of the Opposition's conduct improperly interfered with the member for Cook's free performance of his duties as a member. In the absence of any explanation of how the alleged conduct might constitute a contempt, I have decided that I will not be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee.

I note that my role is simply to decide whether there is a matter of privilege that should be referred to the Ethics Committee. Whether the same actions constitute an offence under Commonwealth legislation is a matter for Commonwealth agencies. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 27 April 2015, from the member for Cook, Mr Billy Gordon MP, to Mr Speaker regarding an allegation of contempt against the Leader of the Opposition [[296](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Heart Week

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that Heart Week began on Sunday, 3 May and continues until 9 May. Heart Week is a key event for the Heart Foundation to raise awareness about heart disease, which is the single biggest killer of Queenslanders. As a sedentary lifestyle is one of the big risk factors for developing heart disease, the theme of this week's Heart Week is 'Stand more and sit less'. Accordingly, I encourage members to move more and sit less by standing, moving around and stretching in parliament when this is appropriate, using the stairs instead of lifts, conducting standing or walking meetings and taking a short walk or using the parliamentary gym during breaks.

I commend this to all members. I am wearing a heart rate and activity monitor. I think other members are wearing a monitor as well. It will be interesting to see what it shows. The member for Caloundra is one who is wearing one.

Australia's Biggest Blood Pressure Check

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, tomorrow, Wednesday, 6 May, between 12 noon and 2 pm, the National Stroke Foundation will be conducting free blood pressure checks for both honourable members and the general public at the George Street entrance to Parliament House. These checks are part of the Australia's biggest blood pressure check, aiming to check the blood pressure of 15,000 Australians in a single day. Joe Kelly, registered nurse and member for Greenslopes, will be there between 12.30 and 1.30 pm conducting blood pressure checks. I encourage members to go down and have a health check and find out more about the effect of stroke on Queenslanders.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Cahill, Mr BJ

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.38 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Brian John Cahill, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Brian John Cahill was born in Innisfail on 16 February 1931, and later was educated at Goondi State School; Innisfail Convent; Marist Brothers, Innisfail; Cairns State High School; and St Joseph's Nudgee College. After his secondary education, Mr Cahill gained a Certificate of Teaching at the Queensland Teachers College and began a career in primary and secondary school teaching, later becoming the head of the Department of English and History at St Joseph's Nudgee College.

In 1954, Mr Cahill started a career as a news and sports broadcaster, and in November 1959 he read the first television news bulletin ever to be broadcast on Channel 7 in Brisbane. Indeed, Mr Cahill was a pioneer of television broadcasting in Brisbane, and he became a very familiar and trusted face to thousands of people in this city as he read the evening news for over 20 years during stints at Channel 7, Channel 9 and Channel 0, as Channel 10 was then known. I also note that he was the Director of Operations for Radio at the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1982.

In December 1979, Mr Cahill was awarded the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his service to the community and radio and television news. In 1983, he was selected by the National Party to contest the seat of Aspley, which was held at that time for the Liberal Party by Beryce Nelson. At the state election of October 1983, Mr Cahill was successful in his election and he replaced Mrs Nelson in this place as the member for Aspley. He left this place at the election of November 1986, after having served but one term. During his time in the parliament, he was a member of the National Party's government committees, covering portfolios such as treasury, education, welfare services, tourism and the arts. He was also a member of the parliament's Refreshment Rooms Committee.

I note that throughout his life Brian had a love of music and a particular passion for singing. He was a fellow of the Australian Council of Music and Drama and in 1984, with his second wife, Denise, whom he married in 1966, he formed the Queensland Musical Theatre within which he performed and directed numerous productions. I understand that Brian and Denise first met at the formation of the Queensland Light Opera Company when Denise was the leading lady and Brian was the director. Music was obviously a big part of their lives, and Brian and Denise recorded an album of solos and duets titled *For the Good Times*. I also note that Brian was recognised as being supportive of local musical talent, particularly young singers who were interested in going into that industry.

Brian and Denise were enthusiastic world travellers, and I understand that they owned three boats, with Brian also being a member of the Manly Coast Guard. Mr Speaker, for 15 years Brian served as secretary of the Parliamentary Members Association (Queensland) and remained a regular face here at Parliament House.

Brian passed away on 8 March 2015 at the age of 84, and a funeral service to commemorate his life was held at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church at New Farm on 13 March 2015. I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service he gave to the institutions of our democracy and to the Queensland community. On behalf of the government, I take this opportunity to extend my deepest sympathies, and that of this House, to Mr Cahill's wife, Denise, his children and stepchildren—Lisa, Patricia, Mark, Christine and Michael—his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and his other family and friends.

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.42 am): I rise to speak to the condolence motion and pay tribute to well-known TV newsreader, radio broadcaster and National Party member Brian Cahill, who passed away in March aged 84. Generations of Queenslanders grew up watching Brian Cahill on the TV news or listening to him on the radio. He was a classic broadcaster—the kind who possessed an unforgettable, resounding voice that hit every syllable. Brian made history as the first person to read a news bulletin on BTQ7, now Channel 7, in November 1959. Many of the thousands of households that tuned in that night would have been surprised to know that Brian read the full 30-minute bulletin sitting on a broken tomato crate.

Brian was raised in Far North Queensland before moving to Brisbane to attend boarding school at St Joseph's Nudgee College. The Leader of Opposition Business informs me that he was a champion runner there as well. He was originally a schoolteacher but then moved into radio where he worked for many years, broadcasting on iconic Brisbane talkback radio station 4BC. In 1982, he was the head of media for the Commonwealth Games. It is understood that his great work in this role is what led him into politics.

Brian represented the seat of Aspley for the National Party from 1983 to 1986. But politics turned out not to be Brian's cup of tea, despite his great love of theatre. The arts is where his real passion lay, and he and his wife, Denise, founded the Queensland Musical Theatre company in 1984, and he starred in many memorable roles. His love of music began early, with a particular passion for singing. Brian led the Verdi Choir and most recently filled an on-air role at Brisbane's classical music radio station 4MBS. His roles at the Queensland Light Opera Company and then Queensland Musical Theatre gave many Queenslanders the opportunity to work in the performing arts and entertain others. Not content with a huge input in media and the arts, Brian also found time for another passion, which was sport. Rugby was his favourite and he was an active referee.

Brian was an all-round good performer from a bygone era. Queenslanders and his friends will miss this man who gave so much in so many fields. My thoughts and those of the LNP and many other Queenslanders are with his wife, Denise, their children and Brian's extended family, some of whom are here in the gallery today.

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (9.45 am): I, too, would like to pay my respects to Brian Cahill, former member for Aspley and one of Queensland's television pioneers and most colourful personalities, who passed away on 8 March 2015 at the age of 84.

Brian John Cahill was born on 16 February 1931 in Innisfail and in his inaugural speech in this House made particular mention of his connection with, and roots to, North Queensland. He was very proud of his Irish heritage and his family's connection to sugarcane farming and the railways. Whilst he never forgot those roots, he came to love Brisbane, living most of his life by the Brisbane River.

Brian was the member for Aspley from 1983 to 1986. Like all local members, Brian was passionate about his community. In his maiden speech he said—

It is natural enough for a member to consider that his or her electorate is the best, or one of the better ones, in the State. If that were not the case, one presumably would not seek to represent it. Let me say a little about the electoral district of Aspley so that it may be shown that it is not an idle boast to say that it is an area that one is privileged to represent.

As the current member for Aspley, I wholeheartedly agree with those sentiments.

I had the opportunity to meet Brian at a former members morning tea. It was a particularly special occasion, because for the first time it brought together four members for Aspley—Brian, me, Beryce Nelson and John Goss—to share stories about the wonderful community that we have had the privilege to represent. Brian always enjoyed keeping those connections with parliament even after he left this place, keeping in contact not only with members but also parliamentary staff.

Whilst the Aspley community will remember Brian as their local member, across Queensland Brian's legacy spans across the arts, sport, teaching, as well as public service. I attended Brian's funeral during which his life's accomplishments, his loves and his legacies were acknowledged. It was held in a church he particularly loved, full of family and friends paying a warm and fitting tribute to

quite a remarkable man. Brian's stepson reflected on the many facets of Brian's life including that he hated long speeches at events, including funerals, because it kept him from the cake. Anybody who knows me now knows that I have a lot in common with Brian Cahill!

Many in this House grew up listening to Brian firstly on radio and then as the newsreader for BTQ7, reading the station's first live newscast in 1959. The Leader of the Opposition made mention of a story of that first broadcast. Recalling his early days at the news desk in an interview with Kay McGrath, Brian talked about the desk being built too high, forcing him to sit on a wooden tomato packing crate instead of a chair. However, the crate was made of very light wood, so when he sat on it he actually fell through it. Brian said to Kay, 'I sat there with my bottom being spiked for the next 30 minutes while I did my first ever broadcast on television news.' But in being the true professional that Brian was, nobody watching that television broadcast would have known.

In 1980 Brian was awarded an MBE in recognition of his service to the community and radio and television news. What Brian pioneered, in my view, was a newsreader's connection with his viewers: his ability to deliver a bulletin as if he were near the story, always with a calm and objective style. But Brian was also an entertainer. It was his passion. He fell in love with the theatre in Innisfail as a young man, and that passion for entertaining audiences was with him all his life not only as a performer but also behind the scenes as a director and producer.

He was a foundation director of the Queensland Light Opera Company, and it was during his time in the theatre that he met fellow performer Denise, his beloved wife of 49 years. With Denise he founded Queensland Musical Theatre and he was the conductor of the Giuseppe Verdi chorale for many years. Whether he was performing a serious or comic role, conducting a chorale or directing a show, Brian's commitment to the arts was unwavering and he will be remembered fondly in the arts community for his contribution.

Brian was also an educator. He taught in remote Queensland schools, he taught in Victoria and he also taught here in Brisbane. He was a historian, a debating coach and a Rugby coach. He played for Brothers as a fly half and was a referee on the Gold Coast until well into his 60s. I understand it took a very brave player to backchat Brian during a Rugby match. He was a sailor. He loved travelling and he loved animals but, most of all, he loved his extended family. In closing the eulogy his stepson said—

What can one say about Brian in just a few short words: a loving husband and father, an artist, an educator, an intellect, a sports lover and a rascal.

To Brian's family here today—his wife, Denise, his children, Patricia, Christine and Mark, and grandson Lachlan—may your memories of Brian be forever with you.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will commence at 10.51 am, and private members' statements will commence 15 minutes earlier, at 10.36 am.

PETITIONS

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

Peak Downs Shire, Deamalgamation

Mr Millar, from 805 petitioners, requesting the House to de-amalgamate the Peak Downs Shire from the Central Highlands Regional Council [297].

Bruce Highway, Exit to Aussie World and Businesses

Mr McArdle, from 6,603 petitioners, requesting the House to maintain the exit from the Bruce Highway to Aussie World and neighbouring businesses/petrol station to ensure direct access for customers [298].

Upfield Street-Mount Cotton Road, Right Turn

Mr Walker, from 358 petitioners, requesting the House to improve the safety for outbound vehicles turning right into Upfield Street and through traffic on Mount Cotton Road. [299]

Maryborough Region, Deamalgamation

Mr Saunders, from 8,653 petitioners, requesting the House to de-amalgamate the Maryborough Region from Fraser Coast Regional Council to Maryborough Regional Council and Hervey Bay Council [300].

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

School Bus Service, Routes 8026 and 8028

184 petitioners, requesting the House to redirect the school bus service routes 8026 and 8028 to follow the 554 bus route by using bus stop 92 in Strathmore Street, Kuraby [\[301\]](#).

Brisbane Valley Highway, Upgrade

412 petitioners, requesting the House upgrade and improve the Brisbane Valley Highway from the Geoff Fisher Bridge, Wivenhoe Pocket through the town of Fernvale to the Blacksoil Interchange [\[302\]](#).

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

Toowoomba State High School, Wilsonton Campus, Arts and Sports Hall

Mr Watts, from 623 petitioners, requesting the House to construct an Arts and Sports Hall at Toowoomba State High School, Wilsonton Campus [\[303\]](#) [\[304\]](#).

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the honourable members indicated—

Motor Vehicle, Pedestrian and Cyclist Accidents, Burden of Proof

Dr Flegg, the former member for Moggill, from 914 petitioners, requesting the House to enact legislation for the reversal of the burden of proof in collisions between motor vehicles and pedestrians or cyclists [\[305\]](#).

Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, Claim Limit

Mr Wellington, from 171 petitioners, requesting the House to implement measures to remove the claim limit that is currently set at the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal [\[306\]](#).

Lemon Laws

Hon. D'Ath, from 215 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce Lemon Laws into Queensland to protect Australian consumers with the long-term plan to release this for national acceptance [\[307\]](#).

Construction Industry, Hours of Operation

Hon. Lynham, from 39 petitioners, requesting the House to limit construction works in residential areas to between the hours of 8.00 am and 6.30 pm Monday to Friday and not allow vehicles personal or delivery related to construction works to arrive on-site outside of these hours [\[308\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

30 March 2015—

[226](#) Queensland Theatre Company—Annual Report 2014

31 March 2015—

[227](#) Letter, dated 31 March 2015, from the Clerk of the Parliament to the Speaker, the Hon Peter Wellington, regarding allegations against and disclosures by Mr Billy Gordon MP

[228](#) Brisbane Girls Grammar School—Annual Report 2014

[229](#) Board of Trustees Brisbane Grammar School—Annual Report 2014

[230](#) Griffith University—Annual Report 2014

[231](#) Ipswich Girls' Grammar School and Ipswich Junior Grammar School—Annual Report 2014

[232](#) James Cook University—Annual Report 2014

[233](#) JCU Early Learning Centres Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2014

[234](#) JCU Enterprises Pty Ltd and Controlled Entities—Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2014

[235](#) JCU Health Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2014

[236](#) JCU Univet Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2014

[237](#) Tropical Queensland Centre for Oral Health Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2014

[238](#) Queensland College of Teachers—Annual Report 2014

[239](#) Queensland University of Technology—Annual Report 2014

[240](#) QUT Enterprise Holdings Trust—Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014

[241](#) qutbluebox Trust—Statutory Report for the year ended 31 December 2014

[242](#) Creative Industries Precinct Pty Ltd t/as QUT Creative Enterprise Australia—Financial Statements 2014

- [243](#) Rockhampton Girls Grammar School—Annual Report 2014
- [244](#) Toowoomba Grammar School—Annual Report 2014
- [245](#) Townsville Grammar School—Annual Report 2014
- [246](#) University of Southern Queensland—Annual Report 2014
- [247](#) University of Queensland—Annual Report 2014
- [248](#) University of Queensland—Financial Statements 2014—Volume 1
- [249](#) University of Queensland—Financial Statements 2014—Volume 2
- 1 April 2015—
- [250](#) Board of Trustees of the Rockhampton Grammar School—Annual Report 2014 [Received 31 March 2015]
- [251](#) Central Queensland University—Annual Report 2014 [Received 31 March 2015]
- [252](#) Ipswich Grammar School—Annual Report 2014 [Received 31 March 2015]
- [253](#) University of the Sunshine Coast—Annual Report 2014 [Received 31 March 2015]
- 7 April 2015—
- [254](#) Administrator National Health Funding Pool—Annual Report 2013-14
- [255](#) Mental Health Court—Annual Report 2013-14
- [256](#) Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency—Annual Report 2013-14
- 9 April 2015—
- [257](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 13: 2014-15—Results of Audit: Procurement of youth boot camps
- 14 April 2015—
- [258](#) Response from the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Sport and Racing (Mr Byrne) to an ePetition (2281-14) sponsored by Mr Grant, the former member for Springwood, from 2,155 petitioners, requesting the House to remove existing restrictions and allow Queensland residents to apply for a permit to keep registered, desexed and vaccinated domestic pet rabbits
- 15 April 2015—
- [259](#) Condamine Plains Water Board—Final Report 1 July 2013 to 29 November 2013
- [260](#) Coreen Water Board—Final Report 1 July 2013 to 29 November 2013
- [261](#) Kooingal Water Board—Final Report 1 July 2013 to 29 November 2013
- [262](#) Oaky Creek Water Board—Final Report 1 July 2013 to 29 November 2013
- [263](#) Response from the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Sports and Racing (Mr Byrne) to two paper petitions (2363-14 and 2364-14) sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) and presented by Mr Springborg respectively, and an ePetition (2329-14) sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 25, 4,513 and 155 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to allow for Bridge organisations to be recognised as a sport and recreation to allow them an equal opportunity to submit grant applications to the department
- 16 April 2015—
- [264](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 53—Annual Report 2013-2014, government response
- 20 April 2015—
- [265](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to two paper petitions (2359-15 and 2360-15) sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), and an ePetition (2305-15) sponsored by Mr Katter, from 42, 34 and 658 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to ease the financial burden on Mount Isa ratepayers who have been forced to pay a massive rates increase to access drinking water due to the drought related issues
- 21 April 2015—
- [266](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 1—Subordinate legislation tabled on 14 October 2014
- 24 April 2015—
- [267](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 52—Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol) Amendment Bill 2014, government response
- 27 April 2015—
- [268](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Ms D'Ath) to an ePetition (2313-14) sponsored by Mrs Cunningham, the former member for Gladstone, from 433 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce mandatory sentencing for home invaders, incorporating three levels of offences
- [269](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Ms D'Ath) to a paper petition (2357-15) sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), from 5 petitioners, requesting the House to initiate a referendum giving the people the option for more direct democracy
- [270](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Dr Miles) to an ePetition (2328-15) sponsored by Ms D'Ath, and a paper petition (2362-15) presented by Ms D'Ath, from 254 and 990 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to initiate an independent enquiry into the current and future threats to Moreton Bay's habitat, wildlife and social sustainability

- [271](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport, and Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Minister for Trade (Ms Trad) to an ePetition (2334-14) sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 2,902 petitioners, requesting the House to enforce that all ridesharing apps comply with existing government regulations and ensure any ride sharing app or taxi-related service that does not meet regulations remains illegal in Queensland
- [272](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport, and Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning Minister for Trade (Ms Trad) to a paper petition (2356-15) presented by Mr Elmes, from 146 petitioners, requesting the House to immediately and permanently remove Swan St, Wylah St and Creek Road, Noosaville from bus routes as these streets do not meet legislated requirements for use by large 12.5m buses
- [273](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to an ePetition (2289-14) sponsored by Mr Crandon, from 143 petitioners, requesting the House to amend section 82 of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 to make education and rehabilitation compulsory
- [274](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to an ePetition (2340-14) sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(4) from 98 petitioners, requesting the House to support access to the development of Lots 2222 and 2226 Beaudesert Road, Calamvale via a service road directly from Beaudesert Road
- [275](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to an ePetition (2350-14) sponsored by Mr McArdle, from 44 petitioners, requesting the House to maintain the exit from the Bruce Highway to Aussie World and neighbouring businesses/petrol station to ensure direct access for customers

28 April 2015—

- [276](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport, and Infrastructure, and Local Government and Planning, and Trade (Trad) to a paper petition (2355-15) presented by Mr Molhoek, from 444 petitioners, requesting the House to deliver the Gold Coast Light Rail connection with heavy rail at Parkwood or Helensvale in time for the 2018 Commonwealth Games
- [277](#) Response from the Minister for Education, and Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games (Ms Jones) to an ePetition (2352-14) sponsored by Mr Crandon, from 124 petitioners, requesting the House to assist the development of a second multipurpose court within the Eagleby State School
- [278](#) Response from the Minister for Education, and Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games (Ms Jones) to an ePetition (2351-14) sponsored by Mr Crandon, from 7 petitioners, requesting the House to assist the development of a suitable playground area within the Eagleby South State School for use by the school's young students
- [279](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports, and Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to an ePetition (2317-14) sponsored by Ms Trad, from 358 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise funding so that the Roma Street Pedestrian/Cycle Overpass can be constructed
- [280](#) Response from the Minister for Health, and Ambulance Services (Mr C R Dick) to a paper petition (2365-15) presented by Mr Bennett, from 121 petitioners, requesting the House to review the Health Legislation Amendment Bill and not regulate personal vaporisers as smoking products under the Tobacco Act
- [281](#) Response from the Minister for Health, and Ambulance Services (Mr C R Dick) to a paper petition (2358-15) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), from 346 petitioners, requesting the House to source operational funding to meet community needs for inpatient beds in the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Services area
- [282](#) Response from the Minister for Health, and Ambulance Services (Mr C R Dick) to an ePetition (2295-14) sponsored by Ms Miller, from 93 petitioners, requesting the House to open the Redland Bay community care unit
- [283](#) Response from the Minister for Health, and Ambulance Services (Mr C R Dick) to a paper petition (2361-15) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), from 3,750 petitioners, requesting the House to consider the Medical Cannabis Advisory Group proposal for the introduction of a Cannabis for Medical Purposes Bill
- [284](#) Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 34—Review of Auditor-General's Report 2: 2013-14 Supply of specialist subject teachers in secondary schools, government response

29 April 2015—

- [285](#) Ministerial direction, dated 15 December 2014, from the Minister for Housing and Public Works (Mr Mander) to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission under section 9 of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991
- [286](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 1—Subordinate legislation tabled between 27 August-14 October 2014

30 April 2015—

- [287](#) Island Industries Board (IIB) operating as Islanders Board of Industry and Service (IBIS)—Annual Report for the Financial Year ended 31 January 2015

1 May 2015—

- [288](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 1—Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015
- [289](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 2—Subordinate Legislation tabled between 14 October and 24 November 2014

4 May 2015—

- [290](#) Response from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, and Corrective Services to an ePetition (2339-14) sponsored by Mr Gibson, the former member for Gympie, from 2,272 petitioners, requesting the House to reduce red tape and allow licensed shooters to acquire the firearms in the category they are licensed for

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994—

[309](#) Motor Accident Insurance Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 6

[310](#) Motor Accident Insurance Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 6, explanatory notes

Public Trustee Act 1978—

[311](#) Public Trustee Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 7

[312](#) Public Trustee Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 7, Explanatory Notes

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994—

[313](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 8

[314](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 8, explanatory notes

Forestry Act 1959—

[315](#) Forestry (State Forests) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 9

[316](#) Forestry (State Forests) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 9, explanatory notes

Commonwealth Games Arrangements Act 2011—

[317](#) Commonwealth Games Arrangements Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 10

[318](#) Commonwealth Games Arrangements Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 10, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[319](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2015, No. 11

[320](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2015, No. 11, explanatory notes

Fisheries Act 1994—

[321](#) Fisheries Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 12

[322](#) fisheries legislation amendment regulation (no. 1) 2015, no. 12, explanatory Notes

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

[323](#) Traffic Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 13

[324](#) Traffic Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 13, explanatory notes

Legal Profession Act 2007—

[325](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice (No. 1) 2015, No. 22

[326](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice (No. 1) 2015, No. 22, explanatory notes

Sustainable Planning Act 2009—

[327](#) Sustainable Planning Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 14

[328](#) Sustainable Planning Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 14, explanatory notes

Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009—

[329](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 15

[330](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 15, explanatory notes

Penalties and Sentences Act 1992—

[331](#) Penalties and Sentences Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 16

[332](#) Penalties and Sentences Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 16, explanatory notes

Public Trustee Act 1978—

[333](#) Public Trustee Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 17

[334](#) Public Trustee Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 17, explanatory notes

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

[335](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 18

[336](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 18, explanatory notes

Building Act 1975—

[337](#) Building Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 19

[338](#) Building Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 19, explanatory notes

Fisheries Act 1994—

[339](#) Fisheries (Spanner Crab Fishery) Quota Declaration 2015, No. 20

[340](#) Fisheries (Spanner Crab Fishery) Quota Declaration 2015, No. 20, explanatory notes

Fisheries Act 1994—

[341](#) Fisheries (Coral Reef Fin Fish) Quota Declaration 2015, No. 21

[342](#) Fisheries (Coral Reef Fin Fish) Quota Declaration 2015, No. 21, explanatory notes

MINISTERIAL PAPER TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Mr C R Dick)—

[343](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Mr C R Dick) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Ambulance Service Regulation 2003, Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996, Health Regulation 1996, Mental Health Regulation 2002, Private Health Regulation 2000 and Private Health Facilities (Standards) Notice 2000

MEMBERS' PAPERS TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following members' papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Mansfield (Mr Walker)—

[344](#) Non-conforming petition relating to road hazards at two Upfield St/Mt Cotton Road intersections

Member for Mermaid Beach (Mr Stevens)—

[345](#) Letter, dated 27 October 2014, from the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Mr Richard Bingham, to Mr Ray Stevens, Member for Mermaid Beach, relating to Mr Stevens' position regarding any conflict of interest relating to a proposed tourist attraction cable-car ride from Mudgeeraba to Springbrook on the Gold Coast by the company Gold Coast Skyride

SPEAKER'S PAPER—

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

Speaker of the Queensland Parliament (Mr Wellington)—

[346](#) Oaths or Affirmations of Allegiance taken by members of the 55th Parliament

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

South-East Queensland, Severe Weather Event



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.56 am): We live in one of the most beautiful areas in the world, but calling Queensland home can come with a price. We live in a time of extreme weather, and extreme weather events are becoming part of everyday life for Queenslanders from the south-east to the Far North. Earlier this year Tropical Cyclone Marcia wreaked havoc on the Central Queensland and Yeppoon areas, devastating the community and 350 families whose homes were destroyed.

On Friday night Queenslanders again witnessed just how ferocious nature can be and how extreme and violent weather events can shock, confront and overwhelm all areas of this great state. Sadly and tragically, five people lost their lives on Friday night when their vehicles were swept away by floodwaters north of Brisbane. The scene that confronted police and emergency officers at Beerburum Road, Caboolture early on Friday evening was both devastating and tragic. Two vehicles had been swept away by a flash flood, tragically claiming four lives. The three occupants of the first vehicle were pronounced dead at the scene. They were family members Anthony Barry McDonald, aged 74; Tamra Kim McDonald, aged 39; and five-year-old Tyler Kai McDonald. One of the occupants of the second vehicle, Emmett James O'Brien, aged 49, also died.

A second incident at Morayfield Road, Burpengary at about 8.30 pm claimed the life of 75-year-old Kallangur man Robert Duk Man Leong. Emergency services officers were able to rescue a 68-year-old Kallangur woman found clinging to a tree at the scene. These tragic deaths are a stark reminder of the force and ferocity of Queensland's weather. They also stand as a reminder of the dangers of driving through floodwaters. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I offer my condolences and the sincere condolences of my government to these families. May these people killed in Friday's weather incident rest in peace.

Grantham Floods, Commission of Inquiry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.58 am): January 10, 2011 is a day tragically etched in the memories of all Queenslanders—perhaps none more so than the people of Grantham at the foot of the Toowoomba range. It was on that day that 12 of the townsfolk were killed. Many homes were washed from their foundations and 50 families left with only the clothes they were wearing when a shattering wall of water swept through the town with little warning. The images of this torrent were beamed around the world giving the international community a true picture of the sheer force of 2011's extreme rain event. They are images that will never be forgotten. For all Queenslanders and for the people who remained and rebuilt in Grantham, the terrifying flood has been extremely difficult to overcome. Although there will probably never be complete closure for the families who lived through this tragedy, today I am announcing a new commission of inquiry into the flooding of the Lockyer Creek between Helidon and Grantham on that fateful day.

A DHI consultant report into the Grantham tragedy published by the *Australian* has suggested several inconsistencies. The report has found that a section of embankment that collapsed at the Grantham quarry was 260 metres long, not 55 metres as initially reported by the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry. The DHI report has found there were also multiple breaches of the quarry wall rather than just a single breach. Grantham residents have come forward supporting the findings of the DHI report. The people of Grantham want the truth and that is why today my government is launching this commission of inquiry.

It is proposed that the commission will begin gathering evidence next week, on 11 May. The commission will be chaired by respected QC Walter Sofronoff and will end on 31 August, allowing independent hydrological modelling to be undertaken. It is proposed that the consultation phase of the inquiry will be limited to about two weeks, but I stress that this inquiry will be independent.

There are five key terms of reference for the inquiry. It will focus on the impacts of man-made and natural features of the landscape which could have altered or contributed to the flooding, whether the existence or breach of the Grantham quarry caused or contributed to the flooding, whether the quarry had a material impact on the damage caused, whether the breach of the quarry had implications for the evacuation of the town, and how these matters were initially investigated and how eyewitness accounts were dealt with in the aftermath. There will likely be a call for public submissions, and those who will provide eyewitness accounts other than the Grantham residents will include police officers, fire and emergency staff and possibly the former owners of the quarry.

Residents of Grantham and their mayor, Steve Jones, have been calling for this inquiry and we have been listening. They are determined that the deaths of their friends, neighbours and family members on that day will not have been in vain. The people of Grantham have suffered through an horrific, terrifying, fatal event. They deserve and require further closure. They want the truth to prevail. They want to move on with their lives in the wake of one of the most appalling natural disasters in Queensland's modern history, and my government is determined to help them achieve that.

Nepal, Natural Disaster

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (10.01 am): On behalf of the government and all Queenslanders, I extend my deepest condolences to the people of Nepal following the devastating earthquake that occurred on 25 April 2015. As a community, we have been shocked and saddened by the devastation that occurred. The thoughts and prayers of all Queenslanders go out to the families and friends of the victims and all those who have been affected by this tragedy. We think in particular of the many Australians who are still unaccounted for and also of the Nepalese community in Queensland for whom this is especially a difficult time. We look forward to having the Queenslanders who were stranded in Nepal home safely.

I am heartened to see the international community come together to help Nepal with the ongoing search and rescue of survivors and relief and recovery efforts. Australia's role and response in providing assistance to foreign countries following an international disaster is the responsibility of the Australian government. The assistance to date in response to this devastating event includes an immediate package of life-saving humanitarian support to Nepal and a financial donation of \$5 million to assist the efforts of Australian non-government organisations, our United Nations partners and the Australian Red Cross. I encourage all Queenslanders to get behind these efforts by making a donation to one of these organisations. As Queenslanders, we know that relief and recovery efforts in the wake of such a major disaster are a huge challenge. Queensland stands ready to assist if we are called on as part of the Australian government's response to this most terrible of disasters.

Anzac Day

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (10.03 am): On Anzac Day this year Queensland paused to commemorate the centenary of the landings at Gallipoli. In the lead-up to this special day, we saw local communities across Queensland enthusiastically embrace the event, with 140 events and projects proudly supported by the Queensland Anzac Centenary grants program. This program is part of the state's \$49.3 million commitment to the Anzac Centenary commemorations through to 2018.

On Tuesday, 21 April, along with the Minister for Education, we proudly farewelled 70 students and their chaperones as they departed overseas to represent Queensland as part of the Premier's Anzac Prize. They embarked on a two-week journey through Gallipoli and the First World War battlefields of the Western Front. On Thursday the minister and I will attend an event welcoming them home, and I look forward to hearing about their experiences, which will create a lifetime of memories.

On Thursday, 23 April I addressed thousands of Queensland primary students at Anzac Square. They placed wreaths at the eternal flame, committing to never forget the service and sacrifice of the men and women of our Australian Defence Forces. I also witnessed record crowds in attendance at the Anzac Day dawn services and parades in Brisbane. It was an extraordinary level of participation mirrored right across Queensland. I wish to congratulate all involved in delivering a safe and memorable Anzac Day. It is the tireless work and commitment of event committees and volunteers that will ensure the legacy of over a century of service continues to strengthen each year.

Anzac Day 2015 was a significant milestone in our Anzac Centenary commemoration program. I am pleased to announce today that we have now opened round 3 of the Queensland Anzac Centenary grants program. Funding will be available for projects that encourage community participation and engagement. In particular, round 3 will give priority to projects focused on community research, which expand our knowledge of activities on the home front. This round of grants is open until 9 June and more information can be found on our Anzac 100 website. I encourage people to apply for this round of grants.

Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana of Cambridge

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (10.05 am): We all know in this House that the Duke of Cambridge, Prince William, is a good friend of Queensland. He has travelled to our state several times, joining us in our united grief after the 2011 floods and cyclone. I have met both Prince William and his wife, Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge. I am sure all Queenslanders join with me in congratulating the royal couple on the birth of their second child. Overnight, the royal couple have named their daughter, who will be known as Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana of Cambridge. I place on the record the congratulations of this parliament on the birth of the new princess.

South-East Queensland, Severe Weather Event

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (10.06 am): The Premier has outlined in great detail the devastation that occurred on Friday night, 1 May. Today I can announce that there will be an independent review into flooding concerns raised by residents in the Moreton Bay region close to the Moreton Bay Rail Link. The Palaszczuk government has listened to requests from locals, the mayor of Moreton Bay Regional Council, Councillor Allan Sutherland, and local MP Chris Whiting to look into the matter.

Yesterday my director-general and I met with Mayor Allan Sutherland to discuss the issue following Friday's superstorm, which dumped around 300 millimetres of rain in three hours in the Caboolture area. While the rain was unprecedented, we could not ignore concerns that the Moreton Bay Rail Link project may have contributed to the flooding in Rothwell and in Deception Bay. I am pleased to say that yesterday's meeting was productive and it was agreed that a hydrological analysis by independent experts would be commissioned to review the storm's impact. The review will be undertaken by SMEC—Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation—an award-winning Australian engineering firm with expertise in flood studies and flood plain management as well as hydrological and hydraulic modelling. SMEC has been ranked in the top 100 international design firms by Engineering News-Record for the past 15 years.

It is anticipated that this review will be completed over the next 12 weeks and will provide advice as to whether the works impacted the flood levels in the Saltwater Creek catchment for last Friday's rainfall event. Once completed, the review will be made public to ensure the community can continue to have confidence in the construction and delivery of this vital piece of public transport infrastructure.

Yeerongpilly Transit Oriented Development

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (10.08 am): I am also pleased to advise the House that Queensland company Consolidated Properties, in a joint venture with LJCB Investments, has been appointed as preferred developers to deliver the \$850 million Yeerongpilly green transit oriented development. This project will support around 250 jobs during the construction phase and hundreds of ongoing retail and hospitality jobs once the development is completed.

The Palaszczuk government will deliver about \$30 million worth of community amenities throughout the development, including 1.8 hectares of parkland and open space, as part of the development agreement. Located just eight kilometres from the Brisbane CBD, the development also adjoins the Queensland Tennis Centre and Yeerongpilly rail station, providing excellent public transport links and amenities.

Construction will be handled by Hutchinson Builders, one of Australia's largest privately owned building and construction companies and one of the country's leading employees of apprentices and cadets in the industry. To support this development, I am today tabling the Yeerongpilly Transit Oriented Development State Planning Regulatory Provision. This regulatory provision is another step towards finalising the process, which first began under the former Labor government.

Tabled paper: Yeerongpilly Transit Oriented Development State Planning Regulatory Provision 2014, September 2014 [\[347\]](#).

The Yeerongpilly TOD SPRP sets out the statutory requirements for the development and is based on the land use, public realm, movement and other plans depicted in the detailed plan of development. This planning framework has been prepared in partnership with the Brisbane City Council. This project is another demonstration of the Palaszczuk Labor government's commitment to the development and construction industry in Queensland, and I look forward to seeing this project under construction.

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.10 am): Mr Speaker, we have said since day one that we will be a pro-jobs, pro-growth government. This government is getting on with the job of economic development and is delivering real employment opportunities for Queenslanders.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr PITT: They are all very good over there, Mr Speaker. We have wasted no time in talking to business and connecting with industry, and that is something that had stopped under the previous government. Last week the Premier and I, along with the Minister for State Development, met with 150 of Queensland's biggest and best business leaders. They know that, unlike the former government, our door is open. Conversation under the former government had stopped, and that is a concern that has been raised with me time and time again. We are not picking and choosing who we deal with or with which businesses we engage, we are not doing things behind closed doors and we are not holding \$10,000-a-plate dinners. That is the difference between Labor and the LNP.

Labor has a real economic development agenda with the focus on job creation, and we will work with business and industry every step of the way to achieve that. There are some encouraging trends in our economy, and we will continue to promote growth and not talk the economy down. The hard yards done by Labor to establish the LNG export industry in Queensland are starting to pay dividends. We are seeing a new industry come of age. Yesterday the Queensland Resources Council recognised this in its *State of the sector report*, which stated—

We recall that the QRC worked alongside Premiers Beattie and Bligh to deliver the policy settings that underpinned the biggest private sector investment phase in the state's history, including creation of the world's first coal-seam gas export industry.

Queensland is one of the leading lights for building construction activity in Australia. Building approvals for March were up 3.0 per cent in Queensland, which is higher than the national average of 1.8 per cent in trend terms. Housing construction activity in Queensland is expected to continue to strengthen for the remainder of this financial year and the next. Queenslanders can have confidence that this government's pro-growth, pro-jobs policy settings are working.

I welcome the positive trend towards full-time employment growth that we saw in March, with 4,800 full-time jobs added. Queenslanders are spending again and they are spending at a stronger rate than other states. The retail trade figures for February were above the national average.

Queenslanders have much to feel confident about. Deloitte Access Economics has recognised this and upped its growth forecast for Queensland from 3.6 per cent to 4.3 per cent in 2015-16. These figures and other private sector estimates show that Queensland's economy is on track to grow very strongly in 2015-16. As we move towards the first budget of the Palaszczuk government, we can be confident about our great state's prospects.

I am positive about Queensland's future, and I would encourage the members opposite and the federal government to join me in wanting what is best for our state. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to instilling confidence and opportunity once again into Queensland's economy.

Mental Health Act Review

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.12 am): Nearly half of all Australians will experience a mental health disorder at some stage in their lives. It is important that Queensland's mental health services and policies are the best that they can be. That is why the Palaszczuk government has invited Queenslanders to help shape the state's mental health system as part of a broad-ranging consultation on a new Mental Health Act.

The Mental Health Act is a very complex and powerful act and has serious implications for the rights, liberties and obligations of Queenslanders who may have a mental illness. We owe it to these people to get it right. That is why this government has listened to the community, which clearly said that the LNP's previous attempt to deliver a new Mental Health Act was not good enough. Their attempt failed for several reasons, but it all comes from one thing: the unseemly rush by the member for Southern Downs to get legislation passed before the parliament was dissolved.

This created a whole series of problems: firstly, I am advised that no-one outside of the then government—no-one—saw the LNP's bill in its final form until it was introduced into the parliament; secondly, the preparation of the previous bill was rushed and it was riddled with technical errors and drafting mistakes; thirdly, it overlooked key policy areas, including the proper regulation of physical restraints and medication of those who are mentally ill; and fourthly, the LNP failed to fix their past policy mistakes like GPS monitoring.

Last weekend I announced the government's new approach to reforming the Mental Health Act. We are going to get this right for Queenslanders through proper consultation, fixing the LNP's policy mistakes and addressing areas that were overlooked. Firstly, we have released an exposure draft. This will allow stakeholders and, in fact, all Queenslanders to see the bill in its entirety and give feedback on the provisions. For something as big, as complex and as far-reaching as the Mental Health Act, an exposure draft is the right approach. In an area where human rights are deeply affected, you should not simply rush a 500-page bill into the parliament without showing it to people first.

Importantly, the government's draft bill reallocates the power to require a forensic patient to wear a GPS tracking device to independent judicial bodies, thus taking this power away from the director of mental health where it currently sits. Our bill creates new provisions to regulate the use of physical restraints and the appropriate clinical use of medication.

The government is also getting on with the job of service delivery and delivering on our election commitments. On 21 April I was pleased to be in Townsville to announce the commissioning of new youth residential rehabilitation facilities for North Queensland, which was a promise made by Labor at the last election. On that important occasion I was joined by the member for Thuringowa, who has been highly supportive of this initiative, along with the member for Mundingburra and the member for Townsville. The Palaszczuk Labor government will establish two youth residential rehabilitation facilities which will support up to eight young people living with a serious mental illness. These facilities are not for people who require acute care—who will continue to be cared for in hospitals—but for people still finding their way back into the world after treatment. They will either be working,

looking for work or studying, and they will have support to help them back into the world in a setting that is closer to their families, friends and support networks. This is good news and a good service for young North Queenslanders, and I was pleased to be able to deliver on Labor's initiative.

I am determined to improve Queensland's mental health system. As I said at the outset, nearly half of the Australian population will suffer some form of mental illness in their lifetime. Our commitment as a government is to provide the best possible support and treatment for those who need it.

Mineral Exploration

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (10.16 am): Mr Speaker, I am pleased to advise honourable members of the latest boost to mineral exploration across this state. Sixteen exploration projects will share more than \$1.43 million in Queensland government grants for targeted drilling projects. The successful projects will target gold, copper-gold, base metals, graphite and phosphate in greenfield and brownfield areas of Queensland. Most importantly, they will support the ongoing employment of about 100 people on drilling crews.

The Palaszczuk government supports the responsible and sustainable development of resource sector projects that will deliver jobs, regional development opportunities and ongoing economic benefits for Queensland. The resources sector supports one in five jobs in Queensland—more than 400,000 full-time employees. This government is all about creating jobs. Ongoing exploration is a long-term investment. It is absolutely vital to unlocking the resources that will support the mining projects and jobs of the future in Queensland.

Nine of the 16 projects will be in north-west Queensland—the globally recognised mineral province—with high-quality copper, silver, lead, zinc, gold and phosphate deposits. A total of 38 applications were received and independently assessed, with 16 successful projects to share in the \$1.43 million. Junior explorers in particular will benefit from these collaborative drilling grants, which cover half the drilling costs of a project up to a maximum of \$150,000. These drilling projects provide the resources sector with access to new and valuable information about Queensland's mineral and energy potential and will further stimulate ongoing exploration investment.

I note that the Queensland Resources Council has acknowledged the efforts of this government in making informed decisions and listening to stakeholders. I already enjoy a collaborative working relationship with the QRC, and I look forward to continuing to work together with them to further the resources sector and its valuable contribution to Queensland's economy. I seek leave to table a list of these projects and the QRC's *State of the sector report*.

Tabled paper: Queensland Resources Council: State of the Sector Report for the March Quarter 2015 [348].

Tabled paper: Table listing mining exploration projects [349].

National Disability Insurance Scheme

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (10.19 am): I am pleased to be able to advise the House that the Palaszczuk government is a government true to its word. We made an election commitment to establish a launch site for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and I am working with my department to deliver that election commitment. Shamefully, the previous LNP government played politics with the NDIS, with Queensland the only state or territory not to sign up to the trial sites. At the very time they were crying poor, the LNP were spending more than \$70 million—that is right, \$70 million; the cost of nearly four NDIS trial sites—on their Strong Choices propaganda and consultants.

I have had the opportunity to speak with and listen to many people from the sector—people with disability, their friends and family—and the message that I constantly hear is that Queensland not having an NDIS trial site was detrimental to the scheme's rollout and was putting its implementation at risk. Unfortunately, with only 14 months before the national rollout of the NDIS, a trial site is now simply not possible, all because of the LNP.

What this government is committed to doing, to make up for lost time, is establishing a launch site to ensure a more streamlined and effective transition to the rollout of the NDIS from 1 July 2016. That is why our Premier has already taken the fight to the Commonwealth, to ensure that we honour our election commitment for an early NDIS launch site in Queensland. The Commonwealth agreed to consider the Premier's requests, again proving the deputy opposition leader wrong.

In addition, we will honour our commitment to consult and collaborate with key stakeholders. I am delighted to announce today that I have established a new Queensland NDIS Transition Advisory Group, QTAG. QTAG will focus on providing feedback and comment on the challenges and questions we encounter through the NDIS launch and transition phase and, importantly, consulting those who will directly be impacted by this reform—people with disability, their families and carers and the disability sector. QTAG members include experts from across the sector. I will chair the first QTAG meeting today.

I can also inform the House that my department has advanced work on details of possible launch sites and is currently working with the National Disability Insurance Agency to determine how best to do so. I look forward to announcing those details on this exciting step in Queensland's NDIS journey in the coming weeks. Unlike the previous LNP government, people with disability and their families are a priority for this government.

South-East Queensland, Severe Weather Event



Hon. JR MILLER (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.22 am): Mr Speaker—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs MILLER: Oh, Mr Speaker!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members!

Mrs MILLER: The last few days have been incredibly tough for many communities right across Queensland. I would like to echo the Premier's sentiments earlier and extend my condolences to the family and friends of those who are mourning the loss of loved ones. My heart goes out to the families of the three men, the one lady and the five-year-old boy who lost their lives.

Amongst Friday's tragedies were countless stories of heroism, courage and bravery. Once again, the staff from right across my portfolio have put in an incredible effort to keep Queenslanders safe. On Saturday afternoon I visited the Caboolture SES depot and I heard firsthand the difficulties faced by our emergency services. One SES volunteer said to me that he helped evacuate 100 people from the Deception Bay hotel. There were also swiftwater rescue teams that immersed themselves into the thundering rapids and police officers who stood out in the torrential rain to direct traffic away from the flooded roads. I would like to thank all of our police and emergency services for their incredible contribution.

During the height of Friday's frightening weather events there were around 4,000 phone calls to triple 0 received by police communications on the Sunshine Coast, in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast. This equates to 13 calls per minute between 3 pm and 8 pm. During that same period, 1,200 calls were made to Policelink, with more than 100 of these referred to the triple 0 line as urgent assists. As well, there were 2,156 calls to the SES for assistance. Of these, 1,441 were in the Brisbane region alone. And our volunteers have worked nonstop since Friday to ensure that only a small number of these jobs remain outstanding. This is an incredible effort, and I would like to remind everyone in Queensland that the SES crews are volunteers.

Our Queensland Fire and Emergency Services crews were kept busy, too. There were 761 incidents reported to fire communications, with 246 of these being swiftwater rescue incidents. Fifty-eight of these were actual rescues. In Brisbane there were 183 swiftwater incidents, with 33 being actual rescues. It is a timely reminder to all Queenslanders to please heed the message of emergency services: if it's flooded, forget it. If there is water across the road, turn around and go another way or go back to a place of safety. You are not only putting your own lives at risk; you are also risking the lives of the police and other emergency services personnel.

The work is not over for the police and emergency services. Sadly, many properties in Moreton Bay and in the north Brisbane area have suffered extensive damage from flash flooding. I saw for myself on Saturday afternoon the extent of the devastation in areas such as Deception Bay. I joined Chris Whiting, the member for Murrumba, and I spoke with many of the residents. On Sunday the Premier also went to Deception Bay so that she could see firsthand the damage that these families have suffered and also the personal damage—the personal upset to the families themselves.

QFES crews have so far conducted 643 rapid damage assessments, with 106 houses being rendered uninhabitable. Some families have lost absolutely everything. That is why I have approved further targeted financial assistance for those residents who are living in the worst affected areas across some of these suburbs: Beachmere, Burpengary, Caboolture, Deception Bay, Kallangur, Mango Hill, Morayfield, Rothwell, Upper Caboolture, Deagon, Taigum and some streets in Brisbane. This is being done street by street. It is very targeted assistance. Immediate hardship assistance under the State Disaster Relief Arrangements has also been made available, along with essential household contents grants and structural assistance grants. I am encouraging all residents to visit the community recovery hub, which is set up at the Rothwell community hall in Morris Road, for further support and assistance.

As I have said, it has been incredibly tough for many residents across South-East Queensland since Friday evening. Our Palaszczuk Labor government stands ready to assist all those residents. I want to make it very clear that we will be with them every step of the way and that we will walk the journey with them.

It has been an absolute honour to be the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and to see firsthand their dedication to the people of Queensland. I also want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the support staff and, of course, our wonderful volunteers in the SES. It is extremely reassuring to know that they care. Our government cares for everyone in our community and we will do whatever we can to help.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Membership

 **Mr HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.29 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the member for Cook, Mr Billy Gordon, be discharged from the Agriculture and Environment Committee and the member for Logan, Mr Linus Power, be appointed to the Agriculture and Environment Committee.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Mr HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.30 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the meeting of the House for the purpose of the election of a senator to take place at 2.30 pm on 7 May 2015, in accordance with Mr Speaker's summons to members dated 24 April 2015, be postponed to 2.30 pm on 21 May 2015.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Great Keppel Island Revitalisation Plan

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (10.30 am): Today I rise to give a personal explanation regarding my previous employment and my previous employer's involvement in the environmental impact assessment process relating to the proposed Great Keppel Island revitalisation project. Prior to being elected to parliament in 2015, I worked for many years as a town-planner in both consulting and for the state government. I have worked on all sorts of projects across the state—small subdivision projects, multiunit residential, commercial, industrial and major projects. The firm that I was employed at as a town-planner from January 2011 to January 2015 was involved in the preparation of the environmental impact statement for the Great Keppel Island revitalisation project. I worked on the project as an employee of the firm. My role involved the community consultation regarding the project, specifically, engaging with hundreds of local stakeholders about the project and to understand and document their issues, concerns and support for the project.

In March 2015 I sought the advice of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner to determine if I have a conflict of interest regarding my previous employment in this project when I was employed by a local consulting firm as a town-planner and my role as the state member for Keppel. The Integrity Commissioner issued the following advice—

Whilst the project is occurring in your electorate, I do not see that you have any formal role or duty in relation to it, nor in relation to the impending application for a casino licence. That being the case, I do not believe that a conflict of interest can now arise.

In addition to the advice from the Integrity Commissioner, I also want to point out that (1) the environmental approvals for this project were issued by all three levels of government many years ago and (2) I resigned from CQG Consulting in January 2015 and I have no—I reaffirm no—ongoing involvement in the firm. I have advised the Clerk of the Parliament of this and have completed a member's declaration to this effect. I was never involved as a consultant in any way, shape or form in Tower's application for any casino licence. I worked for an environmental consulting firm, not for a casino licence application consultant. My commitment has and always will be to stand up for my beliefs and that I will be honest, open and accountable to the people of Keppel and the people of Queensland in my role as the state member for Keppel. I table the advice from the Integrity Commissioner from March 2015 and suggest that the member for Mermaid Beach do the same.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 24 March 2015, from the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Mr Richard Bingham, to the member for Keppel, Ms Brittany Lauga MP, regarding the member's previous employment with the Great Keppel Island Revitalisation Project [350].

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. The information has been tabled.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Member for Cook, Media Reports

 **Mr GORDON** (Cook—Ind) (10.33 am): I rise to make a personal explanation. I refer to my explanation to the parliament on Friday, 27 March 2015 which I made following public comments about my child support payments to my former partner Kristy Peckham. I stated then that my child support payments to Kristy were up to date. That statement was based on a substantial conversation I had with an officer of the Child Support Agency in a phone call on 20 March 2015. On 24 March I paid the amounts that I understood from the 20 March phone conversation that were outstanding. I also now have an agreement with the Child Support Agency to have regular payments deducted from my wage for financial support for all of my children. A week after making my personal explanation to parliament, I returned home to find correspondence from the agency that showed the very small amount of \$24.13 still owing to Kristy. Since then, fortnightly deductions of substantial amounts have been made and will continue to be made. I did not knowingly mislead the parliament when I stated that outstanding amounts had been paid to Kristy. My answer was truthfully based on the information I had to hand. I am committed to rectifying the situation, which is why I am now in an arrangement with the Child Support Agency to take a calculated amount of my wage on a regular basis to make up the unpaid child support.

Mr Speaker, I now wish to make some remarks about the media and political attacks that have assailed me since that time. I have entered the parliament with my eyes wide open, knowing it could be a rough business.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. This is a dissertation from the member. This is a matter for the member to write to the Speaker. He is now turning it into a speech.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Mermaid Beach. Member for Cook, I just remind you that you are able to give an explanation but you are not able to attack or criticise other members. You should remain relevant to your personal explanation.

Mr GORDON: Thank you. I entered parliament with my eyes wide open, knowing it could be a rough business. What I did not expect in my very first month in this parliament was to feel the full ugly force of unethical, agenda-ridden media driven by the unbridled ambitions of some.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. He has just ignored your advice.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Cook, you will have an opportunity later today to perhaps further articulate the views that you want to articulate. It seems you are straying from the purpose of a personal explanation. If you have nothing further to say, you will resume your seat.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly



Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.37 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House agrees that the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly be amended by omitting chapter 19 and inserting the new chapter 19 circulated in my name, effective immediately.

CHAPTER 19 DIVISIONS

103. Procedure for putting question and calling a division

When the Speaker has put a question to the House, after the voices have been given, the Speaker shall declare whether the “Ayes” or the “Noes” have it.

Any member who has voted against the majority as declared by the Speaker may demand a division by calling “divide”.

When a division is demanded, the Speaker shall order the division bells to be rung for four minutes.

If there has already been a division in respect of that order of the day or motion, and there is no intervening debate, the Speaker may order the division bells to be rung for one minute.

104. Party vote unless a conscience issue

Where a division is demanded, a party vote is held unless the subject of the vote is to be treated as a conscience vote.

If the Speaker has received prior advice from a party whip of a conscience vote, the Speaker will permit a personal vote to be held instead of a party vote.

105. Bars to be closed after time elapsed

The bars shall not be closed whilst the division bells are ringing.

Immediately after the lapse of the period so specified by the Speaker and the division bells stop ringing, the Speaker shall direct the bars to be closed.

After the bars are closed no member shall then enter or leave the Chamber until after the division is reported.

106. Procedure for a party vote

When the bars have been closed, the Speaker shall state the question to the House.

To cast their votes, members must sit in their allocated places in the Chamber. Unless they have advised their Whip that they intend to cast a contrary vote or abstain from voting, each member of the parties that make up the government or official opposition are deemed to be voting to support the response of their party members given at the time the Speaker originally put the question.

Members of the parties that make up the government or official opposition that intend casting a contrary vote must advise their Whip. These Members must then also advise the Clerk of their intention to cast a contrary vote and indicate whether they are voting for the “Ayes” or “Noes”.

Members of minor parties, recognised parties or independents must sign a tally sheet provided by the Clerk indicating whether they are voting for the “Ayes” or “Noes” or will abstain from the vote.

The Clerk will report the number of “Ayes” or “Noes” for the minor parties and independents and for those members who have chosen to abstain from the vote. The Government Whip and the Opposition Whip will then report the “Ayes” and “Noes” for their respective parties and the number of any members who have chosen to abstain from the vote. The report must only relate to votes cast or abstentions recorded by members present in the Chamber. The votes will be reported in the following order:

- (i) *The Speaker asks the Clerk, to report the votes of other members that have reported to the Clerk in accordance with (3) or (4) above. The Clerk will report the votes by party or electorate.*
- (ii) *The Speaker asks the Government Whip, to report the government party’s votes and the number of members of the party, if any, that have chosen to abstain.*
- (iii) *The Speaker asks the Opposition Whip, to report the official opposition party’s vote and the number of members, if any, that have chosen to abstain.*
6. *Any Member may before the result of the vote is announced by the Speaker, challenge the report of votes reported by the Clerk, Government Whip or Opposition Whip. If a report is challenged, the Speaker may direct that the report stand, be corrected or that the matter be resolved by a personal vote.*
7. The Speaker announces the result to the House.
8. *The Government Whip and Opposition Whip will immediately provide the Clerk the names of those members of their party that were not present or who were present but abstained from voting.*
9. *The Clerk will record the result of the vote and the names of those members voting “Aye” and “No” and of those members who were present but abstained from voting and publish those details in the Record of Proceedings.*
10. If fewer than five members vote with either the “Ayes” or the “Noes”, the Clerk will record whether the question was agreed to or not in the Record of Proceedings but the result of the vote and the names of members voting will not be recorded in accordance with (9) above.

11. If an error occurs in any record of result, the error shall be reported to the House by the Speaker at the earliest practical time and the Record of Proceedings altered.
12. In this Standing Order a reference to Government Whip, Opposition Whip or the Clerk includes a reference to their delegates.

107. Procedure for a personal vote

When the bars have been closed, the Speaker shall state the question to the House, and then direct the "Ayes" to proceed to the right of the Chair and the "Noes" to the left. Any Member desiring to abstain from the vote, shall stand in the center aisle between the Table of the House and the Bar of the House.

After members have divided, the Speaker shall appoint two tellers from each side. If two tellers cannot be found for one side of the question, the Speaker must immediately declare the resolution of the House. The member who called for the division may ask for their dissent to be recorded in the Record of Proceedings. The Speaker then directs the Clerk to record that dissent.

The tellers shall count the members voting and record the vote of each member present on the division sheets.

A member may not change their vote once the tellers have been appointed. The tellers shall report the numbers to the Speaker. The Speaker shall announce the result of the division to the House.

In case of confusion or error concerning the numbers reported, unless it can be otherwise corrected, the House shall proceed to another division on the question.

The names of the members who have voted are recorded in the Record of Proceedings.

108. Call for division may be withdrawn

At any time before the tellers begin to count the members voting in a division, a call for a division may, by leave, be withdrawn by the member who called for the division, so long as there is no dissenting voice.

If a call for a division is withdrawn, the division shall not be proceeded with and the decision of the Speaker which was challenged shall stand.

109. Rules relating to divisions and voting

A member shall not be entitled to vote in a division unless they are present in the House when the question is put after the bars are closed.

Every member present in the House when the question is put with the bars closed must vote either "Ayes", "Noes" or abstain except the Speaker, who shall have a casting vote if the votes are equal. The Speaker may give reasons for the casting vote and those reasons are entered in the Record of Proceedings.

A member having given voice with the "Ayes" or "Noes" shall not, on a division being taken, vote with the opposite side or abstain.

If a member contravenes (3), the Speaker, on being informed, shall order the tellers list to be corrected. A member, when proposing a question of order for the decision of the Speaker during a division, shall remain seated.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Member for Cook



Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.37 am): Since this parliament last met some five weeks ago, in the longest hiatus I have ever seen in the time that I have been in this place between the election of a new government and its first substantive meeting, business confidence is in free fall, infrastructure has been frozen, job creation is on hold and public servants are in limbo. It is also very obvious that Labor continues to make it up as it goes. We have also seen ongoing paralysis of analysis and continuing reviews as this government now gets towards some 40 reviews. Indeed, this government promised new standards and during the course of this week we are going to see the true opportunistic standards of this government. Indeed, when we left this parliament some five weeks ago there were certainly many unanswered questions for the Premier and the member for Cook with regard to certain concerning allegations that had been raised at that time. The Premier stood in this place and made an explanation in a question—her very, very first answer to a question—where she said that she was satisfied with the fulsome explanation given by the member for Cook in this parliament.

We know that, within eight hours of that time, the Premier was referring the member for Cook to the police, not based on any new or substantive information but the fact that others had learned what the nature of those allegations were—no new or substantive information. Also, as it has turned out, since that time the member for Cook has been less than fulsome with regard to what he told this place and also with ongoing issues.

What we have seen from Labor and the Premier is a situation where Labor and the Premier endorsed the member for Cook, they campaigned for the member for Cook, they accepted the member for Cook and they met with the member for Cook. Also, they then made excuses for the

member for Cook, they ditched the member for Cook and now they are embracing the member for Cook. Basically, that is what they have done since that time. Indeed, if it were not for the courageous statements by another person last Friday, it is somewhat doubtful whether the member for Cook would have included in his pecuniary interests register the fact that he has something like \$20,000 outstanding with regard to child support.

All Queenslanders want is some honesty from the Premier about what she actually knew and also some honesty from the member for Cook—not what we are seeing here in piecemeal personal explanations to the parliament where the member for Cook is trying to explain himself away but as new information comes up he then has to come into this place and make a further personal explanation. The real question is: what else did Labor know about the member for Cook and why was it not fulsome about it? I think Queenslanders are really asking the question: is it appropriate that a government should be propped up by such a tainted vote?

Beef Australia 2015

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing) (10.41 am): As the member for Rockhampton, over the last couple of days it has given me great pleasure to welcome many thousands of visitors to Australia's beef capital, my electorate of Rockhampton, for the triennial Beef Australia 2015 event. Over the past two days I have been able to participate in Beef Week events, welcome delegates, drop in to industry symposiums and hold meetings with trade partners and interstate ministers. I have been strongly spreading the message that, when it comes to our beef sector, Queensland is open for business with high-quality and sustainable product.

The Queensland government, via the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, is a major sponsor of this important industry event. All week the Queensland government has been there in strength providing a one-stop shop service for all guests and visitors at a stall that I was pleased to open yesterday and thank the staff. As of yesterday, it has been well attended. We are expecting about 80,000 visitors to come through the gates of the Rockhampton Showgrounds over the coming days. It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase to the world the government's services and the support that we provide to the beef industry.

Australia is the third largest exporter of beef, behind Brazil and India, and I believe that we have a strong capacity to grow, and grow substantially. The government understands the importance of this sector and the hard work that it does. It provides support and extension for livestock producers and also facilitates export opportunities. We ensure the best possible quality of our beef through cutting-edge science and innovation and at the same time protect livestock with stringent biosecurity measures.

I have to note with some sadness that this event was not marked by the spirit of bipartisanship that many had hoped it would attract. Despite numerous attempts and many overtures from the government, the industry and me, a pair was not granted by the LNP opposition for this week in order for me to attend Beef Week. I note the comments by the member for Nanango this morning in the media about the issue.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango! Minister—

Mr BYRNE: I table for the benefit of the House correspondence between the member and I particular to this matter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 21 April 2015, from the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Lawrence Springborg MP, to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing, the Hon. Bill Byrne, regarding the attendance of the Shadow minister for agriculture, fisheries and forestry, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, at Beef Week and pairing arrangements for that event [\[351\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing, the Hon. Bill Byrne, to the member for Nanango, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, inviting her to attend the 6th Northern Australia Beef Industry Roundtable in Yeppoon from 4 to 5 May 2015 [\[352\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 28 April 2015, from the member for Nanango, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing, the Hon. Bill Byrne, regarding the minister's invitation to attend the 6th Northern Australia Beef Industry Roundtable on 5 May 2015 [\[353\]](#).

It is a pity that we cannot get industry and government at a round table to deal with these issues appropriately—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister—

Mr BYRNE: Sorry.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, please. It is an inappropriate time for interjections. Minister, you can continue for your 39 seconds.

Mr BYRNE: I apologise, Mr Speaker. You know that I am industrially deaf from too many bombs and bullets. The fact of the matter is that we tried to get a pair, but they approached this important event with the typical, narrow minded intransigence that represented their government over three years. The opposition stands revealed to all, and particularly industry players, for its lack of sensitivity to this matter and its lack of sense of purpose for the people of Queensland.

Queensland Economy

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.44 am): This government was elected with no plan and it is clear that Queensland's business community has no confidence in this government. Instead of a focus on job creation and boosting economic growth, the government is focused on its internal machinations and clinging to power. This morning—just half an hour ago—the Treasurer told this place about increased building approvals. This strong momentum started under the LNP and Queenslanders are worried that Labor will stall it. The last Labor government increased property taxes.

I also note that, in his statement, the Treasurer ignored the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland report and the Property Council and NAB business confidence reports. So let us have a look at the CCIQ Pulse survey, which was released last week. It shows that confidence in the Queensland economy has dropped to its lowest level since the global financial crisis. General business conditions have slipped to their lowest level in a decade. Since the election of this government the outlook for every single region in Queensland has gone backwards and that is directly attributable to its actions since coming to office. According to the CCIQ, the machinations of government processes are undermining business confidence for planning, investment and employment.

The Premier's response to the CCIQ survey was startling. 'That's not what businesses are telling me,' the Premier declared. 'We've been in office only three months.' It is interesting to note that, according to their diaries, in those three months the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer have had 23 meetings with unions versus eight meetings with ASX listed companies. The survey is quite clear about what is causing the drop in confidence. Businesses point to the Queensland government's change of policy direction and hesitation in approving major infrastructure projects as a cause for concern.

Of course, following the release of this report the Treasurer was also out there arguing that businesses have it wrong. The Treasurer was forced to get out on the front foot about the projects that Labor was delivering—and this morning the Deputy Premier was out there talking about them as well—in a press release titled 'Labor focused on growth and job creation'. But not one of those projects that the Treasurer mentioned in that press release had even been initiated by this government and nor did that release mention the infrastructure projects that Labor had stalled or put a complete stop to since its election. Just last week the new government put a stop to \$8 billion worth of investment and thousands of jobs.

The Property Council of Australia's June quarter survey showed a huge downward shift in sentiment since the new government's election. We went from having the strongest government performance index under the LNP in the last quarter to having the second weakest of all jurisdictions this quarter. The latest NAB business confidence quarterly survey also shows that, in the last quarter, business conditions and confidence both fell.

Quite clearly, this lack of confidence is being caused by an inexperienced Labor government. The Premier and Treasurer may be pleading for more time, but it is clear that the business community wants to see them take action and outline a plan now. Just meeting with them is not enough. The state's unemployment rate is now the equal highest in the country. We need more than the wait-and-see approach that we are getting from an inexperienced government.

Morayfield Electorate, Floods

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (10.47 am): It is with much sadness that I rise to speak about the tragic flooding event that occurred in the Caboolture region last Friday. Given the circumstances of last Friday, it is very hard to speak about the tragedies that played out on that day.

This event was an extreme weather event that caused widespread flash flooding throughout the Caboolture region. Almost 300 millimetres of rainfall was recorded in just a three-hour period. Hundreds of roads were closed and many thousands of motorists were stranded. Hundreds of calls to our orange angels—the SES—were registered and many swiftwater rescues were conducted by our Queensland fire and rescue heroes. Quite simply, this weather event was off the scale. However, most terribly, five people died from the floodwaters associated with this event, many others were caught up in the floodwaters and many more will continue to feel the emotional impact for many years to come. I wish to express my deepest sympathies to those families and friends who lost loved ones last Friday. To the family and friends of those five people—five local people, five people from our community—I am deeply saddened by this tragic loss of life. May they rest in peace.

During these extreme events there are many people who go above and beyond to assist others in their hour of need. The selfless service of those people to others is appreciated and is just another fine example of the depth of our supportive community.

I take this opportunity to place on record my thanks to the many generous locals who helped feed, house and transport train commuters who were isolated at local train stations that night. These selfless people helped complete strangers get home to safety. I would particularly like to acknowledge the efforts of Justine O'Brien, Leia Knibb, the Narangba Watch group, the Narangba.Brisbane group, the Burpengary Watch group, OurNarangba.com.au and the mystery man who drove a white four-wheel drive and delivered pizzas to people stranded at Petrie train station. There were many more people who helped stranded train commuters that night. To those people: thank you for doing what our community does best; thank you for helping our fellow residents.

I would also like to pay tribute to the Department of Communities' community recovery team. They have done some outstanding work over the last few days. Departmental officers were on the ground from first thing Saturday morning providing home visits, welfare checks and other assistance to people in need. Thank you to those people for helping our community.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (10.50 am): Being safe in our own homes is a fundamental right of every person in society, but the reality is that behind closed doors domestic and family violence is occurring and, sadly, increasing, with victims suffering in silence. For many their homes are akin to a battleground. May is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month and whilst every day we should say no to this insidious crime, it is a time when there is special emphasis on increasing awareness of just how serious and destructive domestic and family violence is. As a society we must commit to protecting those who are vulnerable to domestic and family violence, including the children who become innocent victims, and we must make it clear to those who perpetrate this crime that we will not tolerate it, we will not ignore it, nor will we ever defend the behaviour. Domestic and family violence ruins lives and, tragically, it can end lives. On average across Australia one woman is killed by her partner every week. It breaks up families and has long-term, widespread impacts for all involved.

It has been a scourge on our community for far too long. There have been blitzes and campaigns to focus on the issue but never before has the call to action been as great as it is right now. When the LNP was in office we made tackling this issue a priority. Data indicated that reported incidents were on the rise, increasing from around 58,000 in 2011-12 to over 66,000 in the two years following. We knew that more had to be done to explore the domestic and family violence landscape in Queensland to drill down to what is really needed so that a long-term vision and strategy could be developed in the state, and so it was in early September last year that the LNP launched the most significant initiative ever undertaken in this area when we established a task force to address domestic and family violence in Queensland and appointed Dame Quentin Bryce to lead it. We did this because we were and remain determined to support victims in rebuilding their lives, to reporting these crimes and to making sure perpetrators get intervention and, where applicable, brought to justice. When in government the LNP also allocated and protected around \$49 million of new funding under the Carmody reforms to the child protection system so that we could improve domestic and family violence services and responses to support families and children.

Queenslanders are now waiting for the government's response to the task force report. It is incumbent on the government to place priority on family life and family safety because if they do not act decisively and if they do not consider this problem holistically then we not only risk incidents of domestic and family violence increasing in greater numbers but we run the risk of a whole new generation of domestic violence emerging.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tour

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before commencing question time, I would like to inform members that teachers and students from St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial School in the electorate of Beenleigh will be in attendance in the gallery this morning.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Member for Cook

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (10.53 am): My question without notice is to the Premier and Minister for the Arts. With reference to recent correspondence the Premier has received in relation to the member for Cook, I refer to *Hansard* of 18 April 2013 where the member for Inala asked whether the Premier and the LNP will now sit back and be happy to accept the vote of the member for Redcliffe from the crossbenches, and I ask: will the Premier apply the same standard to the member for Cook?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I understand that the Leader of the Opposition has moved a motion and tonight's debate is centred around the issue in relation to the standing orders that govern the voting procedures of this House. As members of the previous government and previous members of this House would know, those voting orders were actually introduced by the LNP government at the time.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is correct. This is the question that the Leader of the Opposition has asked and I am merely providing him with an answer. If we want to talk about standards—

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Premier, I would ask you not to debate the question. There is a matter for debate later this evening. I ask you to continue.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I heard those opposite talk about standards. I will match the standards of my government against the former LNP government any day of the week. The member for Keppel stood in this House and tabled the Integrity Commissioner's advice. That is what my government does. Let us go back to when the member for Mermaid Beach was an assistant minister in this House. How long did it take—

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. The matters that the Premier is now alluding to have no relevance whatsoever to the question that she was asked under standing order 118. Could you please ask the Premier to respond to the question?

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Mermaid Beach.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members! I ask the Premier to come back to the question and not engage in debate with the member for Mermaid Beach.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The opposition was talking about standards and I am talking about integrity, accountability and standards that were fundamental and that we raised during the election campaign. I will match my ethical standards and my moral compass against this Leader of the Opposition's any day of the week. What we have seen from the Leader of the Opposition over the last couple of weeks is absolutely disgraceful: circulating private, confidential documents involving the member for Cook's children. That is his record. It is absolutely disgraceful and it is absolutely despicable.

I might remind members that this week the House is looking at, as is all of Queensland, Privacy Awareness Week. I thought that perhaps I might table for the Leader of the Opposition what privacy awareness is all about.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind the Premier of standing order 118: that your answer needs to be relevant to the question. If you could come back to the question, please.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am talking about the member for Cook and private, confidential documents that were circulated by the Leader of the Opposition's office. They were private, confidential details and this week is Privacy Awareness Week. It is about time that the Leader of the Opposition read up on it, took some courses in ethics and moral behaviour and perhaps started acting as a constructive opposition as opposed to a destructive opposition.

Great Keppel Island Redevelopment, Casino Licence

Mr SPRINGBORG: A simple yes or no would have sufficed. My question without notice is to the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. I refer to a proposal by Tower Holdings for a casino licence for the Great Keppel Island redevelopment, and I ask: can the minister explain the role of the state secretary of the Labor Party, Evan Moorhead, and the ethics behind his contacting Tower Holdings as part of the approval process?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, Leader of the House?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I am concerned that this offends standing order 113 in that this is not a matter that relates to the minister's portfolio.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. The question is relevant and I call the minister.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Lockyer!

Dr LYNHAM: Mr Speaker, I ask about the relevance of my answering a question about someone who is obviously not in the parliament and as I have little knowledge about this particular issue.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you are able to answer the question to the best of your knowledge. You may not need three minutes to answer it.

Dr LYNHAM: Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I have no knowledge of Mr Moorhead's contact with any member of the Great Keppel Island Resort. I will say that the Great Keppel Island Resort is a fully approved project by this government. It has been approved now for two years. The owner of the Great Keppel Island Resort project has stated that he will proceed with the resort without a casino licence and also that a casino licence was not part of his resort proposal. I ask the developers to please proceed with the Great Keppel Island Resort.

I also state that the member for Keppel and the member for Rockhampton have been great barrackers for their electorates, which have come through a difficult period with the cyclone and they continue to assist their electorates through this difficult time. They are both behind the Great Keppel Island Resort project. Both support the project and I have listened to their strong arguments in support of the project. I simply say to the developers to please proceed with their project. It is a wonderful project. It is a great project for the region. It is a beautiful natural asset and the Great Keppel Island Resort project does not need a casino. I remind members, also, that the integrated resort development instigated by the previous government had three casino licences. There are still three casino licences in existence. There are none spare. There is no casino licence available for the Great Keppel Island Resort. In finishing, I state that the Capricorn Coast is a magnificent area of the state that is well supported by its two strong and loyal members. I would love to see this resort project continue.

Council of Australian Councils

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the House on the recent COAG meeting held in Canberra, including any discussions on potential infrastructure investments from the federal government?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Townsville for the question. Members will be fully aware that last month I went to Canberra to fight for Queensland, which is something that was lacking under the former LNP government, which would simply do everything that the Prime Minister wanted

it to do. As the Premier of this state, I will always fight in the best interests of the people of Queensland. In the lead-up to that COAG meeting, we knew that there was a fundamental issue at stake, which was the prospect of Queensland losing \$556 million of our GST share. I am pleased to inform the House that the full \$556 million of our GST share will be coming here to Queensland. However, surprisingly, there was an LNP senator, Senator Canavan, of whom I had not heard before—

An honourable member: What a great champion for Queensland.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, a great champion for Queensland. Unfortunately, he thought that money should go to Western Australia. Does the LNP opposition support that senator's move and that we should be giving up our share of funding that goes into providing front-line services such as health and education?

I also want to comment on a couple of other issues that I raised at COAG. The first is the massive cuts that we are going to see to health and education funding in this state—cuts of some \$18 billion. Where was the Leader of the Opposition when he was minister for health? Why did he not raise this issue with Queenslanders? Why was it kept secret? Why was he hiding it under the carpet? Why was he ashamed to stand up for Queenslanders? That is what I want to know. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was the minister for education at the time. Why did he not stand up against those education cuts? My government will stand up. My Minister for Health, Cameron Dick, and my Minister for Education, Kate Jones, will stand side by side with Queenslanders and make sure that we get our fair share.

In relation to infrastructure—and the member for Townsville touched on this—we want to see the Townsville stadium go ahead, which is why my government has announced \$100 million for the construction of the stadium. I raised the issue with Prime Minister Tony Abbott and now it is up to the federal LNP to come to the party and support the project. Does the LNP opposition support that project? It is a job-generating project and I want to see it up and running for the benefit of the whole Townsville region.

Member for Cook

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Premier and Minister for the Arts. I refer the Premier to the last session of parliament where she said of the member for Cook, 'Today the member for Cook has dealt with those issues and he has made a full and frank explanation ...'. She went on to say, 'The issue has been dealt with ...'. I ask: will the Premier now table all the advice she had received and all emails and correspondence she had received in relation to the member for Cook upon which she based that statement to the House?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the question. I stand by the statement that I made to the House. It is there in full. The information that was presented to me is the information that I conveyed to the House. However, once again I turn to the opposition's handling of this matter, circulating private and confidential material. I draw the attention of the House to the fact that LNP people knew about this matter even before it was brought to my attention. In a segment with Patrick Condren, Warren Entsch, the member for Leichhardt, made it very clear that he was personally dealing with the lady in question.

Mr Springborg: He was told by the Labor Party in 2012.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As the Leader of the Opposition well knows, when members from his community came down to my office after they had met with him the day before, I personally dealt with that matter. That is my integrity. I dealt with issues relating to the electorate of the member for Southern Downs. People who did not get any satisfaction from him came to my office and I personally dealt with those issues. That is my record, that is my integrity and I resolved those issues to the best of my capability.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, order! Please allow the Premier to answer in silence.

Ms PALASZCZUK: This is the same LNP. It is the same LNP, getting out the mud buckets, going through the dirt files—

An opposition member: Table the information.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Oh, Mr Speaker! It is the same LNP. There is no difference between what we are seeing now and what we saw under Campbell Newman. Let us go back to when personal information about the member for Bundamba was tabled in this House by the former premier, out of the LNP dirt unit.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I remind you of standing order 118 and ask that your answer remain relevant.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am very clearly talking about the disclosure of personal information and the fact that the Leader of the Opposition has a track record, because the LNP has been doing this for years. It is the same LNP and we are not seeing any difference.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mermaid Beach, what is your point of order?

Mr STEVENS: The point of order is that the Premier is talking about matters totally irrelevant to the question asked, under standing order 118.

Mr SPEAKER: I have already drawn the Premier's attention to the importance of standing order 118. Premier, you have 47 seconds to continue.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Finally, can I add that these matters are currently being dealt with by the police. It is under police investigation.

Youth Boot Camps, Auditor-General's Report

Mr FURNER: My question is to the Premier. The Auditor-General recently handed down report No. 13 of 2014-15 titled *Procurement of youth boot camps*. Can the Premier advise of the key recommendations the government plans to address in this area?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Ferny Grove for this very important question which, once again, goes to the heart of integrity and accountability and the standards that are to be set in government. The former attorney-general, the member for Kawana, has been exposed in the Auditor-General's report titled *Procurement of youth boot camps*.

What we have seen is the complete and utter failure of the member for Kawana to be able to carry out a tender process. Let us be very clear about this. A tender program is at arm's length from government. But, unfortunately, the member for Kawana, who was at the time the state's first law officer, failed to comply with that process. It is a very sad day that this all had to be exposed in this report by the Auditor-General. One of the very clearly stated recommendations of the Auditor-General is that the department—

... undertakes an early assessment of the cost effectiveness of the boot camp trial to minimise any further cost to the state that may arise from any further extension of the program under current contractual arrangements.

What we see from this Auditor-General's report is the cost blowout—the cost blowout of millions and millions of taxpayers' dollars. What we have seen is complete and utter waste from the former LNP government. What we have seen from the former attorney-general is complete and utter incompetence.

This Auditor-General's report reminds all ministers how to carry out their duties as a minister of the Crown. As a minister of the Crown in the previous government the member did not abide by those recommendations and now he has been exposed. I have asked the Attorney-General to assess the recommendations in the Auditor-General's report. I am sure she is going to do a thorough investigation.

We have seen a waste of millions of taxpayers' dollars because the former attorney-general failed to address due process. He interfered in the process. He ignored the recommendations of the independent expert panel. What we have seen now makes very interesting reading. In fact, I urge all members of parliament to read this report because it exposes the member for Kawana as the man we always knew he was.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the member for Mount Ommaney, I advise that more students from St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial School in Beenleigh are in the public gallery. I call the member for Mount Ommaney.

Member for Cook

Mrs SMITH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation. I refer the minister to a letter that she received from the former partner of the member for Cook, and I ask: will the minister table within 24 hours all documentation generated by her and her ministerial office in relation to the receipt and handling of the allegations made against the member for Cook which she had been advised of?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. In relation to standing order 113, this does not relate to a matter within the jurisdiction of the portfolio of the honourable minister and I ask for your guidance in relation to the appropriateness of the question.

Mr SPEAKER: My ruling is that the question goes to the receipt of material by the minister. She can only comment on the material she has received in her capacity as the Minister for Housing and Public Works. Minister, would you like to answer the question?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. All materials that I have received—like all materials that we have received—have gone to the police. This is a police matter. What is absolutely astounding is that private information about children has been released publicly. That is astounding.

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

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order, member for Mermaid Beach?

Mr STEVENS: My point of order is that under standing order 118 the answer has to be relevant to the question. Matters related to the release of private details of children have no relevance to the question asked.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the minister.

Ms ENOCH: Of course what I am referring to is how I have handled that material. I have done exactly the right thing. All materials have been handed to the police so they can investigate the matter. In comparison—

Mrs Smith interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mount Ommaney, you were able to ask your question in silence, please allow the minister to answer in silence.

Ms ENOCH: If it needs to be answered again, I state that I have done exactly the right thing. All materials have been handed to the police and the police are investigating the matter. That is the right thing to do. In comparison, what we have seen is that materials that are private and confidential have been released publicly, which is absolutely—

Ms Davis interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, if you continue to interject I will make a ruling under 253A. I hope I do not need to do that. I call the minister.

Ms ENOCH: I have answered the question.

Youth Boot Camps, Auditor-General's Report

Mr RUSSO: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills. Can the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice update the House on the challenges that have emerged from the Auditor-General's report into the minister's portfolio area of youth justice?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. This Auditor-General's report is the most scathing Auditor-General's report I have ever read.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: Those on the other side think this is a joke.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members!

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: If you would like to have a great laugh perhaps do it outside. We will have some silence. I call the Attorney-General.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook!

Mrs D'ATH: It is offensive that those on the other side actually think this report is funny and that the way they acted in relation to procurement when in government is funny. Let us be clear. What do we know as a consequence of the Auditor-General's report? What we know is that the former attorney-general referred this matter to cabinet and that his ministerial colleagues, which included the now Leader of the Opposition, approved these tender contracts. What we do not know is whether the former attorney-general misled cabinet in terms of the way he had gone about selecting those providers. If so, what is the Leader of the Opposition doing about that fact? Alternatively, were the entire ministry well aware of the conduct of the former attorney-general and did they actually condone it? That would mean the Leader of the Opposition is complicit in the interference in this procurement process.

Despite the former attorney-general beating his chest and saying that the facts speak for themselves and the results speak themselves, the results show, sadly, that, as at 9 April, 29 of the 51 young people who have gone through the sentence boot camp orders have already been charged with new offences. That is the reality.

What we also know is that the former attorney-general ignored the state procurement guidelines, ignored his premier's own protocols on communication between ministerial offices and the Public Service, ignored his own independent expression of interest panel recommendations. What we do know is that they spent over \$12.3 million on a program that was only budgeted for \$4.9 million. What we do know is that they increased the amount of money they gave to the provider by funding 100 young people as opposed to 84 and backdating those payments even though there were only 42 young people there at the time—giving money for children who were not even in the boot camp.

The questions for the Leader of the Opposition are: what did he know, when did he know it and why is the former attorney-general still sitting on his frontbench now as the shadow minister for police? They are the questions. The Leader of the Opposition should have some integrity and start answering some questions.

Barron River Electorate, Preference Deal

Ms DAVIS: My question is to the Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland. The question is to the minister in her capacity as Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland. I refer the minister to a text message from the member for Barron River to the local Green candidate on election night which said, 'I have not forgotten our work together or the issues we agreed on. You have my word.' Will the minister outline what these North Queensland issues were that were agreed to in this secret preference deal with the state Labor government?

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

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! We will listen to this in silence.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: The member's question alludes to matters that relate to clearly what appear to be political and party matters, not matters for a minister's portfolio and not matters for the administration of the state. So I ask that you rule the question out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, could you please repeat your question? It does seem to me that part of your question does touch on a party political component which means it would be out of order, so could you read it again?

Ms DAVIS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I refer the minister to a text message from the member for Barron River to the local Green candidate on election night which said, 'I have not forgotten our work together or the issues we agreed on. You have my word.' Will the minister outline what these North Queensland issues were that were agreed to in this preference deal?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I invite you to answer the question. No doubt you are only able to answer in relation to matters that you have knowledge of. I invite you to respond.

Mrs O'ROURKE: I thank the member for the question. To the House, I have no knowledge of the text message. I have no knowledge of the information. Therefore, I cannot answer anything.

Barron River Electorate, Greens Preferences

Mr BENNETT: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: I call the member for Nudgee.

Mr BENNETT: Burnett, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Burnett.

Mr BENNETT: I will take anything though. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! No-one jumped, so I have called the member for Burnett. I did not see the member for Nudgee.

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, Dr Miles. Given the minister responsible for North Queensland has no idea what commitments were made to the secret Labor-Greens pact for Barron River, will the minister outline if he is aware of the issues that were agreed on as part of the secret preference deal with the state Labor government?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for the question, because I am pleased to answer it. There were no deals with the Greens anywhere. There were no deals anywhere.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! I call the minister.

Dr MILES: The evidence of that is that in the seat of Barron River, which the member refers to, the Greens how-to-vote card did not even preference Labor. How can there have been a preference deal without any preferences? What I can tell you, Mr Speaker, is that the then opposition outlined to Queenslanders and to stakeholders their position on a whole range of issues. If there is any inference or any fact to the claims that have been made, it is simply that the then opposition outlined our position on a range of issues to a range of stakeholders, as we should.

Ms Davis interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley! Member for Nanango, you have been mentioned a couple of times. If you persist with your interjections, you will be named under standing order 253A. I call the minister.

Dr MILES: For example, we wrote to a range of environment groups, a range of conservation groups, and we told them that we would invest to save the Great Barrier Reef—\$100 million to improve water quality on the Great Barrier Reef. Those opposite never really cared about the Great Barrier Reef. They wanted to avoid an ‘in danger’ listing but they did not care if it was in danger. Well this government does.

We wrote to conservation groups and we outlined those commitments. That is not a deal for Green preferences; it is just expressing the policies of Labor at the election. They are the policies that we are now working to implement. There were no deals with the Greens. There were, however, a number of Green voters who preferenced Labor because we had better policies—we had better policies on the environment. I was a beneficiary of that support—

Ms Jones: So was I.

Dr MILES:—as was the member for Ashgrove. I am proud to be part of a government that in an election campaign outlined a range of commitments to protect the environment. I am proud to be the environment minister who will get to deliver on them—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, please desist your interjections.

Dr MILES:—and any inference of any deals is completely dishonest.

Jobs

Ms LINARD: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Could the Deputy Premier please inform the House about ways the Palaszczuk government is helping to create jobs and is focused on job creation?

Ms TRAD: We are passionate about jobs over this side of the chamber. We are passionate about jobs. We have seen the opposition come into this place today and they have talked about everything. They have talked about the member for Cook. They have talked about text messages. They have talked about a Greens deal in the seat of Barron River. What they have not talked about is jobs. We heard the Deputy Leader of the Opposition come into this place and talk about economic indicators. What he did not talk about was the economic disaster that the Newman government was to Queensland—an economic disaster that saw unemployment peak in this state at 7.1 per cent. That is higher than it was during the GFC. That is the legacy of those opposite.

What is the legacy of those opposite? Let's look at state final demand at the end of last year, the year to December 2014. What happened to the state economy? It contracted by 3.5 per cent. What happened to business investment in this state? It decreased by more than 20 per cent. What about engineering and construction growth in this state? It fell by 36 per cent. What have we been doing over this side of the chamber? We have been approving projects. We have been approving projects like Pacific View Estate—3,500 houses, 2,700 jobs. We have been approving projects like the Mount Emerald Wind Farm in Far North Queensland—200 jobs and ongoing jobs into the future.

What else have we been doing? We have been approving the upgrade of exit 54. This is a catalytic piece of infrastructure that will allow mega-investment in the Upper Coomera region. I was very pleased to be joined by the LNP member for Coomera for the announcement. I thank the LNP member for Coomera for attending the announcement. This is an important infrastructure project in this state.

Our government has committed to ensuring that funding continues for the Beaudesert bypass. I acknowledge this was a project that was approved by the former government, but we will continue the job. Why? Because on this side of the House we have a proven track record when it comes to building Queensland. We have a proven track record. Hospital rebuilding programs, busways, railway lines—you name it, we have built it in this state. Labor builds things; the LNP destroys them—just like they destroyed jobs in Queensland. We will get this state and our economic recovery back up and running after the disaster that was the LNP.

Sale of Public Assets

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Will the Treasurer outline what the previous LNP government spent on preparing its asset sales agenda?

Mr PITT: I certainly thank the member for Gladstone for the question. The member for Gladstone knows better than many just how important it was to keep our assets in public hands. He knows that because the Gladstone port is in his electorate. It is a port that returned in the 2013-14 financial year \$88 million in tax equivalent payments and dividends to the state. So I thank the member for Gladstone for the question. I know that he will do a stellar job in his electorate.

In October last year the former government said it would seek a mandate to sell assets in this state. At the 2015 election it said that mandate was subject to the outcome of the election. Despite not having a mandate, it went ahead and sought approval from the Governor in Council for an amount of money. Before the election, in opposition I put a figure out there of \$300 million. I challenged the then treasurer to say whether they were going to be spending \$300 million on their asset sales program. I challenged them to tell us whether that figure was right. As it turns out, we were not far off. Those opposite laughed at us, but guess where we have landed? Those opposite sought Governor in Council approval for \$250 million for their asset sales disposal program. They were seeking \$250 million when they were telling Queenslanders to tighten their belts. That is what they did, and they did that prior to getting a mandate. But it gets better.

They spent an additional \$20 million on the Strong Choices propaganda campaign. So we have \$250 million plus \$20 million: \$270 million. Gee, we were not too far off with \$300 million. We were pretty close to the mark. But they would not release that. They kept it all hidden through QTC. They would not release the details of their scoping studies. The opposition said that and they continued to brush it away. They arrogantly sought that mandate and then said they were essentially going to waltz back into office. They had hidden next to nothing except for the documents they took to cabinet. Our challenge will be to try to get that amount.

Those opposite have spent \$70.32 million on asset sales preparation. The expenditure included \$43 million on no fewer than 42 individual consultants. That is \$43 million that we cannot claw back. In fact, we are going to have to pay that amount to Queensland Treasury Corporation

because those opposite said, 'We don't need to worry about putting that into any of the forwards because the proceeds of asset sales will cover it.' That is what they were planning on. So now we have to find the money to cover off more than \$43 million of economic and fiscal vandalism by those opposite. At a time when they told Queenslanders to tighten their belt they were spending like drunken sailors. They were spending the proceeds of asset sales before they even had them. This has been a disgrace from start to finish. It is a \$270 million legacy that those opposite will have to defend.

Great Keppel Island Redevelopment, Casino Licence

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Arts. I refer the Premier to claims from the CEO of Tower Holdings, a company trying to secure a casino licence on Great Keppel Island, who has said that while Mr Mackenroth was working from her office on transition-to-government planning Mr Mackenroth called and said, 'He told me whatever you do, don't make a fuss about it and don't talk to Brittany. Keep it quiet and we'll probably get it up.' Will the Premier table any advice received from the Integrity Commissioner before allowing Mr Mackenroth to contact and lobby for his clients while he voluntarily worked from her office?

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is good to see the member for Clayfield on his feet after wasting all of that taxpayers' money with the Strong Choices campaign. Can I point out that Mr Mackenroth is not a lobbyist, to my knowledge. Mr Mackenroth was advising us on the transition to government. I do not have any details about any conversation that he has had in relation to that proponent.

Whilst I am on my feet I am more than happy to talk about jobs today because obviously the opposition does not want to talk about it. I am very glad that the member for Clayfield has stood up today because it brings me back to their very first budget. It brought back to my mind an article on the front page of the *Courier-Mail* titled 'Cut to the core'. There are two faces, the member for Clayfield and this other person who used to be the premier whom they do not mention anymore.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, you do not need a prop. Perhaps you can come back to answering the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am talking about jobs, Mr Speaker. One of the first acts of the former government in its first budget was to cut some 14,000 public servant jobs from the Public Service. The flow-on effects are still being felt in our communities. No matter whether you live in Gladstone, Townsville, Rockhampton or Keppel, those flow-on effects have had huge impacts on local regional economies.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, the question is not about jobs. I understand it is about Mr Mackenroth and the Integrity Commissioner advice.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, I have answered that part of the question, but I was enlightening the House about the former government's track record. What we have seen today is the opposition not wanting to discuss the fundamental issues facing this state about growing the economy, creating jobs, improving training—

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. Question time is a very valuable time for all of us in this House.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, what is your point of order?

Mr NICHOLLS: My point of order is that the Premier has said she has answered the question. She claims no knowledge of Mr Mackenroth's dealings. I am satisfied with the answer. Question time is very valuable for all of us in this House. She will have her own opportunity to speak at some other time. It is not relevant to the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, do you have anything further to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: No.

Queensland Health, Federal Funding

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister inform the House about the impacts of federal Health funding on Queensland Health?

Mr DICK: I am proud to be part of a government that was elected to restore front-line services to Queensland. In the health department and in the Health portfolio we have already acted. This government has delivered \$60 million in about 90 days in government to attack the long-wait list in

Queensland—114,000 Queenslanders left in the waiting room by the Leader of the Opposition and member for Southern Downs. An amount of \$30 million will go to the long waits. The Premier and I announced yesterday that \$30 million would go towards attacking that waiting list for Queenslanders including children who need treatment for ear, nose and throat problems. More than 30,000 people, we hope, will be treated by this additional money we have found to attack the long-wait list.

What did I hear on TV last night? The member for Southern Downs was pronouncing to the world, 'I fixed Health.' Who is the other great fixer? Christopher Pyne. Remember Christopher Pyne? 'I'm the fixer.'

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members! Minister, if you provoke the opposition they will respond. I would urge you to answer the question.

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I expect the opposition to respond by the time I'm finished.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members!

Mr DICK: They are the true fixers. They are battling out who is the fixer. Minister Pyne—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr DICK: Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. There they are: Christopher Pyne fixing it; there is the Leader of the Opposition fixing it. Scrape the top and what do you find? Is it any wonder the long waits have reduced in Queensland when there is a National Health Reform Agreement on improving public hospital services—

A government member: What do you say about that?

Mr DICK:—an agreement delivered by a federal Labor government. What did the LNP receive? Over the 4½ years to 31 December 2014 they received \$133 million under that federal agreement alone. What did they get? On average, they received \$303 million a year from national partnership agreements over the two years from 2012-13 to 2013-14. That is why the wait lists went down, not because of anything the Leader of the Opposition did, but because there was a reforming federal Labor government that decided to step up to the plate and properly fund health. The Leader of the Opposition, the member for Southern Downs, did not think of these policy initiatives, he did not fund them, he did not even have to implement them because there are implementation plans signed by Tanya Plibersek that were given to him to implement. He did have one idea, \$15 million over three years to advertise himself and the wait-time gimmick, \$77 million over three years for advertising and bureaucracy, but not one cent for a hospital and health service. That is his legacy. I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that he gets his nomination in for the Senate because that is where he belongs, not in this House.

Mackenroth, Hon. TM

Mr CRIPPS: My question without notice is to the Premier and Minister for the Arts. Will the Premier release a list of all businesses or companies that Mr Terry Mackenroth made contact with while working from her office on transition-to-government planning along with all associated phone records?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have discussed this previously. Mr Mackenroth was never employed by me or the government. He worked on a purely voluntary basis, helping—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, voluntary.

Mr Pitt: That means not paid.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Not paid. He worked on a purely voluntary basis on the transition to government. We have received comments that it was the smoothest transition to government that the Public Service had seen in a very long while. If honourable members want to talk about business, my government will continue to meet with the business community. In fact, today the opposition does not want to talk about growing the economy and jobs, but my Minister for Tourism, Kate Jones, will be joining me this afternoon for—

Mr SPEAKER: I call the member for Hinchinbrook. What is your point of order?

Mr CRIPPS: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I seek your advice in relation to the specific nature of the question that I asked the Premier regarding the work undertaken by Mr Terry Mackenroth in her office during the transition-to-government arrangements and if she would table the records of contact made by Mr Terry Mackenroth including all phone records. I asked no other question.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I bring you back to standing order 118 in relation to the relevance to the specific question. I call the Premier, or have you answered it?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, I have answered this question at length.

Education, Funding

Ms DONALDSON: My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the minister please update the House on the budget challenges in the Education portfolio?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for Bundaberg for her question. I know that the member for Bundaberg is a passionate advocate for schools in her community and that is why she is asking this question. She would be as alarmed as I was when I read recently that the Abbott government plans to take the axe to Education funding in this country.

Government members: Shame!

Ms JONES: That is right. There has been no consultation with the states about their plans. I have already met with Christopher Pyne about this matter. There is no revelation there about their secret plan to take the axe to Education funding across Queensland.

What this means for our state when we look at the forward estimates is a \$6 billion cut to schools in Queensland from the Abbott government. That is why we will be fighting each and every day to ensure that we continue to get the federal government funding to schools that we deserve, to support all the schools in every single electorate in Queensland.

I also point out that this could not have come at a worse time. Looking at the track record of the LNP when it comes to education, when they were in government, we saw the member for Surfers Paradise and the ex-Treasurer, Tim, sign off on a PPP deal—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms JONES: Sorry, Clayfield. Timmy knows I always backed him for leader; Timmy knows I always backed him for Premier of Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Minister.

Ms JONES: I worked really hard to make him the Premier of Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, if you provoke the opposition, they will respond. I do not think that is an appropriate way to refer to the member for Clayfield. I call the minister.

Mr Nicholls: I'm okay with that.

Mr SPEAKER: Okay. I call the minister.

Ms JONES: As I was saying, the Treasurer forced a deal, a PPP, which meant they had to put out up-front the capital costs for the schools. That rips \$108 million out of capital spending in next year's budget. The problem with this deal though, Mr Speaker—and you will appreciate this, given you are the member for where you come from—Nanango? Nicklin.

An opposition member: Have a drink of water, Kate.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms JONES: You can laugh.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms JONES: Come on, I have been out for three years but I am back and what I have to say to you is this. I would never sign off on a deal that ensured that not one school was built outside of South-East Queensland for the next three years. I would drink water, too, because that is what you have done. What surprised me was getting a letter from the member for Burnett saying, 'Build me a

school.' I say to him that he needs to talk to his federal leader, Tony Abbott, and say, 'Don't rip \$6 billion out.' Then he needs to talk to his ministerial colleagues from when he was in government last year when they did a deal—behind his back obviously—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms JONES: I say to the member for Burnett that they did a deal behind his back to ensure that not one school would be built outside of South-East Queensland and he should—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the member for Callide, who has the next question, I inform members that students from the Mudgeeraba State School in the electorate of Mudgeeraba are in the public gallery. I call the member for Callide.

Trinity Inlet, Cruise Ships

Mr SEENEY: My question without notice is to the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland. I refer to the abandoned project to boost tourism in North Queensland by increasing cruise ship access to Trinity Inlet and the comments of the member for Barron River in which he said, 'Widening and deepening the channel to accommodate larger cruise ships may not happen in the short term but needs to happen eventually.' I ask: does the minister agree with the member for Barron River?

Mrs O'ROURKE: I thank the member for the question. Recently the draft environmental impact statement for the port of Cairns at Trinity Inlet was released by the Coordinator-General.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, please allow the minister to answer in silence.

Mrs O'ROURKE: This environmental impact statement proposed dumping dredge spoil from the port in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage area. This draft document demonstrates the significant and detrimental environmental impacts of the former government's proposed plan. Anyone who reads this environmental impact statement can see why the project does not stack up. It highlights the LNP's complete disdain for our iconic Great Barrier Reef and, indeed, for the Queensland environment as a whole.

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, my question was: does the minister agree with the member for Barron River? Yes or no would suffice.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, that question is actually canvassing an opinion. I did not think the member for Callide would want to draw attention to the fact that his own question is out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Asking for opinions is not appropriate. Trinity is the topic. I call the minister to continue answering the question if she has anything further to add.

Mrs O'ROURKE: No, thank you, Mr Speaker.

Renewable Energy

Ms GRACE: My question is to the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lockyer, please allow the member to ask her question in silence. I again call the member for Brisbane Central.

Ms GRACE: Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. Will the minister please advise the House about what steps are being taken to meet the challenges of climate change and to steer the state towards a cleaner energy future with renewables and solar?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for Brisbane Central for her interest in renewable energy and jobs, which I know is something that her constituents are very concerned about.

Labor has a plan to protect Queensland's environment and to support industries of the future and the jobs which they will create. Our plan for a solar future will support job-generating initiatives in renewable energy industries. Last week we announced the gazettal of the new independent

Queensland Productivity Commission. One of its first tasks will be to conduct a review into a fair price for solar households to sell power back into the grid. That is important, because we have an aspirational target of one million solar rooftops by 2020 which will be good for the environment, good for households and good for business. It will lower the price of power bills and create jobs.

Unlike those opposite, the Palaszczuk government supports the renewable energy sector. We are looking to encourage research and development in industries of the future through our Advance Queensland plan. By drawing on, and combining, our intellectual and policy fire power, we can steer Queensland towards a cleaner and greener energy future.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mermaid Beach and member for Glass House, order! Member for Glass House, you have the next question if time permits. I would ask you to allow the minister to answer the question. Resume the clock.

Mr BAILEY: Given that the member for Glass House had a swing of 19½ per cent in the last election, I thought he might listen to the answer.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, we do not need you to provoke the opposition.

Mr BAILEY: We have committed to the trial of a 40-megawatt renewable energy option to ensure private investment and to create jobs. Unlike the LNP, we have a plan to protect Queensland's environment and to support the industries of the future.

Recent data from the ABS has revealed that, under the LNP, one-third of jobs in the renewable energy sector disappeared in the three years they were in government—1,300 jobs gone—and now we have the federal LNP who are refusing to land on the Renewable Energy Target. We have seen investment in renewable energy industries drop by 88 per cent. The opposition can go on about jobs all they like, but the new jobs are in the renewable energy sector. This government is committed to taking advantage of those opportunities for better and cleaner energy and to grow jobs where they are most needed. We will not abuse people who buy into solar energy by calling them latte sippers and champagne drinkers. We will not offer this chamber 20th century thinking. We are here to work with the modern economy and we will respond to that.

Our commitment to the environment, renewable energy and creating jobs and investment in Queensland is rock solid. The Palaszczuk government is showing leadership in terms of tackling climate change and creating new jobs. We are leading the country towards a cleaner and better energy future.

Mr SPEAKER: There is one minute on the clock. I call the member for Glass House.

Electrical Trades Union

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply. Can the Minister for Energy advise whether he has sought the view of the Integrity Commissioner with regard to the appropriateness of both he and the chair of the energy related committee having been members of the Electrical Trades Union?

Mr SPEAKER: I call the minister. There is one minute on the clock.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I am happy to inform the House that, as a minister in the cabinet, yes, I did seek the advice of the Integrity Commissioner.

An opposition member: Table it!

Mr BAILEY: Unlike you, I am happy to table it today and not drag it out after months and months of campaigning and media pressure. The Integrity Commissioner said that there is no conflict of interest but that that could have been the perception—which is a very broad statement—so I took his advice and resigned my membership that day. As a member of cabinet, I think that is prudent. There is a direct line-up—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BAILEY: It is not a crime to be a member of a union, but I do know that—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, we will now move on to the introduction of private members' bills.

MENTAL HEALTH (RECOVERY MODEL) BILL

Introduction

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (11.54 am): I present a bill for an act to provide for the treatment and care of people who have mental illnesses and for other purposes, and further to repeal the Mental Health Act 2000, and to amend this act, the Criminal Code, the Forensic Disability Act 2011, the Powers of Attorney Act 1998 and the Public Health Act 2005, and to make minor and consequential amendments of other acts as stated in schedule 4. I table the bill and explanatory notes and I nominate the Health and Ambulance Services Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Mental Health (Recovery Model) Bill 2015 [\[354\]](#).

Tabled paper: Mental Health (Recovery Model) Bill 2015, explanatory notes [\[355\]](#).

This bill arises from a review of the Mental Health Act 2000, which was initiated by the Minister for Health in 2013 to improve the delivery of health services to the people of Queensland. The primary purpose of the Mental Health (Recovery Model) Bill 2015 is to improve and maintain the health and wellbeing of persons with a mental illness who do not have the capacity to consent to treatment or care. The bill also enables persons to be diverted from the criminal justice system if found to have been of unsound mind at the time of an alleged offence or to be unfit for trial. Where required, the bill aims to protect the community if persons diverted from the criminal justice system may be at risk of harming others.

The objects are to be achieved in a way that safeguards the rights of persons and will only adversely affect the rights and liberties of a person with a mental illness if there is a no less restrictive way to protect the person's health and safety or to protect others. This bill will promote the recovery of a person with a mental illness and their ability to live in the community without the need for involuntary treatment or care.

The bill represents a major improvement to the legal framework that applies to persons with a mental illness as defined under the Mental Health Act 2000. These improvements can be grouped into six areas: strengthened support for patients; improved health service delivery; strengthened community protection; a more transparent and fairer act; improved legal processes; and greater value in health services. We on this side of the chamber value the importance of a recovery oriented service that is patient focused and which helps in the reduction of stigma. These are the hallmarks of this bill, of which I am very proud.

This bill addresses a number of key community concerns and strengthens community safety. This legislation deals with people with mental illnesses who have committed unlawful acts, and I believe it is important that the community is adequately protected from any future unlawful behaviour. The Mental Health Court will be able to set a non-revoke period for forensic orders of up to seven years for serious violent offences such as murder, rape and grievous bodily harm. This will give victims and the wider community greater certainty in the period after a forensic order is made.

Those members of the community who are victims of unlawful acts will receive information notices about a patient. These victims may apply to receive specific information about the person who committed the unlawful act, including when community treatment is authorised for the person. They will be given information on the reasons a patient is given community treatment to assist the victim to understand the considerations that have gone into such a decision. They will also receive updated notifications of changes to treatment plans or community orders.

The requirement to obtain a second psychiatric opinion to revoke a forensic order for a serious violent offence will be retained and further expanded to include offences such as grievous bodily harm.

We have made a number of changes in this bill that will allow magistrates courts to discharge persons charged with an alleged offence if the court considers that the person appears to have been of unsound mind at the time of the alleged offence or was unfit for trial. Magistrates courts may also order that a person before the court be examined by an authorised doctor to decide if a treatment authority should be made for the person or to make recommendations about the person's treatment and care. These changes will assist in protecting the community from people who are declared under the Mental Health Act from committing further crime.

This bill also strengthens the role of the Mental Health Review Tribunal. The tribunal continues under the bill with obligations of oversight for treatment authorities, forensic orders, court treatment orders, the fitness for trial of particular persons and the imposition of monitoring conditions that

involve a tracking device. The Mental Health Review Tribunal also hears applications for examination authorities, which authorise the involuntary examination of a person; the approval of regulated treatments such as electroconvulsive therapy and non-ablative neurosurgery; and the transfer of forensic patients and patients on court treatment orders into and out of Queensland.

In relation to improved health service delivery, this bill will remove the uncertainty in the current act about where treatment and care can be provided. The bill will allow treatment and care to be provided in any place that is clinically suitable. The restrictions on the use of audiovisual technology in the current act will be removed to allow for the increased use of telehealth in the care of patients with mental illnesses.

The bill strongly supports recovery orientation for patients with a mental illness. This is achieved through a number of matters such as requiring that patients on treatment authorities be treated in the community unless the patient must be admitted to an inpatient unit to meet the patient's treatment and care needs; enabling the Mental Health Review Tribunal to 'step down' a patient on a forensic order to a court treatment order or treatment authority when it is appropriate to do so; enabling treatment to be provided at any clinically suitable place in the community; removing barriers to interstate transfers which can assist a patient's recovery; strengthening the use of advanced health directives, which gives a person greater control over their future health care; empowering a person to appoint a nominated support person to support the person during the acute phase of an illness; and ensuring equal rights at law of persons with a mental illness.

This bill is the result of 18 months of consultation and over 200 submissions. It received widespread support. The Queensland Mental Health Commissioner, Dr Lesley van Schoubroeck, in a media release of 27 November 2014 said that the bill 'provides stronger protections for patients, increased transparency and accountability, and the inclusion of least restrictive practices in the objects and principles of the bill'. The same release further stated—

'The Bill also allows for families, carers and nominated support persons to receive relevant information, which will help address the frustration experienced when they have been excluded from the care and support of their loved ones because of privacy issues,' the Commissioner said.

Dr van Schoubroeck said the replacement of justice examination orders with examination authorities overseen by the Mental Health Tribunal was welcome.

This bill has been in the public arena now for a number of weeks and there are some comments I would like to make in relation to comments made by the current health minister on the bill he is proposing. With incredible audacity, the minister made the comment in his release of only last weekend that the bill prepared by the former health minister and this bill now put back into the House was 'rushed into parliament without proper preparation or consultation'. The consultation period on the bill now before the House under the LNP government commenced in May 2013. The bill was introduced into the House in November 2014. There was a period of some 18 months during which this bill was dealt with by the various bodies, which had the right to express their opinion. In fact, there were 100 submissions during the original consultation and 120 submissions on the draft bill. So over 18 months some 220 submissions were received by the then health minister by way of consultation.

However, the current health minister in his release of Friday states that consultation on the bill he is proposing will run for two months—May to June 2015. We know why that is. It is because we can have a cognate debate in this House and the government can then try to use its supposed numbers to overturn the bill that is currently before the House. This statement by the health minister is a sham. Eighteen months consultation as opposed to two months consultation is completely ridiculous.

Secondly, the minister stated that the bill was brought into parliament without proper preparation and that it contained technical errors. It is unbelievable that the same people who advised the then health minister, Lawrence Springborg, over 18 months made such a botch of the job that the health minister is relying on the same people to get it right. It is simply ludicrous to suggest that over 18 months those people made such a shambles but the health minister is now relying upon the same people! That is another sham statement by the health minister that goes to show that he is not concerned with bipartisan support or bipartisan effort; he is concerned about winning in the chamber for his own purposes.

Thirdly, the health minister refers to 'technical errors'. Strictly speaking, technical errors are minor in nature. They could have been debated during consideration of the clauses. They could have been amended at the second reading stage or during consideration of the clauses. This could have been a true bipartisan bill if the health minister had stood up and said, 'It is a fundamentally good bill.

There are some technical problems but I will work with the opposition to resolve them.' But no. So bipartisanship exists only when the health minister dictates the terms. The technical issues that could have been resolved when considering the clauses will not be resolved because the health minister wants to grandstand in relation to the terms of his own bill.

Fourthly, the health minister made some comment about a 'bureaucrat' having the right to impose a GPS monitoring device. The bureaucrat he is referring to is in fact the Chief Psychiatrist of this state. The senior psychiatrist appointed by the government is the bureaucrat referred to by the health minister.

Mr Nicholls: He does not trust him.

Mr McARDLE: That means that he does not trust him. The minister does not trust the Chief Psychiatrist—the man most qualified in the public health system to determine whether or not a person should have a GPS monitoring device attached to them. Section 217 of the bill proposed by the LNP makes it quite clear that he has the authority to do so but under strict guidelines and under very strict conditions. Not only that, section 459 states quite clearly that the application of the decision by the Chief Psychiatrist must be reviewed within 21 days. It is far from a bureaucrat; it is the Chief Psychiatrist then being reviewed by the relevant tribunal within 21 days to assess whether or not the determination by the Chief Psychiatrist was valid.

The health minister can stand in this House and in front of the cameras as much as he likes, but the bill he is preparing is a sham. He is cutting and pasting the essence of the bill prepared by the then LNP government to try to grandstand for his own glory in his future challenge—at some point in time down the track—for the leadership of the ALP. There is no doubt about that. The sad thing is that it is the people of Queensland who will be worse off for his actions.

First Reading

Mr McARDLE (Caloundra—LNP) (12.08 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Health and Ambulance Services Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Ambulance Services Committee.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

South-East Queensland, Severe Weather Event; Member for Cook

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.08 pm): I join with the Premier in passing on the concerns, thoughts and support of the opposition for those people affected only a few days ago by the very horrific weather events which had a major toll on human life in the northern outskirts of Brisbane and running up towards Glass House. I think it is fair to say that many Queenslanders were very disturbed and very touched by the reality of that—a reality which, fortunately, we do not see often but which is very profound and has a major impact when it does happen. I have spoken to the LNP member for Glass House about the impact on his community, with the loss of life of people associated with his community. We hope that people will be able to get back to some semblance of normalcy as soon as they possibly can as a consequence of this very severe weather event.

Similarly, we saw the great tragedy unfold in Nepal, and it is still unfolding. Many thousands of people have lost their lives, many more have been injured and many more will be left homeless for a long time. The outpouring of compassion and support from throughout the world gives great encouragement as to human dignity at times such as these. Tragedies such as these provide us with an opportunity to reflect on how good our competent emergency services are at responding to such calls because they have been put in place well. We can always call upon more resources in particular circumstances of course, but we organise and pre plan for disasters in our state and our country compared to what happens in other places when the entire international community has to be involved. Nevertheless, we in Queensland send our thoughts and prayers to those people.

Today in the parliament I was most intrigued to listen to the Premier and many government ministers give suboptimal answers to quite concise and well-proposed questions. What we are seeing from this government is that it is morphing into a caricature of itself. It talks about integrity, talks about ethics, talks about openness and talks about accountability. However, when it comes to acting all of those things out and making sure that it practises what it preaches, it certainly is not doing that and I will give some examples. When I asked the Premier a question as to whether she still has the same view when it comes to the honourable member for Cook and having him support her government as she did a little over a year ago in this parliament with regard to the former member for Redcliffe, she was not prepared to be consistent and say that she had the same view today with regard to the member for Cook as she had with regard to the former member for Redcliffe 18 months ago. What we are seeing is a government that is prepared to walk away from those basic standards of accountability which it proffered only a few months ago when in opposition. Today it had a chance to stand up and give proper account for why it has walked away from those particular standards of ethical conduct and consistency which it proffered around the state only 18 months or so ago.

It is also very clear that we have a Premier and a government that only act when caught out. We need to go back to the last sitting day prior to this one—that is, the Friday morning at the end of March when this parliament had its only real sitting day since the ceremonial processes two or three days before that. The Premier was asked in this place if she had confidence in the member for Cook after certain issues arose in the media that day. The Premier stood up in this place and said that the member for Cook had given a full, frank and proper explanation of matters relating to his own particular affairs—whether they be the nonlodgement of tax returns or the non-payment of child support—and conveniently brushed over the fact that she had in her possession for some two weeks information regarding serious allegations around domestic violence. However, within eight hours the Premier was referring those matters to the police, not because anything substantially changed and not because there was any new information that came into the possession of the Premier in those intervening eight hours from when she answered her first question as Premier in this parliament and when she referred the matters to the police but because her position became untenable—that is, that the information that was contained in that letter of help—the cry for help—from the member for Cook's first spouse meant that there were certain issues that could not simply be explained away by what she said in the parliament that day. So the Premier gave an explanation that certainly was not fulsome and by omission or design did not properly address the particular issues that were raised in that letter which came forward from the particular lady.

It is also very important to note that this government is now becoming extremely shrill. It does not want to answer the questions that are being asked within the community. This morning the Premier, the member for Inala, stood in here with great audacity and said that she always runs a government around consistent standards. In all of my time in this place over a quarter of a century I cannot remember a minister of the Crown being directed to pay back public moneys because they were abused by that person. The member for Inala was directed by former premier Anna Bligh to pay back public moneys because the member for Inala as the transport minister at the time misused that money for personal purposes in promoting herself in her electorate. You cannot stand in here and say that on the one hand you believe in integrity and say you are consistent when I can never remember another person who has been directed by the Premier of the day to do that. Given that Anna Bligh's standards with regard to these sorts of things were not the highest, it must have been a really significant breach of trust as far as the then premier was concerned.

What we have not heard from the member for Cook in this place is a full explanation about circumstances which have arisen in the last few days with regard to another person—another victim—coming forward. I think it is somewhat galling for the member for Cook to try to make himself out as being the victim in here. Rather than calling the member for Cook to account, we are now seeing members of the government basically morphing into caricatures of each other. They are using the same words. They are quoting from the same press releases. They have emissaries going behind the scenes keeping the member for Cook corralled because they know they will be relying upon that particular tainted vote as a consequence of the circumstances that they find themselves in.

These are the questions: what did the Premier know? What did the Premier do about it? What did other ministers know? What did they do about it when they received substantive information? When the member for Mount Ommaney received the allegation directly from the lady in question, she contacted her virtually immediately offering support and offering information as to how she could get particular assistance. That lady came back and said that the member for Mount Ommaney was the only one of those whom she contacted who was interested in her concerns—not the government ministers who were contacted, not the Premier who was contacted.

When the member for Cook stood in this place with the full support of the Premier and the Labor Party going back only five or six weeks ago and said that his personal affairs were now in proper alignment, he did not give any indication that there was more to come, that there was a second person involved and we hear potentially a third person involved. Given the text messages that were sent by the member for Cook to the second person saying, 'Please don't disclose this or I'll be in trouble or even worse,' the question is whether the member for Cook would have put that on his pecuniary interest register if it had not been flushed out. What does this government know? What has it done about it? What more is to come? But the more important thing is that no-one should believe that this government now is prepared to walk away from the member for Cook, because everything it has done in the last few weeks is walking towards the member for Cook.

Bulimba Electorate, Development

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (12.18 pm): If there is one issue that people feel particularly strongly about in my electorate, it is about having a say on local development, which is why they get very angry when that right is taken away from them. Most people in my electorate accept that as inner-city suburbs there will be higher density, but that does not mean that they are happy for development to go unchecked: they do not like living in houses where the neighbouring walls are only centimetres apart and not having any say about it; they do not like council giving relaxation over car parking requirements for developers so that when a five-storey unit block goes up their local streets are parked out and not having a say about it; they do not like seeing applications for high-density developments approved in their local neighbourhoods with huge implications for local traffic, public transport and visual amenity and not having a say about it.

But, unfortunately, these and many other travesties are happening in inner-city suburbs like ours right across Brisbane since Campbell Newman and his LNP colleagues—those people over there—passed the Brisbane City Council city plan and it came into effect last year. Local residents are now realising that the quality of life that they value so highly in their local area is under threat and there is little opportunity at all for them to have a say. Through the city plan, Campbell Newman and the LNP turned up their noses at the rights of local residents and sanctioned higher density developments and housing, less say for residents in development applications, increased traffic congestion on roads heading in and out of the city, more subdivisions of blocks in and around our neighbourhoods and more parking problems.

On top of this, Campbell Newman and the LNP, in a breathtaking snubbing of the rights of local residents, were going to use their proposed planning and development bill to remove an owner's consent for some development applications, which could have allowed for development applications to be lodged on a resident's land without even having to ask for their permission, to discourage the basic right of a legal appeal by residents, and to allow new developments in our areas without the community having an appropriate say. As a result of all of this, we are now in for the fight of our lives in my area in the development of the Bulimba Barracks site. The Department of Defence is now selling this over 21 hectares of prime riverfront land to the highest bidder. One can only imagine the number of units that will be allowed to fit on a site like this if we do not get the checks and balances right.

The possible impacts of this development on my community are immeasurable. The virtual peninsula that is Bulimba, Hawthorne and Balmoral could face the pressure of potentially thousands more people squeezed into a small area, presenting challenges to all of our community infrastructure—our roads, public transport, parks, libraries and schools. Our local road network is already struggling to cope with the current traffic demand. I believe that this is the only inner-city area within a five-kilometre radius of the city where it takes more than an hour to get to work in peak hour traffic.

Bulimba State School is already dealing with increasing enrolments on a land locked site. Its magnificent school community is using every spare area of land in the most innovative of ways, but the challenge of squeezing anything more from the school's current footprint if potentially hundreds more children move into the catchment area is huge. My colleagues Terry Butler, the federal member for Griffith, local councillor, Shane Sutton, and I have called on the federal LNP government to allocate 10 per cent of the proceeds from the sale of the barracks to help upgrade our local community infrastructure. But after being part of our local community for 70 years, the federal government is just doing a cut and run. Its willingness to divest itself of this site without any regard for the impact of the sale on our local community is immoral.

Several years ago many local residents took part in the consultation on the Bulimba neighbourhood plan. Through that process they told us very clearly what they would like to see for the Bulimba Barracks site. But what protection does my local community have now with the LNP council's approach to development? None. Thanks to the LNP members at local, state and federal levels, who do not like to listen, who do not like anyone to have a say, we will have to fight every step of the way to maintain the liveability of our area and we will do that. My community has won local development battles before and we will do it again.

I am proud to be part of a government that listens. Our Premier has made it very clear that community consultation will be the hallmark of our time in government. That is the way I will be doing things on every issue in the Bulimba electorate over the next three and that is the way I will be doing things with my federal and council colleagues to get things right on the Bulimba Barracks site. I look forward to updating the House on a regular basis on this incredibly important issue for my electorate.

South-East Queensland, Severe Weather Event



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (12.23 pm): The events of last Friday left an indelible mark on the electorate of Glass House. Tragically, that mark is very physical and tangible in the loss of four local lives. It is very physical and obvious in the damage to homes and infrastructure. But it is also a very emotional mark, too, in the pained faces of those who have lost loved ones, their homes and belongings, or their livelihoods.

I must begin by acknowledging the four constituents of Glass House who, distressingly, lost their lives: 74-year-old Tony McDonald, his five-year-old grandson, Tyler, and Tyler's 39-year-old mother, Tamra, who were swept away from a road north of Caboolture. Shortly behind them, 49-year-old Emmett O'Brien and his son Keegan and stepdaughter Tegan were swept away at the same location, miraculously, Keegan and Tegan survived and were rescued. Emmett, Tony, Tamra and young Tyler perished in the floodwaters.

For the small community of Elimbah the loss is incredibly real and incredibly painful. All four people had connections to the Elimbah State School. Emmett was a former parent. For Tyler and his family, the connection was far more present. Tyler started prep this year and I am informed that, after some initial teething issues, he was having an absolute ball. When I spoke to acting principal Mrs Tracy Sharpe early yesterday morning, it is clear that the school community is suffering, but equally I thank the education department for wrapping an amazing level of support around the students, teachers, administrators, parents and the broader community. To Mrs Sharpe, if there is more that we can do, please do not hesitate to ask.

I must also acknowledge the passing of Mr Robert Leong at Burpengary that same afternoon. I grew up in Burpengary. My parents still live there and as recently as this morning I drove past the site that claimed Mr Leong's life. If members know the area, it will give them a very poignant demonstration of the size and ferocity of that flash flooding.

Each of these tragic deaths will also serve as an enduring reminder: if it is flooded, forget it. I say to people: please, please, please heed the warnings. Resist the temptation to cross flooded creeks. It is simply not worth it. The price may be more than people can humanly afford.

On Saturday morning, I was able to safely venture out and check on the welfare of locals who I know from previous experience would have been impacted by the intense rainfall and flash flooding. I met Taryn and Stephen on Flowers Road at Caboolture. They had already been at the clean-up for several hours, their child blissfully playing in the puddles and among their belongings drying to the sun. For them, Friday's deluge surprised them with its intensity and how quickly the water rose and dissipated. Life will continue for Taryn and Stephen, but I will be working with the Moreton Bay Regional Council to ensure that a roadside rubbish collection happens quickly.

I met Steve and Donna Smith on Male Road, Caboolture, and Steve's aunt, Diane, the property owner. Water had roared through the house at thigh height, so everything they owned is destroyed or is going to take money and time to repair. Following a visit from Energex yesterday it has been confirmed that the house is unsafe to reside in. The challenge is that Donna is 32 weeks pregnant and is now in search of a home. Thankfully, they have been paid a visit by Red Cross and, hopefully, support will kick in shortly. On that note, I acknowledge this morning's declaration of the Male Road, Dances Road and Flowers Road communities so that residents such as Taryn and Stephen and Donna and Steve can now access the assistance that they so desperately require.

Friday's torrential rain also impacted on the farmers of the Glass House electorate. Yesterday, I spoke with Peter Young, a strawberry farmer from Glass House Mountains. He and his farmhands are furiously trying to save what they can of 100,000 strawberry plants. In his words, the whole hill has come away and slid towards the creek and it has taken the plants and plastic with it. Even if Peter is able to save his strawberries, he is now at least a month behind the eight ball. By the time they are ready to pick the strawberries, the season may be over. Again, I say to the Premier and Minister for Agriculture to please consider the plight of farmers from Beerwah to Caboolture in their disaster declarations as the floods could not have come at a worse time. I ask them to please provide them with the assistance that they as a government can.

Before I conclude, I would like to touch briefly on a matter that I believe will need further investigation. My office and I have been inundated by stories of commuters left stranded on Friday night. At the outset, let me acknowledge that the decision to stay off the roads was made by someone other than the transport minister. I also appreciate the need for Transport to look after the safety and wellbeing of its own staff. However, there have been many stories that tell me that we could have done more. In one instance, commuters were left at the Petrie station. They were told to alight from the train and stood shivering in the rain for four hours. We could have let them back on the train. It was still there. It is a matter that I will take up with the appropriate minister in due course.

Premier's Reading Challenge

 **Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (12.28 pm): I rise to speak to two important education initiatives. We on this side of the House understand that investing in Queensland's education system is investing in Queensland's future. The introduction of the prep year and the transition of year 7 students to high school are successful examples of our commitment. If education and training is the key, then I think that most in this House would agree that reading is the door. I very much welcome the Premier's Reading Challenge, which encourages our local schools to take up the Premier's reading challenge to help foster a love of books among children. As part of the Premier's Reading Challenge, which goes from 1 May to 28 August, students aim to read a minimum number of books.

I want to encourage all local schools, including those in my electorate, to take up the challenge because this is a great way to support existing literacy programs. For the first time the Premier's Reading Challenge has been extended to year 8 and 9 students and children in kindergartens and day care centres. The Premier's Reading Challenge is also open to all state and non-state schools and home-educated students.

During the challenge, prep to year 2 students aim to read or experience 20 books; year 3 to 4 students also aim to read 20 books; and year 5 to 9 students aim to read 15 books. This is all about encouraging our students to get more involved in reading. Schools, early childhood centres and parents of individual readers are encouraged to recognise reading achievements by holding classroom, school or home ceremonies to present certificates during the Premier's Reading Challenge celebration weeks in November. In my electorate of Brisbane Central the Windsor State School principal, Mr Steven O'Kane, has offered to host a pizza party for the class that reads the most—sometimes it is the little incentives such as this that makes reading and education fun. As we are all well aware, literacy skills are an important part of helping children succeed in their schooling. A love of books and reading is an important building block in helping young people reach their full potential. We read to my daughter from a very early age and my daughter, Alexandra, has always had a love of books.

The Palaszczuk government is determined to ensure that every child, no matter where they live, has access to quality education with the best teachers in the nation. That is why this government is committed to employing an extra 2,500 teachers in Queensland state schools. Let us not forget that the Premier's Reading Challenge is not a competition, but a way to encourage students to develop a love of reading for life. This challenge gives kids an opportunity to develop their appreciation of the English language and it encourages them to explore and enjoy a wide range of literary texts. The challenge is a great opportunity for classes to celebrate reading milestones. Students will also receive certificates of achievement signed by the Premier. I look forward to presenting many of these certificates of achievement to students in my electorate who complete their challenge during the Premier's Reading Challenge celebration weeks in November. I encourage all kids, as well as mums and dads, to visit the Queensland government's Education Queensland website and click on the Premier's Reading Challenge. There they will find all the information they need: school registration, individual reader registration and, whilst not compulsory, a book list that has been developed to help kids from prep to years 8 and 9 in their selection of titles.

Education comes in many forms. On Tuesday, 21 April, along with the Premier and Minister for Education, I was delighted to have the pleasure of farewelling local winners of the 2015 Premier's Anzac Prize as they began a two-week adventure to Gallipoli and the Western Front. Anna Ruddell, Josefine Ganko and Laura Fell from Brisbane Girls Grammar School and Bailey Roth from the Queensland Academy for Creative Industries, all from my electorate of Brisbane Central, were among 70 Premier's Anzac Prize recipients throughout Queensland who were travelling to Turkey, Belgium and France for two weeks. Students were awarded the Premier's Anzac Prize after submitting a multimedia presentation about the Anzac tradition and its impact on the nation. Their education continues as we have been following their journey online through the Education Queensland website. These students have had a once-in-a-lifetime experience of a dawn service at Gallipoli on the 100th anniversary of the landing of our soldiers at Anzac Cove. It is truly a remarkable opportunity. Importantly, I look forward to seeing their reports which I believe are going to be on display at the State Library from July to September. They had a truly amazing education. They will share this with their school community and undoubtedly they have gained an incredible education through this amazing opportunity.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Before I call the next speaker, I acknowledge the students from Mudgeeraba State School in the gallery.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Business Confidence

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (12.33 pm): On behalf of the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates, I also acknowledge the students here from Mudgeeraba State School. I wish to put on the record a matter of significant public interest that concerns all those interested in the prosperity of this state and the job prospects of Queenslanders—that is, the ongoing failure of this clueless Labor government to support and implement job-creating significant projects. In the almost three months since this government took office it has demonstrated a disdain for business and infrastructure unheard of in this state. Subject to the dictates of the extreme left of the union movement and with no place for those who want to see jobs and investment occur, racked by internal division over who gets the spoils of office, this clueless Labor government is single-handedly destroying confidence in Queensland as a place to invest, build and employ.

The Premier has promised that jobs will be at the top of her priorities, yet her government has cancelled, called in or stymied projects with the potential to create up to 30,000 jobs with \$8 billion worth of investment, adding to the 4½ thousand jobs that have been lost since this government was elected.

Mr Rickuss: Jobs, jobs, jobs.

Mr NICHOLLS: Jobs, jobs, jobs; gone, gone, gone under Labor, as the member for Lockyer has pointed out. Projects axed or under a cloud include the Cairns Shipping Development Project; the Trinity Harbour development, even before the EIS process has been allowed to run its course—again, disdainful of the proper process put in place to allow a proper assessment of the project to run its course; the privately funded—not requiring government money at all—and already approved Cedar Woods development in Upper Kedron for base political purposes and no other reason; the Kurilpa Riverfront Renewal, called in by the minister and which is in her own electorate; the Gold Coast cruise ship terminal, cancelled without a word of discussion with the proponents of the project, just a flat-out refusal—‘No, we don't even want to talk to you’—just the vague promise, which I am told is as vague as it possibly can be, about doing something in the future somewhere; and the Brisbane bus and train tunnel, a project that was being fully scoped and for which a business case was being worked up, cancelled by the Deputy Premier because it was not her project. The project that she now seems to want to see go ahead, but does not have any money for, is that of her mentor and good friend, Anna Bligh, with no money and no plans.

How is this viewed by those who take the risks, who invest their own money in projects in this state? After just three months in power Labor has already scored a hat-trick and bowled over the Property Council of Australia, Queensland Division, the CommSec report and CCIQ—all three bodies marking them down in just over two weeks. What did the most recent Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland report say, reflecting small and medium enterprises the length and breadth of the state? It said business conditions since the election are at their lowest level in 10 years—that is, before the GFC—and business confidence is at its lowest in six years—that is during the height of the GFC. Previously where was it? Under the LNP, Queensland had the highest degree of confidence from business. It is now the second lowest. We are ahead only of South Australia. Coincidentally, the

longest serving Labor state government. Guess who is coming third? Victoria. What have the Victorians excelled in under Labor? Cancelling a major transport infrastructure project—the East West Link.

Why is this occurring? Why is business losing confidence in the Queensland government? It is because of the uncertainty that shrouds major infrastructure projects in Queensland. Labor have continually turned a blind eye to their union mates shutting down work sites and hurting industry confidence. After almost three months in power they still have not named anyone to chair Infrastructure Queensland—their only infrastructure policy from the election. The only appointment with respect to Infrastructure Queensland has been that of Mr David Quinn—whom I congratulate on his appointment—as the acting CEO. Mr Quinn was appointed by me to head up Projects Queensland and actually do the work that led to those projects that are being built around Queensland at the moment as a result of the LNP. We have an infrastructure minister who did not even ask for funding for major projects like the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 project when she met with the federal infrastructure minister. She did not even ask for the money—clueless! The only time the Minister for Infrastructure pays attention to the portfolio is to axe another project. When the minister says they are doing good work in starting projects, it is projects that the LNP government, and particularly the member for Callide, commenced.

(Time expired)

Eventide

 **Mr HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (12.38 pm): Last Wednesday saw something that my local community has been waiting to experience for almost three years: our state's health minister visiting the historic Eventide residential aged-care facility at Brighton and actively seeking to engage with those people who had been bypassed and ignored by the former minister and the Newman government. On behalf of those people, I thank the Minister for Health, the Hon. Cameron Dick, not only for visiting the Brighton Health Campus but also for meeting with many passionately interested stakeholders who had been blocked and locked out from engaging on Eventide's future.

Stakeholders involved in the meeting included residents themselves, their family members, the families of former residents, current and former volunteers, current and former staff and representatives of their unions—the Queensland Nurses Union and the Australian Workers Union. It was great to see the Queensland state secretary for the AWU, Ben Swan, attend. Both Wayne Swan, the federal member for Lilley, and Councillor Victoria Newton, Brisbane's Deagon ward councillor, have lent tremendous support to the community through working with the Save Eventide campaign. While Mr Swan was not able to be there in person on that occasion, his commitment was acknowledged by many present. It was also good to have the most senior representatives of the Metro North Hospital and Health Service attend the meeting to hear from the stakeholders face to face. The chair of the metro north board, Dr Paul Alexander, and the acting chief executive, Mr Terry Mehan, attended not only to proudly show the minister and I the great work being done in transition, care and rehabilitation in Dolphin House and other parts of the campus but also to listen and respond to the concerns of those at the meeting.

The meeting was the first step in honouring Labor's commitment to delivering long-term residential care at Brighton in a manner that responds to the future and not one that harks to a lost past. It is impossible for us to recreate those things that have been broken, but it is important that we value the traditions of the past and make sure that we see a bright future for current residents and those who might need residential care in the future. The minister's meeting reiterated that Labor is committed to engaging with and working alongside Eventide residents, their families, staff, volunteers and the neighbouring community to determine not only the details of future residential care but also the shape of the whole site into the future. I emphasise the importance of community consultation to enable the facilities to move forward. I believe that we must take this opportunity to look forward and develop a shared vision for the site and its role in providing for the needs of our community, especially our elderly.

At the meeting, stakeholders raised many concerns and it was clear that there are many issues to be grappled with as we go forward. I do not have time to raise them all, but I will acknowledge one. One of the attendees at the meeting, Ms Holly Holden, a representative of the Save Eventide family group, voiced support for changing the facility's official name back to Eventide, which would acknowledge that this is not merely a symbolic gesture. It is clear that, to many of the stakeholders, the name Eventide holds a special significance to the community and represents the care delivered to

all residents. I must say, it did seem like the previous government's attempt to obliterate that name was about trying to obliterate an issue that was of concern to it. Holly and other stakeholders appreciated the minister's statement at the meeting that he had an open mind on the mix of services to be provided there, but that any solution would need to consider the best use of limited financial resources. Since last Wednesday, many of the people who had the opportunity to be part of the meeting have continued to express their appreciation that the minister and the metro north leaders attended and listened to them.

I am passionate about the tremendous services provided for the community at this beautiful and restorative location by the sea at Brighton. I am confident that with the support of the Minister for Health and in concert with the Metro North Hospital and Health Service, we can all work together not only to develop a vision for the future but also to give reassurance of practical delivery for our most vulnerable elderly.

(Time expired)

Western Queensland, Drought

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (12.44 pm): I wish to draw the attention of the House to the terrible conditions affecting my constituents in western Gregory due to the worsening impact of drought. With the failure of another wet season, there is widespread agreement that this drought is at historic proportions. When we speak of a category 5 cyclone, we all agree that we are speaking about a public crisis. Unfortunately, droughts are not rated for length or severity. Currently, nearly 80 per cent of Queensland is in drought. Drought is a creeping phenomenon and this drought started in the west. I am sure that my colleagues the member for Mount Isa and definitely the member for Warrego would agree with me when I say that what the far-west is suffering right now is at the top of the scale. Across the west, primary producers have not had an income for years. The Longreach saleyards have cancelled all future sales until further notice, so members will understand that the landscape is now essentially destocked. Those fortunate enough to have retained a small herd of breeders are relying on donated hay bales or the stock routes in eastern Queensland to keep those herds alive. Those small herds and flocks are a tenuous promise to our children that there will be a future, if the drought breaks.

The scale of this drought is such that it is wreaking destruction well beyond the farm gates. Social and economic calamity threatens the very survival of historic towns and settlements across the west. In Gregory, I worry about our major centres such as Longreach, Blackall, Tambo and Barcaldine and cannot forget our beautiful small communities such as Ilfracombe, Aramac, Muttaborra, Isisford, Yaraka, Stonehenge, Jundah, Windorah and Quilpie. Can members imagine a life without a supermarket, a butcher, a pharmacy, a baker or a mechanic? Currently, cash is urgently needed to keep the economies of those towns alive and viable, so that there will still be a base on which to rebuild once the drought breaks. Each job lost is a body blow as families leave, threatening schools and other services.

I have been urging the Queensland government to consider every avenue that it can use to prime our economic viability in those towns. For instance, the Barcoo Shire is pleading for road funding to keep its road gangs employed, as is the Barcaldine Shire and the Longreach Shire. If the local shire councils can continue to employ road gangs, we can keep families in the communities. With no Queensland government appeal, good and well respected locals have set up the Western Queensland Drought Appeal so that the public can donate cash with confidence to help defend those communities. I encourage all members to find that appeal on Facebook and to spread awareness of it amongst their communities.

Suicide stalks every western community as the drought grinds lives and dreams to dust. Community life is normally a defence, a safety value. It is where people can give each other support and comfort; it provides a place where people can gather and look out for their mates. Sport plays a central role in that, yet even that release is disappearing as playing fields are too dry to use. In Ilfracombe, the Scorpions Rugby League Club is the focus of wider community life, catering for special events and sharing its ovals with other sporting groups. This year, the club was eagerly anticipating hosting the under 12s Rugby League carnival, which would have been a major event bringing cash into the town. Instead, the club has not even been able to host any home games. Any team fielded will have to travel away for every match they play, so there is added expense without the economic input a canteen brings to the town. I know other Rugby League teams are spreading the word within the league community to try to help. I truly thank the Queensland Rugby League for what it is doing. However, not only is sport disappearing; right across western Gregory, parents—both

bushies and townies—are having to withdraw their children from their community’s cultural life because they can no longer afford to subscribe to extracurricular activities such as dance classes, netball and tennis. As country show season arrives, this year the Longreach Show Society is 70 per cent down on sponsorship.

I also call on the state government to launch an outback tourism campaign, which is something that the shadow minister for tourism and former minister for tourism spoke about a couple of weeks ago. That will get people, from not only South-East Queensland but also right across Australia and overseas, to come into those communities and spend new money. They will spend cash in the towns to keep them alive. Tourism is our third commodity: we have wool, we have beef and we have tourism. I acknowledge the visits by the Premier and the Minister for Agriculture, and I also acknowledge the efforts of Deb Frecklington, our shadow minister for agriculture. She has been on a nonstop drought tour since gaining that role. I thank her and Lawrence Springborg for coming and sharing this with me and for their understanding. I thank the House for listening.

Multiculturalism

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12.48 pm): Queensland is a multicultural success story, with over 220 different cultures thriving in our communities. One of the greatest strengths of my electorate of Waterford is its multiculturalism. It is a community of diverse and rich cultures. It is a place where traditional owners and Australia’s most recent immigrants make their mark. It is the generous spirit of the people of Waterford and their generosity in welcoming new residents that makes it the wonderful place that it is.

Our government will ensure that it is responsive to the growing diversity of places like Waterford. We want Queensland to be a place where people can thrive and where there is a strong sense of belonging for people of all cultural backgrounds. I am pleased to advise that funding has been approved to continue and expand the very successful Community Action for a Multicultural Society program—simply known as CAMS.

My electorate and region will benefit from the on-the-ground, dedicated CAMS workers in our community to promote harmony, diversity and inclusion working with great organisations like Access Community Services Ltd based in Woodridge and MultiLink Community Services based in Logan Central. Many local Waterford residents will benefit from these organisations having additional funding and support.

I want to take this opportunity to praise the work of two hardworking local women from my electorate—Gail Kerr from Access and Helen Coyne from MultiLink—who do so much work in the Logan community to promote multiculturalism. Our government believes Queenslanders from all backgrounds should have the opportunity to participate and contribute to our economic, social and cultural life.

That is why there will also be a new statewide CAMS worker dedicated to focus on issues and the unique challenges that face Muslim women across Queensland. Recently I met with the Islamic Women’s Association of Queensland which delivers an array of supports and services in the broader Logan region and across the state to their communities and the families they lead.

Muslim women front particular challenges because they are often the visible face of their faith. When I met with Muslim women in Logan they told me that they had experienced increased levels of verbal abuse and violence and have told me that many of them are living in fear—some even too scared to walk down the street.

Women in these communities are central links to their family and to other families and play a critical role in the wellbeing of families and social connections. Our new CAMS worker will clearly work closely with the Islamic Women’s Association of Queensland.

The CAMS program is held in high regard by our multicultural communities. It is valued for the way in which it builds connected communities, removes barriers to participation and makes a positive difference to people’s lives. After meeting with a number of individuals and organisations that service our state’s culturally and linguistically diverse communities, they told me they were concerned about the Newman government’s intention to discontinue the CAMS program in June this year. Our government is continuing and expanding the program. This initiative puts into practice our commitment to promoting and strengthening multiculturalism, with a total funding commitment of over \$6.3 million over three years.

I am keen to build stronger ties with Waterford's multicultural groups and adopt their ideas on how to make Queensland even more inclusive. It is an important body of work and is on top of other initiatives such as the allocation of over \$670,000 in funding for 101 diverse cultural events and multicultural festivals in 2015. Many of those are held in the Logan community. This funding helps promote the understanding of Queensland's multiculturalism and helps celebrate our diversity.

There are also nine economic participation projects across the state that have been approved to foster economic independence for migrant and refugee jobseekers. One of those projects will again benefit the Logan community and my electorate of Waterford—the Titans 4 Tomorrow Pasifika Youth Pathways project. We in the Palaszczuk government recognise the intangible worth of investing in multiculturalism. As the minister responsible for the Logan: City of Choice initiative I can say that we are focusing on multicultural cohesion as the drive for social economic development in our community.

Gold Coast Airport, Instrument Landing System

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.54 pm): I rise to alert Gold Coast residents to the real facts in relation to the instrument landing system, the ILS, proposed by Gold Coast Airport Pty Ltd, a privately listed company, seeking to maximise its profits by installing an outdated technology landing system that will impose a permanent, regular flight path over Gold Coast houses where none currently exists. The Gold Coast Airport has purported to sell this highly intrusive flight plan as being necessary to avoid flight cancellations and aircraft diversions when I suspect the real reason is to expand their market share capacity to Asian airlines that only have and only wish to use the outdated technology of ILS capacity in their aircraft. We support and encourage the Gold Coast Airport's efforts to bring more Asian airline passengers to the Gold Coast, but not at the cost of destroying the peace and tranquillity of residential areas by burdening them with aircraft noise where none previously existed.

There is a more modern satellite technology available now called RNP, required navigational performance, procedures which will maintain the current flight paths over the ocean. Most of the domestic carriers, which account for 80 per cent of flights into the Gold Coast, are equipped with this more modern technology and are using it now. As well as this crucial statistic, only two-thirds of all aircraft landing at Gold Coast Airport occur on north-south runway 14, which is the only runway proposed for the outdated ILS system. The other one-third land on south-north runway 32. Without an ILS on that runway there will still be the occasional diversion and cancellation.

Why anyone would jeopardise the serene tranquillity of Gold Coast suburbs with aircraft noise in the 21st century when technology is improving daily is beyond comprehension. Jetstar were approved for RNP landings in November 2014 and Virgin were approved in January 2015. So we will see a lessening of diversions and cancellations with these domestic fliers using the RNP technology.

Make no mistake, once a flight path has been approved over residential suburbs, such as Broadbeach Waters, Mermaid Beach and Nobby Beach, it is nigh on impossible to remove that flight path when the noise eventually becomes unbearable. This is guaranteed to occur with aircraft landings expected to double at the Gold Coast Airport from the current 35,000 per annum over the next 15 years. To put that into perspective, just 15 years ago Sydney held the Olympic Games. That is still fresh in our minds. So it is not too far away at all.

I am highlighting this flawed proposal now so that future residents will not be able to point the finger and say, 'We did not know. We were not warned.' It is imperative that residents shout from the rooftops—a cynic might also say shout now while they can still be heard—that they do not want this unnecessary noise burden placed over their homes. Submissions on this ILS proposal close on 13 July. Unless the community activates itself during this important community consultation period, the very real fear is that this new 18-kilometre flight path over suburban Gold Coast homes will become a reality. The federal member for Moncrieff, Mr Steve Ciobo, has joined with me in opposing this misguided attempt at technological subterfuge as has the local councillor, Councillor Paul Taylor, on behalf of his residents of the Gold Coast City Council.

The ILS is an outdated technological answer to a problem that has been largely solved by the recent introduction of the RNP assisted landing satellite technology. To inflict a flight path over a residential community that is not needed or warranted is a great abrogation of this major Gold Coast corporate citizen's corporate responsibility to the Gold Coast community.

The short-term gain of more Asian ILS equipped airlines boosting airport visitor numbers and airport bottom line financial returns should not come at the expense of people's healthy living and an aircraft noise free environment. I have not even mentioned the potential financial loss on most people's major financial investment—their home—when it becomes known their home is under a new flight path. I am calling on the Gold Coast Airport to immediately withdraw its irresponsible proposal for yesterday's technology and concentrate on wooing more passengers under the RNP system.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.30 pm.

Central Queensland University, Townsville Campus

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.30 pm): I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House of a recent event in the Townsville electorate that I attended along with the member for Thuringowa and the member for Burdekin. On 28 April I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the Central Queensland University's Townsville campus, which is located in the Townsville CBD. While the campus is somewhat of a symbol of infrastructure and development in the city, the campus is more importantly a symbol of evolution in the north.

Vice-Chancellor Scott Bowman officially opened the \$3 million campus, which was the vision of Mayor Jenny Hill and businessman Peter Honeycombe, who not only saw the need for a second competing interest in tertiary education in the city but also saw more the ideal of creating opportunities for greater progress and development in the north. The university has positioned itself in Townsville as it sees the potential that the northern region of Queensland has and foresaw the need for some specific courses that are not available to students currently living in Townsville.

The campus will support more than 600 current distance education students and will allow growth in face-to-face programs including paramedic science, nursing, law, education and psychology. The Townsville campus includes large teaching spaces for class and residential schools, computer and videoconferencing labs, a paramedic science lab, a library, staff offices, study spaces and a reception area. Not only will the campus support face-to-face learning, but students can also access a range of extended services including careers advice, counselling and scholarship support.

More importantly, the CQU Townsville campus will create opportunities for students living in rural and remote areas in North Queensland to access university courses. With the potential to develop partnerships with a range of industries including defence, health and education, CQU are interested in creating opportunities to extend the learning and skill development for people of the north.

Knowledge is the new commodity and Australia is abundant with this resource and, by tapping into the NBN infrastructure, learning will become more accessible through a range of modes. More importantly, CQU understand the importance of Townsville as a strategic hub not only for North Queensland but also for Northern Australia. Its geographic location, climate and supporting infrastructure provides the ideal location as a northern staging point for future trade and development.

Recent predictions of the world's population indicates that by 2050 more than half of the world's population will be situated in the tropical zone located between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Tropic of Cancer. This will mean that in excess of five billion people could be living in the tropical band around the world. This will present the world with some significant challenges including issues such as adequate shelter, food supply, health services and education delivery, just to name a few. As a state we need to think and plan for our role in being able to support the world's population living in such a small and confined area in only 35 years time.

As a state we need to think about and strategically align ourselves as a primary producer, enabling us to be a viable and sustainable food supplier. Our cattle industry is on the cusp of rapid expansion as the Asian markets are showing increased interest in the quality of our beef. The recent increases of live exports through the Townsville port show that we are able to supply the world's dining tables with high quality beef exported from the north. It is the same Port of Townsville that is going gangbusters and exporting live exports to neighbouring Asian countries that the former LNP government wanted to sell to the highest bidder.

Similarly, we need to continue to develop world-class healthcare practices that will meet the needs of our own communities and those of our neighbours. JCU, and now CQU, are providing for the future with highly trained and skilled healthcare workers that will meet the needs of our growing population.

The Townsville General Hospital currently provides service to over 600,000 people living in Northern Australia and close countries including Papua New Guinea and the islands of the South Pacific. It is imperative that we continue to be at the forefront of healthcare services for the people of North Queensland. By having CQU establish a campus in Townsville, it encourages our school leavers to study in the city in which they live and thereby they are more likely to transition to work in that same city. More importantly, it provides confidence in the wider community so that investment and development will help reignite the economy that has been left floundering over the last three years. We welcome CQU to Townsville knowing that it will not only serve our city but empower future generations to meet the challenges of living in a world that is ever changing and ever challenging.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Further Answer to Question; Renewable Energy

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (2.36 pm): During question time I said to the House that I would table a letter from the Integrity Commissioner, and I do so now.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 16 March 2015, from the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Mr Richard Bingham, to the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding advice on possible conflicts of interest [\[356\]](#).

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 27 March (see p. 266).

 **Mr PEARCE** (Mirani—ALP) (2.36 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker Grace, first of all, I congratulate you on your appointment as Deputy Speaker and I ask you, if you would not mind, to pass on to the Speaker my congratulations on his appointment as the Speaker of the House. I have known Mr Wellington, the Speaker, since he first came into this place in 1998 and I see him as a man of integrity, as do many Queenslanders. He is certainly a straight shooter; we know that. He is a down-to-earth person. I am strongly of the opinion, along with other people in Queensland, that he is the right person for the job.

The resources sector is a key contributor to jobs and to improving standards of living and prosperity across the state, especially in regional Queensland. At the opening of parliament His Excellency spoke about job creation and the direction that the Labor government intended to take in creating job opportunities for youth and also for those people who have lost their jobs in recent years. I know about this personally, because in the lead-up to the election I ran a campaign on a commitment to creating job opportunities in an area where many, many jobs were lost—around 10,000—in the coal industry which has had a flow-on effect to people in the communities of Rockhampton and Mackay. I certainly recognise, just as the Labor government has done, that when new mines are opened or existing mines expand mining jobs are created across the community. People say four to one or five to one jobs are created outside the lease where the coal is being mined.

They are well-paid jobs. They are essential to the economic stability of our resource communities—regional cities like Mackay and Rockhampton—and for a stable revenue take of the state itself. We must work hard as a government and as a community to create jobs, because if we do not start creating jobs we will have significant problems going into the future. I am very confident that the Premier has grabbed the reins and is heading in the right direction when it comes to jobs creation.

Secure jobs, well-paid jobs, create other jobs through a cash flow into resource towns—regional centres like Mackay and Rockhampton—where spending of wages increases that cash flow into small business and services. People do not talk about the cash flow very often, but it is the maker of jobs and sustainability of small business. When jobs are available or become available for youth and women in small business, hospitality and a wide range of other opportunities, I want to be out there saying that I have played a role in getting those things happening in Central Queensland.

As a local member I have argued that government must be on the front foot and be strong when dealing with mining companies, ensuring that regional communities are closely aligned with the revenue-producing mining and resource sector and are returned a fairer share of the revenue itself. To get those communities going again like they were in the past, they must be allowed to flourish and grow with industry. That has not happened in recent years and, unfortunately, we have a very sad, serious situation in those coalmining communities.

From my experience with coal companies I know there are thousands of high-skilled mineworkers looking for a job who are at their best when left alone to do their jobs. Having been a mineworker in the past, I know that if management left us alone we would perform a lot better than if they were standing there looking over our shoulders. It has been highlighted in recent years how inexperienced, ego driven management has been responsible for stupid decision-making which has cost the companies millions and millions of dollars. Unfortunately, when those sorts of things happen it is usually the workers at the coalface who get the blame.

In the run-up to the 2015 election the LNP promised there would be no surprise industry decisions made under its government, but it would expect that mining companies respect high social and environmental standards across the industry. Being a person whose heart is with the industry, with people on the land, with people in regional Queensland, I get quite emotional when talking about those people who choose to live and work on the land, those people who choose to live and work in the coal industry, because they are the good people of Queensland. People on the land are decent, respectable and good people. They do their type of work simply because that is in their blood. It is there and they know what is required. Having lived on the land in north-west New South Wales before coming to Queensland, I certainly have a good understanding of the decency among people not only in the rural sector but also in coalmining communities across Central Queensland.

Unfortunately, the LNP found that the best way to manage the mining sector was to allow the mining companies to take control. I expected a lot more from an LNP government in the way it dealt with mining companies, but unfortunately mining companies have been allowed to take control and have become really difficult to work with. I have always believed that the role of Coordinator-General was to be the conscience of the people. I have real concerns about that position and hope that into the future we can improve what has been happening with that position and what has been coming out and going back to the industry. I have always believed that the role of the Coordinator-General is to make project decisions that maximise coal recovery for the project developers. They put a lot of money into it, and they deserve the right to get the best out of it profit wise and for their shareholders, but at the same time we should be maximising the benefits and returns to the people of Queensland—the people who own the resources. Too often that is forgotten. We, the people of Queensland, own the resources. It should be a privilege for the mining companies to come into such a great company and mine our resources.

I have always thought that the Coordinator-General was a man of integrity. I believe strongly that he is the conscience of the people. He makes decisions which are in the best interest of the community and the people of Queensland. I want the best outcomes for everybody because we should not expect our children or our grandchildren to fix up mistakes made by us in this place and the people we direct. We have holes in the ground all over Queensland and I certainly do not want to see that grow anymore. If you are really interested in rehabilitation and what happens in the coalfields, I will tell you now: it is a bloody disgrace. Probably only 20 per cent of all the land that has been disturbed in Queensland has been rehabilitated. That has been increasing significantly every year while the companies have been allowing that to drag behind. That has to stop because too many of them will walk off their sites, leave their small bonds behind and allow the next person to come along and accept those bonds. It happened at the Blair Athol mine at Glenden just recently where there was \$83 million in the bank. Rio Tinto sold the mine for \$1 and was prepared to let the \$83 million go.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! Member for Mirani, there was an incident where you used unparliamentary language and I ask that you withdraw.

Mr PEARCE: Sorry, I get a bit carried away. I withdraw, Madam Deputy Speaker. Government, therefore, must be on the backs of mining companies to ensure they provide real protection for the environment, they provide real jobs and they persist with the requirement to restore the resource sector community licence to operate. I think we could ask a lot of these people within the companies at the moment what that licence is to operate and they would not have a clue. Unfortunately, that is the way it is and that is how it has changed. I am concerned that at this time in the history of coalmining in Queensland I am unable with confidence to point to any mining company that deserves the right to mine. It is a shambles at the moment. They need to be pulled back into line and only the government can do that. The big multinationals—BHP, Rio Tinto, Anglo Coal and Glencore—can only blame themselves for the lack of confidence that the community has in their performance. They have taken on communities, they have taken on workers, and it is to their detriment if they are looking for respect from the people who work in the industry who choose to live in those parts of Queensland.

I think it is the role of government and the public to jump on these mining companies and make them do the right thing not only by Queenslanders, but also by all Australians. I know the coal industry well. Over the years that I was here—I had a little holiday but now I am back. I know the coal industry well and people know that. I am back. I know the Queensland coal industry workforce have the expertise and the knowledge to keep the future correctly balanced economically and environmentally for Queenslanders. The only people who just do not get it are those people who sit around the boardroom table of the multinationals and those who stand at some level on the pathway to success at a mine site. They are the ones who just do not get it. They treat the workforce with a lack of respect. There is a lot of abuse occurring. There is a lot of heartache with people losing their jobs. We have safety issues in the mining industry simply because the workers do not have the courage to step forward and lodge a concern or identify a risk. That is not right. They should be able to step forward and identify these risks and know that the company is backing them. However, if they do it with the culture in existence in the industry at the moment, they will then have a big target on their back. It is a massive target such that every manager has them in their sights and is looking for some way to get the worker to move on. Workers can also be targeted when they have the courage and the intestinal fortitude to stand up and take on a role of looking after their comrades, that is, a union representative. That is a role that is important to the welfare of a workforce. If people are going to face being targeted by the company, that is just not acceptable. We have to do something about that.

I have always had a lot of time for the role that mining companies play. I believe that they can do it better. The workers and the workers' representative can certainly do it better. I know from talking to their representative in recent times that there is a strong feeling that we need to work with the employers and get this industry back on track. It is just not good enough to have mining companies targeting workers, abusing workers, intimidating workers or trying to get them off the mine site, because that has other consequences. This is what people do not understand. This is what really gets to me because I have been there and I understand. At the moment I am talking with and trying to help three workers who are in serious depression. Their wives or partners have told me quite bluntly that they are concerned about their future. If it gets to that extent at a workplace, there is something wrong. It is about time that the bosses had a good look at this. If I am ever in a position where somebody takes their life as a result of what has happened to them at a mine and I know about it personally, I will encourage the family of that person to take legal action against the company. In speaking about it here today and in writing about it in Central Queensland newspapers, I have performed my duty of care. I have highlighted an issue and it is up to the companies to take action to protect their workers.

There are serious situations where, as I said before, people are targeted simply because they have made an unintended mistake such as allowing a vehicle to roll past the line on the ground for a stop sign. Nobody does that intentionally. The vehicle stopped, but it may have rolled over the line. That particular mineworker got dragged in and was told he was on limited time. It only took a few weeks before they went through the disputes procedure and targeted him and really asked that he be moved on. Sometimes people deserve to be moved on; I do not have a problem with that. However, what is annoying in Central Queensland, what is wrong in Central Queensland at the moment, is that we have permanent workers who live in the towns with their wives or their partners and their families. As soon as they lose their job or as soon as the company has achieved their goal, they drive out the gate and they are almost knocked over by a motor vehicle coming the other way with a labour hire company person who goes in to do their job. What we have been hearing lately is that the labour hire company employee will be getting \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year less than the permanent employee and they get no long service leave or sick leave. If we have a heavy downfall of rain overnight, the boss can tell them to go home. That is no way for people to live. Those workers have got families and mortgages like everybody else. Having no job certainty is the worst way for a person to have to live. Recently that had an impact on a mineworker whom I did not know personally except to say that I had probably seen him around. He was put through the mill by the company. He was forced to take his long service leave and his sick leave. Then when that was exhausted he got the sack and it was just too much. He went down to the back shed and we have a terrible situation now where his family will suffer for the rest of their lives.

I can see that time still gets away from me at the same pace. Again, I want to say thank you to my supporters in Central Queensland for the opportunity and for bringing me back to this place. I am very proud of one thing—and I hope that everybody in this place hears this: this is the first time the Mirani electorate has been in Labor hands since 1947. The people finally got the message that they need a Labor member in here supporting them and doing what they need him to do.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.56 pm): I rise to participate in the address-in-reply debate for the 55th Parliament. The first thing I want to do is thank the people of Everton for re-electing me as their local state member. Unfortunately, many of my colleagues who represented electorates bordering my own were not re-elected. I do want to thank the former members for Ferny Grove, Pine Rivers and Ashgrove for the teamwork that we exercised over the last three years and the incredible hard work that they put into their electorates. They are all quality men. I want to put on the record my appreciation of their efforts.

I thoroughly enjoyed my first term as the member for Everton. Having lived in the district all of my life, I think getting to know the residents even better has been a thoroughly rewarding experience. It has been particularly encouraging to see at close hand those individuals and organisations that give tirelessly to their communities. It is interesting that someone can live in a community all their life but it is not until they are in a position such as being a local member of parliament that they can really appreciate the hard work of the school P&Cs, the sporting clubs, the service organisations, the scout and girl guide groups, the local churches—all those people who volunteer and give their time to make our district a better place to live. It has been great getting to know them better. It is their aim and my aim to make the district of Everton the most liveable area in Queensland, and I think we are doing that fairly well.

When I reflect on my achievements in the electorate over the last three years, I feel a great deal of satisfaction. Looking at the schools in my area, we have had some wonderful achievements over the last three years. I think of my biggest secondary school, the Albany Creek State High School, and the fact that we now have a performing arts complex there, a \$7.5 million investment. This is something for which the school had been campaigning for many, many years and it is a school which has a proud record in the arts. I was delighted to be able to announce, through the former minister for education, John-Paul Langbroek, that funding. Now we have this wonderful facility, a facility that is used not only by the school, but also by the community. It is one that I am very proud to be associated with.

The other secondary high school that I have in my electorate is the Everton Park State High School.

Mr Elmes: A great school!

Mr MANDER: That is exactly right, it is a great school. The member for Noosa and Geoffrey Rush are 'old boys' from Everton Park State High School. By the way, member for Noosa, I think you are a better actor than Geoffrey Rush.

Everton Park State High School, as you may or may not be aware, was one of the schools that was, quite rightly, looked at for closure because it was under-utilised. A local campaign was begun to justify its ongoing existence, and I played a key role in helping them put a strategy together—not to simply kick up a storm and scream about it—to address the issues that had been identified by the department. It was a great day when we announced that Everton Park State High School's future is assured, and I am still working with the school to see how we can fund its refurbishment. Part of the compromise that the community agreed to was to annex a slice of the school and to sell off an unused area, hopefully to a community organisation, and then use the proceeds of that sale for the long-overdue refurbishment of the school, and I will continue to fight for that.

In my electorate there was \$1.1 million given to schools under the Great Results Guarantee funding, as I mentioned in the last sitting of parliament. This was a fantastic initiative of the previous minister where funding was given directly to school principals under the proviso that they met minimal levels for numeracy and literacy, and they have embraced that with great glee. There was \$610,000 that was allocated for the school maintenance backlog in my electorate, which was part of the \$300 million that we devoted to that particular task. Eight schools in my electorate had flashing crossing lights installed and 40-kilometre-per-hour school zones, which has provided a safer environment for our kids as they go to school. That was a wonderful initiative that we rolled out right across the state. I am very lucky to have the Bunyaville Conservation Park in my electorate. We invested a further \$500,000 in the Bunyaville education centre, which means that kids from all over Brisbane—particularly the north side—can visit that education centre to learn more about the environment and the bush.

In the transport and main roads area, Old Northern Road—one of those major thoroughfares from the north into the city—is still in the process of being resealed. That road was littered with potholes, and it has been great to see that resealing being completed. We are also in the process of installing noise barriers along a section of that road where for years residents have had to put up with

the increased traffic noise that has been generated. We are in the process of delivering that right at this moment. In the transport area, trains are now running every 15 minutes on the Ferny Grove line. That has been very popular, and now it is great because you do not need timetables. If you just turn up at a local station, whether it is Grovely or Oxford Park or Mitchelton, you know that a train is going to come within the next 15 minutes. That has been very well received as well.

Another good thing that happened in this area was the rebuilding of a pedestrian bridge across one of the local creeks in my area, Kedron Brook. That bridge was destroyed year after year, flood after flood. In the past it was repaired and, of course, destroyed again at the next flood event. Along with the Moreton Bay Regional Council we invested some money there, and we now have a wonderful pedestrian bridge which has survived a couple of flood events since it has been erected.

My electorate also benefitted from the reduction in public transport fees—probably for the first time ever—which occurred at the beginning of this year, and that has been well received by working families. We were able to deliver some wonderful initiatives in my community, even if I do say so myself. I am very proud of the Youngcare development that hopefully will be underway in my electorate at Albany Creek. It was committed to and we are still waiting to see the first sod turned.

Mrs O'Rourke interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the minister. If you do not deliver on this one, remember the old adage 'hell will have no fury.' The Youngcare facility will be on a beautiful block on a main road—just the perfect position for these people who need 24-hour care. I will make sure that we keep the minister accountable for that particular development. Another development in my area is called the Nest. The Nest is what I am calling the female version of the Men's Shed. This facility is for women of all ages to come together and create networks with an emphasis on domestic violence and to let people know that there is a safe place they can go. I managed to secure at least 12 months funding for a beautiful old heritage home on South Pine Road. The funding for that has just been delivered in the last couple of weeks, and I am hoping that this might be a prototype that we can roll out across the state so that women have a place where they can feel safe and supported by other women.

In the Mitchelton area we have entered into a partnership—with the help of the former minister for communities, the member for Aspley—to provide a facility for people with mental health issues. That is currently under construction, and I am very proud to have that in my electorate as well. Through my position as the minister for housing and public works, I was able to give a grant of \$100,000 to the North West Youth Accommodation Service to try and prevent young people from becoming homeless in the first place. They are about halfway through that funding, and that was very well received.

My electorate was also a recipient of the Get in the Game funding which took place right across the state. That was a wonderful initiative by the former minister. It is incredibly important that we get our kids active and healthy. I forget the statistics, but I think it was something like 28 per cent of kids—

Mr Dickson: It was 38 per cent.

Mr MANDER: Thank you to the member for Buderim for that interjection. Thirty-eight per cent of the kids who took advantage of this funding were involved with organised sport for the first time, which is absolutely fantastic; \$600,000 went to sporting clubs in my electorate, and hundreds of kids took advantage of those \$150 vouchers.

There is still more work to be done in my electorate. One of the really important things is the intersection at South Pine Road and Stafford Road where my great big billboard is. Whenever you go past there you will see me looking over that intersection with a bit of a smile. A Woolworths and Masters development will be opening up there in the next couple of weeks, and the intersection is a bottleneck that really needs to be totally overhauled. I will continue to fight for upgrade funding for that intersection so that traffic can flow along there far better than it does at the moment.

I want to thank the staff who have served me incredibly loyally over the last three years. To my electorate staff Maddi, April and Peter—April is still with me—I really appreciate the service that they give to the community; to my ministerial staff Matt Tapsall, Matt Hulett, Marty Kennedy, Liam Mooreshead, Anna Radich, Jordan Kitts, Sarah Feeney and Sandy Landers, I thank them for their unbelievable service; to my former staff Lisa Palu, Taryn Davey and Nathan Tunney, who are all incredibly efficient, I will always be grateful for the support that they gave me.

I want to acknowledge the volunteers in my electorate who helped me in my re-election campaign. I mention Matt and Katy Constance and their kids, Tiana and Tyler. I mention Bruce Hooker, who prided himself on being at his spot at four in the morning every Saturday and then texting me at the time to tell me that he was there. Thanks for that, Bruce. I really appreciated that. Of course, I have already mentioned the great work Sandy Landers did as a volunteer to head up my re-election campaign. I thank all of the volunteers who were involved with letterbox dropping, roadsides, polling booths, sign sites and donors. I appreciate your support.

Of course, I thank my family. I thank my four children, who have been roped into this lifestyle: Danielle, Claudette, Zachary and Miriam. My daughter-in-law, Sarah, and my son-in-law, Mark, have also been roped in. Thanks for your support and hard work. Of course, last but not least I thank my darling wife, Gayle, to whom I have been married for 32 years, for her ongoing and undying support.

I was very honoured in the last parliament to be the minister for housing and public works. I am very proud of what we achieved. I mentioned some of this in the last sitting of parliament but I want to mention some of those things again. I mention the outsourcing of the management of public housing to the community housing sector, a sector that we believe is better positioned to take on that task as it is far more holistic. I look forward to seeing that continued rollout of the outsourcing of the management of public housing. I am very proud of the reduction in the public housing waiting list—a nearly 50 per cent reduction. I hope that record remains and we can see further reductions.

I am very proud to have brought in fair and equitable rental rates in the public housing sector. Previously, some people were paying only eight per cent of their income towards rent which I think was totally unfair. I am very proud of the fact that we have tried to make it fairer again for those who are trying to get into public housing by bringing in a fair-leave policy so that we do not have public housing properties vacant for months and months on end. Again, I think that is only fair. The other thing I am particularly proud about in public housing is that we wanted to make sure that people in public housing appreciate the fact that it is a privilege and they need to respect their neighbours and their property and if they do not then they need to wear the consequences of that. Our three-strikes policy has been very well received right across the state.

In this new parliament I do have the honour of being the shadow minister for education and training. My aim here is to ensure the maintenance of the legacy of our previous government and some of those policies which I have already mentioned: Great Teachers = Great Results, the Great Results Guarantee and independent public schools. I have four independent public schools in my electorate; there are 120 in the state. With the help of the federal government—hopefully the minister will accept that funding—that will go out to 250 schools. The schools have really embraced the independence and autonomy they have. I know that the school communities have as well. I think that is something that we need to make sure continues into the future.

I also want to make sure the minister in this area does some forward planning. One of the great things our government did was look not just three, four or five years ahead but 10, 20 and 30 years ahead. The Queensland Schools Planning Commission that Mr Langbroek put together when he was the minister looked at the future and looked at where we needed to put schools in future growth areas. I will be calling on the minister to make sure we do have that forward planning and that we do have the appropriate funding, to make sure that our schoolchildren right across the state have the very best facilities and have a school in their area and do not have to travel too far to receive education. Some good things have happened in that area.

Again, we are waiting for the minister to move on some of the policies of the previous government. I mention the sale of Fortitude Valley school. There is \$50 million waiting to be used on future investment in school infrastructure. That school is just sitting there at the moment doing nothing. I hope that some decision would be made about that in the very near future.

Training is also included in this portfolio space. I am very concerned about some of the things I have heard already about this area. The other day I attended a private RTO conference at which the minister spoke. She talked about the fact that the Queensland Training Assets Management Authority would be reversed. That is quite unbelievable. The cost to reverse this will be incredible. It made sense to us to make sure that those who have expertise in delivering education—that is, the TAFE system and the private RTOs—go about doing that job while those who have expertise in using the assets more wisely than they are being used at the moment should be delivering that. That is what would have happened under our government. Now it sounds like all the assets are going back to the education department. Really, their expertise is not in looking after assets but in delivering education.

We have seen that already, with TAFE colleges across the state being used only 40 per cent of the time. We see waste in the use of assets. Only members on this side of the parliament understand the ramifications of things like that, to make sure we get the best use of our assets.

In closing, it is quite obvious—it has been said by many of my colleagues—that the new government is a government that has stumbled into power. It has absolutely no plan whatsoever. It has no substance and absolutely no idea. It is beholden to the unions. The member for Mirani just proved that particular point.

Mr Bleijie: They are the unions.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection. They are beholden to the unions. We have already seen how that will affect business confidence. We will see that they will not be able to help themselves: they will continue to bring about upheaval and we will continue to see an erosion of confidence. Unfortunately, our state will be the worse for it.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Keppel, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mrs LAUGA (Keppel—ALP) (3.16 pm):** I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the Turrbal people, and pay respects to their elders both past and present and to the future elders—a group we do not often mention but one of great importance. Of course, I would like to extend that respect to the Aboriginal people present today. I would also like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land which I represent here in this place, the Darumbal and Woppaburra people, and extend that respect to their elders past, present and future.

Firstly, it is a great honour and a privilege to stand here in this place representing the people of Keppel. Let me place on record my deep gratitude and thanks to the people of Keppel for giving me the opportunity to represent our community. The Keppel electorate, in my opinion, is the most beautiful and diverse part of our world, though perhaps I am somewhat biased.

Just five days after the Queensland Electoral Commission declared the winner of the election in Keppel, Tropical Cyclone Marcia formed. On Friday, 20 February 2015 category 5 Tropical Cyclone Marcia crossed the Central Queensland coast near Shoalwater Bay. The cyclone intensified rapidly into a category 5 cyclone within 48 hours of its formation. After landfall the cyclone went on to affect many communities in the Keppel electorate including Byfield, Yeppoon, Emu Park, Keppel Sands, Cawarral, Woodbury, Mount Chalmers, Stockyard Point, Koongal, Nerimbera, Frenchville, Norman Gardens, Coowonga, Parkhurst, Rockyview, The Caves and Etna Creek.

Over 60,000 homes were left without power in Central Queensland and almost 3,000 people requested assistance from the SES. Significant structural damage occurred, with a number of houses having roofs blown off. I was in constant liaison with the mayor of Livingstone shire, Bill Ludwig, and the deputy mayor, Graham Scott, and Rockhampton Regional Council's mayor, Margaret Strelow, and the deputy mayor, Tony Williams, about how I could help, acting as a conduit between local and state government where they needed me.

It has been over two months now since Marcia hit. I have travelled across the electorate visiting and listening to the people of Keppel. The cyclone blew off roofs and destroyed houses and businesses, but I know from talking to people across the region that one thing is for certain—Marcia did not destroy our fighting Central Queensland spirit. I have listened to some heartbreaking stories and also lots of heartwarming stories of neighbours meeting for the first time, of strangers sharing supplies and leads for generators being thrown over fences so that neighbours could share electricity supply. I reminisce about Cindel, an SES volunteer whom I met one afternoon in the days after the cyclone at the SES headquarters in Yeppoon. Both Cindel and her husband had been working hard volunteering in the recovery and had not seen their young daughter for many days. Cindel's mum was in fact looking after her. Cindel's uniform was dirty and she had not slept properly for days, and when she did it was on the floor of the SES headquarters. She had been doing some really hard yakka helping our community. The next time I saw Cindel was a few days later, but this time she was actually wearing a Queensland police uniform. Cindel explained that she also works as a police officer and in her time off she volunteers with the local SES. I think it is just amazing that this young woman was working so incredibly hard in the recovery as a police officer away from her young family but in her spare time she was also working tirelessly as a volunteer for the SES.

I want to say thank you to everyone who played a role in the recovery after Marcia. In particular I want to thank the Ergon and Energex workers from around the state who worked tirelessly to restore power to our region in record time, and there were over 900 of them who came to our rescue; the doctors, nurses and allied health professionals who worked around the clock in our hospitals and local practices; and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, emergency services workers and the volunteers such as the SES, BlazeAid and the rural fire brigades around the region, many of whom also came from around the state to help. They volunteered to help and also gave up their time away from cleaning up their own homes and helping their own families to assist our community. Thanks also to the mayors and deputy mayors of Rockhampton Regional Council and Livingstone Shire Council and their respective councillors and staff. Thank you also to all of the local people who went out and helped their neighbours, the elderly and the disabled. I have heard stories from right across the region of generosity, caring for each other and lending a hand. Your efforts have been absolutely brilliant. Finally, I want to say thank you to the Palaszczuk government. Premier Palaszczuk, Deputy Premier Trad and many state government ministers visited the region multiple times during the recovery. I thank you and your staff for your assistance and the urgent attention given to matters when I raised them with you.

The Keppel electorate has some of the most amazing natural beauty and it is an honour and a privilege to be here, the youngest member of this Queensland parliament, representing our community. A prime example of its natural beauty is Mount Archer National Park. I love standing on top of Mount Archer and looking out to the picturesque Capricorn Coast on one side and bustling Rockhampton on the other. The amazing Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area and Keppel Bay islands are within the electorate right on our doorstep. We have a spectacular diversity in corals, fish and marine fauna. The snubfin dolphin, for example, which inhabits Keppel Bay, is Australia's only native dolphin and is genetically unique to Central Queensland. Peak Island, just off the coast from Keppel Sands, is the second largest and most important breeding rookery for flatback turtles which migrate from as far as the Torres Strait.

Picture the bluest of blue water you have ever seen and the whitest sandy beaches. Dolphins frolic with their calves in the bay. I have even seen whales. Some of the most resilient coral lives in the bay, and it has to be resilient because it is regularly flushed with fresh water from the mouth of the Fitzroy Delta. Throw in a line just off the coast and experience the pure exhilaration of having a giant Spanish mackerel on the end of your line. The drag on the line goes 'whiz!' and everyone is running mad around the boat in a group effort to help you land that big fish and then there are smiles and high fives all around when you finally get it in the boat. I love zipping up Coorooman Creek, ducking and weaving through its tributaries to plant a few crab pots on high tide. When you go back out at the next high tide the pots are full to the brim with big dark green muddies, ready to share around the family after being whipped into a tasty chilli crab. You should all be very jealous. You are all of course more than welcome to come for a visit. I am lucky because I do not need to go anywhere for a holiday. Just being home in Keppel with our beaches, great beef, delicious food and produce, amazing weather and cruisy lifestyle makes being at home feel like a holiday all of the time.

Great Keppel Island is one of the jewels in the crown of our region and the Southern Great Barrier Reef. We need to be taking action to protect it for the future, for both its natural wonder and its tourism potential. I would like to see tourism development occur on Great Keppel Island but always ensuring that it is undertaken in a way that will be sustainable for future generations. I want to see tourism grow on the island, encouraging more visitors to the Capricorn Coast and Rockhampton to support jobs for locals. I know from talking to locals that they want the development to proceed, but they also want it to be managed properly. I promised I would be a strong voice for our region's future, and that is what I have done. I have been working extremely hard every day since I was elected and I am proud of that. Standing up for our community is what I promised, and I have done that day in and day out. We do not always get our way, but the people of Keppel can rest assured that I will continue to stand up for them and fight for our fair share every day. It is what I was elected to do and it is what I am passionate about doing.

We are also lucky to have CQ University's North Rockhampton campus in the electorate of Keppel—a world-class dual sector university which is also Australia's largest regional university. It has 30,000 students studying qualifications from certificate to post doctorate level from over 100 different countries. We have some of the best schools too. I am constantly amazed by the sporting and academic achievements of students in Central Queensland. We have a river that provides us with so much more than just a reliable water supply. At 142,600 square kilometres, the Fitzroy Basin is the largest catchment on the eastern seaboard. The most diverse range of freshwater fish in the country

is found within the Fitzroy Basin. We love our Keppel Bay, our river and our climate, so it is no surprise that we have more boat registrations per capita than anywhere else in the state. We have an airport with international capabilities, the third longest runway in Queensland and the ninth largest in Australia. More than 750,000 passengers travel through our airport every year, which equates to about 2,000 per day. Our tourism industry employs over 4,000 people and injects hundreds of millions of dollars into the local economy each year. We have over 1.2 million overnight visitors to the Capricornia region annually. Tourism is important, so I am working on making that number of overnight visitors grow.

Local primary producers are busy putting fruit on the plates of our nation. To give members an example, the region actually supplies 45 per cent of Australia's pineapples. We know that we have even more opportunities in agriculture and I am working on exploring and taking advantage of those right now. In fact, this week in the electorate adjacent to Keppel, Beef Australia 2015 is being held. Australia's national beef exposition is one of the world's great beef cattle events and is held just once every three years in Rockhampton. Beef Australia is a celebration of all facets of the Australian beef industry and in particular it celebrates the beef industry in Central Queensland's backyard. Congratulations to Denis Cox and his team at Beef Australia and I look forward to joining the Beef Australia 2015 celebrations at the cessation of parliament this week.

Did I mention that we have excellent weather? We have so many more opportunities and assets that I have not even mentioned. Regional planning to take advantage of these opportunities and assets whilst ensuring that we protect and treasure them for future generations is my passion.

My childhood growing up in Rocky and the Capricorn Coast was special. My family moved there when I was a little girl because dad, Peter, took a job working at Stanwell. My mum, Sharon, whom I thank for being here today, is a primary schoolteacher and she has worked now for almost 25 years at Mount Archer State School, which is where my brother, Lewis, and I went to primary school. Lewis and I had a very busy upbringing. We were always encouraged to get involved in everything. My dad would often have to work away on shutdowns at power stations around the state, so mum was often the one who would run us around to netball training, soccer, footy, ballet, T-ball and anything else that we had on in the afternoons and on weekends.

She would drop one of us off and then the other, race home for forgotten soccer boots or something, hang around to watch practice, pick us both up and miraculously still have a hot nutritious home cooked meal on the table for when we got home. She was and still is in my eyes a superwoman. Both of our parents worked hard to give my brother and I a great start to life. My mum instilled in me the belief that all children should have access to a first-class education. My dad taught me the value of hard work and fairness.

Other women in my life have also played an important role in shaping the person I am today. My late grandmother, Mary Ayscough, was a happy and friendly yet fiercely determined businesswoman. She taught me that everything must be done with a smile and to respect everyone, no matter their background. The Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Shannon Fentiman, is a university friend turned parliamentary colleague and is someone whom I look up to very much.

After I finished school I moved to Brisbane to study law at the Queensland University of Technology. I studied two years of law and decided that I just was not passionate about it, so I changed to a degree in urban and regional planning, which I absolutely loved. I reflect on the passion and grace of my lecturer, Associate Professor Phil Heywood, who also is here with us today, who inspires me with his creativity and who has a real passion for life, enthusiasm and a fervent desire to work for good community outcomes. Planning has been a wonderful career and a great profession to be involved in. Planning matters in Keppel and it matters to our state. Good planning is the best way to manage urban growth, to secure necessary infrastructure investment, to determine appropriate settlement patterns for our cities and towns, and to generate economic development that contributes positively to the wellbeing of individuals and communities and the natural and built environments on which we rely. I thank members and life members of the Planning Institute of Australia who have been wonderful mentors and colleagues over the years, including PIA president Kate Isles, state manager Dan Molloy, immediate former national president Dy Curry, Gary White, Greg Vann, Greg Ovenden, Steve Craven, Laura Gannon and Planning Institute of Australia CEO Kirsty Kelly. They have all taught me so much about good planning. They can rest assured that I am putting those lessons to good use every day in this new role.

I must also say thank you to my husband, Wayne, and I am also grateful to have him here today. Shortly after I moved back from Brisbane I met and fell in love with my husband, Wayne—a born and bred Rocky boy, quantity surveyor and manager of a building firm. Wayne and I have been happily married now for almost four years. We live in the electorate at Rockyview with our gorgeous chocolate Labrador, Apollo. Wayne has been a great supporter for me in both an emotional and practical sense. Being a hardworking local member involves many late nights and early mornings, often seven days a week. But I come home and my ironing is done, dinner is on the table and the lawn is mowed even though Wayne is extremely busy in his own professional life.

I was endorsed as the Labor candidate for Keppel for 14 months prior to the state election. In that time I spoke to thousands of constituents in the electorate—at market stalls, school P&C meetings, retirement villages and through phone calls and doorknocking. I would like to thank so many people who helped in the campaign. Hundreds of people helped me pound the pavement and to get our message out. I thank my husband, Wayne; my parents, Peter and Sharon McKee; and my brother and his wife, Lewis and Pia McKee.

I also thank Rohan Webb, Ann-Marie Allan, Jules Campbell—who is also here today—Peter Lyon, John Hempseed, Sonia Steffen and Luke Moore from the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union. I also thank my good friend Sara Barnbaum; Lloyd Beatson; Neville Beattie; Ken Berry; Margaret, Katelyn and Megan Clements; Jason Sladden; Jason Conway; Barry Thomson; former member for Keppel Paul Hoolihan, who was here earlier, and his wife, Elizabeth; Jarred Kennedy; Bary Large; Angie and Bill Luck; Bernie Misztal; Leisa Neaton; John Olsen; Cam Schroder; Leonie Short; Wal Taylor; John Homan; Brett Svendsen; Anthony White; Tony Williams; Craig Allen; Craig Sell; Billy Bijoux; Ashleigh Saunders; Barry Thompson; Trish Bovingdon; Darren Blackwood; Chris McJannett; Paul Jensen and the meatworkers; my parliamentary colleague Bill Byrne; Tom Dixon; Rachel Dixon; Vicki Chopping; Denise and John Christensen; Luke Christensen; Clyde and Diana Wode; Les and Mavis Wust; Mary Hempseed; Bruce Craig; Peter Lyon; Tom and Carmel Hall; Hugh and Yvonne Chardon; Ernie O'Sullivan; Janice and Ray Murphy; Ingrid Murphy and her darling children Mitchell and Baily.

I know that for Keppel to grow and develop as a community and to foster prosperity we have to be forward thinking, hungry and ambitious for change. But a region that does not know its destination will never know its journey. I will work with the people of Keppel to realise that destination, plan the journey and bring everyone along for the ride. I will be that loud voice representing them in Brisbane. I am passionate, tenacious and hungry to make a difference. I will be a strong voice for our future. I am young, energetic, passionate and I have a big vision for Keppel. I want to work towards a prosperous and healthy community—one with jobs, opportunity, growth, tourism and a place that we can all be proud of. I will be working as hard as I can for my electorate, because I am here to put Keppel and Central Queensland on the map.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Before calling the honourable member for Condamine, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.35 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, it is with much pleasure that I stand before you in the legislative chamber of the parliament of Queensland to deliver my maiden speech to this House. I would firstly like to congratulate the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and the Labor government on their recent electoral success. I congratulate the member for Nicklin upon his appointment by the elected members of the House to the honourable office of Speaker. I acknowledge all returning members on successfully retaining their seats and congratulate the new members who, like me, are taking their place in this chamber for the first time.

When I attended my first local branch meeting I never envisaged that I would one day be standing here as an elected member of parliament. I became a member of the National Party in 2003 and soon after was elected chairman of the Cecil Plains branch. In a short time I became vice-chairman of the Maranoa federal divisional council and the chairman of the Cunningham state electoral council until the seat of Cunningham was abolished at the last state redistribution. In 2008, upon the formation of the Liberal National Party, I was elected the south-west regional chair and took my place on the state executive of the party, a position I held until I stood down after being preselected as the candidate for the seat of Condamine.

There are many members and supporters who helped throughout the campaign to ensure that the LNP reclaimed the seat of Condamine and I take this opportunity to express my gratitude. I owe a special thankyou to Peter Wilson, Jennifer Tunley, Kylie Fuelling and Pam and Roy Grundy. I will always be appreciative of their dedication and support. To all who assisted with fundraising and manning information stalls, baking, attending functions with me and handing out cards on polling day, thank you.

I grew up on the family farm at Cecil Plains, producing dryland crops including cotton, sorghum, wheat, barley and fattening cattle. I was educated at the local Cecil Plains state primary school and high school, completing my schooling at the end of year 10. That coincided with the beginning of my father's battle with a debilitating heart condition, so I began working on the farm with my father, Byron, and my uncle, Des. In my late teens and early 20s I spent some time working as a builder's labourer in the Cairns area and had the pleasure of celebrating my 21st birthday whilst working on Lizard Island. Shortly after that I worked on an exploration drilling rig in the Tanami Desert.

Both my father and then my uncle passed away, leaving me with the opportunity to purchase the property from my mother and I became the owner of a piece of the most productive land in Australia. By that time I had married and my two children had been born. As members know, timing is everything in business, especially in primary production. Immediately after signing the contract, a drought set in and I did not grow one solitary grain for two years and was forced to handfeed my cattle.

All droughts end in time, as did my first one as a landholder. Several good seasons followed, enabling me to grow some impressive crops. The devastating floods of 2011 and 2013 came and were crippling to my own crops and those of many of my neighbours. Unfortunately, I have witnessed and faced the challenges that come with a life on the land. Like many others in the agricultural sector, I have had to go cap in hand to the banks to secure funds after these exceptional events to continue and try to recover, a situation many in the rural sector find themselves in at the present time.

Despite these setbacks, primary producers are by and large an optimistic and determined group of people. We have all enjoyed the good seasons when they come and endured the not-so-good when they rear their ugly head. The problem over recent times has been an ever-shrinking profit margin. In an attempt to counter this, we have seen many changes in agricultural practices and technology, particularly in the cropping sector, to lower costs and increase production. The combination of zero tillage, tram tracking, GPS navigation, less reliance on chemicals, yield mapping and more strategic use of fertiliser in the last 20 years has enabled farmers to become more efficient and more productive. Irrigation practices have improved, adapting to a more efficient use of less water to produce greater yields while maintaining a product of high quality. Most of these changes have been industry driven to increase profitability and feed an ever-increasing world population.

The seat of Condamine is experiencing some exciting developments, both now and in the near future, that the agricultural sector will be well positioned to take advantage of. These include the building of a jet-capable airport at Wellcamp on the western edge of Toowoomba. This facility has been built by a locally owned company, the Wagner family, and is the first private airport of its size and capability in Australia. It means that the markets of Asia, such as China, are now only nine hours from the agriculture producers of the Darling Downs and the nearby Lockyer Valley. Condamine is home to two large meatworks, Beef City and Oakey Beef Exports. Recently one of our region's largest construction companies announced it is planning to build another. These processing plants are well positioned to embrace the marketing opportunities that are now on our doorstep. Oakey Abattoirs is aiming to expand its production in the very near future, which would create another 400 jobs for the township of Oakey. This is a project Queensland needs to support and help make a reality.

The building of the second range crossing will present great cost savings to transport which will flow on to our local industry, manufacturers and primary producers, as well as creating many jobs during the construction stage. Another potential major project in the area is the inland rail. If this eventuates and can link into the Wellcamp Airport where the intermodal transport hub is to be built we will have access by road and rail to every port from Darwin to Melbourne as well as to Asia by air. There are many businesses and industry groups that could benefit from these developments, including the University of Southern Queensland which is located in the seat of Condamine. Making Toowoomba more accessible to students, businesspeople and tourists will generate a large increase in the region's economy.

A project that requires further serious investigation is bringing Brisbane's treated wastewater over the Toowoomba Range and onto the Darling Downs to be used for agriculture and other purposes. This would bring a significant increase in agriculture production, employment opportunities and confidence to the region. This project was investigated some years ago by a committee that was formed called Vision 2000. The committee was made up of farmers and businesses that would benefit from the increased production that could be produced by the additional water. This conversation came to a halt when it appeared Brisbane was going to run out of water during a severe period of drought. Peter Beattie, the then premier, spent \$1 billion on treatment plants and pipelines to droughtproof Brisbane. It then rained and this entire infrastructure was not used. Currently, 150,000 megalitres of wastewater is being treated to a potable standard and then dumped into Moreton Bay. If that water could be transported by a pipeline to the Darling Downs it would provide certainty of production which would mean increased employment, not only on-farm but in all the regional towns in the district. There would be flow-on benefits for the environment—for example, the Murray-Darling system—as there would be less reliance on water harvesting from overland flow allowing more water to flow downstream. This water would be relatively expensive. However, it would provide certainty to irrigators who have established irrigation infrastructure and who have invested capital into the future of agriculture. Before any progress can be made, a cost analysis would need to be completed to establish what the cost per megalitre would be at the delivery point. I believe that we as a country need to investigate schemes such as this if we truly want to bring development to our inland regions. We have surely reached the point, after so many droughts, where we cannot afford to use our water only once and then allow it to be wasted.

The arrival of the CSG industry has brought both benefits and challenges to the seat of Condamine. This industry was unleashed on landholders at 100 miles an hour and caused a lot of unrest and concern regarding the impact on underground water and the ability to continue the day-to-day operations necessary on farms across the region. This was particularly evident when one company proposed to install gas wells on the intensively farmed land on the Central Downs. The LNP government recognised the level of conflict that would arise, particularly in areas where intensive agriculture existed, and after wide consultation introduced statutory regional plans for the Darling Downs and Central Queensland, putting a priority on food and fibre production. This allowed for the first time the opportunity for landholders in these areas to have a say in what and where any future footprint from any gas development on their land would be. There is currently no CSG being produced in the seat of Condamine and given some of the conflicts that have arisen in other areas of the state it is an issue that I will be watching closely.

Whilst there is much change and economic progress happening in Condamine, it is imperative that we do not forget our local historical heritage. The Jondaryan woolshed is an example of this, where visitors can come and learn how many agricultural practices were accomplished in a bygone era. The Royal Bull's Head Inn is one of the oldest inns in Queensland and located at Drayton. The Condamine electorate is also home to one of our best known authors who went via the pen-name of Steele Rudd of *Dad and Dave* fame. The Bunya Mountains is the second-oldest national park in Queensland. It rises abruptly from the surrounding plains and reaches more than 1,100 metres above sea level. The world's largest stand of ancient bunya pines is within the confines of the national park. When you couple these icons with some of our larger events, such as the Felton Food Festival, the Dalby Picnic Races and the Jackie Howe Festival, tourism is an industry that I believe can only continue to grow.

While there are many opportunities in Condamine and much reason to be optimistic, it is not without its challenges. While the resource sector produced many jobs and considerable activity in the construction stage, this all commenced very rapidly and wound down just as quickly. Many construction workers have been made redundant and businesses in Dalby directly related to the gas industry are finding conditions very difficult at the moment. This is one of the many reasons we need to support and encourage growth in the agriculture and tourism industries to ensure a stable economy in regional communities now and into the future.

Regrettably there is a growing social problem that we are facing, not just in Condamine but across the state, that does concern me and should concern all of us—this is the growing problem of the use of methamphetamine or ice. Having experienced this through someone close to me, watching them fall into this world for a time has been an experience I would not like to repeat. I have seen the effects that this insidious drug has not only on the user but on their loved ones as well. This drug is almost seen as accepted behaviour in our young people. It is cheap and readily available. It is being made in houses, backyard sheds and even in the boots of cars. Recipes are available on the internet.

Recently a psychiatrist told me that it is the most dangerous and addictive drug that we have seen. Users of this drug will, over time, suffer permanent brain damage and severe damage to their vital organs. Whilst on the drug users become very volatile and can be extremely violent. Drug induced psychosis, if not treated in time, in many cases is recurring. My greatest fear is that we are going to see many of these users of ice undergoing mental health treatment for the rest of their short lives. We need to be more proactive in educating the public that this is not a low-risk drug and in trying to stop them before they start. Recently I received a briefing from one of the police stations within the Condamine electorate. I was told that the latest random breath test results were finding a ratio of three drug affected drivers to every drunk driver. The detective to whom I spoke said we are facing an epidemic.

In closing, I thank my family, some of whom are in the gallery today, and friends for their ongoing support and love on the journey that has brought me to this point. I am indeed lucky to have come from such a large, supportive and close family, which came in very handy on polling day. I thank the constituents of Condamine for the honour that they have bestowed on me. I look forward to being their voice in this House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Before calling the member for Murrumba, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (3.50 pm): I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we stand today and the traditional owners of the land on which I stand as a parliamentarian. I also acknowledge elders past and present. I pledge my loyalty to Australia, Queensland and its people. I congratulate the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and the Deputy Premier, Jackie Trad, on being commissioned to form a new Labor government. I have known both of them for many years, I have seen their strength and clarity of purpose and I am glad to serve under them. I congratulate the Speaker, Peter Wellington. Before the 1998 state election, former ALP Assistant Secretary Peter Shooter spoke to me of Peter Wellington's qualities and, in his time in parliament, he has lived up to that positive endorsement. I extend my congratulations to the Leader of the Opposition, Lawrence Springborg, and to all members of the 55th Parliament. I acknowledge my predecessor in Murrumba, Reg Gulley, and extend my best wishes to Reg and his family. In particular, I acknowledge the Hon. Dean Wells, who is truly a legend of this parliament, having served the people of Murrumba for 26 years in this chamber. He is a man of immense wisdom. Dean is not lost to us; he works as a barrister and uses his prodigious legal knowledge on behalf of those in our community without a voice.

I have been chosen by the electors of Murrumba to represent them in the 55th Parliament of Queensland. The 103-year-old electorate of Murrumba is a distinct area framed by the sea, creeks, rivers and the transport stream of the Bruce Highway. My communities have in common strong aspirations for a better future, a search for a better lifestyle and a desire to create a better place to live. Our residents can live in new housing in stylish urban centres, in quiet semi-rural areas or in comfortable affordable houses close to the sea. My hometown of Deception Bay has always been a haven for working people; it is an undiscovered gem by the sea. It has always embraced people from everywhere and I have always felt safe and at home in 'the bay'. Rothwell and Kippa-Ring, the proud suburbs of Redcliffe, are great locations for families wanting a better lifestyle. At the centre is North Lakes, which is increasingly the retail and community hub of the Moreton Bay region. It is a marvellously planned community that hosts a swag of attractions. We have new estates being constructed at Mango Hill and Griffin around original villages and suburbs that are, once again, perfect for young families. The rural-residential lifestyle of Burpengary East still attracts many families who yearn for a $\frac{3}{4}$ acre lot. Now our lifestyles, work opportunities and aspirations will be opened up by a new piece of transport infrastructure, the new Moreton Bay Rail Link. This is the long awaited rail to Redcliffe that was initiated by state and federal Labor governments and local government. To my electors, those long ribbons of transport infrastructure are more than just broad job generators; they are the pathways that tie them to employment and education. That is why advocating for road and rail, schools and jobs will be at the centre of what I do here as a parliamentarian.

To all the residents of Murrumba, I say this: I live amongst you, I understand your ambitions and I share your wishes. I reflect those aspirations, I pledge to work on your behalf and I thank you for this humbling honour. It is also an honour to be here as a Labor member and to perhaps fulfil some of the hopes, desires and aspirations of my forebears. One such ancestor is Arthur Binstead, one of Queensland's earliest ticket of leave men who was transported from England to Van Diemen's Land

in 1831 for taking part in the Captain Swing Riots. The Captain Swing Riots was a movement of 19th century rural workers who destroyed the new threshing machines that they believed were taking their jobs. It is an early example of workers not accepting the economic structures forced upon them, but resisting them and acting to redress them. I assure the House that Arthur Binstead's descendants have moved on from sabotage as a means of redress.

However, I have inherited a burning desire to fight injustice, speak out on what is right and stand up for what is fair. Traditionally, for working people the labour movement has been the best way to express this and the best way to achieve economic justice. The labour movement is more than a vehicle for the ambitions of one section of society. Organised labour is a pillar of society and the economy. The push for wage justice is central to the labour movement and it should be more widely recognised that our economy is based on fair wages. The economy needs the spending power of wages. I can find no better way to express the centrality of decent wages than to reiterate the principles of the Harvester Judgement, an event of underestimated importance in our history.

In 1907, Henry Bourne Higgins ruled from the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration that a worker is a 'human being in a civilised society'. That is even more relevant today when workers are seen as a cost input or as passive consumers. The Harvester Judgement said no wage can be 'fair and reasonable' if it does not allow a worker to marry and raise a family, which are aspirations dear to many Queenslanders. The judgement formed a crucial bipartisan plank in the creation of our nation throughout the 20th century, but it has dropped out of favour at a time when wages are stagnating and I believe the judgement and its principles should be embraced once again. The labour income share, or the amount of our national wealth that is turned into wages, has dropped from a high of 62 per cent to 65 per cent in 1974-75 to between 52 per cent to 55 per cent today. The growth of average weekly earnings is now at an historic low. We are at a stage where the federal government has to make direct supplements from our tax collection base to allow workers to raise a family and meet their household budget. By reducing the capacity of the labour movement to achieve wage equity and decent wages, our whole economy is diminished.

I have been blessed enough to develop this political outlook and philosophy through my experience and through the taught wisdom of others. At university, for the first time I experienced a class overlay where people were judged on where they went to school. I acknowledge the wonderful tutelage of Ray Evans and Kay Saunders, ground-breaking Queensland historians who showed me the unseen history of Australia, that is, a history of struggle over the frontier and possession of the land. It was in my time as communications officer for the Australian Services Union that I discovered that collective action of people is the only truly effective method to achieve social and economic justice. When employees combine with unity of purpose and then find common ground with employers, a solution can be found to the most knotty of problems. I acknowledge the strong women leaders at the helm of the ASU: Janice Mayes, Julie Bignell and Mary-Anne O'Neill, a former member for Kallangur and now the electorate officer for Murrumba.

It was my 12 years as a councillor on the Caboolture Shire Council and the Moreton Bay Regional Council that allowed me to discover the enormous collective wisdom of everyday Queenslanders. They very rarely get it wrong. Whenever they have been empowered to make decisions on behalf of their community, they put self-interest aside and reach eminently sensible decisions. Through their lead, I decided to forgo my last pay rise as councillor and donate it to community groups. As a councillor, I developed a tremendous respect for local, everyday Queenslanders. For 12 years, they continually taught me. It was during my time as a real estate agent in recent years that I came to fully appreciate that small and medium business is the engine room of economy and jobs. I found business owners who would pay their staff first before paying themselves, because their staff all had families and mortgages. My support for private enterprise and organised labour is not inconsistent. Firstly, as the Hon. Ken Hayward, a former member for Kallangur, said to me, you have to look after business because that is what employs people and pays wages. Secondly, you can exercise entrepreneurship and individual liberty only when you have an economic foundation created by an economically active government. Government should not be afraid to create economic instruments that wield power to better the lives of citizens, yet still work within market forces.

We have in our hands government bodies and corporations that generate profit and economic power. These are owned by the people and should work on behalf of Queenslanders. I reject the notion that government gets in the way of business and the economy, and that government should be small and unobtrusive or that many functions could be simply performed by the private sector. In Queensland's history, the government has been an economic actor. It has provided a platform for private enterprise and been an active partner in our economy.

Our biggest infrastructure project in the 19th century was our railways system. Between 1887 and 1893 the Queensland government borrowed £7 million to construct 3,000 kilometres of rail line. We had the highest per capita debt in the British Empire but our wealth was reliant on this transport infrastructure. At one stage in the 19th century the pastoral industry accounted for 95 per cent of the Queensland economy, but the industry could only survive through the railways and ports. My point here is that I believe government is a cooperative venture amongst all of us and provides the foundation for the generation of wealth by local businesses and local enterprises.

An issue I must raise is that of climate change. I want to say this: it is happening. There is no doubt, and for the sake of Queensland's future we can have no doubt. The overwhelming consensus is that it is caused by humans. The Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was released on 18 March 2015. It said that climate change is extremely likely to be man-made—the level of certainty being 95 to 100 per cent. Some 97 per cent of the 4,000 papers on the subject published over 20 years agree it is anthropomorphic—man-made.

If you are still claiming there is some doubt, I give you this story. When the first atomic bomb was exploded in the Trinity test at White Sands in 1945, it is said some scientists theorised that it could possibly crack the crust of the earth. Yet, even with that doubt, the scientists and military still went ahead. Necessity overcame uncertainty. There was some uncertainty about what the first atomic bomb would do. There is almost no uncertainty about what is happening with climate change. So why is a tiny level of uncertainty overcoming necessity? It is because there is a necessity to take action. This is what we are facing in Queensland if we do not act.

In Murrumba by 2090 average temperatures will rise between 1.9 and 3.7 degrees Celsius. The sea level rise in the bay in that same time will be between 47 centimetres and about 65 centimetres. There will be more extreme rain events and they will be more destructive. In January 2011 my area experienced a one in 1,000 year rain event. On Friday, we suffered a one in 2,000 year event.

Our \$5 billion beef industry may well decline by 19 per cent by 2030 and 33.5 per cent by 2050 due to heat stress causing slower growth, lesser breeding success and reduced appetite. Rising seas place \$31.3 billion of Queensland roads, commercial buildings, industrial sites, houses and railway lines under threat in the next 100 years. Some 2,250 properties in the Moreton Bay region are under threat from sea level rise. The loss of workdays in Queensland due to heat stress will increase sevenfold within 100 years.

I am not wanting to be alarmist; I want to be a realist. I do not ask members to take action today. I simply ask them, for the sake of future Queenslanders and our future economy, to recognise that we have a problem and we must act.

Beliefs such as this have come through observation, but others have come from the taught wisdom of others, including family antecedents. My learned and inherited values and attitudes—hard work, strength through struggle, the primacy of family and study, self-belief, and an innate optimism—were passed onto me from my mother and her mother. My mother, Margaret, was a girl from Banyo high. I cannot think of my mother without seeing a smile on her face. Her school marks in a different time would have seen her studying medicine. But as the eldest in a family with a single parent, she chose to study teaching as it paid a bursary.

My mother and father moved to Mackay in their mid-20s and bought a small three-bedroom home built on the reclamation area at the edge of town. When Margaret became a single parent, she took her three children from Mackay back to Brisbane. There we were, the four of us in a big city, existing on the pay of a teacher with one year's training. Tertiary education for all of us was the only path forward, so the four of us went to university and worked. Sometimes we had to stretch the last \$20 into a week's worth of meals. Mum sometimes took in boarders and tutored local kids for extra money.

We could not have done it without the study support and free education introduced by Labor, and that is the defining personal and political experience of my life. My mother's mother was Nancy Jean Burchall, an indomitable woman who both worked and raised three children alone in the 1950s and 1960s. She inveigled her way into working in a shoe store and ended up as the first female manager of a Mathers shoe store. My father, Richard Whiting, was a charming and charismatic man and a brilliant sportsman. Although our closeness was diminished by divorce and death, I found he bequeathed me his special gifts—the ability to speak freely and to make those easy connections with my fellow citizens. If he were not taken by cancer, I know he would have taken immense pride and joy in my elevation to parliament and in the grandson that he so wanted to meet.

I mention these because I am the distillation of their hopes, the beneficiary of their lessons and the product of their perseverance. I am determined not to let them down in this House—including Arthur Binstead. I am determined to repay the faith placed in me by my campaign committee, led by Jenny Foster. I also thank the other members—some of whom are here today: Rob Shore, Mick Denton, Brendan Waite—who is now my assistant electorate officer—John Rodgers, Dayne Rodgers, Michael O'Brien, the O'Brien family, Trevor Andrew, Glenn Smith, Judi Griffith, John Holmes, Gail and Rod Schoettler, Cindy McKay, Tom and Pat McLoughlin, Jan MacIntyre and others. I thank ALP State Secretary, Evan Moorhead, ALP Campaign Director, Anthony Chisholm and my organiser, James Gunn.

Thank you to all our ALP members, especially from the Murrumba East branch and my Deception Bay branch. They worked without end and without flagging, investing their hope in a Labor government, believing that Labor would, as in the words of Ben Chifley, not focus on just putting a sixpence in someone's pocket, but be a movement bringing greater happiness to the mass of the people.

Thank you too to the members of the trade union movement, especially the ASU/Together Union, where my colleagues, under Irene Monro and Julie Bignell, came out strongly and without question for me. Thank you to the CFMEU Construction & General division, especially Michael Ravbar, Jacqui Collie and Andrew Ramsay. This union represents some of the most at-risk workers in Australia. In 2014, 26 Australian construction workers did not come home from their work site. I hope I can use my influence to help stem that fatal flow.

I acknowledge the Reverend Paul Bland, an inspirational teacher, who taught students, such as me, to believe in themselves. Thanks also to Mark Ryan MP. He and I go back a long way and it is a pleasure to stand beside him here in this parliament. Special thanks go to my close colleague Jeff Hopkins-Weise. A man could not ask for a better friend.

I also acknowledge my two wonderful sisters, Elizabeth and Jillian. I have always regarded us as an indivisible unit. In the toughest times, we always formed a three-sided rock. I pay tribute to my wife, Sian Whiting, who is patient and hardworking and loving. Until I met her, I never knew how a simple smile can lift you up and make your soul sing. I acknowledge her parents, Pat and Joy O'Callaghan, who are ever present, ever loving. All of us will carry on providing an example to my children, Guy and Rebecca.

The ultimate aim as a parliamentarian, as I see it, is to conduct ourselves in a way that would make our children proud. Let us all show our children how to live life selflessly, act together and work at creating a better world, or in the words of Robert Kennedy: 'Let us dedicate ourselves to what the Greeks wrote so many years ago: to tame the savageness of man and make gentle the life of this world.'

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Gympie, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions. I call the member for Gympie.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (4.08 pm): I am humbled to be able to deliver my first speech in this chamber. I would like to congratulate the Speaker on his election to this respected high office. As a newly elected member, I look forward to being given guidance and assistance as well as watching and learning from him and my fellow elected colleagues. I would like to reaffirm my allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen, to her representative Governor Paul de Jersey, to this parliament and to the sensible and modest electors of Gympie.

It is fitting to note in the centenary year of the Anzac landings at Gallipoli that the Prime Minister of that time—Andrew Fisher—had cut his teeth in state politics as the member for Gympie. I hope to represent the people of the Gympie electorate with the same vision and enthusiasm that many of my predecessors brought to this parliament. Like many members before me, I am the second generation of my family to have been given the privilege to be elected to this chamber. In 1988 my father was elected to this chamber to represent the seat of Barambah after its longest serving member, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen.

I would not be here without the support of my local LNP branch members and I thank them for their efforts in assisting me during the recent election. The Gympie electorate, like many across the state, has an extensive number of polling booths which could not be manned without the many helpers and supporters who volunteered their time to assist me and the LNP. In particular, I would like to acknowledge and thank Mr Guy Burnett, as chair of the local state electoral council. His tireless efforts are greatly appreciated and I look forward to his continued support and friendship. I also

acknowledge the pivotal role of my campaign manager, Sharon O'Brien. Her extensive knowledge of the electorate, combined with her unwavering commitment to the task, meant a well-coordinated, professional and successful campaign.

Before being elected to this House I spent 11½ enjoyable years as a councillor in local government—firstly on the former Kilkivan Shire Council and then on the newly amalgamated Gympie Regional Council. From my direct experience there is no better way to appreciate what makes an electorate and its residents great. Dealing and interacting with local constituents on a regular basis is certainly a great privilege.

I also take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge a great mentor of mine during my time in local government—the late Ron Dyne, former mayor of the Kilkivan Shire Council and the Gympie Regional Council. Ron lost his battle with cancer earlier this year, and I publicly recognise his exceptional personal qualities of leadership and courage. For every day that he served as mayor I served as his deputy. We developed a strong partnership where we learnt to work collectively to achieve positive outcomes for our region. He is survived by his loving wife, Dulcie, son Gavin and daughter Michelle.

All members elected to this House know the personal sacrifice we make when committing to a life in the public eye. Without the ongoing support of family and friends, this role would be far less rewarding and enjoyable. I would not be here without the support of my wife, Michele, who is in the gallery today, and my two wonderful daughters, Stephanie and Josie. Their dedicated commitment to aid and assist me in my political endeavours means that they must take greater responsibility for our family grazing operation. I am truly thankful for their ongoing love and support.

I am a person whose beliefs have been developed around Christian and robust family values. I am not about fixing things that are not broken; I am about empowering people to help themselves. I value simple plain talking, rolling up your sleeves and getting stuck in. I have a strong rural background and was born and educated in Kingaroy. As a 19-year-old I joined the Kingaroy Young Nationals in 1988. As an active branch member, I was able to interact and learn from my political mentors, Sir Joh and Lady Flo Bjelke-Petersen, and learnt from them the importance of public service.

In 1997, I moved with my family to Kilkivan and purchased a 15,000-acre grazing property at the headwaters of Boonara Creek. Six years later in 2003 I was appointed to the Kilkivan Shire Council to fill a vacancy, was re-elected in 2004 and then appointed deputy mayor. I was then elected to the newly amalgamated Gympie Regional Council in 2008 and appointed deputy mayor and chairman of the Community Services and Economic Development Committee. I was re-elected in 2012, once again appointed deputy mayor and held the portfolio responsibility of governance, finance and economic development.

My political teeth have been cut across many battles and against many political opponents. There is none greater than in 2006 when the Beattie Labor government set about terminating a grazing lease which I legitimately purchased in 1997. An alliance between Labor and the Greens saw an out-of-control Environmental Protection Agency attempt to remove us from our land which has been sustainably grazed for more than 100 years. The resulting Supreme Court action, to protect and secure our property rights and financial interests, taught me many valuable political lessons. This single action demonstrates what can happen when political minorities gain influence over the common good of individuals and families.

The Gympie electorate is home to 49,000 people spread across almost 3,400 square kilometres. It is centred on Gympie city, with all its wonderful heritage and rich history of gold mining, which is displayed in the Gympie Gold Mining and Historical Museum. In fact, Queensland was bankrupt when James Nash discovered gold in 1867 and Gympie became 'the town that saved Queensland'. It includes the fishing and camping destinations of Rainbow Beach—the natural gateway to Fraser Island—Cooloola Cove and Tin Can Bay, which offer wonderful tourist, business and lifestyle opportunities.

The rich, fertile and picturesque Mary Valley provides agricultural opportunities and primary industries that are the cornerstone of our region's economic growth. The timber and seafood industries remain key ingredients to the ongoing economic viability of the region, and Cooran and Pomona offer great coastal hinterland living. The region supports a lifestyle where the 1,000-square-metre block reigns, where kids can kick a football, housing is affordable and parents get involved in community activities, where volunteering is valued and people are welcoming and resilient.

Gympie is a major contributor to the Queensland economy with an estimated gross regional product in the 2013-14 financial year of \$2 billion. Members of this chamber may be surprised to learn that manufacturing is the largest contributor, representing 10.5 per cent of Gympie's total gross regional product, followed by construction at 10.4 per cent and the agricultural, forestry and fishing industries at 9.1 per cent.

Some of Australia's market leaders in manufacturing industries are in Gympie, employing 1,706 people or 12.1 per cent of employed people in our region. Multinational companies, major exporters and locally owned and established manufacturers produce goods and services including heavy equipment for the mining, agricultural and transport industries; foodstuffs; and major timber processing and value added products.

The wide range of products grown and produced throughout the electorate includes some of Queensland's outstanding food processors who provide valuable employment and industry development opportunities. There are growers of export quality beef; dairy farms producing some wonderful dairy products; seafood sourced in the pristine waters of the Great Sandy Straits and adjacent waters; timber and forestry products; citrus, ginger, avocado, macadamia, olive and small crop growers; and growers of organic fruit and vegetables.

Gympie has more than 4,200 small businesses, making it the largest employer group in the region. As a small business operator, I am acutely aware of how quickly pointless bureaucratic and legislative decisions can have a detrimental effect on the operation of a business. Small business has nowhere to go when fixed costs rise and regulations and rules become more burdensome. Communities such as mine suffer because they have to close their doors or lay off workers.

Mr Deputy Speaker Ryan, I am sure that you, like many other Queenslanders, have enjoyed dining on a fine juicy piece of steak. It is more than likely that you were enjoying a piece of Nolan's prime selection steak, which is distributed throughout the restaurant and Queensland domestic market. Nolan Meats is Gympie's largest private employer and has operated since 1958. As a wholly Australian, family owned company, it services not only the Australian market but also international markets. It exports to Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Middle East, Taiwan and the USA. In 2011 it was awarded the prestigious Premier of Queensland Exporter of the Year.

As members enjoy their daily cup of coffee they should reflect that right here in Queensland, in the Gympie electorate, Nestle operates a coffee processing plant that employs more than 200 people. It produces International Roast and Nescafe instant coffee, as well as Andronicus roasted and ground coffee. In fact, the Gympie factory produces Australia's entire needs for International Roast and Andronicus roast coffee.

Our rich history of associated forestry activities is woven into the fabric of the local community and preserved on display at the Gympie Woodworks Museum. Companies such as Carter Holt Harvey and Laminex grow, tend and harvest timber from plantations and manufacture products. Gympie is the centre of laminated building board operations for Laminex—the world's biggest maker of MDF. It is home to one of Laminex's four manufacturing plants across Australia.

The list goes on. Gympie is home to Performax, which is Australia's leading and largest importer, converter and retailer of American cars and pick-ups. In my electorate we have Page Furnishers in Pomona which is one of Queensland's largest manufacturers and suppliers of educational furniture—a major supplier to local councils, state government departments, businesses and private schools with outdoor furniture. It also produces timber and steel products for correctional facilities, the Department of Defence, healthcare services, hospitality and mining industries.

As someone who comes from outside the narrow focus of South-East Queensland, I thank the previous LNP government for establishing the Queensland Plan—a 30-year vision to grow and develop many aspects of what is good about our state. The plan aims to grow regional Queensland and identifies that only through decentralisation and empowering and growing regional communities we can provide the best opportunities for families, businesses, industries and workers to thrive. It is a forward-thinking document operating outside the confines of the three-year political cycle. It lays the legitimate groundwork for making this state ready for the future, for my children and for future generations. It offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to a future full of possibility.

I note that an adviser to former Labor governments, Mike Kaiser, earlier this year praised it and recommended that the Queensland government keep the plan. The plan sets a road map for growth and prosperity, and I want Gympie to play its role in achieving this shared vision. The plan has many

features which offer enormous opportunity for the Gympie region. I look no further than to my own daughter through education—the very first vision in this plan. She is able to study locally for a Bachelor of Commerce at the Gympie campus of the University of the Sunshine Coast, is able to live at home and has gained part-time employment at a local accountancy firm. This very example of providing opportunities for our young people to live, study and work locally demonstrates how we must grow into the future.

Today about two-thirds of Queensland's 4.6 million people live in South-East Queensland. Travelling north, Gympie is the first region outside the official SEQ boundary. The plans target to double the population living in rural and regional Queensland by 2044, provides an enormous opportunity for us to gain an equal or greater share of the growth. Most importantly, the growth must be linked to sustainability, economic prosperity and jobs.

The Gympie electorate has to harness infrastructure spends which provide the economic impetus for private business and individuals to borrow and invest. The state has to provide a healthy economic and work environment and reduce overregulation through kneejerk green and red tape which drives people from operating businesses. Government investment and support is needed for infrastructure and projects which will provide an environment for people to live and invest locally.

Gympie has a number of issues which need addressing. I look forward to this government supporting commitments such as the fast-tracking of stage C four-laning of the Bruce Highway upgrade. I welcome the minister's recent assurance to endorse the former LNP government's committed contribution of \$125 million, or 20 per cent, to upgrade the 8.4-kilometre stretch of the Bruce Highway. The project is jointly funded with the federal government, which is committing \$500 million. Bringing the section C upgrade forward means that families and local industries will benefit from a safer and quicker drive on this notorious stretch. I look forward to the government committing to further progress the highway's upgrade with planning for stage D. Upgrading the Bruce Highway benefits all Queenslanders. The upgrades have been built above the Q100 flood levels to make managing floods in and around Gympie easier. It is a vital transport link to North Queensland, and in times of natural disaster the Bruce Highway around Gympie should be immune to isolation.

The Tin Can Bay foreshore and the Cooloola Coast are gradually being eroded and are in pressing need of stabilisation and restoration. If works do not take place, the footpath will disappear into the water. The Gympie Regional Council urgently needs an injection of \$1 million to undertake these works, and I will be seeking a commitment from the government to support this much needed project.

The electorate is keen to see the release of the long overdue Gympie Hospital master plan. It was due in February this year and will address the future of primary health services and reduce patient travel to Brisbane for treatment. I am looking forward to its release so we can get a firm direction to upgrade the facility to meet community expectations. A perfect fit for the Gympie region's growth and development are industries based around agriculture and manufacturing production. That is why we are excited with Gina Rinehart's proposed Hope Dairies project in which she intends to invest up to \$500 million to produce infant milk formula for China. The project will include everything from the production of milk to its processing, canning, exporting and marketing. As Australia's biggest proposed dairy operation, Hope Dairies aims to acquire 5,000 hectares of farmland to produce milk and will establish a processing plant in the Mary Valley.

As mentioned earlier, nurturing local educational opportunities with a full range of opportunities from prep to university is an exciting development for the region. Gympie is home to 29 schools. I am encouraged that in the last three years much of the school maintenance backlog was cleared, making them more conducive to learning. In 2013 the University of the Sunshine Coast established a campus in town with 45 students. Demonstrating the critical need for a local tertiary facility, this year's intake expanded to 217 students.

Education qualification levels in Gympie are among the lowest in Queensland, with only 13.5 per cent having a bachelor degree compared to 21.6 per cent in the state. With the local unemployment rate 2.1 per cent above the state average, USC provides more opportunities for local students and mature age adults to improve their learning outcomes and will help to address their ability to secure fulfilling careers. Almost 70 per cent of the students at the Gympie campus are mature aged, demonstrating that the previous lack of a local higher education facility had delayed their chances of further education. I look forward to the university expanding its presence in Gympie, and I encourage the government to support it.

The coastal link road from Noosa to Tin Can Bay Road needs developing to enhance the growth of the area as a natural tourism destination. This region is fast becoming a dedicated destination for those wanting a natural experience either from the unspoiled beauty of the Cooloola national park, fishing and boating in the protected waters of Great Sandy Strait, or recreational activities such as four-wheel driving and camping at Rainbow Beach.

Another important attraction in the region is the Apex Gympie Music Muster, which is in its 34th consecutive year and is a drawcard for music lovers from throughout Australia. As the home of the Australian Institute of Country Music, it nurtures young talent such as local girl Caitlyn Shadbolt, who was a finalist in *The X Factor* in 2014.

Water security within the next 10 years looms large on the horizon for Gympie. Gympie needs to have surety of water security for urban, business and industry development. The future growth of the region depends on forward planning and includes options such as raising the wall of Borumba dam. Being an elected representative is about providing leadership, but in so doing it requires an attitude that brings people together for a common result. It will require my regular ongoing support and advice, and also that of my parliamentary colleagues and my community.

My established links to business and the community are strong, and I pledge to use these well-built foundations to work closely with our federal and local government representatives to build a better Gympie. I am humbled to be standing here in this chamber, and I again thank the electors of Gympie for putting their trust in me.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ryan): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Barron River, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech in this parliament and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (4.27 pm): Thank you for the opportunity to speak for the first time in the 55th Parliament, Mr Deputy Speaker. I come to the 55th Parliament from Far North Queensland from the electorate of Barron River, from the northern beaches of Cairns and the rainforest village of Kuranda, an electorate wedged between two remarkable World Heritage areas of the Great Barrier Reef on one side and the World Heritage rainforest on the other. I am blessed. I would not trade the Barron River electorate with anyone in the House. I am very proud of my patch.

Most members will have visited the electorate on business or for pleasure as Barron River includes not only the Cairns International Airport but also the popular tourist destinations of Palm Cove, Trinity Beach and Kuranda. Barron River boasts some of the highest tourism employment statistics in Queensland. In fact, all around the electorate you will see bumper stickers saying 'I love airline noise' or 'Tourism drives this car'. Barron River is a tourist electorate: an international airport with room to expand, a gateway to Australia from the far north, the tourism drawcards of Palm Cove, Trinity Beach, the Sky Rail, the train to Kuranda, bungee jumping, reef trips, skydiving—the list goes on and on.

There are many promising projects and ideas on the horizon for tourism in the far north. The growing Asian market is now showing early strong numbers. There are a great deal of opportunities in front of us as a government, as a region of the far north and, of course, in my electorate. The proposed \$8 billion Aquis development rests firmly in the centre of the Barron River electorate. I have faith in our cabinet to ensure that, for the people of Barron River, this project is managed in the best interests of all so that we may all prosper and grow.

For me, the road to politics began as a child growing up on the land in Victoria on a dairy farm with my parents, Daryl and Val Crawford, who not only taught me the fundamental values of right and wrong but also showed me many of the values that country people possess—values such as saying hello to a stranger, always helping out someone when they are in need and respecting the rules and laws of government. They taught me how to talk, not just in general but, as farmers do, to neighbours over the back fence, sometimes for hours at a time. My sister, Robyn, and I were fortunate in our upbringing. It is those values and principles that I carry with me today. I am proud to say that I was raised on the land.

Leaving the land as a young man, I experienced the world of employment, working for business and companies. I learned what it was like to be an employee: sometimes good, sometimes bad. I learned that shiftwork is hard on the body and the brain, and I will touch on that a bit later. My next ventures had me engaged in business not as an employee but this time as an owner, an employer, seeing the same issues from the other side. Small business is a hard game. I purchased a small shop

and began to learn the trade of a locksmith. For six years I worked, sometimes thriving, sometimes struggling to make ends meet. Small business is a rough world and often your business relies purely on the economy around you and whether the foot traffic passing your door are worried about their immediate future or whether they are happy to part with a few dollars in your store.

Between the years of 1987 and 2008 I served as a volunteer firefighter with the Country Fire Authority in Victoria. As I said, it was purely voluntary. I rose through the ranks of this fine organisation until I was a leader, a captain of a busy country Victorian fire brigade at Colac, which has a population of some 10,000 to 15,000 people. I led that brigade, including its 70 volunteers and four fire appliances, through close to 1,000 triple 0 calls for assistance. A fire brigade is much like a parliament; its roots stem back to England and the 1800s, its traditions much the same. Fine architecture, old books, brass and polished timber are nothing new to me.

I have been burnt. I have pulled an unconscious man from a burning house only to get myself trapped in that same house in an incident a few hours later which almost cost me my life. Burnt and dazed, I managed to escape with my colleague in extreme heat and confusion. The following day I was again injured in a similar situation, this time being stabbed with a large shard of glass. I am thankful the third incident never came. Protocol and tradition are things I cherish, things I yearn to maintain and things I will always fight to retain. However, I do agree that sometimes protocol and tradition must cater for modern times.

During my time as a volunteer firefighter, I saw some horrendous things: scarred land from bushfires; devastation to cattle and farmers; the sight of strong men crying whilst shooting their injured stock; the shock and awe of road accidents; the smell of oil, petrol, diesel, rubber and plastic; the panic of house fires with residents standing on their lawns in pyjamas in the freezing cold of night as I arrived in the first fire appliance to take command; the look of hope on their face as I locked eyes with them. There is a certain look that only those in the House who have experienced it will know what I am referring to, be it from a child clutching a teddy bear to perhaps a phone ringing with the word 'mum' on the display sitting next to a deceased person in a car. This is my life.

Volunteer firefighters, auxiliary firefighters, career firefighters—whichever organisation they belong to, whether they are aviation, state, federal, private, government, rural, urban, plantation or based at sea—perform their work without fanfare, not for recognition and not for reward. It is their job or their hobby and for many it is both. They do it because they love it. It defines who they are.

It was during my service as a volunteer firefighter that I discovered the world of ambulance, and what a world it is. Recruited initially in a casual position in 1995 to assist the full-time ambulance officers at the time, I was lucky to be welcomed into a world that most of the population never get to see. A spark that began a full-time career for me five years later, which spanned another 15 years, starting in Geelong in Victoria and ending in Cairns in Queensland, it has made me what I am today. It defines me and who I am, it defines what I stand for, what I will fight for, what I will defend and what I will oppose—a special band of brothers and sisters who are truly on the front line. I miss it already—the camaraderie, the laughs, the adrenaline, the lifestyle.

The Queensland Ambulance Service is a fine organisation. Like the House we occupy, the QAS has many fine traditions and history stemming back to England. Many of the earlier ambulance bearers came from orderlies at hospitals. Some were policemen, some were boiler operators at hospitals. Some were paid extra and some did the task expecting no reward or payment. They did it because of their own self-imposed duty to their neighbours, their towns and their communities. Over time the QAS, like other ambulance services, evolved. The training increased. What was once a half-day training session became a few weeks and then months and then years. The equipment increased in not only its quantity but also its quality.

The expectation of operating as an ambulance bearer changed so much that they were renamed ambulance officers and, more recently, in the last 10 years they have become known as ambulance paramedics. If one wants to insult a paramedic, one needs only to refer to them as an ambulance bearer or an ambulance driver. This seems a simple statement, but many prominent members of the community still use these terms without, of course, realising it is potentially offensive to the very people they are trying to commend or speak highly of. Their positions are paramedics. They are very proud of that title. When people refer to them by that title, they grow a little bit with pride. Queensland paramedics work a 10- or a 12-hour shift. Normally, they work between four and eight days in a week, often rewarded with an equal amount of time off. Generally most like it. It affords them the opportunity to spend quality time with their families and also time on their designated response vehicles.

I will spare the House the graphic detail of what kind of work paramedics undertake as I am sure members have a degree of that insight, but I will share some simple points with the House. Whenever there is a body found, whether it is in a car, a house, in the bush or at a workplace, whenever a person dies of old age, disease, murder, accident or whatever, it will almost always be paramedics who arrive first once the plea goes to triple 0. Whenever a child is found motionless in a pool and the parents run for the phone, it will be paramedics who first enter the property in an attempt to turn chaos into some degree of order and calmness. The look in the eyes of the family says it all as paramedics charge into the lounge room where a father lays motionless on the floor from a heart attack. If I only had a gold coin for each time I heard the phrase, 'Please help us.'

Our flight paramedics—and I must mention that my good friend and parliamentary colleague the member for Thuringowa is cut from this breed—risk their lives dangling from a wire under a helicopter trying to reach a container ship, a yacht, a bush clearing or a remote rooftop. Recently we have seen these paramedics pay extreme prices in New South Wales and in Queensland, be it by death or by permanent disability.

Not all cases that paramedics attend are life-and-death situations. In fact, unfortunately, over the last 15 years a great proportion have been residents who were using the services of triple 0 because they either do not understand it or they do not wish to comply with the service being used only in the case of emergency. Some of these cases, which I have been to myself, are for people who do not have money to purchase medication, for a script that a doctor may have written for them. Paramedics have spoken of times when people have lost the remote control for the television and used triple 0 as a source of remedy. Many are lonely and many are confused.

What has not changed is the type of person it takes to succeed mentally and physically as a front-line paramedic in today's society. In fact, a recent study from the *Medical Journal of Australia* shows that the risk of serious injury to Australian paramedics is more than seven times higher than the Australian average—seven times. The fatality rate for Australian paramedics is six times higher than for the average Australian worker. Let me emphasise that point. A paramedic in Queensland is six times more likely to die at work than the average Queenslander. If there is one thing this House should have an agreement on, it is to reduce this figure to create a safer environment on our front lines.

Every two years one Australian paramedic dies at work and 30 are seriously injured in vehicle accidents. Ten Australian paramedics are seriously injured each year in assaults. Most alarmingly, the injury rate for paramedics is more than two times higher than it is for police. It pains me to know that our employees on the front line are being subjected to this degree of risk with injury, mental abuse and the ongoing personal heartache that comes from that. But if you go out there and ask them, they will say that they love it and they would not change their careers. They truly love their jobs and the reward that comes with the heartache—the adrenaline, the fun times, the experience. They mix the good and the bad. They wipe away their tears and they replace them with laughter. That is how they move on to the next job. I am proud to call myself one of them; I am proud to stand with them; I am proud to call them my comrades; and I am very humbled that they continue to call me one of theirs.

We cannot control the uncontrollable environment. As a government we cannot afford safe passage into every house, every darkened alleyway and every vehicle accident, but we cannot stand back and allow the numbers that I have mentioned to get worse. I fear, as I have watched the industry from the inside for 15 years, that these numbers will continue to grow. The front line of defence for the rights of paramedics in Queensland rests with the United Voice union. For years this union has defended individual paramedics and the whole cohort of paramedics and has represented, struggled and worked with governments and the QAS to increase safety and conditions for Queensland paramedics. As part of the United Voice union, a group of ambulance paramedics and communication operators form an executive body—a state council—who are the voices for more than 3,000 staff. For many years I, as well as my parliamentary colleague the member for Thuringowa, worked on this state council. We fought for wages and conditions, fatigue management solutions and the basic safety aspects that our front-line service requires. At times I wonder what the QAS would look like now and what those alarming numbers I mentioned before would look like if there was no state council and group who held the line of defence and continued to strive towards change.

It alarms me that, in this modern age, government employed front-line service workers such as paramedics, firefighters and nurses need to take their cause to the streets to campaign, march and wage war with the government of the day. In these modern times in the world we occupy, why do we have the most trusted professions turning to the streets to resolve their wages and conditions?

Shiftwork hurts the brain and it hurts the body. I anticipate that my life expectancy has been reduced by 10 years. But I am aware that the members of this House have had a snippet of shiftwork with late-night sittings and early starts, so I do not need to elaborate on that. Worldwide, studies on shiftworkers have shown decreased life expectancy and increased health risks such as diabetes, stress and heart attacks. We cannot take night shifts away from our emergency crews, we cannot deny the public those services in the wee hours of the morning and we cannot stop saving lives—but what we can do is provide support services to these crews to assist them to cope with the burden of shiftwork and the pounding their minds and bodies take in the course of their jobs. Just a few strategies that could help are: enhanced education; the availability of healthy food which does not need to be eaten quickly in a moving vehicle; earlier retirement strategies to reduce the need to work into the mid-60s or later; a better plan to ensure staff feel valued and their mental state better monitored; access to physical training, equipment and services; and the removal of the distinct separation between management and crew.

I would like to acknowledge the people I met along the road to parliament: my friends and paramedic work colleagues who in 2012 first promoted the idea to me of a political career and then assisted me to reach the various levels required—campaigning, speaking, media and social media to name a few—the paramedics and firefighters who embraced the concept of having one of their own represent them in parliament. From a team of preselected Labor paramedics, along with the member for Thuringowa I was successful, but I want to give recognition to one of our group: the ALP candidate for Noosa, Mr Mark Denham, who was not successful in the election. I pay my respects to the member for Noosa for his success.

I would like to thank the hard workers in my electorate and the surrounding electorates and the key people who drove my campaign to success: Mr Neil Noble, my campaign manager and, in the later stages of the election, Ms Kelly McManus. With the guidance of the previous Barron River Labor members Steve Wettenhall and Dr Lesley Clark, who both served time in this House, strategic support and logical advice was always close by.

I offer thanks to one of my mentors, the Treasurer and member for Mulgrave, who in the north of the state for three years stood strong in his desire to see the ALP returned and who remained strong in his support and encouragement of members like me in the far north. The timing of the campaign in Far North Queensland was hot and it was humid—it was January. For all of us in the far north it posed personal challenges for myself and volunteers who, despite the heat and the humidity, continued doorknocking and campaigning.

I particularly want to acknowledge Gary Bullock and the team at United Voice, Mr John Oliver and Mr Jack Emeleus; the team at United Firefighters Union; the National Council of Ambulance Unions led by my good friend Steve McGhie in Melbourne, who has watched my political career prosper for nearly 15 years; and the Services Union and other unions in Queensland through the Queensland Council of Unions who supported me. I am a proud union member and I am proud in the cause. I believe in what unions provide to their members.

I say to my dedicated and supportive staff Andrew Talbot and Chris Rollason, who I am sure are tuned into this speech from the Barron River office, that without their assistance the last three months would have been difficult, to say the least, as I ease into my new role. I also would like to thank the team of ALP branch members, volunteers, workers, friends and colleagues whom I met along the road and who helped me in those hot and humid conditions that we endured during the campaign.

Finally, and most importantly, my partner and fiancée, Rosalie Walter, has joined me in the House today from the viewing area. She is a hardworking shiftworker with Jetstar. Our road here has not been easy. The challenges of entering politics are not only financial, but the changes to your household are immense. Only a dedicated partner and family can hang on through that journey.

We live in a beautiful location in the northern beaches suburb of Trinity Park. I am a handyman with many small projects on the go at one time. If any of you should visit my home, please bring a tool bag, a cordless drill and an hour of your time. Life for us got more difficult during the campaign because there was no time for us and no time for me to assist her with her needs, but she never complained. She was supportive, strong and always looking for something to do to help me.

I proposed to Rosalie in 2014, on the very day that I was preselected to run for parliament. After spending some time in this fine establishment and following a late-night conversation with one of the security staff as well as the member for Mirani, who just happened to wander by at the time, and finding they were both married at this fine precinct, we listened intently to the concept. I am pleased to announce that Rosalie and I will be married in this House in April 2016.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ryan): Order! Congratulations to the member for Barron River on your engagement and your first speech.

The member for Buderim has been a member of this House for many years. I call the member for Buderim.

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (4.47 pm): Welcome back yourself, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would like to firstly offer my congratulations to the Speaker on his appointment and to all members of this parliament on their election and re-election. It is a privilege and an honour to have been returned to represent the people of Buderim. While I am disappointed in the election result statewide, in my electorate I was humbled to receive 52.66 per cent of the primary vote. I do recognise there was a shift of 9.55 per cent.

I want the constituents of the Buderim electorate to know that they have a voice. Following the 31 January election I have heard that voice loud and clear. It is how we move forward that defines us, and I promise to represent the residents of Buderim, North Buderim, Mountain Creek, Brightwater, Kunda Park, Kuluin, Rosemount, Diddilibah, Kiel Mountain, Forest Glen, Mons, Tanawha and a small part of Maroochydore to the best of my ability with integrity and honour. The people of Buderim electorate will always come first and I will continue to work with local residents, listen to their concerns and act on those. My door is always open to you.

I am pleased to be a patron of the following organisations: Buderim Cricket Club; Buderim Wanderers Soccer Club; Headland Buderim Croquet Club; Suncoast Gem and Fossicking Club; Sunshine Coast Dog Obedience Club; Sunshine Coast Hockey Association; Sunshine Coast Model Boat Club Inc.; Sunshine Coast Branch Surf Life Saving Australia; and Buderim foundation ambassador. I look forward to continuing to work closely with them all now and into the future.

I want to give my heartfelt thanks to the 150 volunteers who took part in the campaign handing out how-to-vote cards at various locations and just generally lending a hand. None of us would be here today without the support of our families, friends and greater communities, and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Today I must also acknowledge the following people for their relentless efforts during the campaign: my campaign manager Sheree Lyons, treasurer Terry Welch as well as Belinda Howard and Fran Matlock. I also thank my electorate staff. Sheree Lyons, Dawn Oliver and Harry McDonald worked tirelessly behind the scenes over the past term and I am looking forward to what we can achieve together over the coming years.

I pay tribute to the former Queensland premier, Campbell Newman, who gave me the great honour of also being a minister for national parks, recreation, sport and racing. Campbell Newman had a great vision for this state and made some extremely tough decisions in his time. His leadership and friendship will not be forgotten.

I would like to extend my best wishes to all of the staff from my former ministerial office including my chief of staff, Johanna de Winter; policy advisers Cobey Moore and Kristy Konnings; media advisers Michelle Buckworth and Natalie Wynne; administration officers Megan Smith and Nick Adermann; department liaison Trinity Lowe; and my driver, Cam Young.

I wish the staff of Queensland Parks and Wildlife and the Sport, Recreation and Racing team all the very best for the future and thank them all for the hard work and effort they put in over the past three years. Together we achieved some fantastic outcomes through a lot of long hours and hard work. Their assistance will never be forgotten, nor will the achievements that we made together.

One of the proudest achievements was the Raine Island project. Raine Island National Park, on the northern Great Barrier Reef, has been a nesting location for green turtles for more than a thousand years. Through the national parks department we identified that a change to the beach profile had resulted in a rapid decline in nesting success on the island. So bad were the conditions on the island that fewer than 20 per cent of the green turtle nests hatched successfully in the 2013-14 season—a sad reality when up to 20,000 turtles a night were attempting to lay in these nests. Another problem they faced was the small phosphate cliff edges or crevices. As many as 2,000 turtles a season were being caught under or upturned on those cliffs.

In September 2014 the LNP government, in conjunction with the traditional owners and the federal government, delivered the necessary equipment and materials to the island and undertook the most extensive works ever conducted there. During the three-week period the program erected 400 metres of fencing along the cliff's edge, minimising turtles being upturned during the nesting season, bringing the total length of fencing to 800 metres; reprofiled 150 metres of beach foredune and swale

to reduce water inundation of nests; established a number of fenced 'nursery' plots with ideal conditions to determine optimal nesting success; installed more cameras and data loggers to improve communication and satellite monitoring capabilities on this remote island.

This is one of the world's most important green turtle nesting sites, and I would hope that the current government would now see the value of this project, after ignoring it for so many years, and continue monitoring this critical part of the Great Barrier Reef. I would ask that the government make available to the public vision from the cameras on the island so that we can all keep an eye on the progress as the island continues to get better and better over time. These 2014-15 components of the project were jointly funded, and I implore the Labor government to please continue the work on the island so that future generations do not miss out on this natural wonder.

The LNP government also provided \$1.5 million to launch the Nature Play initiative, which provided children with personalised passports full of nature based missions designed to help increase the amount of time spent outdoors. This program not only provided children with plenty of fun and excitement; it also provided an alternative to sitting indoors and being immersed in technology. It is no secret that childhood obesity has reached epidemic proportions in Queensland, and I am proud to have been part of a team that searched for alternatives and solutions.

Our previous election commitment to get more young Queenslanders involved in recreation and sport was also delivered through our hugely successful Get in the Game program. This initiative was incredibly popular, with funding of \$68 million delivered over three years through Get Playing, Get Going, Get Started and Get Playing Plus. Get Going provided grants of up to \$10,000 for items and activities to assist clubs in attracting and retaining members. Get Playing provided grants of up to \$100,000 to sport and recreation organisations for facility development. Get Started provided assistance to children and young people who could least afford or may otherwise benefit from joining a sport or recreation club. Eligible children and young people were able to apply for vouchers of up to \$150 to pay for club membership or participation fees. I am thrilled to say that during the course of the Get Started program the take-up rate of the \$150 vouchers rose from 23 per cent in the first year to 38 per cent for children who had never, ever played team sport before.

I am also proud to say that in the Sunshine Coast region over the term 267 clubs registered for Get Started, with 6,714 Get Started vouchers issued. \$2.7 million in funding was awarded to successful Get Playing Plus applicants and more than \$4 million was delivered through Get Playing and Get Going funding. Get in the Game was a resounding success and I hope Recreation and Sport continues to thrive, despite the change in leadership.

The Queensland racing industry also turned the corner with the LNP government. Huge reforms have taken place in the past three years. I am proud to say that an exclusive retail wagering licence with Tatts Group was made which is expected to provide over \$4.5 billion to the Queensland racing industry. I can unashamedly say that the LNP delivered upon its commitment to rebuild racing in this great state. This deal provides security for tens of thousands of families across the state for three decades to come. Through this landmark 30-year agreement, country racing and infrastructure investment will also be supported, with a key part of the agreement including \$97 million for infrastructure development and \$5 million over five years for country racing and regional racing.

The LNP committed to ensuring that the Queensland racing industry is a competitive force on the Australian racing scene, and I strongly believe that we are well on the way to restoring confidence and growth in the Queensland racing sector. We delivered an extra \$850 million in funding, in addition to the \$130 million per year in revenue the industry currently receives under previous arrangements with Tatts.

Another milestone in racing included the Gold Coast Magic Millions meeting, set to become Australia's richest race day from 2016. A seven-year partnership deal puts the Gold Coast's biggest race meeting into the world's top 10 race days. This announcement was a game-changer for racing in Queensland. This day is now worth a staggering \$10 million, which will attract the best horses and put Queensland in the spotlight for the next seven years.

Country racing has begun to thrive after a commitment of \$4 million by the LNP government to enable 20 additional race meetings per year. Under Labor, the number of country race meetings almost halved over the past decade. Country race meetings are the lifeblood of our regional communities, and I would be extremely disappointed to see this achievement unravelled.

I would like to wish every sporting and recreational club, national park enthusiast and racing club across Queensland the very best for the future, as it was great to travel around and get to know all of you during my time as minister for national parks, recreation, sport and racing.

I am also extremely pleased at what we have been able to achieve in the electorate of Buderim during the last term. Some of the highlights include \$10.4 million for road upgrades on the Buderim-Mooloolaba road; \$400,000 for new safety crossing lights at Lions Park; \$180,000 towards the rejuvenation of Buderim Village Park in conjunction with the Sunshine Coast Council; \$871,000 for the Maroochydore Eagles-Sunshine Coast Clippers basketball stadium upgrade which will see two new courts installed at that facility; \$770,000 for Maroochydore Junior Rugby League; \$447,000 to the Buderim Mountain State School; \$91,275 in funding for drainage at Buderim Wanderers soccer club; \$3 million to the Brightwater State School for an indoor sports facility; and \$1.2 million to Brightwater State School for a kindergarten. School P&Cs in the Buderim electorate shared in funding of \$74,199. I pay credit to the former minister for education, who put so much effort and energy into schools right throughout the state. Flashing school zone lights were installed at the Buderim Mountain school and Mountain Creek State School. Some \$100,000 went towards the Maroochydore Cricket Club. Some \$462,585 went to the Kuluin State School while the Maroochydore SES received \$49,990 in funding.

These are of course just a few of the stand-outs over a very busy three years. There is, however, still more work to be done. As promised during the campaign, I want to get a permanent home for the Buderim Men's Shed, a state-of-the-art display case for a piece of Buderim—the Krauss locomotive—and a much needed revamp of the Buderim Mountain State School swimming pool. Last year I announced a new land lease agreement between the group and the former state government which saw the Buderim Men's Shed gain its own land for the future construction of the Men's Shed and I am committed to working with this group to provide a fantastic service to our community. A purpose-built shed will provide not only a permanent home but also an expansion in Men's Shed activities and membership base. The group is the biggest in Australia and, with the help of our community, it will continue to grow and look after those men who so desperately need our help. The Men's Shed offers not only a safe and comfortable environment for men to get together and talk, but there are more than 25 groups with a range of activities such as woodwork, metalwork, leadlight, photography through to gardening and computer skills. I will continue to support and lobby for a permanent home for the Buderim Men's Shed and call on the government to do what it can for Men's Sheds right across this great state. I will also keep fighting for funding to see a remarkable piece of not only Buderim's history but also Queensland's history placed in the Buderim town centre for all families and residents to enjoy. The Buderim-Palmwoods Heritage Tramway group has been raising funds for some time now in order to relocate the historic Krauss locomotive into the town centre and provide a glass case in order to preserve the locomotive. I also want to ensure that Buderim Mountain State School receives a much needed rejuvenation to its pool complex, which includes general maintenance and heating so that Buderim kids and families can enjoy the facilities all year around. It does get extremely cold in Buderim in winter.

It is extremely important moving forward that the Sunshine Coast remain at the forefront of the Palaszczuk government's mind. Following its recent decision to axe the \$440 million Mooloolah River interchange, it is clear that the current government is out of touch with the Sunshine Coast community and its needs. This road network is critical to solving the bottleneck issue on the Sunshine Coast as well as providing a critical link to the new \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital. The Sunshine Coast Council identified the upgrade as one of the council's top 10 priorities. The Sunshine Coast Business Council has also criticised the axing, saying the loss of this critical piece of infrastructure has the potential to negatively influence our investment prospects for the future. I wholeheartedly second that. To put it simply, this road will be the difference between someone living and dying. With the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital opening in 2016, it is vital that the necessary road network is in place. Lives could be lost if this road network infrastructure is not provided, as every minute counts in medical emergencies. Furthermore, this project will offer a long-term solution to traffic growth. I also call for information on the issue of the Sunshine Coast rail duplication. Under the LNP plan, \$532 million was committed as part of the public transport rail infrastructure along with 150 additional services. The Sunshine Coast community needs clarity and a commitment from this government that transport on the Sunshine Coast will not be overlooked and forgotten. The duplication of this network will not only provide extra services but could create some 3,000 jobs.

I will continue to fight for these and many other projects in my electorate over the next three years to ensure the community continues to thrive. I am also committed to seeing small business, tourism, jobs and our health service continue to flourish. Our job as political leaders is to ensure our community is represented fairly and equally and I hope the current government will not forget about the people of Buderim or the Sunshine Coast. As I said in my maiden speech, good government needs good opposition. I am humbled to be part of an LNP team with enthusiasm and drive. The LNP

will represent its constituents with pride and, above all, the will to move on and get the job done. Lastly but certainly not least, I want to pay tribute to the most important people—my family. To my wife, Debbie, and to my sons, Christian and Zeik, and to my daughter-in-law, Karlee, I would not have embarked on this journey without your support. I am truly blessed and I thank you for your unwavering and continued support over the past nine years. In closing, I am so thankful to have been given the opportunity to again work with and for the people of the Buderim electorate and I promise that I will work to the best of my ability over the next three years and look forward to working with you all to deliver great outcomes for our state.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ryan): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Logan, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions. I call the member for Logan.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.04 pm): It is an honour and a humbling privilege to rise to speak as the representative of and on behalf of the fantastic people of the Logan state electorate. The state electorate of Logan has much diversity and represents many of the strengths and challenges that the state of Queensland faces. From the suburbs of Browns Plains, Heritage Park and Crestmead—which are on the edge of Brisbane and provide not only more affordable housing but also the space to build the Australian dream home—to the growing satellite future city of Flagstone to the historical settlement of Logan Village and the rural, residential and farms of Stockleigh, Munruben and Park Ridge in between, they are all great communities. They each have their strengths and their challenges.

The electorate of Logan has both farmers and factory workers, the Crestmead Industrial Estate and the Berrinba wetlands. It has a large section of the Logan Motorway and also a large section of the Logan River. It is the difference and diversity that defines this as a great place to live. We in this place need to maintain the value and character of existing communities and answer to the needs of young families for housing, jobs, services and education that only new development can provide. This is the balance that defines outer Logan City and is the challenge for many areas of Queensland. It is our challenge in this place to build strong communities and give every family the best chance of success through the path of education and on to jobs. We must be champions of the new sports clubs striving for their first flag or even struggling to field their first senior team and the new schools seeking to build a culture of success and a new generation of self-reliant, inquisitive young adults. We must support, not cut, the local services that bind these communities. We must increase public transport by restoring cut services and build on the health and education services that are so vital for young families.

In this place we come not to a new parliament but one with significant tradition. Though we are a new country and we were a new colony, if we were to compare ourselves to other democratic parliaments we would be one of the older continuous democratic parliaments in the world. I want to recognise the previous member for Logan, Michael Pucci, for his commitment to public service and especially to his family, who actively supported him on the campaign trail. I also want to recognise former Speaker John Mickel, who has taken so much of his time to be a mentor for so many, and none more than me. He has taught me so much about what it means to be a representative of the Queensland people in this place. Although he is now the former member, he still works to support local organisations. He deeply cares for, fights for and stands for the struggling families who are seeking to make Logan their home and seeking success for their families. I am really inspired by his commitment to care—not for the trappings of this place or for his former roles as Speaker and minister but to help out, either through legislation or electoral support, someone struggling more than most or a person appearing at the office as a last resort with a problem that for them seems insurmountable. 'That's who you're there for,' he will tell me, and he is right.

I also recognise the former member for Logan and Premier Wayne Goss. Always a Labor supporter, it was Goss's first re-election campaign in 1992 that prompted me to finally join the Australian Labor Party. I could not let the state slip backwards. I had to act. His role in the history of Queensland is enormous. He redefined Queensland from a backwards-looking, mates-and-cronies-run state into one where Queenslanders could have pride in their state. He had the vision to make Queensland more than many other Queenslanders could even imagine. Wayne was passionate about Logan too, delivering services to a growing city, including a new university campus, expanded health services and the beginnings of a public transport system. After his retirement from state politics, he worked privately, looked after his health and spent time with his wife, Roisin, and their two children, yet occasionally he would take the time to give quiet support and advice.

After the state election in 2012, when the Labor Party and I were so comprehensively rejected by Queenslanders, I invited supporters to my then home in Regents Park to share a barbecue and to thank them. Wayne rang and asked if he, too, could come along and say a few words. Wayne quietly took the time to speak to each of the branch members. Some were friends of decades; others he was meeting for the very first time. He inspired all of us to keep our focus on what really mattered for Queenslanders, to remember for whom and why we wanted to make a difference. At that point, during that speech, he had more confidence in Labor than we felt ourselves. He knew that if we reconnected with Queensland we could once again win. After all, this man knew what it was like to beat Joh's malapportionment and gerrymander. I felt deeply moved and, like all Queenslanders, I was deeply saddened when we lost Wayne. He still had so much to give our state.

As I am guided by Wayne and John, I am also the product of my family and their experience in coming to this country and also helping to shape it. My first ancestor born in this country could not have been born in more humble circumstances. Mary McCarthy was born in 1845 in the Parramatta women's factory after her mother requested to be re-admitted to get support for her child as her husband was away working. A 57-year-old colony had little in the way of social support. Most of the rest of my family came as a result of the social and economic disaster arising out of the failure of the potato crop in Ireland from 1845. The Power family were the residents of the small market town of Ennistymon in West Clare, which, like most of Ireland's west, was devastated by An Gorta Mor, the great hunger. Ennistymon's poorhouse has some of the most comprehensive records of the period and they make for very sad reading. The poorhouse records the deaths of hundreds of local residents who died within the poorhouse under the responsibility of the government, including in 1850 a nine-year-old Pat Power—undoubtedly a close relative. In West Clare the population was over 30 per cent less in the five years after the start of the failure of the crop and to this day has never recovered. This is not just a piece of family history but also a reminder in this House of the extremes of government failure, the lack of democratic representation and the free market extremism that directly caused these deaths. When we make cold economic decisions in this place, we must recognise how they can devastate the lives of those who can least afford them. Another ancestor of mine, again from West Clare, determined in this new country to make it more democratic. Michael Hanrahan, while working on the new gold diggings near Ballarat—diggings called Eureka—dropped his tools and took up leadership and the pike to make a stand. As captain of the pikemen, he missed the attack as he led a party to the Geelong road to engage the soldiers. However, his cousins in the stockade received bullet and bayonet wounds.

Again, this is not just an interesting piece of family history but why I hold to the belief that Australian democracy and the fairness that we value so much was something that we built together, something that we have fought for and something that we must continue to fight for. It was only after the stand at Eureka that the Australian colonies together made laws that were far in advance of those made by the corrupt and illegitimate parliament that they had left behind. As Australians, we built and preserve our democratic traditions. There could be no better way to honour the diggers of Eureka than to build on that tradition by having a truly Australian head of state.

No-one who has a family who were present during the majority of the period after 1788 could reflect on their family history without reflecting on that group of Australians who have a family history that runs some more than 40,000 years before 1788. Aboriginal Australians have not shared in the success of the Australian system in the same way that other families have. This is in large part because this place failed. Another Australian with an Irish background, Paul Keating, reflected on this in his landmark Redfern speech when he said—

We took the traditional lands and smashed the traditional way of life.

We brought the diseases. The alcohol.

We committed the murders.

We took the children from their mothers.

We practised discrimination and exclusion.

It was our ignorance and our prejudice.

And our failure to imagine these things being done to us.

On our failure to imagine, for many Australians Keating got it a bit wrong. Many Australians, including many Irish Australians, did not have to imagine these things being done to them. For many in Ireland or the working class of industrial England, many of these things had been done to them. Yet it is almost worse than those who could use memory rather than imagination. We still failed Aboriginal Australians through action and inaction. Together, we can and must work together to ensure that this parliament cannot be accused of the same failure. In this spirit, I recognise that this parliament meets

on the traditional country of the Turrbal people and I wish to acknowledge them as the traditional owners. Further, I want to recognise that the Logan state electorate is on the traditional country of the Jagera and Yugumbir language speakers. I wish to pay my respects to their elders, past and present, and the elders who may be here today. In Logan, community elders play an important role locally in providing a continuity of culture, educating children and, I think, inspiring local representatives.

My father, Des Power, instilled in me a compassion for others. He was intensely proud of Australia, his family and especially his children. He championed education, being the first of his family in this country for over a century to go to university. He never stopped learning, teaching and valuing an interest in ideas and values. He taught his children—Lucy, Ben, Peter and I—a passion for fairness and a belief in the value of every human, especially those who have a disability. He was a champion of deaf education, deaf culture and especially of Auslan, Australia's own sign language. He lived through a time when the deaf were hidden away and regarded as dumb to a time where deaf culture thrived and celebrated its place in society. My father celebrated the deaf graduates of Griffith University. He was as proud of those deaf graduates and their successful careers post graduation as he was of his own children. Dad died recently and at his funeral I met not just his most recent deaf students but also students he had taught in the 1960s. He passed on a strong sense of faith that I hope to practise and pass on to my own children. Dad's sense of justice and fairness meant that he taught us that we had a responsibility, perhaps being drawn from *Rerum Novarum*, to support and be active in workers' organisations. I remember that at his retirement he wanted to be remembered not for what he had achieved in teaching and research but how he had always been part of the union and stood for other workers to build a fair place to work for all.

I despair that some in this society and this place attack unions. Unions built a safer, fairer society that gives value and dignity to work and workplaces. Workers are not simply an input into the economic system; they are the final product. Unions fight to make sure that that principle is recognised. I want to acknowledge Ben Swan, Mark and Charis of the Australian Workers' Union and the district secretaries such as Troy and Cowboy; Peter, Scott, Sarah and others at the Transport Workers' Union, who fight for the safety of drivers who deliver the products that we use; and Chris, John and others at the SDA who share my belief that every worker deserves respect and safety in the workplace. I also want to acknowledge all the hardworking delegates and organisers who joined the labour movement in the hope of making workplaces fairer and safer and our country greater.

Although Dad cannot be here tonight, I think of him often and the lessons that he taught me. Mum is right when she reminds us that he left the world a better place. I hope that one day someone could say the same of me. I want to recognise my mother, Mary, who is here tonight. She has given so much to her children. Mum gave so much to us, taking so much time away from teaching to be with us as young kids. Despite our annoyances, she completed her studies, showing us an example of dedication to a single research question. We kids all have mum's determination to stand up to anyone for what is right and fair. I thank Ben, Peter and Lucy—my brothers and sister. We have shared so many experiences as siblings and I value our continued closeness as our families grow.

I wish to thank my wife, Jacki, for her endless support. I would be a much lesser person without her and I value her determination and dedication to our children. I wish to thank my three children, Jack, Caitlin and Lucy. They are wonderful and fascinating. Their growth and ideas truly make life greater for Jacki and me.

No member of this place is ever elected here by themselves. It may be that their name appears on the ballot, but behind them there is a fantastic team of volunteers and supporters. I want to thank Nina, Hazel, Jim, Cheryl, Bev, Jess and Keith, Teresa, Pierce, Stewart, Lisa, Max, Cherie, Terry and Joan, Terry and Patricia, Amijid, the O'Mara family and so many more people who helped out in so many ways. So many people gave support but also they gave ideas locally, not least the best little volunteer, Jack. I would like to thank the ALP team, especially John, Anthony and Evan, who did so much behind the scenes to make our party a more responsive, active and accountable party for members.

In this place, each generation who has their names etched on the wall outside bear a great responsibility to recognise the greatest challenge that confronts the wellbeing of the people and places of Queensland. Often to those outside this place seems reactive to events and not looking to the future. That means not looking to tomorrow's headlines but working for future industries, anticipating trends and change. We need to listen to those who inform us of the future.

We all value Queensland's lifestyle and the natural beauty of our state, not to mention our economy, yet when those who study the science of global warming due to greenhouse gases let us know that these things are most likely to slowly erode those values then we should listen. However,

the convenience of today often means that these things are ignored in favour of more pressing problems. Instead, we must act sensibly and pragmatically and with the best advice to take smart action and avoid the risks of warming to our state and nation. This is a conservative, sensible course of action and this parliament has to play its part in the global problem. I look forward to all of us doing that in this place.

Our nation is ageing as our birth rate is consistently low. These are in a bigger sense both good things. Our nation and our planet do have a finite capacity even though it is probably higher than we think. Australia's children per woman, a measure called total fertility, is 1.9—obviously not at replacement level. Without immigration we would slowly lose population in Australia. At the same time this nation and state has collectively and steadily increased our life expectation to 82.1 years. This is a triumph, yet it provides a challenge as more workers age and the proportion of taxpaying workers to the proportion of retirees decreases. We need to consider this challenge and frame policy that reflects it and saves for the future for the dignity of both workers and the retired. The compulsory superannuation guarantee policy, a triumph of the Keating government, was one such policy that saved money from 1992 that we can now rely on. Even though it should be noted that the Howard government undermined the policy, the challenge for this parliament is to be as farsighted as the architects of the superannuation guarantee.

Looking again at the board outside, we see an enormous change of names. Never in the history of the Queensland parliament has this place seen so much change in its members than over the last two elections. At the same time, public confidence in politics and politicians is at a consistent low. While I will not reflect on what lessons the members of the last government may have learnt from the experience, I will note that the 2012 election was an event that made all members on this side of the House deeply consider the purpose of being an elected representative—especially a Labor representative. Labor members have reconnected and recommitted to the democratic principles of listening, consulting and fighting for those in need. We have stronger, more representative branches, we have better processes of listening and we have connected better with the grassroots organisations. This will make for a better government, but just as importantly, it might lift regard for those who engage in public service and representation in this chamber. This is led from the top by the Premier. At each of our meetings she demands that we continue to actively listen. The Premier is continuing to do this herself.

I know we all take lessons and inspiration from our constituents. A few years ago doing relief teaching at St Francis College, a fantastic school within the state electorate of Logan, I attended the weekly staff prayers. The teachers there were asked to make their own reflection on a prayer. In this case some of the younger teachers had taken the prayer of St Paul contained in the first letter to the early Corinthian Christians. Members may have heard this prayer at weddings as it is often taken as a reflection on love, but they would not have thought deeply though that St Paul has a radical challenge in this letter to show Christian love in the everyday things we do. These young teachers revealed that to me. The young teachers adapted the prayer to say about their own profession, 'If I have advanced teaching theory in the classroom but have no love, I am nothing; if I use the latest online teaching apps but have no love, I am nothing; if I speak well on the curriculum but have no love, then I am'—and members will remember this—'but a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.' This prayer inspired me. If we come to this place with great rhetoric and speeches yet fail to focus on the real reason for being here—the respect and care for ordinary Queenslanders—then truly we are nothing; we simply fill this hall with noise, bereft of real meaning; we will be nothing.

I cannot promise that in every speech we shall fill this place with Christian love, but we would do well to reflect on the values of those young St Francis College teachers to help us keep focused on our true purpose in this place lest we be but a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. Members, this is our calling. Let us in this 55th Parliament live up to this great calling.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.24 pm): I rise in the House today to reply to the Governor's opening speech. I rise to support the amendments proposed by the member for Southern Downs, the honourable the Leader of the Opposition. I am disappointed that the government used a significant occasion such as the opening of parliament to politicise what should have been the clear direction of this current government.

I speak on behalf of the constituents of the Nanango electorate, a vast electorate that covers some 13,800 square kilometres and has 31 towns and many more communities. The region is blessed with some of the finest prime agricultural lands, tourism opportunities, natural resources and industry. I listened with keen interest to the Governor's speech on 25 March of this year. I listened on behalf of the people of my electorate and I asked myself if what was being said was good enough for

them; would this new government support them over the next three years like our LNP government had done over the previous three years? I came to the conclusion that what was said certainly was not good enough for the people of my electorate and I can explain why. Firstly, in relation to agriculture, the backbone of my electorate is primary production: farming families who produce our food and fibres. They work so hard, mostly against the odds, every day to keep food on our tables and clothes on our backs. They are supported by hundreds of small businesses: businesspeople who sell seed and fertiliser, service their equipment and order their parts. There are contractors who build fences and spray crops, truck drivers who transport the livestock, agronomists who work alongside the farmer and meatworkers who process the meat. Our towns rely heavily on agriculture and not once during this government's speech was agriculture mentioned; neither was the word 'farmer' or 'primary producer'. This means that not once were the majority of the people who reside in my electorate acknowledged; not once were these people who have suffered through droughts and floods highlighted in this important address. It is like they did not even exist.

Since the Governor's speech I have had a couple of trips out west. Just this week I was in Hebel and Dirranbandi. Hebel is looking as dry as the places around Longreach. It is devastating for those families. I thank the members for Warrego and Gregory for hosting me in that region. It is wonderful to see those families and how they are dealing with what they are going through. I congratulate those two members, Ann Leahy and Lachy Millar, for the hard work they are putting into their community to support agricultural producers in this fine state.

Secondly, in relation to the regions, this government talks on the one hand about its new Building our Regions program yet on the other it scrapped our hugely successful Royalties for the Regions program. It has single-handedly reduced the amount that we pledged to the regions, almost \$500 million over four years, to just \$390 million and is trying to make out that that is a good thing. This shows absolute disregard for rural and regional areas. We created the Royalties for the Regions program to fund roads, bridges, water infrastructure and flood mitigation works that our regional communities desperately needed after 20 years of Labor neglect. There was no clearer demonstration of our LNP's pledge to Queensland's regions than this vitally important money that was flowing back through our local councils and providing jobs for our locals. In my electorate of Nanango the community saw many great benefits from this project, with more than \$25 million injected into the region for projects such as new overtaking lanes and upgrades of wooden bridges and dangerous intersections. We also saw a major commitment of \$10 million, which was much-needed money for the upgrade of the Kingaroy wastewater treatment plant. That was a project that simply had to be done.

Mr Powell: It had to be.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take the interjection from the member for Glass House. It did need to be done. If it was not for that \$10 million from the Royalties for the Regions program, the council would have had no funding and would have had to raise rates again. Our LNP government understood that regional Queensland is the engine room of our state economy and that resource-rich regions such as the Nanango electorate deserve to see the benefits of that industry.

I wish to talk about access to mental health services. For some time it has been one of my passions to improve access to mental health services in our regional areas. Whilst Labor does talk about expanding services for adolescents, there is no talk whatsoever about helping the people in my region. At the last sitting when they talked about 'region', they paired it with 'Townsville'. It is very difficult for the people who live in the Nanango electorate to travel to Brisbane, let alone Townsville, for mental health services. People are suffering from extreme drought conditions. In the past couple of months, I have visited some of those wonderful families and they are simply at the end of their tether. Farming families of my electorate, as well as those of Callide and further afield, have faced disasters such as floods and cyclones and have seen their farms and livelihoods destroyed.

I am committed to securing funding for a South Burnett clubhouse, which was a fully funded and budgeted local commitment that I made during the previous election. The proposed South Burnett clubhouse will offer a model of care that has a proven track record, providing intervention services that assist people from the region who experience mental health problems. It would be similar to the current and very successful Toowoomba Clubhouse, which provides vocational training and work experiences to people with mental illness, helping them connect with treatment and rehabilitation, and re-establishment with the working community. As I said, this was a fully budgeted local commitment. Therefore, I will again be calling on the minister to follow through with this vital commitment for my area.

I also call on the Minister for Health to continue the funding for the vital Mates Who Open Gates counselling support service for farmers. That innovative program provides on-farm counselling support for farming families, but is at risk of folding due to a lack of support from this government. As I said before, with more than 70 per cent of our state still in the grip of terrible drought and others still suffering from the effects of the cyclone, our farmers need all the support they can get. However, it seems that this government does not even realise that our primary producers are in real trouble.

Mates Who Open Gates was created and coordinated by a Toowoomba group called Ag Assist, led by Mr Rod Saal. At a social meeting, Mr Saal met the then health minister and now Leader of the Opposition, Lawrence Springborg, and we assisted Mr Saal with a pilot training project. The program trains volunteers who, at the invitation of a producer, visit the farm and lend an ear. That may lead to a referral for further support, or it may just open up a good opportunity for the producer to speak with someone else about their situation. Our former government recognised the value of the program and funded the pilot project. More than 80 volunteers went through the program and received training, which was more than double the number we predicted when Mr Saal first talked to us. The program needs to be extended for a further two years at least, because I know there is a need in my community and there is also a need further west, in Warrego and in Gregory. The project supported many people throughout my electorate, as the South Burnett was involved in one of the pilot programs.

Finally, there is a desperate need for a new hospital in Kingaroy. I was always very pleased that our minister put the Kingaroy Hospital at the top of the list of most needed projects. Our former government identified that several rural and regional hospitals, neglected by the previous Labor government, desperately needed replacing and, as I just said, at the top of the list was the Kingaroy Hospital. I welcome yesterday's announcement by the Chairman of the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Board, Mr Mike Horan, that it is the health board's continued priority to advocate for a new public hospital in Kingaroy.

The Kingaroy Hospital was built in 1938 and some extensions were completed in the eighties. The rest of the hospital is made up of demountable buildings that the staff try to make work. I congratulate all staff at the Kingaroy Hospital who helped my husband when he broke his arm recently. He started treatment in the Cherbourg Hospital where he was greatly helped and then the cast was put on his arm at the Kingaroy Hospital. I put on record my gratitude and my thanks to all of the lovely nursing staff, the doctors and the administrative staff at the Kingaroy Hospital, who all work so hard. Yesterday, the plaster came off and he has recovered very well. Apparently it is still a bit stiff, but he is working on that.

Our government identified the Kingaroy Hospital as one of the 12 ageing rural hospitals in need of critical maintenance. That was also acknowledged in a 2010 report prepared by the former Labor government, yet nothing was done during its term in office. Our former government made the decision to invest some \$2 million to conduct vital upgrades, particularly around fire and staff safety, to ensure safety whilst they were waiting for a new hospital to be built. The maternity ward is one of the busiest non-specialist birthing centres in the state, with over 400 babies born each year. I could be corrected, but I understand that ours is the second highest birthing hospital regionally outside the south-east corner and Longreach. It is wonderful that so many babies are born in my area, because that means it is prosperous—

An opposition member: Future constituents.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: And future constituents. I congratulate all the mums. Unfortunately, the facilities that those mums and the hospital staff have to work in do not match the high level of need. There are only two birthing suites and it is quite disjointed, yet the staff do an amazing job. Until last year, our dental hospital waiting time was up to nine years. Under our LNP government, that was reduced to two years. I know all of the dentists of the South Burnett, the Somerset and the Toowoomba regions really appreciated having the load taken off them because of that amazing initiative of our government.

I wish to thank many people from within the Nanango electorate for their support over the past three years. In particular, I thank the entire Nanango State Executive Council and LNP groups. I thank the crew who make up the local branches. I acknowledge the Crows Nest branch and make particular mention of Bevan and Bev Kahler. Bevan had to retire this year, after working for many years for the LNP. I wish him all the best with his health and also thank Bev Kahler who has really supported him along the way. I acknowledge the great Goombungee branch, the Cooyar branch, the South Burnett branch and, obviously, the old branches of Yarraman, Nanango and Kingaroy. I make particular

mention of Ian Badman who has taken the Kilcoy branch from strength to strength, expanding it into the Somerset region. There are so many people whom I want to thank, as it is one of the fastest growing branches in the state of Queensland. I do not want to leave anyone out, but in particular I mention Margie Lee-Madigan, Jane, Kimberley, Zac, Julie Pantlin, Jack Delaney, Chris Anderson and Ray Patroni. I want to give a special shout out to Col Kiem who has worked so hard for the Nanango electorate for many years and this year again came out of retirement to help me. He is wonderful. I thank Col and Lorraine for their understanding.

I want to do a big shout out to my sister, Jackie Allery, and my brother-in-law, John Allery. In the last three years, if it had not been for them—I cannot believe I am getting emotional—helping Jason and I out with our three beautiful daughters and providing a home for them when I was away, I would not have been able to do what I do. I really want to thank them. Of course, I thank my mum and dad. My mum often comes over and helps out with the kids and does the ironing. I have to say that so she continues to do it. I think she thought I did not need that for a while there.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: No, you cannot. I say to everyone in this House, and particularly the new members doing their first speeches, that it is an emotional time and given the number of hours we all put into this job, we should give a shout out to all of our families. They do so much for us. They enable people like me to be all around my electorate. It is such a big electorate. I really want to thank my family. I have not actually rung my sister, Jackie, today, but she needs to have Elke this weekend. So if she could do that, that would be great.

I would also like to thank Kate, Lenny and Belinda who run my life for me in my electorate office. These girls are simply amazing. I really do want to do a shout out particularly to Kate Hay and her husband, Peter, to Lenny Hams and Belinda Purnell. These girls are simply amazing. I would not be able to do it without them.

To all of the people I have not mentioned, I certainly have not forgotten you. You have worked really hard for me. I am extremely honoured to have been re-elected to serve the people of the Nanango electorate. I intend to continue to fight to make sure agriculture stays on the agenda and that our regional area gets its fair share of funding. This electorate was left behind for so long. I was so proud over the last three years to get funding moving. I will take the jokes from the member for Glass House and the previous treasurer over the last three years who used to go on about how much funding we got, but we got it because it was desperately needed and we had been forgotten for a long time. I am calling on the new government to not forget about us out there. I intend to continue to work hard and fight for a fair share for my electorate. I wish to continue to honour the commitments to my electorate of Nanango, a wonderful and vital area.

Thank you to all of those who have helped me.

Mr Rickuss: What about the Moore art festival, you did not mention it, I do not think?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I did not mention the Moore art festival. Thank you, member for Lockyer, for all of your great advice. The Moore art festival was only on a week or two ago. It was fabulous. We have some great artistic displays all the way through the Nanango electorate. We are on the tourist trail for small art shows. It is wonderful.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (5.43 pm): It was one of the greatest honours of my life to be elected to the Queensland parliament in 2009 and to serve the people of the Bulimba electorate for three years. During that time I worked closely with the almost 200 schools and community groups that are so tireless in their efforts for our electorate, saw firsthand the achievements and commitment of our local businesses, met the most amazing everyday people and was proud to achieve some real outcomes that I hope helped to make our community a better place.

In the intervening three years between then and now, I loved the chance to volunteer and/or keep in touch with a number of those community groups, many of which are closely intertwined with the life of my family: the Morningside State School P&C, the Morningside Festival Committee, the Rackley Swim School, the TS Gayundah Naval Cadets, the Cannon Hill Stars Netball Club, the Scleroderma Association of Queensland, the Tertiary Place, the Morningside footy club, the Morningside Flyers Swimming Club, the Balmoral Bowls Club—which has, unfortunately, closed—the South East Brisbane Chamber Of Commerce, the Cannon Hill Stars Rugby League Club and the Cannon Hill District and Vietnam Services RSL Sub-Branch.

What I learned in that three years humbled me. Although as an MP I thought I knew and understood how hard volunteers work—and I think we all absolutely know that, no matter what side of politics we are on—having the chance to spend more up close personal time with the people in those

clubs as a volunteer myself was a simply amazing experience. Seeing at close quarters the hours, the effort, the energy, the time away from family that people sacrifice, the love of community that motivates them was awe-inspiring. I thank all of them for everything they do and for everything they teach us all about how to create the social fabric of a place. The experience will, I hope, help me to serve them even better as I embark on my second time as a member of parliament.

What I also came to know in that time was that many people in our fantastic community felt that since the LNP came to power they had taken our community for granted and that they were not being listened to. I could see it in the way they tried to sell off the oval at Balmoral high, in the way they treated doctors during the dispute over pay, in the way our public servants, teachers, doctors, nurses, ambulance workers and so many other people were treated with such disrespect. That is why I wanted to run again—to stand up for the things that are important and to make sure that the people of my community got their voice back again.

I stand here now overwhelmed yet again with the privilege of being again the member for Bulimba. I am so honoured to be representing the community that I love. Many people outside my electorate seem to know it best for Oxford Street, which is the busy precinct in Bulimba that is full of restaurants, cafes, bars, the famous Balmoral Cinema, the equally famous Riverbend Books and the many other retail outlets and businesses which populate the street. I get the feeling that sometimes people think we are pretty glitzy at Bulimba. There is no doubt that that precinct is absolutely fantastic. I know there are people in this House who live in the electorate of Bulimba and know how wonderful it is. I am sure everyone else would love to live there.

We are so lucky to have Oxford Street and all of that glamour in our midst. But people do not necessarily know about the other amazing suburbs that make up my electorate. They do not necessarily know about Cannon Hill, Hawthorne, Morningside, Bulimba, Balmoral, Camp Hill, Carina, Seven Hills or Murarrie. Each of them has their own character. Each of them is alive with their own big personalities and active groups. Each has their own achievements of which they are so proud. Each has their own challenges.

People do not necessarily know about the history of our place, about the schools that are coming up to their 100th or their 150th anniversary—schools like Cannon Hill State School, Bulimba State School, Saints Peter and Paul's Catholic School and Lourdes Hill College—and about the 100th anniversary of the Bulimba Uniting Church. All of those institutions tell so much about the history of our place. People have not necessarily walked through the Balmoral Cemetery and seen all the names on the gravestones that are like the Refidex of the streets of our local area. The names of all of the families who were there 150 years ago make up the street names that are so well known to us all as we drive around our local streets. I thank particularly the Friends of Balmoral Cemetery and the Bulimba Historical Society for making sure that the people in our community know our history and can be really proud of it and help to weave us together with the memories of our community.

People also do not see necessarily what an incredibly close community we are. I would like to think we are a bit like a country town. That is because people look after each other and people know each other. They are there for each other's highs and lows. You can walk down the street at five o'clock in the morning in my area and you can run into 10 or 12 people that you know. Everyone knows each other's stories.

In the eight months of campaigning that led up to the election on 31 January I was humbled by the assistance of the amazing people who were part of it all, not only our dedicated Labor Party members but people from across the community who gave more of their time and energy than I could ever have asked for. Having doorknocked or phoned almost 25,000 people during that campaign to hear what they think, I was even more struck by what a great community we live in.

This is a time to say thank you to so many people who helped during that campaign. I would like to mention some of those names, and I do so in trepidation that I might actually miss some of the people who were just so special during that time. I want to thank my beautiful family—my husband, Ian, and my daughters, Millie and Lucy. I think everybody in this House knows the toll that campaigns and a politician's life can take on their family. My daughters and my husband were always so supportive and so encouraging. They letterboxed all of those steep hills without complaining—though maybe sometimes. They helped me on the doorstep. They came out to the street stalls. They made sure there was a meal for me at the end of a tough day and they were always encouraging. To Ben, Lucy's partner, I thank him too for being so forbearing when he had never met a political family before. I thank my sister, Su, and her husband, Peter, and their four daughters, who are so close to me and like my own daughters, for always being there for me throughout my life. Even though they did not really understand politics either, they were there on the street stalls every week.

I thank Barb and Brian Daley, who are always helping somebody, whether it is St Vincent de Paul or the local ambulance society. They saw me as their cause and they put their faith in me. To Sharon Humphreys, her husband, Bob, and her daughter, Claire—Sharon is a wonderful person who has been a supporter to all of us. I thank Senator Claire Moore and Meredith for always giving me such great moral support. I thank John Shepley, Scott Horsburgh, Brendan Davey and my 'kitchen cabinet'—Kerry Hackett, Kate Simpson, Vickey Payne and Margie Gamble. To Janelle Blatchly-Read, you were wonderful and those campaign meetings over a glass of wine every Sunday afternoon were what got me through.

I would like to list some other names. Each of you know your stories. To Jeanette Temperley, to Michelle Curran; to Jack Duffy and John and Cassie Impey; to Ellen Barratt, who was also on my 'kitchen cabinet'; to Jack Blinco and Julian Kotiw, who stayed with me every Saturday talking to people at those street stalls, and now people are already missing us; to Allison Finley-Bissett; to Stephanie Fox-Young and Roger and Pattie Boyd; to Karole Chapman-Powell; to Chloe and Tara; to Beau and Shane McKenna, to Angela Mollison and Mike—thank you so much for all of the work that you did. I hope that I am going to do you proud. To the Love family, to Liz Bennett, to Sarah Rolfe and Jo McNab: thank you very much for everything that you did for me.

As I go forward now with your support—and thank you all for keeping on doing the hard work even after I have been elected—I am looking forward to delivering on a really positive plan for Bulimba that is going to deliver for our community and is going to give you a voice in this government. I am looking forward to delivering on the upgrade of the Cannon Hill parish community pool. I am looking forward to fighting for that feasibility study to solve the parking issues around Cannon Hill Railway Station. I am looking forward to those extra teachers at Balmoral State High School and Seven Hills State School and the extra 70 nursing positions for our local hospitals.

I am looking forward to working with local residents to ensure they have their say in developing a long-term local plan that addresses future development and public transport needs and local traffic congestion issues to ensure we retain our quality of life. I am looking forward to making sure our community and sporting clubs get the funding to improve their facilities and to get our kids more active. I am looking forward to working with our local representatives, Terri Butler and Shayne Sutton, so that we are a strong and effective team for delivering for local residents.

Bulimba is an exciting place and we have so many opportunities. I will be very proud and will be working as hard as I can to make sure that our community gets all of the things that it deserves.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.54 pm): I reconfirm my allegiance to our Queen, Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth. On that note I take privilege in congratulating the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on the recent birth of Princess Charlotte. I am sure all honourable members in this House would pay their respect and acknowledgement and congratulations to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. I also acknowledge in this House His Excellency the Governor in the opening of the 55th Parliament of Queensland.

In 2009, the 53rd Parliament of Queensland, I rose in this chamber as a new member of parliament and announced in my maiden speech the enormous privilege and responsibility the great voters Kawana had bestowed upon me at that time. Today in the 55th Parliament of Queensland the honour to be again elected as their representative is no less humbling, no less of a privilege and a reconfirmation of my commitment to serve and represent my constituents of Kawana.

I also recall affirming in my maiden speech that all members in this chamber, regardless of political persuasion we may represent and regardless of any office that we hold, are representatives for our constituents foremost. Members on the floor will do well to remember that we have an obligation as representatives of our electorates to vote for policy and legislation for what we believe is in the best interests of our constituents and the people of Queensland more broadly.

I acknowledge my former colleagues who no longer have that privilege of representing their fellow constituents in this parliament. I wish each former member the very best in whatever capacity their talents, interests and skills lead them to. It would be remiss of me not to mention the members of the Queensland Police Service who provided protective services for former members of the cabinet and my family during the last term, which was a difficult time when dealing with important law reform matters that some people took serious objection to. My wife, Sally, and I, along with our three children, are very grateful for the care and protection afforded to our family.

Whilst I am speaking of my family, may I also thank Sally, my wife, and our three wonderful kids—Taylor, Madison and Jasper—for their support and unconditional love. Of course without their love and support I know that I would struggle to fulfil the responsibilities I have to my electorate and to

the people of Queensland. I would like to thank all of the people involved in the Kawana campaign, particularly my parents, Pieter and Christine, who continue to provide their enduring guidance and support to Sally and I and their three grandchildren who adore them perpetually.

I must thank my campaign team, who are very similar to the campaign team I had in 2009, for the great work that they did in the election of Kawana in 2009, 2012 and 2015. We know that when we serve in this place we cannot do this job without a team of support around us no matter where we sit in this place. So I want to thank my campaign team for the effort they put into the Kawana campaign because the result was pretty good. I am still here, so it worked.

I thank and acknowledge the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for taking on the onerous responsibilities of opposition leader and deputy opposition leader. It is a hard job. They have a hard job in keeping the government to account. So I want to acknowledge and pay tribute to them today and the team and all my colleagues who are in that team, particularly the new members of parliament representing some very diverse areas in Queensland.

The Kawana electorate I would say is, if not one of the most beautiful areas, the most beautiful area not only on the Sunshine Coast but in all of Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Well, no. I take all of these objectionable interjections from my honourable colleagues. I know across the state members of parliament are very parochial about these sorts of things—I more than most others. Kawana is the best place, although I know Kawana is actually a suburb in Rockhampton as well. The best Kawana is of course along the South-East Queensland coast within the area I represent.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bleijie, adjourned.

MOTION

Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly



Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.00 pm): I move—

That this House agrees that the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly be amended by omitting chapter 19 and inserting the new chapter 19 circulated in my name, effective immediately.

CHAPTER 19 DIVISIONS

103. Procedure for putting question and calling a division

When the Speaker has put a question to the House, after the voices have been given, the Speaker shall declare whether the “Ayes” or the “Noes” have it.

Any member who has voted against the majority as declared by the Speaker may demand a division by calling “divide”.

When a division is demanded, the Speaker shall order the division bells to be rung for four minutes.

If there has already been a division in respect of that order of the day or motion, and there is no intervening debate, the Speaker may order the division bells to be rung for one minute.

104. Party vote unless a conscience issue

Where a division is demanded, a party vote is held unless the subject of the vote is to be treated as a conscience vote.

If the Speaker has received prior advice from a party whip of a conscience vote, the Speaker will permit a personal vote to be held instead of a party vote.

105. Bars to be closed after time elapsed

The bars shall not be closed whilst the division bells are ringing.

Immediately after the lapse of the period so specified by the Speaker and the division bells stop ringing, the Speaker shall direct the bars to be closed.

After the bars are closed no member shall then enter or leave the Chamber until after the division is reported.

106. Procedure for a party vote

When the bars have been closed, the Speaker shall state the question to the House.

To cast their votes, members must sit in their allocated places in the Chamber. Unless they have advised their Whip that they intend to cast a contrary vote or abstain from voting, each member of the parties that make up the government or official opposition are deemed to be voting to support the response of their party members given at the time the Speaker originally put the question.

Members of the parties that make up the government or official opposition that intend casting a contrary vote must advise their Whip. These Members must then also advise the Clerk of their intention to cast a contrary vote and indicate whether they are voting for the "Ayes" or "Noes".

Members of minor parties, recognised parties or independents must sign a tally sheet provided by the Clerk indicating whether they are voting for the "Ayes" or "Noes" or will abstain from the vote.

The Clerk will report the number of "Ayes" or "Noes" for the minor parties and independents and for those members who have chosen to abstain from the vote. The Government Whip and the Opposition Whip will then report the "Ayes" and "Noes" for their respective parties and the number of any members who have chosen to abstain from the vote. The report must only relate to votes cast or abstentions recorded by members present in the Chamber. The votes will be reported in the following order:

- (i) *The Speaker asks the Clerk, to report the votes of other members that have reported to the Clerk in accordance with (3) or (4) above. The Clerk will report the votes by party or electorate.*
 - (ii) *The Speaker asks the Government Whip, to report the government party's votes and the number of members of the party, if any, that have chosen to abstain.*
 - (iii) *The Speaker asks the Opposition Whip, to report the official opposition party's vote and the number of members, if any, that have chosen to abstain.*
6. *Any Member may before the result of the vote is announced by the Speaker, challenge the report of votes reported by the Clerk, Government Whip or Opposition Whip. If a report is challenged, the Speaker may direct that the report stand, be corrected or that the matter be resolved by a personal vote.*
 7. The Speaker announces the result to the House.
 8. *The Government Whip and Opposition Whip will immediately provide the Clerk the names of those members of their party that were not present or who were present but abstained from voting.*
 9. *The Clerk will record the result of the vote and the names of those members voting "Aye" and "No" and of those members who were present but abstained from voting and publish those details in the Record of Proceedings.*
 10. If fewer than five members vote with either the "Ayes" or the "Noes", the Clerk will record whether the question was agreed to or not in the Record of Proceedings but the result of the vote and the names of members voting will not be recorded in accordance with (9) above.
 11. If an error occurs in any record of result, the error shall be reported to the House by the Speaker at the earliest practical time and the Record of Proceeding altered.
 12. In this Standing Order a reference to Government Whip, Opposition Whip or the Clerk includes a reference to their delegates.

107. Procedure for a personal vote

When the bars have been closed, the Speaker shall state the question to the House, and then direct the "Ayes" to proceed to the right of the Chair and the "Noes" to the left. Any Member desiring to abstain from the vote, shall stand in the center aisle between the Table of the House and the Bar of the House.

After members have divided, the Speaker shall appoint two tellers from each side. If two tellers cannot be found for one side of the question, the Speaker must immediately declare the resolution of the House. The member who called for the division may ask for their dissent to be recorded in the Record of Proceedings. The Speaker then directs the Clerk to record that dissent.

The tellers shall count the members voting and record the vote of each member present on the division sheets.

A member may not change their vote once the tellers have been appointed. The tellers shall report the numbers to the Speaker

The Speaker shall announce the result of the division to the House.

In case of confusion or error concerning the numbers reported, unless it can be otherwise corrected, the House shall proceed to another division on the question.

The names of the members who have voted are recorded in the Record of Proceedings.

108. Call for division may be withdrawn

At any time before the tellers begin to count the members voting in a division, a call for a division may, by leave, be withdrawn by the member who called for the division, so long as there is no dissenting voice.

If a call for a division is withdrawn, the division shall not be proceeded with and the decision of the Speaker which was challenged shall stand.

109. Rules relating to divisions and voting

A member shall not be entitled to vote in a division unless they are present in the House when the question is put after the bars are closed.

Every member present in the House when the question is put with the bars closed must vote either "Ayes", "Noes" or abstain except the Speaker, who shall have a casting vote if the votes are equal. The Speaker may give reasons for the casting vote and those reasons are entered in the Record of Proceedings.

A member having given voice with the "Ayes" or "Noes" shall not, on a division being taken, vote with the opposite side or abstain.

If a member contravenes (3), the Speaker, on being informed, shall order the tellers list to be corrected. A member, when proposing a question of order for the decision of the Speaker during a division, shall remain seated.

Up-front I want to indicate that there is no secret about the fact that the voting procedures in this parliament were changed during the last parliament. The government is running around saying that it is a remarkable revelation that we changed these particular voting procedures. 'Who changed them?', they ask. We say that we were happy to change them with their bipartisan support. I think that actually proves that it is possible to change voting procedures in this parliament. Indeed, if one recollects, going back to the last week that this parliament sat, we changed several dozen standing and sessional orders without any great fanfare. It is something that happens regularly in this place.

I think the government's resistance to this is not based on any great principle; it is actually based on the fact that it will be caught out for its transparency and complicity. Indeed, as I pointed out in this parliament this morning, going back only about 18 months, the then opposition leader rose in this place in relation to the former member for Redcliffe and said that the government of the day would be conspiring in some way if it accepted the vote of the former member for Redcliffe from the crossbenches. Indeed, after the former member for Redcliffe was suspended from the LNP, he only voted in this parliament on one other occasion and that was with the Labor Party. He did not vote with the government of the day; he voted with the opposition. The then Leader of the Opposition was not so overcome or distraught with principle that she actually denied this vote, and that is the reason that no doubt she will be voting against this motion tonight.

This motion we are debating tonight is about giving choice. It is very, very simple. It seeks to reverse the way that votes are recorded in this parliament—in reverse order. What is being proposed here is that the minor party members and also independent members would stand in this place and have their vote recorded first and then it would be the government and the opposition members after that. That would give the government or the opposition the opportunity, through their whip, to rise and record an abstention if they wish to cancel the vote of another member with whom they had an issue based on credibility or a particular concern about the actions of that member. It is somewhat hypocritical for the Premier opposite—and if you go back to—

Ms TRAD: I rise to a point of order. The word 'hypocritical' is not consistent with parliamentary language and I ask that the—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms TRAD: They do not like it, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, honourable members! Member, it does depend upon the context. I will allow the Leader of the Opposition to continue.

Mr SPRINGBORG: Given that the honourable member for South Brisbane is rarely accused of being sensitive, I say it is extraordinarily inconsistent in the extreme that the Premier went to Mossman not very long ago and stood in front of a crowd of people and made much of proclaiming that she was prepared to boot the member for Cook out of the Labor Party, that she did not feel it was acceptable that he should be a part of that august organisation and she declared that he should resign his seat. Then she was asked a question as to whether she would accept his vote and she said, 'I can't speculate on that because he's very ill and I wouldn't like to speculate at this stage,' after standing up and saying, 'I booted him out of the party,' and, 'I don't want him to be in the parliament.'

The simple reality is that this provides an opportunity for the Premier to put her money where her mouth is with regards to this situation. This actually does away with that double standard. We have already said that in this particular instance we do not want to be in a position of, in effect, accepting the vote of the member for Cook. If we take the member for Cook out of this equation, this would also provide an opportunity in the future where there are such circumstances as we have seen in the federal parliament with Craig Thomson or Geoff Shaw in the Victorian parliament. In such a situation, the government or the opposition of the day could actually indicate through their actions in this place that they are not prepared to go a particular way when they do not believe that the consistent standards of the community are being upheld by a member of parliament. It is a very, very open-and-shut equation and one that deserves the support of all members of this parliament.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (6.05 pm): I rise to obviously oppose the first motion moved by the LNP opposition in the 55th Parliament. I was curious about the first motion that the LNP opposition would put in this place. I thought perhaps it would be a motion outlining their alternative plan for Queensland, considering Strong Choices has been so resoundingly rejected by the Queensland electorate, but no, it was not that. Was it a motion that sought to pledge in this place their commitment not to spend in the magnitude of \$70 million again on their LNP spin doctor mates to force privatisation down Queenslanders' throats? No, it was not that motion either.

Was it a motion to join with the government to address the disastrous unemployment rate that they have left in Queensland because of their economic mismanagement? No, it was not that at all. Their first motion in this place was a motion to amend the standing orders for their own political purpose. This was the opposition's first motion in the 55th Parliament and let it be recorded that this is the calibre of those opposite: not to address anything that has happened in the first four months of this year—nothing about Tropical Cyclone Marcia, nothing about day labour hire that councils are crying out for their LNP mates in Canberra to address, nothing about the real issues. It is about political interference in the standing orders in this place for their own political purpose. That is what this opposition is all about. Quite frankly, I am quite interested in where this is all going to go. Is this going to be—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Deputy Premier.

Ms TRAD: Let us be clear, and the Leader of the Opposition has said this already. Hand on his heart he stood up and said, 'It's no secret. We changed the standing orders.' Yes, the LNP, when in government, changed the standing orders. At that time they made a number of arguments about how this was an efficient way of managing divisions in the House, how these changes were introduced in various Westminster systems throughout the Western World and that these voting procedures had been fantastically efficient.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Ms TRAD: I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. The member is incorrect. The Labor opposition did not support these amendments at the time. The member is misleading the House.

Just over a year ago those opposite changed the standing orders for the efficient conduct of this parliament. Today they are seeking to change the standing orders for their own political meddling and purpose. The duplicity, the lack of integrity and the abuse of this parliament was something that Queenslanders rejected on 31 January. The duplicity, the hypocrisy and the abuse of this parliament was something that Queenslanders rejected—

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Deputy Premier, if you provoke the opposition they will respond. I would urge you, Deputy Premier, to remain relevant and speak through the chair, please.

Ms TRAD: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was not complaining at all. Whether it is under Campbell Newman or whether it is under a return to the leadership of the member for Southern Downs for just one more go, the tactics, the ticker and the truthfulness from those opposite are all of the same low quality. This parliament is not the LNP's plaything. This parliament is no-one's plaything, which is why this Palaszczuk Labor government supported an Independent Speaker—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! I would urge you to stop interjecting, or I may proceed under standing orders 252 or 253A. I call the Deputy Premier. You have 22 seconds on the clock.

Ms TRAD: This parliament is no party's plaything. What the LNP opposition have proven today is that they have learned nothing and they have forgotten nothing because they come into this chamber and, rather than deal with any substantive issues, they once again seek to use this parliament as their plaything.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.11 pm): I rise to support the motion before the House. I want to respond to the Deputy Premier's assertion that this side of the House are doing things for their own purposes in this motion, when obviously it is the Labor Party that are doing things for their own purposes. The hypocrisy of the Deputy Premier's statements is reflected in her concern about the use of the word hypocrisy, which she has used seven times before in parliamentary speeches, yet now that they are in government she is concerned about such a word being used.

This is a hypocritical government which is questioning whether we want to do things for a purpose other than for the efficiency of the House. As we heard only a month ago, the faux indignation from those opposite is astounding. When we look at the sessional orders contained in our standing orders book, the private members' statements that we now have for a total time of 15 minutes, the introduction of a private member's bill and the private member's motion each sitting day

are a reflection of the fact that this is a different parliament from the 54th Parliament, and it is also different than it was a month ago because the circumstances are different. The sessional orders were amended to reflect the numbers in the House and then the standing orders were amended by the Leader of the House by leave and without notice to improve the efficiency of the House.

What we are seeking to do is amend the sessional orders to reflect the circumstances of the House, which—whether the member for Inala wishes to acknowledge it or not—are different from the last time that we met in March. On one hand, by taking out a full-page advertisement saying that the member for Cook should resign from the parliament the Premier is publicly saying that the circumstances have changed; whereas on the other hand, the Premier is corralling the Attorney-General to negotiate with the member for Cook to ensure the continuing support of someone she says is unfit to be in this place. Now, as we offer the Labor government a chance to stand for their principles—their much flouted accountability and transparency—it is too hard; it is too much trouble; it is not worth the bother.

We are seeking to ensure that we do not have to accept the vote of the Independent member for Cook. The LNP has expressed the intention not to accept the vote of the member for Cook. This member, by his own admission in a personal explanation, told the House five weeks ago that he had immediately moved to rectify his tax affairs and ensure that any outstanding child support payments had been made to his ex-partner so that we could put this issue beyond doubt. It is now clear that he failed to mention the other ex-partner who is owed thousands of dollars by the member for Cook. Again today he had to make a personal explanation to this chamber clarifying exactly what he was doing to meet his obligations as a father after failing to pay the correct child support amount.

In April the Premier said that the member for Cook was not a fit person to stand in this House. What does she say now? He is not fit to be in the Labor Party, but fit enough to use his vote to cling to power like a drowning man latching onto a life raft in rough seas. In March the member for Inala told the House that she expected high standards not just from her ministry and backbench but from all members of this House. Does she still feel this way or, in the case of the member for Cook, is near enough good enough? The member for Inala was asked today by the opposition leader if she would stand by her words about sitting back and happily accepting the vote of a disgraced crossbencher. Despite your best intentions, the member for Inala did not answer the question. She would not say if she would accept the tainted vote of the member for Cook.

I wonder if we will see consistency or expediency. Methinks the latter. We have already seen a sleight of hand by the Premier. 'I have high standards,' she says, 'but now I need the first law officer of the state to negotiate with a person whose vote I need and who is a confessed law-breaker.' So much for high standards. I call on the Attorney-General to demonstrate her own integrity and resist the Premier's expediency.

What we have seen is two courageous women who have taken on the Labor Party to get what is owed to them and their children—the member for Cook's children. He has been punted from the Labor Party as it seeks to find the moral high ground, but not from parliament, as the member for Inala could see the premiership slipping from her grasp. The time for her to 'put up or shut up' is upon us. Will she stand by her man, or will she stand by her principles and help us amend the standing orders so that the member for Cook's vote is not counted?

This side of the parliament stands by our conduct in this motion today. This is an important issue for a parliament facing circumstances that we have not seen for nearly 20 years and which have changed within the last month or five weeks. We ask this government whether they have the high standards that they claim, or are they expedient enough and hypocritical enough to take the vote of someone who they say is not fit to be in this parliament when they need that vote to stay on the government benches.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (6.16 pm): As we all know, the former process of voting saw members physically move to either the right-hand or the left-hand side of the Speaker in the chamber following a division being called, depending on whether they agreed or disagreed with the question being put to the House. Members voting aye would move to the Speaker's right, while members voting no would move to the Speaker's left. The Whip and Deputy Whip of each party would then act as tellers and count each individual member of parliament on their respective side of the chamber. I have done the roll myself.

This procedure proved to be a time-consuming process, with an average of seven minutes spent on each division during 2012-13. For that period the longest time taken in a single division was 17 minutes. In the 2012 parliamentary year almost 14 hours was spent during the division process, representing over four per cent of the total sitting time that year. These changes, as outlined by the member for Southern Downs, were introduced last term under an LNP government and adopted for the long-term benefit of parliament to assist with its smoother operation. I was on the CLA, and I know that there was robust discussion about this new voting concept. Political parties should not be seeking to change the voting system or procedures on a political whim, yet here we are a year later being asked to change it based on purely political motives.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lockyer, I do not intend to continue to warn members. I have already indicated that I am considering standing order 253A, which, if I choose to act on it, will have a significant impact on people voting in this matter, so I would urge you to control yourself. I call the Treasurer.

Mr PITT: Much to the delight of the member for Mermaid Beach, I have to say that I am converted. The system has worked and there is no need to change it, so you should be very happy that your arguments and points of persuasion have been so strong. It may have taken me a little bit longer, but a year later I think we are on a winner.

The opposition stands for nothing. You would not see any better example of 'clinging to power' than when they dropped their asset sales plan a couple of days after the election. The whole foundation of the economic plan that they took to the election and spent \$70 million of taxpayers' money on—and they were prepared to spend \$270 million—was that there was only one choice. They only had one plan, and then they jettisoned that plan and now they have no plan. This House needs to recognise this stunt for what it is: a stunt. This is another grasp for power by the member for Southern Downs, who has been rejected as Premier three times by the voting public. The opposition leader, who has been rejected three times, now wishes to perform a monumental backflip and change parliamentary voting procedures.

But members should not take my word on the merits of this system. As I said, the member for Mermaid Beach was a strong champion of this. He stated—

We have been evolving the voting system of this parliament for quite some time. It was of concern that we lost almost two days of parliament out of a 42-day sitting year on the divisions within this parliament. That is why we moved to a new system that is part of this government's resolve to provide a better treatment of legislation, in this case, a better outcome.

The opposition has now been reduced to doing a complete backflip on what they argued 12 months ago was a better outcome. The member for Mermaid Beach has had more to say on this, of course, because the former government never missed a chance to take a cheap shot. He said during that debate—

I hear some clamouring down the back in relation to, 'I want to stand up and be famous!' 'I want to be counted!' 'I want to be seen!' 'I want to be relevant!' That is all about self-indulgence and self-importance—

When the former leader of the House was saying this, I guess he was not really thinking about how aptly he would have been describing his own party's actions less than a year later.

The current voting system—which was meant to last in this parliament and go on for years and years to come, according to the former leader of the House—is not a political plaything. The former leader of the House went on to say—

I think most members would agree that the new voting system in this parliament has been very effective. I think it has been a great step forward.

But this opposition leader has shown little regard for due process, his recent attempt to become an unelected caretaker premier being a particularly unedifying example of his unrestrained desire for the top job—followed up recently by distributing the confidential details of children to the media. Now he wants to restrict MPs' rights to vote. You would think the father of the House would have more respect for parliamentary democracy than clutching at straws, attempting to shift the goalposts of Westminster tradition. I urge the House to reject the attempts by the member for Southern Downs to subvert our democracy. Members of parliament are elected to represent their constituents' views in this people's house. The Leader of the Opposition should stop flip-flopping.

In early 2003 the Victorian Legislative Assembly trialled a voting system similar to that which was brought into this parliament last year. It remains the basis of that assembly's procedures. Parliamentary voting practices are not subject to change to suit the political climate of the day. The House should reject the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition and maintain the current voting system. I know that the member for Mermaid Beach will speak next and I know that he will have a lot to say, but I will say yet again: I am a convert.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.21 pm): I do appreciate all of the accolades from the former manager of opposition business, the Treasurer. It is exactly what he was saying in quoting my words at that particular point in time. We do have a better system of voting in this House. The reason we did that is that, as the Clerk would know, we were losing a lot of time in counting divisions. This particular motion will not change things one iota in terms of time saved. If the Treasurer cares to listen for a couple of seconds, I will point out to him what this motion is all about.

This motion is about honesty and integrity. We heard a lot about honesty and integrity from the Premier, yet she will not accept this change to give honesty and integrity to the parliamentary voting system that we brought in last year through changes to standing orders. Quite clearly, the dynamics within the House have changed. That is very obvious to the good folk on the other side of the House. These changes will provide an opportunity, in the voting regime in this House, to identify a particularly delicate voting pattern that is very dependent on the minor parties and the Independents in this House—including your good self from Nicklin, Mr Speaker. This is about getting honesty and integrity into the voting system under the standing orders of this House.

The fact that the government is walking away from this particular change to the standing orders, in this delicately balanced House, clearly tells us and the public of Queensland that it does not want to apply honesty and integrity to the voting system when it comes to the member for Cook. It still wants the de facto member of the Labor Party, the member for Cook, to vote with the Labor Party. That is exactly why the situation referred to in statements attributed to the member for Bundamba on 4BC—'there is no way that Labor cannot accept his vote', that is, Billy Gordon—is absolutely fixed forever by this change to standing orders that the government will not accept.

Why will the government not accept the change to standing orders? It is all about honesty and integrity. It does not want the capacity for the LNP to abstain—which we will if the member for Cook votes with us. We would expect that, according to her so-called honesty and integrity, the Premier would also arrange abstention from utilising the vote of the member for Cook to pass legislation and hang on to power in this state.

This proposal to change standing orders reflects Labor's request in opposition to recognise all of the minor parties. The minor parties—currently the only minor party is the Katter party—will have their votes recorded first, along with the votes of the Independents. The only Independent—other than your good self, Mr Speaker—in the voting regime that is required to be heard is the member for Cook. The LNP has committed, in terms of honesty and integrity, to cancel out that vote by not voting if the member for Cook votes with us. We need the Premier to make the commitment that she will not accept his vote for the Labor Party in order to keep alive her vision of honesty and integrity for the government. In fact, it is very dead.

Members opposite are opposing this reasonable change which does not affect the time taken to count divisions and does not affect the outcome in any way other than to protect the Labor government's vote utilising the member for Cook, Billy Gordon. That is the reason for the government's opposition to the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. He has been very up-front. In fact, I think he is being very bold. He could have taken the opportunity to utilise the vote of the Independent member for Cook on occasion if he saw something of interest that might affect him that the LNP put forward. We in the LNP are walking away from that opportunity in the interests of honesty and integrity.

On 18 April 2013 the now Premier asked Campbell Newman—

... will the ... LNP now sit back and be happy to accept the vote of the member for Redcliffe from the crossbenches?

She was intimating that we were desperate for his vote. At that time we had 78 members to their seven, as I recall, when Mr Driscoll was in the LNP ranks and then moved across to sit as an Independent. Currently we have a situation where the Premier is quite prepared to accept the vote of the member for Cook.

(Time expired)

 **Mr HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (6.26 pm): Isn't it extraordinary to see a group of people who have such extraordinary form, with a lack of respect for our democratic institutions? There are so many examples over the past three years—in fact, so many examples over past generations—of those opposite and their predecessors having a lack of respect for the democratic institutions of this state and, in fact, a lack of respect for the democratic institutions in Westminster parliaments worldwide.

What we see here is a proposal coming from those who reformed the voting system in this parliament to achieve an improvement. It was a change that they claimed they wanted to see put in place for many, many years to come. That should not be a political plaything. What we are seeing tonight is a political try-on and a stunt. Political parties should not seek to change the voting procedures in our parliaments on a political whim. That is not the reason changes should be made. Any reforms should be sound reforms. In the last parliament these changes were worked through with the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. If this was not a political stunt and a political try-on, it would have gone to that forum first for a proper, mature discussion. But here we see a try-on. In the first six o'clock scream they have tried it on.

Let us look at the ways in which votes are recorded in Westminster parliaments throughout the world. As my colleague the Treasurer mentioned earlier, in this parliament formerly it was done on the basis of a division with those voting aye moving to the right of the chair and those voting no moving to the left of the chair. In other Westminster parliaments throughout the world we see members going through ayes lobbies and noes lobbies. There is some electronic voting in some Westminster parliaments throughout the world.

What we do not see and what we see slipped in here for a cheap political purpose is the concept of abstaining. There are very few Westminster parliaments that have abstaining recognised and provided for in their voting systems and procedures. Here yet again we have the vandals of Westminster democracy represented by the ghosts of the National Party with Lawrence Springborg reaching back—as he is already reaching back into his numerous attempts at becoming Premier—into the past and drawing forward the idea of how can we undermine the principles and traditions of Westminster democracy for our own cheap, grubby political purposes? We need to make sure that we are above—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Sandgate, I would urge you not to prompt the opposition and come back to the motion we are debating please.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your guidance. Here we are though and it is timely and appropriate to consider the proposal more deeply—that is, the question of abstaining votes being counted. This motion is about the crossbenchers voting before anyone else. That is the primary purpose of what is proposed before the House, but there has been an inconsistency in the way that this has been applied in that less than a year ago the then leader of the House proclaimed that the new system being brought in was brilliant and great because it was going to get rid of those clamouring down the back—those who want to stand up and be famous in terms of, 'I want to be counted. I want to be seen. I want to be relevant.' It was all about that self-indulgence and self-importance. That was his main focus. Now he is saying that we want that to be up-front, but he does not include the Speaker. I think we should all understand this for what it is: a try-on and a stunt. Let us be consistent and stick with the status quo.

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

AYES, 42:

LNP, 42—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, McVeigh, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

NOES, 46:

ALP, 43—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Pyne, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

INDEPENDENT, 1—Gordon.

Resolved in the negative.

Sitting suspended from 6.37 pm to 7.35 pm.

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Error in Division

 **Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! Honourable members, the Clerk has advised an error in the tally for the last division. The result of the last division was ayes 42 and noes 46, not 45 as announced to the House. The Clerk's tally sheet has been altered accordingly.

MOTION

Portfolio Committees, Referral of Auditor-General's Reports

 **Mr HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (7.35 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

- (1) That this House notes that:
 - (a) those Auditor-General reports which were tabled in the Assembly but not reported on by portfolio committees before they ceased to exist at the dissolution of the 54th Parliament need to be referred to the new relevant portfolio committees for consideration; and
 - (b) six Auditor-General reports have been tabled since this parliament commenced that need to be referred to the relevant portfolio committees for consideration.
- (2) That the House refers the abovementioned Auditor-General reports to the committees indicated in the schedule circulated in my name.

AUDITOR-GENERAL REPORTS REFERRED TO PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

| Committee | Reports referred to Committee |
|--|--|
| Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee | No. 9 of 2014-15 2018 Commonwealth Games: progress No. 11 of 2014-15 Maintenance of public schools No. 12 of 2014-15 Oversight of recurrent grants to non-state schools No. 14 of 2014-15 Follow up audit: Tourism industry growth and development No. 15 of 2014-15 Results of audit: Education sector entities 2014 |
| Finance and Administration Committee | No. 7 of 2012-13 Results of audit: Queensland state government financial statements 2011-12 No. 11 of 2013-14 Results of audit: State public sector entities for 2012-13 No. 12 of 2013-14 Results of audit: Queensland state government financial statements 2012-13 No. 18 of 2013-14 Monitoring and reporting performance No. 1 of 2014-15 Results of audit: Internal control systems 2013-14 No. 4 of 2014-15 Results of audit: State public sector entities for 2013-14 No. 6 of 2014-15 Results of audit: Public non-financial corporations No. 7 of 2014-15 Results of audit: Queensland state government financial statements 2013-14 |
| Health and Ambulance Services Committee | No. 2 of 2014-15 Hospital infrastructure projects No. 3 of 2014-15 Emergency department performance reporting No. 5 of 2014-15 Results of audit: Hospital and Health Service entities 2013-14 |
| Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee | No. 8 of 2014-15 Traveltrain renewal: Sunlander 14 No. 16 of 2014-15 Results of audit: Local government entities 2013-14 |
| Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee | No. 4 of 2013-14 Follow up – Management of offenders subject to supervision in the community No. 10 of 2014-15 Bushfire prevention and preparedness No. 13 of 2014-15 Procurement of youth boot camps |
| Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee | No. 14 of 2012-13 Maintenance of water infrastructure assets |

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 353.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (7.36 pm), continuing: I continue my remarks from before the dinner break and before history was made in that in my recollection the only member of parliament who has convictions a mile long and who is subject to alleged domestic violence allegations gave his support to the Labor Party. The members of the Labor Party who are in this chamber should be ashamed of themselves for accepting the vote of a person subject to allegations of domestic violence in Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month and despite the Premier flying to the electorate of Cook and Far North Queensland only a few short weeks ago and putting a full-page ad in the local paper saying, 'My government's all about integrity and accountability.' Despite the fact that it paid for an ad to be taken out in the local papers saying that this man should not be serving in this place and that this man, based on his criminal convictions and obviously the misrepresentations he made to the Queensland Labor Party, should not be in this place and does not deserve to be in this place, does not fit the community standards and does not fit the Labor Party standards, only a few short weeks later everything has changed and the government is happy to take his vote.

I hope members opposite feel proud of themselves that they took the vote from the member for Cook tonight—a man subject to domestic violence allegations in the month of antidomestic violence. So well done to the Labor Party and well done to the members opposite! I think this issue has a little more to go, so let us hope the members opposite fully appreciated and thought out their processes before they took the vote of that member who sits up there and who will always be owned by the Labor Party. Despite the Premier coming out and saying, 'He's gone. He's out of the Labor Party,' those opposite took his vote tonight. They took his vote to stay in government, they took his vote to stay in power and they should all be ashamed of it. I think the Queensland community appreciates and fully understands what took place tonight.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. We saw the clapping. We saw the handshakes. We see them laughing there. I am talking about the month of domestic violence. It is a tragedy that governments right around Australia have not been able to tackle this issue as best they should or as quickly as they should in terms of reducing the incidence of domestic violence. Crime rates across Queensland are reducing, apart from the incidence of domestic violence, and the members opposite sat in this place before and took a vote from a member of this chamber who is subject to domestic violence allegations. They should all be ashamed of themselves.

Mr Pyne interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I look forward to the member for Cairns going back to his community in Cairns and explaining how he took the vote of a member of parliament with a criminal history, of looking the next constituent who comes to him who has been subjected to domestic violence in the eye and saying, 'I had the pleasure of voting with the member for Cook on that particular night.' Shame on him!

As I was saying before we took the break and history was made where, as I have indicated, the Labor Party continued to support the member for Cook—I do note that they are a bit silent on that now. I think they are a bit ashamed. I note that the leadership team has gone and they are all a bit quiet. They do not know what happened. I was talking about the support that one has in getting into this place. Without that support we could not represent the great electorates that we represent, such as the great electorate of Kawana. In that great electorate there are the suburbs of Sippy Downs, Minyama, Buddina, Parrearra, Birtinya, Warana, Bokarina, Wurtulla, Meridan Plains, Currimundi, Aroona and Little Mountain. The Kawana electorate enjoys the most beautiful beaches with rich, soft sand and beautiful waterways. When I get an occasional weekend off, I enjoy nothing more than on a Sunday taking my boat down to the water with my family and enjoying all that the Kawana electorate has to offer and, more broadly, the Sunshine Coast.

We have seen the Labor Party government elected without a plan. We have seen the government elected without any policies. We have seen the government approaching 100 days in office. We have seen in that 100 days no inspiration. We have seen in that 100 days no discussion with the Queensland people about the hopes, aspirations and visions that Queenslanders should have based on the government's policies. I have to say that, unfortunately—but not surprisingly—we have seen a government, particularly today, made up of a bunch of incompetent ministers. I look at the honourable minister over there who has a look on her face as if she is thinking, 'What on earth did

he say?' I am talking about her. Yes, I am. She is one of the many on that bench of incompetent ministers whom I am referring to. I shake my head in that we have had five weeks from the last sitting of parliament and we still have ministers who do not understand their portfolios; we have ministers who do not understand the issues that impact Queenslanders. We have the Attorney-General, who has just walked in, as the chief negotiator with an alleged domestic violence perpetrator. The first law officer is the chief negotiator with the member for Cook.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I notice that the opposition leader said it a few times tonight and the Attorney-General never once stood up to take objection. She never once interjected to say that that was not true. We take the Attorney-General's silence on that issue earlier in the debate this evening that the Attorney-General, the first law officer, is the chief negotiator with an alleged perpetrator of domestic violence on, from what I see, two women in this state.

So we have a concoction of incompetent ministers, we have a government without a plan, we have no policies and, unfortunately, we do not have business confidence. We have seen in the CCIQ pulse surveys that have been released that the business community has no confidence in this government. In fact, business confidence in Queensland it is the lowest it has been for six years. That says something about a government that has been in for a short period. I knew that it would happen at some stage. I knew that business confidence would plummet. I knew that the people of Queensland would not have confidence in the government. But if people asked me if I thought it would happen in fewer than 100 days, even for a Labor socialist government, I would have said no. But I have been surprised a couple of times.

This government has managed to achieve the unachievable. In fewer than 100 days, business confidence is at an all-time low. The government has managed to achieve a 100-day plan that you could write on the back of your palm, because there is nothing there. At the end of this week the members of the Labor Party will go back to their electorates and they will tell people what a wonderful government they have been.

After 100 days in office, what have they achieved? They are talking a lot. They have set up some inquiries. I think if you add today's announcements, we are probably up to about 38 to 40 inquiries, or boards or bodies. We are getting back to exactly what the Labor Party did in office for 12 to 15 years in this state. The ministers do not take responsibility. They have no accountability. They cannot make decisions, so they outsource it. They outsource government decisions, they outsource ministerial decisions to boards, bodies, reviews and committees so much so that the Attorney-General—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Could we just reduce the amount of background noise? I just warn the member for Kawana that if you are provocative you will get it back.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I fully understand that. Thank you very much. I have not even got to my honourable colleague the police minister yet, but I will get there in a minute. I notice that she is very quiet today, even though she is a fashion icon out there with the trade union movement. Even though it was a fake, in the photo it looked pretty fashionable.

I love the fact that we have a police minister who said in her maiden speech that she comes from the working class. She then attends the Labour Day march in a Louis Vuitton belt that retails for about \$600 on eBay. So she is the working-class minister with a Louis Vuitton belt. But she claims that it is a fake. We can only assume that it is a fake that has been made in a sweatshop somewhere. So I see that she is protecting the rights of the workers right around the globe! Well done!

Mr Bennett interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from my honourable colleague behind me. The fakes are certainly there and they are all sitting in the front row. I think the Queensland community now realise that they have been sold a pup. They have a government that is without a plan. As I said, you would not need a piece of paper to write down this government's 100-day plan. There is nothing to write on it. The police minister's first policy was to release prisoners. The Attorney-General's first policy was to set up some commissions of inquiry, give support to the member for Cook—be the chief negotiator for the member for Cook, an alleged domestic violence perpetrator.

I now get to the health minister. Incidentally, I note that last week he came to the great electorate of Kawana. He stood at the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital—a \$2 billion hospital that the LNP started—and claimed credit for the hospital. He said that if the LNP had its way

it would not have built this hospital—that it was nothing to do with the LNP. I can tell the honourable health minister that when he was last in government and sat around the cabinet table looking at the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital all the Labor Party provided was a green pasture for the kangaroos that used to be on that property. The first thing that we did in government was get the deal done. We brought forward construction by six months and it is going gangbusters. The hospital came up from out of the ground. Under the Labor Party it was a vacant piece of ground. Those opposite think that it is an achievement to have a vacant piece of land sitting there without a hospital on it.

Mr Rickuss: They did that with the high school in Highfields as well.

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes. If the Labor Party had retained government in 2012 it still would have been a vacant piece of land. The ambulances would have had to have been four-wheel drives, going up and dodging the kangaroos to let the patients off. The fact is that the LNP started the hospital. The LNP brought forward the building of the hospital by six months. The Sunshine Coast community is not fooled by the stunt of the health minister, Cameron Dick, saying it is Labor Party policy. The Labor Party not only had the green piece of land, it delayed the hospital by two years.

Mrs Miller interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member for Bundamba was in government. She remembers. The Labor Party's Andrew Fraser got up and said, 'We cannot afford to build this hospital anymore; we are going to delay it by two years.' The LNP was elected and we got on with the job of delivering the \$1.8 billion hospital. It will be a world-class hospital no thanks to the Labor Party.

Mrs Miller interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will happily take the interjections from the member for Bundamba, the former parliamentary secretary to corrupt Gordon Nuttall who is sitting in one of her prisons at the moment. I hope she has looked after her former colleague.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Or perhaps, member for Hinchinbrook, when I made my speech a few weeks ago about the police minister's new policy about letting prisoners out, she had Gordon Nuttall in her mind. Maybe he was one of these non-violent offenders she was going to release into the community—protecting her old boss, corrupt Gordon Nuttall.

We have a police minister who wants to bring the Rapid Action Patrol back into the district at the Gold Coast. There is no funding past June. There is no Jim Keogh running it. Basically the hundred officers there will be moulded back into the bureaucracy. The Rapid Action Patrol on the Gold Coast makes 100 arrests a week. Why would she stop something that is working so well? Those opposite cannot afford to fund it because they have no plan to fund it. What it comes down to is that those opposite do not support our men and women in blue on the beat. They have a police minister who does not support them on the beat.

In relation to my electorate, our commitment to the people of the Sunshine Coast and Kawana is to hold this government to account because it made promises—not many, but it did make a few promises during the election campaign. More importantly, we will hold it to account on the economy. There was a lot of talk about jobs, but the only jobs they seem to be protecting at the moment is union jobs. Going through ministers' diaries, they have more meetings with union officials than constituents. We know that there are elected members opposite who were the front men and women of the union movement. That is right, put your hands up. We know that they owe the unions. They are the spokespersons for the unions. Earlier I saw the former member for Keppel, Paul Hoolihan, around here, probably supporting the new member for Keppel. He told parliament a few years ago that the union movement is the political wing of the Labor Party. They owe the unions and they will owe the unions in this place. It will not be policy based on what the people of Queensland want, it will be policy based on what the thugs in the union movement want. That is where we are getting to in Queensland—what the thugs in the union movement want, such as letting them have access to construction sites. They are only interested in their own jobs, not building jobs and creating the future that Queenslanders deserve and want.

(Time expired)

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Before calling the honourable member for Springwood, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mr de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (7.53 pm): I begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which Parliament House sits, as well as the traditional owners of the Springwood electorate. I pay my respects to the first guardians of this land and their elders past, present and future.

I also acknowledge and congratulate the member for Nicklin, the new Speaker, on his election to the esteemed position. I am sure we all acknowledge that Mr Speaker's contribution to democracy and the rule of law in Queensland over the past decade and a half has been without reproach. We can all look forward to a new era of integrity and accountability in this House under Mr Speaker's capable guidance.

I also acknowledge the 39th Premier of Queensland, Anastacia Palaszczuk, for her outstanding leadership. To have led the Labor Party from just seven members in 2012 to forming government in 2015 is by any measure extraordinary. I commend both the Premier's magnificent effort as well as the dedication, resolve and the true grit shown by the vastly outnumbered Labor opposition of the 54th Queensland Parliament. I acknowledge the election of all of my parliamentary colleagues, in particular those representing the residents of the City of Logan and those who are members of my union. Finally, I wish to acknowledge all those members of the Labor Party who were elected in January this year. To have won so many seats in such an uphill battle truly is testament to the hard work and extraordinary perseverance and talent of each and every one of you.

My own journey to these chambers began almost 20 years ago and has been made possible in no small part through my proud association with the Queensland trade union movement. It began in the mid-1990s when I was doing work experience during the school semester break with my father, Alan de Brenni, a solicitor. At the time I attended a meeting at a footwear manufacturing company that was restructuring its small factory in Brisbane's southern suburbs. The company had recently been split into two entities with fewer than 15 people in each. Under the workplace relations common law of the time this meant that the factory workers would have their entitlements to long service, annual leave and termination pay stripped from them. On that day the workers were told they had lost their fair and reasonable entitlements, but what was worse was that some had lost their jobs as well. Perhaps most gut-wrenching of all, due to the restructuring of the company and its financial arrangements, under unfair workplace laws the company could seek to avoid making redundancy payments to those now without a job.

It is a clichéd phrase, but these workers were truly salt of the earth people. Mostly first generation immigrants from Greece in their forties and fifties, these men and women had spent 10, 15, 20 years or more working day in, day out in a tiny, dark and cramped factory. I can distinctly smell the leather and rubber, the overwhelming stench of glue and solvents as it permeated the air and caused a dizzying headache within minutes to anybody who was not used to it. Yet these were the sorts of people who had barely taken a single sick day in their entire lives such was their commitment to doing an honest job with pride and dignity. To see grown men and proud, hardworking men and women break down in tears was simply heartbreaking. I could not see how it was fair, how it was just or reasonable that people who had just done the right thing, who were just trying to make a living for themselves and their families, could have that all ripped away from them.

In an instant in that small dusty factory in the suburbs I made a decision that would literally change the course of my life. Representatives from the workers union were on site at the time standing with the workers in their time of need. I spoke with a representative and asked if I could do work experience with the union. To choose to forego my family's profession at that instant was, as you can imagine, quite a shock. To this day I am still not sure which one of us was more surprised by my decision—my father or I.

Since then I have worked in several roles, including in a leadership capacity in the United Voice union, a large organisation, at the time employing some 120 staff. Through it I have enjoyed the benefit of corporate experience on a board of directors entrusted with \$1.2 billion in funds under management. I want to thank the union movement for the opportunities it has given me. I believe that in large part the experience of being part of the United Voice team has given me the qualities I need to run for parliament and the confidence and capacity to do the best possible job.

I must also thank the many dozens of volunteers and supporters who came out in their droves over the past 18 months to campaign for a better way of government. I acknowledge those who are in the gallery this evening. I have been truly humbled by the tremendous amount of effort put in by everybody. I would be remiss not to mention and thank them for their efforts. Firstly, I would like to thank my wife Kristie. Not only did she work tirelessly in a volunteering position while still undertaking

her full-time role as a school executive and now high school principal, but she provided vital emotional and moral support through what was, as all political campaigns are, a challenging time. Kristie, you are a wonderful wife, an outstanding professional, a leader and an extraordinary mother. I wish to also thank my parents, Allan and Kathryn, for all their work and support over my 37 years. I would also like to thank them for the kind donation of our humble campaign quarters in Rochedale South in the heart of the neighbourhood that I call home, that they call home and the place in which they raised me. To Tony and Pauline Walsh, my parents-in-law, thank you for your counsel, your kindness and your generosity. My sincere gratitude also extends to the staff and volunteers of the Australian Labor Party office, the federal Labor member for Rankin, Jim Chalmers, and the Queensland Council of Unions, in particular Ron Monaghan, a long-time friend and mentor who, despite being a Sydney lad, has devoted much of his life to working Queenslanders.

Thanks go to John Battams, Ros McLennan and all of their team. I thank the close members of my union family, United Voice, such as Fiona Scanlon, Scott Zackeresen, Matt Lawrence and Gary Bullock. I say to my supporters at the RTBU, the Services Union, the Teachers' Union, the CFMEU, the MUA and many others that your assistance and guidance has been truly invaluable. I also wish to thank my campaign director and long-time friend Peter Allan. I thank the members of the Springwood branch, the leadership team of John, Sean and Inari, and many others too innumerable to mention. They know who they are and I hope that they know that I truly value the hard work they have all put in.

I make particular mention of my dear friend Emma, who gave her family to our campaign. To Emma, Brad and their boys, I say: if you can help me and Labor win the election campaign, I know you too can win the battle that you are now in. Finally, I say a special thanks to local teacher Neil Bradley and retired TAFE cleaner and ex-Navy serviceman Peter May. You could never hope to meet more down-to-earth and humble men. They both joined the Labor Party only very recently, yet took to volunteering like the proverbial duck to water. Whether it was making phone calls to residents, meeting with people in their homes or delivering mail, no ask was too much. They pushed me to work harder each and every day, both through their words of encouragement and the outstanding examples of action they set for everybody who took part in our campaign.

Together, our team truly epitomises the spirit of the people of Springwood, from Rochedale in the north to Cornubia in the south. Springwood is my home and it is where my wife, Kristie, and I will be raising our children, Charlie and Scarlett. I say to my children: you give me the inspiration to serve our community. Every parent wishes for their children a future where their lives are better, their jobs are more secure and their community spirit warmer. When you read this one day, I truly hope you are proud of what I achieved in this place.

I turn now to the Springwood landscape. With just over 1,000 hectares of forests and parks, almost one-quarter of the Springwood electorate is made up of natural green spaces. It is ideal for outdoor recreation and the electorate's many kilometres of walking and mountain-biking tracks provide ample opportunity to get fit and experience nature at the same time. Springwood is a community we can all be proud of. I cannot think of a better place to raise my family. However, our way of life needs to be preserved now and for future generations. That means that our local forests and green spaces must be protected so that our diverse wildlife will have a place to live and thrive, and parents without big backyards will always have somewhere for their children to play and experience the wonders of nature. Our government will restore protections for the environment. We will maintain those green spaces and the quality of living in Queensland.

I have been listening to residents in Springwood and they have shared with me their concerns about planning and development. They have told me that they are concerned about their right to fair consultation on development around their homes. Labor's approach to planning and development will be different to that of the former LNP government. We are a government of consensus and we will consult with our constituents. We will never deny the community an opportunity to have an appropriate say about planning in their neighbourhoods and we will always make sure that we act in the best interests of that community. That is why, in consultation with all stakeholders, we are currently reviewing the Planning and Development Bill to ensure the best possible outcome for Queenslanders. By doing so, we will ensure residents retain the right to be heard on the decisions that shape tomorrow's cities and suburbs, not just big developers.

Labor's commitment to health is just as strong. In Springwood thousands of families are primarily serviced by the Logan Hospital, which is located in the nearby electorate of Waterford to the west. With more than 50,000 in-patient admissions, 75,000 emergency department attendances and almost 9,000 operations performed in the past financial year alone, Logan Hospital provides an

exceptional service to our community. I pay tribute to its workforce. We are going to ensure that that service can continue and get better. We will take some of the pressure off healthcare professionals with a plan for an extra 400 nurses and midwives throughout Queensland. That will mean an extra 70 professionals in the metro south region alone, where Logan Hospital is located. We will also spend \$12 million over four years on specialist school nurses to assist in the early identification of hearing and vision conditions in schoolchildren. Just this week we injected \$30 million to address excruciatingly long wait lists for ear, nose and throat complaints.

In addition, we have committed over the next three years to hiring 2,500 extra teachers for our schools. Three schools in the Springwood electorate will immediately benefit. Springwood, Shailer Park State High School and Shailer Park State School will receive a staffing boost from that commitment. More teachers means fewer overcrowded classrooms, more one-on-one time with students and better educational outcomes. Importantly, it will also restore respect to the teaching profession, treating our educators as the skilled professionals that they are, rather than just numbers in an accounting ledger to be struck off at a whim.

As a mostly residential area, many people in Springwood were left worse off when the previous government defunded the highly successful Tenant Advice and Advocacy Service. That cut meant that only one in 40 calls for advice were answered. It was a service for all Queenslanders, providing independent support. There are vulnerable people in every community and Springwood is no exception. With rentals making up a substantial proportion of properties in the area, it is an important issue in my electorate. Labor will restore this vital service, with \$20 million over the next four years to help Queenslanders understand their legal rights and obligations when renting.

With almost 17,000 occupied residential properties in Springwood, there is much to celebrate about our government's commitment to renewable energy. Under the previous Labor government, Springwood had a massive uptake of solar panels. With just over 8,200 solar equipped roofs in Springwood, we have more than our fair share of household solar panels in Queensland. I have no doubt that my electorate will be leading the way on Labor's commitment to have one million solar rooftops statewide by 2020, because solar is a win-win solution. It is not polluting, it is easily installed on almost any property and it is completely limitless, at least for the next few billion years or so. It is better for our environment and it is better for the family budget. An independent review of feed-in tariffs will ensure that solar owners are paid a fair and reasonable rate for energy fed back into the grid.

Those are all issues that I am passionate about and I am proud to be part of a government with an unshakeable commitment to making our state a better place to live. I am standing up for mums and dads, for young people and our elderly, and for every Queenslander whose household budget is under pressure from rising living costs. I will continue to stand up for families whose breadwinners earn penalty and minimum rates—those same conditions the federal government is trying to undermine. Some say the cost of decent working conditions is too high. I cannot agree. Without decent conditions such as fair penalty rates, the sacrifice is too high as people who could be relaxing, socialising with friends or playing with their kids instead are at work, sacrificing their precious family time and putting in the hard yards to make ends meet. Our ambulance, fire and rescue workers, our nurses, our cleaners, our restaurant staff and many more work long and difficult shifts to keep our communities safe and our economy turning. Minimum rates and shift penalties are not an added bonus or some kind of sweetener; for many people, it is the money that pays the bills, puts the food on the table and keeps a roof over their heads.

Under a Labor government, working people will be afforded the respect that they deserve. The people of Springwood and Queensland have a strong sense of fairness and they have voted accordingly. For that reason, I believe that the last election was primarily about three things. Firstly, it was about the services that our communities rely on: our schools, public transport and community organisations, as well as essential services such as power, water, hospitals and police. Those services enrich our lives, building better and happier communities, and they are the backbone of a healthy and progressive society. The people of Queensland have emphatically rallied against unfair budgetary measures designed to slash those services and privatise many of them by stealth. As Labor member for Griffith, Terry Butler, said in her first speech to federal parliament.

... you cannot cut your way to a better Australia. You must act.

Secondly, the election was about the people who deliver those services: the teachers, the nurses, the child safety officers, the utility workers, the doctors, the school cleaners—the list is practically endless. Those people work tirelessly to provide the services that many take for granted.

When we flick a switch on the wall, the lights turn on. When we send our children to school, we know they will come back home each day a little more knowledgeable. When an inferno blazes, we know our brave firefighters will be on the scene as soon as possible to contain it. That happens because of the efforts and dedication of hundreds of thousands of hardworking Queenslanders. Those are the people who serve our community and who make our lives better, and they deserve our respect. Over the past three years, their rights and, by extension, the rights of the entire community have been under constant attack. However, they stood shoulder to shoulder to oppose that attack and maintain Queensland's high standard of living. It is through their efforts and the efforts of the unions that they form to unite their voices that they have maintained high-quality services in the face of cuts and intimidation. By uniting, they ensure that all Queenslanders can continue to rely on the services that enrich our lives and better our society. Thirdly, and perhaps most importantly, the election was about integrity. This is a point I would like to expand on a little more, if you will indulge me.

Since the election there has been much speculation both in the media and political circles about the mindset of voters. Many have said the electorate is volatile, delivering a massive majority to the LNP in one election and returning government to the responsibility of the Australian Labor Party the next.

The similarly sudden and unexpected change of government recently in Victoria would *prima facie* seem to confirm this hypothesis. There has been discussion about how unpredictable voters are and how no government is safe from a seemingly capricious electorate. Nothing could be further from the truth.

It is the simple truth that the results of both of these elections were entirely predictable, if quite unprecedented. As columnist and author John Birmingham wrote in the *Brisbane Times* on 2 February this year—

The electorate isn't volatile. Voters aren't predictable. The rules have not changed. If you lie to people, if you promise one thing and deliver its opposite, if you treat public office as your due and the ordinary people who put you there with contempt, they will turn on you. And when they come for you, their vengeance will be swift and terrible to behold.

The electorate has spoken with a voice that has been heard around the nation and they have delivered a message that both sides of politics would do well to heed. Integrity is paramount to good government, to democracy and especially to the people of Queensland.

It is only through the good graces and confidence of my local community that I stand in this House today. The people of the Springwood electorate have entrusted me with a great responsibility and I will ensure their faith in me is not misplaced.

There is no doubt that I have very big shoes to fill. Previous Labor members for Springwood have served this great electorate with grace and humility. Their first priority was always to the people of the electorate, ensuring their voices were heard. They have set a powerful example of what a true representative of the people should be, and I look to their record of service with both inspiration and guidance as I step into this role. I thank them for leading the way in our great electorate and pledge to serve the community as capably as they have for a combined total of more than 19 years out of the Springwood electorate's 28½ years of existence.

I stand in this chamber today as a member of a new and progressive government—not a government that cuts, but a government that creates; not a government that divides opinions, but a government that unites communities. As for that little shoe factory all those years ago, we took up the fight on behalf of those workers and on behalf of fairness and justice and we won. In the face of a system stacked against them, those hardworking individuals stood tall and refused to be bullied into submission. They stood their ground and ensured that no-one—no-one—took from them those rights that they had earned through years of dedicated and loyal service. I stood up for them, and I will do the same for Springwood now.

When the people of Springwood need a plan for jobs, I will stand up for them. When the environment is under attack and the natural beauty of our land needs defending, I will stand up for it. When the dignity of individuals is threatened, whether you are a mum or dad, a student, a pensioner, a worker or an entrepreneur, an activist or a carer, I will stand up for you. This is my pledge as part of the new Palaszczuk government for the people of Springwood and the people of Queensland as a whole.



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (8.12 pm): One hundred years after our first Anzac Day, remembering the brutal battle which was the Gallipoli landing, and all the theatres of war which Australians participated in after that, it is an honour to stand in the Parliament of Queensland as the member for Maroochydore. We do not forget the sacrifices because we are all beneficiaries of the

legacy that they left. Freedom is not free. Someone has always paid a price. That is why I find myself thinking of my grandfather Hugh Leslie Simpson and remembering others like him who were so young when they left our shores to fight in World War I and other battles since.

My grandfather went on to fight at Villiers-Bretonneux and on the battlefields of France and Belgium. He was badly injured but survived, thank God, otherwise I would not be here. If he had not met his best mate, Jock Catto, with whom he served, he also would not have met Jock's sister, Barbara, whom he married on his return to Australia. Barbara went on to become my grandmother.

This was a war that shaped our nation and thousands of families in so many ways with stories of triumphs and tragedies. It is because we have just commemorated Anzac Day and the centenary of the first devastating Gallipoli landing that I wish to acknowledge the legacy of those who gave their lives and risked their futures. We have the freedom today to agree or disagree on political philosophies. We have the freedom today to have elections which are not resolved at gunpoint but with ballot papers and pencils. We have the freedom as a community to identify solutions to problems and come together and have robust debate about competing ideas as to how best to serve our communities.

We have a land of safety and peace today because of those who sacrificed their future—lest we forget that legacy. It is important to understand that legacy. It is important to build upon it. What we do not understand we do not value, and what we do not value we do not protect or promote.

Our democratic institutions are not bricks and mortar but based upon the shared values of our community of people—people who work together to create a better world in the framework of freedom. As I salute the Anzacs and all who have served, I also salute community actionists—groups of people who volunteer and give of their time and money to serve through their actions, which make a difference. What more worthy a way to honour a legacy of freedom than to use it for the good of others rather than for self-interest. Community groups of volunteers self-organise to meet local needs and particularly help those in need.

This is one thing that we do not see in totalitarian states. It is at this point I really wish to acknowledge my wonderful community groups. I know we all stand in this place and speak with great passion about our communities. It is appropriate because no-one deserves to serve at a higher level unless they are willing to serve locally, to work with local communities, to work with those who make the fabric of our society stronger. I include my Salvos, St Vincent De Paul, Lifeline, my many surf lifesaving clubs, the View Club together with the Smith Family, Lions, Lionesses, Quota, Rotary, Coast Guard, Sailing for the Disabled—a group that I am privileged to be the patron of—Coastcare, which does amazing work in protecting our coastline, my many residents and community groups and the chambers of commerce, Global Care and the list goes on. I risk naming some and not all. I hope in the course of our work locally that we can connect and support many groups. My local RSL clubs are made up of an amazing group of men and women of valour who keep looking out for others.

It is the area of children's sport where I am always amazed. There are always the parents who go above and beyond. Other community members who do not even have kids involved in the sport anymore as coaches and team members make it possible for kids to play sport. There is not a lack of children wanting to be involved in community sport; it is often a lack of adults who are willing to give of their time voluntarily that is the issue. I salute those who do that so graciously and selflessly to make it possible for the children in my local community to have access to a lot of great activities.

I mentioned surf clubs before. I have many surf clubs in my electorate from Coolum Surf Lifesaving Club to the Marcoola Surf Lifesaving Club, Mudjimba Surf Lifesaving Club, Maroochydore Surf Lifesaving Club—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms SIMPSON: Yes, we have some terrific surf lifesavers of the year who have served in Queensland. Then we have Maroochydore Surf Lifesaving Club and Alexandra Headland Surf Lifesaving Club. I will come back to Maroochydore Surf Lifesaving Club. Maroochydore Surf Lifesaving Club celebrated 100 years of serving our community in January next year. That is extraordinary. We are now seeing a number of groups that have been going for a long time. This is based upon the efforts of volunteers. The work they do is at such a high level. As those who represent coastal areas know, it is like a community in itself. They are across the political spectrum and do not talk politics—or certainly not in the clubhouse. They are across the whole demographic of society. They are a wonderful organisation.

As I said, these community groups make up the very fabric of our local areas. I am passionate about local community. I talked about democratic institutions. We often think of parliament as being one of the bedrocks of those institutions. But I actually believe it is these community organisations, through active citizens who get it—being able to organise; they see a need, get together and make something happen—that are in fact the real foundation of our democratic institutions which we so proudly come into this place and talk about.

My commitment to my electorate is to work with my community so we can keep the Sunshine Coast beautiful and make it an even better place to live, work and raise a family. The role of government is to support local community in order for people to live their lives, hopefully in peace and safety and good order, with access to the services that we expect government can deliver where the private sector cannot.

Ultimately, jobs are vitally important and the economy is vitally important to the wellbeing of our local area. It is the role of government to work with the local community and the local job providers, small business, to enable that. Certainly in our time in government it was a passion of ours to ensure that we saw the job creators, small businesses, set free from some of the burdens of red tape. That is something that we will be paying very close attention to with respect to this new government. It has been very light on in talking about how it is going to help small business, because that is where the jobs are going to be created. We understood and worked very hard while in government with respect to workplace health and safety issues and workers compensation to ensure that we still had a fair system but one that also supported the job creators, the small businesses, to be able to employ more people.

For the Sunshine Coast it is vitally important that we have a diversified economic base. You cannot kill off the traditional industries. You must support new industries at the same time and recognise that diversification is about building other industries in addition to those that have traditionally supported our economic base. The Sunshine Coast University Hospital and education are key parts to that. The LNP while in government worked to bring about the contracts to enable the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital, which my colleague the member for Kawana referred to before. Unfortunately, the previous Labor government slowed it down and delayed it by two years. That hospital now will come online in 2016. It is vitally important because of the shortage of hospital beds that the Sunshine Coast experiences. That hospital is vitally important to provide tertiary level services and ultimately higher levels of education across a multitude of clinically related and support services that the health sector has. This is part of diversifying the economic base of the Sunshine Coast which we are so greatly in support of.

We have some great schools on the Sunshine Coast. Many people decide that they love the lifestyle but when they check out the quality of the schools they say, 'Yes, this is where we want our kids to go to school.' There are great public and private schools, and we are seeing some really great outcomes through very committed teachers and ancillary staff and parents. Under the LNP we saw something like \$2 million in additional money spent on literacy and numeracy programs. The feedback from my principals in regard to the way we said, 'We trust you as local school communities to know how you should spend this money best'—to see that money given to schools where they were able to apply that money to programs and to tailor that money to the needs of the school was, quite frankly, very smart, if I can say so with respect to the previous education minister. But it was really about knowing that the smarts are local—they are with the local school community—and in being able to help kids at the point when they need it most with access to better literacy and numeracy.

We also saw more police on the Sunshine Coast. There was also a focus on expanding funding for the protection of our environment. About half a million dollars was spent on the walkway at Mount Coolum. For those who have not visited Mount Coolum National Park, it is a magnificent focal point for the Sunshine Coast. There will be an expansion of the Maroochy River Conservation Park with land that has been set aside. I am certainly keen to see that final gazettal soon. I will be urging the minister—with the election being called, the gazettal had not been finalised. But we are keen to see that formal expansion of the Maroochy River Conservation Park take place, with about an extra 15 hectares being converted to conservation park.

I also want to pay tribute to my colleague the member for Buderim and the work in regard to the local sports and community groups. We saw \$1.6 million for Get in the Game funding which is just a fantastic program. I was raving before about my local sporting groups. They deserve the help because for every dollar that they get to help kids that is multiplied in the long-term benefits not only

for the kids but also for our community. I would really like to see this new government take on some of the great policies that we initiated. I ask them not to throw those policies out because they are of a different political ilk but to acknowledge that these are good programs and that they are working.

Similarly, there were some essential road upgrades, new boat ramps and improved facilities locally in addition to the sporting grants that we saw on the Sunshine Coast. There are more projects that within the short period of time we were in government we were not able to complete but we flagged were part of our plans for this term, and I urge the new government to take these up, such as the duplication of the north coast rail line. It is interesting that the RACQ came out and acknowledged that this was one of the most significant initiatives of the last state election for the Sunshine Coast. Why would a motoring group come out and support a rail upgrade? It was unusual but it was practical because we have a situation where the Sunshine Coast does not have the proper rail services for a region connecting to Brisbane. We have about 320,000 people living on the Sunshine Coast and we do not have the level of service required with the existing rail line. On the Gold Coast they have about a half-hour service in peak time. There is nothing that even comes within cooee of that with the Sunshine Coast service. In simple terms, a proper rail service can only be made possible with the duplication of that rail line. That is necessary not only to help the commuters but to take the pressure off the Bruce Highway.

The Bruce Highway is important. We did see significant funds committed by the federal government in cooperation with the state government. About \$100 million was provided in the 2014 state government for upgrades to the federal highway between Caboolture and the Sunshine Motorway interchange. I call on this government to commit to the ongoing funding of the Bruce Highway. Not to be forgotten, I talked about the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and the access to that hospital. The key spot that needs to be fixed is the Sunshine Motorway interchange with Nicklin Way and the new access to that hospital that is required. It is a bottleneck that needs a plan. We had a plan to fix it. We are still waiting to see what this new government's plans are.

We have said that this new Labor government has been light on plans. So we are keen to see as soon as possible what it plans to do to fix these infrastructure requirements. So far it has been certainly very light on. There have been no plans and no indication as to what it intends to do. That is probably the reason why we are not seeing a lot of confidence in the business sector. I talked before about the fact that it is small businesses that create jobs. Confidence matters when it comes to creating jobs. Confidence is very low at the moment in our community. I would be delighted if that turned around, because it would ensure that the money flowed into our economy to support those much needed jobs. Jobs have to come from the private sector with a government that acknowledges that you cannot burden them with extra layers of red tape that strips away their ability to be competitive and to employ those extra young people.

I call on this government to fess up and to come out with its infrastructure plan in regard to the road network not only on the Sunshine Coast but throughout Queensland but also with its plans with respect to businesses. It is one thing to talk about jobs; it is another thing to really understand and listen to the business sector, which has expressed concern about the growing hiatus of ideas from the current government. I am keen to see Queensland get moving and to see confidence pick up. It does require leadership though from a government, to stop announcing more reviews and to start making decisions that will actually support the community.

In bringing my comments to a close, I thank the Governor for his attendance at the opening of parliament. As has been mentioned, there has been some criticism that the address that the Governor was provided by the government was extremely political. It is disappointing to see not just convention trashed but basic courtesy in regard to the way the Governor was treated. That is not a political role.

As we have seen with the way the election unfolded with the hung parliament, these are not ceremonial roles. They are often called ceremonial roles, but they are constitutional roles, ones which we must respect. We must acknowledge that there are apolitical roles that serve Queenslanders in times when there is a change of government to have that surety in the system. There should be some respect for the constitutional practices. I would urge the government in future to not seek to politicise the Governor's role.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Nudgee, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (8.30 pm): It is a tremendous honour to rise to address this House as the newly elected member for Nudgee. I take this opportunity, along with many before me, to congratulate the member for Nicklin on his elevation to the honourable position of Speaker of the 55th Parliament of Queensland. I also congratulate our Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, and thank her for the leadership and humility she has shown, both in opposition and now government. I congratulate all members on their election to this honourable place, particularly those who have been elevated to the high office of cabinet and shadow cabinet positions.

I would like to sincerely thank my community, the electors of Nudgee—from the suburbs of Boondall and Zillmere in the north of my electorate to Nundah, Northgate, Chermside and Wavell Heights in the south and Banyo, Nudgee, Nudgee Beach, Virginia and Geebung in between—for the great honour they have afforded me to serve them in this place. I am the fifth member and first woman elected to represent the electorate of Nudgee. I acknowledge the service of the four members who came before me, particularly the proud Labor tradition of service by Jack Melloy; Ken Vaughan, a friend much missed; and Neil Roberts. With the exception of two years, I have lived in the Nudgee electorate since I was 12 years of age. It is where I studied, volunteered and started my first job, where my husband and I bought our first home and where we are now raising our two young boys. I feel honoured to have the opportunity to serve my community and the people of Queensland, and I respectfully acknowledge the duty that I have to take proper account of their views in the exercise of my duties as a member of this Assembly.

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which my electorate and this parliament rest and pay my respect to elders, both past and present.

We have all come to this place from different beginnings with different experiences and views but no doubt with a shared desire and purpose to serve our respective communities. I have taken great pleasure in listening to the personal journeys and motivations shared thus far by fellow members in the chamber. As a new member, I humbly acknowledge that I have much to learn and a tremendous opportunity, afforded to a few, to contribute to debate in this place. For my part, my parents came from the land: my mother's family from the Atherton Tablelands and my father from small business and a hobby farm in rural Victoria. They both met in the military and I spent my early years growing up on various Air Force bases around the country. I will never forget and was much shaped by the strong sense of service, responsibility and duty displayed by the men and women who served on those bases.

School holidays were invariably spent either in an aeroplane hangar working on aircraft or on the family property. My parents always took an active interest in news and political affairs and expected that my sister and I did the same. They were actively involved in the school P&C, Neighbourhood Watch, Girl Guides and various other community groups, and modelled a belief that community service is something to be valued and pursued and that we all have a responsibility to make a contribution. I had every opportunity in life and grew up valuing hard work and initiative as the precursors and determinants of opportunity and success, and these are good values. However, in my teens and early twenties, through very personal experience of family separation, the death of my father and the prolonged illness and death of my mother, I began to see how life can change the fortunes of an individual, a family or even a community and that life does not always share opportunity equally.

Diagnosed at 49, my father died a year later from aggressive brain cancer. My mother, diagnosed at 46, endured an eight-year battle with ovarian cancer, undergoing prolonged periods of treatment and suffering continuously declining health. Unable to work, she became dependent on a disability support pension. As a carer to both, their lives, the way they faced their deaths and the struggles they endured—financial and otherwise—indelibly shaped my empathy and commitment to represent and advocate for those who are most in need. I would like to thank my parents for the values that they instilled in me of responsibility, integrity, loyalty, empathy and service. I know they would be proud of my desire to make a contribution here if alive today.

After finishing school and joining the workforce, I experienced the tension that can exist between profit and the rights and entitlements of workers. While employed as a manager in a large retail company, I experienced firsthand an environment in which staff were required to do excessive unpaid overtime, denied access to leave entitlements and often promoted and transferred based on favouritism. Many of the people I worked with were young and living independently. Some had children and most were too frightened to rock the boat for fear of losing their job. I very quickly found my voice as a workplace advocate and developed an enduring respect for the work that our trade union movement has done, and continues to do, for workers in this country. Through these

experiences I realised that I could never passively accept a situation where some people are taken advantage of or are left behind because of where they were born or to whom, how old they were or their level of education or opportunity. I fundamentally disagreed with a mentality where a market devoid of values, empathy and moral judgement should be the primary allocator of resources, wealth and opportunity. Something else has to do that, governments have to have a hand in doing that, and we all collectively have a responsibility to one another.

It was while at university that I began working for the former member for Nudgee, Neil Roberts. I was studying business and planning on transitioning to industrial law when Neil began to encourage me to consider a life in public service. I spent the following 14 years doing so at both state and Commonwealth level, firstly as a policy and senior policy adviser to the former Labor governments and later as an executive officer in a Commonwealth regulatory agency. I have noted the discourse from time to time regarding former ministerial staffers becoming members of parliament and must say that I pay it no mind. I felt very privileged to have had the opportunity to travel much of the length and breadth of Queensland, meeting and consulting with the community, often seeing people at their most vulnerable and always seeking a solution at best or compromise at worst to address their issue. I know that my preceding years of policy, legislation and consultative experience at the state and Commonwealth regulatory level will assist me greatly in my new role in this place.

Neil, I know you are in the gallery tonight and I take this opportunity to thank you for your steadfast friendship, encouragement and guidance over the past 14 years. Your commitment to the enduring values of the Australian Labor Party, to fairness, equality and reform, motivated me to join the party. Your example and service to the local community and to the state of Queensland inspired me to run for office. I can think of no better words to use to thank you for your 17 years of dedicated service in this place than these abridged words of Theodore Roosevelt—you will recognise them well: you stood in the arena, strived valiantly, dared greatly, spent yourself in a worthy cause and in the end knew the triumph of high achievement. Thank you.

My thanks and deep appreciation also go to Jenny Roberts, who knows well the sacrifice of being married to a member of parliament. Jenny, you have welcomed us into your family and become like a grandmother to my two young boys. Thank you for your acceptance, wisdom and friendship.

As everyone here is keenly aware, we do not come to this place without the love and encouragement of our family and friends and the support and hard work of many others. I would like to pay tribute to my husband, Ian, who is also in the gallery tonight, who has been my greatest support and encouragement over the past 16 years. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to see me succeed and for the sacrifices you, Jordan and Oliver have made and continue to make in order for me to serve in this place. You have always put the demands of my career and the needs of our family before your own. You are an amazing husband and father and I love you dearly.

To my beautiful children, Jordan and Oliver, you are without doubt the crowning achievement of my life. Thank you for being ever ready to remind me, whether in the heat of an election campaign or otherwise, that sometimes it is just time to sit down and play Lego.

I would like to thank my family: my sister, Michelle, Jenny and Fiona, Tach and Stu, Rachel, Veronica, Emma and Meaghann for your love, encouragement and support. Thank you to my campaign director, Neil, and core campaign team, Kim, Reg, Veronica and Michael, who met with me weekly but took calls from me daily—sometimes hourly—during the campaign. It takes the strong bonds of friendship to weather the inevitable bout of candidates disease that takes hold during an election campaign. Michael, for your sins, you took leave and campaigned with me full time and did a marvellous job. To the hundreds of hardworking branch members and volunteers who worked on my campaign, I say thank you for campaigning in the heat and rain and for sacrificing time with your families to bring about change in the electorate and our great state. I am proud to represent you as a Labor member of parliament. To my branch, many of whom I have journeyed with since joining the party, I say thank you for your loyalty, support and encouragement and for giving me a safe place in which to learn and grow.

I know you will forgive me for mentioning some at the expense of others, but it would be remiss of me not to thank my good friend Councillor Kim Flessor, who has been a constant source of support and wisdom over the years; Reg, whose tireless commitment to the party, branch members and the local community is a credit to him; my dear friend Veronica, who has been loyal beyond measure; and Peter, Bruce, Graham, Craig, Darren, John, Louen, Angela and Jill.

Lest anyone assert, as they did during the campaign, that I am seeking to hide my union links, I would also like to put on the record that I am a member of the Services Union and have been for the past nine years. I joined a union because I respect the role they play in trying to make a real change

to, and to improve the lives of, workers in this country. I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank branch secretary and Nudgee local Neil Henderson for his unwavering support and encouragement. I also thank Assistant Secretary Jennifer Thomas of the Services Union, the Transport Workers Union and the Plumbers Union for putting their faith in me, my vision for Nudgee and campaigning alongside me.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to federal member Wayne Swan and Councillor Victoria Newton for your support over the years. Along with the neighbouring electorates of, and my colleagues in, Stafford and Sandgate, we have always shared a strong collegiate relationship on the north side. Finally, I acknowledge my colleagues and friends, the member for Bulimba, Di Farmer, and the member for Brisbane Central, Grace Grace, for their support and encouragement.

At the risk of earning the ire of my fellow colleagues, I cannot but declare that the Nudgee electorate—a vibrant mix of residential, commercial and industrial land use and green space—is without doubt by any objective assessment the epicentre of Brisbane. Located on the edge of Moreton Bay, the electorate lays claim to the Boondall wetlands: 1,500 hectares of tidal flats, mangroves, salt marshes, melaleuca wetlands, grasslands and open forest. It is an area of precious environmental value and has been listed as a wetland of international importance.

The electorate has changed significantly since the boundaries were first drawn 55 years ago. Gone is the farming land, the vineyard and Cribb Island. Many have discovered our wonderful lifestyle and that we are only a short seven-minute drive from the domestic and international airports, 20 minutes from the city, and have direct and quick access to both the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast via the Gateway Motorway.

Rich in diversity and character, we have significant Indigenous, Indian and Islander communities as well as newly settled and growing Rohingya and African communities. Almost half of the people in the Nudgee electorate speak a language other than English at home, compared to 36 per cent for Queensland as a whole. Each year there are many wonderful local celebrations of this diversity, including the annual Banyo Diwali festival and Harmony Day celebrations—which I have had the pleasure of emceeing for the last three years—in addition to the recent Harvest Festival Celebration, Zillmere Multicultural Festival and NAIDOC celebrations.

The electorate is well serviced by public transport, both bus and rail, with 12 railway stations across the electorate. I look forward to working with Queensland Transport and Queensland Rail to further enhance these facilities, particularly in regard to park-and-ride capacity, for the benefit of my electorate and commuters across the network.

The Nudgee electorate has wonderful educational opportunities, from vibrant and welcoming playgroups and kindies to the 15 state and Catholic primary and high schools across the electorate, and of course the educational jewel in our crown: Australian Catholic University at Banyo. ACU McAuley Campus is one of the fastest growing in Queensland and has become a valued part of our community, thanks to the vision and leadership of Associate Vice-Chancellor Professor Jim Nyland.

Children deserve the very best education. It is the single greatest investment we make as parents in our children and as policymakers in the citizens of this state. This government's commitment to ensuring excellent teachers are properly rewarded and the foundations of teacher training strengthened for preservice teachers is most welcome, as is the commitment to deliver 45 full-time guidance officer positions from 2016, including at Earnshaw College in my own electorate of which I am a former alumni. I have taken great pleasure in speaking with each of my school communities since being elected and consider one of my most important roles as a member of parliament to be an advocate for improved safety and enhanced facilities and support at my local schools. I look forward to working with the hardworking and dedicated teachers, staff, parents and students at each one of my school communities over the coming term.

In addition to education services, one of the most important hallmarks of any government is how they deliver the services Queenslanders need and depend on most when they are at their most vulnerable. I am proud to be a member of a government who has committed to legislate to ensure nurse-to-patient ratios meet the levels recommended by experts. That means an extra 400 nurses over the next three years so that our nurses are not overworked and can provide the best level of care to patients. I myself am married to a registered nurse and sit beside one in this chamber. They are extraordinary and they do extraordinary things each and every day, but we must not take them for granted. These commitments, along with the announcement in March of \$30 million to address the more than 100,000 Queenslanders waiting longer than clinically recommended for an outpatient or

diagnostic appointment, and the announcement yesterday of a further \$30 million to address waiting lists for outpatient appointments for children and adults suffering from ear, nose and throat complaints, will start the process of addressing the 'waiting list for the waiting list'.

The Nudgee electorate has a vibrant community sector, and I admire tremendously the work that our community groups do supporting and advocating for local families and the vulnerable and providing opportunities for social engagement, sports and fun. Since being elected I have had the pleasure of meeting with many of my local cricket, AFL, soccer, bowls and athletic sporting clubs, as well as seniors, Meals on Wheels and disability service groups, RSL sub-branches and neighbourhood centres. I appreciate that I have barely scratched the surface and that there is much work to be done. I will continue to look for opportunities to support the great work that they do.

The Nudgee electorate has two large retail centres at Chermside and Toombul and boasts over 4,000 businesses across the electorate. Where possible, my office takes advantage of these wonderful local offerings, engaging local services and using requests for the donation of prizes and gifts to showcase some of the many local businesses and their products. I am proud of my electorate and the many creative and entrepreneurial people who live and work within it.

Home to iconic brands Arnott's Biscuits and the Golden Circle cannery, the electorate has a large industrial precinct in Geebung and Virginia with smaller pockets in both Banyo and Northgate. I acknowledge the tensions that can and do exist when industry coexists side by side with residential developments. These industrial areas are an important source of local employment and economic activity. Equally, residents' and communities' quality of life must be safeguarded. Likewise, high-density living brings benefits and opportunities; however, high-rise developments in both Nundah and Chermside, parts of which are in my electorate, are causing significant concern and issues in local suburbs owing to flawed planning laws at council level in regard to the provision of adequate parking. A fine balancing of interests is required, and I will be looking for opportunities to work with council, the state government and the community to address these concerns locally.

We have many things to celebrate here in Nudgee, but we also have people who are struggling to make ends meet. Without question, the issue raised most frequently with me, both prior to and since the election, is jobs. This government made a clear commitment during the election to focus on job creation and to work collaboratively with industry and business to restore confidence in the economy, and we are delivering on that commitment. Reinstatement of the highly respected Skilling Queenslanders for Work program to support 32,000 Queenslanders back into jobs, in addition to payroll tax rebates for employers hiring apprentices and trainees and \$34 million to improve training and to provide skills young people need to find work, will make a significant difference. I will be looking for every opportunity to assist people in my electorate who are in need of employment support to access these services over the coming term.

In conclusion, I am proud to stand here as a member of this Labor government. I appreciate that there will, and must, be robust debate in this House in what is by nature a combative environment. In saying so I am reminded of the words of Robert F Kennedy, who said:

All of us might wish at times that we lived in a more tranquil world, but we don't. And if our times are difficult and perplexing, so are they challenging and filled with opportunity.

He also said—

The purpose of life is to contribute in some small way to making things better.

I look forward to making a contribution to healthy debate in this chamber in the interests of making things better for the people of my electorate and our great state.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (8.48 pm): I stand in this House to express my sincere gratitude to the people of Currumbin for once again placing their trust in me to be their state representative in the 55th Parliament of Queensland. It is a honour and a privilege to represent such an extraordinarily beautiful place, which is home to residents who are connected and who care about our enviable lifestyle.

The 2015 state election will be remembered for its absence of policies from Labor—which should not have been surprising given that, even though they were the best resourced opposition ever, they were too lazy to create any. It pretty well sums up Labor's approach to fiscal responsibility and the economic health of our great state and its citizens: self-interest, not state interest. Unable to win in their own right, they joined forces with old mates the Greens which meant that, even though the LNP polled around 100,000 more primary votes than Labor, they were able to claim seats through the pseudo Labor Party—aka the Greens—their union comrades and other minor party preferences.

I was deeply disappointed to lose so many great colleagues including Premier Campbell Newman. Under Campbell the LNP made healthy inroads towards reducing our massive Labor debt and the 92,000 pages of suffocating red tape; however, we paid the price for doing so in such haste and failed to take the people of Queensland with us. But now it is up to Labor to find a way out of the mess they created prior to 2012. There are valid fears within the business community that planned projects are being stalled and Queensland's economy is suffering. Those fears were highlighted again with the front page of the *Courier-Mail* on Thursday, 23 April stating that the verdict was in—that industry's vote of no confidence was revealed in the ANZ/Property Council survey and CCIQ feedback that there had been drops in confidence across the wider business community.

Gold Coast members held the line and were all returned due to strong grassroots campaigns and the gratitude of the citizens of our region for the LNP's tough-on-crime legislation and the anti bikie laws. In Currumbin alone we have witnessed a significant drop in assaults, unlawful entry and robbery offences, decreasing by up to 25 per cent when comparing the periods 1 September 2013 to 28 February 2014 and 1 September 2014 to 28 February 2015. Labor's plans to downgrade some of these laws should send a shiver down the spines of law-abiding citizens. It exposes Labor's utter contempt towards our dedicated police officers by watering down laws that were having a direct effect on criminal activities. I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to Superintendent Jim Keogh and the RAP team for their outstanding efforts that have produced these impressive results and made our neighbourhoods and entertainment precincts safer. I also record my appreciation to our officers at Palm Beach, Coolangatta and the Elanora police beat.

As a long-time advocate of supporting our police with tougher legislation, I will not be silenced by name calling and the shrill, immature rantings of the Minister for Police, who is obsessed with playing the person and playing politics. She is hardly earning any respect from these officers by criticising members of parliament who have on numerous occasions stood up for them and fought for legislation that expresses admiration for the amazing work they do. Labor's track record when it comes to being tough on crime is lacklustre to put it mildly. Labor might have voted for the new VLAD laws, but they have criticised them at every turn and now look set to weaken them.

Election campaigns require enormous amounts of people and extraordinary amounts of time, and 2015 was no different. Starting a new year with an election called in the first week caught many off guard, and I am even more grateful than usual that so many allowed their lazy summer days of watching cricket and tennis to be interrupted to assist with this election.

Politics brings out the best and the worst in people. An army of helpers—from letterbox droppers, prepoll and booth workers, food runs, sign sites and local community groups—enabled us to be on the front foot in what was a volatile campaign. Not since 2006 have we witnessed such rude behaviour, vulgar insults and bullying tactics on the booths and in our neighbourhoods from Labor supporters.

Early in the campaign information was sent to me warning me of my Labor opponent's past violent behaviour which I forwarded to police to determine if I required protection. As a result, private security was hired at a public debate and police were on hand if I needed their assistance during the campaign period. I notice the police minister laughing when I speak about this criminal activity. A padlocked wire cage in a secure car park underneath my electorate office was broken into and my parliamentary corflutes defaced. My young female electorate officer assisting me at prepoll on her break was sworn at in the most disgusting manner by a Labor booth worker. Despite having several witnesses to this lengthy tirade, my Labor opponent laughed it off. At the ballot draw, my Labor opponent shook my hand and said that he would not get personal, yet he and his wife repeatedly posted lies and negative comments about me on Facebook. If ever there were two people who should never be allowed to occupy public office, it is Ashley and Natalie Wain. They both employ underhand tactics, and nothing they say can be trusted.

Further evidence of unscrupulous behaviour from Labor was evidenced at the recent New South Wales state election. All booth workers at Tweed Civic Centre were working harmoniously until federal member Justine Elliot and her husband arrived and began shouting loudly, telling my colleague 'you are gutless and easy to intimidate'. And that is what she and her husband were doing on various booths: going around intimidating people. Even the other Labor booth workers were offended by her loud and crude language—certainly not fitting of a federal politician. But perhaps Justine's temperament was rattled as news stories had just revealed she had been referred to the New South Wales Election Commission for allegedly breaching state electoral funding laws through her anti state coalition advertisements.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all of our helpers for maintaining integrity and professionalism throughout this campaign. You really did us proud. Once again, I am indebted to my fantastic campaign team and my Currumbin branch, in particular Carley McNeil, who not only runs my electorate office but also literally worked around the clock in her own time to make sure our booths were filled, social media followed up and constituents adequately serviced. To my husband, Richard, and our two wonderful kids: your belief in me is an enormous comfort and motivates me to serve the people of Currumbin with renewed vigour and zeal.

I did not make many election promises for Currumbin; however, my pledge of \$450,000 over three years for the Currumbin Sanctuary Wildlife Hospital is one I implore the Premier to uphold. I urge the Premier to look past the politics and allocate these funds to this worthy service. Staff and volunteers go the extra mile for injured wildlife, and with numbers increasing to over 8,000 their scant resources are well and truly stretched. Their dedication is remarkable. It is not unusual for wildlife staff to come in on their days off if one of their beloved charges requires surgery. I was therefore extremely disappointed to receive the reply to my first question on notice of this parliament from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef. Not only was his reply an insult to the devoted staff and volunteers of this facility as he cast pleas for desperately needed funding aside; the tone of it was unnecessarily rude.

When Labor were in office they exploited the Currumbin sanctuary on numerous occasions by using it for cute, cuddly photo opportunities and never gave it a single cent. I am told by sanctuary staff that Kate Jones, the minister responsible during the 53rd Parliament, did not even bother to visit the facility, despite invitations to do so. In contrast, the LNP recognised the role the sanctuary plays in treatment of injured wildlife and conservation, with funding of \$100,000 for koala habitat and storage facilities. Labor just dish up lip-service when it comes to caring about our wildlife. So once again I implore the Premier to support the sanctuary with \$450,000 over three years so they can continue their life-saving work.

Under the LNP, Currumbin saw an unprecedented injection of funds into our local schools, with \$5.7 million in capital works spent on schools within my electorate. Another \$2.26 million was allocated to clear the school maintenance backlog left by the former Labor government. Our schools had peeling paint and tired and worn-out carpet, but Labor ignored urgent repairs, preferring to build flashy new school halls instead of focusing on safe and clean learning environments.

The establishment of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority has been extremely beneficial for the southern Gold Coast. As a result of community and surfers' concerns, we were able to launch the Currumbin Estuary Safety Awareness Campaign, and I recognise my friend and colleague the member for Burleigh, who has assisted with this. This campaign comprises a multipronged approach including dedicated signage, cameras, enforcement and education as measures to mitigate the risks presented in this busy and very popular creek. I was also pleased to announce \$300,000 in infrastructure for Currumbin Creek, with two public pontoons and a revamped boat ramp providing all users greater and safer access to the waterway. I must say, though, that one of the most successful initiatives during the last term of parliament was the Get in the Game initiative, as honourable members have heard. Some 508 children in Currumbin received Get Started vouchers giving them the opportunity to participate in sport which may well not have been possible otherwise. Some 25 clubs shared in \$624,637 in funding for new facilities and equipment, with growing memberships in a range of activities from AFL and netball to water sports and lawn bowls. Through this program I was delighted to announce late in 2014 that \$1.5 million was being put towards the construction of a multisports facility at Coplick's in Tallebudgera. I look forward to watching this progress and becoming home to a range of sports and activities in the near future. But what will happen to this highly successful program that enabled children to engage in active, healthy activities? Why hasn't another round of funding been announced? What are Labor's plans for this?

The saga of the proposed quarry in the picturesque Tallebudgera Valley continues to cause enormous angst and heartache for affected residents. Together with my colleagues Michael Hart and Ros Bates, I am united in opposing this project which was commenced under a Labor government which allowed it to be recognised as a key resource area and bestowed significant project status on it. During the election campaign at least one Labor candidate on the southern Gold Coast stated that they would stop the quarry if Labor was elected, but the now Deputy Premier has dumped it back onto the Gold Coast Council, which has opposed it all along. This is yet another example of Labor creating a problem, laying the blame at someone else's feet and then expecting them to clean up its smelly mess. There is a name for people who do that, but it is unparliamentary. Labor's propensity for creating mess looks set to continue. To think the Premier, the Treasurer and the Deputy Premier

failed to ask the federal government for funds to build the second stage of the light rail beggars belief—or does it? The clock is ticking for the 2018 Commonwealth Games and Labor's clumsiness and ineptness makes the Three Stooges look like masterminds.

Cruising is the fastest growing tourism sector and dredging the Trinity Inlet would have provided access for larger cruise ships. That means jobs and dollars—big dollars—for the local economy. But the Treasurer, who lives in Far North Queensland and should know how important tourism is to the region, has dismissed this project without giving it the attention it deserves. What does the member for Cairns have to say on this? He comments on plenty of other matters. The honourable member for Barron River gets it, and so did the one before him, so why doesn't the Treasurer? Has the promise of Greens payback for Labor's election support led to clouding his judgement? How can the honourable member for Mulgrave abandon the very people who voted for him by halting projects that would boost his local economy and create job opportunities in and around the Cairns region? Just what is Labor's plan for this port facility? What are its plans to support and grow tourism in Far North Queensland or other regions?

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs STUCKEY: What are its plans? I take the interjection. On the Gold Coast Labor's refusal to allow due process on the Wave Break cruise terminal proposal has been widely criticised, as the project was knocked on the head without even seeing if its environmental credentials stacked up. What sort of message does this send to investors? A negative one, that is what. And how is that standing up for workers when tradies have to drive to Brisbane and beyond for work?

This government's decision to delay power regulation for a year is another example of Labor making it up as it goes at the expense of Queenslanders. Cost of living is a key priority for residents in Currumbin and they will not be happy to learn that, rather than allow Queenslanders struggling with power bills hundreds of dollars of savings from 1 July, Labor has penalised all of us through its interference with power prices, which will almost certainly see electricity prices go up. Families in states like Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia get cheaper bills because of deregulation, but Labor has deprived Queenslanders. The *Australian Financial Review* noted—

While the big eastern states have embraced more competition in the electricity sector and privatisation to help balance their budgets, Queensland has again shirked another sensible policy decision. Since its surprise election victory in January, the new Labor government has called for more reviews than the former Rudd federal government—on infrastructure, bikie laws, to name a few—as well as abandoning economic reform such as the \$37 billion privatisation program (which forfeited any right to the Commonwealth's \$5 billion asset recycling fund).

The articles continues—

Now the risk-averse Palaszczuk government has deferred the former Newman government's electricity price deregulation laws for the populated south-east corner which were due to come into effect on July 1.

It was a policy no-brainer which would have delivered a sharp boost in competition for the Brisbane and Gold Coast markets and led to lower prices which have been experienced in southern markets. Industry bodies say that energy retailers will be wary of diving into the northern market until deregulation is locked in, saying it is the riskiest market in Australia. Business confidence has plummeted quickly under this Labor government. On 30 April Nick Behrens from CCIQ said—

Unfortunately, the new Government's process is leading to a scenario where they are determining the appropriateness of a number of projects for themselves ... this is causing uncertainty to international investors who have seen the Labor Government rule out major projects and call-in council decisions.

And where were Labor MPs and ministers yesterday morning at the CCIQ Brisbane breakfast with the federal Minister for Small Business, Bruce Billson? Here was a perfect opportunity to talk with a federal minister and show some interest in this key sector, but there was not one Labor MP to be seen. It has not taken those opposite long to reveal not only their incompetence but also their arrogance and disregard for small business. Beware the wolf in sheep's clothing. Do not be fooled by a pleading, smiling Premier who kowtows to unions and does not give the time of day to Queensland's 410,000 small businesses.

As I said earlier, Currumbin is a connected community blessed with stunning natural landscapes and attributes that bring countless events and festivals to our picturesque location. Currumbin is also a caring community where people participate in a broad range of activities depending on their age and capability. Only recently my electorate hosted The Aussies, our national Surf Life Saving titles, and Currumbin RSL excelled itself with a week of moving Anzac centenary events, culminating with the famous dawn service on Currumbin beach nestled at the base of Elephant Rock.

Seniors have plenty to choose from too, with Coolangatta Senior Citizens in the south and Southern Gold Coast 60 and Better in Elanora offering everything from dancing to yoga, day trips and computer courses to keep their minds and bodies active. Currumbin RSL launched the Forever Young initiative and already has 170 members who enjoy various monthly activities and workshops. Individuals like Senior Constable Kurt Foessel from Elanora Police Beat have the best interests of our youth at heart. Kurt runs the successful Project Booyah which assists at-risk youth aged 14 to 17 years and was awarded Gold Coast Police Officer of the Year in 2014. There is people like Liz Fritz AM, who dedicated almost 30 years to homeless services on the southern Gold Coast and makes up the fabric of our wonderful community, to name just a few. Currumbin is the most beautiful place on this planet to live and I am truly privileged to represent it.

I want to close by saying that it was a privilege to be the minister for tourism, major events, small business and the Commonwealth Games in the 54th Parliament of Queensland. I am very proud of the partnerships that were made and the many initiatives we achieved under the DestinationQ whole-of-government strategy. Destination Success, a 20-year plan for tourism in Queensland, was the result of widespread collaboration and I hope its legacy will live on. I look forward to maintaining a lot of those relationships in my new role as the shadow minister for tourism, major events, sport and racing. With those few words, I once again thank the people of Currumbin for re-electing me as their state representative. As I said earlier, it might be five elections now, but I am just as keen and eager as I ever was.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Sunnybank, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions. I call the member for Sunnybank.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (9.08 pm): For the last 26 years I have had the privilege of representing people in my work as a solicitor. This has given me the opportunity to experience, observe and learn of the diversity of the lives that we live in Australia and, hopefully, to have helped my clients chart their way through difficult times. I now have the privilege of representing the people of Sunnybank, a diverse electorate. For all that diversity, similar challenges confront the various people who live there. I will speak of some of those challenges shortly.

Firstly, I start by thanking my family and friends who are here in the public gallery and particularly acknowledge my father-in-law, Brian Mellifont, a life member of the Labor Party, who served 24 years as an alderman in the Brisbane City Council and who has just recently celebrated his 80th birthday. I also acknowledge Michael Zarew, who has travelled from Sydney to be here tonight.

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians on whose ancestral lands we gather today: the Turrbal peoples north of the Brisbane River and the Yuggera peoples to the south. I acknowledge their elders, past and present, and acknowledge all who are present today. I would like to take this opportunity to pause and reflect on the millions of footprints that have travelled the Dreaming pathways and to pay homage to the ancestors who have walked and cared for this land for thousands of years. This year celebrates the NAIDOC theme of 'We all stand on sacred ground. Learn, respect and celebrate'. It corresponds with the 30th anniversary of the hand back of Uluru to its traditional owners, the Anangu people of the Northern Territory, and the importance of respecting and acknowledging the continued survival, strength and resilience of our Indigenous population of Australia.

My electorate is located 15 kilometres south-west of here. It spans the suburbs of Sunnybank, Archerfield, Acacia Ridge, Coopers Plains and Robertson and includes parts of Macgregor, Eight Mile Plains, Durack, Runcorn, Sunnybank Hills and Willawong. I wish the former member Mark Stewart, his wife and family, all the very best. I am grateful to many people who, through their generosity and time, helped me get here and to the people of the Sunnybank electorate who have put their trust in me. In recent months I have had the great fortune of making new friends: good people sincerely and genuinely committed to bringing back some sunshine to the Sunshine State—to borrow a theme used by Uncle Joe Kirk on the opening of this parliament. I thank those who helped me get here: Lewis Lee and Annie and Richard Huang for their kindness and generosity. There are many others—too many to name—but tonight I can acknowledge Stanley Hsu, Sacha Marin and Michelle McJannett and express to them my sincere thanks. I thank Ricky Lee, Alice Orwat and Courtney Trevascus for their work in getting my electorate office up and running.

I thank my running mates, Ministers Mark Bailey and Leanne Enoch and Duncan Pegg. Mark, Leanne and I shared a campaign office in Archerfield and we now share some special memories. During the November hailstorm Mark was a sight that I do not particularly want to see again, with his

trousers rolled up, skinny ankles deep in water, sweeping the water that had flooded the garage of the office. I offer a special congratulations to Leeanne, the member for Algeester and the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation. Leeanne is our first Indigenous minister. We are fortunate to have her in this role. She will serve with dignity, integrity and intelligence.

I thank Eoin Mac Giolla Ri, who gathered supporters to my functions at Michael's, and Peter Davis and Belinda Davis, who were central to the organisation of my Jail House Rock function, held at Boggo Road jail, and to making sure that my volunteers on election day were fed and watered. I also thank my mate TP—Terry Peters—for plugging election day holes. Boggo Road jail was a place that I had often visited as a lawyer and I must say that I had mixed feelings about holding a function at a place that used to be fundamentally one of misery. The aim of the night was to try to have so much fun that some of that misery was cancelled out. Many gave it their best shot. The success of that function was due in no small way to the support of Rod Hodgson and Peter Koutzoukis of Maurice Blackburn. I also thank the staff of Russo Lawyers, who were frequently asked to do things that were slightly beyond their job description in the lead-up to the election. I thank the Premier, the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, for her support, and the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Jackie Trad, who has always been there to help and guide me. Mark Dreyfus, the federal member for Isaacs; Graham Perrett, the federal member for Moreton; Senator Penny Wong; and Senator Claire Moore and her staff all lent valuable support at my fundraising functions.

I thank the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union; the Electrical Trades Union; the Together union; the Maritime Union of Australia; the Rail, Tram and Bus Union; United Voice and the Plumbers Union. I offer my sincere gratitude to Jules Campbell, my campaign manager, whose hard work and calm guidance were invaluable. I also want to thank Terry Wood. He is an old campaigner who does not mince his words. He does not say a lot, but you are never left in any doubt as to his message. I got to know Evan Moorhead as I became interested in running for a seat in state parliament. I always had the desire to be part of the process and not an armchair critic, so I took the plunge and ran for preselection. Evan has been a great mentor to me and I valued his advice and guidance.

I also want to thank my family. I thank my brothers and sisters for their support of me in my campaign and their contribution to its success. I thank my four beautiful children—James, Katy, Grant and Joe—for all they give me just by being around. To Kerri, my wife, you are an inspiration. You help me in so many ways. Together we have had a lot of fun and continue to do so. Kerri previously banned me from talking law at home. Hopefully that ban will not be extended to discussing the needs of the people of the Sunnybank electorate.

The seat of Sunnybank incorporates a thriving multicultural society, 15 schools and countless community organisations. I have already had the pleasure of attending a diverse range of social functions. My constituency has a wide range of concerns and I will give all my efforts to ensuring that their voices are heard. I firmly believe that, in order for me to do my job properly, proper engagement with the community is vital. I believe in the ownership of issues, of seeing things through. So I am looking forward to listening to my community, to learn from them and to do what I can to improve the lives of my constituents.

Today I wish to touch on a few issues: education, infrastructure, justice and the better welcoming of refugees. Already many of my constituents have expressed concerns about the need for this government to commit to providing resources and innovation to deliver better education in Queensland. Parents and children depend on this government to ensure that, by the time children are old enough to enter the workforce, they can not only hope to find a job but also possess sufficient drive to know what careers they want to pursue. Labor's progressive policy for education will ensure that that happens, with better student-teacher ratios and guidance officers to make the experience of school a more rewarding one not just in the Sunnybank electorate but also across the state.

I am determined to work hard to bring about infrastructure improvement on the south side, which has sadly missed out on any real infrastructure programs over the past three years. Let me give members just two examples. The Coopers Plains crossing is one of the most dangerous level crossings on the south side, if not in Brisbane. We need to make the roads around our schools safe for our children, for our parents and for our teachers. MacGregor State School desperately needs a drop-off zone and I plan facilitation between Education Queensland and the Brisbane City Council to make that happen.

I turn now to juvenile justice reform. Children should not be kept in adult prisons. Of this I am sure. Seventeen-year-olds should not be dealt with as adult offenders. Of this I am equally sure. Yet this is how the criminal justice system deals with 17-year-olds. They are treated as adults, rather than when they are 18. In this respect, we are out of kilter with the rest of Australia. We are out of kilter with what is right.

Australia is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the present state of Queensland law is inconsistent with that convention. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child also expressed concern a decade ago that Queensland continues to be out of step with most western democracies. Twenty-two years ago remedying legislation was passed in this chamber and yet the changes have not been implemented. The necessary regulations need to be proclaimed. I hope to be a strong voice to make that happen and I trust I will not be alone in advocating for this fundamental and important change.

Another serious concern I hold is the creeping change that has occurred resulting in significant increases in mandatory sentencing in this state in the last three years. Mandatory sentencing is disliked by prosecutors, defence lawyers and judges for good reason. It takes away the flexibility of dealing with people as individuals. Judges and the courts are well capable of making appropriate decisions. Parliamentarians in this chamber must have the courage to let the judiciary do its job.

Protection for the rights of ordinary Queenslanders will be a guiding principle for me in my time in this parliament. It has been a fundamental driver of my professional career to this point. More than 10 years ago the Australian Capital Territory introduced a bill of rights. The state of Victoria followed two years later. The legislation provides protection for the rights of ordinary people and gives government officials clear and unambiguous guidelines under which to operate. It is time to reignite the conversation about a bill of rights for the state of Queensland.

Having the right to practise law has been a great honour, but to have the privilege to work for the people of my community and to be involved in the making of law that will make the lives of Queenslanders better is something that I eagerly look forward to being part of. The decision to run for politics was a long time in gestation. The trigger was watching the last government treat Queenslanders of all ilk with a complete lack of respect. I was alarmed by the attack on our judiciary, perhaps the worst of which was the disgraceful and misguided attack on the integrity of the president of the Court of Appeal. That came with an obvious lack of understanding of the separation of powers. I decided to run because I believed that Queenslanders were not getting a fair go. So many people unnecessarily lost their jobs. To this day I still have difficulty understanding why public servants in this state were treated this way. I was alarmed at the speed of the change that was being brought about in this great state. The climate of fear was obvious. The fear was very apparent to me when school principals told me they were concerned that their jobs would be in jeopardy if I was allowed onto school grounds during the campaign period—not to politic, simply to attend a fete or function. As to legislative setbacks, there were many. I will name only two. The unnecessary cuts to the workers compensation scheme took away the ability of workers injured in the workplace to receive compensation for their injuries; and the so-called bikie laws meant that people lost rights and liberty based on who they associated with, not what they did.

This was not the Queensland that my father, my mother and my grandparents worked so hard for. Their Queensland, the one they hoped for for their children and their children's children, was one where the government governed the citizens with respect, intelligence, transparency and integrity. My dad came to Australia from Sicily when he was eight years old. His dad, my grandfather, had come to Australia as an economic refugee. He worked very hard to eke out enough savings to bring my grandmother and my dad to Australia. Like all new arrivals, Dad always had interesting stories of the cultural divide that sometimes occurred, not least between immigration officials and new arrivals. Among them were stories of having salami confiscated, a staple diet if you are on a ship from Sicily with very little money and no way of feeding yourself when you arrive in your new home of Australia.

One thing that I treasure about living in Australia is our multicultural society. The contributions of immigrants to Australia to the richness of our lives cannot be undervalued. I am proud to have Italian heritage. I am proud to represent a community that has people from all over the globe. I am proud to know people who have, by their kindness and generosity, given others the chance they need to grow and thrive in this country. I wish to tell just one story in this respect. My father was interned during the Second World War. Because he had not yet got his Australian citizenship he was regarded as the enemy and interned. That was the rule. One day when working at the internment camp in Western Queensland he cut his head on the jagged edge of a donga. He was transported to Brisbane for treatment. The doctor recognised that he had flat feet and thus was not fit to fight in a war and

gave my father an opening that another doctor may not have been prepared to give him. He told my father that if he got a job within 24 hours he would certify his release from the internment camp. The kindness and wisdom of that doctor was followed by the kindness of another, a barber at Spring Hill who agreed to hire him on the spot. And so his internment ended.

The opportunity given to my father, and by association to me, by those acts of generosity and inclusion contribute to my passionate belief that we must do all we can for this country's more recent arrivals. They are an asset that we must embrace. Australia needs to come up with better solutions, solutions steeped in compassion and recognition of the contribution that refugees have and will continue to make to our country.

Dad passed away when he was 52, leaving behind my mum and six children. I was the eldest at 21. To say that Mum has had it hard is a massive understatement. Gladys Maureen Russo nee Tunny, who is in the gallery tonight, raised all my brothers and sisters on her own by working as a nursing sister at the Ingham Hospital. She made ends meet on the smell of an oily rag. The only thing that I can possibly complain about with respect to my mother is that too often she sides with my wife. Let us just say that when that happens in our house they are governing with a clear majority.

In relatively recent times we have lost great icons in Wayne Goss and Gough Whitlam. Recently we lost another icon in Queensland Labor's history. I wish to pay tribute to a man who spent his life fighting for a better Queensland—Terry Hampson, a true gentleman whom we lost last September. Terry was a key figure in the 1980 reforms of the Queensland Labor Party.

We have at our helm two very capable people, the Premier and the Deputy Premier. They are the people to help us navigate a difficult course. I look forward to working with them and each of my parliamentary colleagues to build a stronger, more stable Queensland. My dad taught me that you should always leave your children better off than when you came into the world. I hope to leave this place in a better condition than when I arrived. It is a great honour to now represent the people of Sunnybank. I promise to work with them in making my community, the electorate of Sunnybank, an even better place to live and raise children.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Before calling the honourable member for Ipswich, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions. I call the member for Ipswich.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (9.29 pm): I wish to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land that we are gathered on, the Turrbal and Jagera people, and pay my respects to elders, both past and present. I am deeply honoured to be the newly elected member for Ipswich and I wish to pay my respects to the traditional custodians of my electorate, the Jagera, the Yuggera and the Ugarapul people. Ipswich and surrounds has a strong Indigenous story to tell and there are many people and many organisations that do good work to both preserve Indigenous culture and to close the gap on disadvantage. Indigenous people experience that disadvantage each and every day. The fight for equality is one of the things that drives me and one of the key reasons I am speaking in this historic and beautiful place this evening. And it is why I am a member of the Labor Party.

I grew up in Mackay, the youngest of three children. My mother, Barbara, was a strong, smart and gracious woman, but she became seriously ill when I was four. My mother and father separated and divorced around that time and, because it was before the days of Gough Whitlam's no-fault divorce and supporting parent benefit, mum had to work doing whatever she could, even though she was often sick and in pain, just to keep a roof over our heads. In our society, we are all just one step away from needing help. Even though most of us do everything we can to stand on our own and live comfortably, when things go awry it is the role of a government to step in and lend a helping hand. Labor governments have always done that and continue to do that, and it is one of the reasons that I am a proud member of the Labor Party.

I have lived in Ipswich for more than 30 years. I raised both my children in Ipswich and have worked closely with the community through my work as a veterinary nurse, running a small business and then working in local politics. I am a member of the Zonta Club of Ipswich and the recently opened Ipswich branch of Soroptimist International and I was one of the founding members of the Ipswich Women's Development Network, which fundraises to provide a scholarship for a woman to study at university.

With the population of Ipswich set to more than double in the next six years, it is imperative to ensure that the projected growth is managed and managed well. One of the strengths of my electorate is its strong sense of community. It is fashionable for leaders to talk of building community and I agree with them, but in Ipswich we already have community. In fact, it is one of the things that

makes people want to stay in or move to Ipswich. I see my role and the role of all community leaders as ensuring that the people moving to our area are connected to that community. That connection has to be not just physical through appropriate infrastructure and public transport; it needs to be social and spiritual as well. It is widely acknowledged that when people are connected within their community they are less likely to practise discrimination and prejudice, which brings about a more equal, progressive and desirable society for us all to live in.

It is not just up to governments to manage that connectivity. The Ipswich daily newspaper, the *Queensland Times*, now has an editor who actually lives in Ipswich. Peter Chapman, his wife and family moved to Ipswich because they understand that to be editor of a town's newspaper requires a level of engagement in that community. We all know the influence daily newspapers have on their readership and I commend Peter for his commitment to his important role in our community.

We have many church leaders, such as Mark Edwards from Cityhope Church, who are actively engaged and connected to the greater community. In Ipswich we have a strong Catholic community led by wonderful priests such as Father Chukwudi Chinaka and Father Peter Dillon. I met Father Peter at, of all places, a yoga class. I am grateful to him for his wisdom and his personal support during my campaign. I am also grateful to him for his wonderful sense of humour, which is a welcome relief for any political candidate and/or politician.

We have community groups such as the Ipswich Men's Shed and service groups such as Rotary that every day reach out and connect people in our community. We have sporting teams and clubs such as Brothers and Jets leagues clubs that work with local community groups, non-government organisations and others to raise awareness of need or simply to be inclusive. We have a chamber of commerce that is dedicated to promoting Ipswich business and that provides support, mentoring and networking of opportunities for new and established businesses.

I am aware of the challenges we face in Ipswich. Currently our unemployment rate sits at around 10 per cent, which is well above the state average, and our youth unemployment rate is even higher. In fact, youth unemployment more than doubled during the former LNP state government's term. As I mentioned, Ipswich has the highest population growth forecast of any city in Queensland. We need a second crossing on the Bremer River. We need to see the final part of the Ipswich Motorway upgrade, Darra to Rocklea, completed. We need a performing arts centre. I know those things and more can be achieved and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Ipswich City Council and with my federal colleague, Shayne Neumann, to fight for that infrastructure for our city.

There are people who think that Ipswich is Labor heartland and it is true that from 1983 to 2012 Ipswich enjoyed very strong representation from my predecessors, the Hon. David Hamill and the Hon. Rachel Nolan. David and Rachel had a vision for Ipswich and each and every day they fought to ensure that vision was realised. During their terms, Ipswich grew and started its evolution into the city it is becoming. Under Labor, Ipswich achieved a campus of the University of Queensland, now USQ. We have the award-winning Workshops Rail Museum and the Ipswich Art Gallery, directed by Michael Beckmann. We saw a boom in the establishment of small business and economic confidence. The federally funded Ipswich Motorway upgrade, Dinmore to Darra, finally happened and completely changed the lives of many Ipswichians.

We saw growth in the creative arts community with contemporary art spaces opening and we saw the advent of the annual Ipswich Art Awards, which this year celebrates its 15th year and attracts artists from far and wide. We saw unprecedented funding in schools such as Bremer State High School and Amberley District State School. We saw a much-needed expansion to the Ipswich Hospital and reforms to education, bringing Queensland in line with other states. However, I do not agree with the premise that a whole city can be politically oriented one way or another and I think it arrogant to think otherwise. When Pauline Hanson, an Ipswich woman, became politically active, she enjoyed strong support from Ipswich and from the wider community. She even won a federal seat in the area. Minor parties such as Katter's Australian Party, One Nation and Family First always fare very well in the polls in Ipswich and I would challenge anyone to find much similarity between the policies of One Nation or the philosophies of Pauline Hanson and the philosophies and values of the Australian Labor Party.

Along with the projected growth of our city, Ipswich is experiencing great multicultural diversity, with people from the Philippines, North Africa and India settling there and making Ipswich their home. That is good news for Ipswich. Having people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds enriches and strengthens our community and helps us to grow. I will work with those communities to ensure that they are connected, employed and engaged in the Ipswich community.

Earlier, I spoke of my belief in the importance of equality in relation to social, racial and economic equality. There is another pervasive inequity that our society faces and that is gender inequity. We live in a country governed by a Prime Minister who has appointed himself the Minister for Women and yet who is on the record as saying things such as—

I think it would be folly to expect that women will ever dominate or even approach equal representation in a large number of areas simply because their aptitudes, abilities and interests are different for physiological reasons.

Of our then Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, he said, 'Gillard just won't lay down and die,' and then stood beside signs at a media opportunity that said, 'Ditch the Witch.' When asked on International Women's Day 2015 what he felt his greatest achievement as Minister for Women was, he responded that it was the eradication of the price on carbon. I can only assume that he is relating that to one of his earlier enlightening quotes—

What the housewives of Australia need to understand as they do the ironing is that if they get it done commercially it's going to go up in price and their own power bills when they switch the iron on are going to go up, every year ...

When the front bench of the Australian parliament has 26 men and two women and the year is 2015, we Australians can know with certainty that we are not being represented fairly, progressively or equally. I am proud to be a member of the Queensland Labor Party that, in this 55th Parliament, has an equal balance of men and women on the front bench. Overall, 39½ per cent of the Queensland Labor caucus is women. We are almost there.

We have heard a lot about the increase in incidents of domestic and family violence. This year, 34 women have died as a result of violence, the majority of which was perpetrated by men known to them, and the year is not even half over. When compared to last year, so far this year double the number of women have been killed. Those shocking statistics of violence against women at the hands of their husbands, partners or male family members are a tragic indicator of just how our society has failed women when it comes to equality. There is much to be done. I look forward to working with local groups in my electorate like the Domestic Violence Action Centre and the Ipswich Women's Shelter to stand up for these vulnerable women in our community.

It is not possible to get to my age or my position without having numerous people influence and encourage me along the way. It is not possible to name everyone who has helped me on this journey, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank as many as I can.

I begin with my mother, Barbara, who, as I have already said, was a remarkable woman. She gave my sister, my brother and I all the tools we needed to become articulate, considerate, compassionate, connected and capable adults. She taught us to think critically and creatively about the world around us and for these things and much more I am eternally grateful. My father, Colin, and his wife, Valda, have always been loving, supportive and generous to me and that has meant so much to me. My brother, Bruce, and my sister, Laura, who tolerated their little sister with kindness—most of the time—and then later my half-brother, Stuart, have always been there for me with their love and support.

I have wonderful nieces and nephews and two spectacular great-nieces. My niece Alison and nephews Jacob, Declan and James, along with their mother, Laura, worked on my campaign and stood in the hot sun all day on election day. Having my big sister on my side on election day could very well have been my secret weapon as I do not think anyone was game to not vote for me, so fierce is her loyalty. My former husband, John Howard, is a loving, kind and supportive man who stood by my side for almost 30 years and helped shape the person I am now.

I thank Chris Forrester, Cheryl Bromage, Anthony Chisholm, Dick Williams, Andrew Antonioli, Neil Henderson, Tracey, Jess Hill, Ben Swan and all the unions for their support of me right from the outset. I have a wonderful support base in Ipswich—people like my campaign director and friend, Wayne McDonnell, who was disciplined, leaving no stone unturned throughout the campaign, and his wife, Bronwen, who was temporarily widowed for the duration.

Karla McDonald is another. Karla's health was not great during the campaign so instead of being out on the hustings, she offered to cook my meals for me for the duration of the campaign. So each week I would have a delicious bundle of healthy meals provided to me. Anyone who has been a candidate through an election campaign will know just how special Karla's contribution was.

Don Wilson is a man who brings out the best in everybody and who shares his invaluable knowledge and experience with me because he believes in me. That means so much and I thank him sincerely. Gina Woodward did a wonderful job working on rosters and keeping our booth workers fed and watered.

Shaun Nancarrow worked hard throughout the campaign coordinating the numerous volunteers we had on board. Shaun accepted the position of assistant electorate officer alongside the wonderful Sandy Venn-Brown in my electorate office. It would be a very rare occasion when Andrew Spark is not the smartest person in the room. I am very fortunate to have him on my side working on my campaign and being on message every single time.

I had the invaluable wisdom, experience and support of Rachel Nolan and David Hamill, two former members of this House, throughout the campaign and that support continues now. They have left big shoes for me to fill and I am humbled by their support. My former boss, Shayne Neumann, who loves a good campaign and is the go-to man when you need statistics or any local knowledge, has been very supportive of my campaign and of me personally and I thank him. My former work colleagues—Kylie, Nick, Janice and Wayne—are true professionals and I thank you all for your support.

I thank all the branch members and volunteers who worked so hard to ensure Ipswich had Labor representation, especially to Logan, Ben, Brian and Nick. A special thanks to Kai Clancy, who is such an inspiration and who I know has a great future in store. I thank Elaine, Robyn, Rhonda, Jillian, Agnes, Pat, Holly, Karen Moorcroft and Karen Newton for their friendship and laughter and wisdom. I thank Margaret Doran for her strength of character, her intellect, her humour, her integrity and wisdom and her unwavering support of me throughout the many years I have had the privilege of knowing her.

I thank my much loved friend Suzanne Gulikers. Suzanne and her husband, Tim, have believed in me for many years and were a steadying, supportive and wise guiding hand throughout the tumult of preselection, campaigning and beyond.

I thank Helene Shephard who I have been known to describe as 'the bee's knees'. And that is just what she is. Full of common sense, perspective, insight, tough love, humour and honesty, it is impossible to not feel optimism and gratitude when you are in Helene's presence.

I would also like to thank my yoga teacher, Bonnie Preston. Yoga has made me strong—physically, mentally and spiritually. I am ever grateful that in Ipswich we have a teacher of the calibre of Bonnie and now her own student become teacher, Susan Yates.

I thank the numerous Ipswich people who have approached me and spoken to me of how they have put their faith in me and how excited they are to have me as their representative. This warmth and support has perhaps been the most surprising thing I have encountered during my time as candidate and now as the local member—people like Jet, who is seven years old and who approached me, with his slightly embarrassed mother in tow, to tell me that he stayed up late on election night to watch the booth results on the television. Jet had an extraordinary grasp of the election results and followed Ipswich closely because that is where he lives. He was so excited that I won and recognised me immediately when he saw me in public.

Encounters like this humble me beyond measure. They remind me of the responsibility I have to the people in my electorate and to my position in the Queensland parliament. I do not take this responsibility lightly.

I pay tribute to some very special people who have inspired me from the moment they came into my life and who continue to inspire me every day. They are my two children, Samantha and Oscar, and my much loved son-in-law, Tomas. I thank you for all the love you have shown me over the years. Your love sustains and nourishes me and I hope you understand how much it means to me and how proud I am of you.

Again, I thank the people of Ipswich who put their faith in me. My promise to you is that I will work tirelessly to ensure that our city is represented progressively and fairly. There is work to be done and I welcome the challenges ahead.

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (9.45 pm): I rise to speak in response to the Governor's official opening address to this 55th Parliament of Queensland. It is an honour for me to be here for a fourth term representing the people of Noosa. There is no greater honour than to be elected and, I hope, trusted by one's community to represent them in this place. With this comes the work to maintain the trust, as one is then judged on the successes and judged on the failures. I thank the people of Noosa for placing their trust in me again and I pledge to serve them so that the interests of Noosa are given due regard in the proceedings of this parliament.

As far as opening speeches go, I have to say that the one delivered by His Excellency the Governor in this place on 25 March was pretty ordinary. Of course, I do not blame the Governor for that because he read from a preprepared speech not of his own doing. Members know that by convention the Governor does not write his own speech but merely delivers the words provided to him by the government. You cannot even blame the poor ministerial staffer charged with drafting the speech. They had so little material to work with because this new government has nothing of worth to say to the people of Queensland. They said nothing during the election campaign and they remain silent on how they plan to take this great state forward.

The speech we heard in this place on 25 March revealed the shallowness of this new government and how ill-prepared it is. In preparing my speech today I went through the Governor's speech looking for new ideas, policies and initiatives from the Labor Party. In opposition Labor automatically opposed everything the Newman government did. So I was hopeful of finding a raft of credible, fresh alternatives from a supposedly alternative government, but I was severely disappointed.

There was nothing new or ambitious in the speech to take this state forward. There was nothing to show how they would build on LNP initiatives which had freed up investment in the state, relieved cost-of-living pressures for ordinary Queenslanders and refocused public services on service rather than bureaucracy, which is the Labor preference. We have seen nothing in the past three months to indicate that anything has changed. The speech highlighted just how ill-prepared accidental Annastacia and her team were for government. Labor's union puppetmasters were obviously more optimistic than the candidates because they devoted significant financial and human resources to the re-election campaign.

As we have seen during recent weeks, they now want to claim their reward through the introduction of a swag of union-friendly policies and initiatives. The Palaszczuk government ministers might occupy the government benches in this place, but we all know they are not running the government. The people of Queensland should be concerned that only a small group of union heavyweights—which represent probably around 20 per cent of workers—will have such a domineering influence over what this Labor government does whilst ever it remains in power.

This is a government which is shown to be pro union and anti ordinary Queenslanders. No matter how much the Premier and her ministers proclaim their independence, Queenslanders know where they take their direction from. I was interested, but not surprised, to note that the Governor's opening speech made no substantial mention of either Indigenous Queenslanders or those from culturally diverse backgrounds. That is disappointing because we tried so hard during the past three years to provide greater support and assistance for these two groups who have been sadly neglected in the past.

My focus has been on working with the leadership of both groups to provide more appropriate and better targeted assistance so that they have the necessary support to overcome challenges and solve issues from inside their own cultural and ethnic environments. I congratulate the new member for Algeester on her election as the representative of the state's first nation people. I expect that she will bring a perspective to this place which only people of Indigenous descent can properly reflect. The next step is to elect members from culturally diverse backgrounds so that this House becomes truly representative of the modern Queensland community.

One in five Queenslanders is born overseas. There are 220 different cultures living here, 220 different languages, 100 different religions or belief systems represented in our community—that is the fact of modern Queensland. Queensland is rapidly changing and both major parties need to reflect this change in the candidates we select. This is a particular challenge for my own party, which is failing at embracing the newest Queenslanders. For the LNP to become a long-term party of government, we need to be building on the cultural coalitions and embracing our diversity.

I remember recently seeing a news clip showing the UK Prime Minister, David Cameron, addressing the House of Commons and two seats down from him was a Sikh gentleman in his traditional turban and beard. If it can be done in the UK, it can be done here in Queensland. I would have been pleased to see the LNP candidate for Yeerongpilly, Leila Abukar, elected as a first step in that direction, but it was not to be. Unfortunately, the endorsement of people from these culturally diverse backgrounds in my own party is pretty rare and that needs to change. Not to do so will limit the opportunities of a party to form government and certainly limit its opportunities to stay in power if it does not understand the constituency on whose behalf it seeks to govern.

As I said earlier, what an honour it is to be elected as a member of this parliament. So, too, is it a privilege to serve as a minister in Her Majesty's Queensland government. I believe that, during my time as the minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and multicultural affairs during the last government, we introduced new policies and initiatives to benefit key groups represented by the portfolio. These policies and initiatives set in place the building blocks to set a future course for greater community cohesion and prosperity. My concern is that this new government—for no reason other than the lack of alternative policies—will dismantle many of those initiatives.

Australia is a country built on migrants. Today's migrants are increasingly from different regions of the world to those a century or even a few decades ago, and it was my great honour to have worked with their business communities and refugee organisations which support them. The growing numbers from India, the Middle East, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, South-East Asia and the 50-odd nations that make up the African continent have seen the cultural mix of Queensland change yet again.

The cultural diversity policy and action plan introduced by the LNP government reflected our dedication to provide equality of opportunity for all Queenslanders to participate fully in our strong economy and enjoy our vibrant society. The action plan included real-life, practical strategies to give life to the policy. It focused on improved outcomes in education participation and attainment, economic independence and community participation.

It is no wonder that Labor are not talking about policy in the multicultural community. They take this sector for granted and make an automatic assumption of support from this community base. This government has already begun reversing and downgrading achievements for the multicultural community. Probably the most significant action from the new government since coming into power three months ago has been the downgrading in importance of Queensland's multicultural awards. In recognition of the important role played in our communities by people from culturally diverse backgrounds, the LNP government expanded the awards to include more categories and specific regional recognition. The Palaszczuk government has announced that the 2015 award categories are to be reduced by about half and appear to ignore regional achievements. Labor are going back to their roots in this portfolio, ignoring anything west of Logan or north of Caboolture.

The awards were a central event in the Queensland Multicultural Week, created by the Newman government out of the ashes of the failing Brisbane Festival. We expanded the Queensland Multicultural Festival into a statewide, week-long event, creating a coordinated series of events the multicultural community could be proud of. We also set the event on a course to be financially independent, with greater community involvement and sponsorship to increase available funding. That was applauded and strongly supported by the state's multicultural community.

I hope we do not see the festival revert to the Brisbane-centric, one-day affair it was under the previous Labor government where attendance was declining and financial losses increasing. Likewise, we reformed CAMS and LAMP programs to be about outcomes and not about paying wages in community groups. That was to begin on 1 July, following an expression of interest process which was underway when the state election was called. I note the new government has already moved to scrap that process and continue the programs in the same unambitious way that it did under the former Labor government—no KPIs, no outcomes; just tokenism to keep an assortment of NGOs politically onside.

I trust those opposite will not scrap the economic participation grants program instituted by the previous government which provides funding for migrants and refugees to get training and jobs and to start businesses. The level of Labor's interest in people from culturally diverse backgrounds can be gauged from the fact that in the three years of the previous government I was never asked a single solitary question without notice from them in this parliament about multicultural affairs. Their level of interest for Indigenous affairs was not much better, with no questions without notice asked since a couple in the very, very early days of the LNP government.

The ALP policy pre-election document in 2014 was nothing but platitudes and had no Indigenous policy. I checked *Hansard* in case I missed any reference in the Governor's opening speech of Indigenous policy and found no mention of Aboriginals. I found no mention of Torres Strait Islanders. There were two mentions of Indigenous people—one regarding Indigenous students in a generalised manner and a brief mention of Indigenous elders—but certainly no published policy. But Labor now suddenly has one of their bright ridiculous ideas—to reopen the stolen wages issue with an additional \$21 million in funding. This came very late in the campaign through a media release from the member for Mulgrave. But is it his idea? I can tell you it is not. It is a policy push by the Queensland Council of Unions who own the members opposite—unions like the AWU, the ETU, the AMWU, the CFMEU and United Voice, all pulling the strings for their representatives in this House.

In terms of the stolen wages issue, the Beattie government, in 2002, correctly—correctly I say—set up an offer of reparations to address an injustice and set aside \$55.4 million. This was known as the Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparations Scheme. The Labor government then administered and disbursed these funds right up to June 2010 when the scheme was finalised, having paid out \$35.5 million to 5,779 eligible claimants.

Why did Labor close the fund? Because there were no further legitimate claims. Subsequently, the remaining amount of almost \$26 million was put into a fund, the independent Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation, or QATSIF. QATSIF fills a crucial role in providing scholarships for Indigenous students to complete years 11 and 12 at high school. This year more than 1,200 Indigenous students will be assisted through QATSIF. That is 1,200 students who now have a chance of breaking the welfare cycle by getting an education as a precursor to higher education or an apprenticeship.

In my three years as minister, there were only a couple of occasions when someone even generally raised the issue of stolen wages with me and only one occasion when I dealt with a suggested claimant. In the five intervening years since Labor finalised the scheme, any additional actual claims could have been dealt with through the court process. Now Labor will open old wounds, but will achieve little or nothing in terms of the advancement of Indigenous people in Queensland. In fact, I believe the reverse will be the case.

I wish the Treasurer were in the House tonight. I call for a guarantee from the Treasurer that whatever money is left over—and it should be the overwhelming amount of \$21 million—be placed in the QATSIF trust. We can continue to look to the future and work hard to achieve what really are basic human rights for Indigenous people here in Queensland, that is, the right to a quality education and the right to improved health outcomes so that the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people continues towards equality. The first step towards this is to make sure that government funding goes towards direct service delivery and not funding an expanding bureaucracy.

After a lot of very hard work, the LNP government was able to identify a conservative spend in excess of \$400 million in Queensland government Indigenous-specific funding across the state. The Newman government also set up a separate portfolio and department. It did not have a large budget. It was a junior portfolio, and I can tell honourable members that it could have done so much more. What we did, however, was better than what had previously occurred under Labor, which changed its Indigenous Affairs minister about every 12 months. Had we retained government, my suggestion would have been to bring the entire ATSI and MAQ portfolio across to Premier's, which would have given it the ability to punch at a much greater weight. It is not possible to be the Treasurer, the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and still give the time and effort required to be an effective advocate for the Indigenous community. I say with the greatest respect that it is also not possible for the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, the Minister for Child Safety and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs to be able to put in the time, effort and relationship building in the multicultural sector. In fact, it is a shame that the small number of officers in the previous multicultural affairs department has already disappeared back into the monolith that is the department of communities.

I was very proud to have served as a minister in the previous government. On one hand, there was the honour, excitement and privilege of being able to work closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities whose history on this continent goes back 60,000-odd years and, on the same day, provide help and assistance to refugees who had only been in the country for a few weeks or even days. I will be forever committed to the advancement of these two groups of Australians. However, one cannot do these things without first being elected by one's local community and being on hand to be able to assist in many and different ways those men, women and children of the community in which one lives.

My electorate of Noosa is a special place. My colleagues will have heard me make that comment on more than one occasion. However, there are many communities found across the state that comprise people who have made a conscious effort to relocate and live in their special place. This is true for the residents of Noosa, the majority of whom have made an educated choice to live there. It is not an accident of birth. Communities such as this have a passion about where they live, a real and strong sense of what is important in the make-up of their town. In the case of my community, it is the environment which drives this passion and I do not just mean the parks, gardens and beaches, but a strong desire to live sustainably and within one's means and to have something worthwhile and better to pass on to future generations.

Of course, I am proud and committed to the areas of the Noosa electorate which sit inside the Sunshine Coast council area—Eumundi, Doonan, Verrierdale, parts of Peregian and Peregian Springs. They all share the same values as the rest of the electorate. I would venture to say that these values are held close by communities south to the Maroochy River, which is why there is such enormous opposition to the development of Sekisui House in Yaroomba. I do not believe, either now or in the future, that there will be a time when anyone will be able to see the worth of high-density, high-rise developments north of the Maroochy River.

During the course of this 55th Parliament there were a number of local issues on which I will be working very hard such as the long-term future of the Noosa Hospital. Its importance and relevance grows as the opening of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital draws closer. I will also be working with the Noosa council to repurpose the old TAFE facility in Noosa regarding its future role as an education and training centre for local residents.

Our community's greatest effort is the Noosa River. It is probably the busiest waterway in South-East Queensland and its health is a prime concern. I will be seeking to work with the new government to maintain and enhance our waterway. I will also be reminding the Premier to uphold her undertaking, given in July 2014 to the Noosa Labor candidate, that residents of Eumundi, Doonan and Verrierdale, the area known as EDV, deserve to have their say in determining their future.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hinchliffe, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.06 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Toowoomba Mosque, Arson

 **Dr McVEIGH** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (10.06 pm): I am sure you, Mr Speaker and other members of the House would be familiar with media reports a few short weeks ago regarding the crime of arson on the Toowoomba city mosque located in West Street in our beautiful city in the middle of my electorate of Toowoomba South. I want to rise this evening to share with the House the activities in our city since that time, and I do share this with the House in a very positive sense.

First of all, I acknowledge the attendance of the police minister in Toowoomba on 17 April, the day after the attack. Of course, we were able to join the mayor there to talk about the impact of that crime on our city. On 19 April at the International Food Festival and what was to be the Garden City mosque open day, we again joined together as a community to reflect on this crime and its impact in terms of the feelings amongst various faith communities in our city. I was pleased, indeed, to join Professor Shahjahan Khan, who is the president of the Islamic Society of Toowoomba, the Venerable Wu Ping from the Buddhist community in Toowoomba, our Anglican bishop, Cameron Venables, and our Catholic bishop, Robert McGuckin, to make the point alongside the mayor that that arson attack in a place of worship is very unlike Toowoomba. I acknowledge in particular the efforts of the Queensland police in investigating the perpetrators of this crime over recent weeks, and that investigation is ongoing.

Following that International Food Festival, on 2 May—this past weekend—we had a Walk as One event through the city of Toowoomba, again led by our faith leaders. It underlines the point that the faith leaders, including those who are members of the Toowoomba Goodwill Committee, which is organising a delegation to UNESCO in Paris in the coming weeks, have joined together to explain that that sort of crime, that sort of activity against one of our faith communities, is not acceptable.

I am delighted that our diverse community is being represented at the UNESCO in Paris in a few weeks time and that our delegation will include multifaith leaders, Aboriginal community leaders and a range of community and business representatives. Which underlines the point that, as Pure Land college, the Buddhist society in Toowoomba, explains very clearly, ours is a city of peace and harmony, and we need to embrace even the perpetrators of this crime.

QMusic Awards

 **Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (10.09 pm): They say that music is the universal language, so I was delighted to be given the opportunity to attend the 2015 QMusic Awards that were held at the Powerhouse, one of my favourite buildings in my electorate. I was also given the honour of not only opening the QMusic event on behalf of the Premier, but to also present the Indigenous award

which went to The Medics for the catchy tune *Wake Up*. I want to congratulate the winners and writers of the song Kahl Wallace, Jhindu Lawrie, Andrew Thompson and Charles Thomas. I urge all of you to go onto YouTube and have a listen—it is well worth it.

It was great to see the music industry out in force, and there truly was an impressive line-up of music being performed all night as we celebrated Queensland's songwriters and musicians. The Queensland music awards are a statewide search for Queensland's best and most innovative songwriters and musicians. It is a night that the awards turn a spotlight on the talented Queensland artists who are making music people want to hear.

The awards span a variety of musical styles, with an impressive mix of established and emerging musicians in the running this year. The contemporary music sector in Queensland is a powerful and dynamic element of Queensland's diverse arts and cultural offering. As a government, we are happy to see that Queensland musicians are making a name for themselves nationally and internationally. We are even more pleased that the sector is employing artists, developing new work, seeding innovation and contributing to the economy.

As we all know, the Palaszczuk government was elected with a key commitment to job creation. We appreciate the cultural value of the arts and music specifically, but we also appreciate the economic contribution of this industry to our state. The Music Council of Australia places the collective worth of Australian music industries at between \$7 billion and \$8 billion. Nationally, live contemporary music generates around \$831 million to the economy and supports almost 8,000 Australian jobs. Contemporary music already has a proven role in Queensland cultural tourism. Bigsound, QMusic's annual signature conference, draws attendees from around the world to what is the biggest music industry event in the Southern Hemisphere.

I want to thank all the musicians who performed at the QMusic Awards. I especially enjoyed Sahara Beck. We have a right to feel proud about the talent that is here in Queensland, and we should be doing our best to support and future their craft.

Finally, I would like to give a special thank you to Michael Crutcher, the president of QMusic, and Joel Edmonson, QMusic's executive officer, for their ongoing tireless work and for putting on such an inspiring night of great Queensland music and talent. If I get the opportunity, I look forward to going there again next year. It really is a fantastic line-up of the very best that Queensland has to offer. It is fantastic music. Congratulations to all the winners.

Grantham Floods, Commission of Inquiry



Mr RICKUSS (Lockyer—LNP) (10.12 pm): It was interesting this morning to hear the announcement by the Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk about the inquiry into the Wagner quarry. I hope this is not just at the behest of some of the media halfwits that have come out supporting these sorts of issues. I am more than happy to have the government support the Lockyer community, but it has been driven by one of the media journos who has less than covered himself with glory.

A government member: Name him!

Mr RICKUSS: Alan Jones. I think everyone understands who the halfwit from Sydney is who is on the radio up here. There are some real issues around the Disaster Management Act, and I have given the Speaker some information on this too. I will table a letter that I have sent to the Premier.

Tabled paper. Letter, dated April 2015, from the member for Lockyer, Mr Ian Rickuss MP, to the Premier regarding recent media highlighting the issues at Grantham, Wagners quarrying operations and flooding of the area [357].

As I have highlighted in that letter, I am more than happy to have the government spend money in the Lockyer community, but I do have some concerns about cherrypicking one issue in the flood. On a per capita basis, more people drowned at Postman's Ridge or Murphys Creek than at Grantham. There were extreme weather events, and everyone was a bit to blame: the Disaster Management Act was not being followed by the local council; the triple 0 system collapsed under the weight of phone calls; and the meteorology bureau's services were poor. When their gauge registered a reading six metres over its previous highest record, they assumed it was broken when in fact it was actually correct. The quarry that was there should have been monitored by the council anyway. All of us could have done better, but quarrying does come under the Lockyer Valley Regional Council's jurisdiction.

There was a lot of water. In this letter that I am tabling, there is a graph that indicates that the flood peak is six metres higher than the previous highest flood peak, and that is an enormous amount of water. That is virtually up to where the Hansard reporter is sitting above your head, Mr Speaker. Helidon and Grantham are only 10 kilometres apart and there was water from four more creeks to add to that, so that is an indication of the volume of water that was coming down. Many in the community feel that, if it is going to be looked into, the whole lot should be looked into and not just cherrypicked.

We all know that the radio announcer from Sydney keeps promoting Wagner's Airport in Toowoomba because he likes Wagners, so apparently the Sydney people are really enamoured with this airport in Toowoomba. I would be disappointed if this one issue is being driven by the media.

Hall, Mr B

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (10.15 pm): I rise to speak about an outstanding member of my electorate. It is difficult to imagine an honour better deserved than the 2015 Ipswich Citizen of the Year Award, which was bestowed this year on my constituent Brian Hall. Brian, who resides in Raceview in my electorate, is a man who believes that if you belong to the community you should give something back to the community. It was fantastic to see his tireless work on behalf of the Ipswich community recognised at this year's Ipswich City Awards in Ipswich.

Brian has played a key role in a variety of organisations, and his selfless service continues to this day. During the 1960s, when Brian ran a service station at Bundamba, he helped form a service station association and became a board member of the Motor Trades Association. When his wife Glenda suggested that he should become more involved with his children's schooling, Brian attended a meeting of the East Ipswich State School P&C. Brian says his numerous suggestions during the meeting caused him to be drafted as secretary for the Ipswich East State School War Memorial Fund Pool Building Committee, and he was instrumental in acquiring the funds necessary to build the school pool.

Brian's proudest achievement is his work on behalf of the Ipswich Labor movement through his long association with Ipswich Trades Hall, including his years as secretary treasurer after the completion of the new building during the Ipswich mall construction in the mid-1980s. He was the founding president of the Ipswich Workers Club and was photographed by the *Queensland Times* presenting the then mayor, Des Freeman, with membership card No. 1. He later served as secretary manager of the Workers Club for about 13 years.

Brian is president of the local National Service Men's Association, a member of the Railway Sub-Branch of the RSL and a board member of Barnabas House, which is a home in Durack for people with disabilities. Brian also volunteers at Trinity Uniting Church and served as president of the Ipswich local ambulance service for many years.

Brian says that the award came as a surprise, as he sees the things he does as nothing special; he is just someone who has helped out where help was needed. I disagree. It is people like Brian who are the role models in our society, and I was delighted and proud to see him named the 2015 Ipswich Citizen of the Year.

Anzac Day

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (10.18 pm): I rise today to convey my pride in the recent Anzac services in my electorate of Buderim. I was honoured to pay my respects to the past and current members of our armed forces on the Anzac centenary. The Buderim dawn service, Anzac Day parade and main service was attended by thousands with pride.

This year was truly something special as we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the First World War alongside a descendent of the Gallipoli Lone Pine. This was made possible by an LNP Queensland government grant of \$24,000. That funding went towards not only the planting of the lone pine but also the new flagpoles, power connections and other essential components to hold our services. More than 3,000 people paid tribute at the dawn service in our new location, which showcased the spectacular views from Buderim mountain with Buderim's own lone pine providing a significant memorial point and giving thousands of residents a chance to experience that special link to Anzac Cove.

Following the parade, the crowd at the Buderim Mountain State School attended the main service and were honoured to hear Brigadier George Mansford speak with such passion. He delighted the audience while he enlightened them about the tough conditions our brave Anzacs faced. Together as a community we will ensure that the memory of those sacrificed continues to be recognised and preserved for generations to come. They fought so hard for us to live in a democratic society, and we may sometimes take that for granted. As a community we need to fight to uphold the way of life these heroes paved the way for us to enjoy. Lest we forget.

I also take this opportunity to inform the House of a book I recently launched that showcases the Buderim electorate's involvement in World War I. I have a copy of *Buderim's Great War Effort 1914-1918 ... and its Living War Memorial* by Buderim resident Helene Cronin. I now table it in the parliament.

Tabled paper: Book, titled *Buderim's Great War Effort 1914-1918 ... and its Living War Memorial* [359].

I also table a copy of Brigadier George Mansford's speech—an extremely moving speech that I highly recommend reading.

Tabled paper: Speech given by Brigadier George Mansford at an Anzac Day service in Buderim in 2015 [358].

To set the scene for members, the honour board at the Buderim War Memorial Hall displays only the initials and surnames of our local war heroes. Helene undertook five years of research into the diggers' war history, what happened on their return, their families and the parts they played in the Buderim community beyond the Great War. Their stories of gallantry, sacrifice, love and sadness will now be shared, bringing the names on the honour board to life. The first run of the publication is 200 copies at \$50 a copy, from the Buderim book store, with some of the proceeds going to the Buderim Historical Society and the fantastic Adopt a Digger project. Congratulations to Helene on this fantastic book that I must say really moved me. This book displays a proud heritage and is an absolute must-read.

I thank the Buderim community and all residents for turning up on the day. It was a great event. If you have some time and you want to come to Buderim next year, feel free.

Burpengary Police Station

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (10.21 pm): About five years ago I, along with the then police minister and former state member for Nudgee, Neil Roberts, officially opened the new Burpengary Police Station. In fact, the current state member for Nudgee was also at that official opening in her capacity as the adviser to the then police minister. How time rolls on!

Since that official opening five years ago by a Labor government, the Burpengary and Narangba communities have enjoyed great partnerships with the officers of the Burpengary Police Station. In fact, local people from these communities often comment to me about the outstanding service they receive from the Queensland Police Service. One particular example of this outstanding service occurred only a few weeks ago.

On 23 April 2015 a local resident's house was broken into by some then unidentified people. On discovering the aftermath of the break-in, the owner of the house and his son took some remedial action to secure the house and boarded up the broken window which was used to gain entry to the house. The next day the owner of the house was sitting on the toilet, minding his own business—doing his business, so to speak—when he heard voices coming from outside the house. He heard one of the then unidentified males say, 'They've fixed it,' and then, 'Let's try another window.' Surprisingly, the owner of the house found time to finish his business and flush the toilet before scaring off the then unidentified males.

The owner of the house then placed a call directly to the Police Service's communications centre. Within three minutes, and while he was still on the phone, a police car arrived at the house. One minute later a second police car arrived at the house, and two minutes later officers from a third police car arrested the two males about 500 metres away. The owner of the house was very appreciative of the prompt and polite service from the officers of Burpengary Police Station. In particular, the owner of the house would like to place on record his thanks to Senior Constable Slater for his outstanding assistance in this matter, especially at a time when this gentleman was at his most exposed.

The hardworking efforts of our local police were recently recognised at the annual Moreton District Honours and Awards Ceremony held at Morayfield. A particularly special award is the award of police division of the year. Given the example I referred to earlier, it is probably no surprise to honourable members that this year the Burpengary police division was the recipient of this award. On behalf of our community, congratulations to Senior Sergeant Ashley Stanke and his great team of officers and staff at the Burpengary Police Station. Keep up the good work.

Anzac Day

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (10.24 pm): 25 April is a special date on our nation's calendar. It is a day we pause to remember all those who have served and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we may be free. They served under a flag that represents our past and our future—that represents us. As we all know, this year's Anzac Day held special significance as it marked the centenary of Australian, New Zealand, British and French troops storming the shores of Gallipoli Peninsula under a hail of machine gun fire and artillery shells. The Gallipoli campaign is often referred to as the birth of our nation's consciousness—truly a day Australia stood strong and as an equal in the eyes of the world.

Those brave men and women who stood proudly now have their names etched in stone on the memorials dotted in and around the electorate—people like Private FN Wilson, Lance Corporal R Howard and Private C Connor, to name a few. While most of us will never be touched by the horrors of war or experience the hell these soldiers endured, their sacrifice shall never be forgotten, for now and for future generations to come. This is clearly demonstrated at the Anzac Day services in the electorate, with record crowds at our services, especially our youth.

These events take an enormous amount of organising and preparation. I wish to thank all those who worked hard to get these events together and have them run smoothly. The Beenleigh RSL should be congratulated for their exceptional efforts for this year's service—president David Draper, master of ceremonies Dick Barnes, QPS Sergeant Mario Russo and the other Beenleigh RSL members, to name a few.

Equally, I wish to thank the Coomera Valley Rotary Club, under the leadership of Chris Straw and their master of ceremonies Tony Lines, for an outstanding service at the Upper Coomera cenotaph. The Upper Coomera service gives the opportunity for school students to march with those who have served. In bright school uniforms, young students and older students sat silently and listened intently to the words spoken. Our ex-service men and women watched on in the knowledge that their legacy and service will never be forgotten. As we drive past our cenotaphs we should take a moment to remember all those names etched in stone. They are those who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can live in a land that is envied by all.

Anzac Day

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (10.27 pm): I rise in this adjournment debate to speak of something that surprised me and moved me this Anzac Day. Of course, I am moved every year at the dawn service at the Greenbank RSL, as was the member for Algester, Minister Enoch, who was also in attendance. But this is not what I want to bring to the attention of the House in this adjournment debate. I wish to speak about the very moving show of talent that resulted from the Greenbank RSL Women's Auxiliary Centenary of Anzac art prize.

The surrounding schools of Browns Plains high school, Park Ridge high school, Stretton college, St Francis College—I spoke of that school earlier—and Marsden State School were all involved in producing fantastic artworks. When the three large paintings from each school were completed I was invited by the women's auxiliary to be one of the judges. When presented with the paintings I was simply blown away by their quality.

Students took different approaches. One created three panels of an old-fashioned banner, similar to one that would have been used in Anzac Day marches of the 1920s. Another more modern work included text painted onto a modern painting—a thought-provoking piece that needed time to be drawn into. But the one that was most moving was the artwork of Park Ridge high school. They created three austere and deeply moving paintings. They showed tremendous restraint with colour, using a minimalist palette that made the paintings all the more moving. The three panels were impressive. The one I am holding up, showing the despair, loss and suffering of war, was for me the

most moving. This print does not really do justice to the size and power of the moving pieces of art by young artists. Mr Speaker, if you have the time you can view these artworks at the Logan Art Gallery. There is also a picture of them on my Facebook page.

The Park Ridge State High School artworks were created by Sharna and Kyle and were judged to be the winners of the contest, receiving \$1,500. The Logan council was so moved, as I said, that it has offered to hang the paintings at the Logan gallery. The artworks were all displayed at the dawn service and also at the later service and parade. You could see from the expressions on the faces of people that they were very moved by the sheer power of the paintings. I want to recognise the Greenbank RSL, especially the Greenbank RSL Women's Auxiliary run so well by Rosemarie Buckley, Kaye Lowe and Marcella Mortimer. With the Women's Auxiliary committee, they devised the concept, built the frames, donated the paint, delivered and picked up the artworks and put on the special morning tea to announce the winners and recognise the young artists. They are the unsung heroes that I am so proud to be able to recognise here today as well as recognise the deeply moving artworks that the students created. It should also be noted that the family of the late Ken Loxton gave a very generous donation to the contest and the contest is a legacy to Mr Loxton's service to our country and commitment to the activities of the RSL.

Anzac Day; Kidney Health Australia

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (10.30 pm): This evening I rise in the House to acknowledge and commemorate the centenary of the Anzacs like so many of our colleagues have done this evening and I am sure will do this week. The centenary of the Anzacs is a special time for Australians and New Zealanders as we come together to remember the sacrifice of service men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice and who have been prepared to pay the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf and in defence of our freedoms. Tonight I want to acknowledge the work of the Runaway Bay RSL Sub Branch, ably led by President Patrick Fairon, for the work that it did in ensuring that the commemoration this year was a particularly special one. This year's dawn service saw more than 5,000 people at the Runaway Bay subbranch, and that was significant given that that is double what is normally seen at a 10 am service. There were hundreds and thousands of people standing along the side of the road, particularly young children, clapping and cheering as they acknowledged the veterans as they marched past. It was amazing also to see the hundreds who went to the Paradise Point Bowls Club to acknowledge the sacrifice and service of so many Australian men and women.

I want to particularly pay tribute to the school liaison officer Geoff Maltby who, having served as the master of ceremonies at Anzac and Remembrance services for the past seven years, has announced that he will be standing down. Geoff has an incredible Welsh lilt and I am sure that all in Runaway Bay and the Broadwater community will miss his lilt as the dawn breaks every Anzac Day. I also want to pay tribute to retired Colonel Peter Leeson who was instrumental in ensuring that the commemorations were particularly special this year. He organised a World War I uniform for a soldier and a nurse and the story of Henry Fairon, a Queensland veteran who served at both Gallipoli and on the Western Front, was acknowledged. I also want to acknowledge the great work of the schools in the electorate that commemorated Anzac Day.

In the time remaining, I want to pay tribute to Kidney Health Australia for the work it has done in organising the Kidney Kids Camp that was recently held in my electorate which saw more than 150 kids from across Australia have the opportunity to come and take some time away from what can be a very debilitating illness for children and get some respite for not only themselves but also their parents. This work would not be able to happen without generous benefactors. Kidney Health Australia put it on completely for the families so that there was no cost to them. I also want to acknowledge the great work that its patron does, Lady Brabham, the widow of the late Sir Jack Brabham, who was also a patron of Kidney Health Australia.

Anzac Day

 **Mr de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (10.33 pm): Tonight I rise to recognise the significant contribution made in Springwood during the centenary of Anzac commemorations. Like all of us in this House, I had the honour of participating in the Anzac Day ceremonies, including those at Rochedale South State School, Springwood Central State School and Chisholm Catholic College, but I recognise services were held in many more schools and institutions across the electorate. I also make special mention of the services held at the Logan Diggers dawn service and the Springwood Tri-Services march and commemoration service.

The bravery and endurance of the Anzacs turned a terrible event into a legend. For this reason, Anzac Day is a time to honour the service, the sacrifice and the spirit of all of those who have worn our nation's uniform, both past and present. It is up to us to continue this legacy and these qualities in our everyday lives, particularly the spirit of mateship. Today we live in a free society, we go where we please, we live the lives we want and have the freedom to vote for our chosen political representatives. We can honour the fallen and those who treasure them by exercising those rights and freedoms that their sacrifices gave us. These are rights conferred upon us by our democracy and each member of this place therefore has a heavy burden to carry. Thousands upon thousands of Queenslanders gave their lives to protect that democracy and it is in this place in which that democracy is either fostered or squandered. Integrity is paramount to good government, to democracy and especially to the people of Queensland, and our government is committed to working hard every day to uphold our democracy.

I want to reflect on the extraordinary contribution that is made by those who work to honour those who gave their lives, and I refer to the leaders and members of the Springwood Tri-Service RSL. As one of our newer subbranches in Queensland with 86 members, the Springwood Tri-Service subbranch has worked hard to engage with local schools, and this was evinced by the large number of students represented in the procession and the record number of attendees at the commemoration service. Police estimates put the crowd at approximately 10,000.

The Palaszczuk government is proud to support the Anzac centenary program by committing \$50 million up to 2018, which includes funding for community projects and events as well as significant investment in legacy projects like Anzac Square. In Springwood I look forward to supporting initiatives of the subbranch that focus on community research and those that have the potential to expand our collective knowledge of the war efforts of service men and women from Springwood and those whose descendants now reside in Springwood. I place on record the gratitude of the Queensland government to the leaders of the Springwood Tri-Service RSL Subbranch, in particular Allan Ploenges, Allan Smith, Gary Sargent, John Winter, Mike Tucker and David Simmons. They risked everything to give us our freedoms—the brave, the wounded and the fallen. I thank them and those who work to honour their memory and sacrifice.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10.36 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Crawford, Cripps, D'Ath, Davis, de Brenni, Dick, Dickson, Donaldson, Elmes, Emerson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Gordon, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, McVeigh, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pyne, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams