



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

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## TUESDAY, 14 JULY 2015

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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.

### PRIVILEGE

#### Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee



**Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. As a member of the PCCC, I am provided with safes for the storage of confidential documents relating to the PCCC. I have discovered in one of the safes provided 85 pages of documents relating to the former PCMC deliberations and the former deputy chair of the PCMC. This is the first opportunity I have had to advise the parliament of how I have dealt with these documents. Yesterday I personally placed the documents in the possession of the Clerk—

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I seek your guidance in relation to whether this is properly a matter of privilege. These are matters that are currently being dealt with by a parliamentary committee, and I would seek your guidance.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Warrego, the matter you are referring to is a matter before a committee. My recommendation to you is that you take this matter up with the committee secretariat. If you choose to write to me, I will then forward the matter on to the committee to consider.

**Ms LEAHY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Cripps** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Hinchinbrook, if you persist with your interjections I will warn you under standing order 253.

### SPEAKER'S RULING

#### Questions about Confidence



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in the last sitting week points of order were taken about questions asking ministers about their confidence in office holders which related to areas of their administration. I undertook to provide a detailed explanation of my ruling allowing such questions. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling circulated to members in the House.

Leave granted.

#### QUESTIONS ABOUT CONFIDENCE

In the last sitting week points of order were taken about questions asking Ministers about their confidence in office holders which related to areas of their administration. The basis of the objection was that such questions amounted to asking an opinion. I allowed the questions and indicated that I would provide a detailed explanation.

An opinion is simply a personal view, attitude or assessment. Generally, to ask what someone thinks of a person is asking an opinion. In a parliamentary sense, the term "confidence" in relation to a government or office holder, indicates faith or belief that they will act or have been acting in a right, proper, reliable and effective way. Having confidence in a government or an office holder simply means they have support. Therefore, "confidence" in a parliamentary sense really equates to support and trust for an incumbent.

Issues of confidence, whether in a government or office holder, are at the very heart of Westminster government.

In a Westminster system Ministers are individually responsible to Parliament for the administration of their portfolios, and governments are collectively accountable to the community.

Office holders, such as Directors-General are responsible for the delivery of their agencies' services and are ultimately accountable to the Premier, although they report to their responsible Minister on a day-to-day basis.

Questions of confidence about an office holder, whether it be a question to a Premier about a Minister or office holder, or a question to a Minister about an office holder that reports to them is much more than an opinion.

A survey of past questions in this Assembly and the Assemblies in New South Wales and Victoria reinforce this view.

I also table examples of previous questions asked in this House and in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly and the Victorian Legislative Assembly.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Survey of past questions about confidence' [613].

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Incorporation of Material

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in accordance with previous practice, I advise that for debate on the appropriation bills, which will be debated later this week, members may, by leave of the House, incorporate a portion of their speech in the second reading debate. The following rules must, however, be followed:

1. The member's total speech must not exceed that which would normally be allowed in a 20-minute speech, thus no speech should exceed 3,500 words;
2. Speeches should not include graphs, charts or other material;
3. Members must provide the Parliamentary Reporting Service and the chamber service with their speech in electronic form prior to rising to give their speech. Other members will be provided access, on request, to a member's speech prior to the publication of the *Record of Proceedings*; and
4. All speeches must be shown to me as Speaker or the deputy speakers prior to leave being sought for incorporation. Speeches intended to be incorporated should not offend standing orders in any way such as by containing personal reflections, imputations et cetera.

### National Diabetes Week

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that National Diabetes Week began on 12 July and continues until 18 July. With 280 Australians developing diabetes every day, Diabetes Queensland has invited members to raise awareness of this serious disease by wearing on their lapel a green pin in the shape of an arrow symbolising the work being done to turn around diabetes.

## PETITIONS

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

### Taigum Square Shopping Centre, GoCard Facilities

**Hon. Hinchliffe**, from 18 petitioners, requesting the House to arrange for a GoCard purchase and 'top-up' functionality to be established at Taigum Square Shopping Centre [721].

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

### Gas Industry, Rebates

410 petitioners, requesting the House to make provision for increasing the rebate for reticulated AGL gas to match the current rebate for electricity [722].

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

### Redland City, Eastern Busway Project

**Dr Robinson**, from 1,269 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise the finalisation of the Eastern Busway Project to Redland City, and to ensure that this infrastructure receives the highest consideration for funding on both the State and Federal Government agendas [723, 724].

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

### Pimlico State High School

**Mr Hathaway**, from 1,248 petitioners, requesting the House to fund the construction of a multi-purpose performing arts teaching complex and auditorium at Pimlico State High School [725].

### Maleny State School, Transfer of Land

**Mr Powell**, from 282 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise the transfer of land at Maleny State School either as freehold or as trust of lease from the State to the Sunshine Coast Regional Council for an indoor aquatic centre [\[726\]](#).

### Southport Parole Office, Relocation

**Mr Molhoek**, from 6 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate options for the relocation of the Southport parole office to a location outside the central Southport area [\[727\]](#).

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—

5 June 2015—

[571](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Mr C R Dick) to an ePetition (2338-14) sponsored by Mr Bennett, from 72 petitioners, requesting the House to review the Health Legislation Amendment Bill and not regulate personal vaporisers as smoking products under the Tobacco Act

[572](#) Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee: Report No. 2, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 26 November 2014 and 5 May 2015

[573](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to a paper petition (2385-15) presented by Mrs Stuckey, from 23 petitioners, requesting the House to take action to reduce the impacts of noise by improving sound barriers and providing grants to assist those homeowners and businesses most affected in soundproofing their properties

9 June 2015—

[574](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 57—Inquiry into Public Sector Contract Extensions, government response

10 June 2015—

[575](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 20: 2014-15—Results of audit: Managing water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchments

576 Copy of Gazette Notice from the Queensland Government Gazette, dated 18 June 2015, advising that the Governor, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council and pursuant to section 481A of the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003, has approved WorkCover Queensland's payment of \$85,182,796 (GST inclusive) to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General

12 June 2015—

[577](#) Health and Ambulance Services Committee: Report No. 2, 55th Parliament—Personal health promotion interventions using telephone and web-based technologies

15 June 2015—

[578](#) Ministerial direction, dated 15 June 2015, from the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation, Ms Enoch, to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission under section 9 of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991

17 June 2015—

[579](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Mr C R Dick) to an ePetition (2369-15) sponsored by the Clerk under provision of Standing Order 119(4), and a paper petition (2393-15), presented by the Clerk under provision of Standing Order 119(3), from 125 and 378 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to ensure Childers has access to vital health facilities including an undercover heated hydrotherapy pool and ask that funding for this vital resource be reinstated

18 June 2015—

[580](#) Copy of Gazette Notice from the Queensland Government Gazette, dated 12 June 2015, advising that the Governor, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council and pursuant to the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003, has approved WorkCover Queensland's payment of \$85,182,796 (GST inclusive) to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General

[581](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade (Ms Trad) to an ePetition (2354-15) sponsored by Mr Bennett, and a paper petition (2391-15) presented by Mr Bennett, from 50 and 255 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to ensure a wide-reaching consultation process takes place in Bundaberg to give an opportunity for all residents to vote on the abolition of divisional representation of Bundaberg Regional Council

19 June 2015—

[582](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports Minister for Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to an ePetition (2371-15) sponsored by Mr Bennett, and a paper petition (2392-15) presented by Mr Bennett, from 41 and 826 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to urgently arrange the installation of turning arrows for traffic turning from Davidson Street onto Bundaberg-Bargara Road, on both sides of the intersection

- [583](#) University of Queensland Act 1998: University of Queensland (Election of Elected Members of Senate) Statute 2015
- [584](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports Minister for Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to a paper petition (2394-15) sponsored by Mr Last from 1,537 petitioners requesting the House to consider an upgrade of Stuart Drive from the Bruce Highway intersection at Cluden to the Bowen Bridge to include four lanes and traffic lights at the Mervyn Crossman roundabout with a pedestrian crossing and a second bridge over the Ross River

29 June 2015—

- [585](#) Response from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Dr Lynham) to a paper petition (2399-15) presented by Mr Rickuss, from 7 petitioners, drawing to the attention of the House, that the current level of water use for irrigation in the Lockyer Valley is unsustainable
- [586](#) Cowley Drainage Board—Final Report 1 July 2013 to 2 October 2014
- [587](#) East Euramo Drainage Board—Final Report 1 July 2013 to 2 October 2014
- [588](#) Marathon Bore Water Supply Board—Final Report 1 July 2013 to 2 October 2014
- [589](#) Mourilyan Drainage Board—Final Report 1 July 2013 to 2 October 2014
- [590](#) Orchard Creek Drainage Board—Final Report 1 July 2013 to 2 October 2014
- [591](#) Riversdale-Murray Valley Water Management Board—Final Report 1 July 2013 to 2 October 2014
- [592](#) Stagnant Creek Drainage Board—Final Report 1 July 2013 to 2 October 2014
- [593](#) Murray-Darling Basin Authority—Annual Report 2013-14
- [594](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to paper petitions (2400-15 and 2406-15) presented by the Clerk under provision of Standing Order 119(3), from 25 and 37 petitioners respectively, drawing the attention of the House to the supply charge for low users of reticulated AGL gas

30 June 2015—

- [595](#) North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation—Annual Report 2013-14: Erratum
- [596](#) Queensland Mental Health Commission—Ordinary Report: Social Housing—Systemic Issues for Tenants with Complex Needs, May 2015
- [597](#) Right to Information Act 2009 and Information Privacy Act 2009—Annual Report 2013-14

1 July 2015—

- [598](#) Electricity Distribution Network Code made under the Electricity Act 1994 (First Edition: approved 26 June 2015, effective 1 July 2015)
- [599](#) Gas Distribution Network Code made under the Gas Supply Act 2003 (First Edition: approved 26 June 2015, effective 1 July 2015)
- [600](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to a paper petition (2387-15) presented by the Clerk under provision of Standing Order 119(3) from 203 petitioners, drawing the attention of the House to the impracticality and undesirability of condition three of the Concurrence Agency Response provided by Department of Transport and Main Roads in its letter dated 20/09/13 with respect to development at 1-5 Cremin Street, Upper Mt Gravatt
- [601](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to a paper petition (2376-15) presented by the Clerk under provision of Standing Order 119(3) from 47 petitioners, requesting the House to consider the lack of adequate school zone signage for Darling Point Special School, given its location on the Esplanade and core needs of pupils it requires more for unaware locals

3 July 2015—

- [602](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Mr C R Dick) to an ePetition (2377-15) sponsored by Mr Saunders, from 163 petitioners, requesting the House to reinstate the Pathology Department at the Maryborough Hospital
- [603](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to an ePetition (2395-15) sponsored by the Clerk under provision of Standing Order 119(4), from 202 petitioners, drawing the attention of the House that water prices and rates have increased over \$500 in the last three years in Moreton Bay Region
- [604](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade (Ms Trad) to an ePetition (2373-15) sponsored by the Clerk under provision of Standing Order 119(4), and a paper petition (2403-15) presented by the Clerk under provision of Standing Order 119 (3), from 435 and 1190 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to reinstate services on the Inlander Rail service between Mount Isa and Townsville
- [605](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to an ePetition (2368-15) sponsored by Mrs Frecklington, and a paper petition (2402-15) presented by Mrs Frecklington, from 177 and 381 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to name 'Roy Emerson' Way on the D'Aguilar Highway

6 July 2015—

- [606](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 5, 55th Parliament—Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

7 July 2015—

- [607](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 4, 55th Parliament—Portfolio subordinate legislation tabled between 13 January 2015 and 5 May 2015
- [608](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 5, 55th Parliament—Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Repeal Bill 2015

13 July 2015—

- [609](#) Marine Incidents in Queensland 2014
- [610](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade (Ms Trad), pursuant to section 424 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application by Urban Planning Services on behalf of Pacific View Farm (Queensland) Pty Ltd at Pacific View Estate, Worongary (Gold Coast)
- [611](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade (Ms Trad), pursuant to section 424 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application by Urban Planning Services on behalf of Pacific View Farm (Queensland) Pty Ltd at Pacific View Estate, Worongary (Gold Coast), Annexures A-F
- [612](#) Office of the State Coroner—Annual Report 2013-14

#### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Electricity Competition and Protection Legislation Amendment Act 2014—

- [614](#) Proclamation amending previous proclamation, No. 32
- [615](#) Proclamation amending previous proclamation, No. 32, explanatory notes
- [616](#) Electricity Competition and Protection Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2015, No. 33
- [617](#) Electricity Competition and Protection Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2015, No. 33 explanatory notes

National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014—

- [618](#) National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) (Transitional) Regulation 2015, No. 34
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The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade (Ms Trad)—

[717](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade (Ms Trad), pursuant to section 432 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application by PDI (QLD) Pty Ltd at Main Street, Anderson Street, Holman Street and Wharf Street, Kangaroo Point (the Yungaba development)

[718](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade (Ms Trad), pursuant to section 432 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application by PDI (QLD) Pty Ltd at Main Street, Anderson Street, Holman Street and Wharf Street, Kangaroo Point (the Yungaba development), Annexures A-C

## MEMBERS' PAPERS TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following members' papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Lockyer (Mr Rickuss)—

[719](#) Non-conforming petition requesting the appointment of a Commissioner of Victims Rights be appointed in Queensland  
Member for Dalrymple (Mr Knuth)—

[720](#) Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Bill 2015, replacement explanatory notes

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Clarke, Mr R, AO, MBE

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): Since the House last sat, Queensland, and indeed Australia, has lost one of its true gentlemen and sporting legends. Today I would like to place on record my government's sincere condolences to the family and friends of Ron Clarke, who died on 17 June 2015 aged 78. Mr Clarke, despite being a famous sporting hero and serving for eight years as the mayor of the Gold Coast, was in fact a very private person. His family farewelled him at a private funeral last month. However, there will be a celebration of his life to be held this afternoon at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

As all members will know, Ron Clarke was a great of Australian athletics. He set 17 world records during his sporting career and was the winner of silver and bronze medals at Olympic and Commonwealth Games levels and countless other titles. He will also be forever remembered as having been the first Australian to light the Olympic Games flame at the age of 19 at the 1956 Melbourne Games. Although a Victorian by birth, Mr Clarke and his wife, Helen, were regular visitors to the Gold Coast and made their home there from 1995.

Mr Clarke was a successful businessman throughout his life. He financed and ran health and fitness centres in Australia and England, and on the Gold Coast he was pivotal in the launch of Couran Cove Island Resort and the Runaway Bay sports centre. In 2004, Mr Clarke decided to contest the Gold Coast mayoralty. Mr Clarke served two terms as mayor until he decided to resign in February 2012, having served eight years. One of Mr Clarke's last major political achievements as mayor was to play a pivotal, key role in helping the then Labor government secure the 2018 Commonwealth Games for the Gold Coast. He is also credited with playing an important role in the AFL, deciding to establish a team on the Gold Coast.

Ron Clarke lived life to the fullest. His list of achievements are many, not the least being having been appointed a member of the Order of the British Empire in 1966 and an officer in the Order of Australia in 2013. I place on record the government's thanks—and I believe the thanks of all members of this House—for the years of service and dedication Mr Clarke gave to the Queensland community. On behalf of all members of this House, I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of this House to Mr Clarke's family and friends.

### Ravenshoe, Community Recovery

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): It has been nearly five weeks since the tragic events that have forever altered the landscape and character of the tiny town of Ravenshoe in our state's north. In the space of seconds, an explosion ripped through a café in the heart of the town, ultimately claiming the lives of two people and causing life-altering injuries to many others. Initially, 20 people were admitted to hospital, many in serious or critical condition. While

10 people have now been discharged, one person remains in the Cairns Hospital and seven in the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Sadly, two women, Nicole Nyholt and Margaret Clark, died from their injuries. My deepest sympathy and that of everyone in this House goes out to their families and their friends and to the Ravenshoe community.

In the past five weeks the Ravenshoe community has pulled together to help and support the families of these two women and the families of those who were injured. In addition, both government and non-government agencies have joined to help get the town back on its feet. I single out for special mention the Ravenshoe Community Centre and all of its volunteers, the Tablelands Regional Council, GIVIT, the UnitingCare Community and the on-the-ground efforts of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, Queensland Health, and the police and emergency services. I want to put on record that the member for Dalrymple, Shane Knuth, has also played a pivotal role in rebuilding hope in the community of Ravenshoe. Thank you very much, member for Dalrymple.

Queenslanders have once again demonstrated their great generosity in giving to others in their time of need. Over \$400,000 has been donated to the GIVIT appeal, including \$20,000 from my government. Counselling has been provided to 224 people and travel and accommodation assistance has been given to 50 family members to help them visit the injured in hospital. Volunteers have reached out, offering help with practical things like lawn mowing, home maintenance and pet care.

The recovery effort is very much a local effort, and two local committees have been formed to coordinate and distribute assistance. In addition, the government will make sure the recovery efforts continue over the long term so that those affected and the town itself are able to recover.

### **Advance Queensland, Jobs**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.42 am): Today is a very exciting day for my government and an exciting day for Queensland. Our first budget will deliver on our election commitments, it will deliver on our promise to stimulate the economy and to create jobs, and it will deliver on our promise to diversify the economy.

Yesterday I had the pleasure of addressing around 140 business, industry and university representatives at an event next door, at QUT. The event allowed me to articulate to them and to Queenslanders my government's Advance Queensland program. This package is at the core of our first budget because it needs to be at the core of our economic agenda. That is because we need to diversify our economy and create jobs now and create jobs for the future. My government recognises that we must look beyond our traditional strengths, as important as they are, and help create the new industries that will, in turn, create the jobs. Thanks to previous Labor governments, Queensland has a world renowned research base. But while we have many promising ideas, we need to ramp up our capacity to turn those ideas into investment-ready business proposals. If we want to turn great ideas into jobs, we need to attract investors to our shore. The \$180 million package includes a comprehensive suite of programs designed to solve global challenges, seize opportunities in growing markets, fight for investment dollars and create the jobs of the future.

First, the \$50 million Advance Queensland Best and Brightest Fund will develop, attract and retain world-class talent, both scientific and entrepreneurial. It includes: fellowships and scholarships to strengthen our research base; Global Partnership Awards, allowing outstanding Queensland talent to gain experience with major universities or companies overseas; Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, allowing Queensland SMEs to have postgraduate students contribute to their businesses; and, importantly, a Future Schools review, examining how we can expand STEM, coding, computer science and robotics at our schools, teaching our young people at a very early age. I feel very strongly about this last point. We need to give our kids the tools to compete in the global marketplace.

Secondly, there is the \$46 million Advance Queensland Future Jobs Strategy, which will open the door to new industry and research collaborations, tackle the big innovation challenges, focus on translation, and deliver 10-year road maps for industries with global growth potential. It includes three major partnerships designed to commercialise our biggest and best discoveries: UQ and Emory University from Atlanta, US, Siemens and Translational Research Institute, and Johnson & Johnson and QUT. It also includes an Innovations Challenge, incentivising researchers and entrepreneurs to tackle the world's biggest challenges; and 10-year road maps for emerging industries.

Thirdly, there is the \$76 million Business Investment Attraction package—let me say it again: \$76 million Business Investment Attraction package—which will encourage a new wave of Queensland start-ups, support proof-of-concept projects and attract co-investment through the Business Development Fund. The Business Investment Attraction package includes: Startup Queensland, to

encourage a new wave of start-up businesses; the Queensland Commercialisation Program, encouraging proof-of-concept discoveries; and a Business Development Fund, encouraging co-investment in investment-ready businesses. We will also allocate \$8 million to give us the flexibility to respond as new opportunities arise.

We cannot rest on our laurels. We cannot keep producing ideas and seeing the commercial benefits and the jobs head overseas. This is a global race for investment dollars and local jobs, and I want us all to be in it to win it.

### State of Origin; Netball Stadium

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.46 am): Speaking of winning: 52 points to six. Can I just take a moment to relish that one more time: 52 points to six. The maroons did us proud last week, sealing their ninth State of Origin series win in the past 10 years. Cameron Smith led the boys to Queensland's biggest-ever score and set an all-time Origin record-winning margin. The atmosphere at Suncorp Stadium was electric.

I would like to once again congratulate the team on their dedication and hard work, and I thank them on behalf of all Queenslanders. Given our surroundings today, it gives me great pleasure to remind New South Wales Premier, Mike Baird, of the terms of the bet he set before the series began. Many members in this House may have already seen that Mike has now received a package in the mail from me containing a maroons jersey for him to wear in question time in the New South Wales parliament. I have seen his video. I think we have all had a laugh at his video. I say to Mike Baird that he now has to wear that jersey. I said at the very beginning that he would look good in maroon. It is certainly a colour that we wore with pride last week.

I recently attended another State of Origin decider that I will never forget. I am referring of course to the netball Trans-Tasman grand final. The Queensland Firebirds' thrilling triumph over the New South Wales Swifts last month was an edge-of-the-seat spectacle. Indeed, some might draw political analogies with a team of fighters who trailed right up until the last 15 seconds of full time before a stunning victory and much celebration across Queensland.

I want to place on record my thanks to Laura and her team, who trained hard and won decisively. But those players had to start somewhere—as little girls who wanted to play the sport. Netball is already one of the most successful sports in Queensland and I want to see that participation rise. So it is with great pleasure that I announce that my government will fund a new permanent \$30 million facility, a home for the Firebirds.

**Mr DICKSON:** I rise to a point of order. I would like to know from the Premier when they are going to stop stealing the LNP's commitments and ideas that we put forward. This is just another example of them stealing our homework.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order. I ask you to draw to the attention of the member for Buderim the standing orders around such points of order and I would ask you to remind him that debating such matters is not appropriate.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim, that is not a point of order. If you would like to see me after the session this morning, I would be happy to go through the standing orders with you.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** In conclusion, this project will create approximately 100 jobs during construction. This announcement is a watershed moment for women's sport in Queensland, and I am proud to lead a government that has made it happen.

### Advance Queensland, Trade and Investment Commissioners

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (9.50 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government's Advance Queensland initiative, announced yesterday by the Premier, is about delivering jobs now and for the future. Advance Queensland provides a renewed focus on developing our state's knowledge and advanced service sector industries and will bridge the gap between great ideas and the jobs they can lead to.

An important part of this agenda is encouraging new investment in Queensland and supporting Queensland exporters to take their ideas to global markets. As Minister for Trade I know that trade means jobs, and this will be even more important in the Asian Century. PricewaterhouseCoopers

estimates that the burgeoning Asian middle class will grow from 500 million today to 3.2 billion by 2030. This is a sixfold increase in only 15 years. This growth in our region has the potential to support a million Australian jobs in fields as diverse as health, banking, transport, telecommunications, property, tourism and education.

To make sure that Queensland can win our share of jobs in the Asian Century, we must continue to diversify our economy so we can position our state for more investment and more exports. To help deliver this I am delighted to announce the appointment of our new trade and investment commissioners for Korea and Indonesia. I can advise the House that Mr Oka Simanjuntak and Mr Daniel Kim have been appointed as trade and investment commissioners for Indonesia and Korea respectively after a competitive international recruitment process to fill existing vacancies. Mr Simanjuntak will be based in TIQ's new Indonesian office, which has recently opened in recognition of the increasing importance for Queensland of this region. The Palaszczuk government sees many new opportunities for growth with Indonesia, particularly in food and agribusiness, education and tourism, mining and resources and tropical sciences, and Mr Simanjuntak will help facilitate these opportunities.

Similarly, Mr Kim will be a great ambassador for Queensland in the Korean market, where there are new prospects being created thanks to the Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement. In the past, Korean investment has helped build Queensland's economic capacity and has created jobs across key sectors throughout Queensland. Mr Kim will help facilitate further deals with Korean companies. Both of these appointments highlight the quality of Queensland's representation overseas.

Mr Kim was a partner at KPMG in Brisbane and the national leader of the Korean Business Practice. Mr Simanjuntak most recently worked for Australian mining services company Orica and previously Leighton's and Queensland's GroundProbe. Both of our new commissioners bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to their roles and will make a strong addition to TIQ's international team of representatives.

### **Advance Queensland, Science and Innovation**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.53 am): Mr Speaker, yesterday I had the pleasure of joining the Premier as she launched this government's blueprint for creating jobs now and for the future. Advance Queensland is a comprehensive \$180 million package that will help our state move beyond our traditional strengths and continue our transition to a knowledge based economy with new industries and the new jobs that come with them.

We are fortunate to live in a state rich in natural resources and beauty, but to remain competitive globally we need to diversify our economic focus. To have a successful economy into the future we need industry to drive digital innovation and transition to a knowledge based economy. Queensland is well positioned to make this transition. We already have the foundations of exciting and innovative industries with tremendous capacity for growth in sectors such as ICT, spatial industries and start-ups. On Sunday I saw some of these in action firsthand at the Brisbane Startup Weekend at River City Labs. Start-up weekends are community driven events that challenge participants to launch a new product or service in 54 hours. By providing a forum for participants to pitch their ideas, teams test their business models and create prototypes with expert support. By bringing together entrepreneurs and mentors, events like this can be the catalyst for a new generation of success stories. I would like to congratulate PowerDialer on their win at the start-up event.

As a legacy of the strong investment that previous Labor governments made in research and innovation, we have excellent research infrastructure and a deep pool of talent too. Those governments invested \$4.9 billion between 1998 and 2012 in science, research and innovation in Queensland. During this period 44 new research institutes were built and the number of scientists in Queensland more than doubled to over 18,000. It is this level of commitment to science and innovation that has been missing in recent years.

Advance Queensland will build on what we have while planning for the future. We need to use the knowledge generated by research and innovation to create new businesses and industries and new ways of doing things. Most importantly, we need to use the knowledge generated by research and innovation to create the jobs of the future. Advance Queensland will help create these new industries and those new jobs.

### Advance Queensland, Health

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.56 am): Yesterday the Premier announced the Queensland government's visionary Advance Queensland initiative. I am happy to inform the House that while I am the Minister for Health and the Minister for Ambulance Services, I will be a strong supporter of research and development, innovation and the sunrise industries of the 21st century that Advance Queensland will encourage and support. Queensland Health will play its part to build on Queensland's natural advantage—our skilled, educated and talented people—to create meaningful well-paid jobs not just now but also for the long term. We will build on the legacy of previous Labor governments, where big investments in innovation and technology are now paying off.

In the late 1990s the Beattie government began the Smart State program, which invested heavily in developing the skills of our state's workforce and our research capability. Between 1998 and 2012 Labor governments invested \$4.9 billion in our knowledge industries and life sciences. The Smart State program also invested heavily in setting up research institutions such as the Institute for Molecular Bioscience at the University of Queensland. Earlier this year I visited the institute and saw some of the work that they are doing in relation to superbugs. The institute is asking researchers from all over the world to send in their compounds for screening to help in the fight against these malicious and extremely complex infections.

I have also had the pleasure of visiting QUT's Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, where I saw firsthand groundbreaking research into stem cells, vaccines, chronic wound treatment and 3-D medical printing. This is groundbreaking research that is being carried out right here in Queensland. The work that is carried out in these institutes will make a real and tangible difference to the lives of many people not just in our great state, but around the world.

The challenge for this generation is to build on that legacy. To do that we need to set the frameworks to transfer this research base into jobs and commercial opportunities for our state. The announcements made by the Premier and the Advance Queensland package do just that. The Advance Queensland \$46 million Future Jobs Strategy and the \$76 million Business Investment Attraction package will help create jobs in the research and health sectors now and in the future. Health and life sciences have a big future in Queensland, and the entire sector knows that this government will be standing by their side.

### Advance Queensland, Education

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (9.58 am): Mr Speaker, we are determined to build the Queensland of the future. Yesterday as part of her Advance Queensland vision the Premier announced a \$50 million Best and Brightest Fund. This fund will include several elements including a future skills review of the teaching of science, technology, engineering and maths to expand the teaching of STEMs in Queensland schools. Our goal is to ensure that Queensland students are at the cutting edge of innovation through the development of skills to become the technology architects of the digital age. We are determined to ensure that future generations of Queenslanders have STEM skills as well as the creative and entrepreneurial skills to shape the future.

This review will include an assessment of coding, computer science and digital literacy as well as early state robotics. We know that the inclusion of coding, for example, in school curriculums shifts away from the focus of instructing children how to use computers, applications and programs towards teaching them about how computers are built, how they work and how to instruct their function and behaviour through coding.

We will transform the teaching of STEM through focused professional development, through teacher scholarships and by working closely with our universities to ensure we can provide more STEM teachers in our schools. This review will be undertaken by a team of independent experts, with our teaching professionals, and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

### Advance Queensland, Mining Industry

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (9.59 am): Australia's Chief Economist recently made a quite disturbing observation about our nation's lack of economic and export diversity. He said that on the index of export complexity Australia has the lowest rate of complexity in the OECD. That means we are very exposed to global commodity markets.

Nationally, five key sectors of the economy have been identified with high global growth potential. Where Australia is well positioned to take advantage of that potential has also been identified. One of these five key sectors is mining equipment, technology and services, known as METS. This is just one of the reasons this government's Advance Queensland policy is so exciting. Queensland's METS are already used at commercial mine sites on every continent. We have 436 operating METS companies—more than any other state. We have a concentration of METS company headquarters, regional METS hubs and world renowned resource focused research and development institutions and universities. I can see our \$24 million Startup Queensland program having a powerful impact on ambitious METS businesses.

METS is particularly important to our decentralised state because much of our METS skills and expertise is where the mining activity takes place: in regional Queensland. Support with seed funding, co-working space, mentoring, and connection to customers and markets will make all the difference to emerging METS businesses across the state.

I also see METS as a prime target for the Future Jobs Strategy that will see government, industry and academia developing 10-year road maps for emerging industries. The \$50 million Advance Queensland Best and Brightest Fund offers METS and resource companies the opportunity to have postgraduate students work for them on projects that will develop their products or services. Knowledge transfer partnerships offer postgraduates the opportunity to develop real-world skills while supporting small to medium enterprises with their research and development. This is based on a successful United Kingdom model that should accelerate development in our knowledge-hungry resource and technology sector.

There is an undeniable case for developing the METS strengths that Queensland already has to create long-term future jobs for Queenslanders. That is why I have already written to the new national METS growth centre to ask how we can work with them to facilitate METS consortiums here in Queensland. This is not about picking winners; it is about future-proofing the state's economy. It is about jobs now and jobs for the future.

### **Jobs; Skills and Training**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.02 am): I am pleased to outline to the House the important contribution my Department of Education and Training will make to this government's agenda for innovation and job creation. This government is passionate about providing people with the skills and training they need to get into the workforce and build careers. As a government and through Jobs Queensland, we want to see new and innovative industries created, developed and flourish in this state. To make that happen we need the skilled and highly trained workforce to deliver modern, forward-looking economic growth. That is why we have developed and are implementing a range of training and skills initiatives.

Jobs Queensland will be a high-level industry partnership to advise the government and ensure skilling and training policies focus on the emerging and innovative jobs of the future. It will advise on current and future skills demand and long-term workforce planning to the tune of \$40 million over four years. That requires support for and commitment to skills and training and the industry connection to target it effectively.

I am also proud that our Rescuing TAFE policy will reinvest much needed funds in our important public provider. As part of our \$34 million commitment to provide important public training and skills there is \$4 million over three years that will be specifically targeted to innovative training areas.

I can advise that innovation is not limited to our universities. Our TAFE is doing great work right now in this space. I am keen to work with TAFE and other stakeholders to deliver on fresh and improved ideas. For example, on Friday in Townsville I met with them at the Pimlico site to hear about how the business community runs its emerging leaders program each year. A group of Townsville entrepreneurs are working with start-up companies and deliver workshops annually to support them in the work they do. Recently they had Steve Baxter from *Shark Tank* assist with their first workshop. TAFE Queensland continues to investigate options for a range of partnerships, seeking to grow innovation in its learning activities across the state.

Innovation means jobs. Jobs mean supporting training and development of new skills. The Palaszczuk government will work to deliver the training and the skills needed for the future through Jobs Queensland and Advance Queensland.

### Advance Queensland, North Queensland

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (10.05 am): Yesterday morning the Premier announced the Advance Queensland plan, a plan that is at the core of our plan to grow Queensland's economy and create jobs. The Advance Queensland plan is set to generate incredible opportunities in North Queensland.

We are a government that listens, consults and provides opportunity. Earlier this month I was delighted to join the Premier in announcing that Cairns would host a Far North Queensland Economic Summit later this year. The summit will aim to bring investors to the far north and attract greater investment from our Asian trading partners by showcasing everything the broader region, including the gulf and the cape, has to offer. The summit will be a major coup for the far north off the back of last year's G20, bringing together business, industry and potential investors to facilitate new partnerships.

The Palaszczuk Labor government knows that all of northern Queensland has so many opportunities and much to offer. Since day one we have been working very hard to engage the business community and attract investment, because that means jobs. This government is all about jobs. As minister for the north, I am about jobs for North Queensland. Our Advance Queensland plan will provide businesses with exciting opportunities to invest in the north.

Earlier this month I hosted the first of a series of five business economic round tables designed to identify up to five key projects that I will champion as an advocate for North Queensland. The first round table in Cairns was a resounding success, and I am pleased to announce that the next economic business round table will be held in Townsville on 5 August, followed by forums in Mackay, Mount Isa and Brisbane in the coming months. The federal government's Developing Northern Australia white paper is also on the agenda. I will be working hard to leverage our fair share of federal funding for North Queensland.

When we talk about jobs, we cannot forget the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Not only is it the biggest social reform since Medicare; it will also provide a major boost to our economy. The NDIS will create 13,000 new jobs in the disability sector alone, with people with disability about to become a very powerful consumer group, with immeasurable opportunity to flow the NDIS to other industries such as tourism, transport, recreation and the arts, just to name a few.

The message we received from North Queenslanders is very clear. They want a government that listens and works closely with its stakeholders to grow our region and create jobs. The government's Advance Queensland plan, the far north economic summit and the economic round tables I am hosting across North Queensland will provide incredible opportunities to invest in and grow the north's economy, creating jobs now and into the future.

### Advance Queensland, Agriculture Industry

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk government has a strong commitment to growing our agriculture and agribusiness sectors. As a sign of our passion for this sector, one of the first major addresses I gave as minister was to the Committee for Economic Development of Australia on the subject on agribusiness investment. We welcome new investment and we are open for business.

As the Premier said yesterday in her speech announcing Advance Queensland, growing investment in agriculture is not just about farm jobs but also about jobs right across the supply chain. New and innovative practices are breaking ground for new research developments, and they have a massive ripple effect across the entire farm sector.

On hearing the Premier launch Advance Queensland yesterday, I was reminded of the bold decision by then premier Beattie to invest in Queensland's future with the EcoSciences Precinct at Boggo Road and research facilities at Gatton and Charters Towers.

Under the Smart State initiative, it was Labor that invested in the future of science and research for our agricultural industries. Labor invested in the bricks and mortar of the EcoSciences Precinct with Smart State and Labor is investing in getting that research into the field with Advance Queensland. We do not just want good ideas to gather dust on the shelf; we want to develop investment vehicles to get products and research on to farms and used by agribusiness. Measures like the \$40 million Business Development Fund announced yesterday will be able to turn the intellectual property and R&D done by

the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries into a reality. Our farmers produce high-quality, clean, green and world-class food and fibre. We want to give them the tools that they need to take the best ideas of innovation in the world and use them here at home and attract business. We are in the business of growing jobs, supporting jobs growth and jobs for the future.

## MOTION

### Suspension of Sessional Orders

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.10 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That so much of the sessional orders be suspended to enable:

- (a) government business to take priority for the remainder of this Thursday's sitting after question time is concluded; and
- (b) one government member and one non-government member to each make a private member's statement, for a maximum of three minutes, immediately prior to question time during this Friday's sitting.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Budget

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.11 am): Today's Labor budget promises to be a Labor budget in the true tradition of past Labor budgets—more debt, more deficit, more increased costs and more taxation for Queenslanders into the future. That is one thing that Queenslanders can be guaranteed of today, because over the last few weeks the Treasurer has been running around saying some extraordinary statements throughout Queensland such as that what he is going to do is to shift one part of the government's debt on to another part of the government's balance sheet. He is also now saying that what he is going to do is to raid the superannuation and long service leave entitlements of public servants in Queensland. That breaks a tradition of more than 30 years in Queensland where there has been a full funding and a full commitment to meet the expectation of Queenslanders with regard to superannuation and the long service leave entitlements of public servants. This is something that previous state Labor governments have even refused to do. Previous state Labor governments have always made a contribution to ensure that future entitlements and future commitments can be properly met.

The point is this: if the government today seeks to put its long and clammy hand into the pockets of public servants, it will mean that at some future time someone has to pay for it. We have always had a very longstanding commitment in this state to ensure that these commitments are going to be able to be fully and properly met into the future. Today we see from this government a very, very dangerous thing and we are seeing here, of course, danger for the taxpayers of Queensland that comes from an inexperienced government that does not have a plan. It has absolutely no plan to run this state financially responsibly. Nowhere did this government tell the people of Queensland in the lead-up to the last state election that it was going to interfere with public servants' superannuation or long service leave entitlements. Nowhere did it tell Queenslanders about that. I would imagine that if it had of done so there would have been a different outcome at the last state election. We have also had the extraordinary circumstance where the Treasurer says that he can shift one part of public debt on to another part of the public system and that that is not going to cost anything to the people of Queensland. The consumers of Queensland who pay power bills know that that means that they are going to have to pay more as a consequence of this government's incompetence.

### Member for Southern Downs, Elective Surgery Wait-Time Guarantee

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.14 am): It has been 42 days since I asked the Leader of the Opposition to provide the cabinet documents to support his claims made in this House about his wait-time gimmick. In this chamber in a debate on elective surgery waiting lists the Leader of the Opposition made a number of claims. He made claims about the number of people waiting longer than clinically recommended for surgery at the change of government—claims that were false—and in the same debate he stated—

This program was a \$500 million program and it was properly costed; the money was there.

This is a very clear, very direct statement made in front of you, Mr Speaker, and made in front of all of the members of this House and through those members to the people of Queensland. The *Cabinet Handbook* makes it very clear that if you are going to spend half a billion dollars of public money—that if you are going to spend \$500 million—it must be authorised by the executive. That is why on 2 June I wrote to the Leader of the Opposition asking him to release the cabinet documents and the Cabinet Budget Review Committee documents authorising the expenditure of \$500 million on his wait-time guarantee. Sadly, the member for Southern Downs—the longest serving member of this parliament—does not think it appropriate to write back to another member of this House. I did get a letter. I got a letter from a Mr Jake Smith who, on my recollection, was never elected to any public office in this House and did not make the comments in this House. He made no comments; it was the Leader of the Opposition.

In this letter from Mr Smith I was asked to support my position, and I have consistently placed on the public record that the cost of the Leader of the Opposition's gimmick was \$77 million. I am pleased to table the spreadsheet provided to my office by the Department of Health which illustrates the cost of the wait-time gimmick and what that money was to be spent on.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Wait Time Program—High level work breakdown structure (over 3 years)' [728].

This is not good enough from the longest serving member of this parliament who has been in this House for almost 26 years. He cannot come into this place and say, 'There was \$500 million for this program. The money was there. It was fully costed.' This is not a difficult proposition. The Leader of the Opposition knows the mechanism to release cabinet documents. Why? Because when he was the minister for health he lectured to the then opposition at length about the release of cabinet documents. He knows about the process. If he wants to be an alternative Premier, he needs to be truthful in this parliament and truthful to the people of Queensland. So I call upon him again to come clean and to release the cabinet documents—

**Mr Nicholls:** A bit like you were with the SPER fines!

**Mr DICK:** Well, the member for Clayfield yells out. Perhaps he can assist him. He would have been the Treasurer that authorised the \$500 million expenditure. He should authorise the release of the documents and assist the Leader of the Opposition.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Budget

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.17 am): It is hard to know what to expect from today's budget. After yesterday's performance, I am not sure the Treasurer knows what is in his own budget papers. Quite clearly the wheels are falling off for this inexperienced Treasurer. Before the election the Labor Party made a bunch of promises that it is now realising that it cannot keep without compromising others. First and foremost among those promises was a commitment to pay down debt. Of course, on Friday we found out that the Treasurer's idea of paying down debt involves shifting debt from the general government sector to our electricity companies. His big debt reduction strategy is to saddle the energy companies with \$4 billion of dead debt! Remember, the member for Mulgrave is apparently relying on the dividends from these businesses to pay down Labor's debt. So what did independent economists have to say about the Treasurer's dodgy debt shift? CQ University Professor John Rolfe said that it was too good to be true. He said—

All (the government) is doing is shifting the debt around.

If the government forces corporations to have higher costs they can absorb that in the short term by delaying a lot of capital spending and maintenance, but in the longer term those delays come back to bite them.

As the Treasurer was making his announcement, he also pointed to other balance sheet reforms. He said that he was going to be innovative. So that had the opposition members asking the question: 'What else does the member from Mulgrave have in store? Was he also planning to raid the superannuation and long service leave entitlements?' When asked this simple question by a journalist yesterday morning, the Treasurer refused to say. 'You'll have to wait and see,' the member proclaimed. Then after three hours of bad press and a heap of political pressure, the Treasurer was forced to clarify in a statement—

Treasurer Curtis Pitt has ruled out 'raiding' public servants' superannuation funds.

So he has ruled out raiding it. He says that he will not take anything out. What he has not said is if they will stop putting something in. Of course, there was no mention at all of the funds put aside to cover long service leave entitlements. According to media reports, the Treasurer has also ruled out raiding the long service leave fund, although we are still waiting to see a similar media statement to that effect. Maybe he is writing it right now.

But the Treasurer could give the people of Queensland no such assurance when it came to making contributions to the defined benefit superannuation fund. These contributions are made to ensure the continued health of the defined benefit scheme, which is available to our longest serving Queensland public servants. It now appears that the Treasurer is going to stop making these payments as a way of living up to his election promises. If that is true—and I hope it is not—this is nothing more than a cash grab. It would represent a fundamental breach of trust. Nowhere in any pre-election document did the Labor Party ever talk about that as an option. No other Treasurer has ever done this. Not even Anna Bligh or Andrew Fraser did this as they plunged our state into an unprecedented level of debt. I am worried that this inexperienced Treasurer is going to break the principles of so many Treasurers past.

### Tourism Industry

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (10.20 am): Before I get on to an issue that I am passionate about, which is tourism, can I just remind the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, 'Public servants, your jobs are safe.' And how many were sacked? Twenty-four thousand of them were sacked after they stood there and said that their jobs would be safe.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I could not hear the Minister for Education. Would you like to start again, please?

**Ms JONES:** I was just recalling for everybody in the House that in their first budget they said to the people of Queensland, specifically to the public servants of Queensland, 'Your jobs would be safe. You have nothing to fear.' And what did their first budget deliver? Because of them, 24,000 people on the scrap heap.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members! Pause the clock.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Glass House and member for Chatsworth! I warn the members under standing order 253A. If you persist with your interruptions I will take further action.

**Ms JONES:** The other thing that they assured all Queenslanders was that tourism would be a pillar of their government. We know that tourism is a huge industry for Queensland. It is worth \$23 billion to our economy and supports over 200,000 jobs. I see the member for Cairns, the member for Townsville and the member for Bundaberg nodding, because they know how important tourism is to their local economies and to the people who work in their coastal communities. When my colleagues were in opposition they knew that the members opposite had cut funding.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** But I am back! Yes! Every time I say that it gets me excited. We discovered that they had cut funding for tourism. What we did not know was by how much. The LNP figures for what it was going to contribute in the forward estimates for tourism would have cut it in half—to go from \$100 million a year down to \$50 million a year in 2019. That is what it had committed in its forward estimates—cutting the Tourism and Events Queensland budget in half.

The members opposite talk about tourism being a pillar, but we saw it crumbling at its very foundations because they were not funding it properly. Maybe they thought that the future of Queensland tourism was archaeological digs, not our Great Barrier Reef—which we have committed money to—not our world-class beaches, not our pristine rainforests that we are known for.

We promised that if we were elected we would support the Tourism and Events Queensland budget in this state. We promised that we would restore funding for tourism. I am very pleased to advise that that is exactly what this government will do. We know that a growing tourism sector means growing jobs. That means jobs for Queenslanders right up and down the coast. The tourism funding that will be announced as part of this budget complements the \$100 million that has been delivered by the Minister for the Great Barrier Reef.

### Queensland Economy

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (10.24 am): I want to address the current harebrained idea by the Treasurer in relation to the transfer of debt from the public sector into the government owned corporations sector. The shadow Treasurer has made some commentary on that and it has been the subject of a fair bit of discussion so far in relation to what most people understand to be a harebrained idea. The idea that the people of Queensland will not have to guarantee the debt of the government owned corporations, that they will not have to pay interest on that debt, is nothing short of a fantasy. It is the same sort of fantasy that, under Labor, saw debt go from around about \$35 billion to over \$85 billion—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** They do not like it. That is a debt that every single taxpayer in Queensland has to pay and a debt, when it goes into the government owned corporations sector, that every single electricity consumer in Queensland has to pay for. That is the debt that the Treasurer is talking about—a harebrained idea.

Yesterday the Treasurer then went on to talk about contributions to superannuation and playing games with something that is probably one of the most sacred trusts entrusted to government for public servants in Queensland and that is the security of their superannuation. Yesterday, the only person who was happy with the Treasurer's statements in relation to superannuation was the police minister, because it diverted attention from her for three hours while the lunacy of the Treasurer was being discussed online, in newspapers and everywhere else, forcing him to come out with a statement. Nowhere was there any mention made of transferring debt in another Mythbusters document, that is, the ALP's election costing commitments before last year. If ever there was a myth, it is that myth and we will see that today.

What did the Treasury officials say? This is the Treasurer who says that he listens to what Treasury officials say. What did the Treasury officials say in relation to the government owned corporations? They said—

It is not possible for GOC gearing to continue to rise without endangering the stand alone credit ratings of the GOCs, which are generally targeted in the BBB (investment grade) range.

So we will see the credit ratings of the GOCs go down.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order.

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

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** The member for Clayfield is referring to a document. I ask that he table the document.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker, can I say that the document was tabled in the last parliamentary sitting week. If members would care to read it, it is their own document. It is a Treasury document.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members! Thank you, member for Clayfield.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** That is a great start to the week, member. This document that I tabled that they could read goes on to state—

The only way for the budget to fund equity injections is through borrowings. For this reason, at the total State level, major new GOC projects that get approved will likely be funded entirely from borrowings.

Nevertheless, their resultant liabilities to revenue ratios are high, and act to drive up the NFP sector ratio—a key metric.

More debt, more deficit, more pain for Queensland taxpayers.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! We will now proceed to question time.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services

**Mr SPRINGBORG** (10.28 am): My question without notice is to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, and I ask: is the minister aware of any instances where she has signed an incorrect statement since becoming the Minister for Police?

**Mrs MILLER:** I have written to the Clerk on this matter today.

### Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** My second question without notice is to the Premier. In the last parliamentary sitting week the Premier said—

The police minister made an error of judgement and it will not happen again. Let me be very clear: it will not happen again.

I ask: is the Premier satisfied that there have been no further errors of judgement by the minister?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As the Minister for Police has stated, she has written to the Clerk in relation to this matter that is currently, I understand, before the committee and the committee is the rightful place to examine this.

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** I rise to a point of order. My question was not specifically in relation to this matter. There have been a number of matters, indeed a preponderance of matters, of which the Premier may be aware.

**Mr SPEAKER:** As long as the Premier's answer is relevant to the question I am happy for her to continue.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I have said very clearly that the minister has said that she has written to the Clerk and I understand that the matter is also before the committee. Today is budget day and do we hear any questions from those opposite about the budget that is being handed down? No.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I would ask you to keep your answer relevant to the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The first two questions are not even about the budget that is coming down today. If those opposite want to talk about errors of judgement let us go back to their first budget. The architect, the member for Clayfield, what did he want to go to an election with?

**Mr STEVENS:** I rise to a point of order again.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Mr STEVENS:** You have just given the Premier a direction and she has completely ignored it straightaway. Please ask her to answer the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I would ask you to come back to answering the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am talking about errors of judgement and there is no clearer error of judgement than when the first budget was handed down by the LNP government. The former premier went to the electorate saying public servants had nothing to fear. The mark of that first budget was the axing of some 14,000 public servant jobs.

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. In deference to your previous rulings we have kept our questions very tight. My question was specifically is the Premier satisfied that there have been no further errors of judgement by the minister.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I would ask the Premier not to debate the question. If the Premier has finished I call the member for Thuringowa.

### Townsville

**Mr HARPER:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Arts. Will the Premier please outline any significant announcements for Townsville following the Premier's recent visit to the heart of North Queensland?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question. Last Friday members were present when the Health minister and I went to the Townsville Hospital to mark the opening of stages 3 and 4. That money was allocated under the former federal Labor government. It was great to

see the member for Townsville, the member for Mundingburra and the member for Thuringowa come along to open that significant landmark for the Townsville community. We know how important health is to families right across Queensland.

I am looking forward to this afternoon listening to the Treasurer talk about our commitment to health in this state. I want to thank the Minister for Health because he has been out there travelling the length and breadth of the state making sure that families get the services that they deserve. We are also pleased to include young Lucy Rethemel and her family in the opening of that \$340 million refurbishment.

I also had great pleasure in opening the North Queensland Office of the Premier in Townsville. Members may recall that in the past government that office was axed. That is the legacy, the error of judgement, of that former government: axing a vital service for North Queensland residents. I was very pleased to open that office. I was joined by the member for Dalrymple. The member for Mount Isa also attended that opening. It was very well received. Once again it is cementing that my government is firmly committed to developing North Queensland.

On Saturday I also had the great pleasure of joining the member for Townsville and the member for Thuringowa at the V8s. This is a signature tourism event for the Townsville region. We know that that generates economic flow-on effects. We know that the hotels were booked. Families were out enjoying that great day. The Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism attended the following day. We know that the Townsville region is growing and there will be a need for new schools over the coming years. My government is firmly committed to delivering the services that are needed for the Townsville region. Thank you very much to all of the members. I understand a couple of them also completed a hot lap. I think they were still standing afterwards.

**Ms Trad:** Not you, Premier?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Premier allocated the ministers to do that. It was a great event. The amount of tourism that is coming into the area is fantastic and my government stands committed to tourism and growing tourism in this state.

### Budget

**Mr LANGBROEK:** My question without notice is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer point out where altering arrangements for public servants' superannuation and long service payments were part of Labor's election costings document?

**Mr Dick:** Thank you, Mr Plum.

**Mr PITT:** I thank the honourable member for the question. I think the Minister for Health is right. That really was a plum question after what we saw over the weekend at the conference. Fantastic pants. I must compliment the member for Surfers Paradise for really bucking the fashion trend. What the member is trying to get at today is our election costings document. Just a bit on that election costings document: our election costings were fully funded, fully costed and published and, of course, independently verified by accounting firm Moore Stephens. What happened with the LNP's costings? They went into some sort of lock-up, they explained a few things to some people and then they said, 'Oh yeah, no, we got Treasury to check them.' I think it was quite some time ago before they had overlaid all of their commitments in. So no-one had any idea—had to take on face value—whether their election costings even stacked up. There are plenty of examples of those opposite very clearly showing that they have done everything they could to paint pictures of the previous government being a poor government—that is, the previous Labor government, not the previous LNP government because, of course, why would they have a narrative about themselves being bad, or maybe that is just what we have seen in the budget papers since we have come into office.

The member is referring to our election costings document. It was fully funded, fully costed, fully independently verified. What we did go to the election with was a series of commitments that were certainly modest in terms of those commitments. We went in with election commitments of \$1.6 billion and then we said that we were going to be able to find reprioritisations and savings of around \$1.8 billion. When we came into government we handed that election costings document over to the independent Treasury. We had faith in the independent Treasury. We have always had faith in the independent Treasury, unlike those opposite who decided to outsource everything, including the member for Clayfield who outsourced his first budget to Peter Costello.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I rise to a point of order. My question was very specific about arrangements for public servants' superannuation and long service leave entitlements.

**Mr PITT:** I am addressing the member's question. He very clearly talked about our election costings document which is what I have been answering his question on. Of course we do have faith in the independent Treasury. It is going through our election costings from day one and in today's budget I will be able to announce exactly how well Treasury has scored us against our election commitments that we prepared before coming to office. Those election commitments said we would spend less and we were going to be saving. Let us just see how well we go today at 2.30 pm.

We also said, in the vein of the member's question which related to what we said we would do in our election commitments, we would get the independent Treasury to undertake a review of state finances. That document will be tabled today at 2.30 pm and in it will be a few recommendations that this government, a government that listens to its Public Service, will take into account and consider.

### **Positive Parenting Program**

**Ms FARMER:** My question without notice is to the Premier and Minister for Arts. Could the Premier update Queenslanders on what steps the government is taking to support parents?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Bulimba for the question. Just last week I was able to join the member for Bulimba, a number of people from her electorate including a lot of mums with their bubs, the Minister for Communities and the Treasurer. We had the pleasure of meeting with those mums to talk about the issues of parenting and what the government can do to assist parents. We value the role that parents play in bringing up their children. We know that sometimes raising a child can be difficult. My government is very pleased to announce that we will be allocating \$6.6 million to help fund the PPP parenting program, which will be rolled out across Queensland, providing the opportunity to help some 100,000 parents across the state. We know that the PPP parenting program works. It operates in 25 countries. Professor Sanders is a very strong advocate of the program.

I say to all members that this positive parenting program is exceptional. It can be utilised by parents who are experiencing difficulties and all they have to do is log on. More than that, we will be able to provide them with support services, including meetings, to help sort out any issues that they may face. My government is determined to make sure that families and children get the very best start. This is a positive program. This is about investing in our children's future. I know that all members of this House will embrace the fact that this program is there to help. It is there to help families that are going through rough times, which can be about issues that they could be facing with schooling, family break-up or turmoil. It is a great program. We know that this program works. We know there are benefits from the program and we know that it will deliver a very effective service to thousands of families right across the state.

Once again, I place on record my thanks to the member for Bulimba. I know how passionate she is. It was lovely to see all of the parents come out with their children. It was a little bit chillily, but that did not matter to the children who were playing in the playground. It was lovely to be in Bulimba that day, on the riverfront. I am looking forward to the delivery of the budget this afternoon. It is a budget for families. It is a budget about creating jobs. Fundamentally, it is a budget that does not include the sale of assets. We will honour that commitment to Queenslanders: there will be no asset sales in this budget.

### **Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services**

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Minister for Police. Five times yesterday, the Premier refused to say that the minister was doing a good job as minister. I ask the minister: has the Premier advised the minister personally that she is doing a good job?

**Mrs MILLER:** I think the member has asked the wrong minister the question in the sense that he is asking a question that the Premier should have been asked.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I rise to a point of order. Specifically, the question was: has the Premier personally advised the minister—that is, has the minister received the call from the Premier—that she is doing a good job? It is about the minister who is sitting there having the call from the Premier. It is pretty simple: yes or no?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Kawana. I call the member for Maryborough.

### Queensland Infrastructure Plan

**Mr SAUNDERS:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier update the House about the progress and delivery of the Queensland infrastructure plan?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. I was delighted to join the member for Maryborough in a visit to Downer in Maryborough to look at some of the work that they are doing and also to look at the spend that the Queensland government has given Downer for the maintenance of our wagon fleet. I know how passionate he is about infrastructure, I know how passionate he is about jobs and I know how passionate he is about jobs in Maryborough in particular.

Last month the government released the state infrastructure plan discussion paper because we know that for a number of years Queensland has been crying out for some certainty and direction around a pipeline of infrastructure projects for this state. So anticipated was a mature conversation about infrastructure that we have received some 48 submissions to date from major stakeholders, including the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Queensland Council of Social Service, the Infrastructure Association of Queensland, the Planning Institute and Engineers Australia. My department has also convened workshops to hear the views of key infrastructure players about expectations from the state infrastructure plan, which will be delivered within 12 months of the first term of this government as promised at the election.

The common message coming back from all participants in the consultation was the importance of having a plan; the importance of showing a pipeline of projects to give confidence and certainty to investors and to the community. The state infrastructure plan will do exactly that. In contrast, for three years we had no infrastructure plan from those opposite. The result was that projects such as Campbell Newman's tower of power were given priority over other essential public infrastructure projects. The tower of power was prioritised over things such as a second heavy rail crossing for Brisbane. It was prioritised over things such as the extension of the Eastern Busway, which the member for Cleveland comes into this place and tables a petition about as if he has a new-found enthusiasm for the Eastern Busway extension. What did those opposite do about the Eastern Busway? Nothing! If you want to have a look at what they are proposing to do on the Eastern Busway, look at their economic plan. When you look at funding future infrastructure, there is nothing about the future in there. There is no Eastern Busway, there is no cross-river rail, no BaT tunnel. There is absolutely nothing.

It just goes to show that those opposite are not serious about giving investors and the community confidence around essential public infrastructure projects. They are more interested in looking after themselves than they are in looking after the people of Queensland.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Before calling the member for Glass House, I inform members that students from the Aspley State School, in the electorate of Aspley, are currently in attendance in the gallery.

### Government Owned Corporations

**Mr POWELL:** My question is to the Minister for Energy. Has the minister sought or received advice from any of the boards of government owned corporations as to the impacts of Labor's debt-shifting arrangement on their capacity to pay dividends back to the taxpayers?

**Mr BAILEY:** I know it is confusing for the opposition to understand how you can manage debt without selling off power assets. That is what those guys wanted to do and, I might add, they are still committed to it. Only a month ago John-Paul Langbroek said to the Centenary Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland, 'We thought we had a great plan. We still think we had a great plan.' Only two days ago, Lawrence Springborg paid tribute to former premier Campbell Newman and praised his leadership. He used his address to the LNP state convention to single out Mr Newman. He said that it was under Mr Newman's leadership that public institutions were changed for the better. Those were the public institutions that they were about to flog off to the private sector.

**Mr POWELL:** I rise to a point of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock for one moment. Member for Glass House, what is your point of order?

**Mr POWELL:** The question was very specific about whether the minister has sought or received advice from the boards of government owned corporations. Can I ask the minister to be relevant to the question, please?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the minister.

**Mr BAILEY:** It is normal for entities such as Energex and Ergon—entities that are capitalised at \$11 billion or \$12 billion—to have debt. That is a normal part of corporate operations. What we had under the previous government was that they deliberately undergeared them ready to flog them off—ready to sell them off. They undergeared them at the expense of the Queensland budget. That was their plan. That is still their plan. Their deputy leader gave it away at their state conference. They are still committed to that plan.

This budget will manage public finances appropriately and without asset sales. That is the clear intent of this government. It will not affect electricity prices as the scaremongering opposite suggests. It will not do that. I know it is a difficult concept for the opposition to understand—that is, how we can manage a budget without selling off assets.

Finally, let me say this. Over the last three years how did debt go under the LNP? There was a \$14 billion increase in debt over the last three years.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Pause the clock! Minister, I do not think you should be debating the question. I think you have answered the question. If you would like to resume your seat, we will call the next member to ask a question.

### Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital

**Mr RYAN:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on progress in the delivery of the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital, especially in relation to funding and service delivery arrangements?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Morayfield for his question and for his very keen interest in public health services in the electorate that he represents and across Queensland. I can inform the honourable member that when we came to government we found that the Newman government and the Leader of the Opposition had spent three years ignoring the transitional planning for the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital, including operational funding and transitional funding for that hospital.

The Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital was planned and conceived by a Labor government and it will be delivered by a Labor government. I am pleased to confirm that this afternoon's budget will make a significant funding allocation to the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital to deliver the transitional support it needs to allow for that hospital to become the major hospital on the Sunshine Coast—a part of our state that is growing. That money will support the detailed planning necessary to move services, in a clinically safe way, to that new hospital.

Those services will include paediatrics, maternity and neonatal, mental health and rehabilitation services. The funding will also support the planning and establishment of new tertiary services such as cardiac surgery and neurosurgery at the university in 2017-18. That money represents a significant commitment by this government to deliver that hospital—a commitment that was completely ignored by those members opposite when they were in government.

Those opposite made no funding allocation in the forward estimates to complete that hospital. It was all done on the back of asset sales. It was a flawed policy that was completely and utterly rejected by the people of Queensland. If they do not believe it they should speak to the more than 30 former members of their parliamentary party who lost their seats at the last election because of the rejection by the people of Queensland of their policy on asset sales.

Consistent with the government's election commitments soft facilities management, pathology and radiation oncology will be publicly delivered at that hospital. This will provide stable, secure employment for thousands of people in the Sunshine Coast region. The funding that we will allocate for transitioning will allow for the appropriate movement of staff and skills throughout the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. It will bring the hospital in line with other major facilities in this state. In many respects, those facilities lead Australia in the delivery of health care. In some cases, they lead the world. This decision will lock in high-paying jobs for the future on the Sunshine Coast as well as deliver on core Labor values.

### Superannuation

**Mr NICHOLLS:** My question is to the Treasurer. In 2013 the State Actuary provided an actuarial investigation report on the state's super fund, QSuper. The State Actuary stated—

I recommend that this surplus be carried forward and that, whilst there is considerable flexibility due to the strong funding position, the existing contribution rates ... since:

- the surplus will provide a buffer against adverse investment returns;

- consistency with the contribution rates in the Accumulation plan will be maintained;
- stability in budgeted contribution rates for employers is beneficial; and
- the more stringent solvency position recognised in the Government's financial statements showed an actuarial deficit at the valuation date ...

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. The standing orders are quite clear that there should not be overly long preambles to questions. I would ask you to consider this and rule.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I think it is lengthy. I call the member for Clayfield to put the question without any further preamble or additional unnecessary words.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Absolutely. Given his statement that the government listens to its public servants, can the Treasurer explain why he is deliberately ignoring the State Actuary's advice?

**Mr PITT:** I am sorry, I nearly went out and had a coffee given how long the question was from the member for Clayfield, who wishes he could be the shadow Treasurer but clearly is not allowed to be because he still has the stain of Strong Choices all over him. He will not be the shadow Treasurer for at least a decade. He is too much of a reminder.

**Mr Nicholls:** How long did it take you to backflip on your statement yesterday—three hours? The word came from level 15—get out there and fix it up.

**Mr PITT:** Whatever time intervened between a press conference and when a statement was put out. It was nearly as long as the preamble from the member for Clayfield.

I am very happy to address the member's question. He is quoting from some advice from the State Actuary, which is very important. The State Actuary provides three-year updates in terms of how funds are going in Queensland, particularly as it relates to superannuation and the defined benefit scheme. We know that Queensland is in a unique position in that it has fully-funded liabilities for things like long service leave, WorkCover and the defined benefit scheme for Queenslanders.

It is very important that we set out a couple of things very clearly. Unlike the LNP, Labor will not be mounting an all-out assault on public servants. That is what we saw under the LNP. We saw it in the last term. We saw them sack people. We saw that their whole approach around reducing expenses was about reducing employee expenses and that meant wages. They were able to get it down to zero. But guess what? That is because they sacked tens of thousands of government workers. We will not be undertaking a full-out assault on public servants. We certainly will not take away WorkCover protections like they did for all Queenslanders.

I will get to the point of his question. The budget that I will hand down today will of course protect workers and will not attack them. That will be absolutely clear. It will not sell off their assets. That was something the LNP said was not an option. I know how important superannuation is because, of course, I was a former public servant myself. Under no circumstance would I ever do anything that would threaten the superannuation entitlements of government workers.

Those opposite are scaremongering. They tried to scare public servants by, of course, saying they had nothing to fear and then doing the exact opposite when they came into government. I will table a letter from the State Actuary who talks about the health of the scheme.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 16 June 2015, from Mr Wayne Cannon, State Actuary, to Mr Jim Murphy, Under Treasurer, regarding employee contributions to QSuper defined benefit scheme [\[729\]](#).

How healthy is the defined benefit scheme today? It is in surplus by \$10.5 billion. That is \$10.5 billion above 100 per cent fully funded. The scaremongering suggestion that we would do anything to endanger the entitlements of a fully funded superannuation scheme in Queensland is absolute nonsense. They scared public servants in office and they are now doing it in opposition.

### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

**Mr de BRENNI:** My question is to the Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister update the House on preparation and planning for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for the question, and I know that he is just as passionate as I am in ensuring that the Gold Coast in 2018 delivers the best Commonwealth Games ever. With less than a thousand days to go I am pleased to inform the House that we are exactly where we need to be when it comes to delivering the Commonwealth Games—that is, we are on track and on budget.

**Mrs Stuckey:** I wonder why.

**Ms JONES:** I take the interjection from the former minister, who had an Auditor-General's report which clearly showed that the honourable member was not on track and on time. I was very fortunate that very early on in my ministry the first thing I did was sit down with the Auditor-General and go through his report so I could fix the legacy issues left behind by the honourable member for Currumbin.

Today is an exciting day. I want to talk about the future because we know that the Commonwealth Games is going to deliver over \$2 billion to the Queensland economy and it will create over 30,000 jobs leading up to and during the event itself.

**Mr Dick:** That's gold.

**Ms JONES:** I take that interjection of the member—it is gold. We are investing over \$320 million in new and upgraded sporting infrastructure as well as over \$160 million in a new road upgrades package—and I thank the Minister for Main Roads, who had the great joy of standing with the Gold Coast mayor and announcing this package. This infrastructure is going to be transformative for the Gold Coast community and the Queensland community. So it will be gold, gold, gold for Queensland.

At the site of the new \$122 million Carrara Sports Precinct more than 36,000 cubic metres of soil has already been excavated as we complete the civil works so that construction can get underway. How many workers are going to be working on that project? More than 2,500 people will be working on that project, creating 400 new full-time jobs.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** More jobs.

**Ms JONES:** That is right, Premier. When it comes to the Coomera Indoor Sports Centre—a \$40 million investment—this will create 130 full-time jobs but also provide work for over a thousand workers. When I was at the Carrara precinct with the honourable Premier we had the opportunity to talk to some of the workers there. One of the big legacy items there is that we are creating jobs on the Gold Coast for that community. Many people who have had to spend many years driving up the M1 now have the opportunity to work in their home town because of the investment that we are making, because of the foresight we had to invest in the Commonwealth Games because we know that this is a jobs builder—

**Mr Nicholls:** You didn't have any money for the Commonwealth Games—completely unfunded, not a brass razoo, not one cent.

**Ms JONES:** They knock everything. They even want to knock the Commonwealth Games. Is there anything that they won't sledge? I know that the honourable member for Clayfield—he wants to be the shadow Treasurer; it is so confusing. He always acts like the shadow Treasurer. I saw the economic plan that he released, and once again they were silent on light rail. That is right: the LNP was silent on light rail. Where are the Gold Coast members lobbying their Prime Minister to match us and the Gold Coast City Council to deliver this crucial project—

*(Time expired)*

### Superannuation

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Police, and I ask: can the minister explain what impact Labor's superannuation and long service leave raids will have on the future entitlements of police, fires and corrective services officers?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Chatsworth's question is problematic on a couple of grounds in relation to the standing orders. Firstly, it involves an imputation with the term 'raid'. I do not think that is appropriate. Secondly, it is addressing a matter that is not within the Minister for Police's portfolio. While she has administration of the Queensland Police Service, the superannuation schemes that those Police Service members rely upon are not administered by her.

**Mr STEVENS:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Quite clearly the question was in relation to the minister's department and the officers she is responsible for and the effects that this will have on their long service and superannuation matters. It is a legitimate question and the minister should answer it.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the Minister for Police.

**Mrs MILLER:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The budget that will be handed down today protects workers—all workers including those in my portfolio. It does not attack them, and under a Labor government we will not sack any public servants.

## Regional Communities

**Mr PEARCE:** My question is to the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. Will the minister outline how the Queensland government will be supporting regional communities across the Mirani electorate?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for Mirani for his question. The member for Mirani is in a strong resource-producing community, and I understand the importance of this question to him. I wish to now refer to the LNP's recently released *A real economic plan*. The plan states—

An LNP Government would maintain and enhance the LNP's 'Royalties for the Regions' program to ensure investment in regional Queensland with a guaranteed percentage of funds quarantined to ensure a fair share of revenue is invested back into each resource area ...

But we all know what the LNP really thinks about these election commitments: they are just meaningless words, absolute meaningless words. The former government introduced its Royalties for the Regions funding program during its term of government. Of the total spend of \$482 million to the Royalties for the Regions funding program over three years, only \$156 million went to 'resource' community councils. Thirty per cent went to the regions that the previous government called the 'engine room of our state'. That is despite the previous government saying it was high time that a share of royalties earned from the resource industry in regional Queensland was given back to the people of those regions to deliver much needed infrastructure and services.

**Mr Cripps:** Your program is shorter, smaller and narrower. Why are you ripping us off?

**Dr LYNHAM:** When you open up the entire area of Queensland to this, it is hardly about resource-producing communities. When you dedicate funding on a strategic allotment based upon your election commitments, it is absolutely hopeless.

Fortunately, as part of the Palaszczuk government, I have announced a new program called Building our Regions that will pump \$200 million over the next two years into regional projects. In the 2015-16 budget \$100 million is allocated to this important regional program. Not only will the program provide funding for critical infrastructure in regional areas of the state but also it will support 600 jobs across the state, foster economic development and improve the livability of regional communities.

This \$200 million budget commitment will strengthen regional towns and cities through funding airports, transport, road projects, flood mitigation projects and other community infrastructure. We want local governments to come with us with projects that will be catalysts in their communities for economic growth and local jobs. We want to fund projects that will tackle the infrastructure constraints for local businesses in those communities such as the communities in the seat of Mirani. There will be particular emphasis on resource-producing communities where the funds will provide an opportunity to address any impacts of resource sector growth in those communities.

*(Time expired)*

## Superannuation

**Ms DAVIS:** My question is to the Minister for Communities. Can the minister explain what impact Labor's superannuation and long service leave raids will have on the future entitlements of staff employed within her department?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Unlike those opposite, Labor will not mount an all-out assault on public servants. We saw it last term. The LNP promised public servants that their jobs were safe, promised them that they had nothing to fear, and then sacked 24,000 of them. In my department, as the member for Aspley would know, that was more than 225 full-time, front-line Child Safety staff. Shame! Not only do they attack public servants; they strip away WorkCover protections for workers and they do everything they can to destroy employee representatives. The budget that the Treasurer will hand down today protects workers. It does not attack them, it does not sack them and it does not sell our assets—something that the LNP said was our only option.

My mum is a state school teacher. I know how important superannuation is to our hardworking public servants. Under no circumstances will this government do anything to threaten workers' superannuation rights and entitlements. In fact, universal superannuation is one of Labor's proudest achievements, and we will always defend it and protect it.

**Ms Davis** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Aspley, your question was reasonably wide and I think the minister is answering the question.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** The Treasurer will outline our budget plans later today, but every single worker currently working or already retired will have the same super entitlements, the same rights and the same long service leave entitlements tomorrow as they had yesterday. This is prescribed in law so this is nothing more than a scare campaign. There is absolutely no raid on superannuation. Nothing is being taken away from workers. This is nothing more than an LNP fear campaign aimed at public servants. Shame on the LNP!

### **Murrumba Electorate, Vocational Education and Training Investment Plan**

**Mr WHITING:** My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills. Can the minister inform the House how the VET investment plan 2015-16 will benefit Queenslanders such as the people in the electorate of Murrumba?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for Murrumba for his question. I know the people of Murrumba understand the importance of investing in training and skills and the importance of providing jobs and supporting those jobs into the future.

I am very proud that last week the Treasurer and I were able to stand up and announce the VET investment plan for 2015-16. This plan will see the Palaszczuk Labor government invest more than three-quarters of a billion dollars into vocational education and training in this financial year alone. What does this mean? It means \$754.6 million. This is an increase of \$139 million on the investment the LNP made in vocational education and training—a 22 per cent increase. That is what it means for the people of Murrumba. That is what it means for every Queenslanders. It is about investing and training.

Through this VET investment plan we will see a \$243 million investment in user choice which will support up to 70,000 apprentices and trainees; \$231.6 million for Certificate 3 Guarantee, the first step on the career path for many young people with their first post school qualification; importantly, \$60 million in the VET investment plan for Skilling Queenslanders for Work for this financial year alone, giving up to 8,000 disadvantaged people the skills to enter the workforce—not abandoning them like the former LNP government—and \$160 million to support rebuilding the TAFE system.

This does not include the \$34 million committed over the next three years under the rescuing TAFE policy. This is additional funding again. There is \$60 million for the higher level skills program and more advanced training in targeted areas such as construction, business, hospitality, retail, aged care, security, transport and distribution. We will consult to ensure the skills of people right across Queensland mesh with what employers and businesses need today and into the future. We are working closely with local communities to provide the skills they need.

It is only Labor that invests in training and skills. It is only Labor that will invest in jobs, that will invest in innovation into the future, that will liaise with business, with key stakeholders and with our schools and our training providers to ensure that we make sure our dollars are spent where they are needed to provide that training, to invest in those skills and to support jobs into the future.

### **Local Government, Rates**

**Ms SIMPSON:** My question is to the Minister for Local Government. I refer the minister to recent claims by the member for Pumicestone, which I table, and I ask: has the minister received any advice doubting the constitutional power of local government to levy rates on landholders in the electorate of Pumicestone and on the member for Pumicestone, Mr Rick Williams?

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail* on line, dated 17 June 2015, titled 'Labor MP Rick Williams in bizarre court row over unpaid water charges and rates' [\[730\]](#).

**Ms TRAD:** No, I have no doubt.

### **Get in the Game**

**Mr BUTCHER:** My question is to the Minister for Sport and Racing. Will the minister outline to the House if the government is supporting the Get in the Game program? Will the minister explain any proposals in the program that have not been funded?

**Mr BYRNE:** I thank the member for the question. The Palaszczuk government is delivering for community groups and local sporting associations with the \$80 million Get in the Game initiative. We unashamedly support grassroots sporting organisations and boosting grassroots participation, and our new revamped Get in the Game does just that. The program will include \$150 vouchers for children and young people who can least afford to join a sports club; \$7,500 for not-for-profit sport and recreation organisations for participation programs; \$100,000 for projects to develop places and spaces; and between \$400,000 and \$1.5 million per project to increase for significant club works and upgrades.

For the first time in the program's history, we have launched a full three-year program so that sporting and recreation clubs can make their applications in advance. They know when the programs are being rolled out and they can get prepared and put those applications in appropriately. I would encourage all members of the chamber—it does not matter which side you are on—to make sure their sporting clubs are aware of these great programs and are well prepared to put their submissions forward.

Despite the good news since coming to government, I have been made aware of some shocking acts from the previous LNP government. What happened was that members opposite went around their electorates announcing projects that had no funding whatsoever—zero, zip, to be clear. They told sporting clubs and local organisations that they would deliver them, knowing full well that there was not any money for them in the budget, and it is more than just a handful of projects. So far the tally is \$10 million worth of unfunded promises made by those opposite roaming around misinforming the hardworking members of our sporting communities.

There was one project that caught my eye in particular. The member for Kawana told his local electorate that the LNP would deliver \$200,000 to the local surf life saving club. I know that the member for Kawana does not have the best record when it comes to tenders and other appropriate mechanisms, but the member for Kawana told the surf club that it would get \$200,000 for its upgrade despite the project previously not being approved by his own government. If the member for Kawana is wondering why all of this is, according to the member for Kawana he is on record saying that the Kawana surf life saving headquarters is the headquarters of the local LNP branch.

### Racing, Commission of Inquiry

**Mrs STUCKEY:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Sport and Racing. I refer to the minister's comments in a Steve Austin interview on 12 June in which he said, 'It would be entirely inappropriate to be sitting down and talking to individual members who are subject to the commission of inquiry.' I refer to the minister's published diary which reveals that he met three times with former deputy chairman of Racing Queensland Barry Taylor during the period investigated by the commission of inquiry, and I ask: why did the minister meet with Barry Taylor, given his statement that such meetings were inappropriate?

**Mr BYRNE:** I have to say that it is good news all round. The drought has been broken. This is the first question I have had from the opposition since we formed government. Hallelujah, brothers and sisters! Finally, there is a matter that is worthy enough for them to ask me a question about. I am absolutely thrilled. This is the best day. I get my first question from the opposition about the issue of racing and probity.

I will get back to the serious part before I really unleash. The fact is the person that the member mentioned was not part of that deliberation. There were no approaches. He was not asked to give evidence. He has previously been a board member. It is interesting to note that this entire process—all of these demands that have been made—on the very first day I was sworn in as the racing minister, what did we find? That even made it to *Four Corners*. Everything I have been dealing with and everything that this government has been dealing with since that point is a legacy that sheets home blame straight to those opposite. I have been very deliberate in not sheeting it home where it belongs. A lot is going to be revealed in the very near future about exactly what role people opposite have played in putting the racing industry into the situation it is in today. I find it bizarre that the member would even want to have a conversation about racing. The issues associated with racing and the issues that are on the table now are extremely important. Very shortly everyone in this chamber and the rest of Queensland will see exactly what position the previous government created for Racing Queensland.

This is not a trivial matter. I have been deliberately judicious in the way in which we have gone about moving forward. From day one we looked at a systems review. From day one we looked at the technical and procedural issues that led to the atrocities we saw in the greyhound industry. Since that time what have we revealed? If there is one good thing that has come out of this greyhound debacle it is the fact that now we have seen exactly what is going on inside Racing Queensland. When that becomes public, which will be very, very shortly, there are many across the chamber who are going to be hanging their head in shame because guess what? It is all their legacy. It is all the legacy of those across the chamber.

In relation to the meetings I have had, I have never had a meeting during the inquiry with any sitting member of any board apart from the initial meetings when we determined the scope of the inquiry and who was likely to fund that inquiry. I am very proud of everything we have done to this point.

### Mackay, Road Infrastructure Projects

**Mrs GILBERT:** My question is to the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply. Will the minister please outline any significant road infrastructure investments in Queensland and in particular any investments in the Mackay area?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the member for Mackay for her question and for her continued advocacy on behalf of regional Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is working to enhance the efficiency and the safety of the state's vast road network. In the member's electorate of Mackay this budget has dedicated funding to replace the Vines Creek bridge on Mackay-Slade Point Road. Funding for design work has been set aside in the budget, with \$274,000 in 2015-16 and another \$300,000 in 2016-17. This planning will lead to the construction of two new bridges over Vines Creek at a total cost of \$28 million. Major companies that rely on the port of Mackay for export and imports will benefit greatly from the new bridges. In addition to planning that is starting right away, congestion levels will be eased by the reinstatement of two lanes and the raising of the speed limit from 40 kilometres an hour to 60 kilometres an hour, which is now possible because of the bridges being replaced.

Several companies have today contacted the member for Mackay to thank her appropriately for her strong advocacy and commitment to this project. I might add that after three years of not delivering, of inaction, of dithering from the opposition, the member for Mackay has delivered in only five months as the new member for Mackay. I congratulate her on being such an effective member. The productivity-enhancing project is backed by Mackay Regional Council Mayor, Deirdre Comerford; Mackay Sugar; Zarb Road Transport; Northern Stevedoring Services; and Puma Energy.

This is a government that is getting on with the job of planning for stage 1 of the Mackay ring-road, which will have a total cost of \$560 million, with \$112 million from the state government, the Palaszczuk government. We will be creating more than 600 jobs in Mackay and for Central Queenslanders. It is an important piece of infrastructure that will reduce hazardous loads in the city centre and alleviate traffic congestion. It is part of our QTRIP, our four-year forward funding program for roads in Queensland. I might add that that is a program that was cut by the previous administration to the tune of \$200 million each and every year they were in government, something that the mayors of this state complain about to me. Every time I go out into regional Queensland I hear this back from the mayors of Queensland about the cuts to roads under the previous government.

This commitment is part of our commitment to major projects and roads funding right across Queensland: the Bruce Highway upgrade, the Warrego Highway upgrade, the Cape York region package—

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** Importantly, as the Minister for the Commonwealth Games said, there is \$160 million for Gold Coast roads for the Commonwealth Games and, of course, \$47 million for the Coomera interchange—\$47 million that we delivered in six weeks that the previous government did not deliver in three years. I congratulate the member for Mackay on achieving so much in five months.

### Vehicle Registration

**Mr KRAUSE:** My question is to the Minister for Main Roads. I note that the minister has publicly supported the government's hike in car registration, including during a disallowance motion in this House. Can the minister explain how the hike in car registration of 2½ times the inflation rate is not an increase, as claimed by the Labor member for Bundaberg?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the minister. You have two minutes.

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the member for Beaudesert for his question and remind him that in his government's last budget that is exactly what was in the forward estimates. It was their policy. I see that there is a bit of pivoting going on here and a bit of fancy footwork, but it was in their forward estimates. Not only was it in their last budget, but it was also in the midyear economic forecast. The LNP can pretend all they like, but the fact is that it was their policy.

Let's also deal with a couple of furrphies. The opposition is wrong when they say that we are the most expensive state. When it comes to the annual cost of motoring, Queensland is not the most expensive in this country. We have a very strong record. In terms of small vehicles, we are the third cheapest in the country when it comes to the annual cost of motoring. I am very happy to talk about the cost of living. Look at the cost of living under this government: electricity prices this year are on average down 0.5 per cent; electricity costs for small business are down 1.7 per cent to 3½ per cent. We have seen the electricity costs for farmers and irrigators down to zero per cent.

When it comes to water costs this year, six out of the 11 South-East Queensland councils are down and for those with an increase it is a very minimal increase. What we have seen is the end of the double digit electricity price rises under the LNP—43 per cent over three years. We are seeing the cost of living coming under control under this government after incredible increases under the LNP. When it comes to this budget, we will see that continuing. We will see good management there. We will see the cost of living steadying under this government, whether it is electricity, water or otherwise.

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

## TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS (EXTENSION OF SMOKING BANS) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (11.30 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Regulation 2010 and the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Health and Ambulance Services Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015 [\[731\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes [\[732\]](#).

This bill arises out of the need to continue the rollout of smoking reduction steps which were undertaken by the former LNP government. These extensions to smoking bans are good—indeed, essential—for the health of all Queenslanders. Everyone agrees that smoking is an addictive behaviour that has dire health consequences. The alarming facts include the following: each year more than 3,400 Queenslanders die from smoking related illnesses. The Queensland Cancer Council estimates that smoking accounts for approximately \$6.1 billion every year in health costs resulting from 36,000 hospitalisations, lost productivity and premature deaths in Queensland alone. Current smokers will die on average of 10 years earlier than nonsmokers, with mortality rates increasing substantially with the increased intensity of smoking. These facts alone should be enough to spur us into action to do more to reduce the prevalence of smoking and passive smoking in Queensland and on Queenslanders. Evidence shows that one in 10 people who die from smoking related diseases have never smoked themselves. This bill is building on the accomplishments of the previous LNP government and the changes made in 2014 to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act.

I am pleased to summarise these measures. Electronic cigarettes will be subject to the same laws as regular cigarettes so that from 1 January 2015 electronic cigarettes—known as e-cigarettes and defined under Queensland law as personal vaporisers—and their related components are subject to the same laws as cigarettes under the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998. As such, e-cigarettes cannot be used in existing no-smoking indoor and outdoor places; sold to children under 18 years of age; or advertised, promoted or displayed at retail outlets. These efforts were designed to prevent the normalisation of smoking and the appearance of smoking by using these devices.

Our LNP government also moved to ban smoking at all Queensland state and non-state schools and for five metres beyond their boundaries. The same restriction will apply to all Queensland public and private hospital and health facilities. This bill intends to extend that to all state government buildings.

That was not enough though, Madam Deputy Speaker, and in addition to these legal changes the former LNP government also launched two antismoking campaigns: firstly, 'What is stopping you from quitting?', a \$1.65 million new advertising campaign targeted at 25- to 44-year-olds seeking to further reduce Queensland's smoking rates; and, secondly, 'Your future isn't pretty if you smoke', a \$1.5 million campaign aimed at young females and the impact of smoking on them.

The primary purpose of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015 is to continue the move towards reducing the impact of smoking and to improve and protect the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders. This bill aims to protect the community from the scientifically proven effects of passive smoking. I believe that strong tobacco legislation is one element of a multistrategy approach for reducing smoking rates and therefore can be achieved with the following amendments: (1) banning smoking within five metres of all state government buildings; (2) banning smoking at all transport waiting areas and pedestrian malls; (3) banning smoking at public swimming pools and skate parks; and (4) banning the sale of cigarettes at pop-up or temporary sales venues.

In detail then, this bill proposes to ban smoking within five metres of entrances to Queensland government buildings which are occupied either wholly or in part, including this parliament complex, Queensland courts, Public Service bodies and Queensland government departments. The negative impact of passive smoking is also well documented, and this will aid in reducing the exposure to second-hand smoke of government workers and visitors who enter state and government buildings.

A statewide ban on smoking at public transport waiting points and pedestrian malls also adds to the reduction in exposure of passive smoking to Queenslanders who are inadvertently exposed to passive and second-hand cigarette smoke. Under 2010 legislation local councils had the ability to ban smoking in these areas, but this led to inconsistencies across the state. A statewide ban provides a clear, consistent and enforceable message about passive smoking. This bill intends to include ferry terminals and taxi ranks in the ban.

Queensland is not alone in this measure: New South Wales currently prohibits smoking at all public transport waiting areas; both South Australia and Victoria prohibit smoking in covered transport waiting areas; while Tasmania is the only jurisdiction with a statewide ban on smoking in all pedestrian malls. This is a necessary step in the struggle to reduce smoking and passive smoking in Queensland. Thirdly, a statewide ban on smoking at public swimming pools and skate parks is intended to stop young people taking up smoking at an early age.

Lastly, this bill seeks to ban the sale of cigarettes at 'pop-up' or temporary sales outlets. Tobacco companies market their products to young people by using temporary stands that offer cigarettes for sale at major outdoor festivals and events. It is important to prevent advertising and access to this age group, as the majority of smokers make the transition from experimental to regular smoking during their early twenties. Queensland is the only state without a legal mechanism to prevent the sale of cigarettes at pop-up outlets, and this bill seeks to amend this unacceptable anomaly.

While the prevalence of Queenslanders who smoke has decreased by 26 per cent over the decade since 2004, this rate of decrease has slowed over recent years. New measures are now required to continue historical rates of progress, and therefore I propose these mentioned amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 to strengthen smoking bans in Queensland. I have already outlined some of the alarming statistics which reflect on the impact that smoking has on Queenslanders generally. However, due to the fact that smoking is such a dreadfully unhealthy activity, I will outline a few more statistics on the impact that smoking has on the individual.

Approximately one-third of smoking related deaths were of Queenslanders of working age. We know that tobacco smoking is the leading cause of preventable death and disease and health inequality in Queensland. We also know that smoking is known to cause cancers of the lung, mouth, throat, oesophagus, pharynx, larynx, tongue, lips, salivary glands, stomach, cervix, vulva, penis, kidney, liver, pancreas, bladder, and blood. In addition to being a leading cause of cancer, smoking is also linked to an extensive range of serious and life-threatening diseases such as heart disease and stroke.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is for these reasons that the importance of this bill cannot be underestimated. I draw the attention of the chamber to comments made in an interview yesterday by Cancer Council Queensland spokesperson Katie Clift in relation to questions on the measures in this bill. Ms Clift said that the laws will be a strong step towards a smoke-free future for Queensland and that it is a global benchmark bill. It sets, in terms of tobacco control, a new standard in public health. Let me repeat: it is a benchmark bill, a global benchmark.

This bill does set high standards, but at the end of the day it is a bill that is designed to do three things: provide an incentive for smokers to cease smoking; to assist those who do not smoke to not be affected by passive smoking; and, thirdly, to incentivise young people not to start smoking at all. There are members of this House, including me, who have been or are current smokers. There are many people in this House and across the state who will suffer as a result of smoking in the past. What we can do in this chamber to assist those who are either in the throes of, about to, or not yet smoking is to not take it up, cease it and not be impacted by passive smoking. I urge the members of this House to support this bill.

### First Reading

**Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (11.39 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

## Referral to the Health and Ambulance Services Committee

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

### Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date



**Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (11.39 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Health and Ambulance Services Committee report to the House on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015 by 16 October 2015.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Ravenshoe, Community Recovery; Budget



**Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.40 am): At the outset I join with the Premier, who this morning extended our thoughts and prayers and paid condolences to the families involved, and indeed the entire community of Ravenshoe, in what was a most tragic event only recently. As a former minister for health in Queensland I felt a great degree of pride as I watched as our experts, our very dedicated staff, were able to render the necessary assistance to members of that community. I acknowledge the work of the paramedics and all emergency services and also the work that will be done in community recovery. I think we need to be cognisant of the fact that for many people the recovery journey will take not just weeks or months but years, as is the case with situations involving horrific burns and other significant injuries.

Whilst I have not had the opportunity to travel to that community—I was planning to earlier on but out of respect to the community I did not travel, as my visit would have aligned with a funeral—my deputy, John-Paul Langbroek, certainly did subsequently. He met with people who were involved in the recovery process and offered them our support for what the various community recovery personnel were doing. I have spoken to people who have been involved in that. I have also spoken to the member for Dalrymple with regard to those particular circumstances.

I now turn my attention to matters more contemporary to today. Today we will see the first budget brought down by this government. We have witnessed a government that is completely and absolutely clueless in its intent. It was elected without a plan and it has been trying to put together a plan over the past five months it has been in government. Indeed, only two or three weeks ago it repatriated itself to a getaway to try to develop a plan, but we still have not seen a plan from this government.

We have seen some sort of conjuring artistry from the Treasurer, who has indicated to us that he will be able to pay down debt and return the budget to surplus while creating jobs, building infrastructure and delivering front-line services without cutting anything, without taxing more, without selling assets and without borrowing more. If he is able to achieve such a thing then he would truly be a remarkable magician.

**Mr Cripps:** Miraculous.

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** As the honourable member for Hinchinbrook says, it would be miraculous. It would be a miracle, because no-one has been able to do that. If you speak to businesspeople who are very competent in managing their resources—their inputs versus their investments and outputs—you will realise that this is something that even the best businesspeople in Queensland, Australia and the world have not been able to master. I think people in the community who on a day-to-day basis are very good and very effective at running their household budgets would also struggle to conjure such magic as the Treasurer is promising to the people of Queensland today.

We are seeing the real consequences and real dangers of having a government that is completely inexperienced, that does not have a plan. Nowhere did they mention in the lead-up to the last state election that they would be, in effect, raiding public servants' superannuation or long service leave entitlements. They said that we did not need to sell assets because they had a plan to pay down debt, that they had a plan to return the government books in Queensland to surplus, to build infrastructure and to deliver jobs without negatively impacting upon front-line services and without

borrowing. Now we know that that was an absolute fraud. Their whole mantra has fallen apart. They have been trying to piece together a way to keep the government running as a consequence of this 'miracle' which we know was never able to be truly put into effect. The Treasurer's magic pudding is all but coming apart today.

I do not believe it is fair that public servants in Queensland are the ones who need to be concerned about this. Going back to the days of previous National and National-Liberal governments in the 1980s, it was a fundamental pride of Queensland that we were the Australian state that could always pay. If all of our public servants decided to resign or retire on one day, we could fully fund all of the liabilities with regard to superannuation and long service leave. Indeed, one has to acknowledge the work of Keith De Lacy, David Hamill and others who stuck to that principle. Fast-forward to a Labor government in the 21st century that wants to go to a place that no-one in Queensland has been prepared to go to before.

While 'Captain Risky' will try to run the argument that it is okay, that we have a little bit of petrol in the tank at the moment, the longer you go without making a contribution, the greater are the contributions you need to make in the future. It is as simple as this: someone has to pay. You have to raise the money to meet your obligations to fully fund the superannuation and long service leave entitlements for your public servants. If you do not do it today, you need to do it in the future. You cannot, in effect, rob Peter to pay Paul, but that is what this government is proposing.

It is the same as the jiggery-pokery from the Treasurer with regard to shifting debt from one government entity to another government entity. It is also miraculous as they shift \$4 billion of debt off the budget papers on to a government owned company. Indeed, we still have government owned companies today because this government went to the last election saying that those companies are to be government owned. Regardless of whether the debt is on the general government ledger or with a government owned company, it has to be paid back. It is paid back either through taxes or some other form of revenue raised from Queenslanders or as a consequence of forcing up power prices. Someone has to pay for the fiscal incompetence of the Labor government. Queenslanders today will not fall for the two-card trick we are starting to see from Labor in Queensland.

This morning in this place we heard the Minister for Main Roads and Minister for Energy and Water Supply say that we are now starting to see some cost-of-living relief from the work of Labor governments. It is as a result of the work of the LNP government. Because of the national electricity price pathway put in place by the Bligh-Fraser government five or six years ago, we saw the trajectory of electricity prices that was increasing in the high teens over a period of time. We were able to dismantle a very serious attack on electricity consumers in Queensland and get back some control and real relativity, to bring price increases back to lower, single-digit increases in the future. That had absolutely nothing to do with this government.

We also saw remarkable meanderings from the member for Bundamba which continue to go on between parliamentary sittings. The last time we sat the Minister for Police and Corrective Services spoke about having contacted a witness. That certainly raised eyebrows right throughout Queensland with regard to the probity and appropriateness of a minister for police doing such a thing.

But in the time that the parliament has risen since then, we have seen the minister, the member for Bundamba, completely inflame her own community, the people of Ipswich, and the mayor—the remarkably popular mayor of the city of Ipswich. We have seen her go to war against the local Labor members of parliament, the entire community, the Labor Party federal member of parliament and the mayor of Ipswich. I would not necessarily think that that would be a very wise thing to do, but then we cannot always accuse the member for Bundamba of wisdom when it comes to those sorts of things. Fast forward from that, we also now hear particular assertions about her judgement when it comes to dealing with what are top-secret documents from a committee which she was formerly part of and she was not able to come into this parliament today to give a categorical straight answer as to whether she has inappropriately signed documents in the time that she has been a minister in Queensland and, worse still, we still do not have a situation where the Premier is saying that she is doing a good job.

*(Time expired)*

### **Cheese and Biscuits Cafe, Breastfeeding**

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (11.50 am): A little cafe in Frenchville, North Rockhampton, has made worldwide headlines after the cafe owner asked a male customer to leave following a complaint about a breastfeeding mother. I am so proud that we have small business owners and people in Keppel who are prepared to stand up for women and their children and say that breastfeeding in public should not be an issue. After all, it is a woman's legal right!

The owners of the Cheese and Biscuits Cafe, Jessica-Anne and Stephen Allen—who, mind you, have a great selection of teas and delicious baked goods and I encourage you all to pop in for a coffee when next in Rocky—say that they were only doing what they felt was right after a man complained about a mother breastfeeding in their cafe. The male customer had approached the owners and complained about the woman feeding her baby sitting at an outside table. Cafe owner Jess said a middle-aged gentleman returned to the counter after ordering a coffee to inform the cafe staff that there was a mother—goodness gracious!—breastfeeding in the outdoor dining area and asked the staff to tell the woman to cover up. Jess told the man that Cheese and Biscuits Cafe is a breastfeeding-friendly cafe, that they have mothers groups and ladies who come and breastfeed all of the time and that they would never ask a mother to cover up whilst she is feeding her child. The cafe staff also offered him a seat inside if he preferred. However, the male customer declined and returned to the outdoor area.

When cafe staff went outside to deliver the coffee to the male customer, they noticed the breastfeeding mother was upset. The male customer said that he had confronted the breastfeeding mother and insisted that next time the staff should make sure they ask breastfeeding mothers to cover up. Cafe owner Jess then took his coffee, put it in a takeaway container and asked the man to leave. She said that she was worried about how the new mother would feel. 'I was afraid that she would feel like she had to cover up from now on,' she said. 'And, quite frankly, that is not good enough. It should never have been an issue in the first place because it is a form of adult bullying and is actually against the law to approach a breastfeeding mother and ask her to stop or cover up,' she said.

The Cheese and Biscuits Cafe story has made news headlines around the world and the cafe owners received hundreds of messages of support such as this from one mum—

As a new mum, this is one of my concerns that if I take bub out in public and have to feed her that someone will 'have a go at me'. It warms my heart to know that there are establishments like your own that help us stand up for ourselves.

It is astounding that in 2015 mothers are being discriminated against for breastfeeding their babies in public. A recent study from the Maternal and Infant Nutrition and Nurture Unit at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston found that many breastfeeding mums felt marginalised and shamed when feeding in public, with many citing that as the reason they quit breastfeeding. The study also found that mothers fear that if they breastfeed in public they may be seen as hippies, weirdos or naturalists while others reported being stared at, frowned at and tut-tutted at.

The fact that women, like the mother at the Cheese and Biscuits Cafe that day, are made to feel embarrassed and ashamed for doing one of the most natural things in the world is beyond absurd. A mother breastfeeding her baby is a normal and natural thing. Babies have a right to be breastfed and mothers have the right to breastfeed. The benefits of breastfeeding are widely accepted amongst the medical community. Babies have less chance of diarrhoea and vomiting, fewer chest and ear infections and less chance of becoming obese while women who breastfeed have a lower risk of breast and ovarian cancer. We should be encouraging more women to breastfeed their babies. Under Australian federal law and Queensland law, breastfeeding is a right, not a privilege, and this includes if breastfeeding mothers are expressing milk by hand or with a breast pump. Cheese and Biscuits Cafe owner Jess Allen said, 'We didn't do anything great; we just did what was morally right.' I say bravo, Jess!

### **Ravenshoe, Community Recovery**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (11.54 am): On Tuesday, 9 June, an out-of-control vehicle crashed into a gas bottle at a cafe in Ravenshoe, causing an explosion that injured many and that has claimed the lives of two people. I was a regular at the cafe and could not drive past without grabbing a coffee, crumbed fish and some of Nicole's amazing caramel fudge. It was a great place to stop and have a chat. When I see the footage of the explosion, I still struggle to connect this to the town of Ravenshoe. This event has impacted severely on local residents and surrounding communities and we are deeply saddened by this tragic accident. I extend my deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Nicole Dempsey and Margaret Clark and to those who continue to recover from their injuries.

There are many stories of bravery and courage of those who assisted on the day: mates helping mates, strangers helping strangers; stories of help appearing out of nowhere just moments after the blast. No-one was afraid to pitch in and help. The people of Ravenshoe should all be incredibly proud of how they responded, supporting and encouraging one another. I take this opportunity to pay special tribute to the paramedic who was first on the scene. This man is a true local hero. I further pay tribute to each and every person who provided assistance. This was a joint community effort and everyone who was involved in this tragic event should be incredibly proud of the part that they played.

On behalf of the people of Ravenshoe, I want to thank each and every person who has donated money, time and goods. I heard a story about a 12-year-old boy who gave his only \$50 to help those injured. There have been many fundraising events—from pizzas and music, cent sales and sausage sizzles. Buckets and cash tins are placed in many shops and this community has dug very deep to support their own. I am advised that GIVIT has raised just over \$400,000. Life in Ravenshoe continues at its usual pace, but things in town just are not the same. The floral tributes in front of the burnt building are a stark reminder of how quickly life can be taken, how quickly life can change. It reminds me to count my blessings, care for my loved ones and never be afraid of the challenges you face daily.

I thank all state government ministers who have visited Ravenshoe to share the grief and hear the stories of those who have been impacted by this horrific accident. Minister Jo-Ann Miller was on the scene within 24 hours and provided much support, assistance and encouragement. Treasurer Curtis Pitt spent hours on a cold, wet Saturday talking with people in the street and laying a floral tribute. Jackie Trad as Acting Premier encouraged the Queensland Rail CEO to visit Ravenshoe with her which resulted in some much needed funding and support for the Ravenshoe heritage railway. Minister Cameron Dick travelled to Ravenshoe from Atherton Hospital after presenting staff at the hospital with awards for providing such excellent service in less than ideal conditions. I also acknowledge the visit from John-Paul Langbroek and thank Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss for his attendance.

These visits are so appreciated by the people of Ravenshoe and are evidence that they have not been forgotten and that we share their pain. It also gives ministers a greater understanding of how remote this town is from medical services and the challenges that will be encountered by those who have to travel long distances to Atherton and Cairns for ongoing treatment. I received advice from the Minister for Communities that her department will provide additional funding to the Ravenshoe Community Centre of up to \$159,500. This is so greatly appreciated and needed and I thank the minister for approving this funding.

One thing I keep hearing is that right after the explosion many of the people rushing to help knew what to do. This was not coincidental. After being hit by cyclones Larry and Yasi, many people in my electorate volunteered for first-aid training and became members of community disaster teams. On the day of the blast, many of those who were helping were trained in first aid. We must be very proud of this achievement and I urge the government to approve the funding of the community development officer so that Ravenshoe can continue with their recovery, with building resilience and with identifying and sourcing community development projects. I also thank all MPs and parliamentary staff who responded to my request to dig deep and support the community of Ravenshoe. Together we have made a big difference.

### **Lytton Electorate, Concessions**

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.59 am): Recently, I was delighted to host in my electorate the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply, the Hon. Mark Bailey, and the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Shannon Fentiman not just as an opportunity to showcase the beautiful bayside but importantly to announce the Palaszczuk government's ongoing commitment to seniors and aged pensioners. On a glorious Sunday morning both ministers were treated to one of the best views at one of the best located bowls clubs in Brisbane, the Wynnum Manly Leagues Bowls Club on the esplanade at Wynnum North. With the sun shining and sparkling on the magnificent Moreton Bay, with a group of passionate and committed local senior and pensioner bowlers and the Wynnum Manly men's shedders, the ministers announced funding that will assist more than 500,000 aged pensioners and Seniors Card holders across the state. They will receive one or more of the core energy, water and transport concessions. This announcement was well received by the bowlers and the shedders, who were delighted that these important concessions will be maintained.

These two local groups are a fine example of the hardworking and dedicated seniors in my electorate of Lytton. Unfortunately, at the moment both groups are experiencing a tough battle. The bowls club is experiencing a lack of volunteers who can maintain and run the club and a declining

membership. Unfortunately, the shedders have lost their permanent home and are currently seeking a new location. However, these two groups are working together to try to resolve their situations. Together with the stakeholders and club members they hope to continue to provide bowls and a men's shed to the community. The members of these clubs are typical of baysiders. They are hardworking and they are prepared to roll up their sleeves and to work with and for the community in which they live. My electorate, comprising the beautiful bayside suburbs of Wynnum, Manly, Lota and Hemmant, has a high representation of pensioner and Seniors Card holders. These people are some of the most marginalised people in my community who more often than not struggle with their household budgets. I am proud to be part of a government that has a priority and a commitment to assist these members of the community. This age group deserves a fair go and proper recognition.

The concessions for the 2015-16 period will be made up of an electricity rebate of \$321 and a natural gas rebate scheme increasing to \$69. The South-East Queensland pensioner water rebate will remain at \$120 and the local government rate subsidy remains at \$200. Further, there is a vehicle registration concession of 50 per cent available to car owners and a 50 per cent concession on TransLink transport in South-East Queensland, with four free long-distance trips a year through the rail concession scheme. These rebates total \$710 and in households that rely on a fixed income, that is truly a sensible and useful assistance to these people. This announcement was received enthusiastically by the bowlers and the shedders alike and by the aged pensioners and Seniors Card holders across this state.

I thank the Palaszczuk government for this important commitment to seniors and aged pensioners across this state. I thank both Minister Bailey and Minister Fentiman for making this important announcement in my electorate. I urge them both to come back at any time to enjoy the fabulous bayside and our friendship in the future and likewise to everyone else in this House.

### **Small Rights-BIG Changes; Queensland Rail**

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (12.03 pm): The executive of Small Rights-BIG Changes are up in the gallery. Recently, they delivered to me a petition, which was tabled this morning, on victims' rights. They want to get a commissioner appointed for victims' rights. I will be writing to the minister to make sure that he responds to that request. I would also like to acknowledge Evelyn and Jim Young—Evelyn is my sister—my brother, Vernon, and my wife, Ann. Long ago, Vern was a delegate for the Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Union—at a time when people who had done labour represented labour. I have tried to convert him, but it is a bit hard.

Another issue of real concern to me is the 150 years celebration of rail in Queensland. The actual day is 31 July. The great community of Grandchester is holding a Steamfest on 26 July. We have had a lot of debate with people from QR over this celebration but, unfortunately, they have done us over. Originally, there was to be a steam train from Brisbane and a steam train from Ipswich to bring people to Grandchester. About three weeks ago they said, 'Oh, we can't do the steam train from Ipswich.' Four thousand people used to work at the Ipswich rail yards, and the members opposite are doing them over. I call on the members for Ipswich and Ipswich West and the Deputy Premier to get something happening for this Steamfest. If the steam train is broken down, put a diesel locomotive in front of some old carriages to pull them up. It cannot be that hard. If that happens, when the tickets for this train are advertised in Ipswich, we will sell the tickets within one day. The train from Brisbane is already full. Two extra carriages have been put on and most of the tickets have been sold for those carriages as well.

This is just crazy from the hardworking members representing Ipswich. I just cannot believe that the members of this Labor government are doing these people over. Sir Lew Edwards would be most upset about this. George Cannon, the grandfather of the former transport minister Scott Emerson, worked at the Queensland railway yards. In the 1940s he was one of the blokes who went on strike. He would be rolling in his grave over what QR is doing.

Right from the start, the people from QR were difficult to deal with. More than two years ago they really did not want to celebrate the anniversary with the community; they wanted to celebrate it by themselves. I do not understand why. It is just crazy. The community of Grandchester has a real affinity with the railways. The railway station at Grandchester is heritage listed. On Sunday, 26 July, 6,000 to 8,000 people are expected to be at that station, yet there will be no train from Ipswich to Grandchester. This is the site of the first railway line in Queensland and this government has let down the people of Grandchester. Shame on them!

**Mr Costigan:** What would Ben Chifley say?

**Mr RICKUSS:** Ben Chifley would still be looking for that light at Grandchester. Shame on them! I have written to the Deputy Premier about this issue. I expect the members for Ipswich and Ipswich West to support me on this issue. Let us get some people from Ipswich to Grandchester on rail. That is what this anniversary is about: 150 years of rail. Let us ensure that the people of Ipswich are not done over. I represent Willowbank and some of the surrounding area there. Let us ensure that they are not going to be done over by this government. It is atrocious! No member of the government has made any effort to help me on this issue. I am astounded that they have just sat on their hands and ignored the good punters whom they are supposed to support. Those people are from a really good, hardworking working class area of Ipswich and they have supported and been dependent on rail for a long time. What are the members opposite doing for them? Nothing! It is a total disgrace. I call on the minister and the two members who represent the Ipswich area to get off their backsides and get something happening.

I reckon if six carriages travel from Ipswich to Grandchester for this event, we will sell the tickets in a day. It would not be a problem. I reckon even the member for Bundamba would be on that train to Grandchester if she had the opportunity. The people of Ipswich really have an affinity with rail. This will be a big celebration. It will probably be one of the bigger events held in Ipswich this year. So please support the rail from Ipswich to Grandchester.

### Moreton Bay Rail Project, Koala Protection

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (12.08 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of the House the important work being done to protect and monitor our iconic koala population not only in my electorate but also in the electorates of those of my colleagues representing areas of Moreton Bay. We are all aware of how critical the Moreton Bay Rail Link is to the infrastructure needs of our region but hand in hand with this vital progression of work is the need to protect our koalas. It is with that in mind that the preservation of koalas in the rail corridor is a top priority for the Moreton Bay rail project. I wonder if we will get a steam train? I am pleased to advise that the Moreton Bay rail project is undertaking a cutting-edge koala tagging and monitoring program.

To date there have been 447 koalas incorporated into the program, with 182 currently under monitoring. Sadly, in recent history there were 232 mortalities, 15 missing in the field, 10 removed from the program and nine in care. This innovative program has ensured, however, that no koalas have been injured or killed as a result of clearing and the construction activities along the 14 kilometres of rail corridor.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads engaged Endeavour Veterinary Ecology to assist in delivering a koala tagging and monitoring program which was initiated in February 2013. There you go. How about that.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Order! Member for Kallangur, just a moment. Other speakers have been heard in silence. Can we stop the bantering, please. I want to hear the member for Kallangur.

**Mr KING:** Endeavour Veterinary Ecology were able to locate tagged koalas within the proposed clearing area each day, preventing accidental injury or death to koalas, allowing Transport and Main Roads and the construction contractor Thiess to comply with legislative requirements in relation to koala protection. In addition, it allowed for the clearing program to move quickly and smoothly through areas where koalas were not present. This initiative demonstrates the project is going beyond standard practice by collecting accurate field data specific to the local koala population. This process was not only used to help develop the rail design and strategically inform the location of fauna crossings, it has been invaluable during the clearing activities.

In addition to the tagging and monitoring program, 60 koalas captured as part of the tagging and monitoring program were included in the University of the Sunshine Coast led chlamydia vaccine trial. In the trial 30 animals received the vaccine and 30 remained unvaccinated as a control group. All 60 koalas were fitted with radio collars so they could be monitored. In October 2014 scientists at the University of the Sunshine Coast celebrated the world's first successful field trial of a vaccine against chlamydia in koalas. We should be celebrating that. All this could not be done without the assistance of all parties involved in the rail construction.

As a result of data from the initial program this has now expanded to include a koala translocation program with monitoring to be completed in late 2016. This important work is made more so as our environment and heritage protection minister recently announced the koala will soon be listed as

vulnerable across our state. Currently koalas are only listed as vulnerable in South-East Queensland. Our government has accepted the recommendation of the Species Technical Committee which is an independent panel of scientists and has lifted the conservation status of the koala. Our koala is an iconic species which faces many threats, including climate change, habitat reduction, disease, motor vehicle strike and dog attacks. This decision will be welcomed by koala lovers and conservationists and brings renewed focus to the koala's plight.

All of this highlights the importance of the work that is being carried out with our koalas in the Moreton Bay area on the Moreton Bay Rail Link project. Moreton Bay Rail Link will deliver for the people of Queensland a 12.6 kilometre dual track passenger rail line between Petrie and Kippa-Ring, including six new rail stations at Kallangur, Murrumba Downs, Mango Hill, Kinsellas Road, Rothwell and Kippa-Ring. The \$988 million required has been provided jointly by the Australian government, the Queensland government and the Moreton Bay Regional Council. The project is well underway and is on track to be delivered by mid-2016. It is great news for the community. It is also great news that we are ensuring our koalas are as safe as possible now and into the future.

### Gold Coast Airport

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.13 pm): There is one definitive fact a Gold Coast resident can take from the actions of the operators of the Gold Coast Airport and that is that they cannot be trusted. The recent announcement that the airport is installing aerobridges in its \$200 million expansion for the Commonwealth Games in 2018 flies directly in the face of their protestations they have made in the past. Consistently over many years when questioned about why Australia's sixth largest city did not have aerobridges when airports such as Darwin, Cairns and Townsville did, they claimed it would damage the turnaround times for budget airlines and would actually reduce the number of passengers coming to the Gold Coast which would obviously be bad for our tourism industry. What a load of bunkum! It is all about the cost of building a two-storey building for the aerobridges. Now they claim Australia's worst major city airport needs the aerobridges for the upcoming Commonwealth Games traffic and that they will be installing them as part of that \$200 million upgrade. The bad news is that there will only be aerobridges for international flights and not the 80 per cent of flights to the Gold Coast which are domestic. It proves that you cannot believe a word they say.

Transferring their disingenuousness about aerobridges to their public utterances about the 'safety and reliability' need for an instrument landing system, or ILS, on the Gold Coast, one can only draw the conclusion that it is about marketing for technologically outdated Asian airlines that is driving their conquest to deliberately impact on the audible and visual environment of residents under the proposed new flight path. This subterfuge about the safety and reliability need for the ILS is debunked by the domestic airlines which provide 80 per cent of the commercial traffic into the Gold Coast Airport, spending vast amounts of money in late 2014 and early in 2015 installing the modern satellite navigation system RNP. At a recent Gold Coast public meeting, a current and professional airline pilot outlined exactly the expert pilot's position as to why an ILS system is outdated technology and the RNP is equally as efficient in bad weather. But it is not about safety and reliability at all, as only 13 out of 35,000 flights into the Gold Coast in 2014 were cancelled or diverted and even if an ILS was installed there is no certainty that those 13 flights would still not have been cancelled or diverted because of weather factors and runway issues. The proposed ILS is only effective for two-thirds of the landings on the Gold Coast which come from the north on runway 14. Runway 32 will not have an ILS and so will remain dependent on weather conditions and therefore there will still be the occasional diversion or cancellation.

If the airport operators were honest they would say that this ILS proposal is about clinging to the Asian airline market flying tourists directly to the Gold Coast today and it is the possibility of expanding the Asian market to more operators who will only come if an ILS can guide their outdated aircraft into the Gold Coast to keep their pilots confident and happy. We could then make a judgement call over more Asian tourists against the loss of amenity of residential suburbs. It is a simple equation. But the deceit the airport company is engaging in by trying to persuade the Gold Coast community that it is all about safety and reliability when a current qualified pilot publicly declares the safety and reliability aspects are more than adequately addressed by the newer RNP technology beggars belief. We are fortunate that we have a senior Abbott federal government representative in Mr Steve Ciobo, member for Moncrieff, recognising the deleterious effects this proposed new flight path will have on its residents and putting his political career on the line in pursuing a 'no' call by the Deputy Prime Minister, Warren Truss, on this outdated, unwarranted and deceitful proposal by Gold Coast Airport.

The Gold Coast City Council has also rejected the proposal of a new flight path over tourist strip homes, identifying the loss of visual and audible amenity would actually be a negative for tourism in the city. I do believe this is one of the most shameful acts of corporate vandalism I have witnessed on the Gold Coast and I can assure the House that in my time in politics on the Goldy I have seen a few. With a current professional practising pilot saying the ILS is not needed, the Gold Coast council saying it is not needed, the federal member saying it is not needed and thousands of desperate home owners saying it is not needed, please do not go ahead with this outdated technology.

### Great Barrier Reef

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (12.18 pm): When one asks a mayor or a business operator, or even a member of the general public, where the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef is they are sure to respond with their local town or city's name: the Whitsundays, Townsville, Yeppoon, Mackay, Port Douglas—the list goes on. And, of course, Cairns is in that list. Everyone tries to claim the title of who truly is the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef, but the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef is Queensland. The gateway to the Great Barrier Reef is Queensland, Australia.

Recently I was delighted to see the Premier and the Minister for Tourism spend some time in Cairns to launch a new advertising package to the world that embraces the true beauty and abundance of what the Great Barrier Reef offers. With a group of local tourism operators, we watched the new 30-second TV commercial. It gave me goosebumps as the footage, the sound and the design of the advert are different. It is moving and inspiring. It shows something that we have not seen before in this type of advertising. The advertising push is different. It does not just say, 'Come and see the Great Barrier Reef'. It says, 'The Great Barrier Reef is to be cherished and protected'. It says, 'Come to Queensland'. It is being delivered in six or more different languages across the world in social media. If members have not already seen it, I suggest that they hop onto social media and find it.

The timing of advertising to the world could not come at a better time for my region and certainly for the state of Queensland. The Barron River electorate is built on tourism. It is an electorate with some of the highest tourism related employment in Queensland. There is no doubt that tourism drives Cairns and is a major economic focus for us all. One needs only look around the Cairns area to see bumper stickers on the back of cars saying things such as 'Tourism drives this car' or 'I like airline noise'. I am proud of the Palaszczuk government's response to the UNESCO decision, in the lead-up to the decision and in the work that has been undertaken, as well as afterwards. It is now that we must tell the world that our reef is alive; that our reef is majestic, colourful and abundant with wildlife; that we will work towards ensuring it continues to improve for future generations; that we will work to continue to improve the water quality; and that we will work to grow tourism all along the Queensland coast, because we want everyone to come and experience it.

I thank the Premier for taking this serious step and for taking this issue seriously. I thank her for leading this important issue from the front and for recognising the importance of the Great Barrier Reef, not only to my electorate but also to the electorates of many members who sit here today on both sides of the House as the Great Barrier Reef is something that we all share. It is the only natural wonder of the world that can be seen from outer space. I thank Minister Miles and the Deputy Premier for representing us at UNESCO and ensuring that the world saw that the Queensland government is a responsible government that can be trusted to care for the reef and promote recovery and improvements in areas such as water quality. I thank Minister O'Rourke for recently hosting in Cairns a roundtable discussion with business and departmental leaders to discuss what we can do now to progress Cairns and our region and, in particular, for the decision to host a Far North Queensland economic summit in Cairns later this year. That will be a massive boost for business in the Cairns region. We know that with business confidence jobs follow, which is paramount in an area that has over 20 per cent youth unemployment, and this government has given an integral commitment to fix that.

It was concerning to hear the Premier speak of comments heard when visiting Singapore that some investors believed that the reef was dead. In Cairns, that alarmed us because that is not the message that we want out there. We want to send out the message that it is well and truly alive. We want people to come and see the reef and to invest in it. At the moment in Cairns there is a real buzz and an air of excitement among tourist operators and the general public. We feel as though we are on the verge of a new wave of tourism from the massive Chinese and Asian markets. Silk air flights from Singapore have already started, amongst other things. I am proud to stand here as part of the Palaszczuk government.

### Cleveland Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (12.23 pm): I rise to speak about three infrastructure and planning issues critical to the hundreds of thousands of people who live in east and south-east Brisbane, particularly Redland City and my electorate of Cleveland, that need to be addressed in today's budget, that is, the Eastern Busway, Toondah Harbour and North Stradbroke Island. On budget eve the government is supersensitive about public transport infrastructure such as the Eastern Busway. This morning the Deputy Premier raised the issue of the Eastern Busway, but again without stating what the government plans to do. I thank the Deputy Premier for mentioning the Eastern Busway petition from myself and Brisbane Deputy Mayor Adrian Schinner, which I believe was tabled in the parliament today. In a short period, over 1,269 Queenslanders signed the petition electronically and on paper. It is clear that this public transport project is still important to bayside Brisbanites and the people of Cleveland.

Last sitting week in a speech I noted that it was the Bligh Labor government that kicked the Eastern Busway into the long grass when it failed to fund it beyond 2011 in the forward estimates. It was Anna Bligh, with the member for Inala and then transport minister at her side, who said that Labor would build the busway with state government funds alone and that no federal funds were needed, only to bring the project forward. The Deputy Premier does not want Queenslanders to remember that Labor promise. Isn't it interesting that, after the Deputy Premier attacked the LNP for the eastern transit-way improvements, the Deputy Premier is now talking about 'bus lanes' instead of 'busways'. The busway e-petition shows that Queenslanders still want it built, but is the government listening? I guess we will see later today.

Toondah Harbour is potentially one of the biggest job-creating projects in the history of Redland City. Unfortunately, for almost three decades successive state Labor governments have done nothing about it. With the formation of the first LNP government, this iconic project was planned with the Redland City Council and the Walker group. Two rounds of consultation were conducted, a business case was developed for a \$1.3 billion PPP, design work was completed and the project now only needs to go through EIS and federal EPPBC processes. While I was relieved to see the project recently re-announced, I am concerned about one aspect of the project: the management and slow pace of the project under this Labor government. Without the LNP government's economic development legislation that provided for PDAs, this project would not have happened. Since Labor came to power, for five months the project has sat gathering dust and is now behind schedule. That has caused a loss of business confidence in the area and people have held off investing in and growing their businesses and employing people as a direct result. The people of Cleveland are keen that Labor pick up the pace and get this important project back on track and avoid further delays.

The third issue that I want to raise is the carefully planned economic transition plan from sandmining on North Stradbroke mining to a diverse economy, which is a very important issue. The people of North Stradbroke Island are outraged that once again a Labor government has announced, without consultation, that it plans to prematurely end sandmining by 2019 and, in so doing, to sack up to 600 workers—up to 600 workers—in mining, small business and tourism, including up to 50 Quandamooka Indigenous workers. Since this announcement was made, due to the community's outrage I have started a petition to ask the government to slow down and consult the people of North Stradbroke Island. The petition, called 'Save Straddie jobs', can be found on the parliament website. I have also written to the Premier and appeal to her today to hit the pause button and talk to the people. The Chamber of Commerce was not consulted, the AWU and the workers were not consulted and it is time for this Premier, who claims to be a listening Premier, to come and listen to the people.

However, if the government is hell-bent on this and will not listen to the people, it must bring forward major investment into the island, starting with this budget. Hundreds of millions of dollars will need to be spent from 2015 onwards. Projects such as the \$10 million redevelopment of Dunwich Harbour become absolutely critical in this budget. An upgrade of the Dunwich ferry terminal and tourism and retail areas are critical. In this budget I will be watching for key initiative projects such as the Eastern Busway, the Toondah Harbour development and North Stradbroke Island to make sure that the government does the right thing.

*(Time expired)*

## Synapse Brain Injury Association

 **Mr PYNE** (Cairns—ALP) (12.28 pm): In years past, Cairns residents have missed out on many services available not just in Brisbane but also in other large regional centres. I have dedicated my time in public life to remedying this inequity that disadvantages Cairns residents in so many areas of service delivery. While, of course, we try to cover the field as local members, during this term in government my focus has been on health and education in particular.

Health care and disability services are important in any community. One area where the Cairns community has been missing out is in the provision of services to people with an acquired brain injury and their families. I have long been working with the Synapse Brain Injury Association which plans to construct a rehabilitation facility for people in Cairns who sustain an ABI.

My initial involvement in working for an acquired brain injury unit followed an approach by Synapse CEO, Jennifer Cullen. I attended their meetings with a number of other prominent local people, including Yidinji elder Gudju Gudju Fourmile and former Rugby League State of Origin player Sam Backo.

Synapse Inc., formerly the Brain Injury Association of Queensland and before that Headway Queensland, was founded in 1984 by members and friends of people who had sustained an acquired brain injury. Over the past 30 years a range of innovative services have been developed that not only respond to the needs of people with an acquired brain injury but also set new standards for other services. Launching these new services into visibility in the south-east corner also resulted in improved community awareness and stronger community and departmental alliances.

In 2010 the association agreed to change its name to Synapse. While the name was changed, the organisation's mission and values remain the same. They continue to strive to be the peak organisation providing specialist services to those living with acquired brain injury or behaviours that challenge our understanding.

The low point for me in the journey to have Synapse up and running in Cairns came at a public meeting in 2012. I attended that meeting as a local councillor. That meeting held at the Gordonvale RSL followed a decision by Synapse to purchase land in Hall Road in Gordonvale. Following a local misinformation campaign, people assembled to oppose the facility as they were concerned they did not want 'people like that' living in their street. As a result of this and other issues with the local council the project did not proceed in that location, leading to further delays.

The issue became personal for me around that time when a young man by the name of Jarrod Harrow was hit by traffic while crossing the Bruce Highway at Mount Sheridan. Jarrod was a local student at Woree State High School. I had been working with his mother, Melicha, on a community project that celebrated the contribution of South Sea Islanders who were blackbirded to Queensland all those years ago.

Jarrod was crossing the road and was hit and had both his legs broken. While waiting for treatment, bone marrow or fat from one of the bones in his legs got into his blood stream, punctured his heart and went to his brain causing him to get an acquired brain injury. I often ponder if he had stopped a second longer or had reached the side of the road a second later the accident would not have occurred. We should always remember the saying 'there but for the grace of God go I' when these things happened, as fate plays its cards at these times regardless of our plans.

For people unfortunate to suffer an ABI, Cairns Hospital has had little to offer by way of rehabilitation services, with ABI patients needing to use facilities in the geriatric ward. Those like Jarrod who have had strong advocates—in his case his mother, Melicha—were able to be transferred to Brisbane where they have been able to access services through Synapse. But the goal has always been to get a Synapse operating facility in Cairns.

Following the failed proposal in Gordonvale, Synapse moved their focus to Hoare Street in Manunda, in my electorate, where they acquired a block of land from the local health board. Last week was a real highlight when the application for the centre was passed and approved by council. Now the end goal is within sight. I am confident there will be a rehabilitation centre operating in Cairns during this term of government. Primarily aimed at Indigenous people with an ABI, this facility will provide a pathway and life opportunities for some of our most disadvantaged Queenslanders. I look forward to this long-awaited dream becoming a reality.

*(Time expired)*

## AGRICULTURE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing) (12.34 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Queensland) Act 1994, the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966, the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, the Biosecurity Act 2014, the Brands Act 1915, the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988, the Exotic Diseases in Animals Act 1981, the Forestry Act 1959, the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Act (No. 2) 2013 and the Stock Act 1915, for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Agriculture and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 [733].

*Tabled paper:* Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes [734].

Today I am pleased to introduce the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. The bill will reform a number of acts within my portfolio that have wideranging implications for the food and fibre sector. While these amendments are modest in nature, they will streamline legislative processes and create efficiencies for industry stakeholders. The bill will also make amendments to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Act (No. 2) 2013 to ensure the continuation of existing provisions for managing forest reserve lands. This act has not yet commenced.

Agricultural industries are integral to Queensland's economy. The food and fibre sector as a whole is the backbone for many rural and regional communities throughout the state. In April 2015 the total value of Queensland's primary industry commodities for 2014-15 was forecast to be \$15.02 billion.

Food and fibre is a significant contributor to the state's economy and a major source of employment across the state. Approximately one in seven Queenslanders is employed within agriculture across the entire supply chain. These figures demonstrate the significant role that agriculture has in Queensland's productivity and profitability. In order to maintain and optimise these outputs, the legislation that supports our food and fibre industries must remain contemporary and accessible.

This bill makes reforms to the legislation governing agricultural and veterinary chemicals, animal welfare and management, biosecurity and forestry. Agricultural and veterinary chemicals are an integral part of production for many primary producers so it is essential that the legislation regulating use of such chemicals is as clear and noncumbersome as possible.

This government has made a commitment to animal welfare standards. The amendments which I introduce today are necessary to create a legislative framework which is accessible and straightforward, and adequately balances the competing interests of each animal and industry stakeholder.

The Queensland government considers biosecurity risks to be a significant threat to our state's health and economy. It is important that Queensland continues to be vigilant and responsive to biosecurity threats and it is essential that we have the legislative measures to support this position.

Agvet chemicals are used in a variety of contexts, including the use of herbicides on weeds and veterinary medicines on animals. A national review of agvet chemical legislation has been ongoing for some years. Certain unrelated amendments to Queensland agvet legislation have been envisaged for some time but had been postponed in the past, pending the outcome of the national review. Given further delays in finalising the national review, it is proposed to progress these other amendments now, given the opportunity to do so within a miscellaneous bill.

The Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Queensland) Act 1994 applies Commonwealth agvet legislation in Queensland. This bill will provide clarity and legislative consistency between the state and Commonwealth legislation by clarifying which Commonwealth agvet legislation instruments are applicable within Queensland.

The principal objective of the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1996 is to control the distribution of agricultural chemicals from aircraft and ground equipment. At a recent Committee for Economic Development of Australia conference, I addressed the growing acceptance of new technologies as a cheaper and more user-friendly supplement to existing traditional production practices. Unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs, and other robotics present an unparalleled opportunity to increase overall farm productivity. This state is in an era of massive change, with increased competition and demand for products in both domestic and international markets. Queensland needs this technology to remain viable and competitive in an increasingly globalised food market.

UAVs are becoming increasingly relied upon in the interstate arena for aerial chemical distribution. Consequently, the amendments contained in the bill give Queensland the opportunity to step up and remain viable and efficient in agricultural production by enabling the licensing of new aerial distribution technologies.

This government has made a commitment to ensuring that Queensland's animal welfare practices are consistent with world's best practice. Animals are required to be humanely killed and the Health Act 1937 authorises persons to administer drugs to animals for this purpose. It is generally an offence under the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 to kill animals by feeding or administering harmful substances to them. This prohibition prevents cruel acts of poisoning and other harmful consequences occurring. Amendments contained in the bill will ensure that all persons who are authorised under the Health Act to administer substances to animals are not guilty of an offence for humanely killing animals in this way.

The objective of the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 in part is to provide for the identification and management of cats and dogs. Up until now, there has been unnecessary confusion in its interpretation due to different meanings of 'permanent identification devices' and 'prescribed permanent identification devices'. Amendments contained in this bill combine these definitions and clarify the requirements surrounding the implementation of microchips. The amendments to this act also remove unnecessary restrictions on suppliers of these identification devices.

The amendments in the bill also maintain the right for producers to destroy dogs attacking or about to attack their stock without fear of civil liability. It is essential that we support our primary producers and help them protect their livelihoods from the threat of such pests.

Flexible biosecurity capacity and capability is fundamental to a healthy and prosperous food and fibre industry. Biosecurity reform in recent years has culminated in the Biosecurity Act 2014, which will commence some time in the coming year. The Biosecurity Act provides a comprehensive biosecurity framework to manage the risks of animal and plant diseases and pests in a timely and effective way. Given the size of the Biosecurity Act, it was almost inevitable that some desirable amendments would be identified before it commenced. This bill includes a number of such amendments.

Exotic pests and diseases are a significant threat to livestock industries, the economy and human health. They have the potential to devastate entire industries and the livelihoods of the many producers that support these industries. Feeding of restricted animal material, or RAM, to ruminants will exacerbate the spread of these diseases, including mad cow disease. For a number of years, Australia has placed bans on feeding of RAM to such animals.

There are similar restrictions on the feeding of animal material more commonly known as 'swill' to pigs, primarily for the prevention of foot-and-mouth disease. In Queensland, swill cannot be fed to poultry to reduce the likelihood of the spread of Newcastle disease and infectious bursal disease.

The amendments to the Biosecurity Act in this bill serve to clarify which animals can be fed RAM and swill under strict conditions and circumstances and those that cannot. The amendments only go so far as to enforce the national ruminant feed ban without unnecessary and unintended consequences on the feeding of non-risk animals such as captive birds of prey.

Further amendments to the Biosecurity Act include a provision that a person cannot apply for a biosecurity instrument permit in circumstances where a biosecurity certificate is more appropriate. This will ensure that affected persons are not circumventing certification schemes to avoid the payment of a fee.

The bill makes further amendments to the Biosecurity Act that relate to auditor's approvals. The amendments now provide for immediate suspension of an auditor's approval where there is a serious risk to trade in a particular commodity.

Upon commencement, the Biosecurity Act will repeal a number of acts. Despite the upcoming repeal of these acts, it is critical that a small number of problems in them are addressed now to protect Queensland's food and fibre industries.

The Exotic Diseases in Animals Act 1981 will be repealed by the Biosecurity Act. Once the Biosecurity Act commences, the chief executive will have the power to make a biosecurity emergency order to holistically deal with exotic disease incidents. Until the Biosecurity Act commences, however, standstill zones or restricted areas under the Exotic Diseases in Animals Act may be needed to stop the spread of exotic diseases. The bill will allow the chief executive to notify particular areas as standstill zones or restricted areas without having to make notifications as subordinate legislation. This is an effective and logical amendment which streamlines the process until the commencement of the Biosecurity Act.

Biosecurity measures must be flexible and responsive. A rigid and unyielding biosecurity framework will not adequately support our various food and fibre industries. Interim amendments to the Stock Act 1915 are crucial to maintain this flexibility, even though it will be repealed by the Biosecurity Act. The amendments to the Stock Act will provide inspectors with the discretion to impose other measures, rather than issue quarantine notices when stock are diseased or suspected of being diseased. These amendments will support our primary producers, promote business continuity and ensure the reduced disruption to livestock operations in circumstances where disease risks can be adequately managed without the need to impose a quarantine.

The Forestry Act 1959 generally provides for the protection and management of state forests and provides for specific offences for interfering with or destroying forest products. It is important that we do not deter people from carrying out their biosecurity duties for fear of committing an offence. The proposed amendments will protect persons complying with their general biosecurity obligation under the Biosecurity Act from prosecution under Forestry Act in some circumstances. The amendments will exempt persons from specific offences where they interfere with or destroy forest products on forest entitlement areas and forest consent areas in order to meet their obligations under the Biosecurity Act. These amendments balance the protection of Queensland's state forest assets and the management of biosecurity threats.

In the past, civil liability for state employees has been largely governed by the provisions contained within each act. The bill makes amendments to the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act, the Animal Care and Protection Act, the Biosecurity Act, the Brands Act 1915 and the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988 with regard to indemnity for state employees. These amendments streamline Public Service indemnity provisions and provide certainty for those acting in an official capacity.

Previously, company director liability has been a source of angst for many directors acting within a company. The strict liability provisions meant that corporate officers would often be liable for actions in which they played no part. The amendments being made to the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act and the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act significantly reduce this direct liability for officers in circumstances of actions committed by the corporation. This reform is consistent with the Council of Australian Governments' guidelines to reduce the burden of company director liability for corporate officers.

This government will continue to work with producers and stakeholders across the entire supply chain to create a profitable food and fibre sector. Legislative improvement creates opportunities which previously did not exist. These opportunities are what drives growth and opens new channels for development, making Queensland a robust and resourceful place to be involved in the food and fibre sector. The legislative amendments in the bill will help underpin the future success of this productive and prosperous state.

Finally, this bill includes some amendments to legislation within the portfolio of my colleague the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef. Work on finalising the land tenure status for a number of forest reserves is ongoing. The amendments to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Act (No. 2) 2013 contained in the bill will ensure the continuation of existing provisions for managing the remaining 38 forest reserve lands until such time as a final land tenure for them can be determined and the land subsequently transferred. I have much pleasure in commending this bill to the House.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing) (12.53 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 Agriculture and Environment Committee**

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

Sitting suspended from 12.53 pm to 2.30 pm.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### State Finances

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.30 pm): In accordance with its 2015 election commitment, the government directed Queensland Treasury to undertake a review of the state's finances for publication as part of the first state budget of the term. The review commenced in March 2015. This report is, in effect, a high-level fiscal review. It is not intended as a comprehensive policy review covering matters of service, delivery and performance. Comments on policy are largely restricted to those areas required to support implementation of the government's fiscal principles and strategy. Consistent with the government's election commitment, I table the review report.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Treasury: 2015 Review of State Finances [\[735\]](#).

Section 11/1 of the Financial Accountability Act 2009—the FA Act—provides that from time to time the Treasurer must prepare and table in the Legislative Assembly a charter of fiscal responsibility giving details of the government's fiscal objectives. Revised fiscal principles were recommended as part of the recent review of state finances. The drafting of the 2015-16 budget has occurred on the basis that fiscal documentation will report against the fiscal principles recommended in the review of state finances. In order to maintain consistency between budget documentation and the official charter, I table the revised *Charter of fiscal responsibility* in parliament.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Charter of Fiscal Responsibility [\[736\]](#).

As I announced last week, the review of state finances identified that there is capacity to increase the gearing levels of the network businesses towards more commercial levels. This view was further supported by benchmarking analysis prepared by KPMG in relation to the energy network businesses and their peers, particularly gearing levels and dividend payout ratios. Consistent with the government's commitment to being open and accountable, I table the benchmarking analysis prepared by KPMG.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Treasury Corporation: Electricity Network Recapitalisation Strategy: Gearing and Dividend Benchmarking Analysis—Summary, July 2015 [\[737\]](#).

## BUDGET PAPERS

**Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.32 pm): I lay upon the table of the House the following documents: Appropriation Bills Booklet; Budget Speech; Budget Strategy and Outlook; Capital Statement; Budget Measures; Jobs Now, Jobs for the Future; Regional Budget Statements; Budget Highlights; Service Delivery Statements, including statements of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Appropriation Bills [\[741\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Budget Speech—Budget Paper No. 1 [\[742\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Budget Strategy and Outlook—Budget Paper No. 2 [\[743\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Capital Statement—Budget Paper No. 3 [\[744\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Budget Measures—Budget Paper No. 4 [\[745\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Jobs Now, Jobs for the Future—Queensland Government employment plan [\[746\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Regional Budget Statement—Brisbane [\[747\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Regional Budget Statement—Darling Downs [\[748\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Regional Budget Statement—Far North Queensland [\[749\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Regional Budget Statement—Fitzroy [\[750\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Regional Budget Statement—Gold Coast and Logan [\[751\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Regional Budget Statement—Ipswich [\[752\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Regional Budget Statement—Mackay [\[753\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Regional Budget Statement—Outback Queensland [\[754\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Regional Budget Statement—Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay [\[755\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Regional Budget Statement—Townsville [\[756\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Regional Budget Statement—Wide Bay [\[757\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Budget Highlights [\[758\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Office of the Governor, Public Service Commission, Queensland Audit Office [\[759\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Treasury [\[760\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Legislative Assembly of Queensland [\[761\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships [\[762\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Agriculture and Fisheries [\[763\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services [\[764\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Education and Training [\[765\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Energy and Water Supply [\[766\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Environment and Heritage Protection [\[767\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Housing and Public Works [\[768\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman, the Public Trustee of Queensland [\[769\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning [\[770\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing [\[771\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Natural Resources and Mines [\[772\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Public Safety Business Agency, Office of Inspector-General Emergency Management [\[773\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation [\[774\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Department of State Development [\[775\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games [\[776\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Transport and Main Roads [\[777\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Health [\[778\]](#).

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

### Message from Governor

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.33 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from His Excellency recommends the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2015

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial years starting 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016

(Sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 14 JUL 2015

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 14 July 2015, from His Excellency the Governor, recommending the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2015 [\[738\]](#).

## Introduction

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.33 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial years starting 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016. I table the bill and explanatory notes.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2015 [\[739\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2015, explanatory notes [\[740\]](#).

I introduce the Appropriation Bill for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service, which provides appropriation for the 2015-16 Budget. The Bill combines the appropriation for the 2015-16 Budget and interim supply for 2016-17 to allow normal operations of the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service to continue until the 2016-17 Appropriation Bill receives assent.

The Government remains committed to the independence of the Legislative Assembly and this extends to the means by which public moneys are appropriated to ensure its continued functioning. We are therefore adhering to the recent convention that the Legislative Assembly's appropriation be contained in a Bill separate from the Appropriation Bill for the other activities of government.

The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill will provide the necessary funds to ensure the continued operations of the Legislative Assembly and the parliamentary service.

These include advisory and information services to assist the Parliament, its Committees and Members to fulfil their constitutional and parliamentary responsibilities, the services provided by the Parliamentary Library, Committee Office, Parliamentary Reporting Service, Chamber and Procedural Services, and Security and Attendant Services as well as the provision of accommodation, hospitality and Members' entitlements.

## First Reading

**Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.33 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.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! In accordance with standing order 177, the bill is now set down for its second reading.

## APPROPRIATION BILL

### Message from Governor

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.34 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from His Excellency recommends the Appropriation Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION BILL 2015

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for departments for the financial years starting 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016

(Sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 14 JUL 2015

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 14 July 2015, from His Excellency the Governor, recommending the Appropriation Bill 2015 [\[779\]](#).

## Introduction

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.34 pm): Mr Speaker,

The 31st of January 2015 was a victory for the Queensland we know we can be, and a defeat for the kind of Queensland we'd long left behind.

Labor governments will always believe that our most valuable economic assets are our people and our communities. When a measured and responsible approach is needed and fairness must be restored—we're there to put in the hard work.

Labor Budgets reflect this.

Labor Budgets are positive.

They are optimistic.

They seek to challenge, to extend, to grow new industries, to tackle the enduring tests with optimism about the future.

### **A Better Way**

Mr Speaker, today I introduce a Budget that delivers on the plan that Labor took to Queenslanders.

Consistent with our approach to responsibly manage the State's finances, the Palaszczuk Government's first Budget delivers on all of the commitments we made at the election.

And as promised, we have more than offset that spending.

On final analysis, our election commitments have been estimated by Treasury to cost \$1.97 billion over the next four years.

Through offsets and reprioritisations, funding of \$2.31 billion was identified, providing a net fiscal improvement of \$340 million.

This has been achieved without redundancies—forced or voluntary.

Mr Speaker we told the people of Queensland, that we would improve front line services.

This Budget delivers.

We said we would have an operating surplus and that we would not introduce new taxes, fees and charges.

This Budget delivers.

We said we had a plan to grow the economy and to deliver jobs—jobs now, and jobs for the future.

We said there was a better way—one that did not involve selling the State's income-generating assets.

This Budget keeps that promise.

### **Budget Strategy**

Mr Speaker, we also said we would manage the State's finances responsibly.

Today I can confirm that for the 2014-15 year, the Palaszczuk Government expects a \$962 million surplus.

And I am proud to advise that for 2015-16, we are forecasting a surplus of \$1.2 billion.

Queensland has not achieved a surplus of this size in nearly a decade—not since 2006-07.

What's more, the Palaszczuk Government is forecasting surpluses above \$2 billion for both 2016-17 and 2017-18.

The combined surpluses over the next four years will be \$6.9 billion.

These surpluses are achieved—notwithstanding a forecast reduction of royalty revenue since the Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review and a \$396 million write-down in payroll tax.

These surpluses are achieved through a measured, responsible approach to balancing the books.

More importantly, these surpluses represent the underlying strength of the Queensland economy and position the State to capture sustainable economic growth.

Operating expenses—excluding natural disaster payments—are forecast to grow on average by 4.1% across the forward estimates.

This is a sustainable rate which is lower than forecast revenue growth of 4.3%, even with the significant revenue write downs seen in this Budget.

### **Economic outlook**

Mr Speaker, Queensland has an economy that faces the world and trades with all parts of it.

And while enormous benefits come with such an outlook, there are also impacts.

The global economic outlook has softened over the last year, with continued financial uncertainty in the Eurozone and sharp declines in world commodity prices.

What happens to oil prices as a result of decisions made in Saudi Arabia, matters to Queensland.

What happens to steel production in China, impacts upon the Queensland economy and the Queensland Budget.

And what we have seen as a result of global conditions is a \$3.2 billion write-down in royalties since the MYFER.

There is no doubt our revenues have taken a hit.

Overall, revenue growth has fallen from 6.1% last year to a forecast 3.2% in 2015-16.

Mr Speaker, this is partly because Queensland has an economy in transition.

Not just from resource sector construction to production—although this is a big part of our journey.

When Labor was last in government we set out a blueprint for the establishment of a \$60 billion LNG industry.

This investment was both historic and significant, and as a result a new industry is now a reality.

\$648 million worth of LNG exports have left the Port of Gladstone so far in 2015.

The success of this new industry underscores the duty of responsible Governments to always be seeking out ways to diversify the economy, rather than rely on past successes.

Mr Speaker, we are transitioning to a multi-faceted service economy, with growth industries in health and human services, particularly disability services, education exports, bio-technology and a burgeoning tech sector.

As Labor helps to facilitate this transition, our economic growth and labour market will strengthen.

Mr Speaker, I can announce today that Queensland's economic growth is forecast to improve, from 2% in 2014-15 to 4½% in 2015-16 and 2016-17.

As a testament to the Queensland economy's enduring strength, this is stronger growth than any other State in the country.

Mr Speaker, as the economy grows we need jobs to follow.

In 2014-15, employment growth slowed to half a percent.

This was the weakest result since 2012-13 when the previous government undertook severe cuts to the government workforce.

But employment growth is forecast to improve to 2% growth by the end of this term.

This reflects improving domestic activity, including an increase in household spending, dwelling investment and the lower Australian dollar improving the competitiveness of the services export sector.

This will encourage more Queenslanders to participate in the labour market.

Unemployment however, is forecast to remain around 6% over the coming years.

Mr Speaker this is too high.

Putting downward pressure on the unemployment rate will be the enduring challenge of this term.

There is nothing more important for each and every Queenslander than to have the opportunity to gain work.

Labor believes in Queensland, and in Queenslanders.

We believe in the value and dignity of work, in opportunity, equality, and fairness.

It is the very reason why the success of our \$1.6 billion *Working Queensland* jobs measures in this Budget are so critical.

### **Jobs now, jobs for the future**

The Palaszczuk Government went to the election promising jobs now and jobs for the future.

This Budget delivers for those Queenslanders seeking a job by implementing our commitment to the *Working Queensland* jobs plan.

More Queenslanders in work means a more prosperous and inclusive future for us all.

Our *Working Queensland* jobs plan will help create the conditions for growing jobs and building new businesses.

Specifically, it will focus on five key priorities:

1. Improving skills and training
2. Enhancing business productivity
3. Boosting Government services
4. Fostering emerging and innovative industries and
5. Building our regions.

A key element of this Budget's \$1.6 billion jobs plan is the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative, which will support some 32,000 Queenslanders back into work.

A return of around \$8 into the economy from every \$1 invested.

Skills improvement will be crucial and the role to be played by the revitalised TAFE sector is significant.

Additional funding of \$34.5 million will be provided over four years to restore TAFE to its rightful place—delivering more foundation courses, more TAFE qualifications through schools and more TAFE teachers.

To better align skills demand and long-term workforce planning, we will also allocate \$40 million to the establishment of *Jobs Queensland* as an independent statutory authority.

And Government will play its part, with 10% of the workforce on all Government projects required to be apprentices and trainees.

This now applies for the first time to Government-owned businesses, and for public-private partnerships over a certain size.

Mr Speaker, this is a budget that will support business.

It factors in our legislated *payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees*, resulting in an estimated \$45 million in tax savings for businesses to reinvest.

Small business will be supported via initiatives such as the *Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow* fund, which will help stay-at-home parents grow their home-based businesses.

Like Elise Easdown, a Brisbane 'mumpreneur' with three young children and a growing online business called 'What's On 4', which she started from home.

It is now an international business providing an online directory for family friendly events, and kids party planning worldwide.

**Local infrastructure for local jobs**

Mr Speaker, Labor Governments recognise that there are times when economic uplift is required, in order to deliver jobs now.

In a decentralised State like Queensland, Government building projects help deliver employment when and where it's most needed.

Today's Budget includes an estimated \$10.1 billion spend on infrastructure across Queensland this year, supporting an estimated 27,500 direct jobs.

This year's capital works Budget is higher by nearly \$400 million, compared to the estimated actual spend last year.

The infrastructure priorities in this Budget are about getting value for money from the delivery of real and tangible local projects right now.

Mr Speaker, today I can announce that this year's Budget, includes an injection of \$500 million of new money over four years, for a *Statewide Schools and Hospitals Fund*.

Real Labor Budgets have education and health at their heart, and these will be the sorts of local hospital and school refurbishments that support local jobs and families.

\$180 million of this \$500 million package will be spent on enhancing regional hospitals.

Essential improvements will be made to hospitals including Caloundra, Roma, Hervey Bay and Gladstone.

This is in addition to the nearly half a billion dollars that will be spent this year alone to continue delivery of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

Education maintenance will receive a crucial \$300 million boost over the next four years.

This is new funding over and above Education Queensland's base budget for maintenance.

These funds will start to address the education maintenance backlog left over recent years.

The \$300 million education maintenance boost will give Queensland families access to quality educational facilities.

Mr Speaker, the Auditor-General has recommended that Queensland invest 1% of the value of its education asset base—per annum—in improving school facilities.

This Budget meets that baseline.

We will see schools refurbished across the length and breadth of Queensland.

Our State Schools, High Schools and Special Schools.

Local projects that will benefit painters, carpenters, tilers and floorers, electricians, plasterers, plumbers and other trades right around the State.

Local tradespeople will be able to register their interest and become an accredited supplier of works, as part of this \$300 million education maintenance boost.

An example of where this government is taking a new approach to education maintenance, is a trial currently underway to upgrade all state schools in the Roma area.

This involves refurbishing classroom spaces—some built in the 1950s for a 1950s curriculum—into modern facilities for a modern curriculum.

The Department of Education is giving preference to regional contractors to support local employment, with a focus on apprentices and trainees.

This will help ensure the economic and social benefits of local projects stay in the region.

Early indications from the Roma trial are that these changes will achieve at least 20% savings, compared to the traditional way of doing things.

Mr Speaker I can also announce today with funds set aside in this Budget, that three new future schools will be built in regional Queensland.

A new \$25 million Special School will finally be built in Cairns, in time for the 2017 school year.

In North West Townsville \$50 million will be spent on a new primary school to be built in time for the 2018 school year. While \$40 million will enable construction to begin on a new Townsville high school to open by 2020.

These will be schools fitted with the technology required to prepare our next generation for the knowledge-economy.

### **Advance Queensland**

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government wants Queensland workers of today to have access to the new jobs of the future.

Queensland's geographical proximity, our shared time zone with Asia and our shared tropical climate with around half the world's population, positions us perfectly as a gateway to the fastest growing regions in the world.

This presents Queensland with immense global opportunities by:

- building on our world recognised expertise in areas such as medical science, biotechnology and robotics—sharing our tropical expertise with the world,
- unlocking our untapped startup potential to turn innovative ideas into new products and services.

The source of Queensland's enormous potential, continues to be our people—our human capital.

The Palaszczuk Government is positive about Queensland's future because we believe in the ability of this and the next generation to drive innovation, build a stronger economy and create jobs.

We need to act now if we want to remain and thrive as a global innovation hub.

*Advance Queensland* is the next important step.

Our *Advance Queensland* strategy was a key point of difference for Labor during the January election.

One of the centrepieces of this Budget is that *Advance Queensland* has been boosted, from an election commitment of \$50 million, to a \$180 million investment.

An investment in innovation, in skills, in education, in business development and in a startup culture to deliver knowledge-based jobs now and into the future.

Without a focus on science and innovation in Queensland, Professor Ian Frazer would not have developed the world's first cervical cancer vaccine here.

And without the Translational Research Institute we would not be able to keep researchers employed in Queensland, exporting future breakthroughs to the world.

We want to attract and develop the best and brightest talent in Queensland, translate our science and technology ideas into commercial and employment outcomes, and play our role in supporting a thriving startup eco-system.

This *Advance Queensland* investment is expected to co-leverage funding and generate total investment of \$300 million.

*Advance Queensland* will include a \$50 million *Best and Brightest Fund* to develop, attract and retain world-class talent—both scientific and entrepreneurial.

Mr Speaker, *Advance Queensland* will also see \$46 million invested through a *Future Jobs Strategy* that will open the door to new industry and research collaborations, tackle the big innovation challenges, focus on translation and deliver 10-year roadmaps for industries with global growth potential.

Three partnerships have already been identified following the Premier's overseas trade mission to the United States:

- The Queensland Emory Drug Discovery Initiative;
- A new Siemens Innovation and Translation Centre at the Translational Research Institute;

- And the Government will support the establishment of a Johnson & Johnson Partnering Office to be located within QUT.

As a Government, we know that the real drivers of economic change are entrepreneurs and ambitious businesses.

That's why *Advance Queensland* will deliver a \$76 million *Business Investment Attraction* package.

To encourage a new wave of Queensland startups, to provide new opportunities for small business, to support proof-of-concept projects and attract co-investment.

Currently only seven per cent of Australia's tech startups are in Brisbane.

Tech startups are vital to job creation and prosperity.

Studies have found that each technology job created leads to five additional jobs in other sectors.

Half Brick Studios is a Brisbane tech startup success story.

Without it, the world wouldn't have 'Fruit Ninja'.

Brisbane also wouldn't have the global headquarters of one of the world's most powerful App developers, employing 85 Queenslanders, with a further 11 positions advertised on their website right now.

To build on successes like Half Brick, this Budget delivers a \$24 million Startup Queensland program, as part of the *Advance Queensland Business Investment Attraction* package.

We will be examining opportunities to offer a time-limited research and development tax credit matching program for technology startups establishing or relocating to Queensland.

We will also provide a three year payroll tax exemption for new companies established in Queensland as part of *Advance Queensland* research programs.

Mr Speaker, the *Advance Queensland Business Investment Attraction* package will include \$52 million to improve access to finance and management support for start-ups and SMEs with ambition to grow in international markets.

This will include a \$12 million *Queensland Commercialisation Program* to support proof-of-concept projects designed to lead to new products and services.

And a \$40 million *Business Development Fund* to provide seed co-investment, to encourage greater angel and venture capital investment in Queensland businesses, to help turn good ideas into a commercial reality.

Mr Speaker, across a spectrum of initiatives, the \$180 million *Advance Queensland* package will provide a roadmap for diversifying our economy and growing the jobs of the future not just for the next three years but for the next three decades.

### **Building our regions**

Mr Speaker, I'm proud to be a Treasurer from regional Queensland—the first since the late 1980s.

During the election we promised that the *Building Our Regions* fund would commence from 2016-17.

However, in light of the need for jobs-generating infrastructure projects to help provide economic uplift to Queensland sooner, I can announce today Mr Speaker that this funding has been brought forward by a full year to commence in 2015-16.

Over the next two years, local councils in rural and regional Queensland will share in an additional \$200 million in infrastructure, through the *Building Our Regions* fund.

\$55 million of this commitment will be set aside for royalty producing local government areas to improve infrastructure in the communities where royalties are actually generated.

From our regional centres to the outback, this Budget recognises that some parts of Queensland are doing it particularly tough.

That's why we will provide \$52 million of drought relief in this Budget, including emergency rebates and freight subsidies.

We will also provide mental health support and bio-security initiatives such as wild dog eradication.

In addition, \$9.5 million will support the bio-security response to the detection of Tropical Race 4 Panama disease—to protect the future of North Queensland's banana industry.

In the North West and South West of our State, we will deliver a \$40 million *Western Roads Upgrade Program*, to improve roads and keep road crews on the job.

Central Queensland has also been doing it tough in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Marcia.

The final damage bill was around \$750 million but there have been untold impacts on those communities.

Today I can announce the provision of \$25 million to revitalise the Yeppoon Foreshore and \$15 million to restore the Rockhampton Riverbank.

We have stepped in to fund these cyclone recovery projects, despite the Federal Government rejecting our request for assistance.

### **Infrastructure**

Mr Speaker, this is an infrastructure Budget—one which delivers over \$10 billion in capital investment, supporting 27,500 direct jobs.

This investment includes a \$4 billion Transport and Roads program to build and upgrade the key transport arteries that will keep Queensland moving:

- Upgrading of the Gateway Motorway North to six lanes;
- The commencement of the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing;
- A suite of roads projects on the Gold Coast in preparation for the Commonwealth Games; and
- Further duplication works on the Bruce Highway.

The capital program includes \$300 million for rail improvements, including early spending to deliver 75 new trains by December 2018.

And business can have certainty that a pipeline of all major infrastructure projects will be properly sequenced through the State-wide Infrastructure Plan and properly costed through *Building Queensland* to deliver maximum value for money.

### **Restoring frontline services**

Mr Speaker, I am proud this is also a Budget that will restore frontline services, with record investment in health and education, to repair the neglect of the last three years.

We will spend more on health and education than ever before, ensuring that the quality of our hospitals and schools are returned to the level Queenslanders expect and deserve.

### Health

Queensland Health's budget will grow by 4% to \$14.2 billion this year—the largest on record—and continue to grow across the forward estimates.

This increase includes growth funding of \$2.3 billion over four years for Queensland Health to deliver frontline services and improved health outcomes for all Queenslanders.

Mr Speaker, the previous Government had chronically underfunded Queensland Health.

Today's Budget redresses this.

In addition, \$361 million is provided over four years to implement the *Outpatient Long Wait Reduction Strategy* to finally address what the former Government wouldn't admit to ...

The 'wait for the wait list'.

This funding has been provided in difficult circumstances, given the Commonwealth's \$11.8 billion in cuts to health have not been restored.

And make no mistake—the Commonwealth's cuts are still expected to place considerable pressure on the Health budget in the out-years.

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government made a commitment to our State's tireless nurses that we would support them to offer the best in patient care.

Today's Budget includes the funding required to deliver on our election commitment to support up to 4,000 new graduate nursing places, as well as employ 400 Nurse Navigators across our Hospital and Health Services to work with patients, assisting them to navigate across the health system.

As a government that looks to address the challenges of the future, we will invest in tackling preventable conditions like type 2 diabetes and heart diseases.

We will do this by partnering with peak bodies to deliver dynamic and proven preventative health programs.

### Education

Mr Speaker, ours is a Government that cares for Queensland families and recognises the importance of investing in our next generation.

That's why we have ensured Queensland's education and training budget is also a record spend, growing by over 7% to \$12.4 billion in 2015-16.

Instead of cutting resources to our schools, we are investing in our schools and our children.

Additional funding of nearly \$250 million over four years is provided to lower class sizes and to provide an extra 875 teachers—including 275 specialist teachers for high schools.

Under this initiative every primary, high and special school will receive an additional staffing allocation.

An additional 45 Guidance officers will be provided for Queensland secondary schools, so that every high school over 500 students will have access to a full-time equivalent Guidance Officer.

We are providing additional funding to our teaching Principals, who work in our small schools across the State to enable them to better manage the running of their schools.

We will provide enhanced middle-management in our primary and special schools to help deliver the curriculum of the future.

As well as increased teacher release time to facilitate greater planning, curriculum co-ordination and collaboration time.

If we want our children to be equipped for the jobs of the future, we need to resource and support our Principals, teachers and support staff to get the job done.

### Public Safety

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government values the safety of the community and is investing in that safety.

The Government has allocated \$31 million over four years as a preliminary response to the *Not Now, Not Ever Report*.

We will soon release a draft *Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy* for public consultation.

Funding of \$32 million over four years is allocated in this Budget to address alcohol-fuelled violence across the State.

A further \$20 million over four years will be provided to the Police Service to target organised crime, alcohol fuelled violence and the drug ice.

And having seen first-hand their importance, \$6 million has been allocated over three years for body worn cameras to improve safety for our police officers.

Frontline services will be bolstered, with:

- 266 new police officers,
- 977 new and replacement police vehicles,

- 155 new and replacement ambulances, and
- 75 additional paramedics.

\$65 million has also been allocated for new and upgraded fire and emergency services facilities and equipment.

#### Tourism

Mr Speaker, when it comes to tourism Queensland is where Australia shines.

Under the previous Government however, no funding certainty was provided for the tourism Budget beyond 2014-15.

The former Government budgeted to cut funding for Tourism and Events Queensland to around half its 2014-15 level by 2018-19, which would have had a real impact on major events, marketing campaigns and on regional tourism operators.

It potentially put a question mark over major events such as the V8 Supercars, Australian Festival of Chamber Music—even the Cairns Amateur Racing Carnival.

All of which support thousands of jobs and generate millions of dollars for the Queensland economy.

The Palaszczuk Government is determined to grow tourism in our state because we know it supports more than 131,000 direct Queensland jobs.

Today's budget restores tourism and events funding, providing a total budget of around \$400 million over four years so the industry can move forward with confidence.

This funding certainty will help grow the capacity of Tourism and Events Queensland, to promote our destinations and drive our tourism growth.

#### The Environment

Mr Speaker, no government has been more committed to protecting the Great Barrier Reef than the Palaszczuk Government.

This commitment has been recognised by UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee.

We will provide an additional \$100 million over five years to protect the iconic Great Barrier Reef.

This funding will enable investment in water quality initiatives and scientific research, together with helping businesses to transition to better environmental practices.

We will also improve coordination of existing Reef water quality spending through annual investment plans and reports.

This addresses the deficiencies recently highlighted by the Auditor-General.

#### Communities

Mr Speaker, one of the fundamental social reforms of this generation is the National Disability Insurance Scheme—a Labor initiative that I've supported since my first term.

Queensland deserves a launch site to ensure that we are ready to participate in the NDIS from 1 July 2016.

Funding of \$1.9 million has been set aside for the launch, which will enable up to 600 people with a disability to progressively commence access to reasonable and necessary services in preparation for the NDIS.

Mr Speaker, families will be supported in this Budget with \$6.6 million over two years to deliver an innovative program of parenting support.

The *Positive Parenting Program* will include a state-wide free service, providing face-to-face and online training to help improve parenting skills.

Seniors too will be supported in this Budget, with the provision of \$233 million in concessions over the next four years for electricity, water and transport that were cut by the Commonwealth Government.

### **Innovative approaches**

Mr Speaker, when it comes to tackling complex social and economic challenges, the Palaszczuk Government is committed to innovation.

We intend to take a collaborative approach to working with the private sector and NGOs on financing solutions to difficult problems.

After several months of investigation, I can announce that the Government will pilot three Social Benefit Bonds.

These Bonds will examine ways to partner with service providers and the private sector in the areas of re-offending, homelessness and indigenous disadvantage.

This initiative will aim to source funds from private investors and provide a return when agreed social outcomes are met—improving service delivery and saving money.

I can also announce today that the Government will launch a new Market-Led Proposals framework to enable the private sector to submit projects for potential partnership with the State.

The business community will be encouraged to propose solutions to major infrastructure challenges, and submit these for coordinated assessment via a Market-Led Proposals portal.

We want to engage more seamlessly with industry to secure new projects—proposals which can capture economic uplift and job opportunities.

Market-led proposals will allow Queensland to look beyond the Commonwealth's failure to help fund Queensland's next-generation infrastructure projects.

It could allow us to consider a genuine partnership with the private sector to deliver projects like Cross River Rail.

### **Responsible Debt Management**

While Queensland's operating position is back in the black, it is clear that the level of debt we are carrying remains too high.

Mr Speaker, it is time to take the politics out of debt. It's time to roll up our sleeves and systematically set about reducing the State's debt levels.

Today I hand down the first Queensland budget in 16 years to reduce debt.

Our *Debt Action Plan* will deliver \$9.6 billion in debt reduction by 2017-18.

This is the first Queensland Budget since 1999-2000 to project a reduction in General Government debt across the forward estimates.

Total borrowings are forecast to be lower over every year of the forward estimates, compared with those forecast by the previous Government.

After factoring in revenue write-downs and critically needed funding for health and education, general government borrowings are still forecast to be more than \$3.7 billion lower in 2017-18, than they were in 2014-15.

This debt reduction is achieved without selling assets.

It is achieved through a *Debt Action Plan*, prompted by the Review of State Finances.

### **Review of State Finances**

Mr Speaker, in accordance with our 2015 election commitment, the Government commissioned Queensland Treasury to undertake a review of the State's finances, for publication as part of the first State Budget of the term.

We saw no need to employ highly paid external people—certainly not a former federal Treasurer.

We had confidence in the independent officers of Treasury for such a task.

The Review of State Finances made recommendations for a revised set of fiscal principles that will see the Government direct its focus towards targeting a reduced general government debt-to-revenue ratio over this term.

In 2014-15, Queensland's debt-to-revenue ratio was 87%.

The Review of State Finances advised that a reduction to between 70-80% over the next decade was desirable.

Today I can confirm that as a result of measures taken in this Budget, Queensland's debt to revenue ratio will be reduced to around 70%—not over the next decade, but over the forward estimates.

### **Debt Action Plan**

Achieving these fiscal principles requires a new approach.

The Government's *Debt Action Plan* will refocus the State's balance sheet through three initiatives.

A \$4.1 billion reduction in General Government debt is achieved from re-gearing our energy network businesses.

This is the first step in merging these businesses as committed at the election.

It was recommended by the independent Treasury's Review of State Finances, and is supported by analysis by KPMG which states that there will be no impact on electricity prices.

With these assets staying in government ownership, we have an obligation to make them work harder and more efficiently for the people of Queensland.

This will result in lower general government interest expenses of around \$600 million over the forward estimates—without the need for asset sales.

The second measure of our *Debt Action Plan* will see total State debt reduced by a further \$3.4 billion, through meeting Long Service Leave obligations on an 'as required basis', rather than holding a central investment allocation.

This measure was also identified by the Review of State Finances.

Queensland is the only Australian jurisdiction to fund long service leave in this manner.

The standard practice of all other States and Territories is to fund long service leave when the leave is taken.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Clayfield, your interjections are not being taken. If you persist you will receive a warning under standing order 253 or 253A.

**Mr PITT:** The Government considers the current approach of holding significant financial assets—at the same time as significant levels of debt—is no longer appropriate.

Importantly, there will be no change for employees, who will not experience any difference in the way their long service leave is paid.

Long service leave entitlements are guaranteed by legislation, and will be paid when claimed.

This measure will allow us to reduce interest repayments by just under \$600 million over the forward estimates—without the need for asset sales.

The third element of our *Debt Action Plan* will see total State debt reduced by \$2 billion over five years, through a time-limited suspension of annual employer contributions to the Defined Benefit Scheme.

The Scheme will remain 100% fully funded at all times.

Mr Speaker, Queensland is the only Australian jurisdiction to fully fund its defined benefit superannuation liabilities.

The Palaszczuk Government made an election commitment that we would target full funding of long-term liabilities—such as superannuation and WorkCover—in accordance with actuarial advice.

And we have confirmed this commitment again as a fiscal principle in today's Budget.

Recent valuations by the State Actuary indicate the defined benefit scheme currently has a funding surplus of more than \$10 billion.

On the more conservative accounting basis, the scheme currently has a surplus in the range of \$2 to 2.5 billion.

Given the size of the surplus and the importance of reducing the State's debt, the Government will suspend employer contributions in the defined benefit scheme for up to five years.

No money is taken out.

Nothing is being raided.

To suggest anything else is playing politics and scaremongering.

The degree to which employer contributions need to be increased or decreased is assessed every three years by the boards of most superannuation funds—based on actuarial advice.

In this case, the State Actuary has provided written advice that this measure can be undertaken, with the scheme remaining fully funded for its approximately 50,000 members—as is guaranteed by legislation.

Again, importantly, there will be no change in entitlements for defined benefit members and the scheme will remain at least 100% fully funded.

There will also be absolutely no change to the accumulation superannuation scheme to which the vast majority of Queensland public service belong.

This measure will reduce State debt by \$2 billion over five years and result in lower interest expenses of around \$150 million over the forward estimates.

Again, without the need for asset sales.

Mr Speaker, the combined impact of these three initiatives is general government debt reduction of \$9.6 billion over this term.

And a reduction in our total interest bill of around \$1.35 billion over the forward estimates.

All without the need to massively raise taxes, fees and charges, and without the need for the asset sales that we were told by the former government were our 'only choices'.

This is a responsible step-change in approaching the State's debt, and one that should be supported by all members of this House.

This Government will always be vigilant about the quality of our credit and responsibly managing the finances.

### **Next steps**

Mr Speaker, while this may be the Palaszczuk Government's first Budget, it will not be the last to pay down debt over the forward estimates.

The measures announced today cannot simply be one off measures.

The importance of strong fiscal discipline going forward cannot be understated.

We will continue to look at ways to improve the State's finances, consistent with both our core principles and our fiscal principles, and our commitment to grow a vibrant Queensland economy.

Over the next six months we will work with Treasury to examine ways for Queenslanders to invest in Queensland.

This due diligence work may include enabling the defined benefit scheme to invest in growing Queensland infrastructure through our energy GOCs.

The defined benefit fund currently invests Queensland money in a range of interstate and overseas infrastructure, including Thames Water in the UK and the Ohio University car parking system in the US.

The fund is also currently carrying historically high levels of cash that could be responsibly invested in Queensland to deliver much needed employment and economic growth.

Our guiding principle will always be no sales and no leases of our income-generating assets.

These assets will always be 100% owned by Government, 100% controlled by Government and 100% of all dividends continuing to be paid to the Government.

But we will look at new approaches, new partnerships and better ways of doing things—to create jobs and deliver growth.

Unlike the previous Government, we will grow our way to prosperity.

Not take the easy option of austerity measures and asset sales.

That hasn't worked elsewhere in the world and it won't work for Queensland.

### **Conclusion**

Mr Speaker, we are a collaborative and consultative government.

We've listened to the concerns of Queenslanders and we've acted to heal the wounds opened by the former government.

Their approach was about asserting the primacy of fiscal austerity, over compassion and consideration for the whole community.

They were more concerned about bankers than battlers.

More concerned about meeting the needs of company executives, than the needs of everyday Queenslanders.

The former government missed a fundamental truth.

That is, the crucial role people play, and that the economy is part of the overall framework by which we live.

The economy is simply a description of our circumstances, and the finances are but a tool to build a community.

People must always be seen as more than simply a number.

I am unashamedly a Treasurer who likes people.

And we are a government that will work to see society and the economy, fit together for the greatest benefit.

Mr Speaker, this is a responsible and measured Budget—pro-growth and pro-jobs—which delivers vital funding for health and education.

The Budget demonstrates our responsible fiscal management.

It is the first Budget in 16 years to reduce debt every year of the forward estimates.

Mr Speaker, this Budget demonstrates that there is a better way.

It sets Queensland on a new course.

A return to growth.

A return to optimism.

As Queenslanders get back to work, as businesses get back to hiring, as we get on with the job of growing the economy.

And as we secure Queensland's most priceless natural asset for future generations—the Great Barrier Reef.

This is a Budget that's prepared to undertake long overdue balance sheet measures.

Paying down debt.

Keeping our State-owned businesses in public hands, but operating them like businesses should be.

These are financially responsible reforms.

Reforms that are fair, that promote growth and create jobs.

Jobs now, and jobs for the future.

The jobs we want our children and grandchildren to have.

Hi-tech, knowledge-based jobs.

Jobs that rely on innovation and creativity, and our strengths in education.

Jobs that attract international visitors, that promote export growth, that attract inward investment.

We're building a diversified Queensland economy for the future. One that will thrive—no matter what the global economic conditions.

This is what Queenslanders do.

We believe we can once again lead the way for growth in this country.

Mr Speaker, this Palaszczuk Labor Government will never forget why it was elected:

To get Queenslanders back to work and to grow our economy.

With the next generation always in our minds and in our hearts.

I commend the Bills to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation Bill 2015 [\[780\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation Bill 2015, explanatory notes [\[781\]](#).

### First Reading

**Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (3.20 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.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! In accordance with standing order 177, the bill is set down for its second reading.

### ADJOURNMENT



**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.21 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3.21 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, Seeneey, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams