



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 15 September 2015

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TUESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2015



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

ASSENT TO BILLS



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from His Excellency the Governor a letter in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letter will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letter for the information of members.

The Honourable P.W. Wellington MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of Her Majesty The Queen on the date shown:

Date of Assent: 22 July 2015

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Land Court Act 2000, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 and the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 for particular purposes”

“A Bill for An Act to amend the Further Education and Training Act 2014 by inserting provisions that repeal the Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Act 2014 and provide for transitional matters”

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

23 July 2015

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 23 July 2015, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 22 July 2015 [\[917\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I understand that students from the Caningeraba State School in the electorate of Burleigh are currently in attendance in the gallery.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Minister



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 1 June 2015 the Leader of the Opposition wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services deliberately misled the House during question time on 21 May 2015. I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee. I will not be referring the matter. I seek leave to have the ruling incorporated in the parliamentary record.

Leave granted.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members,

On 1 June 2015, the Leader of the Opposition wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services deliberately misled the House during Question Time on 21 May 2015 when she stated that:

'I want to point out issues relating to privacy matters. This morning I have heard that lot opposite talk about privacy issues, when they had the hide and cheek when on this side of the House to table documents and to talk about the privacy issues of the member for Stafford and also myself as the member for Bundamba.'

In his letter to me, the Leader of the Opposition stated that he had "... been unable to find any instance where the then LNP Government tabled documents that related to privacy issues of the Member for Stafford" and that he "... believes the Member for Bundamba knows full well that the LNP has never tabled such documents".

I sought further information from the Minister about the allegations made against her, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Minister explained that she only intended her reference to the tabling of private information in the House to apply to documents pertaining to herself, and not the Member for Stafford.

The Minister also stated that her statements had been made during the cut and thrust of parliamentary debate and that she did not intend to mislead the House.

Standing Order 269(4) requires:

'In considering whether the matter should be referred to the committee, the Speaker shall take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter. No matter should be referred to the ethics committee if the matter is technical or trivial and does not warrant the further attention of the House.'

On the evidence before me, I considered that the Minister's statements were imprecise and may have caused a person hearing her statement to have been misled into thinking that a member of the former Government had tabled private information about the Member for Stafford.

However, taking all the material before me into account, I am satisfied with the Minister's explanation that the statements were made in answer to a question without notice, not a prepared speech, and that she did not intend to mislead the House.

On that basis, I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter.

I would like to take this opportunity, however, to remind all members of the privilege afforded to them in making statements in the House and that this privilege needs to be balanced with the responsibility to take care in making statements in the House. Members should also take it upon themselves the obligation to correct or clarify the record at the earliest opportunity should the occasion arise when their statements are incorrect or misleading.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence, various dates, relating to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the Member for Bundamba [918].

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Minister



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 29 July 2015 the member for Hervey Bay wrote to me alleging that the Attorney-General deliberately misled the House in her response to question on notice No. 341. I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee. I will not be referring the matter. I seek leave to have the ruling incorporated in the parliamentary record.

Leave granted.

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members,

On 29 July 2015, the Member for Hervey Bay wrote to me alleging that the Attorney-General deliberately misled the House in her response to Question on Notice No. 341 when she stated that:

'... Of these 38 young people, two received a new charged offence while in the care of the boot camp program ... '

In his letter to me, the Member for Hervey Bay stated that the boot camp operators had never had to lodge an incident report with the relevant departments as a result of police involvement with boot camp participants, indicating there had been no new charges.

I sought further information from the Attorney-General about the allegations made against her, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Attorney-General disputed the allegation made against her, and stated that the early intervention youth boot camp program comprises two phases funded by the State Government, the intensive residential phase and the community integration phase. The Attorney-General advised that the two offences occurred during the community integration phase, and accordingly the boot camp operators may not have been aware of the offences.

Standing Order 269(4) requires:

'In considering whether the matter should be referred to the committee, the Speaker shall take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter. No matter should be referred to the ethics committee if the matter is technical or trivial and does not warrant the further attention of the House.'

Taking all the material before me into account, the allegation of deliberately misleading the Parliament appears to stem from a difference in the interpretation of 'in the care of' in relation to youth participation in the EIYBC program, specifically, whether this relates to both phases or simply the residential phase.

The interpretation of the term 'in the care of' by the Attorney-General appears to be a reasonable interpretation as the community integration phase forms part of the package funded by the State Government, and therefore her response does not appear to be misleading.

On this basis, I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence, various dates, relating to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills [\[919\]](#).

PETITIONS

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

Net-Free Fishing Zones

Mrs Frecklington, from 20,162 petitioners, requesting the House to block legislation that introduces resource allocation through the establishment of net-free fishing zones in Queensland [\[920\]](#).

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

Gas Rebate

118 petitioners, requesting the House to make provision for increasing the Queensland government rebate for gas to match the current rebate for electricity [\[921\]](#).

Turtle Cove, Proposed Development

12 petitioners, requesting the House to take note of and confirm Ministers are aware of certain items of correspondence and a non-conforming petition tabled on 16 October 2013 relating to the proposed development by Anscape Pty Ltd in Turtle Cove [\[922\]](#).

Vaccination

206 petitioners, requesting the House to continue to give every child the opportunity for childcare, kindergarten, school or other education or care, regardless of vaccination status [\[923\]](#).

The Clerk presented the following paper petitions for presentation and e-petitions, lodged and sponsored by the honourable members indicated—

Burnett Street, Buderim

Mr Dickson, from 397 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that no right turn into the proposed aged care facility in Buderim is permitted from Burnett Street, due to safety concerns and adverse impacts on traffic, residences, businesses and the shopping precinct [\[924, 925\]](#).

Single-Use Plastic Bags, Ban

Ms Lauga, from 2,829 petitioners, requesting the House to support a total ban on single-use plastic bags [\[926, 927\]](#).

Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre

Mr Cripps, from 6,519 petitioners, requesting the House to instruct the Palaszczuk Government to reinstate financial support and allocate sufficient QPWS Rangers to the Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre, to ensure proper care [\[928, 929\]](#).

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petition, sponsored and lodged by the Clerk in accordance with standing orders 119(3) and (4)—

Cairns and Mourilyan Ports

6,116 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Sustainable Ports Development Bill to include the ports of Cairns and Mourilyan as 'priority ports' [\[930, 931\]](#).

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

Gold Coast Airport, Flight Path

Mr Stevens, from 1,235 petitioners, requesting the House to call upon the Federal government to reject Gold Coast Airport Pty Ltd's proposal to install an Instrument Landing System at Gold Coast Airport that will create a new flight path over homes [\[932\]](#).

Woodhill State School, Car Parking

Mr Krause, from 231 petitioners, requesting the House to take all steps necessary to cause the redevelopment and construction of adequate parking facilities at the Woodhill State School [\[933\]](#).

North Stradbroke Island, Mining

Dr Robinson, from 177 petitioners, requesting the House to engage and consult with the North Stradbroke Island Community and to commit to adhering to a 2035 end date for mining, to ensure that a proper economic transition can be planned for and delivered [\[934\]](#).

Toowoomba State High School, Wilsonton Campus

Mr Watts, from 501 petitioners, requesting the House to fund the construction of an Arts and Sports Hall at Toowoomba State High School, Wilsonton Campus within this budget cycle [\[935\]](#).

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

Cannabis, Medical Use

1,474 petitioners, requesting the House to amend Regulation 270A Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 to allow for medical use of cannabis [\[936\]](#).

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—

20 July 2015—

[837](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 4, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 27 March 2015 and 5 May 2015

22 July 2015—

[838](#) Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee: Report No. 3, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 27 March 2015 and 2 June 2015

28 July 2015—

[839](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 1: 2015-16—Results of audit: Internal control systems 2014-15

[840](#) Palmgrove Water Board—Final Report 1 July 2013 to 2 October 2014

30 July 2015—

[841](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Mr C R Dick) to an ePetition (2409-15) sponsored by Miss Boyd, from 1,311 petitioners, requesting the House to keep the Radiation Therapy Cancer Services at the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital in public hands through the provision of a government owned, operated and staffed radiation oncology

31 July 2015—

[842](#) Mt Gravatt Showgrounds Trust—Annual Report 1 May 2014—30 April 2015

[843](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on Trade Mission to Singapore by the Premier and Minister for the Arts (Hon Palaszczuk) 27-29 June 2015

[844](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on World Heritage Committee and other meetings in Bonn, Germany by the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Dr Miles) 27 June—3 July 2015

6 August 2015—

[845](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on Official Visit to Singapore, the United Kingdom and Germany by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade (Hon Trad) 24 June-5 July 2015

[846](#) The Queensland Music Festival Pty Ltd—Financial report for the year ended 30 September 2013

[847](#) The Queensland Music Festival Pty Ltd—Financial report for the year ended 30 September 2014

[848](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Mr C R Dick) to a paper petition (2427-15) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) from 483 petitioners requesting the House to ensure that the new ambulance station at Ningi and the existing station at Bribie Island be fully equipped and manned on a full time basis

10 August 2015—

[849](#) Response from the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Sport and Racing (Mr Bryne) to an ePetition (2370-15) sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament under provision of Standing Order 119(4) from 704 petitioners requesting the House to block legislation that introduces resource allocation through the establishment of net-free fishing zones in Queensland

[850](#) Response from the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Sport and Racing (Mr Bryne) to a paper petition (2421-15) presented by Mr Bennett from 4,350 petitioners requesting the House to block legislation that introduces resource allocation through the establishment of net-free fishing zones in Queensland

[851](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 6, 55th Parliament—Holidays and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

13 August 2015—

- [852](#) Response from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Ms Miller) to an ePetition (2398-15) sponsored by 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
- [853](#) Response from the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing (Mr Byrne) to a paper petition (2426-15), presented by the Clerk under provision of Standing Order 119(3) from 293 petitioners requesting the House to withdraw the proposed development of a Greyhound Racing Complex at Cronulla Park, Slacks Creek
- [854](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade (Ms Trad) to a paper petition (2418-15) presented by Dr Robinson, and an ePetition (2388-15) sponsored by Dr Robinson, from 243 and 1,026 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to prioritise the finalisation of the Eastern Busway Project to Redland City, and to ensure that important, long-awaited infrastructure receives the highest consideration for funding on both the State and Federal government agendas
- [855](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade (Ms Trad) to a paper petition (2416-15) presented by Mr Hinchliffe from 18 petitioners requesting the House to call on the Minister to arrange for GoCard purchase and 'top-up' functionality to be established at Taigum Square Shopping Centre
- [856](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to a paper petition (2417-15) presented by the Clerk under provision of Standing Order 119(3) from 410 petitioners drawing the attention of the House to what they believe is an exorbitant supply charge for low users of reticulated AGL gas
- [857](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games (Ms Jones) to an ePetition (2390-15) sponsored by Mr Powell and a paper petition (2419-15) presented by Mr Powell, from 282 and 1,273 petitioners respectively, drawing the attention of the House to the need for an indoor aquatic centre for the communities of Maleny and the broader Blackall Range and 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
- [858](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games (Ms Jones) to an ePetition (2349-14) sponsored by the former member for Townsville, 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

14 August 2015—

- [859](#) Response from the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation (Ms Enoch) to a paper petition (2424-15) presented by Ms Palaszczuk from 355 petitioners requesting the House to: either gift the not-for-profit South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre the land at 28 Wirraway Parade, Inala; or provide a 20 year lease on the land; and to demolish the existing unsafe demountable building and replace it with a new demountable building
- [860](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to an ePetition (2389-15) sponsored by Mr Sorensen from 35 petitioners requesting the House to oversee urgent works are done to make Elizabeth Street, Urangan safe for traffic to negotiate

17 August 2015—

- [861](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade (Ms Trad) to a paper petition (2423-15) presented by Mr Ryan from 156 petitioners requesting the House to investigate the feasibility of a southbound bus stop on Morayfield Road for the residents of the Burpengary Pine Village mobile home park and that appropriate pedestrian facilities be installed at the entrance to the village to safely access a southbound bus stop
- [862](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade (Ms Trad) to a paper petition (2425-15) presented by Mrs Smith from 478 petitioners requesting the House to install a Go Card top up machine at the Oxley News agency

18 August 2015—

- [863](#) Letter, dated 17 August 2015, from Peter Russo MP, Acting Chair, Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon Peter Wellington, regarding referral of matters to the Ethics Committee

20 August 2015—

- [864](#) Director of Forensic Disability—Annual Report 2013-14

24 August 2015—

- [865](#) Inspector-General of Emergency Management: Report 1: 2014-15, Review of local governments' emergency warning capability

25 August 2015—

- [866](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 7, 55th Parliament—Portfolio subordinate legislation tabled between 26 March 2015 and 5 May 2015
- [867](#) Inspector-General of Emergency Management: Report 2: 2014-15, Review of state agency integration at a local and district level

27 August 2015—

- [868](#) Inspector-General of Emergency Management: Report 3: 2014-15, Review of cyclone and storm tide sheltering arrangements
- [869](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 3, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 28 October 2014 and 26 March 2015, government response

28 August 2015—

- [870](#) Inspector-General of Emergency Management: Discussion Paper 1: 2014-15, Evaluation of Emergency Management Training and Exercise Arrangements

31 August 2015—

- [871](#) Public Report of Ministerial Expenses for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015
- [872](#) Public Report of Office Expenses, Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015
- [873](#) Ministerial Gifts Register—Reportable Gifts 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015
- [874](#) Statement for Public Disclosure: expenditure of the Office of the Speaker for the period 1 July 2014 to 23 March 2015
- [875](#) Statement for Public Disclosure: expenditure of the Office of the Speaker for the period 24 March 2015 to 30 June 2015
- [876](#) Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 2, 55th Parliament—Inquiry into the adequacy of existing financial protections for Queensland's seniors

1 September 2015—

- [877](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 4, 55th Parliament—Building Queensland Bill 2015
- [878](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 5, 55th Parliament—Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2015
- [879](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 6, 55th Parliament—Sustainable Ports Development Bill 2015

7 September 2015—

- [880](#) Letter, dated 7 September 2015, from the Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, to the Clerk of the Parliament, advising of a decision of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly regarding an extension of the reporting date of the Finance and Administration Committee's consideration of the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 and the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (Protecting Firefighters) Amendment Bill 2015 to 8 September 2015
- [881](#) Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal—Annual Report 2014-15

8 September 2015—

- [882](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on an Official Trade and Investment Mission by the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing (Mr Byrne) to Indonesia, 9-13 August 2015
- [883](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 5, 55th Parliament—2015-16 Budget Estimates
- [884](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 5, 55th Parliament—2015-16 Budget Estimates—Additional information
- [885](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 8, 55th Parliament—Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015
- [886](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 9, 55th Parliament—Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (Protecting Firefighters) Amendment Bill 2015

9 September 2015—

- [887](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 5, 55th Parliament—Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2015—Erratum

10 September 2015—

- [888](#) Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee: Report No. 3, 55th Parliament—2015-16 Budget Estimates
- [889](#) Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee: Report No. 3, 55th Parliament—2015-16 Budget Estimates—Additional information
- [890](#) Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee: Report No. 4, 55th Parliament—2015—16 Budget Estimates
- [891](#) Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee: Report No. 4, 55th Parliament—2015—16 Budget Estimates—Additional Information

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- [892](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 7, 55th Parliament—2015-16 Budget Estimates
- [893](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 7, 55th Parliament—2015-16 Budget Estimates—Additional Information
- [894](#) Queensland Treasury Holdings Pty Ltd—Consolidated Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2015
- [895](#) Brisbane Port Holdings Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2015
- [896](#) DBCT Holdings Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2015
- [897](#) Queensland Lottery Corporation Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2015
- [898](#) City North Infrastructure Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2015
- [899](#) Health and Ambulance Services Committee: Report No. 2, 55th Parliament—Personal health promotion interventions using telephone and web-based technologies, government response
- [900](#) Health and Ambulance Services Committee: Report No. 3, 55th Parliament—2015-16 Budget Estimates

- [901](#) Health and Ambulance Services Committee: Report No. 3, 55th Parliament—2015-16 Budget Estimates—Additional Information
- [902](#) Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 3, 55th Parliament—2015-16 Budget Estimates
- [903](#) Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 3, 55th Parliament—2015-16 Budget Estimates—Additional Information
- [904](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 10, 55th Parliament—2015-16 Budget Estimates Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2015
- [905](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 11, 55th Parliament—2015-16 Budget Estimates Appropriation Bill 2015
- [906](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Reports No. 10 and 11, 55th Parliament—2015-16 Budget Estimates—Additional Information
- [907](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 6, 55th Parliament—Electoral (Redistribution Commission) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2015
- [908](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 7, 55th Parliament—2015-16 Budget Estimates
- [909](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 7, 55th Parliament—2015-16 Budget Estimates—Additional Information

14 September 2015—

- [910](#) 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 Mount Emerald Wind Farm Pty Ltd at Springmount Road and Kippin Drive, Arriga
- [911](#) 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 Mount Emerald Wind Farm Pty Ltd at Springmount Road and Kippin Drive, Arriga, Annexure A
- [912](#) 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 Mount Emerald Wind Farm Pty Ltd at Springmount Road and Kippin Drive, Arriga, Annexures B-G
- [913](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 8, 55th Parliament—Liquor and Fair Trading Legislation (Red Tape Reduction) Amendment Bill 2015
- [914](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 9, 55th Parliament—Oversight of the Office of the Information Commissioner
- [915](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 6, 55th Parliament—Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Bill 2015
- [916](#) Health and Ambulance Services Committee: Report No. 4, 55th Parliament—Health Legislation (Waiting List Integrity) Amendment Bill 2015

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994—

- [937](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 74
- [938](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 74, explanatory notes

Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012—

- [939](#) Heavy Vehicle National Law (Postponement) Repeal Regulation 2015, No. 75
- [940](#) Heavy Vehicle National Law (Postponement) Repeal Regulation 2015, No. 75, explanatory notes

Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990—

- [941](#) Superannuation Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 76
- [942](#) Superannuation Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 76, explanatory notes

Penalties and Sentences Act 1992—

- [943](#) Penalties and Sentences Regulation 2015, No. 77
- [944](#) Penalties and Sentences Regulation 2015, No. 77, explanatory notes

District Court of Queensland Act 1967, Magistrates Courts Act 1921—

- [945](#) District Court of Queensland Regulation 2015, No. 78
- [946](#) District Court of Queensland Regulation 2015, No. 78, explanatory notes

Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004—

- [947](#) Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 79
- [948](#) Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 79, explanatory notes

Crime and Corruption Act 2001—

- [949](#) Crime and Corruption Regulation 2015, No. 80
- [950](#) Crime and Corruption Regulation 2015, No. 80, explanatory notes

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003—

- [951](#) Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Regulation 2015, No. 81
- [952](#) Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Regulation 2015, No. 81, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

- [953](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 82
- [954](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 82, explanatory notes

Forestry Act 1959, Marine Parks Act 2004, Nature Conservation Act 1992, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

- [955](#) Forestry Regulation 2015, No. 83
- [956](#) Forestry Regulation 2015, No. 83, explanatory notes

Building Act 1975—

- [957](#) Building Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 84
- [958](#) Building Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 84, explanatory notes

Partnership Act 1891—

- [959](#) Partnership Regulation 2015, No. 85
- [960](#) Partnership Regulation 2015, No. 85, explanatory notes

Queensland Training Assets Management Authority Repeal Act 2015—

- [961](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 86
- [962](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 86, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

- [963](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Accreditation and Other Provisions) Regulation 2015, No. 87
- [964](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Accreditation and Other Provisions) Regulation 2015, No. 87, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

- [965](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 88
- [966](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 88, explanatory notes

Adult Proof of Age Card Act 2008, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

- [967](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 89
- [968](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 89, explanatory notes

Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 2005—

- [969](#) Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Regulation 2015, No. 90
- [970](#) Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Regulation 2015, No. 90, explanatory notes

Industrial Relations Act 1999—

- [971](#) Industrial Relations Amendment Regulation (No 2) 2015, No. 91
- [972](#) Industrial Relations Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 91, explanatory notes

Pastoral Workers' Accommodation Act 1980—

- [973](#) Pastoral Workers' Accommodation Regulation 2015, No. 92
- [974](#) Pastoral Workers' Accommodation Regulation 2015, No. 92, explanatory notes

Private Employment Agents Act 2005—

- [975](#) Private Employment Agents (Code of Conduct) Regulation 2015, No. 93
- [976](#) Private Employment Agents (Code of Conduct) Regulation 2015, No. 93, explanatory notes

Health and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014—

- [977](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 94
- [978](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 94, explanatory notes

Research Involving Human Embryos and Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act 2003—

- [979](#) Research Involving Human Embryos and Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Regulation 2015, No. 95
- [980](#) Research Involving Human Embryos and Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Regulation 2015, No. 95, explanatory notes

Public Health Act 2005, Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979—

[981](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 96

[982](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 96, explanatory notes

Ambulance Service Act 1991—

[983](#) Ambulance Service Regulation 2015, No. 97

[984](#) Ambulance Service Regulation 2015, No. 97, explanatory notes

Education (Capital Assistance) Act 1993—

[985](#) Education (Capital Assistance) Regulation 2015, No. 98

[986](#) Education (Capital Assistance) Regulation 2015, No. 98, explanatory notes

Water Act 2000—

[987](#) Water Resource (Gulf) Amendment Plan (No. 1) 2015, No. 99

[988](#) Water Resource (Gulf) Amendment Plan (No. 1) 2015, No. 99, explanatory notes

Payroll Tax Rebate, Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2015—

[989](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 100

[990](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 100, explanatory notes

Housing Act 2003—

[991](#) Housing Regulation 2015, No. 101

[992](#) Housing Regulation 2015, No. 101, explanatory notes

Statutory Instruments Act 1992

[993](#) Statutory Instruments Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 102

[994](#) Statutory Instruments Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 102, explanatory notes

Hospitals Foundations Act 1982—

[995](#) Hospitals Foundations Regulation 2015, No. 103

[996](#) Hospitals Foundations Regulation 2015, No. 103, explanatory notes

Safe Night Out Legislation Amendment Act 2014—

[997](#) Safe Night Out Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2015, No. 104

[998](#) Safe Night Out Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2015, No. 104, explanatory notes

Coroners Act 2003—

[999](#) Coroners Regulation 2015, No. 105

[1000](#) Coroners Regulation 2015, No. 105, explanatory notes

Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014—

[1001](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 106

[1002](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 106, explanatory notes

Queensland Heritage Act 1992, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Sustainable Planning Act 2009—

[1003](#) Queensland Heritage Regulation 2015, No. 107

[1004](#) Queensland Heritage Regulation 2015, No. 107, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[1005](#) Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 108

[1006](#) Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 108, explanatory notes

Recreation Areas Management and Another Act Amendment Act 2014—

[1007](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 109

[1008](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 109, explanatory notes

Forestry Act 1959, Nature Conservation Act 1992, Recreation Areas Management Act 2006—

[1009](#) Recreation Areas Management and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 110

[1010](#) Recreation Areas Management and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 110, explanatory notes

Financial Accountability Act 2009—

[1011](#) Financial and Performance Management Amendment Standard (No. 1) 2015, No. 111

[1012](#) Financial and Performance Management Amendment Standard (No. 1) 2015, No. 111, explanatory notes

Financial Accountability Act 2009—

[1013](#) Financial Accountability Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 112

[1014](#) Financial Accountability Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 112, explanatory notes

Industrial Relations Act 1999—

- [1015](#) Industrial Relations Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 113
- [1016](#) Industrial Relations Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 113, explanatory notes

State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971—

- [1017](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (State Development Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 114
- [1018](#) State Development and Public Works Organisation (State Development Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 114, explanatory notes

Aboriginal Land Act 1991—

- [1019](#) Aboriginal Land Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 115
- [1020](#) Aboriginal Land Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 115, explanatory notes

Place Names Act 1994—

- [1021](#) Place Names Regulation 2015, No. 116
- [1022](#) Place Names Regulation 2015, No. 116, explanatory notes

Water Act 2000—

- [1023](#) Water Resource (Barron) Amendment Plan (No. 1) 2015, No. 117
- [1024](#) Water Resource (Barron) Amendment Plan (No. 1) 2015, No. 117, explanatory notes

Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, Police Service Administration Act 1990—

- [1025](#) Police Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 118
- [1026](#) Police Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 118, explanatory notes

Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994—

- [1027](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 119
- [1028](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 119, explanatory notes

Major Events Act 2014—

- [1029](#) Major Events (Townsville 400) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 120
- [1030](#) Major Events (Townsville 400) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 120, explanatory notes

Water Act 2000—

- [1031](#) Water Resource (Fitzroy Basin) Amendment Plan (No. 1) 2015, No. 121
- [1032](#) Water Resource (Fitzroy Basin) Amendment Plan (No. 1) 2015, No. 121, explanatory notes

Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014—

- [1033](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 122
- [1034](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 122, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Sustainable Planning Act 2009, Water Act 2000—

- [1035](#) Water and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 123
- [1036](#) Water and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2015, No. 123, explanatory notes

Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991—

- [1037](#) Supreme Court (Admission) Amendment Rule (No. 1) 2015, No. 124
- [1038](#) Supreme Court (Admission) Amendment Rule (No. 1) 2015, No. 124, explanatory notes

Fisheries Act 1994, Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994—

- [1039](#) Fisheries and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 125
- [1040](#) Fisheries and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 125, explanatory notes

Major Sports Facilities Act 2001—

- [1041](#) Major Sports Facilities Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 126
- [1042](#) Major Sports Facilities Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 126, explanatory notes

EXEMPT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following exempt statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

- [1043](#) Code of Practice—Emu farming
- [1044](#) Code of Practice—Emu farming, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[1045](#) Code of Practice—Ecologically sustainable lethal take of flying-foxes for crop protection

[1046](#) Code of Practice—Ecologically sustainable lethal take of flying-foxes for crop protection, explanatory notes

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Ms Miller)—

[1047](#) Queensland Police Service—Annual Report for Authorities for Assumed Identities 2014-15

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Minister for Sport and Racing (Mr Byrne)—

[1048](#) Racing Queensland—Annual Report for Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board 2014-15

MEMBERS' PAPERS

The following members' papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Mermaid Beach (Mr Stevens)—

[1049](#) Non-conforming petition opposing the proposed road upgrade to Bermuda Street Broadbeach Waters

Member for Waterford (Ms Fentiman)—

[1050](#) Non-conforming petition regarding excessive fees and charges for travel on the Logan and Gateway Motorways

Member for Mount Isa (Mr Katter)—

[1051](#) Non-conforming petition regarding a drought assistance package to the city of Mount Isa

Member for Sandgate (Mr Hinchliffe) and Member for Kawana (Mr Bleijie)—

[1052](#) Report on Overseas Travel to Attend 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association—Canadian Regional Conference (joint report)

Member for Nanango (Mrs Frecklington)—

[1053](#) Non-conforming petition regarding fresh local seafood

Member for Nanango (Mrs Frecklington)—

[1054](#) Non-conforming petition regarding a plan to ban commercial net fishing in Mackay.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Yeerongpilly Transit Oriented Development



Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): I give notice that I will move—

That, under section 66 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, the House ratify the Yeerongpilly Transit Oriented Development State Planning Regulatory Provision 2014 that was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 5 May 2015.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Domestic and Family Violence



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): Queensland stands together against domestic and family violence. Like most Queenslanders, I struggle to understand the events of last week. I struggle to understand how any human could act in what appears to be such a callous and vicious way to end the life of another. Domestic and family violence is often committed by people who are meant to love and care for their victims or once claimed to love and care for them. We saw what was reported in the media, and families have been ripped apart. There were countless other incidents throughout last week and in the past. Some were reported to police or reported in the media and others were not.

Despite our society's overwhelming rejection of domestic violence, it still happens and it often happens behind closed doors. I have been encouraged by good men who have heard the call and stood up to be the role models we need. The Brisbane Broncos and North Queensland Cowboys, led by Johnathan Thurston and Justin Hodges, raised awareness on the national stage by wearing white armbands during Saturday's game.

It is not just public displays or displays reported in the media where good men are being role models to young men and our community is taking a stand. It is the men in the pubs who call-out a mate on their behaviour. It is the neighbours who hear what may be domestic violence occurring across

the road and make the call to police. It is the police officers and the ambulance workers who respond to these incidents and the social workers, doctors and psychologists who work with women experiencing or leaving domestic violence situations. It is the family members and friends who offer support.

As a government and as a parliament, we are acting, and I thank the opposition and the Leader of the Opposition for their bipartisan approach. Measures we have announced in recent days include: priority attention for anyone who attends the front counter of a police station on domestic violence issues; the need for police supervisors to conduct mandatory quality checks on all over-the-counter requests for domestic violence orders; and the urgent rollout of 300 body worn cameras for police on the Gold Coast to assist in gathering evidence.

In this sitting we will introduce legislation to increase penalties for breaches of domestic violence orders; ensure that domestic violence is specifically recorded on a person's criminal history; establish an independent death review board to identify systemic issues regarding support services for victims; and give domestic violence victims 'special witness' status in the court which could mean an alleged perpetrator is not in the same room while the witness testifies.

The Queensland community has spoken. Domestic violence must stop. Governments cannot do this alone. We need each and every Queenslanders to take a stand and say enough is enough.

Liberal Party of Australia, Leadership

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): At the last federal election Australians had their say on sudden changes of leadership and endorsed a party that promised certainty. They also endorsed a party that promised to lower debt, promised to lower unemployment, promised no cuts to health and education, and promised to govern with decency and respect. They endorsed a party that promised to invest heavily in infrastructure. Australians—and Queenslanders in particular—have been let down.

The coalition has recognised its own poor performance and last night, in the ultimate exercise in self-assessment, it acted. On behalf of this parliament and the Queensland people, I would like to congratulate Malcolm Turnbull on his election as leader of the federal Liberal Party and his new position as the Prime Minister-elect. Can I also convey to Mr Abbott the parliament's best wishes—both to him and his family—during what is no doubt a tough time.

I hope to be speaking with the new Prime Minister in the next 24 hours, and I will convey to him Queensland's willingness to work constructively with his government. There is much to discuss, and I make it very clear to Mr Turnbull that a constructive relationship goes both ways—that we can only achieve great things for the people of Queensland and the people of Australia if we work together and if we listen to the people. That is the type of relationship that sadly Queensland has not had with the federal government over the last couple of years. But a change in leadership will only be valuable if it leads to a change in direction.

The captain's calls of Mr Abbott were not just limited to knighthoods and banning his own ministers from certain TV programs. Mr Abbott was crystal clear that the federal government would have nothing to do with helping to fund major public transport infrastructure in this state—and that must change. Mr Turnbull is well known for often catching public transport, and I want Mr Turnbull to now help fund public transport in this state. Mr Turnbull spoke last night about being competitive in the 21st century. To be competitive, Queenslanders need Mr Turnbull to invest in the infrastructure of the 21st century. Mr Turnbull was part of a government that tore up the rule book when it comes to funding health and education into the future. He needs to work with the states to help rewrite it.

This side of the House—but I hope the entire parliament—wants the best deal possible for Queensland, regardless of who is sitting in the Prime Minister's chair. We will work with the new Prime Minister to help achieve that, but we will also continue to hold him and his government to account when they do not. I wish him well.

Queensland Parliament, Four-Year Terms

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.43 am): This morning the Leader of the House will move a motion for the Finance and Administration Committee to conduct an inquiry into the introduction of four-year terms for the Queensland parliament. The committee will be asked to consider a number of aspects including a comparison with other jurisdictions, the advantages and disadvantages of four-year terms and determining when and how a referendum question might be put to the Queensland people.

The length of parliamentary terms in Queensland has long been a subject of debate. It is something our business community require certainty about. Indeed, it is something that all Queenslanders require certainty about. Mr Speaker, I know that you yourself have had a long interest in this subject. Most recently, you have written to both the opposition leader and me seeking support for changing the length of parliamentary terms to four years. Given the member for Southern Downs' longstanding support for four-year terms, I hope that the LNP opposition, and indeed this parliament, will participate in this inquiry in good faith.

With this committee inquiry, the House will hopefully be given clear direction on how to proceed to a referendum on this important issue. The committee will be asked to report back by 9 November 2015 and hopefully provide clear direction on where Queensland is headed on this important issue.

Syrian Refugees

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.44 am): It was the image that resonated around the world. It was the image that drove home to each of us the true extent of the peril and danger faced by the innocents of Syria as they attempt to flee the horror that has engulfed their homeland—three-year-old Aylan Kurdi lies dead on a Turkish beach. He has paid the ultimate price in his family's desperate bid to find safety and sanctuary. His tiny sneakers, still on his feet, are perhaps the most unbelievable reminder that this is a little boy who stood no chance when he was washed overboard trying to flee his war-ravaged country for a better life.

Like all Queenslanders, like all Australians, like all people around the world, I was deeply saddened and deeply affected by the image. But, importantly, it drove us to action. Queensland stands proud and prepared to accept as many Syrian refugees as we are able to cope with now that the federal government has formally announced 12,000 refugees from the region will be resettled in Australia. I applaud the federal government for this compassionate move and I pledge that we will stand shoulder to shoulder with other states in this move to allow 12,000 refugees to call Australia home. We will welcome them as new Queenslanders, showing our compassion on the international stage.

At the same time we welcome these new citizens, we must never forget the thousands who perished at sea and who will not be able to make that journey. We must never forget children like Aylan Kurdi—the innocents whose lives have been cut appallingly short in their desperation to flee to a better future. The image of Aylan Kurdi in his final rest will remain with, I think, all of us forever.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.46 am): I want to add to the Premier's contribution about the terrible way that domestic and family violence has been thrust into the public eye in recent weeks. This is traditionally a violence that has been hidden from public view. Domestic violence happens behind closed doors—that is what makes it so insidious and so harmful, and maybe that is why it has been so easy for our society to ignore its dreadful and sometimes deadly consequences. But last week this terrible violence spilled out onto the streets of Queensland, reminding us all that we need to act now to curb this evil.

Well, the Palaszczuk government is taking action. Indeed, we had already started. In July we announced a trial of Queensland's first dedicated domestic violence court, with its own dedicated magistrate, at Southport. This was in direct response to the high demand for domestic violence services in Southport, where in the last financial year there were 2,681 DVO applications, accounting for just over 10 per cent of applications statewide. The Southport trial started on 1 September.

We have allocated \$1.1 million for the domestic violence duty lawyer trial across 14 locations statewide. More than that, we announced funding of \$2.1 million to establish an independent Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Board so we can learn from failings and stop them from happening again. As announced by the Premier yesterday, implementation of this review board will be progressed this week.

Our approach has been to bring people together and to work with the legal profession and the judiciary. I chaired a roundtable meeting on domestic and family violence with leaders of the legal community on 18 June. This was an important opportunity to come together with practitioners and judicial officers who are regularly faced with the reality of domestic violence matters in court. At that round table, the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland outlined their initiatives to assist members of the profession in recognising and appropriately responding to issues of domestic violence for their clients. I thank them for their ongoing work.

Additionally, I want to thank the Chief Magistrate and his colleagues for implementing the Domestic and Family Violence Bench Book. As one of the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report, the new bench book provides magistrates with a clear judicial and procedural framework for dealing with domestic and family violence matters so they can deliver a high level of consistency in how the law is applied statewide. This is in addition to other procedural and administrative reforms that are being adopted across jurisdictions.

Another example discussed during this round table was an initiative between the Magistrate's Court and the Family Court to facilitate fast referrals where there are domestic violence matters that may also involve family law issues. This makes it easier for survivors to progress their case, cut down on time frames and give them priority assistance. These processes are already being implemented. These are day-to-day processes in our courts that can have a real impact on how these cases proceed in court and on how individuals experience the justice system.

Our work is not done and, as announced yesterday, we will be proceeding with a range of legislative reforms to deter people from breaches of domestic violence orders, protect witnesses in court and better record domestic violence criminal history to empower courts to see patterns of escalating violence and to intervene before it is too late. I look forward to working with all members to continue this important work.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.52 am): Last week can only be described as horrific but, unfortunately, it confirms what we already know: there is a crisis here in Queensland and across the country. Two women a week are killed at the hands of their partner or former partner. It is simply awful, but I do believe that last week can be a turning point. This is a crisis gripping the whole community and the whole community needs to respond. Earlier this year Dame Quentin Bryce handed her report *Not now, not ever* to the Premier, and this government has accepted each and every one of the 140 recommendations in that report. It is the most comprehensive response to tackle domestic and family violence that this state has ever seen.

As early as March this year, we announced that work would begin urgently to establish two new 72-hour crisis shelters—the first refuges for women and children fleeing violence here in Queensland for more than 20 years. In May, we announced an extra \$1.5 million for DVConnect to help deal with the increased number of calls they have been experiencing since last year and, as the Premier announced this week, we stand ready to provide them with whatever support they need to match this increase in calls from women reaching out right across Queensland.

We have accepted an invitation to join the national awareness and prevention organisation Our Watch in recognition of the importance of changing the attitudes and behaviours that underpin this violence against women. As I have said before in this place, recent research by Our Watch shows that one in six 12- to 24-year-old young men believe that women should 'know their place' and that one in three believe that exerting control over someone in a relationship is not a form of violence. More than a quarter of young people believe that male verbal harassment and pressure for sex towards women are normal practices.

We know that there is much to do, and that is why in recent days the Premier announced the fast-tracking of some of the other key recommendations from the *Not now, not ever* report. We announced that Beenleigh and Logan will be the first trial site of a new integrated response for domestic violence to work with the existing Gold Coast integrated response and new specialist domestic violence court to ensure a systematic approach right across the region. This means our hospitals, police, courts, corrective services and DV support services will work together and share information. The safety of women is central to everything it does. Importantly, it holds perpetrators to account, and we will roll out perpetrator behaviour change programs as part of our response.

We have now commenced action on more than 73 of the 121 Bryce recommendations that were directed at government. There is more to do. There will be more to come. We will not rest until we have done absolutely everything to stop this cycle of violence. In 2015-16 our government is spending more than \$66 million to tackle this scourge on our community, and my own department has increased spending by more than 50 per cent on the previous financial year. This includes direct funding to those on-the-ground services supporting women and children. But government cannot do this alone. We need everyone to stand up and say that domestic and family violence will not be tolerated—not now, not ever.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.56 am): Earlier this year the government was presented with the comprehensive *Not now, not ever* report from a special domestic and family violence task force. As a government we have been strongly guided by the recommendations of former governor-general Quentin Bryce. We are implementing all of the 140 recommendations proposed in the report. Fifteen of these recommendations have implications for public and private health services and health professionals. One of these is to work with the health sector to ensure more widespread best practice amongst all health professionals, including GPs and midwives, when dealing with domestic and family violence. Queensland Health is also developing a specialist support and referral model for all maternity and emergency departments and is undertaking an evaluation of antenatal screening for violence.

These initiatives are about better equipping our hospital and health service staff to address this issue by identifying violence as early as possible. Our government recognises the important role of all health professionals in recognising domestic and family violence. We will lead the development of training resources such as tool kits and training for both public and private sector health professionals so they can better recognise situations involving domestic and family violence. These resources will be implemented in a train-the-trainer program where key professionals will complete training and then will train other health professionals in their workplaces.

Our 16 health and hospital services will also ensure that all health professionals receive appropriate training and that all women attending antenatal clinics are asked about their exposure to domestic and family violence, with appropriate referrals if this is disclosed. The Department of Health will lead the development of the evaluation of antenatal screening for domestic and family violence and will provide a report to the Domestic and Family Violence Council. The earlier that domestic and family violence is identified, the earlier the resources can be deployed to support victims. We will also work with the private health sector in developing resources and training.

Domestic violence is not just an issue for Queensland. Since our election, this government has been playing a leading role in advancing necessary reforms across Australia. In April I took 15 recommendations from the *Not now, not ever* report to the COAG health ministers council. These recommendations are being worked on across the nation as they impact on the roles and responsibilities of registered health professionals. At my request, in November the COAG health ministers council meeting will be provided with an update on the implementation of these recommendations. Initiatives such as those that I have outlined indicate that we are taking a strong stance in saying that enough is enough and in making real moves towards protecting people from domestic and family violence.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (9.58 am): The department of education will play a leading role in teaching young Queenslanders that domestic violence is never, ever acceptable under any circumstances. Working with our principals, teachers, schools, parents and school communities, we will drive cultural change to provide children with a greater understanding of what respectful relationships are. We will teach children to identify and report abuse and violence and how to react and respond in unsafe situations.

One of the key recommendations of the Dame Quentin Bryce report *Not now, not ever* is that the Queensland government introduces programs in our schools to embed through school life in all of our secondary and primary state schools a culture that emphasises respectful relationships. I am pleased to advise the House that the department is currently preparing these new resources to teach students about respectful relationships, gender equality and safety. These resources will be available for schools next term, and from term 1 next year Queensland schools will use these new resources to teach students. These resources will also be shared with our non-state schools and will strengthen education and awareness that domestic violence is never acceptable.

Additionally, the department will provide training for all of its staff on recognising the possible signs of domestic and family violence and on responding appropriately to staff affected. While a range of workplace supports already exist for staff affected by domestic and family violence, ensuring our staff are aware of the signs and have access to support will continue to be a priority for us. The Palaszczuk government is determined to shift attitudes, and our schools will play a key role in bringing about this change.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next minister, I inform members that the former member for Kallangur, Mary-Anne O'Neill, is in the public gallery.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. JR MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.59 am): As we reflect on the horrific events of the last week on the Gold Coast, it is important to recognise and pay tribute to the vital role that our hardworking and dedicated women and men of the Queensland Police Service play in responding to incidents of domestic and family violence right across our state. There is absolutely no doubt that our police have a tough and a dangerous job. As we come to terms with these gut-wrenching and sickening acts of domestic and family violence, crews across the state are responding to, on average, around 200 additional incidents a day that do not make the headlines. As I am out and about across Queensland meeting front-line officers, they are telling me firsthand how this absolute scourge on our society is ripping families apart. Although the focus was on the Gold Coast last week, I have heard the same kind of heartbreaking stories when I have been in Rockhampton, in Warwick, in Mount Isa, in Goondiwindi, in Townsville and in my home city of Ipswich. It is a problem that affects so many women across every part of Queensland. While our officers remain strongly committed to ensuring the safety of victims of domestic and family violence, there is more to be done. That is why our Palaszczuk Labor government is taking immediate action to enhance the policing response for domestic and family violence victims across the state.

After top-level discussions, Commissioner Ian Stewart has requested the immediate implementation of three key priorities including: priority attention for anyone who attends a front counter of a police station on domestic and family violence issues; police supervisors to conduct mandatory, quality checks on all over-the-counter requests for domestic violence orders; and the urgent rollout of 300 body worn video cameras to front-line police officers on the Gold Coast as a priority to assist in gathering evidence. These measures will work in tandem with a range of initiatives that the Queensland Police Service already undertakes as well as other measures that the Premier, the Attorney-General and the Minister for Women have announced over the last few days.

As police minister, I want to make this clear: I support our police 100 per cent in their work to keep the people of Queensland safe. However, police cannot provide the total solution to solving the complex issue of domestic and family violence in Queensland. While there is no doubt that our officers have an absolutely vital role to play and that officers from across the state are ready, willing and able to take action against perpetrators of this insidious crime, we need to get the community to get behind us. If we are to have any hope of eradicating domestic and family violence in this state, we cannot do this alone. We need the support of each and every Queenslanders. Our police need their support. Over the coming weeks and months I will continue to work closely with Commissioner Ian Stewart; the Police Union President, Ian Leavers; the commissioned officers union; and other stakeholders to ensure that our police officers are supported in the tough job they do and that we can do everything in our power to protect vulnerable Queenslanders.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (10.03 am): Family and domestic violence is a blight on our society. We cannot sit back and let this occur. All sections of our community must act to address these issues and there is an important role to play for all areas of our government. Yesterday the Premier announced a comprehensive suite of programs aimed at tackling this issue and removing violence from Queensland homes. My department stands ready and prepared to respond and to assist any employee who is experiencing domestic or family violence.

My department has developed a partnership with Australia's CEO Challenge which has resulted in the release of the following documents: TMR's *Domestic/family violence supporting employee policy*, *Domestic/family violence frequently asked questions* and *Domestic/family violence workplace safety plan agreement*. Australia's CEO Challenge has delivered four specialist training sessions for HR practitioners and managers, and 10 general awareness sessions to departmental staff. We have been working hard to get this important information out to our staff members. In fact, to date, department staff

have personally delivered toolbox talks on addressing domestic and family violence to 118 workplaces. My department has also created an intranet page with links to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, *Domestic/family violence supporting employees policy*, special leave directive, frequently asked questions which includes information on support services, toolbox talks and *Domestic/family violence workplace safety plan agreement*.

We are involved in the White Ribbon Australia Workplace Accreditation Program, with over 30 per cent of staff completing the baseline survey. The program will recognise that staff are taking active steps to prevent and respond to violence against women. Health and wellbeing advisers are representing my department at the Domestic and Family Violence Interagency Working Group convened by the Public Service Commission. My directors-general regularly email staff to let them know that information and support is available to any affected employee, and I thank them for their leadership in that regard. We will not stand by and let domestic violence ruin the lives of Queenslanders.

Domestic and Family Violence; Planning Reform

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (10.05 am): I would like to add my voice and commend the very swift actions of the Premier, the Attorney-General and the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth in terms of accelerating some of those key recommendations from the *Not now, not ever* report. I did want to advise the House briefly of the very good work being undertaken by Queensland Rail, and it has been undertaken all year. Queensland Rail has been asking public transport commuters to donate for a purpose—donate goods that can be given to women who visit women's shelters so that they can start their lives with things like blankets, baby goods, utensils and cutlery. I think that Queenslanders have been giving very generously all year, even before the tragic incidents of last week. I would like to call on Queenslanders to keep giving generously because obviously the need is very great out there.

I would now like to turn to Queensland's planning reform journey which was started quite some time ago and reached a new milestone only last week with the release of our draft planning legislation for public consultation. My department has organised a comprehensive statewide engagement program, which started in Cairns only yesterday and will run until 23 October, visiting most regional centres. Workshops, agency briefings, meet-a-planner sessions and community conversations will give people the chance to learn about the legislation and to have their say. We will be listening because right from the start I have wanted Queenslanders to become excited about planning and understand how it shapes the spaces and places of their neighbourhoods and communities and to have a voice. Renewing our legislation means we can deliver a more transparent and accountable planning system that values community engagement and input. It will give certainty to industry and investors about development outcomes, instilling that investment confidence that helps our economy create jobs.

The draft planning bills aim to create a planning system that is open, transparent, fair and easy to understand and a system that has achieving ecologically sustainable development at its core. Since releasing the planning directions paper in May and following on from June's planning summit, I have been heartened by the level of enthusiasm from councils and industry for continuing the planning reform journey. Our focus on accountability and transparency, removing unnecessary state intervention and listening to the community is putting us on track to have the best planning and development assessment system in Australia. The next step in the process will be to finalise the bills and introduce them into parliament, now slated for the November sitting. This will ensure appropriate time for consultation and engagement. As well, I am very pleased that our budget commitment of \$59.4 million for planning reform shows just how serious we are about getting it right and about implementing our reform.

Trade and Investment Roadshow

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.09 am): Over the past fortnight I have led an international trade and investment roadshow to promote Queensland's economic and fiscal credentials to our key partners in Asia, the UK and the US. This roadshow, organised by the Queensland Treasury Corporation, visited the global financial centres of Singapore, Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong, London and New York. As part of the visit, Trade and Investment Queensland organised business attraction and investment functions in Seoul, Hong Kong and London. These events were well attended and Queensland's story resonated with a wide range of investors. There was recognition that

Queensland is well positioned for growth and offers a safe haven for investors during a period of volatility on global financial markets. Investors consistently remarked about the strong fundamentals of our economy. This is underpinned by our budget, with our growth forecast to be the strongest in the nation, the biggest surplus in a decade and the first debt reduction over the forward estimates in more than 16 years. Financial investors were particularly supportive of our debt action plan. Our plan to reduce debt without selling our income-generating assets has seen QTC's forecast borrowing and refinancing task for 2015-16 reduce.

The roadshow provided an opportunity to brief the global heads of Moody's and Standard & Poor's semisovereign divisions on Queensland's debt reduction strategy and the positive impact this will have on the quality of our credit. With an estimated 5,000-plus bond issuers regularly seeking funds in global markets, we have a proud tradition of face-to-face engagement with our Fixed Income Distribution Group and investors in QTC bonds. This approach is well regarded in the market and sets us apart from many other states and territories. Across the world, investors consistently remarked that Queensland is forecast to have the strongest economic growth and the most diverse economy of any state in Australia. With the low Aussie dollar, investors recognise that there are opportunities in Queensland right now to develop new and refurbished tourism offerings. These investments will contribute positively to economic growth, particularly in key centres such as Brisbane, Cairns and the Gold Coast.

In Singapore I met with Mr Koh, CEO of the Aspiat Group, who is investing \$400 million in the Nova 8 towers in Cairns and looking to develop two residential towers in Brisbane. In Hong Kong I discussed our ongoing commitment to integrated resort developments with representatives from the Destination Brisbane consortium and the ASF Group. There is interest from investors in our market-led proposals and a willingness to partner with us to deliver new science and innovation under Advance Queensland. All of the cities I visited are globally significant players in the knowledge economy with flourishing R&D and technology sectors. Advance Queensland will help Queensland turn ideas into commercial realities and ensure that the next generation can thrive in the modern economy through skills like STEM and coding.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION (PROTECTING FIREFIGHTERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Cognate Debate; Order of Business



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.11 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

- (1) That, in accordance with standing order 172, the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (Protecting Firefighters) Amendment Bill be treated as cognate bills for their remaining stages, as follows:
 - (a) second reading debate, but with separate questions being put in regard to the second readings;
 - (b) the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
 - (c) separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles.
- (2) That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders:
 - (a) debate of the bills shall be considered during government business;
 - (b) the time limits and order for moving the second readings shall be: the Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships—60 minutes, followed by the member for Kawana—60 minutes; and
 - (c) the time limits and order for reply to the second readings debate shall be: member for Kawana—30 minutes, followed by the Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships—30 minutes.
- (3) That, notwithstanding anything contained in the sessional orders, government business shall take precedence over general business this Wednesday evening after the disallowance motion.

Question put—that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Referral to the Finance and Administration Committee

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.13 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the Finance and Administration Committee inquires into the introduction of four-year terms for the Queensland parliament.

That, in undertaking the inquiry, the committee should consider but not be limited to:

- a comparison of three- and four-year parliamentary terms, including advantages and disadvantages;
- a comparison of parliamentary terms in other Australian jurisdictions;
- mechanisms for determining the referendum question that will be put to the Queensland public; and
- the possible starting date for any new arrangements, if adopted.

That the committee seeks public submissions and consults with key stakeholders, and reports to the Legislative Assembly by 9 November 2015.

Question put—that the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Public Servants

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (10.14 am): I would like to clarify comments I made on 14 July when I stated that 24,000 public servants had been sacked. I now understand that up to 24,000 jobs were lost across the Public Service, other public sector funded positions and in the broader community.

REPORT

Consolidated Fund Financial Report

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.14 am): The *Consolidated fund financial report* is tabled in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Accountability Act 2009. The CFFR provides a statement continuing particulars of transactions of the consolidated fund and details of the appropriation paid to each department during that financial year.

The CFFR outlines by department total appropriation from the consolidated fund for the financial year. It includes unforeseen expenditure, that is, expenditure from the consolidated fund above the amount approved by the annual appropriation on an individual department basis, and provides explanations for variations in the approved annual appropriation amount. The CFFR also contains a number of other disclosures, including a statement of receipts and payments, opening and closing balances of the consolidated fund bank account and investment accounts and collections by department paid to the consolidated fund. I table the *Consolidated fund financial report*.

Tabled paper: Queensland government—*Consolidated fund financial report 2014-15* [[1055](#)].

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Report

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (10.15 am): In accordance with section 363(5) of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act, I table the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner's *Report on the results of the inspection of records of the Crime and Corruption Commission* pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. The report relates to the Parliamentary Commissioner's inspection of the CCC's surveillance device warrants records from 3 December 2014 to 4 May 2015. The full details of the Parliamentary Commissioner's inspection and findings are set out in the report.

Tabled paper: Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, July 2015 [[1056](#)].

NOTICE OF MOTION

Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence



Ms DAVIS (Aspley—LNP) (10.16 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this parliament formally thank the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence, established by the previous government, with bipartisan support and input, and expresses its appreciation to all those who contributed and made submissions to the final *Not now, not ever* report with recommendations to put an end to domestic and family violence.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Liberal Party of Australia, Leadership; Domestic and Family Violence



Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.16 am): Following the events in Canberra last evening, this morning I left a message with outgoing Prime Minister Tony Abbott thanking him for his contribution as Prime Minister of Australia and also wishing him and his family all the very best in the future. I think it is appropriate that we recognise anyone who makes a significant contribution to the highest public office in Australia. He has some remarkable achievements particularly in the area of border security and budget repair, notwithstanding the fact that the government has been encumbered by a hostile and belligerent Senate. I also left a message with Prime Minister elect Malcolm Turnbull to congratulate him on his ascendency to this high office and to convey to him the warmth and affection of Queenslanders. We look forward to him visiting this state as quickly as he can. The LNP in this parliament look forward to working with incoming Prime Minister Turnbull in the future.

There are many things which have been laid down as a road map by the outgoing Prime Minister Tony Abbott that can be picked up, including the Northern Australia policy, the \$5 billion which has been placed on the table by the Commonwealth government to be taken up by the Queensland government and other interested parties, and significant infrastructure projects, particularly upgrades of northern roads. We should also consider the amendments to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act introduced to the Senate recently which seek to provide a more streamlined process for the approval of projects in Queensland, particularly projects that are critical to underpinning the economic health of this state, jobs and revenue.

It is also important that I reflect upon the tragic incidents that have occurred in Queensland over the last few days. I do not think one that single Queenslanders would not have been horrified by what they have seen. I saw a similar event reported in my local newspaper this morning which was played out publicly in the last couple of days.

There was a bipartisan approach to this issue prior to the last state election, and there will continue to be. We look forward to the opportunity to work with the government. We need to make sure that, as we go forward and we put legislation through this parliament, there continues to be a process of consultation and involvement to make sure that the laws we put in place stand the test of time. This is a scourge, and it is going to take a long time to do something about it. The steps that we put in place immediately should be able to bring some finality for many people into the future.

Queensland Economy



Hon. CW PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.20 am): The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of creating jobs and growing Queensland's economy. Under our positive economic policy settings, we are confident that we can deliver ongoing growth and prosperity for Queenslanders. We are pursuing growth opportunities in tourism, housing, agriculture and knowledge intensive industries including biotechnology and biomanufacturing.

Queensland Treasury forecasts Queensland will have nation-leading economic growth this financial year. Treasury forecasts 4½ per cent growth in both 2015-16 and 2016-17, the highest of any state or territory in Australia. Our pro-growth, pro-jobs economic policies have delivered a welcome boost to business confidence, restoring the confidence destroyed under the former Campbell Newman-led LNP government. According to NAB's Monthly Business Survey, Queensland topped business confidence for the second month in a row to be the highest of all Australian mainland states. Because businesses are growing more confident, they are hiring more workers. Since the state election in January, 28,500 jobs have been created in Queensland—an average of 1,860 full-time jobs each month. Under the LNP's watch, Queensland lost around 310 full-time jobs each month.

Queensland's exporters also continue to shine and earn the state valuable income. The nominal value of Queensland merchandise exports rose 20 per cent over the year to the July quarter 2015 to \$47.4 billion. Queensland's LNG exports reached \$1.14 billion from January to July—another Labor economic success story.

There is more good news when it comes to our housing sector. Queensland's housing investor finance commitments have hit a near-eight-year high, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Investor housing finance in Queensland for the purchase of existing dwellings hit \$4.8 billion in the July quarter of 2015. Despite the misleading and negative politics of those opposite, it is clear that the Palaszczuk government is investing in infrastructure. We are taking Queensland forward with a \$10.1 billion capital program in 2015-16. A total of \$35.4 billion is to be spent on capital works over the forward estimates out to 2018-19. This will support 27,500 direct jobs in 2015-16 alone across the state. Our capital program includes \$3.9 billion on roads and transport, \$2.4 billion on energy and water and \$1.3 billion on health and community infrastructure. We are investing \$500 million on hospital refurbishments and school maintenance to provide local tradies with jobs and employment throughout the state.

The budget has allowed us to bring forward by a full year our \$200 million Building our Regions program—a targeted infrastructure program for local government projects. Our infrastructure spend will drive economic uplift and job-creating opportunities throughout Queensland. This government will always be about jobs—jobs now and jobs for the future. We have the economic policies to deliver them, and that is exactly what we are doing.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (10.23 am): As we have heard in the House today, domestic violence affects everybody. We have seen the horrific acts of violence, and we have all been sickened and horrified. All Queenslanders' hearts go out to every person who has suffered at the hands of domestic violence, in particular, the children for whom it lingers and destroys their innocence. We have seen it played out in the news up and down the Queensland coast.

Equally disturbing are the events that unfortunately go unreported. I am very aware that for rural and regional Queensland this issue has dire consequences. In the South Burnett, Magistrate Simon Young has just completed a study into the effects of domestic violence before his court. Unfortunately, in the Nanango court in 63 per cent of domestic violence applications children are affected. In Dame Quentin Bryce's report she noted that rural and regional Queensland is different, and the effects, for example, in a rural seat are quite different from Cairns or Brisbane.

I would like to talk about the dedicated domestic violence rural phone line and additional nightly services that were put in place by the previous government for rural and regional women. They now have access to a phone line, and that number is 1800457117. Before that dedicated rural phone line was put in place, in small country towns it was up to individual solicitors like me to take those calls on a Sunday night because there were so few of us to provide any services.

I was with former premier Campbell Newman and Dame Quentin Bryce on 10 September last year at the launch of the bipartisan commissioning of the *Not now, not ever* report. This issue is not about politics. We need a culture change, we need an attitude change and we need to work together.

Interruption.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the state development minister, I am pleased to acknowledge this morning a visit by the Ambassador for Norway in Australia, Her Excellency Ms Unni Klovstad. Her Excellency is currently viewing our proceedings in the gallery, and I welcome her to the Queensland parliament. I also inform members that I look forward to hosting a courtesy call with Her Excellency tomorrow.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Resumed.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (10.26 am): For 20 years before I entered this parliament I spent my days repairing the broken and battered survivors of personal violence including domestic violence. I recall

often the woman who had been bashed with a baseball bat. Her face was shattered. As our team put her back together, we realised there was a bit missing. Part of her scalp and her forehead were gone. The trauma team at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital did a great job, but she lost her sight in one eye and she will never be the same. But that is not the worst. As a surgeon we never see the worst. They are always in the morgue. I am over it. I have been over it for many, many years which is why a decade ago I became a strong campaigner against violence.

I would see it every Monday. 'I fell over,' said the housewife. I would see her again a few months later: 'I fell into a cupboard.' As a surgeon, I knew where the punches had landed. I could see the marks on her face. I could see the impact points. She was not fooling anyone. I would wonder: how many times has she presented to a GP? How many times did she confide to a friend? The young blokes that I see on the weekends with the package deal—the broken nose, the broken cheek bone, the broken eye socket after a night in the valley. Just last weekend a young lad was critically injured in Mackay after a night out in the clubs.

All personal violence including family violence is a scourge on society. The economic cost alone is staggering. It costs the Queensland economy between \$2.7 and \$3.2 billion every year. That does not include the personal violence on our streets, at parties and, let's be frank, on our sports fields and in our schools. We need to make a cultural shift to a society that does not accept violence. It has definitely changed since the seventies. I have not heard statements like, 'It was just a bit of biffy at the back of the pub,' or, 'She copped a few; she deserved it.' Thank God I have not heard those statements for many, many years. It is getting better but it is not good enough, as last week's events have shown so tragically. We need to tackle the root causes. Early intervention is so important. Our children in our homes and in their schools need to know that violence is simply not acceptable. Bullying at school, violence in the school ground and violence on our sporting fields are all aspects of our culture where each of us should stand up and say, 'I don't accept that.' Do we really need violence in our community and in our streets? I would ask all Queenslanders to stand up against violence.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (10.29 am): Sadly, domestic and family violence has been present in our communities for a very, very long time hidden behind closed doors, but it has now reached a crisis point and become our national tragedy. The statistics are just so confronting, but behind those cold statistics are real people, human beings, victims. They are our family members, our friends, our work colleagues and our children.

By the start of May this year across Australia 34 women had been killed as a result of domestic and family violence. We are all sickened to the core from the horrific events of the past week in Queensland which have led us to mourn the deaths of two women and a child in three separate devastating incidents. We can no longer tolerate the deaths of innocent victims. We can no longer tolerate over 180 incidents of domestic and family violence being reported every day across Queensland. The violence simply has to stop.

The LNP is committed to tackling domestic and family violence and we will do everything in our power to end it. There is simply no excusing domestic and family violence, and we are pleased to see the community viewing this as seriously as we are. We must continue to find ways to increase the safety of people at risk of domestic violence and through preventative measures, potentially saving lives.

The LNP was prepared to do everything we possibly could to address this escalating scourge on our communities. This is why last year when the LNP was in government we initiated the special task force headed by Dame Quentin Bryce to review the domestic and family violence landscape here in Queensland and to report back to government to develop a long-term vision and strategy to address this insidious crime. We are very pleased that the government has now committed to implementing the 140 recommendations of the task force report, although it has taken seven months for this government to respond with action on delivering these recommendations in a significant way.

On 21 May this year I tabled a draft exposure bill for a domestic violence and sexual assault disclosure scheme. The disclosure scheme is based on the UK's Clare's Law model, which has been saving potential victims from harm. I have been around the state talking to people, and what has been very heartening is that there is support for such a scheme. We do not see this being premature and, whilst the Minister for Women may think so, the LNP is certainly willing to look at anything in terms of any good practice that is occurring globally in the fight against domestic and family violence. The LNP has offered bipartisan support to the *Not now, not ever* recommendations as a way that we will stand up united in our fight to eradicate domestic and family violence.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will finish at 11.32 am.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (10.32 am): My question without notice is to the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Is the minister aware of the many studies that establish a root-cause link between problem gambling and domestic and family violence?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Yes, I am aware that there are many studies linking the issue of gambling with the issue of domestic violence. I am also aware that there are a number of studies linking substance and alcohol abuse with the increase in domestic violence. In fact, in the *Not now, not ever* report the task force examined some of these issues and found that, whilst gambling and substance and alcohol abuse often lead to aggravation in the violence in a domestic violence situation, the real root cause of violence against women and domestic and family violence is attitudes towards women. The task force report makes it incredibly clear that, even though men do experience violence in the home, the root cause of this escalation in domestic and family violence is all based on our attitudes towards women. The task force report makes it very clear that this is a gendered crime and that unless we take a gendered lens to tackling this issue we will not be able to appropriately respond and provide the support services and tackle the attitudes and behaviours that underpin the cycle of violence.

That is why I was so pleased that this government finally accepted the invitation to join Our Watch—an invitation that was made to the previous government but was not acted upon—because what we really need to do is tackle those attitudes that underpin the cycle of violence such as those attitudes that I mentioned earlier today where one in six young men believe that women should ‘know their place’ and that it is normal for male verbal harassment to happen in a relationship.

Whilst there are many other factors, gambling or substance and alcohol addiction aggravate the violence and often lead to more serious violence occurring in the home. The task force report clearly outlined this. If we are going to be successful in eliminating domestic and family violence and all forms of violence against women, we need everyone to stand up and say that enough is enough and we need to tackle those attitudes that lead to the cycle of violence.

Our government is absolutely committed to running a strong campaign aimed at early intervention and prevention. As the Minister for Education stood up and said today, we are rolling that out in each and every one of our state schools and working with our non-government schools to get that respectful relationship training happening with our young people. We have to start in our primary schools. We then have to start in our high schools. We have to tackle this issue, and the root cause is the attitude towards women in our society. This government is absolutely determined to tackle those attitudes towards women and turn them around so we can finally say that domestic and family violence is eliminated in this state.

Gaming Machines

Mr SPRINGBORG: My question without notice is to the Attorney-General, and I ask: can the Attorney confirm that the Palaszczuk government plans to issue an additional 850 poker machine licences as part of the Queen’s Wharf casino development?

Mrs D’ATH: I thank the member for his question. As the member would be aware, the discussions in relation to Queen’s Wharf commenced under the previous government. Those discussions included providing up to 2,500 poker machines as I understand it. The fact is that by selecting Echo Entertainment it means that we have ended up with a lower increase in the number of machines than we would have had if any other provider had been successful with the tender. The reason for that is that Echo has a number of those licences already, so it is simply topping up to 2,500 whereas if it had been Crown it would have been an additional 2,500.

I can also say that it is a Labor government and only a Labor government that will ensure that we manage responsible gambling and that we tackle those root causes—not just gambling but alcohol fuelled violence, ice, drug addiction and illicit drugs. Only recently this year I launched responsible gambling week. We have had campaigns in our local communities to ensure that people are managing their gambling responsibly, they are managing their money and making sure that we have the helplines

and the support that is necessary for people who have gambling problems. We know that we have a responsibility to do this. It was the previous government that opened it up and wanted to see more casinos in this state, so when those opposite ask the question they ought to be honest with the people of Queensland that they were more than happy to call for more casinos in Queensland to drive the economy.

I am happy to answer the member's question about how many increases there have been. We believe we made the right decision. The successful provider that we have selected means that we are going to have a smaller increase in those machines than we otherwise would have had in this state. We take our responsibility very seriously in ensuring that we have support for people and are educating the community about responsible gambling.

Domestic and Family Violence

Mr FURNER: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier outline the government's position on the holding of a national summit to discuss domestic violence?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Ferny Grove for the question. Before addressing the substance of the question asked by the member for Ferny Grove, can I take this opportunity to thank not only the Leader of the Opposition but also all members of this Queensland parliament for standing up against domestic and family violence in this state. I believe that, as members of parliament, we have a responsibility, a duty, to be role models out there in our community and to make stands that will change attitudes.

I want to also comment on what my Minister for Communities just said. We need to change attitudes. We need to start not just in the schools but in the homes as well. We need a fundamental cultural change in this nation about how we address these issues. I believe that this is a wake-up call for all of Australia. That is why it is fundamental that we have a national summit to address this issue. These are not issues that are just isolated to Queensland; they are happening in other homes across Australia.

Domestic and family violence has been put on the national agenda at COAG not just since I have become Premier or when Tony Abbott was Prime Minister; it has been on the agenda for many decades. We now have that opportunity to do something about it. For years and years and years domestic and family violence was put in the too-hard basket. Now we say, not just as a government but as a community, 'It is no longer in the too-hard basket. We are here to make substantial change.'

What is so wrong about having a national summit? Let us sit down with our leaders, the new Prime Minister, community representatives—let us bring everyone together. There are good, sound practices happening across the nation. There are things that are working in Western Australia, there are things that are working in Melbourne, in parts of outer Sydney, in Queensland. Why can we not adopt the best practice right across the nation and say that we are going to bring about cultural change right across our nation, not just in Queensland? That is why I have said fundamentally that it is important to have respectful relationships taught at schools. We will be moving on this. This will be something that my government will give due consideration to.

Gaming Machines

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Attorney-General. I refer to the Attorney-General's charter letter, which outlines the Premier's riding instructions on poker machine numbers, and I ask: what was the Premier's directive?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. I do not have the charter letter in front of me. As I recall, the commitment of the government is to not increase the cap on poker machine licences. Can I say that this is in relation to where we have the biggest problem in gambling in this state and that is in our regions, in our local clubs. It is not in our casinos where we have the biggest problem; it is, in fact, in our local communities. It is our pensioners who are going down to our local clubs, our most vulnerable, are who spending money that they do not have. That is where we know the bigger problem lies with these machines.

We make no apology for the fact that we followed through with the negotiations that had started on Queen's Wharf. The decision that we have made with Queen's Wharf is delivering thousands of jobs in this state not only through construction but also, importantly, in long-term jobs in this state for Queensland. It will increase tourism, it will create job opportunities for the young, with high youth unemployment in this state.

I have to say that I am absolutely amazed that, with everything that has been going on in this state in recent times, our discussion here in parliament today is about gambling and gaming machines—gaming machines that would have come in irrespective of who was in government because the LNP had started this process with Queen's Wharf. In fact, if it had not given it to Echo and chosen another provider we would have seen a significantly larger increase in the number of poker machines. I find it extraordinary that it looks like we are going to spend question time today talking about gambling and gaming machines and linking that to domestic violence without talking about the broader issues in our community.

As I say, we make no apology for following through with the process and supporting jobs in this state and supporting our economy at the same time as making sure that we fulfil our obligations, as Labor does best, by ensuring that the support mechanisms are there and that we support responsible gambling in our communities.

Northern Queensland

Mr CRAWFORD: My question is for the Premier and Minister for the Arts. Will the Premier advise the House of a specific forthcoming initiative to develop northern Queensland as an investment destination of choice?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Barron River for his question. I had the privilege of being in the member's electorate just last week and visiting one of his local high schools and participating in a local classroom activity as well. It was great to be in Cairns over Friday and part of Saturday.

There are enormous economic opportunities in the northern region of our state. In relation to the northern development white paper that was released by the federal government, my government is giving support for that process. Over the last couple of months I have had the opportunity to meet with mayors from the northern communities and also business leaders. I have undertaken to conduct a North Queensland economic summit to be held in Cairns from 4 November to 6 November. The aim of this economic summit is to attract investors from not just Queensland but from other parts of the world to showcase what Queensland has to offer.

This is a tremendous opportunity for Queensland to talk up the north and to talk about the opportunities up there. When I am talking about opportunities, I am talking about the resources sector, the energy sector, innovation and tourism. I just reflect that, whilst I was in Cairns, I was able to meet with some of the tourism operators. It was very interesting that they said to me that, in the last three months, the groups have experienced the busiest three months since the global financial crisis. I would like to thank my Minister for Tourism. She is doing an extraordinary job in tourism right across this state. We are seeing the influx of tourists back into Queensland. That is what we want to see, because that is going to help drive economic growth for the foreseeable future as well. For example, Quicksilver has seen growth from China and Japan in its traditional long-haul markets and also from the US, Canada and Europe, particularly Germany and the UK. In fact, even some of the hotels such as the Hilton were telling me that they were full to capacity as well. They are seeing a lot of people coming in from the US as well.

I believe that this is an outstanding opportunity in November for our investors to see what Queensland has to offer. We are working very closely with the mayor, Bob Manning, up there. We are working closely with the local members. I believe that this is a prime opportunity for us to showcase Queensland, to drive economic growth and to get the investment that is needed here in Queensland.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Whitsunday, that is not appropriate. Before calling the member for Mansfield, I am pleased to inform members that students from Heights College in the electorate of Rockhampton are in the public gallery.

Gaming Machines

Mr WALKER: My question is to the Attorney-General. In the Attorney-General's answer to the Leader of the Opposition in relation to poker machines she spoke about an increase in the number of poker machines. I table the Attorney-General's charter letter, which ensures that she will take steps that prevent any increase in the total number of poker machines across Queensland.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 19 May 2015, from the Premier and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, regarding portfolio priorities [\[1057\]](#).

I ask: is it true, therefore, that this commitment in the Attorney-General's letter will not be honoured?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. Again I find it extraordinary that we are going to spend question time talking about casinos and gambling, but that is where members of the opposition want to spend their time and think it is the most important issue to be discussing. It is a process that started under the previous government and I would welcome opposition members to now state whether, in fact, they were never going to follow through with Queen's Wharf and were opposed to this proposal. Maybe the member for Whitsunday might actually want to ask a question on this as well and we will see if he was opposed to any additional casinos in this state.

We are committed first and foremost to jobs in this state. That is a commitment that the Palaszczuk government has made. We owe it to the people of Queensland to ensure that we are investing in infrastructure, we are investing in tourism in this state and creating job opportunities. We make no apologies for that. We know that you have to get the balance right when it comes to gambling and we will ensure that we continue with those strong measures around responsible gambling and support measures that are offered throughout our community. I know more than most because I have been through this whole debate around gambling in two parliaments. I was a member of the federal Labor government that sought to make significant changes in relation to gambling to make it safer for people in the community. I know what sort of campaigns can be run around these issues. There was a four-page flyer dropped in every single letterbox outlining what a terrible person I was to want to put any restrictions around casinos and poker machines at all.

I make no apologies for the need to make sure that we are educating the community and putting in place measures to work with our local casinos to ensure that people are gambling responsibly. But I also say that we need to be supporting jobs and that is what the Queen's Wharf casino and the integrated resort development does. I find it extraordinary, once again, that—

Mr WALKER: I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was quite clearly the actuality and the increase in numbers against the commitment in the letter and was that a broken commitment. The Attorney has not addressed that issue.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the Attorney-General.

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. I have answered his question. I think on three occasions now I have answered the question. Maybe for the rest of question time I will continue to answer the question. Maybe we need to remind the LNP what they were planning on doing in relation to poker machines: increasing poker machine limits from \$20 to \$100 and \$50 notes.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: Let me repeat that. They are yelling on the other side because they do not want to hear it. The Queensland government 2013—

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Attorney-General. Members, I would like to have some order, thank you. Attorney-General, I draw you back to the question.

Mrs D'ATH: I will uphold our policies over the LNP's policies any day when it wants to increase to \$100 and \$50 the notes that can go through poker machines.

Gold Coast Light Rail

Mr de BRENNI: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on any impediments to the second stage of the Gold Coast Light Rail project?

Ms TRAD: I thank the honourable member for the question and I acknowledge his strong support for public transport in this state. In fact, I acknowledge the strong support for public transport consistently from this side of the House. The honourable member asked the question about impediments in terms of stage 2 of Gold Coast Light Rail. Well, I am pleased to inform the House that the No. 1 impediment was removed last night. The No. 1 impediment to extending Gold Coast Light Rail was removed last night when Tony Abbott lost the Liberal party room vote. We know that Gold Coast Light Rail has been enormously successful: 18,000 patrons a day; over 6.5 million trips taken on Gold Coast Light Rail in just on a year; public transport usage on the Gold Coast up by 25 per cent. But what did the former prime minister of Australia, Tony Abbott, think of public transport? I have to turn back to his 2009 book *Battle Lines*.

Mr Dick: What a read that was!

Ms TRAD: A short read! Like his prime ministership! I quote—

There just aren't enough people wanting to go from a particular place to a particular destination at a particular time to justify any vehicle larger than a car, and cars need roads.

That defined his approach to funding public transport infrastructure throughout Australia. The Premier was able to achieve a concession from him to have a look at extending Gold Coast Light Rail if it was part of a Commonwealth Games package and the Premier dutifully wrote to the Prime Minister asking for his support. Well, six weeks later he closed the door. He reneged.

Mr Dick: Slammed it!

Ms TRAD: He slammed the door in Queensland's face and said, 'If you want funding for public transport infrastructure, well, sell assets.' I am very happy to advise that the new Prime Minister loves Gold Coast Light Rail. He loves public transport. This is the incoming Prime Minister on Gold Coast Light Rail. What did he say? He said that he was completely and utterly knocked out by light rail on the Gold Coast. He said, 'the best light rail I think I have ever been on anywhere and it certainly should be extended.' I can assure members that both the Premier and I will be making contact with the incoming Prime Minister to get Commonwealth funding for this important project. I expect every single Gold Coast MP from the state to the federal level to lock in behind stage 2.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Aspley, can I just let the member for Albert know that I have been listening to him from his seat so perhaps he might like to consider his future comments.

Gaming Machines

Ms DAVIS: My question is to the Treasurer. I refer to Labor's decision to increase poker machine numbers across Queensland, and I ask: is it correct that this decision will raise over \$100 million per annum?

Mr PITT: I thank the honourable member for the question. I have to say how disappointed I am to hear the line of questioning today that has somehow tried to construe a link between the increased number of poker machines and domestic violence. We know that those sorts of things can have some impacts, but clearly, as the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth has said, it is about attitudes towards women. I think it is very pertinent for the members opposite. I welcome their bipartisanship in terms of the domestic and family violence scourge in Queensland, but I think it is disappointing to see how they are talking about increased numbers of poker machines in this state, particularly as it relates to processes that commenced under their government.

Let us take a look back at the cause of any increase in poker machines, particularly at Queen's Wharf. They are coming from a process that was commenced under the former Campbell Newman-led government, aided and abetted by the former treasurer and others, which was all about increasing the number of casinos in this state. At the time I remember asking the question, as shadow Treasurer, what modelling had been done around what potential revenues this would see and they could not provide it at that time. I am happy to provide a response—I will get a detailed response to the member—in terms of what revenue we may see. I find it particularly interesting that we are getting questions from the LNP today about what is happening—

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Treasurer. The opposition has chosen to ask the questions and I would ask you to answer the question, please.

Mr PITT: Thank you, Mr Speaker. What we have is potential increases of poker machines at the Queen's Wharf development. I rhetorically ask will the opposition be withdrawing its support for Queen's Wharf? That is a simple question that they need to answer because, quite honestly, we are talking about 3,000 jobs during construction and around 8,000 jobs ongoing. It is going to include a sky deck, an iconic casino, three residential towers and a range of other products, including six-star hotels like the Rosewood and Ritz-Carlton. This is very good for Brisbane. It will transform the CBD. I said very early on in the piece that not every decision the previous government made was wrong. We are following through with this decision. We have actively and in good faith followed through with the process commenced by the previous government. However, one has to ask what audience they are seeking to appease with today's questioning. I am flummoxed as to why they are asking these sorts of questions as it relates to the topic of the day which was initially started by the Leader of the Opposition relating problem gambling to domestic violence. I say again: we are carrying through with the integrated resort developments, not just in Queen's Wharf but also on the Gold Coast with ASF and, of course, we are still in very good discussions with the Aquis group for Cairns. We will continue that process, but I wonder whether the opposition has now abandoned its former position.

Jobs, Maryborough

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer outline what the Palaszczuk government is doing for jobs growth, particularly in the Maryborough area?

Mr PITT: I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. I certainly acknowledge his strong advocacy for jobs in his electorate and the broader region. Under the LNP, we have had three years of failed policies, significant job cuts and significant cuts to services and, of course, the federal government's 2014-15 budget had far-reaching cuts, particularly it as it related to areas of health and education, so the residents of Maryborough have had to work hard to keep the region growing. Therefore, driving down unemployment is important. We are continuing to roll out pro-job initiatives right across the state. This needs to occur particularly in places such as Wide Bay, where we see the unemployment rate at around 11.2 per cent, which is higher than the state average. Across the state, our jobs policies are having a significant impact and we certainly are keen to see how our \$10.1 billion infrastructure program for 2015-16, which will support around 27,500 direct jobs, will assist areas such as the Wide Bay region.

We are a positive government. We are a government that will always be about talking up our economy and talking up the enduring strengths of Queensland's economic fundamentals. This is about our commitment to generate more jobs. Jobs growth is inextricably linked to business confidence, which is why it is important to continue with the implementation of our \$1.6 billion Working Queensland jobs package. This is about building confidence in our economy. We have certainly seen an increase in business confidence since the election and, of course, for the second month running the NAB survey says that Queensland is topping business confidence for mainland states in Australia.

However, members do not need to take my word for what seems to be the federal government's abandonment of its view on driving economic growth and driving jobs. Just yesterday, the Prime Minister elect, Mr Malcom Turnbull, referred to Prime Minister Tony Abbott, saying—

It is clear enough that the Government is not successful in providing the economic leadership that we need.

...

Ultimately, the Prime Minister has not been capable of providing the economic leadership our nation needs. He has not been capable of providing the economic confidence that business needs.

There we have it: an unequivocal admission that the federal government does not have a clue about running the Australian economy. Just like its LNP colleagues in Queensland, the federal government simply does not understand how to manage our economy. It does not get what it takes to create jobs and it does not get how to create economic opportunity.

Will the change of leadership mean better outcomes for Queensland? Only time will tell, but if it is the same old policies we will see a continuation of Queensland being ignored by a federal coalition government. Since we formed government in February, the member for Maryborough and all members of the Palaszczuk government have been working hard to get on with the job of creating jobs. In contrast, it is now quite clear that the federal government has been so busy doing the numbers that it has taken its eye off the other numbers, that is, the important economic numbers and the economy. We are getting on with the job. We want to work with the member for Maryborough and others to create jobs right across our state.

Gaming Machines

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Treasurer. I quote the Queensland managing director of Echo, who is publicly quoted as saying—

Throughout our bid we made it quite clear that we didn't require any additional gaming machines in the proposal.

I ask: can the Treasurer confirm that this statement is, in fact, accurate and that Echo did not ask for any additional machines?

Mr PITT: Firstly, cabinet certainly has a role in relation to questions about an increased number of poker machines and I think the Attorney-General would be best placed to answer that question, particularly given the role that the Attorney-General and the Minister for State Development have in terms of integrated resort developments. I do not have a direct oversight role of that. Clearly I have a very keen interest in the economic benefits. However, I think the question may have been better directed to the Attorney-General.

What I would say about Echo Entertainment is that under the previous government, I think in December 2013—as we have heard our Attorney-General talking about—the former attorney-general quietly lifted the Queensland limit on the size of notes that players could feed into pokies as the first

major step in overhauling gambling rules. For 12 years, electronic gaming machines in Queensland pubs, clubs and casinos had been restricted to accepting nothing bigger than a \$20 bill. The former attorney-general approved the regulatory change to allow \$50 and \$100 notes to be fed into the machines. That move was welcomed by Echo Entertainment, which owns casinos in Brisbane, Townsville and the Gold Coast. It advocated for the change and that is something that I can confirm.

However, I cannot confirm the statement that the member for Maroochydore—I am sorry; I always think of her former title—asked me about. I assume she is seeking a comment from me to confirm that. I cannot confirm that statement. I can confirm that this government has dutifully fulfilled its commitments in terms of going through the process and continuing the process commenced by the previous government. The line of questioning today really is quite puzzling, because I ask again: are they suggesting that Queen's Wharf should not go ahead? Are they suggesting that these developments will not benefit our city of Brisbane and our state of Queensland?

Ms SIMPSON: I rise to a point of order. I draw the Treasurer's attention to the fact that the crux of the question is that Echo has said that they did not ask for these gaming machines. The Treasurer is part of the cabinet. As Treasurer, can he confirm whether, in fact, that is true?

Mr PITT: I have already answered the member's question. I answered the member's question by saying that I am not aware of that particular statement and that the question may be better directed to the Attorney-General, who has had a direct role in terms of the probity and the discussions around what is happening with Queen's Wharf and the broader integrated resort process. The Attorney-General and the Minister for State Development are at the heart of those discussions. I am not going to go into any discussions that we have had in cabinet, because I value cabinet confidence and the cabinet process. I say to the member that this is an absurd question. I do not understand why she is asking this question of myself and not the Attorney-General. Ultimately, I am not aware of it. I will answer the member's question again: maybe further information can be provided to substantiate the statement, but I am not aware of the statement.

Health, Funding

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Can the minister outline to the parliament the opportunity the change in federal leadership gives to the future of health funding for this state?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question and for his very keen interest in health care. He has had a career looking after sick and injured Queenslanders. I thank him for his serious question about a serious issue.

This year the record Queensland government budget for health is \$14.183 billion. That is the record operating budget for Queensland Health. The Queensland government funding is \$9.923 billion and Commonwealth government funding is \$3.525 billion. Of course, at the 2013 election, what did Tony Abbott say? He said there would be no cuts to health. That was his promise to the people of Australia and the people of Queensland. However, in the very first budget of the Abbott government, what did they do? They cut funding to health. Tony Abbott and Joe Hockey were two obstacles to restoring funding to Queensland hospitals. The first obstacle, Tony Abbott, went last night and I understand that Scott Morrison will make it a very difficult week for the second obstacle, Joe Hockey. I do not expect Joe Hockey will have very much to do with this later in the week.

A sum of \$57 billion will come out of public health across Australia between 2017 and 2024. On a population basis, that means \$11.8 billion for our state. That is the consequence of their broken promises. What would it have meant for Queensland if we had received that money? It would have meant 1,500 more doctors, 5,300 more nurses and 1,500 allied health professionals. Those people will not be working in the system. In the days, weeks, months and years ahead, members opposite can ask me as much as they want about the waiting list for the waiting list, which this government has reduced from 100,000 to 82,000 in seven months. They can ask me about national emergency access targets. They can ask me about national elective surgery targets. However, all of that will be thrown out the window. It will be meaningless if that money does not come to Queensland.

What did the Prime Minister elect say last night? He said that '... a culture of engagement, of consultation, of collaboration is so absolutely necessary'. I could not agree more. With their first budget, they turned around and broke their promises. There was no mandate for any of that. It must be reversed. However, members do not need to take my word for it. Last night, Senator Sinodinos said—

We destroyed much of the trust that the Australian people reposed in us in 2013 by the way we went about the 2014 Budget. If we'd had a more measured approach, if we'd been less cavalier about breaking our promises—

I repeat: 'if we'd been less cavalier about breaking our promises'—

we would not have lost the trust of the Australian people and then had to spend nearly nine months, 10 months picking up the pieces from that budget.

This is the first call that this government is making on Malcolm Turnbull and the new government: restore funding to public hospitals in Queensland. That should be the first order of business. We will not be able to deliver health care for Queenslanders in the months and years ahead unless that money is forthcoming. Malcolm Turnbull needs to reverse that cut, restore trust and restore faith in the federal government to do their bit for funding public hospitals in Queensland.

Domestic and Family Violence; Mount Ommaney Police Station

Mrs SMITH: My question is to the Minister for Police. In light of the Premier's claim that victims of domestic violence would have priority access and no longer have to wait in a queue, I ask: will the minister commit to extending the hours of operation of the Mount Ommaney Police Station to 24 hours?

Mrs MILLER: I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for the question. In relation to the Mount Ommaney Police Station, that is a matter of an operational nature for the Queensland Police Commissioner. In relation to domestic violence and the issue of queues, the Police Commission and I had a discussion in relation to this matter. I think that he has made a very good decision in this regard. There will be a triage system operating at the front counter of our police stations so that if a victim of domestic violence goes to a police station seeking assistance they will go to the front of the queue and be assisted as soon as possible. I think that that is a very good decision of the Queensland Police Commissioner. I support him 100 per cent.

I also support all of our police officers around the state who go to around 200 incidents of domestic violence per day. These police officers are very professional. They also do their job in very difficult and dangerous circumstances. Our government stands shoulder to shoulder with them in attempting to eradicate domestic violence in our community, and so should the member for Mount Ommaney.

Education

Mr RUSSO: My question is to the Minister for Education. Given that Australians woke up to a new Prime Minister this morning and in light of the fact that the Abbott government ripped billions of dollars out of education, what does the change in leadership mean for Queensland education?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I had the great privilege of being in his electorate last week and of visiting the Murri School. It was wonderful to be there with the local member. It is a great example of great, quality state education that is being provided right across Queensland. Teachers, principals and staff are doing great work to ensure every single child gets access to good, quality education.

We woke to the news that we will have a new Prime Minister—Prime Minister elect Malcolm Turnbull. He has promised to be a progressive, new Prime Minister for our country.

Ms Trad: Consultative.

Ms JONES: Consultative; I take that interjection. I hope, just as the Minister for Health does, that the very first action of the new Prime Minister will be to reverse the Abbott government's cuts to health and education. We know in the two budgets that Tony Abbott was able to bring down as Prime Minister that he walked away from funding schools—not only state schools but also Catholic schools and independent schools—by changing the way that schools in this country are federally funded, moving away from the education index which has been in place for decades. I would put my head down too, shadow minister for education. It is shameful that the Abbott government walked away from funding our schools.

I am calling on the Prime Minister elect to reverse these cuts. I note in the comments that he made last night that he is absolutely committed to liberalism and the free economy. While I understand that they are his values, I am calling on him to walk away from the discussion paper released by the Abbott government that contemplated introducing means testing of education in this country. A discussion paper produced by the Abbott government—all of those opposite were silent on it—said that they would look at means testing education in this country, ensuring that we have a two-tiered education system in this country. That would mean that not every single child could get access to the best quality education. Even Abbott had the sense to reject that after the discussion paper became public. I am calling on Malcolm Turnbull to do the same thing.

I think it is worth noting, given the tenor of the discussion here this morning, that 24 hours is a long time in politics. We have seen that overnight. Three weeks must be a lifetime. Three weeks ago I appeared before the estimates hearing. I took this question from the member for Surfers Paradise: what is the department doing to expedite coordination between government departments so that Broadbeach bowls club can get poker machines as part of their development? The member used the time of the estimates committee to lobby me to intervene to get more poker machines for the Broadbeach bowls club. Three weeks ago we were all pro pokies. They walk in here three weeks later and apparently that has changed.

What this shows this morning is that we have a very serious issue in this state when it comes to domestic violence. There is no excuse for domestic violence. Using this as a cheap political trick is just—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the member for Toowoomba, I am pleased to inform members that students from St Mary's College in Ipswich are in attendance in the gallery, together with further students from the Heights College in the electorate of Rockhampton.

Toowoomba Range Crossing, Heavy Vehicles

Mr WATTS: My question without notice is to the Minister for Main Roads. Will the minister outline what strategies will be put in place to regulate the illegal and excessive truck noise emanating from heavy vehicles traversing the existing Toowoomba range crossing?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. I am surprised that he seems to be unaware of the Toowoomba second range crossing—a \$1.6 billion piece of infrastructure that his own government commenced in the last term of government.

Mr WATTS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. I am talking about the excessive noise emanating from trucks traversing the existing Toowoomba range crossing.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr BAILEY: We have a clear solution for the current existing second range crossing. We are going to build a bypass. That is how we are going to deal with that noise. Clearly, the current situation needs addressing. That is why we have continued to work with the Commonwealth and continued that project. That \$1.6 billion worth of infrastructure will mean that heavy vehicles will be able to bypass Toowoomba and bypass 18 sets of traffic lights.

We have been able to get very good value out of this project by having grade separation at three separate interchanges. This will increase road safety. With a 40-minute saving in travel time due to heavy vehicles being able to bypass Toowoomba, it will considerably increase their productivity in terms of the supply chain.

We remain committed to that project. We have managed that project to be on time, on budget and good value for money. Clearly, the answer to the honourable member's question is that by the end of 2018 there will be a bypass of the current range.

Mr WATTS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. I am asking about the illegal excessive truck noise on the existing range crossing. Is the minister suggesting that he will allow that illegal activity to continue for the next three years?

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order, member for Toowoomba North.

Mr BAILEY: We will continue with the project. It is on time and on budget. It will see most heavy vehicles—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Coomera, I would urge you to stay quiet.

Mr BAILEY: It will allow heavy vehicles that are not sourced from Toowoomba to bypass that situation altogether. If the honourable member is aware of there being illegal activities, he is very welcome to write to me and raise it with me.

Mr WATTS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have already written to the minister. He needs to read his mail.

Mr SPEAKER: I did not hear your third point of order. What was your point of order?

Mr WATTS: The minister asked me to write to him. I have already written to him on this matter. He needs to read his mail.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr BAILEY: Clearly, the answer to this question is that the Toowoomba second range crossing will be an incredible boost to Toowoomba and his region. We are delivering, in conjunction with the Commonwealth, on this matter. That is the answer. Within less than three years there will be relatively few heavy vehicles. There will only be local heavy vehicles I imagine using that part of the highway network going to Brisbane because there will be no incentive for the vast bulk of heavy vehicles coming along the Warrego from the west to use the current range crossing. Clearly, that is the answer to the question.

Great Barrier Reef

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef. With Malcolm Turnbull as Prime Minister, will we be in a better position to ensure the Great Barrier Reef's long-term protection against the threat of climate change?

Mr STEVENS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is clearly a hypothetical question under standing order 115—'will we be in a better position'.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, I think the Leader of Opposition Business has jumped the gun. There have been a number of questions over time that are framed in that form. I do not think he is going to suggest that it is hypothetical that Mr Turnbull will be the Prime Minister!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Would the member for Mackay rephrase that question, please?

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef. With Malcolm Turnbull as Prime Minister, does the government expect to be in a better position to ensure the Great Barrier Reef's long-term protection against the threat of climate change?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Mackay for her excellent question. I know how passionate she is about protecting the Great Barrier Reef—something that is not hypothetical at all. Since the election of the Palaszczuk Labor government, we have worked collaboratively with the Abbott government to establish the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan, which sets out the short- and medium-term actions that both governments have committed to. I look forward to continued cooperation and collaboration with the Turnbull government as we implement that plan.

But the greatest long-term threat to the Great Barrier Reef is climate change. If we are serious about protecting the Great Barrier Reef, we need the Australian government to stand up and do our bit to reduce carbon pollution and limit global warming. I know many Australians might be hoping this morning that, with the elevation of Malcolm Turnbull to the Prime Ministership, we can expect some leadership from the Australian government on this issue—perhaps a real commitment to real action to reduce carbon pollution and to playing a meaningful role in the global effort for a global solution. I hate to be the bearer of bad news. Only 12 hours into the job and Malcolm Turnbull has already let us down on climate change. In fact, Mr Turnbull currently only has two policies—his new-found opposition to marriage equality and his new-found opposition to action on climate change.

In his press conference late last night he said the coalition's climate change policy is one that he supported as a minister in the Abbott government and it is one that he supports today. That has not always been his view. What did Mr Turnbull call this policy back in 2009? He said, 'Abbott's climate policy is ...'—I cannot use the word that he used in this place, especially with younger people in the gallery. But back then he said it was 'a con, an environmental fig leaf to cover a determination to do nothing'. Now he calls it 'a very, very good piece of work'. That is the policy that last night he pledged to support as Prime Minister—a con and a cover-up.

Climate change is threatening our Great Barrier Reef in a number of ways: it is warming the oceans, making them more acidic, causing more frequent and destructive storms and cyclones, and intensifying the drought-flood cycle. The Palaszczuk government recognises that climate change is real. Malcolm Turnbull knows this too, but he is too worried about protecting his political career to do anything about it.

(Time expired)

ASF Consortium, Development Proposal

Miss BARTON: My question is to the Minister for State Development. Can the minister detail the tender process which saw the ASF Consortium awarded a five-hectare development site south of Sea World?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Broadwater for her question. That block of land she is referring to was part of the original IRD process from those opposite when they were in power. The IRD process has not changed. That block of five hectares was always part of the process. They have simply reduced the footprint. So, instead of Wave Break Island and the rest of the Broadwater, the footprint is now restricted to that site. That site will be adequately compensated for to the people of Queensland by the ASF proponents.

Business Investment

Mr PEARCE: My question is to the Minister for State Development. Will the minister please detail what the latest economic data demonstrates for business investment in Queensland?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Mirani for the question. The member is well aware of the importance of economic development projects for regional and northern Queensland. ABS State Details figures released on Wednesday, 2 September tell an interesting story of a fall of 23.5 per cent in business investment in 2014-15. Most of this fall can be attributed to the completion of construction activity associated with the LNG investment. However, it makes you wonder what the previous government and previous ministers for state development, natural resources and mines did achieve while they were in office. Not one project that was approved by the Coordinator-General since 1 January 2011 commenced construction or was completed while the LNP was in government. Eighteen projects were approved by the Coordinator-General during the LNP's term of government—not one commenced construction during their term.

In contrast, our government has been very active since coming to power in February, with a raft of new projects declared coordinated projects. We are a government that is about job creation through sustainable economic and regional development. It is clear that proponents and investors are confident in this Queensland government. The August NAB Monthly Business Survey shows that for the second month in a row Queensland business confidence is the highest for all the mainland states. Queensland now has the highest business confidence level of the mainland states of plus seven points. Since March 2015 we have seen three new coordinated projects—the Lindeman Great Barrier Reef Resort Project, Stanbroke's Three Rivers Irrigation Project near Normanton and the APT Pipelines NT Link Project.

The Lindeman Great Barrier Reef Resort was the first declared coordinated project in 18 months—again, demonstrating that the previous government did not encourage economic development here in Queensland. Stanbroke's Three Rivers Irrigation Project near Normanton is a proposed \$200 million cotton farm in the Gulf Country. The APT Pipelines NT Link Project is the development of a bidirectional, high-pressure underground gas transmission pipeline from the Northern Territory to Queensland. It is 173 kilometres of pipeline that is located in Queensland that will be assessed by the Coordinator-General. This is potentially a \$1.35 billion project that expects to have a peak construction workforce of up to 450 people—another boon for economic development here in Queensland.

Our government is busy governing for the whole of Queensland, encouraging projects that will stimulate sustainable economic development and create jobs for Queenslanders. It is also worth noting that the Coordinator-General currently has 15 active coordinated projects under environmental impact assessment, with a total capital value of more than \$24 billion and the potential to create more than 32,700 valuable construction and operational jobs.

(Time expired)

Road Infrastructure

Mr LAST: My question is to the Minister for Main Roads. With reference to the minister's response to question on notice No. 306 in which the minister stated 'the department will develop a strategy for low-cost paving on a number of low-volume roads', I ask: can the minister outline what is meant by his definition of 'low-cost paving' and the potential impact this might have on the quality of our roads?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for his question, which related to the Bowen Developmental Road. I understand that the member is referring to the third paragraph. Obviously there are a number of different grades of road treatment on our highways. In terms of how we treat a large

highway compared to a local road, there will be different materials and gradings used in terms of the volumes of usage by vehicles and the types of vehicles. Obviously if it is a heavy vehicle and is a more frequented route, there might be a different type of paving. In terms of this specific grading, I am not sure. I have to confess that I am not an engineer, but I am happy to inform the honourable member after I make some inquiries to the department.

Training

Mr KING: My question is to the Attorney General, Minister for Training and Minister for Skills. Will the minister inform the House of some of the recent training success stories across the state driving a skilled workforce for jobs for the future?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Kallangur for his question as I know of his passion for training and jobs in this state. On Friday night I had the great pleasure of attending the Queensland Training Awards, a culmination of all the regional training awards and of all the finalists coming together. There were 11 wonderful award winners who will now go to Hobart in November for the national training awards.

I announce the wonderful winners from Friday night: of the Harry Hauenschild Apprentice of the Year, Aaron Loble from Far North Queensland; Bob Marshman, Trainee of the Year; Ariel Muntelwit, South-East Queensland; Vocational Student, Nicola Lang from metropolitan Brisbane; School Based Apprentice or Trainee, Daniel O'Brien from the north coast; the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student winner, Kieran Chilcot from South-East Queensland; the VET Teacher or Trainer of the Year, Sharan Berry, TAFE north coast; the small employer, Hy Performance Fluid Power Pty Ltd from metropolitan Brisbane; and the large employer winner, Hyne Timber from the north coast. Our small training provider winner was Club Training Australia; and our large training provider, I am very pleased to say, was TAFE Queensland.

The Premier's Industry Collaboration Award winner was Project Booyah—a fantastic initiative that helps young people who are disengaged, in partnership with the Queensland Police Service, Communities, Youth Justice and our education system. I am very proud of these wonderful winners. We saw mature age students—a mother who has returned to training and is pursuing nursing through a VET pathway. These are wonderful winners who will represent Queensland very proudly in Hobart in November at the national training awards, and we congratulate them on their achievements.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Domestic and Family Violence



Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.33 am): I wish to return to where I finished off this morning—namely, the issue of domestic and family violence, which continues to be a major scourge in our society. It is not something that has happened just recently; it has been a scourge of our society, regardless of cultural or socioeconomic backgrounds, for thousands of years. Indeed, I think it is exceptionally important that we ensure we have the right approach to address this issue now, in the medium term and in the long term.

Yesterday in her media presentation the Premier indicated that the then prime minister, the outgoing prime minister, should make available his information with regard to his plans and proposals to address domestic and family violence across Australia. I think that is something we all would support. We do need a process whereby we have the best information, research and available minds to ensure we get the best possible outcome. Of course, the same applies here in Queensland. We cannot address this issue in isolation. All sides of politics must be involved in this.

From the time the LNP established the task force last year with Dame Quentin Bryce that led to the *Not now, not ever* report, I have been encouraged by the bipartisan commitment to addressing this issue in Queensland. Therefore, the Premier's clarion call on the outgoing prime minister yesterday is something that must carry forward to ensure that those principles of consultation, involvement and disclosure are available as we set about the best possible coordinated long-term approach to addressing the issue of domestic and family violence in Queensland.

It is true that there are underlying attitudinal issues which lead towards domestic and family violence. Some of that is generational and some are the conclusions that those people themselves come to. Generally we talk here about violence predominantly by men against women, but not

exclusively. I think I and my fellow males across Queensland need to stand up and say that this is not acceptable, but the same thing should apply, regardless of age and gender, to everyone's attitude to domestic and family violence. I believe that it is not until we understand that and make that commitment that we will be able to address this issue absolutely.

Dame Quentin Bryce and her task force of very dedicated and professional people made 140 recommendations. Those recommendations were received by the Premier in February this year. Earlier this year, when I sat down for a meeting with the Premier after she was commissioned Premier of Queensland, we discussed the sorts of things on which we could work positively, constructively and in a bipartisan way. This was the ultimate issue that we agreed required our energy and focus and a bipartisan approach. Therefore, today I call on the Premier to ensure that those sentiments to which we committed at that meeting are carried forward.

Whilst the government has the resources and the prerogative to legislate matters as it wishes and to bring legislation to this parliament, it is also important on something like this that, if we are to streamline and to expedite the passage of legislation through this parliament, that process of consultation and involvement should happen in an open way prior to a bill being presented to this parliament. That will ensure the best possible understanding around the intent. I have little doubt that, with the 140 recommendations of Dame Quentin Bryce and her task force, there will be that ongoing commitment and focus to ensure that we expedite that through the parliament. Clearly, again, the principles that the Premier outlined yesterday, with her call on the outgoing prime minister, are things that we in Queensland need to reflect upon and adopt—namely, a process of open involvement all the way through.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! The level of conversation is rising. Could I ask members to pay their respect to the speaker and take their conversations outside, please.

Mr SPRINGBORG: That brings me to the matters we pursued in parliament this morning when I asked questions of the Minister for Women around issues relating to domestic and family violence and the numerous reports which exist that indicate that there is a cause and effect with regard to gambling, particularly problem gambling. It cannot be asserted that that is the only issue, and on some occasions that may be one of a number of accumulation factors which cause that domestic and family violence incident, whether it be isolated or indeed more broad than that.

I do not think this is something that we can just deal with and dismiss. This is not something that we can look at in isolation and set aside. If we are truly committed to looking at everything in terms of the cause and effect of domestic violence in Queensland, we cannot isolate that and we cannot come into this place and say, as the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General said today, that the evidence appears to be that most of the problems relating to problem gambling are somewhere out in the regions and are not in the casinos. I am not necessarily sure that there is much evidence to back that. If we have problem gambling, it is an issue that we have to look at holistically.

The bigger issue here of course is that the Attorney-General's charter letter from the Premier quite clearly indicated that the Attorney-General in Queensland had to effectively place a cap on the number of poker machines in Queensland. It was not, as the Attorney-General sought to represent in this parliament today, that we can set that aside now and have a cap for non-casino poker machines in this state. As was pointed out by the member for Maroochydore, the proponents of Echo did not seek any additional poker machines. They had indicated clearly that the number of poker machines that they currently had would be adequate to substantiate the Queen's Wharf redevelopment. They did not ask for those additional poker machines. Therefore, I think it is very clear that, as a revenue measure, this government has requested Echo to take those additional 868 poker machines. If honourable members look at what Echo said, it is completely in contrast to what the Treasurer said in parliament today. He sought to imply that this project would fall over if it did not have those additional 868-odd poker machines. That is not true. If that were true, they themselves would have said so. They would not have said that they did not seek these poker machines; they did not need them.

The other thing is that in Queensland we have a pool of surrendered poker machines. About 1,400 poker machines have been surrendered to that pool. It is not beyond the realms of this government or any other government to say that if poker machine licences are going to be issued, they can be issued from within that pool of surrendered poker machines that are made available to be spread across the system. Therefore, you can have the cap—and the Attorney-General was directed by the Premier to have a cap on the number of poker machines. Now that cap has blown out because of convenience and the desperation for revenue. It could have come out of the pool. That is the intention

with regard to that pool—to make sure there is a cap on the number, but if there is any additional requirement across the state from a new club or an expanded club they would dip into that pool to take those poker machines which have been surrendered.

I do not believe we can cherry-pick when it comes to this issue. If we are going to look at domestic and family violence and if we are going to adopt all 140 recommendations of the Bryce report, as we should, we cannot selectively choose to ignore some of the evidence which crucially builds a link between problem gambling and domestic and family violence. It does need to be considered. Therefore, if the government is going to increase the number of poker machines in Queensland, it needs to have a strategy which is beyond a revenue driven strategy to address that particular issue or we will be fixing the problem on one hand and making it worse on the other.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (11.43 am): I also rise today to contribute to the matters of public interest debate on domestic violence. Domestic violence as seen in the media in the recent week has made me sick to the core. If there has ever been a time when parliamentarians need to speak out about this insidious scourge on our communities, now is the time. This is beyond politics. All of us in this chamber should be joining arms to speak out, to commit, to communicate to our communities, our schools, our community groups—as far reaching as we can be, as far as the regions—about this terrible scourge, this insidious disease, that is throughout our communities.

I became a White Ribbon ambassador in 2008, when I entered the Australian Senate, and this morning I was so impressed to hear the Premier speak and also that every minister who rose to their feet today spoke on this issue. They spoke about their portfolios and the need to address this matter. I was pleased to hear the Attorney's announcement of fast-tracking legislation that would increase penalties and a range of other measures to eliminate this type of violence in our communities. There is no place for domestic violence anywhere in our country.

I would like to spend a couple of moments to explain to the chamber why I became a White Ribbon ambassador. The reason is twofold. Firstly, I was formerly an industrial officer and a union official. I was sick and tired of representing women regarding sexual harassment in the workplace perpetrated by males and predominantly by supervisors within their firms. That entrenched in my mind why we need to address this problem. The other reason I became a White Ribbon ambassador is that my daughter was the recipient of a perpetrator, being a boyfriend. It is the onset of simple things that demonstrate and lend itself to why we need to stand up regarding domestic violence. Telling my daughter what to wear, asking what is on her phone or what is in her SMS messages—this is the early onset of domestic violence in young people in our society. As a father, I had to protect her. I had to go out there and defend her. Eventually, through my involvement and through her understanding, she started to realise what was happening to her. Each and every one of us in this chamber has a mother, a wife, daughters and friends—females who need to be protected from this insidious disease. We need to stand up and condemn those people who are perpetrators who attack them.

Since becoming an ambassador I have held a variety of events. I have held events at Supercheap Auto, Queen Street Mall and Queensland Rail. I have held events with previous prime minister Kevin Rudd and also at the Australia Zoo because of my relationship with Terri Irwin. I have stood there in the Crocoseum and got blokes to rise to their feet and swear that they will not commit violence against women. Those events and those commitments continue. One of the first things I did when I entered this parliament was to email every male parliamentarian in this chamber and ask them to join me in this fight to become a White Ribbon ambassador. I know that on this side a number of people have gone through the process. It is not an arduous task. It takes a little bit of time, but the commitment and the reward that we will deliver back in our communities is so essential.

One of the other things I am doing in my area on 21 November through the help of one of my staff, Ross—and just recently he came in on his day off to get this program up and running—is holding a community event to raise awareness about tackling this problem. I am clearly overwhelmed by the response from the community, the local businesses, the schools and the police who are prepared to come along on the 21st and take a stand and speak out in our communities about domestic violence. They are some of the reasons, as a White Ribbon ambassador, I am so committed to this cause. I was also impressed this morning to hear from the education minister about programs and initiatives they are going to consider introducing to our education system. This can be generational change. We can influence our children to make change throughout generations so that we eliminate this insidious disease.

BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (11.48 am): On 1 September I attended a public meeting in Blackwater chaired by the member for Mirani, who is well known for his longstanding ties to the mining industry in the Bowen Basin coalfields. About 700 people attended the meeting, which was the result of an announcement by BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance that they are going to outsource mobile maintenance and drill-and-blast operations at the Blackwater mine to Downer EDI. This will affect 306 positions, including 150 which are currently held as permanent employee positions. Each of these positions represents a Blackwater family—a dad or a mum with children—who not only work at the mine but are the very social fabric of this community.

They are also the local volunteer at the rural fire brigade, the junior rugby league coach of the Blackwater Crushers, the person behind the canteen at the many sporting grounds in Blackwater and the community leader who spends many hours to ensure that we have a P&F at our local primary and high schools in Blackwater. Each of these positions represent a Blackwater family, and the community is very uncertain and fearful of its future. This announcement is having an impact on small business confidence. Families in these towns shop locally at the supermarket, the hardware store, the auto-electrician and the tyre fitter, so it is not only affecting families but small businesses in Blackwater. Many of the people who live in Blackwater and work at the mine also have small businesses in Blackwater. They may be the local hairdresser, the local florist or they may have the local takeaway shop in those towns.

As a coalmining town Blackwater is fully aware of the need to create savings during this extended mining downturn; however, the emotional and social impacts of losing further jobs in the town cannot be overstated. I have met with BMA representatives, and they have assured me that they will make every effort to maintain confidence in the community and to either redeploy permanent employees or offer them voluntary redundancies; however, as this coincides with further extensions to mining camps for non-resident workers in the town, many at the meeting saw this as a trial run for casualisation of the mining workforce. When we have casualisation of employment in regional areas like Blackwater, it has a huge impact on those towns. Young people are unable to achieve the job security necessary to get a loan to buy a house and start a family, regardless of how good they are in their job or how hard they work.

With the downturn in the Bowen Basin we have also seen workers who are left without employment or their entitlements when mining contractors have gone into liquidation, as has recently occurred with one large firm affecting employees in Emerald. Of course, BMA and Downer are both companies of such sufficient size and stature that the current announcement need not be a concern, but we need to think carefully about whether this is an appropriate workplace practice in modern-day Queensland, especially for regional Queensland and the mining communities throughout the Bowen Basin. These types of decisions shape the very people we are, the society we will become and the legacy we leave our children.

Mackay Base Hospital

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (11.52 am): Mackay Base Hospital has been transformed into a state-of-the-art facility with a \$408 million redevelopment, opened recently by the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Cameron Dick. The Mackay Base Hospital was a project that was planned for and funded by the Bligh Labor government and opened by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Labor governments care about health care in the regions.

Mackay Base Hospital is essential for the health care of not only patients in the Mackay electorate but also patients referred from Moranbah, Sarina, Proserpine and Bowen. The redevelopment has given Mackay residents a new emergency department; outpatient department; intensive care unit; day surgery; operating suites; inpatient, surgical and medical wards; renal support services; and dental, allied health and mental health facilities. New mothers and babies have also been cared for, with the refurbishment and extension of the birthing centre, delivery suites and special-care nurseries.

For the first time, patients needing angiograms and pacemakers will not have to travel to Townsville or Brisbane for treatment. The new \$2.5 million cardiac catheter laboratory provides life-saving diagnostic treatment to people with a range of heart conditions. When patients require heart surgery it is a very emotional time for both the patient and their family. Being able to stay in Mackay takes some of this emotional and financial pressure off families who in the past needed to find accommodation and had to travel to be with their loved ones.

The staff at the Mackay Base Hospital must be commended for their patience. They literally worked within a building site during the construction phase. New buildings were erected, units were moved into the new buildings and old buildings were demolished to make way for new construction. While building took place around them, the hospital remained fully functional. Health professionals were consulted on the layout of their new wings and wards. With the knowledge of these health professionals, the best possible use of space has been achieved for patient care and the ability of senior staff to train and mentor junior staff. When the health minister and I visited the hospital we were greeted by a team of staff who praised their new working environment. Patients who need an MRI no longer have to be transferred to private facilities for scanning. This is less disruptive for patients and results are produced more quickly.

It is difficult to attract and retain quality medical staff in regional centres. The attraction and retention of medical staff is most successful when staff are trained in the regions. The Mackay Education Research Centre has been built within the cluster of hospital buildings and is shared with Queensland Health, James Cook University and the Central Queensland University. This is a boost to training opportunities and employment in Mackay. The redevelopment is a forward-planning project. It has increased bed numbers and capacity from 163 to 318. The design of the buildings includes provision for the hospital to be easily expanded with an additional wing. The hospital plan will cater for growth up until at least 2050.

Unfortunately, the federal government does not support the health needs of residents in Mackay and its surrounding electorates. Tony Abbott and the LNP have slashed \$11.8 billion from Queensland hospitals from 2017-18 to 2024-25. The Queensland Department of Health has modelled these numbers on health jobs that would have been funded by this amount of spending. The impact in 2017-18 will be that 164 doctors, 580 nurses and 165 health professionals will not come into our health system in Queensland. By 2024-25 the impact will be that approximately 1,500 doctors, 5,300 nurses and 1,500 health professionals will not come into our health system. This savage attack will see a massive cut of \$463 million from hospital funding for residents of the Mackay Hospital and Health Service region. We have a responsible state Labor government which is growing services in our regions, while the LNP government is callously ripping funding out.

(Time expired)

Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (11.57 am): This morning a petition that I sponsored was tabled in this parliament supported by 6,518 people who wish to express their opposition to the decision of the Palaszczuk government to close the Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre. Since the Palaszczuk government announced on 28 July its decision to close the centre there has been a great deal of manoeuvring, retreating and finally an embarrassing backflip from the environment minister on this issue.

The supporters of this petition believe that the Palaszczuk government's decision would place the already vulnerable cassowary at further risk and would shift pressure onto local veterinarians and volunteer wildlife carers. Certainly these concerns extended to the advice that suitably qualified, experienced and resourced rangers would no longer be available after business hours to support local veterinarians to respond to sick or injured cassowaries or orphaned chicks.

On 27 July I wrote to the Minister for Environment to express my own concern and opposition to the decision by the Palaszczuk government to close the Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre and requested that he urgently reconsider. The stated reason was that the Rainforest Rescue organisation, a not-for-profit group that had been contributing to the costs of running the centre, had withdrawn their support. This was the second partnership with a non-government organisation at the centre.

This facility has made an important contribution to the conservation of the cassowary. Important research on the cassowary which had contributed to efforts to protect it had been conducted on birds while they were resident at this facility. The rehabilitation of sick or injured cassowaries is an important part of the conservation efforts associated with the cassowary. The decision to close the centre indicated that the Palaszczuk government was unwilling to provide funds to support that effort.

There is absolutely no doubt that the Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre played a pivotal role in managing the health and welfare of local cassowary populations in the Mission Beach and wider Cassowary Coast region in the wake of Cyclone Yasi. The cassowary is listed as vulnerable

by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The recent budget handed down by the Palaszczuk government allocates funds for wildlife conservation activities for both koalas and crocodiles. Neither of these animals is listed as vulnerable by the IUCN.

I have stated that in my opinion the Palaszczuk government has its conservation priorities wrong. In my local community many people agreed, hence the decision to launch this petition. Dr Graham Lauridsen, a respected local vet who has vast experience treating sick or injured cassowaries, agreed to be the principal petitioner. It is fair to say that he has been disappointed in the way that the Palaszczuk government has handled this issue. Amazingly, it took the environment minister an extended period of time to even have the decency to speak to Dr Lauridsen, a well-known cassowary expert, about key issues he had raised in relation to the care of sick or injured cassowaries.

The severity of the backlash from the community then saw some manoeuvring and the start of the retreat from the Palaszczuk government—the announcement of \$50,000 of interim funding to keep the Garners Beach facility open for three months. There was a sigh of relief that the centre would not close immediately, but the community's questions about the resourcing of rangers still had not been answered, and therefore it was resolved that the petition needed to continue. Dr Lauridsen has responded to various statements in recent weeks from the Palaszczuk government to correct factual errors contained in them. It was a clear indication that the environment minister did not really understand the concerns of the community. One of those concerns was that no adult cassowaries would be accepted into the Garners Beach facility.

An example of how poorly informed the minister has been was his statement that the facility had not been caring for adult birds, which was not true. The failure of the Palaszczuk government's policy was underlined recently when Dr Lauridsen was forced to unnecessarily euthanase a young adult cassowary on the Atherton Tablelands because the Garners Beach centre would not accept any adult birds.

Just last week the Palaszczuk government moved from retreat to backflip, allowing an injured cassowary to be admitted to the facility and moving to undertake more training for rangers to be available to help respond to call-outs for sick or injured birds. The minister has announced that he will seek expressions of interest for a non-government organisation to take over the running of the Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Centre. Ultimately, this facility is owned by the Queensland government. If the non-government partnership model is unsuccessful, the buck stops with the Queensland government to ensure the facility is able to continue its important work to help protect the iconic cassowary.

Single-Use Plastic Bags, Ban

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.02 pm): I rise in the House today to speak in support of the parliamentary petition to ban single-use plastic bags in Queensland which has been tabled in the House this morning. Plastic is a ubiquitous part of all of our lives, but it has also become a silent killer. Millions of tonnes are clogging the world's oceans and devastating sea life. Jo Stoyel, Dr Flavia Santamaria, Rolf Schlagloth and Paul Bambrick are local Capricorn Coast residents who are passionate about the environment and, importantly, our Great Barrier Reef. Jo, Flavia, Rolf and Paul make up the Plastic Bag Free Livingstone team who met with me earlier this year and told me about the impact that single-use plastic bags have on our environment. They asked me to sponsor a parliamentary petition to ban single-use plastic bags in Queensland and, based on the evidence, I could not refuse.

I was shocked to learn that Queenslanders use over one billion plastic bags every year. In fact, we are the most littered mainland state. The material which represents the greatest volume of litter in our state was plastics which break down and can also attract toxic chemicals, devastating marine life through ingestion and potentially entering our food chain.

In a single day Australians use over 10 million plastic bags. The average plastic bag is used on average for only five minutes yet can take up to 1,000 years to break down in the environment. The average supermarket shopper uses over 1,000 plastic bags every year. Multiply that by the number of shoppers and the picture is clear: plastic bag use in Queensland is an environmental epidemic.

Marine plastic pollution is devastating to wildlife and the environment. It must be stopped. Plastic bags suffocate, disable and kill thousands of marine mammals and seabirds worldwide each year. Studies in Moreton Bay have found the ingestion of plastic debris was responsible for about 30 per cent of all turtle deaths. Thousands of seabirds also die along the coast. A recent Commonwealth study showed that 43 per cent of seabirds were found to have plastics in their gut. When the animal dies and

decays, the plastic bag is free again to repeat the deadly cycle. Globally, it is estimated that 100,000 marine mammals and turtles and one million seabirds die every year from ingesting or becoming entangled in marine debris.

States like South Australia that have a cash-for-container scheme and a single-use plastic bag ban have considerably less plastic litter than other states like Queensland. Like South Australia, there are bans on plastic bags in Tasmania, the ACT and the Northern Territory. Over 25 countries have either banned the bag or imposed levies. These actions have all drastically reduced plastic bag use. South Australia has had a ban on single-use plastic bags since 2009, and it is estimated that this ban removes over 400 million bags from the economy every year. It remains a popular ban, with nine out of 10 South Australians taking their own re-useable bags to the supermarket.

Banning plastic bags in Queensland would immediately reduce the number of bags in circulation in Queensland by approximately one billion bags every year. With a little bit of change in our routines and help from re-useable bags like these ones, we can eliminate the problem. I congratulate Jo, Flavia, Rolf and Paul for their passion and ongoing dedication to protecting our environment and banning single-use plastic bags in Queensland. The team has worked tirelessly throughout the petition period, holding market stalls, talking with local businesses and promoting the cause on social media. I also thank Toby Hutcheon from the Boomerang Alliance for all of his advice and wisdom throughout this campaign and the Livingstone Shire Council for supporting the campaign to ban single-use plastic bags in Queensland. The team at Plastic Bag Free Livingstone has managed to attract close to 3,000 hard copy and electronic signatures to this conforming parliamentary petition. I also table in the House today a copy of the non-conforming change.org petition started by Emma Kent about five months ago which has almost 30,000 signatures in support of banning single-use plastic bags in Queensland.

Tabled paper: Non-conforming petition from change.org titled 'Ban plastic bags in Queensland' [1058].

I am pleased that Minister Miles has taken on board the strong community feedback and asked the advisory group established to consider options for a Queensland container deposit scheme to also advise on options for restricting the use of single-use plastic bags. I look forward to learning the outcomes of the process later in the year, as I am sure do the Plastic Bag Free Livingstone team and the tens of thousands of Queenslanders who have added their names to these petitions. Jo, Flavia, Rolf and Paul say that it is our obligation as residents and custodians of the Queensland environment to protect it for future and present generations of Queenslanders, and I agree.

Safe Night Out Strategy

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.07 pm): The Labor Palaszczuk government can be called clueless for having no plan for government. However, ripping up the plans of the previous LNP government without having better ones in place is capricious and foolish. It is beyond belief that the Palaszczuk Labor government has threatened community safety on the Sunshine Coast and specifically in my electorate of Maroochydore by slashing the funding to the Safe Night Out Strategy and putting much needed local initiatives into permafrost.

After seven months of talk and no action from the Palaszczuk Labor government and putting the previous strategy into limbo, we are still waiting for action on the streets under their strategy. The Sunshine Coast is a great place to live, work and play, but like many other communities our area has been affected by alcohol fuelled violence which has tragically resulted in deaths. That is why I supported the Safe Night Out Strategy under the LNP, which was rolled out with a comprehensive, funded plan to address this.

Local community groups were part of identifying tailored initiatives to work with police and other agencies to achieve safer streets. One of their recommendations was the need for a taxi marshal and security at what has become the busiest taxi rank on the Sunshine Coast in Ocean Street. It is a fantastic entertainment area. The economic redevelopment in that space has seen people flocking into that area.

Mr Powell interjected.

Ms SIMPSON: Thank you very much. It is wonderful, but we want to keep it that way. That is why the safe-night precinct committee identified this as an issue. Now that it is the busiest rank—there are up to 1,500 people coming and going from that rank every night—I am calling on the state government to listen to this local group, to act urgently to fund this measure and others to ensure the safety of the public in a popular night spot of Ocean Street, Maroochydore as well as in other areas of need. The situation is becoming urgent.

Stakeholders have warned that the delay in funding for a regular taxi marshal and security guard to help facilitate the smooth departure of patrons is serious. Some nights, as I have mentioned, 1,500 patrons are coming and going just from this one rank. The funding measures to fix this have been put on hold since the new Labor government scrapped the LNP's plan for safe night out precincts. Actually, at first it put it on hold and then it said, 'Wait, we'll have our plan,' but people are still waiting to see that roll out. Meanwhile, the problems escalate. People are voluntarily trying to marshal people at this busy rank and that is not good enough. We do need a permanent and regular professional service to back this area up to keep it safe, and this is despite the fact that the police minister promised at the Sunshine Coast several months ago—I believe in May—that funding was on its way. That was May and now we are in September.

We have seen \$24 million in funding for the Safe Night Out Strategy cut from the state budget and local venue operators and stakeholders are still waiting to hear what the new government will do locally to tackle alcohol fuelled violence. I have asked the Attorney-General to urgently release funding to help keep people safe at this busy taxi rank. I am still waiting for a response, but I do urge her to support this measure. I also urge this government to support this measure. But it is simply not good enough that there has been this wait and, sadly, we have already experienced a tragedy nearby prior to the strategy rolling out due to alcohol fuelled violence. We do not want to see that happen again. Moving people out of a precinct in a timely way at the end of the evening is a critical part of that. Suncoast Cabs General Manager John Lobwein said that a security guard and taxi marshal were essential for public safety at the Ocean Street taxi rank on busy nights with groups of intoxicated people queuing for cabs. He said that this rank is a ticking time bomb, and I know that he has voluntarily jumped on the rank and marshalled people in his own time. He said—

I'm concerned that there will be a major incident in the busiest precinct on the Coast before Christmas. The consequences of such will affect everyone—not just Ocean Street traders.

Safe Night Precinct Chair Marcus Shimmel said that the Sunshine Coast committee was seeking funding to pay for a security guard and a taxi marshal earlier this year under the LNP's Safe Night Out Strategy but that this funding had been put on hold when the government changed in February. He said—

We were told that funding was available and put in an application, but the new Government has told us that this is now on hold and we don't know when the funding round will open again.

Townsville Electorate

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (12.12 pm): Today I rise to outline what the Palaszczuk government is doing in my electorate of Townsville to get the local economy moving and reducing the unemployment levels left over from the former Newman government and further add comments to the Treasurer's statements earlier today. The tropics covers 40 per cent of the world's surface but hosts approximately 80 per cent of its terrestrial biodiversity and more than 95 per cent of its mangrove and coral reef based biodiversity. The world's tropical economy is growing 20 per cent faster than the rest of the world and many tropical nations are important contributors to world trade, politics and innovation. The tropics are home to 40 per cent of the world's population and 55 per cent of the world's children under the age of five years old. By 2050, some 50 per cent of the world's population and close to 60 per cent of the world's children are expected to reside in the tropics. Advances in technology are providing a platform for expanding business opportunities, enhancing prospects to reduce poverty and improving education and health outcomes. Incomes are higher, infrastructure is more accessible and life expectancy is the highest it has ever been.

Two weeks ago the Premier was in Townsville to address the Redefining Townsville forum along with James Cook University Vice-Chancellor Sandra Harding, CEO of Wellard's live cattle exports Mauro Balzarini and Dr Geoff Garrett, Queensland's Chief Scientist, among others. The forum attracted many key investors, business and industry people, educators, farmers and graziers all wanting to know and wanting to hear what we can best do to position ourselves as global leaders in an ever-challenging and changing world. The message was very clear: we need to unlock on the world stage the potential that Townsville has due to its geographical location; its established infrastructure assets, including a world-class port; its synergy between other economic regions including Cairns, Mackay, Charters Towers and Mount Isa; and its strong research base spearheaded by James Cook University.

In late July Townsville hosted the annual Developing Northern Australia Conference aimed at covering the critical issues associated with the region extending north of the Tropic of Capricorn with an area of approximately three million square kilometres and a population of approximately one million people. Key drivers of the conference included agriculture, mining, energy, tourism and other emerging

sectors. The conference was opened by the member for Mundingburra and the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland, the Hon. Coralee O'Rourke, and keynote speakers offered access to practical solutions and strategies that assist the development of sustainable practice in areas of liveability and healthy cities and the built environment, waste management and recycling, natural resources and renewable energy, population growth and food production, and regional development.

In August Minister Coralee O'Rourke hosted an economic round table in Townsville for key business and industry leaders, developers, investors, educators and leaders in the community seeking their input as to the strategic direction and key drivers to get the local economy moving and creating jobs. In September Townsville Enterprise Ltd released its work titled *Opportunity Townsville* that unpacks the key infrastructure and develops initiatives that are either recently completed or underway in the approval process in Townsville. The research shows that there is currently \$997 million worth of either federal, local or state government projects currently underway and \$3.26 billion in private investment in projects in Townsville. With a total of over \$4.2 billion in aged care, defence, education, health, residential, retail and infrastructure projects just to name a few, Townsville is starting to show what local investors are calling green shoots.

Finally, on Wednesday, 3 September Jetstar launched its first direct flights from Townsville to Bali, making Townsville Airport an international airport once again. Regular flights have commenced and new routes are being considered for the future to help grow the tourism industry in the region. The Palaszczuk government continues to invest in Townsville and continues to work with local community, industry and business leaders in Townsville through these and many more opportunities. Townsville is truly open for business and ready to be a key player as Queensland's and Australia's front door to the Asian region.

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

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.16 pm): Serving as a minister of the Crown is a very important position, no matter in what capacity you serve in a ministry. It comes with a great deal of responsibility and respect for the role and in that role one must do the job to the best of their abilities. Unfortunately, in the Queensland parliament we have seen a few ministers but one particularly who has not discharged those roles and responsibilities with what you would expect a minister of the Crown to do, and I am talking about the police minister, the member for Bundamba.

The role of police minister in terms of law and justice in this state is I think one of the most important cabinet roles that one can serve in. There are people every day who are investigated by our Police Service and who are charged with particular offences and they have to have confidence that the person administering the operational matters in the Police Commissioner and the one who bears ultimate responsibility—the police minister—have the competence to deal with policy matters on behalf of the government and matters going forward in the future, particularly with respect to the domestic violence issues that this parliament will be addressing in the not-too-distant future. As I said, it is one of the most important roles a minister can have in terms of law and justice in the state because there is so much at stake with people being investigated and potentially charged with particular offences.

The Police Service is comprised of approximately 14,000 officers across the state, and I pay tribute to the men and women in blue who every day put their lives on the line to protect the citizens of this state. Those officers need to have ultimate confidence that the minister performing the role and responsibility that they serve under is competent to fulfil that role. Unfortunately, time and time again in this state in recent months we have seen the Minister for Police not performing her role effectively as police minister. We now have the lowest morale issue since the Fitzgerald days of the Queensland Police Service and that fault lies at the feet of the police minister.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I note the members opposite interjecting. If those members opposite want a source other than the shadow police minister, let me give them a couple more sources. Let me tell the members interjecting what other people in Queensland think about the police minister. Their own Premier—their own leader—has not expressed confidence in her own police minister. When the Deputy Premier was asked if she had confidence in the police minister, she could not confirm that she had confidence in the police minister. We saw at the estimates committee hearing that the committee could not disclose whether it had confidence in the police minister.

The Police Union, representing the men and women in blue on the beat, has not expressed confidence in the police minister. In fact, only last week the union president, Ian Leavers, said that staff were dismayed by the changes, which the union claimed would destabilise the organisation, which is

already suffering lower morale than it did during the Fitzgerald inquiry. In terms of the communications centre at Ipswich, Ian Leavers said that Minister Miller is not known for making good decisions. He also said other things, such as that Jo-Ann Miller has no idea about policing. That is a pretty stark comment. We have the Police Union president saying to the public that the police minister has no idea about policing. We saw bungle after bungle. I note that the police minister sitting over there is smiling and smirking. I do not know how she can smile and smirk when the Police Union president says that the Police Service's minister has no idea about policing. Paul Pisasale, the popularly elected mayor of Ipswich, said that the police minister is the worst police minister in the country.

We have a list of bungles: she contacted a witness during a police investigation; she said that mining camps were Nazi concentration camps; she closed the police communications centre and then said that it was an operational matter—apparently an operational matter that the police minister cannot involve herself in but the Premier can, because the Premier overruled the police minister in closing down the communications centre. Now, we are in a state of flux and do not know what is happening with the Ipswich communications centre. We have seen a high-level security breach for which the LNP did not refer the police minister to the Ethics Committee; her own Labor Party referred her to the Ethics Committee. Of course, the police minister is protected by the CFMEU and the Labor Party. A member of the CFMEU is subject to investigation by her own department.

This issue is about leadership for Premier Palaszczuk. She has not shown leadership by having a minister who has lost the confidence of the Police Service and the Police Union in this state.

Springwood Electorate, Road Infrastructure

 **Mr de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (12.21 pm): As the House well knows, I have been working with the local community to help resolve safety risks at the intersection of Underwood Road and School Road. It has always been my firm position that the intersection is at the site of a future state government controlled park-and-ride facility for the South East Busway extension. Therefore, the state government should actively take responsibility for this intersection. That is why we are acting to minimise the significant risks evident at this location.

On the other hand, my predecessor passed the buck. He even told the local newspaper, the *Albert and Logan News*, that he would upgrade the intersection if he were elected. He said that at the same time as his letter deferring it to council responsibility was being tabled in that very council. No matter how much they try, local residents cannot seem to escape the failure of those opposite to properly represent them.

Traffic experts say that signalling and realigning the intersection would minimise the risk to safety and improve traffic flows but, unfortunately, we have now discovered that the proposed upgrade of the intersection is at the mercy of those opposite. They sit on their hands. A full-scale upgrade of this intersection should not occur until the realignment of the Underwood Road overpass occurs to facilitate the upgrade of the M1 to Springwood.

Mr Rickuss: It's a federal road.

Mr de BRENNI: I take the interjection of the member for Lockyer. It is a federal road. What is stopping that? The federal coalition government under Abbott was stopping it and those opposite have been sitting by doing nothing about it.

This past week, residents of Logan have read newspaper reports about the M1, the Pacific Highway—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! Member for Lockyer, you will cease your interjections.

Mr de BRENNI: The *Albert and Logan News* article refers to negotiations between the Queensland government and the then Abbott government on the funding mix for the M1.

As we all know, and as was pointed out earlier by the opposition, the first step in infrastructure projects like this has to be a business plan. So I joined a task force set up by the coalition member for Forde to develop a business case. We had just one meeting and his task was to secure his share of funding for the business case. So he went off to Canberra but he came back saying that he needs more help. He came back without the funds to deliver a business case for the M1 in the same way that the business case for the M1 has occurred on the road between Sydney and the New South Wales-Queensland border? Why? The difference is that New South Wales agreed with the demands of then Treasurer Joe Hockey to sell publicly owned assets.

Here are some interesting facts on funding splits for Queensland roads. It is 80-20 federal-state funding on the Bruce and Warrego highways, the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and the Cape York and Gateway arterials. It is 80-20 federal-state funding on the Pacific Highway in New South Wales. Here are some more facts. None of the MPs opposite have raised funding this work with the Queensland main roads minister—not one in this term, not one in the last term.

According to the member for Forde, he has not received correspondence from any of the MPs representing the Gold Coast urging him to go to the Prime Minister or the federal infrastructure minister to ask for a real funding commitment. How many times has the member for Currumbin lifted a finger to help the tens of thousands of commuters in her electorate trying to get to work in Brisbane by advocating to the federal government for funding for the M1? Back in 2010, there was plenty of complaining—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Burleigh and member for Nanango, you will cease your interjections.

Mr de BRENNI: Back in 2010 there was plenty of complaining, but since then I can find nothing whilst the member was a minister in the Liberal National Party government—and there was a Liberal Prime Minister and a National Party infrastructure minister. Every day that the member for Broadwater fails to write to the Prime Minister calling on him to provide his share is another day that she hurts thousands of families in the Broadwater electorate. Back in 2010 she wrote on Facebook about the M1—

I appreciate it's incredibly frustrating—I commuted five days a week myself and was often caught.

I bet this issue is less of a worry now that her office is just around the corner from home. How easily she forgets.

Maybe the Queensland opposition leader could show some leadership to the opposition backbench and pick up the phone today and ring the Prime Minister designate and appeal for infrastructure funding for Queensland. All he needs to do is say to the Prime Minister, 'We just want Queensland to be treated the same way as other states such as New South Wales, which is getting an 80-20 funding deal from the federal government for the Pacific Highway.'

I will keep pressing the case, but perhaps the people of Logan and the Gold Coast have some hope now that Tony Abbott has been dumped—dumped in the same way voters dumped the former premier in the Queensland LNP government who signed the deal for zero dollars. I call on the members opposite to right their wrongs and take the opportunity presented by the new national leadership. I call on them to pen a letter today to their federal minister for infrastructure, to their federal member for Forde and to their new Prime Minister and demand federal funding for the road improvements that their communities and mine deserve.

QUEENSLAND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.27 pm): I present a bill for an act to establish the Queensland Productivity Commission and to amend this act, the City of Brisbane Regulation 2012, the Industrial Relations Regulation 2011, the Local Government Regulation 2012, the Payroll Tax Act 1971, the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997, and the Queensland Competition Authority Regulation 2007 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Finance and Administration Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2015 [[1059](#)].

Tabled paper: Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2015, explanatory notes [[1060](#)].

During the 2015 state election, the government committed to establish the Queensland Productivity Commission as an independent economic advisory body with the broad objective of lifting productivity. Improved productivity drives economic growth and improves living standards.

The Queensland Productivity Commission Bill establishes the commission as a statutory body to formalise its operational independence from government, confirm the commission's functions and mandate, and put in place its corporate governance framework. The commission will provide expert, professional advice in policy areas of particular complexity and, sometimes, sensitivity, as referred to it by government. It will conduct inquiries through an open and transparent process informed by widespread public consultation. The commission reports will be independent in character, of high quality

and have the capacity to significantly contribute to the policy development process. However, as an advisory body, any commission recommendations will ultimately be a matter for government to decide upon.

The government has already announced that the first major task of the commission will be an inquiry into electricity prices. The inquiry will balance a range of competing interests by taking into account customer impacts and the need for a competitive electricity market, efficient investment in infrastructure and good environmental outcomes.

In parallel with the electricity pricing inquiry, the commission will also conduct an inquiry into a fair price for solar. This inquiry will investigate the public and private benefits of rooftop solar, including social, economic and environmental benefits. A longer term work program for the commission will be considered later this year, taking into account the government's policy priorities.

The commission will be led by principal commissioner Mr Kim Wood, who was appointed to enable the timely commencement of the energy inquiries. With his extensive knowledge of regulated industries and commercial operations, Mr Wood brings a strong set of capabilities to the role. The principal commissioner will have primary responsibility for the commission and, depending on the commission's work program, up to two other full-time or part-time commissioners may be appointed.

This type of independent economic inquiry and review body closely mirrors the Australian Productivity Commission and the New Zealand Productivity Commission. Similar to these bodies, the commission will also assume responsibility for best practice regulation, including ensuring agencies are developing quality regulatory proposals to support good policy development. It will also take over from the Queensland Competition Authority the competitive neutrality complaints function, aiming to provide a simpler, more accessible and independent competitive neutrality complaints system for any businesses with complaints against government owned businesses. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. CW PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.31 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 Finance and Administration Committee

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

ENERGY AND WATER OMBUDSMAN AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (12.31 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Energy and Water Ombudsman Act 2006 and the National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes and I nominate the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Energy and Water Ombudsman Amendment Bill 2015 [[1061](#)].

Tabled paper: Energy and Water Ombudsman Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes [[1062](#)].

I present a bill to amend the Energy and Water Ombudsman Act 2006 for particular purposes. These include extending access to the Energy and Water Ombudsman, known as EWOQ, for small business customers using between 100 and 160 megawatt hours of electricity per year, as well as amendments to allow for EWOQ to be recognised as an external dispute resolution scheme for the purposes of the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988. The bill includes amendments to increase transparency around EWOQ's billing practices relating to user-pays fees issued to service providers. The bill also amends the National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014 to correct an administrative numbering error that exists in the act's schedule.

Queensland small business enterprises are recognised by the government as a significant contributor to the state's economic and jobs growth and as the backbone of regional economies. That is why it is important that all small businesses are given the strongest possible support to ensure they

can get on with serving and employing people right across Queensland. Many small businesses that are dependent on a high use of electricity for their daily operations often do not have the time, expertise or resources to deal with issues and disputes that may arise with their electricity accounts while still conducting their businesses. Current dispute resolution mechanisms available to these types of business customers may not be specialised enough to efficiently and effectively deal with energy related disputes. The services currently offered may cost small businesses and can be time consuming. To address this, the bill expands EWOQ's dispute resolution services to cover small, high energy-using business customers, such as bakeries, small supermarkets, manufacturing businesses, amateur sporting clubs, community groups and not-for-profit organisations. This bill will allow these types of businesses and organisations to contact EWOQ for free assistance if they are unable to resolve a dispute with their electricity retailer. This will ensure high energy-using small businesses are on a level playing field and enjoy the same access to an energy-specific dispute resolution service as other small businesses. Limiting the amount of time and resources required to resolve a dispute with their electricity retailer will allow more small businesses to focus on managing their enterprises.

Changes to the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988 regarding customer credit information and reporting requirements will come into effect for Queensland's retail energy and water utilities on 1 January 2016. The new credit reporting regime outlines how service providers, such as energy retailers, access personal information about an individual, including their credit history. The changes require credit providers to be members of a recognised external dispute resolution scheme, known as an EDR, in order to continue to disclose and gain access to customer credit information from a credit reporting body. Water providers in Queensland are currently either not participating in the credit reporting system or, being mostly local councils, not subject to these new requirements as they do not fall within the definition of a credit provider under the Privacy Act.

To support the changes it is necessary to establish an appropriate EDR scheme in Queensland to deal with disputes relating to customers' credit information. Without such a scheme being established, energy retailers will be unable to access a customer's credit information and will therefore be exposed to additional costs and risks associated with bad debts. These costs could potentially be passed onto consumers through their energy bills and customers may also be impacted through a reduction in choice if retailer services are curtailed due to a lack of access to customer credit information. Extending the functions of EWOQ to incorporate credit handling related disputes will allow the Australian Information Commissioner to recognise EWOQ as an EDR scheme in Queensland. This will ensure consumers have access to a local, convenient, fast and independent avenue of redress for complaints or other issues that might arise between the individual and their service provider on credit reporting matters.

Queensland energy and water utilities are currently experiencing difficulties reconciling the fees they are charged by EWOQ in cases where complaints are referred back to the relevant provider to try to resolve in the first instance. As EWOQ is unable to disclose the account number or other customer identifying information of the individuals for these refer-back-to-provider cases, service providers are unable to reconcile the fees against their customer records. This bill proposes a minor amendment to increase the transparency around EWOQ's billing in these situations. This will enable energy and water utilities to check the fees they are issued by EWOQ against their own customer records. The amendment ensures that information EWOQ can access which identifies customers will only be used by retailers to verify that the complaints the retailer has been billed for are in fact their customers and not customers of another retailer.

This bill also rectifies an administrative error that exists in the schedule to the National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014. The schedule currently incorrectly references a section of the Electricity Act 1994 that is due to commence from 1 July 2016. If left unchanged this error will prevent the operation of amendments to the Electricity Act from this date as was intended when the legislation was drafted. This bill ensures that a free dispute resolution service is available to a greater number of high energy-using small businesses and that Queensland is compliant with the Commonwealth Privacy Act. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. MC BAILEY (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (12.37 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 Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee

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

LIQUID FUEL SUPPLY (ETHANOL AND OTHER BIOFUELS MANDATE) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (12.37 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Liquid Fuel Supply Act 1984 to introduce a mandate for biofuels including ethanol and biodiesel, and for other particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Liquid Fuel (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2015 [[1063](#)].

Tabled paper: Liquid Fuel (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes [[1064](#)].

I present a bill for an act to amend the Liquid Fuel Supply Act 1984 to mandate the use of ethanol and other biofuels in Queensland. The Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2015 provides for a biobased petrol mandate and a biobased diesel mandate. Practically speaking, this is a mandate to support the use of ethanol and biodiesel, as well as other emerging biofuels as they become available to market. It is intended that the mandate will commence on 1 July 2016, with all fuel sellers having to register with the Queensland government from 1 January 2016. The mandate will support the development of a sustainable biofuels industry that can help Queensland transition to a clean energy economy, contribute to regional growth and job creation and promote the development of an advanced biomanufacturing industry.

Biofuels are a global presence and large scale production occurs in China, Brazil and the United States. Biofuel production in the United States is mainly ethanol and biodiesel. Corn is the main feedstock for producing ethanol. I believe they have nearly 200 plants. As at 1 January 2015, the United States had a production capacity of about 56 billion litres a year. In 2014 the United States produced about 4½ billion litres of biodiesel.

In Queensland, the biofuels industry, and particularly ethanol, has struggled to advance due to a lack of long-term policy certainty. There have been a number of false starts to an ethanol mandate, including a proposal for a legislated mandate to start at the end of 2010. In Queensland, the use of ethanol blended fuel peaked in 2010-11 at around 900 million litres or 2.7 per cent of regular unleaded petrol sold, but has since fallen to around 350 million litres in 2013-14 or about 1.2 per cent of regular unleaded petrol. A legislated mandate of two per cent for biobased petrol such as ethanol will, therefore, provide the policy certainty that industry can take as a solid commitment from government to back the growth of a vibrant biofuels and biomanufacturing industry in Queensland.

On 4 June 2015, the government released for consultation a discussion paper about a proposed mandate and ways government can support the biofuels industry and grow the biomanufacturing industry. The community and industry participated in this consultation process and provided very good feedback on the issues that were of importance to them. Almost 300 people attended nine public forums in Dalby, Bundaberg, Townsville, Ingham, Ayr, Mackay, Mareeba, Brisbane and Innisfail. The government also held three industry workshops and met with numerous stakeholders. I certainly thank all the government members who attended those public forums. Eighty-eight written submissions were received in response to the discussion paper. That was fabulous participation in the government's consultation process and I thank everybody from the community who got involved for their helpful contributions.

Getting involved in the government's public consultation is invaluable in developing the right framework and the bill that I introduce to the assembly today. As a result of the consultation undertaken, the bill resolves a number of the questions outlined in the discussion paper, including: setting a biobased diesel mandate at 0.5 per cent; setting a volumetric threshold of petrol fuel sales for fuel retailers' liability, in addition to the original threshold of 10 service stations; determining that liability for

the biobased petrol ethanol mandate will apply only to fuel retailers, while the biobased diesel mandate will apply only to fuel wholesalers, as opposed to both wholesalers and retailers being liable to meet both mandates; and including provisions for the establishment of a fuel sellers' register and reporting requirements that will support the introduction of the mandates and ongoing review and adjustment over time where necessary.

This bill provides for a two per cent mandate for biobased petrol that includes ethanol or, in the future, other types of biobased petrol. The most common biofuel sold in Australia is E10. E10 is generally regular unleaded petrol blended with up to 10 per cent ethanol but is also available in premium blends. The two per cent is to be calculated against total sales of regular unleaded petrol, plus a regular biobased petrol blend such as E10, but excludes premium petrol. In practice, this mandate will mean that at least 20 per cent of non-premium petrol sales must be E10 ethanol blended petrol. Another way of putting this is that fuel retailers would need to sell one litre of E10 petrol for every four litres sold of regular unleaded petrol. For fuel retailers, this will provide flexibility to determine the best retail locations for sales of their biobased petrol that includes ethanol.

Importantly, this starting level for the mandate retains consumer choice for the type of fuel that consumers wish to use, particularly for those who may have vehicles incompatible with ethanol blends. Maintaining consumer choice at pumps avoids forcing some motorists who may, for example, drive older incompatible cars with carburettors to use more expensive premium petrol.

Based on Queensland's petrol consumption in 2013-14, a two per cent mandate equates to about 60 megalitres of ethanol per year. This initial mandated level will mean a two-thirds or 66 per cent increase in current ethanol sales. Therefore, the proposed mandate level will significantly boost the prospects for biofuel industry development, especially in regional Queensland, while striking a balance for consumers and fuel sellers by maintaining flexibility and consumer choice of fuels.

Although it is initially set at two per cent, the act allows the mandate to be increased by regulation. The government intends that the mandate will increase over time to drive investment in the biofuels and biomanufacturing industries and transition into a clean energy future. This pathway for future increases to the mandate will also give time for market and industry to get ready. Initially, the ethanol mandate will be applied to fuel retailers and not to fuel wholesalers. However, the government will be able to set a mandated percentage for wholesalers in the future if retailers have difficulty securing supplies of ethanol blended fuels.

Ethanol is only one of a number of biofuels for which Queensland has a competitive advantage. In Queensland, use of diesel fuel is growing by over nine per cent on average per year while, overall, sales of petrol are slowly declining. Around 80 per cent of service stations in the state offered diesel fuel. Up to five per cent biodiesel can be added to mineral diesel without specific labelling or other consumer advice. Many motorists would be unaware that they are already purchasing biodiesel when they fill up at the bowzers. As a completely renewable source of fuel, biodiesel provides a further opportunity to transition to a cleaner fuel economy.

Including a mandate for biobased diesel in the bill provides a more holistic industry solution with the potential to deliver more regional development opportunities and jobs and more investment opportunities for producers. In response to stakeholder consultation, the bill sets an initial half a per cent mandate for sustainable biobased diesel. Biobased diesel can be produced from plant oils and animal oils, biomass or waste. Based on Queensland's diesel consumption in 2013-14, a half a per cent biobased diesel mandate equates to just over 33 megalitres of biobased diesel. This target is achievable and, as diesel use is growing, will encourage new investment.

Currently, Queensland's only biodiesel producer is located at Narangba, with a capacity of approximately 30 megalitres of biodiesel annually and uses tallow and used cooking oil as its feedstock. Other types of biobased diesels that can be produced from biomass or waste must meet the Commonwealth government's fuel quality standards for diesel. These can be blended with mineral diesel in any quantity or be a product in its own right. While the biobased diesel industry in Queensland is small, the production technology lends itself to modular plants, therefore providing significant investment opportunities in local regional communities to increase production in line with increased demand for biobased diesel.

The introduction of a mandate will provide policy certainty to existing biofuel producers, as well as facilitate new investment and employment opportunities. The mandates are an opportunity for the biofuel industry in Queensland to establish markets, infrastructure and skills needed to achieve an efficient transition from first generation to advanced biofuel technologies as these become commercially viable. The government is taking a measured approach whereby the percentage mandated can increase at the right time to allow the market, industry and motorists to adapt. There is sufficient

flexibility in the bill to respond to market changes such as technological developments and supply and demand shifts that may impact on industry, consumers or the state. Prior to further increases to the mandated percentages for biobased petrol or biobased diesel, the Queensland Productivity Commission will review the effectiveness of the mandate and market conditions.

During the next few months and in preparation for the commencement of the mandate, my department will continue to engage with key industry representatives and technical experts to consider a range of implementation issues including: the impact of the volumetric fuel sale thresholds on the fuel retailers; a framework to guide assessment of exemption applications against the criteria set out in the bill; a framework for assessing compliance with the prescribed sustainability criteria; and advice on how the biobased diesel mandate could be increased over time in light of the potential growth trajectory for the industry in Queensland. In conjunction with partner agencies, my department will, by 1 January 2016, establish a fuel sellers' registry and secure storage of fuel sellers' reports for compliance with the biofuels mandate.

My department is also working closely with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection on suitable sustainability criteria for biofuels. This will ensure biofuels sold in Queensland avoid unintended environmental impacts that have occurred in other jurisdictions when establishing biofuel mandates. By increasing the state's use of sustainable biofuels, Queenslanders are set to gain other environmental benefits, including reduced greenhouse gas emissions. For example, using E10 instead of regular unleaded petrol can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by three to five per cent, depending on the feedstock used to create the ethanol. Stakeholders were also unanimous in recommending a consumer education campaign to complement the introduction of the mandates. The government will work with industry and motoring groups to develop a consumer education campaign for the start of a mandate.

Finally, a mandate will not only provide certainty to industry while maintaining customer choice at the bowser but also stimulate industry development. While a thriving biofuels industry is highly beneficial in its own right, it also has the potential to help create the foundation for a new biomanufacturing industry in Queensland. Biomanufacturing is seen as a major global opportunity and Queensland's climate, technically advanced agricultural sector and large biomass supply means we are well placed to take part. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. MC BAILEY (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (12.49 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 Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee

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

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill

Finance and Administration Committee

Report No. 10

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Order! The House will consider the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill first and then the Appropriation Bill. The question is—

That report No. 10 of the Finance and Administration Committee be adopted.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (12.52 pm): As chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, I rise to speak to the examination of the budget estimates and to bring to the attention of the House report No. 10 of the committee on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2015. The committee's recommendation is that the proposed expenditure be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

The appropriations sought for 2015-16 amount to \$87.3 million, which is an increase of \$2.3 million from 2014-15. I thank the Speaker for his explanation at the budget estimates hearings of this increase. He explained to us that this is based on the number of significant capital works planned for and the upgrade and/or replacement of major items of plant and equipment associated with building infrastructure and systems within the precinct. The evidence of at least some of those works is already very clear to all of us as we move around this House.

Scrutiny of the service area highlights for the parliamentary precinct support services and of the departmental capital program also clearly highlights the projects that Mr Speaker refers to. We note that in 2015-16 we will see: the installation of a fire protection system in Parliament House; the continuation of a major program to restore the stonework exterior of Parliament House; action to address waterproofing issues on level 7 of the Annexe, through the removal of decaying structures and the replacement of existing drainage systems and the outdoor surface; the selection and implementation of a corporate electronic document records management system; the continuation of the replacement program for audiovisual infrastructure equipment within the precinct; and the implementation of the next three-year regional education program. These undertakings will most certainly improve the functionality of the parliamentary precinct. The committee also noted the forward projection of \$87.9 million for 2018-19, an increase of two per cent from 2015-16, and one which Mr Speaker explained as reflecting enterprise bargaining costs.

Mr Speaker's commitment to making sure that Parliament House is the people's house is plain for all of us to see, as was his determination to increase awareness in the community of parliament and what happens here. We could see this in his discussion during the estimates hearing about the regional education program, the visits he is planning to key regional centres throughout Queensland, the Indigenous parliament and the youth parliaments, the teacher professional development workshop and the Public Service training seminars. I certainly had the great pleasure to be involved in one of those seminars. I was impressed by the program that the staff had put together and the support that it will provide public servants as they undertake their roles and play such an important part in the life of parliament.

Mr Speaker, we were very impressed to hear you spruiking for function bookings in the estimates hearing. You were enthusiastically encouraging us all to have weddings, christenings or birthdays here. Other figures of note were the lowering of revenue targets in 2015-16 compared to 2014-15. The actuals for last year were lower than the target. Mr Speaker explained that we have seen a reduction in catering revenues over recent years of approximately \$300,000 per annum, most notably in relation to the function trade. This year's budget aligned budgeted revenue targets with actual revenue performance.

The committee also noted what had clearly been very thoughtful deliberations over the staffing in Mr Speaker's office and related costs. We note the reduction in FTE staff numbers resulting in a saving of \$130,000 per year and the secondment of staff from the Parliamentary Service. This has provided the opportunity for existing staff to develop their skills but also reflects a pragmatic approach to the staffing of the Speaker's office now and in the future.

On behalf of the committee, I wish to thank the Speaker and the officers from the Parliamentary Service, in particular the Clerk, for their cooperation in providing information to the committee throughout this process. I would like to particularly mention our research support staff, Deb Jeffery, Maggie Lilith and Louise Johnson. I thank the Speaker for his judicious stewardship of both the Office of the Speaker and of the parliament itself.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (12.55 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution in the debate on report No. 10 of the Finance and Administration Committee. At the outset, I acknowledge my fellow members on the Finance and Administration Committee for the work they have done in preparing this report. As well, I acknowledge the work of the secretariat. Mr Speaker, I put on the record the opposition's acknowledgement of your contribution at the estimates process and that of the Parliamentary Service. We thank you for taking the time to appear before the committee and answer questions.

I will not take too much of the time of the House. Mr Speaker, we acknowledge the contribution that you made in the estimates process outlining some of the agenda items for the coming years in terms of the parliamentary education program as well as some of the precinct updates that are proposed. I commend the report to the House.

Report adopted.

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hinchliffe, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.58 pm to 2.30 pm.

CRIMINAL LAW (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Code, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Evidence Act 1977, the Justices Act 1886 and the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to implement a number of criminal law reforms recommended by the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015 [[1065](#)].

Tabled paper: Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes [[1066](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015. Before I go to the content of the bill, I first acknowledge representatives from the Women's Legal Service here in the gallery this afternoon and thank them for the tremendous work they do every day.

Domestic and family violence affects women, men, children and families from all sections of society. It is a scourge upon our community. Everyone has the right to feel safe and be safe in public and at home. Domestic and family violence often perpetrated at home in private should be just as concerning to us as a community as crime in the streets. It cannot be accepted or excused and can only be eradicated if we respond together as a community. Despite efforts to reduce domestic and family violence, on average, two women die each week in Australia at the hands of a violent partner, husband or father. It is clear that more needs to be done or that things need to be done differently.

The Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, chaired by the Hon. Quentin Bryce AD CVO, was established on 10 September 2014. The role of the task force was to make recommendations to inform the development of a long-term vision and strategy for government and the community to rid our state of this insidious form of violence. On 28 February 2015 the task force report *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland* was released. The report contains 140 recommendations on how the government and the Queensland community can better address and reduce domestic and family violence.

The government released its response to the task force recommendations on 18 August 2015 and has accepted all 121 recommendations directed at government. The government will spend \$31.3 million over four years on a range of initiatives aimed at tackling domestic and family violence. A snapshot of domestic violence offending from the task force report is that, for the 2013-14 financial year, 81 per cent of all custodial sentences for breaches of a domestic and family violence order were less than 12 months in duration. These are shocking statistics and we must make sure that perpetrators are fully aware of the seriousness of their offending.

A number of recommendations in the Bryce report are aimed at strengthening the penalties for domestic violence conduct. Another recommendation focuses on signposting offences committed in a domestic context so future law enforcement and judicial officers understand that past offending is in fact repeated domestic violence. This signposting will ensure that a perpetrator's criminal history clearly illustrates any pattern, or increased frequency or escalation, in domestic violence which can then be considered by the court and police when considering matters such as bail and in sentencing the offender. It also provides greater protection of victims against future violence and the timely identification of this type of conduct by relevant agencies to reduce incidents of escalated violence, including domestic homicide.

Very recently there have been three public and horrific incidents, including the murders of two women in separate incidents in South-East Queensland alone. This bill represents part of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to progressing domestic law reform to increase perpetrator accountability and enhance community protection against this form of violence.

The government considers that the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 does not effectively sanction patterns of behaviour that underpin domestic and family violence. The bill therefore amends the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 to strengthen and increase the maximum penalties for offences of contravening a domestic violence order. The bill increases the maximum penalty for a first offence for a breach from two years imprisonment to three years imprisonment. Where a respondent has been convicted of a previous breach offence under the act within the last five years, the maximum penalty is increased from three to five years imprisonment. This offence provision has also been extended to ensure that a court is able to consider previous convictions for any other criminal offence committed in a domestic violence context. The bill also increases the penalty units attached to these domestic violence order breach offences.

Recommendation 133 in the Bryce task force report relates to considering alternative evidence procedures for victims of domestic and family violence providing evidence in related criminal matters to reduce the trauma of this experience. The task force report focuses on the difficulty of pursuing criminal prosecutions for domestic and family violence related incidents. A recurring theme in submissions to the task force is that victims are traumatised by having to repeatedly retell their stories. When criminal charges are laid, police report that there is often difficulty pursuing the prosecution given a reluctance of the victim for fear of continuing with the criminal prosecution.

The Queensland government accepted this recommendation and committed to work closely with leaders of the judiciary and legal stakeholders to develop options for improved evidence procedures, including considering amending the Evidence Act 1977 to include a presumption that victims of domestic and family violence be regarded as special witnesses. The bill implements this amendment to the Evidence Act. This means that victims of domestic violence will have increased access to the orders and directions that the court can make to support the giving of evidence by special witnesses including, for example, giving evidence from another room and giving evidence via a videotaped recording.

Amendments are included in the bill to enable a notation to be made on a charge in respect of any offence to specify whether it is an offence which occurs in a domestic violence context. Further, if an offender is subsequently found guilty of such an offence or pleads guilty, the bill provides for a court to order that this be noted on the offender's criminal history. In addition, there will be provision for the prosecution to apply to the court for a direction that similar notations be made in respect of offences on a person's criminal history. The amendments in the bill will, however, not affect the court's discretion as to whether or not to formally record a conviction against the offender or when an offender's criminal history can be taken into account. Currently, in Queensland convictions for criminal offences which have been committed in the context of domestic and family violence are recorded like any other crime, not recognising the specific nature of the abuse.

These amendments send a clear message to perpetrators that continuing to commit domestic violence which constitutes criminal offences will be considered by a court and police officers. Further, it enables supporting agencies to also become aware of escalation or increased frequency of domestic and family violence and implement measures to litigate such action. This empowers courts to take action to intervene in concerning cases to try to end the unacceptable cycle of violence. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.39 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 Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.

CORONERS (DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.40 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Coroners Act 2003 to establish the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board and for other particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015 [[1067](#)].

Tabled paper: Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes [[1068](#)].

This bill delivers on a major recommendation in the report of the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*. The government has already committed \$2.1 million over four years from 2015-16 to establish an independent Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board and increase staffing for the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit. This bill provides the legislative framework to ensure the board can effectively perform its vital functions.

The task force considered that there was a clear need for a specific domestic and family violence death review process able to comprehensively review domestic and family violence services, supports and systems and identify any failures or gaps that may have contributed to domestic and family violence related deaths. Consequently, this bill amends the Coroners Act to provide for the establishment of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board to enable systemic review of deaths related to domestic and family violence to help prevent or reduce domestic violence.

Establishing the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board under the Coroners Act will ensure that the board's activities complement the existing coronial processes and the board can draw on the research and data capabilities of the Office of the State Coroner. The bill provides for the board's membership, with the State Coroner or the Deputy State Coroner to be appointed as the chairperson. The minister responsible for administering the Coroners Act will be required to appoint up to 12 members the minister considers appropriate but must reflect the diversity of the Queensland community and include at least one member who is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. Members will be required to have experience, knowledge or skills relevant to the board's functions—for example, individuals who have expertise in the fields of domestic and family violence, health and the justice system.

The functions of the board include: to review the circumstances that contributed to the death of any person who died as a result of domestic and family violence—this includes deaths that have occurred prior to the board's establishment; to analyse data and apply research to identify patterns, trends and risk factors relating to domestic and family violence deaths in Queensland; to carry out research to help prevent or reduce domestic and family violence deaths in Queensland; to identify where services, both generic and specialist, worked well or failed, identifying key learnings and elements of good practice in the prevention of domestic and family violence deaths; to make recommendations to government for tangible improvements to systems, policies, procedures and strategies to try to prevent further domestic and family violence related deaths; and to monitor the implementation of recommendations.

The bill provides the board with the power to do all things necessary or convenient to perform these functions effectively including: engaging persons with appropriate qualifications to conduct research and prepare expert reports for the board; and accessing information necessary to perform its functions. Under the bill the board may give written notice to a prescribed entity who has custody or control of the information, requiring the person to give the information to the board and, if the information is contained in a document, to allow the board to inspect the document and take a copy of it. A maximum

penalty of 100 penalty units may be imposed for failure to comply with the notice without reasonable excuse. Indemnity provisions have been included in the bill to ensure that a prescribed entity is not liable civilly, criminally or under an administrative process for giving the information.

The bill also allows for the board to enter into an arrangement about the exchange of information between a coroner and the board and with other jurisdictions about matters relating to the board's functions. These information-sharing provisions are critical to ensuring the board can effectively discharge its functions. To ensure the board is also meeting its objectives, the bill requires the board to provide an annual report in relation to the board's performance which must be tabled by the minister administering the Coroners Act within one month after receiving it. The board may also report to the minister administering the Coroners Act about matters arising from the performance of the board's functions.

The passage of this bill is central to ensure that the independent board working with the enhanced death review unit within the Office of the State Coroner can identify systemic risk factors that may place a person at increased risk of death or injury in a relationship, identify any existing gaps in services provided and how services and responses to victims of domestic violence can be improved with a view to reducing the number of domestic and family violence related deaths in future.

This bill provides a strong framework from which to effect real change and prevent future domestic and family violence deaths by delivering quickly on the government's commitment to implement key priority recommendations of the special task force. I look forward to working with stakeholders and experts in this area and I encourage them to participate in the parliamentary committee process. I am very pleased to commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.45 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 Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 1739.

Appropriation Bill

Finance and Administration Committee

Report No. 11

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): The question is—

That report No. 11 of the Finance and Administration Committee be adopted.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (2.46 pm): As chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, I rise to speak on the appropriation for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Arts and Treasury incorporating Employment, Industrial Relations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Partnerships. There was a lot to fix in this budget. Campbell Newman and his colleagues did damage to Queensland when they were in government. They slashed front-line services, unemployment was at its highest in 11 years, business and consumer confidence was down, and Queenslanders had lost faith in the integrity and accountability of government. That is why this budget is so important and why this year's estimates process itself is important.

I congratulate the Premier and the Treasurer on a budget which not only works to restore much of the damage that was done to Queensland over the three years of the LNP government but also is a plan to take Queensland forward. It delivers on Labor's election promises without selling assets and without sacking workers. The budget delivers on jobs now and jobs for the future, and with growth averaging over four per cent per annum it is no surprise that it delivers the biggest surplus in a decade, with \$1.2 billion forecast for 2015-16 and combined surpluses of \$6.9 billion over the next four years.

It is a budget applauded by interest groups, businesses and ordinary Queenslanders right across the state, and the results are already apparent with business and consumer confidence continuing to grow. Since the state election, there has been growth of over 28,000 jobs in Queensland. This is testament to the work that has been done in the last eight months to get Queensland back on track.

Importantly, the budget restores the front-line services so savaged during the Newman years, allocating \$14.2 billion to Health and \$12.4 billion to Education. This will allow for more nurses and more teachers. Little did we know during the estimates hearings just how sharply we would feel right now the need for \$31.3 million to implement all 140 recommendations contained in the *Not now, not ever* report into domestic violence. I know that everyone in this House supports that. It was very good to see in the budget the commitment of \$173 million to restore Queensland's position as the national leader in the arts. Upon election, Campbell Newman flagged pretty early on what he thought of the arts by slashing the Premier's literary awards, and it went downhill from there.

At the estimates hearing the minister said he deliberately put the 'P' back into DATSIP, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, to emphasise that partnerships are essential to how this government does business and that is clearly how he will be operating. His priorities, he told us, include \$21 million to address the stolen wages issue, \$28.6 million to support the work of the Family Responsibilities Commission and continued support for discrete communities for alcohol management.

One of the first actions of Campbell Newman and the LNP government was to sack 14,000 public servants and then to strip away their hard-earned rights and conditions. What followed was a continual eroding of the rights and conditions of every worker across the state. I congratulate the minister on his very proactive IR agenda to put these things right, starting with the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 and with a number of other bills on the way. I know the government members on our committee are very proud to be taking part in the passage of those bills.

One of the things the LNP damaged most in their three years of government was any semblance of integrity or accountability, and the estimates process was a confronting example. Last year they changed the estimates hearings to be concurrent, with the aim presumably of making it difficult for an opposition of nine to scrutinise their budget. They completely underestimated our intrepid MPs in that regard. However, in the process they damaged the trust of the community. What they did to estimates when they were in government made it the most blatant hypocrisy to this year complain about insufficient time for scrutiny and even more galling for the community that they took up the time of this year's hearing trying to score political points rather than using the process to discuss what are serious issues for Queenslanders. Through this year's estimates process, the Palaszczuk government has restored the transparency and accountability our community expects and we have promised to keep it that way.

In closing, I thank the Premier and the Treasurer and all of the departmental officials involved, both at and in the lead-up to the estimates hearing, as well as the parliamentary staff who support our committee for their hard work and advice. I thank my fellow committee members for their dedication to the task of reporting on the hearing. We may not agree on many things, but our commitment to the committee process could never be doubted.

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.51 pm): My experience with the estimates process this year was different to that of the chair of the committee who spoke a moment ago. What I saw was a protection racket for Jo-Ann Miller. We saw that on day one when, despite this particular matter being considered by the PCCC for some time and the fact that we had been told it had been referred to the PCCC, it was obvious that the whole thing was going to

crumble that particular day because it had not been. Just before the estimates process started, we saw government members of the PCCC refer it to the Ethics Committee so that questions could not be asked about this during the course of the estimates process. That is the lack of respect for openness and accountability that we saw from those members opposite. Despite the fact that the Premier had said in relation to the member for Bundamba that her previous meanderings with regard to the member for Pumicestone and the witness issue were the very last straw that was going to break the camel's back, when push came to shove they sent this over to the Ethics Committee to protect the member for Bundamba and protect themselves from scrutiny.

The honourable member for Bulimba talked about the great openness of this committee process. What I saw was two hours less than we had last year for questioning the Premier. Basically, there were about five hours and 45 minutes last year versus around three hours and 45 minutes this year. So there was two hours less that the opposition had to scrutinise the Premier and scrutinise the other ministers involved, and this was a trend that was continued right across the estimates process.

We saw a difference in the way that opposition members were treated in their questioning versus members of the government. Things that would have been ruled out of order because they were seen to be not before the committee were then considered okay when a government member asked those questions. Indeed, when the Premier was talking about openness and accountability with regard to merit based selection of directors-general and departmental staff, I then asked the Public Service Commissioner if the same merit based selection process had applied to the new director of communications within the health minister's department, who was just foisted in there—a Labor Party apparatchik who was just thrown in there overnight, into a position which was worth more than \$200,000. Yet we did not have any coherent answer from the Premier.

We also heard no answer as to why the government, particularly in the portfolio of Health, instructed public servants—and this is a matter that I raised with the Auditor-General—to go offline after the election to the Queensland Nurses' Union headquarters so that they could consider policy development and a range of issues, particularly around nurse-patient ratios, so it then was off limits with regard to right to information. That is because information that is generated off site does not have the same scrutiny and accessibility as information that is generated on site in a department. That is the level of commitment from this government with regard to transparency and accountability.

I asked the Premier about the illusion around the Public Service long service leave entitlement raids of some \$4 billion. I asked: does this mean that those particular government agencies are now going to have to find this contingent liability each and every year? She indicated, 'They will be topped up.' I said, 'How is it going to be topped up when this money has disappeared into the area of consolidated revenue?' and she was not able to answer that question.

There was the illusion that the member for Bulimba talked about a moment ago with regard to this so-called surplus. I would respectfully ask the member for Bulimba to consult Moody's and Standard & Poor's, who have said that the fiscal deficit situation in Queensland has significantly worsened as a consequence of this budget because they look at fiscal deficit. They do not look at cash surplus because it does not take into consideration the contingent liabilities that have accrued or the fact that they have basically shifted debt from one government ledger to another government ledger and have created a short-term illusion.

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr SPRINGBORG: I do not think the member or the Treasurer have been listening to what the likes of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland and others have been saying in the last week with regard to this government and its lack of direction and its lack of investment in infrastructure.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.56 pm): I rise to speak in relation to the Finance and Administration Committee's report of the estimates hearing. It gives me great pleasure to speak once again about my government's first budget. This is a budget that delivers jobs now and jobs for the future through our \$1.6 billion Working Queensland plan and our \$180 million Advance Queensland initiative. It is a budget that restores vital front-line services, particularly in the key areas of health and education. This is a budget that lowers debt and delivers nation-leading surpluses over the forward estimates: some \$1.2 billion in 2015-16 and an estimated \$6.9 billion over the next four years. This is a budget that delivers for the arts: \$173 million in 2015-16 including \$28 million for essential upgrades to Brisbane's cultural precinct in the wake of its heritage listing. Importantly, this budget delivers on the commitments that Labor took to the 2015 state election. Let's go over some of those commitments.

At the election we promised to restore the successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, which was scrapped without warning by the now Deputy Leader of the Opposition. This budget delivers on that commitment. I am pleased to report that the Minister for Training and Skills has already announced the first tranche of funding—some \$26 million for 200 organisations to help more than 8,000 jobseekers—that was just approved last week. There is more funding to go out. I encourage all members in this House to apply for the funding because it is going to ensure that our people throughout regional and rural Queensland get access to job-creating projects.

We promised to diversify the economy and we have delivered. Our Advance Queensland initiative involves a wide range of programs that will help solve global challenges, retain our best and brightest and develop the knowledge based jobs for the future. We promised to restore some of the deep cuts made by the LNP to front-line services, particularly in Health over which the opposition leader presided. We have delivered a record \$14.2 billion budget—well done, Minister—for Health including 400 new nurses and up to 4,000 new graduate nurses.

We have delivered on our commitment to restore the arts as a vibrant and sustainable sector and industry for future generations. The budget invests in the future of the arts in Queensland, commits to restoring arts funding and protects the heritage value of our cultural institutions through investments in critical infrastructure like our cultural precinct.

My government will provide \$173 million in 2015-16 for the operating expenses of the Arts portfolio including the arts statutory bodies—the Queensland Museum, the Queensland Art Gallery and the Gallery of Modern Art, the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Screen Queensland and the Queensland Theatre Company. We have not forgotten our grassroots arts sector either, with \$5.1 million going towards establishing the new Queensland Arts Showcase Program with a strong focus on the small to medium arts sector.

Importantly, my government has restored integrity and accountability in Queensland by lowering the threshold for the disclosure of political donations from \$12,800 to \$1,000. Will the \$100,000 be disclosed by the LNP? Time is running out; the clock is ticking. We are looking forward to seeing full disclosure.

We have also restored openness and transparency by reinstating a proper estimates process, with eight committees sitting over a two-week period rather than the LNP version of the committees sitting simultaneously over two days. They should hang their heads in shame for that because it is a shameful part of Queensland's history. When did they change their mind on that? Not until after the Stafford by-election, when we saw Anthony Lynham elected to this House as the member for Stafford and now a minister in my government. After that result, Campbell Newman—we do not hear his name mentioned too much in the House anymore; he will be coming back soon, as I hear that a book tour is about to take place—declared that the new approach to estimates would be dropped and the LNP would revert to the system that Labor had reinstated.

In conclusion, I am very pleased that the estimates committee process has been restored in this state. We are honouring our commitment to integrity and accountability. I would like to thank the chair, the member for Bulimba, all the members who served on the estimates committee process and everyone who participated.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.01 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the 2015-16 budget estimates, Appropriation Bill 2015. Report No. 11 has been tabled by the chair on behalf of the committee, and I would like to take my time to talk about the estimates process. We all acknowledge that it is a very important process. It is an opportunity to ask questions on notice and it is an opportunity to ask questions during a hearing process. The Leader of the Opposition alluded to this a short time ago when he talked about the reduced time that was available this year as compared to last year. The committee was able to sit from 9 am to 9.30 pm. We of course had to look after the appropriations for the parliament as well so we had Mr Speaker, the Premier and Minister for the Arts and the Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. It is an opportunity to ask questions. Let us have a look at last year. In 2014 the Premier spent five hours and 47 minutes in estimates and the Treasurer spent five hours and 49 minutes in estimates.

This year the government members of the committee proposed that we would speak to the Premier for two hours and 30 minutes and the Treasurer for three hours. We, on the other hand, said, 'No, that is not on. We are not going to be sitting for that period of time. We want to sit for the whole period right the way through until 9.30 pm.' The process went on backwards and forwards between the

two sides. We moved a motion to have the hearing set for the entire time, nine o'clock in the morning until 9.30 in the evening. The government members defeated that motion. They moved a motion that they wanted that part-time hearing to proceed and they only wanted us to speak to the Premier and the Treasurer for a total of five hours and 30 minutes.

Last year the Premier sat for five hours and 47 minutes and the Treasurer sat for five hours and 49 minutes, and they wanted this side of the House to accept that the Treasurer and the Premier would be able to answer all questions in less time than each of our Premier and Treasurer sat—five hours and 30 minutes—which is less than half the time. In the end it had to come back to the House, and I was all for it. I wanted to debate this issue in the House. I wanted to send a clear message to the people of Queensland that this estimates process is flawed. This estimates process is one where the Premier gets to say, 'No. I will just sit and talk for a few hours,' the Treasurer gets to say the same thing, and through the chair and members of committee on that side they were able to try and push this through.

Eventually we ended up with a compromise. I was not entirely in favour of the compromise, but nevertheless I eventually agreed to it. What did we finish up with? Remember the five hours and 30 minutes in total? Our proposal was for a total of nine hours and 15 minutes. We ended up talking to the Premier for 3¾ hours and the Treasurer for four hours—7¾ hours. We could have had the opportunity to speak to the Premier and the Treasurer for a lot longer, but the members on that side of the House did not want to expose the Premier and the Treasurer to a full and frank estimates process.

I will conclude, because I know that some of the other members on this side want the opportunity to speak. I put the House on notice now that if I am a part of the estimates process next year I will be fighting to ensure that we have the Premier and the Treasurer for every minute that we are able to have them for. I put members on notice now that I will be moving a motion to sit from nine o'clock in the morning until 9.30 in the evening, and if it does not go that way we will be back in the House debating the reasons.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (3.06 pm): I rise to speak to the examination of the budget estimates for 2015-16 and in particular report No. 11 of the Finance and Administration Committee. I initially thank all committee members for their hard work. I acknowledge the efforts of the chair of the committee, the member for Bulimba; the deputy chair, the member for Coomera; and the other committee members, the member for Barron River, the member for Condamine and the member for Broadwater.

The estimates process is an important component of the Westminster system. It is vitally important to ensure the accountability and transparency of government. Community expectations are high, and it is vitally important to treat the estimates process with the respect that it deserves. In this regard it was very pleasing to see the 2015-16 estimates hearings moved from the concurrent schedules that were adopted for the 2014 hearings. To reduce estimates hearings to just two days and to have seven hearings running at the same time does not allow for adequate scrutiny, transparency and accountability. Consecutive hearings allow for greater scrutiny and greater transparency. I also note that non-government members were allocated 52.5 per cent of the question time for the 2015 hearings while government members were allocated 43.8 per cent.

I congratulate the Treasurer on this budget. As I have said previously, it is a kind budget that puts people before numbers while leaving the state in excellent financial health. Through prudent economic management this budget has delivered on our election commitments while not selling state assets and with no forced or voluntary redundancies and no new taxes, fees or charges. While standing firm on these important principles, this government has delivered an operating surplus for every year of the forward estimates beginning with a very healthy surplus of \$962 million in 2014-15.

During the estimates hearings we heard from the Premier about the record spend on education and training: \$12.4 billion to deliver better classrooms and 875 more teachers. It was also fantastic to hear about how TAFE will be rescued with a funding injection of \$34.5 million. This funding will be provided to the TAFE sector to deliver more core courses, deliver more TAFE qualifications and provide more TAFE teachers. This is something that is vitally important for my electorate.

One of the other key budget initiatives that we heard about during the estimates process was the Advance Queensland strategy. This is of particular interest to me as my electorate includes the Brisbane Technology Park, which has more than 150 national and multinational companies working in industries including biotech, health and medical, mining, communications, electronics and software development.

It was great to visit the Brisbane Technology Park recently with the Treasurer where we turned the sod on the new innovation precinct, held an employment round table and visited Pacific Data Systems. This is an important program which represents the path to growth, employment and

prosperity—a vision of growing the economic pie and strengthening our economy through using the talents of our best and brightest. It is a \$180 million investment in innovation, skills, education, business development and in promoting start-ups to deliver knowledge based jobs now and into the future. Advance Queensland represents a commitment to invest in the talents and skills of the future. Further, the government will intelligently leverage this funding to attract external investment from the private sector and other non-government organisations with the objective of generating a public-private investment totalling \$300 million.

This is a budget that delivers on jobs now, supports jobs of the future, delivers a record spend on education and health, lowers debt, improves front-line services and helps to protect the most vulnerable in our community. I want to take the opportunity to thank the Premier and Minister for the Arts, and the Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships for their professionalism, attention to detail and clear and concise answers to questions from committee members. Finally, I want to make particular mention of the staff of the Finance and Administration Committee. Thank you to Deb, Maggie and Louise. I look forward to working with you all again.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.11 pm): I rise today to speak to the Finance and Administration Committee's report No. 11 into the 2015-16 budget estimates. At the outset I acknowledge my colleagues on the committee—the chair, the member for Bulimba; the deputy chair, the member for Coomera; my good friend and colleague the member for Condamine; and the members for Barron River and Stretton. I would also like to join my colleagues who have spoken earlier in acknowledging the secretariat for the work that they do. I also recognise and thank the departmental officials who took the time to appear before the committee and make themselves available.

This is the fourth estimates process that I have had the opportunity to participate in, and it is the first opportunity that I have had as a member of the opposition to participate in estimates. When I looked at the time frames for this year, I was really disappointed that we had a system that did not allow openness, transparency or accountability. As we all know, the estimates process is an incredibly important one in the Westminster system. Oppositions are able to put questions to the government, to hold them to account so that the people of Queensland have an opportunity to see that their duly elected government is there to answer questions, to be put on the spot and to defend the decisions that they have made when it comes to spending taxpayers' dollars.

Everyone ordinarily respects that system. That is why it was incredibly disappointing to see this year that, instead of availing ourselves of the 12½ hours that we are allowed under standing orders, a decision was made that we would initially only sit from nine until five o'clock. When the draft schedule came out, I was so shocked that I thought they had accidentally used the template for the previous year when each committee was given two days to hold estimates hearings. I thought a genuine error had been made when drafting the schedule because the estimates hearing was not going until nine or 9.30, as is allowed in the standing orders.

I know that my good friend and colleague the member for Coomera has touched on it, but it really is disappointing when you consider that at last year's estimates the Premier was available for more time. At last year's estimates the Treasurer was available for more time. It is really disappointing that this year in the estimates process we have a government that is looking to hide. We have a government that does not want to make itself available to answer questions.

The Treasurer spoke about how important the ATSIP component of his portfolio is, and I acknowledge that it is a very important aspect. The member for Mount Ommaney will probably touch on this, but I found it very disappointing that the Treasurer's own government colleagues did not think it important enough to allocate more time for that portfolio. I know that the member for Mount Ommaney had a series of questions that she wanted to put in this incredibly important area, and government members of the committee stymied the opportunity for the Premier and the Treasurer to be held to account in front of the people of Queensland.

Another really important thing to mention was the no-show of the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland. The Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland is referenced in the Premier's SDS. She herself told the committee that when she would be appearing in relation to community services she would not be answering questions about North Queensland. When we asked the Premier where she was, thinking now would be the perfect opportunity to ask her questions relevant to her portfolio areas with respect to North Queensland, we heard, 'It's okay. The minister is appearing later next week. She can answer questions then.' That is irrespective of the fact that the minister herself said that she would not be answering questions then.

The estimates process is an important opportunity for the opposition to hold the government to account. What we saw time and again with each of these estimates hearings was the government not wanting to be held accountable, the government not wanting to be transparent and the government not wanting to be open. The Premier was so scared of the estimates process that the first thing she did after the estimates for the Finance and Administration Committee finished was to go on holidays and hand the powers over to the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Jackie Trad. What we have seen is a government that is scared of estimates, that is scared of the opposition and, ultimately, that is clearly scared of being held to account in front of the people of Queensland.

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (3.16 pm): I rise today to speak to the appropriations for the Premier and Treasurer, as we have seen outlined by my colleagues before me. It is with great pleasure that I sit on the Finance and Administration Committee, and I took great pleasure in kicking off the estimates for 2015 on the first day. I congratulate my colleagues on both sides of the House, particularly the chair, the member for Bulimba, and the committee members who worked with us.

I am a bit confused as to whether we were all in the same hearings. What I heard and what I saw was a Premier and a Treasurer who clearly understood their portfolios, who had a very good grasp of their responsibilities and who were able to articulate that themselves and also through the representatives they brought to the table at estimates to speak on that particular day. What we saw was a 15-minute battle, I guess. We had 15 minutes of questions from government members which asked about the Appropriation Bill, estimates, the budget and things in relation to dollars and the like. Then when the ball was in the other court we had questions about the police minister and questions about other ministers. They were questions that I felt were totally unrelated to what we were there for. As a committee, our responsibility was to interview the respective ministers and to gain a perspective from them as to what their knowledge of their portfolio was and the expenditure that went with it.

I was a bit disappointed to see what was coming from the other side. I have heard all the arguments that we just had about there not being enough time and that they were mistreated and words to that effect. I think the chair mentioned this before, but we had a meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee on 17 July. It was unanimously agreed—all six people, three from each side—that the hearing time would run for the time frame that it did on that day.

Mr Crandon: Following the moving and defeat of two motions.

Mr CRAWFORD: To me, that is a democracy. That was not us overruling them. We have three on each side.

Mr Crandon: I am sorry? You don't remember the motion being moved and being defeated?

Mr CRAWFORD: I hear the member for Coomera, but I do disagree with his comments. However, I welcome his statement that he is going to champion it for next year. I am happy to have those conversations with him. One recommendation I would make is that, if we are going to have more time next year in estimates, perhaps members from the other side could use that time effectively to talk about issues in relation to the appropriations. We have 12 months for them to prepare and learn what exactly that means because what I saw was everything but.

The other thing I noted was that out of the three opposition members on the Finance and Administration Committee I only heard one question asked from those three members. All of the other questions were asked by other members and I thought that that was a bit disappointing because we are a good team and we do work well together and I think that some of those questions could have come from those members.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order, members! The member for Barron River has the—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I am about to warn members. Order, please! The member for Barron River has the call.

Mr CRAWFORD: In summary, I want to make particular mention of the Treasurer, a good friend of mine and colleague from the Far North. I was very impressed to see his articulate and measured responses when he provided answers, particularly answers to questions from the other side. I thought

that the answers the Treasurer provided were bang on the mark with the questions that were asked and with what I wanted to hear as a member of this committee. I commend him for his budget and commend him for the way that he acted on the day as well as the Premier.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.20 pm): This was my first time on an estimates committee and I have to say that I was a little underwhelmed. There was a lot of talk about openness and transparency, but some of that was a little bit hard to pick up. We have already heard about the difference in the time allocated between the estimates hearing last year and this year in that the Premier was two hours less. There were a lot of questions that were asked that did not really get much in the line of detailed answers. The role of Terry Mackenroth is one that springs to mind very quickly as does the remuneration levels of some of the staff, and the information that was provided afterwards regarding that issue certainly did not really provide an answer either. We have also heard about the absence of the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland. We certainly had some questions for her, but she did not appear.

The Treasurer was also a little short on time compared to the process undertaken last year by the previous government—one hour and 49 minutes less, as I understand it. We just heard about the articulate answers that the Treasurer gave. I have to say that he certainly did give some very long replies but not much in the line of answers to some of the questions. A lot of those replies seemed more dedicated to criticising the previous government than anything to do with his own portfolio. As far as openness and transparency are concerned, I was really disappointed. The member for Barron River made a comment about not being in the same room as some people given some of the comments that have been made. I asked the Parliamentary Library to provide a copy of an article that was in the *Courier-Mail* the following morning written by Steven Wardill. I want to quote the article, because it is another view on the process. The article states—

ANNASTACIA Palaszczuk and Labor yesterday sullied budget estimates, the very parliamentary process they purport to protect. They used their numbers to stymie questions and they deployed distractions to divert attention from the hearings.

Queensland governments always take a siege mentality towards estimates.

But it's particularly galling from an administration that touts itself as the harbinger of a proper, accountable process.

Opposition Leader Lawrence Springborg yesterday complained Jo-Ann Miller's referral to the Ethics Committee was a 'protection racket' for the Police Minister.

It was really, though, protection for the Premier.

If it was a court of law, yesterday's committee chair, Labor's Di Farmer, would have been removed for bias given her appallingly partisan approach.

She cruelled Opposition lines of questioning when she deemed them repetitive or out of order and then allowed Palaszczuk to not just avoid questions but to actually ask them.

It goes on with a couple of other red herrings that were run out earlier this morning and it finishes by stating—

Palaszczuk raised expectations she'd treat estimates with respect. Yesterday she proved, once again, it is easier for governments to talk about accountability than endure it.

That article was written by another person who observed estimates very closely and I have to say that my view of the procedure closely reflects those comments.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (3.24 pm): The Finance and Administration Committee heard that the Palaszczuk government's first budget delivers on all of the commitments that we made at the election. As promised, we have more than offset the spending of our election commitments. On final analysis, our 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.

Importantly, the committee heard me advise that for 2015-16 we are forecasting a surplus of \$1.2 billion, with combined surpluses over the next four years of \$6.9 billion. These results have been achieved without redundancies—forced or voluntary—and through sensible measures that do not include selling our assets. Economic growth is forecast to improve from two per cent in 2014-15 to 4½ per cent in both 2015-16 and 2016-17. As a testament of Queensland's enduring economic strength, there is stronger growth in Queensland than in any other state in the country.

I was pleased to inform the committee that measures being implemented as part of the government's debt action plan will reduce general government debt by approximately \$7.5 billion in 2015-16 and across the forward estimates by \$9.6 billion compared to the level of debt in the absence

of measures. As for the comments by the opposition leader about fiscal balances, he clearly does not understand that more than \$3 billion of revenue write-downs over the forward estimates factored into this budget would have occurred under the LNP if it were re-elected. I think that is a point that is lost on the opposition leader. In terms of general government debt or non-financial public sector debt, of course the budget showed that debt is forecast lower under Labor than under the LNP. Again, that is surely lost on those opposite.

The estimates process was a good opportunity to highlight where the Palaszczuk government's first budget contrasts with those of the previous LNP government. While the former government had almost no linkages between its election commitments and its budgets, what this estimates process clearly shows is that this government's first budget delivered on its election commitments. It showed a strong Labor budget that delivers jobs, economic certainty and of course sensible fiscal management.

Regarding my portfolio responsibilities in industrial relations, some of the first orders of business upon assuming office were to settle some of the many unresolved industrial matters left in a mess by the previous government. We are restoring fairness to Queensland workers through our suite of industrial relations reforms—promised at the election and working their way through the parliament.

We have a firm commitment to fairness and safety in the workplace. For example, this government has introduced a new government owned corporations wages and industrial relations policy, restoring fairness for GOC employees. GOC employees now have employment security reinstated and fairness in industrial relations principles, bargaining and wage increases. The policy provides for wage increases of up to a maximum of three per cent per annum offset by productivity that is equivalent to 50 per cent of the wages increase offer actually made—that is, for a three per cent increase, 1.5 per cent or half of that increase must be funded by productivity, efficiency or savings. In that way, employees receive a fair wage increase and also contribute to the efficient operation of the GOCs. This is a significant improvement on the former government's position which attached harsh and punitive measures and demands to its offers.

This government has also upped the ante in terms of communicating a strong safety message to businesses and the community. The Office of Industrial Relations is rolling out advertising campaigns to deliver work safety messages to a high proportion of the community through television, radio, online channels and newspapers. The aim is always to raise awareness of the importance of work health and safety, electrical safety and effective return-to-work practices. This is about providing advice through educative resources and influencing positive attitudes and behavioural change.

During the estimates section on my portfolio responsibilities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, I was particularly disappointed in the level of questioning that the opposition offered up. Instead of a thorough examination of the initiatives of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, we got misguided conspiracy theories about union encouragement and whether it related to our stolen wages reparations policy.

I announced in the budget that we have committed to establish a fund of up to \$21 million to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders affected by former government controls. As I announced the morning of my estimates hearing, we have established a special task force chaired by Mick Gooda, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, to deliver on this commitment. The task force is going to be providing recommendations to government about the development of criteria for the allocation of funds and an assessment process.

During the hearing I spoke about how DATSIP provided whole-of-government leadership, policy, program and service delivery for Indigenous Queenslanders. The department is committed to working across government at all levels with the non-government and private sectors. Importantly, I have asked DATSIP and Treasury to work together closely to leverage Treasury's central agency policy experience and influence across government. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage is a significant issue. That is why I am elevating the role and expectations of DATSIP. I thank the secretariat and the members of the FAC for their examination of the Appropriation Bill.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.29 pm): It is with pleasure that I rise to speak to the estimates process. It is interesting to look at the comments of the committee members, both non-government members and government members, on pages 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 of the report to see that this year's process, as has already been described by the member for Coomera, the opposition leader, the member for Broadwater and the member for Condamine, was not what this government said it would be. When it was in opposition it said that it would restore the process. The estimates process certainly was not about openness and accountability. We even have criticisms of non-government members asking questions that breached the standing orders. I would

say that that is up to the committee chair. If there are concerns about the standing orders being breached, it is obvious and important that the committee chair be aware of the standing orders. We have a booklet containing the standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly and pages 23 and 24 of that booklet relate to questions. It is up to the committee chair to make sure that questions do not breach those standing orders.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: Yes, that is what we have. We have the government members criticising their own chairs for supposedly allowing questions that breached standing orders. If members look at the comments of the other government members, whether it is to do with Treasury, industrial relations or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, they cut and pasted their responses to non-government comments about the detail provided by the Treasurer. With all the resources they have, they cannot even come up with individual comments in relation to those areas.

When it comes to the budget itself, since the election of the Labor government we have seen a real weakening in Queensland's economic circumstances. The Treasurer opposite is trying to paint a different picture, as he did on estimates day, with those lengthy answers that really consisted of constant criticism of the former government instead of reassuring Queenslanders and the parliament that the promises that he made during the election campaign were, in fact, being delivered in the budget papers.

This year, we can see that economic growth is weaker than previously forecast. It is still leading the nation. That is something that this government inherited. Since the election of this government, there has been a rapid fall in business confidence. The most recent Sensis business survey shows that business confidence in Queensland is the lowest in the country. Of course, we cannot be confident in a Treasurer—and I note that he is in the chamber at the moment and I am sure that he will remember this well—who, to make a political point, one week claimed that Queensland was in a recession and then the next week said, 'We are out of recession.'

The most recent state final demand figures for the June quarter confirmed that we have had, again, two flagging quarters in a row. Those figures show that our domestic economy is lagging behind every other Australian state. Instead of acknowledging the need to do better, in an attempt to downplay her government's economic mismanagement, the Premier misquoted the figures. Even members of the Premier's Business Advisory Council have pleaded with this government to do something about Queensland's economic malaise and its do-nothing approach to economic issues. It is in stark contrast to Labor's attitude towards current social issues.

Since the election of the Palaszczuk government, employment growth forecasts have weakened. The Palaszczuk government's own budget papers predict that unemployment will not fall below 6.5 per cent for at least next two years. As highlighted in the budget papers, all the risks to the economic outlook are to the downside. Budget Paper No. 2 states specifically—

If some of these risks were to eventuate, the forecast recovery in domestic activity and labour market conditions may be slower than currently anticipated.

Given that Labor governments in the decade to 2011-12 increased expenditure by an average of 8.9 per cent per annum, how can we have any confidence in the Treasurer keeping a lid on expenses growth? These are important questions that remain unanswered. These are the vital questions that the opposition would have liked to have put to the Treasurer for a straight answer, not the lengthy answers that he gave at estimates. At the estimates hearing he was defensive and dismissive, as he is today. He refused to release the modelling from the Orion Consulting Network, which was referenced during the 2015 election campaign, that reportedly shows that aggregating the state owned electricity businesses will save \$150 million annually. What does the Treasurer and the government have to hide? Is it because they know that these numbers will not hold up to scrutiny? We are concerned that what has been presented in the budget papers in no way reflects what the Labor Party promised during the 2015 election campaign. In fact, the Treasurer was almost proud of that fact, saying, 'We've done it in a different way.' But, in fact, we have seen Labor's duplicity: more debt, higher fiscal deficits, unemployment not coming down and lower growth.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (3.34 pm): As we have heard, obviously, the Finance and Administration Committee has tabled its report on the consideration of the 2015-16 portfolio budget estimates for the portfolio of the Premier and Minister for the Arts and the Treasurer's portfolio areas. I would like to thank the committee and its chair, the member for Bulimba, for their work in producing a very comprehensive report and for recommending that the government's proposed appropriations in this area be agreed to.

I had the pleasure of attending the estimates hearing in relation to the Premier's portfolio areas. I was there waiting, availing myself of the opportunity to be asked questions but, understandably, the members of the committee were starstruck by the Premier and wanted to hear more from her. I can understand that.

A government member: But you could have handled yourself.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I could have handled myself, but I enjoyed it. I had a great time hearing the Premier's answers and, indeed, the answers of a range of CEOs and the director-general who had questions directed to them at different times. It was a great example of the success of the estimates committee hearing process that allows that transparency and cross-examination of the detail of the budget. That is why I was a little bit disappointed that we really did not get the extensive cross-examination of the portfolio areas that should have been appropriate especially, I might say, from a group of people that included the Leader of the Opposition, who was leading the charge in that portfolio area, at least for the morning session, who only a few months before was a minister in a government. One would have thought that the Leader of the Opposition would have had a better understanding of the issues that should have been brought up. Instead, we heard continual politically driven, politically motivated lines of questioning that had nothing to do with the details, strengths and, indeed, potential weaknesses of the 2015-16 budget. No, it was the same sort of claptrap that we hear peddled in here from time to time in the form of some pretty spurious questions.

The opposition's line of questions were not on the task, were not about the estimates before the parliament. The members opposite failed to take the opportunity in the full glare of all of the cleansing sunlight that comes with media scrutiny that this estimates process for 2015-16 provides, unlike the process that we had seen in the past where the former government scrunched and crunched the whole estimates process into a couple of days so that it could keep everyone else on their feet hopping around unable to get into the detail of anything. But what did we see?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I hear these suggestions that there was less time. There was less time, but more considerably more questions from the opposition were asked during this process than occurred during the former process. That shows that this process has stood up to the test and returned the estimates process to the traditions that were established in a modern, post-Fitzgerald Queensland. I hear some suggestions around the place that some people do not like that phrase. They do not like to hear that term. One would almost think they do not like to hear the name 'Fitzgerald' almost as much as they do not like to hear the name 'Newman'.

I encourage the whole of this House to support this committee's recommendation to this parliament to endorse the appropriations for the Premier's portfolio and the Treasurer's portfolio. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (3.39 pm): I was privileged to join the committee for its examination of the portfolios of both the Premier and the Treasurer but not in their roles as Premier and Treasurer, but rather the Premier as Minister for the Arts and the Treasurer in his role as Minister for Industrial Relations. I thank the chair for her consideration in allowing me to join in that way.

There were certainly many areas where, contrary to what the former Speaker has just said, the opposition members of the committee very much zeroed in on the government's records in the area of arts and in the area of industrial relations. I was particularly interested to question the Premier on this government's record in respect of the arts, a very important part of our community, a very important part of the fabric of Queensland. I think it was clear, looking at the budget and the Premier's reaction, that in respect to the arts this government's reaction is not to have a proper plan for it, a plan to ensure that the arts gets itself onto a sustainable and long-term position, rather it is one of flitting in and out, throwing a bit of money around saying, 'Here it is, you go and do something with it.' There is no thought or commitment to that sector. It is an extremely important sector of our community, one which the Newman government took seriously and which I, as minister for the arts, took seriously.

The record of achievement of the previous government, I would be prepared to say, far outweighs what it seems this budget is going to deliver for Queenslanders in the area of the arts. Members will recall that we tripled the number of rural and regional performances that were sponsored by the government. In the year 2011, the last year of the previous Labor government, 180 performances were sponsored; in 2013, the last year for which I have records, there were 617—a tripling of the performances sponsored by the government. That is important for people who live in rural and regional Queensland. It is okay if a person can go down to South Bank and see something on Friday and

Saturday evening so wonderful and so spectacular—which we do—but if a person lives in Muckadilla, Mount Isa, Cairns or Birdsville they do not always get that chance. It is so important that people all around Queensland get that opportunity. We were proud to triple the number of performances that rural and regional Queenslanders saw.

We did not ignore South Bank. The Queensland Ballet's production of *Romeo and Juliet*, funded by our Super Star Fund, was the best box office it had ever had; the Queensland Theatre Company's performance of *Macbeth*, with support from the Super Star Fund, was its best box office for something like 20 years. Under the previous government there were more people going to see great art in this state than had ever happened before. We got *Pirates of the Caribbean 5* here, the biggest film ever to be filmed in Australia.

An opposition member: And Pistol and Boo!

Mr WALKER: And Pistol and Boo. It was exclusive to Queensland. They were big achievements. We had a 30-year plan for the cultural precinct. We had \$100 million in our election promises to fund arts infrastructure. It was this that I zeroed in on when I asked the Premier about the plans for South Bank. The lack of planning is concerning. The lack of funding is concerning. There is no funding in the budget other than for standard maintenance matters. They are important, but there is no funding for the future of that precinct. We need to think about it seriously. We are one theatre short of where we should be—a 1,500-seat theatre—that is costing us productions as we stand here. The museum is half the size it should be for a city of our size. The Newman government had plans to address these issues. This government's budget showed no such plans. That is a scandal and the government needs to look to its laurels to do something about those important issues.

I was also able to question the Minister for Industrial Relations about a number of the government's so-called initiatives in the area of industrial relations. We have the return to the good old union encouragement policy. It was clear from what the Treasurer said that there has been no planning for this policy whatsoever. There is that scary provision in the policy that says mere acceptance of unions in the workplace is not enough, that active encouragement is what the government requires. Yet it was quite clear from what the Treasurer said that no training is given to managers as to what active encouragement means, no costing has been given as to what access to facilities union officials will have on the public purse and no guidelines have been set around what it is that these union officials need to comply with other than common sense. Common sense was used by the Treasurer there. It was otherwise notably lacking in the rest of the budget papers.

 **Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (3.44 pm): I rise to speak in support of report No. 11 of the Finance and Administration Committee. Although I am not part of the committee, it was great to observe the first one off the rank, so to speak, under the new government. I was impressed with what I believe was a fine example of people across their portfolios, particularly in relation to the Premier and the Treasurer. We have heard a lot today in relation to the amount of time we have to speak on this topic. There has been a lot of comment about the time frames and about the lack of time. All I have to say to those opposite is that one would not mind it so much if there were some quality questions, but from what I observed there was little quality in the questions in relation to the estimates that were before them. I found a lot of what I could only describe as cheap political pointscoring.

Mr Crandon: You weren't there!

Ms GRACE: I saw it on the internet, in answer to the interjection from the member for Coomera. What I observed was a lot of cheap political pointscoring. It was more about pointscoring in a cheap political way than about the quality of the questions coming to both the Premier and the Treasurer in relation to the budget figures that they had before them. I say to those opposite: remember that quality is often more important than quantity. You know that you are in real trouble when, with all due respect to it, you have to come into this House and quote the *Courier-Mail* in relation to an issue. You do then know you are in quite a bit of trouble.

I want to highlight that what I observed in relation to these committees is job creation, which is the No. 1 priority of the Palaszczuk government. This is a jobs budget. That is the only way one can describe it. The highlights include \$1.6 billion for the Working Queensland program. I am proud to see that already over \$26 million has been awarded for projects commencing from September to a wide range of delivery locations across Queensland under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work. I have already had \$1.2 million awarded to projects in my electorate which will assist 460 people to obtain skills and find work. The \$180 million Advance Queensland fund is also geared towards creating jobs. Already the latest statistics from ABS data show that 28,500 jobs have been created by the Palaszczuk government since being elected.

I join with the member for Mansfield in recognising the importance of the arts. I love the arts. It is one of those defining moments in humanity. I welcome the \$173 million. I know that the Premier, as the Minister for the Arts, will certainly allocate that to the most appropriate projects to deliver the arts for all of Queensland. With those few words I thank everyone involved. It was a great estimates hearing.

Report adopted.

Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! The question is—

That the report of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee be adopted.

 **Mr PEARCE** (Mirani—ALP) (3.48 pm): In rising to speak to the 2015-16 budget estimates, report No. 7 of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee, I want to thank all members of the committee and the secretariat for their commitment to the task on what was a very, very long day. In commending the report to the House I acknowledge that the estimates committee hearings provide opportunity for members to scrutinise both past and future spending by the different agencies across the government which fall under the responsibility of different ministers. When the hearings are finished the committee meets to consider the evidence given and, while I do not wish to be negative about the process, I need to talk about the interaction between committee members, ministers and departmental officers during our committee hearing.

I thought the people of Queensland, the taxpayers, were done a disservice by the shadow ministers, not only in our committee hearing but also in the hearings of other committees. The shadow ministers seemed to forget that they were granted leave to appear at the committee hearing and, in doing so, they actually took time away from their colleagues who had put in all the hard yards and done the hard work. I recognise the right of shadow ministers to be involved and to ask questions, because that is important for their work and it is important for the people we in this place serve, that is, the people of Queensland. If the shadow ministers are doing their job, they should be extracting relevant information that is important to the performance of their particular shadow portfolio.

However, almost every estimates committee was forced to listen to the rantings of shadow ministers as they wasted valuable minutes of their allocated time, without showing respect to their own colleagues, the process or the people of Queensland. The LNP had one line of questions focused on the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, which showed that that was a strategy that had been put together to attack the integrity of the minister. It was pretty pathetic to hear the first question of all shadow ministers directly targeting the Minister for Police. Frankly, I saw it as a major failure and a real disappointment for those who support the LNP. As far as I am concerned, it wiped out any credibility that they have sought to recover after their wasted three years in government. I would have thought that well-structured questions that were relevant to government expenditure and government waste from the previous financial year compared with the proposed expenditure for the year ahead would have given people some hope that the LNP opposition was on the right track.

I now move to the report before the House. The role of our committee was to consider the estimates referred to it, information contained in the budget papers, answers to questions provided prior to the hearing, evidence taken on the day and answers to questions taken on notice during the hearing. It was rewarding to sit as the chair and listen to ministers answering questions from the committee members. The Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade, Minister Jackie Trad, was at the top of her game. She showed just how competent she is by responding to non-government members' questions with certainty. She gave responses that left committee members struggling to come up with another question. The Deputy Premier is certainly across her portfolios and demonstrated why she is—

(Time expired)

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.53 pm): I am disappointed in the member for Mirani, but maybe I should not be, because as the member is a lifetime member of the CFMEU he has to be in the protection racket. The member for Mirani doth protest too much in regard to ministers being asked to answer for their portfolios and for the decisions of this Labor government. Parliament has barely sat since the Palaszczuk Labor government came to power. In fact, I have heard some members lamenting the fact that they need a GPS to find Parliament House because it has been so long since the House sat.

However, the estimates process happened recently. People rightfully came together to ask this government to answer questions with respect to the budget put to the parliament and to answer for the decisions that it is making on behalf of Queenslanders. The decisions the government is making will affect not just this budget but also the lives of people into the future in terms of how money is spent and how those decisions transpired. Since the change of government, we have seen a real limbo; nothing has happened. Therefore, to hear the chairman of this committee complaining that ministers are being asked to be held to account is just a little bit rich. We make no apologies for standing up for Queenslanders and asking those questions in the parliamentary committee structure, because that is what it is there for. It is not about protecting ministers from being asked questions. They need to front up and answer questions that are asked on behalf of our constituents.

Of course, with the bundling together of portfolios into one super portfolio, this committee covered a number of areas. A number of those areas will be spoken to by my colleagues, so I will speak to my area of concern, which is local government. Legislative decisions of government across other portfolios impact greatly on local government. It is not just about the grant money that is given to local government; it is about the legislation that government passes that has an impact. Therefore, it was quite reasonable for me to ask the local government minister, who is also the Deputy Premier and minister for many things, about the impact of legislation and whether it is being monitored in regard to local government. However, despite the introduction of quite dramatic legislation that will have significant cost impacts for local government, it appears that the department that presides over local government sits back and does not monitor that legislation. It monitors only the legislation under its immediate remit. It stands back and, once again, pays no attention to the full impact of government.

Government has an impact in respect to the legislative regulatory red tape that it puts around the lives of other people. The LNP philosophically believes that legislation should be there to enable and facilitate and also to set people free to get on with their lives, rather than fundamentally stopping them from setting up businesses in a reasonable way. The same is true of local government. Under this government, legislation has been brought forward and the Local Government Association of Queensland complained, understandably, that it could impact upon jobs in that sector. Who ultimately pays for that? It is the local communities that they represent. In this particular case, it was to do with industrial relations legislation. While that is under the remit of another minister, it should have been directly monitored by the Deputy Premier, who should not be taking her eye off the ball in regard to its huge cost impact upon local government. We are expecting other legislation that I am not allowed to talk about because it is coming before the House—but some might say it is about workers compensation—will have a similar impact on a number of communities throughout Queensland.

It is time that the government took responsibility for the costs that it is passing on to people. You cannot on the one hand say, 'We're going to give more grants,' but with the other hand rip money out of people's pockets and say, 'It's not my responsibility.' It is the responsibility of this government to come clean and to stand up to scrutiny. While the chairman of this committee has just complained about scrutiny, I say tough luck! That is what we are here to do. We are here to hold this government to account, to demand better for Queenslanders and to say that it is time the government got its hands out of the pockets of Queenslanders.

(Time expired)

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! When the members of the government have completed their cachinnations, I will call the member for Dalrymple.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (3.58 pm): In speaking to the committee report with regard to the portfolio related to infrastructure, I acknowledge the minister. I also acknowledge the committee members and the work that the committee has done over the course of this parliament. I put a number of questions to the minister about the Galilee Basin. As you walk through the centre of Charters Towers, and probably any place in rural and regional Queensland, you see empty shops and streets that have come to a virtual standstill.

When we look at state development and infrastructure planning, I cannot understand why we do not build a railway track in the Galilee Basin. This is about getting jobs for the state and, I might say, jobs for the country. It is about royalties and transport haulage. The moment we build that railway track it provides opportunities for coal to be removed and exported. That would provide royalties for the next 50 years and transport haulage opportunities. At the time they privatised the coal component of Queensland Rail some \$1.7 billion a year in revenue was going back to the state. At the present time there is no revenue going back to the state. That is due to the selling of the coal component of Queensland Rail.

It is very important that the government forget about sweeteners and things that will buy votes and instead give us a tangible solution. When we met the Premier in Charters Towers the big issue for business, for the council, for the chamber of commerce was to get those mines up and going so they can create jobs and then the whole region will benefit. Everybody will benefit from that. Those in Brisbane will benefit from that. If we want to kickstart the economy in this state then we should build the railway track in the Galilee Basin. It is very simple. It can be done. They did it in the past. I cannot see why it cannot be done now.

I put a question to the Minister for State Development with regard to rural roads. I am happy to see that \$3 million has been allocated for preparatory work to finish the remaining 42 kilometres of the Gregory Developmental Road. We still do not know when that will be completed. This funding is only for the preparatory work.

There is funding for the preparatory work for the Cape River bridge. This is a good start, but we want to see it built not just the preparatory work done. The Cape River bridge is continually flooded when it rains. I am aware that it is in drought at the moment. People cannot get to Clermont during rainy periods because they get blocked off by Cape River. It is a good start that the preparatory work will be undertaken for the Cape River bridge. We also need work done on Snake Creek, Stockyard Creek, Basalt River and Clarke River.

With regard to water infrastructure, we are pushing hard for a weir to be constructed on the Upper Burdekin. I acknowledge that the minister put forward amendments to the Water Act two years in advance, which is a good thing. Landowners are prepared to chip in to construct a weir, but we do need support from the state government. I know that the council is on board at the present time. This would allow for water trading and give irrigators an opportunity to irrigate and develop crops, particularly through this drought area.

We need to expand when it comes to that water infrastructure development. These are not massive projects but they are projects that will help support these communities. They would support a meatworks that could fatten cattle all year round. Given the desperate and serious times that we are going through at the moment, this is an opportunity for the state government to contribute and do something constructive for the state.

I wanted to bring those matters to the attention of the House. Once again, I congratulate the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee on its report.

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (4.03 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the report of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee which recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2015, be agreed to. As a new member of the Queensland state parliament, I was interested in the whole estimates process which gives the committee the opportunity to ask questions of the relevant minister in relation to the government's spending in their departments.

To say that I was disappointed at the start of the hearing would be an understatement. The opposition continued to ask irrelevant questions of the ministers about matters that did not reflect the purpose of the estimates process. As a new member to this process, I struggled to understand why those opposite continued with their line of questioning even when the chair made it quite clear that the questions being asked were out of order and irrelevant to the minister whose portfolio was under consideration.

I take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade for her answers to questions from government, opposition and crossbench members. Of the key budget initiatives funded in the budget, I was pleased to hear of the federal and state government commitment of over \$8.5 billion to fix the Bruce Highway over 10 years. The highway provides a critical link for freight movements between inland production areas and 11 coastal ports, including the port of Gladstone, and major regional centres in the state. It is also a major commuter route that needs continuous maintenance and upgrades to keep those using it safe. The projects include major upgrades and realignments, strengthening and widening type works plus a range of safety and efficiency measures to target poor crash sites and to provide additional overtaking lanes and rest areas. Some of these projects will be taking place in my electorate.

In addition to this, I was also pleased to hear of the \$104.8 million for the Bridges Renewal Program over four years which will enable road infrastructure systems in my electorate to facilitate larger vehicles accessing the port of Gladstone from outlying rural areas. By upgrading these bridges—

for example, by replacing one-lane timber bridges with dual-lane concrete bridges—residents will enjoy better and more reliable road access. Freight from farms and from local factories will be able to pass safely and quickly along these routes with greater improved productivity.

I was also pleased to hear of the establishment of Building Queensland which will help to deliver a state infrastructure plan driving economic growth through innovative property and infrastructure partnerships and facilitate priority development infrastructure in Queensland. It will deliver a better planning system that supports effective public participation whilst providing for efficient and constant decision-making that instils investment and community confidence. Building Queensland will develop and administer the Community Resilience Fund to build resilient infrastructure and a suite of local government funding programs.

Another successful program in this budget is the continuation of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. It will continue to help communities to prepare for natural disasters, which we recently experienced in my electorate and electorates north of mine. It will assist in the management of Queensland's strategy for disaster resilience.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines for his replies to questions from government, opposition and crossbench members. I must say some of the answers were well thought out and utilised the time that he had available to him. Once again, as a new member to the estimates process, I must say that the minister's answers to questions were very thorough. The member for Dalrymple can attest to how thorough the minister actually was.

I congratulate the minister on his budget initiatives of progressing the restoration of community rights to object to mining projects while maximising simplicity and efficiency of processes for all stakeholders, including agricultural infrastructure within the definition of restricted land. The minister's restoration of this process honours a significant election promise to restore objection rights for our communities. This legislation will help set the scene for a productive relationship with resource companies by helping to lessen anxiety towards resource development among landholders and agricultural stakeholders alike.

I take the opportunity to also thank the committee secretariat who continue to support all on the committee. I thank them for their endless work in keeping us informed of all the goings on of the committee. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (4.08 pm): The estimates committee hearing for the State Development, Natural Resources and Mines portfolio provided an insight into the tortured, compromised and constrained predicament of the incumbent minister. This minister, I am convinced, has studied the mechanics and the content of his portfolio. I believe that he has an appreciation of the potential and the importance of the legislation that he is responsible for. Sadly, it is clear that this minister is not free to progress the reform agenda in these portfolios that commenced under the former LNP government. I think this minister knows that this reform needs to continue to modernise Queensland's legislation, to help grow the economy and to help create new jobs.

This minister is tortured by the fact that he cannot progress the reform agenda that Queensland needs because he cannot get the support that he needs from his cabinet, dominated by the Deputy Premier and the Left faction of the Labor Party in Queensland. For example, the minister was unable to explain why the service area highlights in the SDS for the Department of State Development did not include any initiatives that had originated under the Palaszczuk government since 16 February this year. Similarly, the minister was unable to explain why the service area objectives in the SDS for the Department of State Development did not include any projects that had originated under the Palaszczuk government since 16 February this year.

The minister has been constrained by the politically driven commentary of the Palaszczuk government about certain projects in Queensland. For example, Labor has tried to associate itself with the good news around the Queen's Wharf project, while continuing to repeat its LNP-bashing rhetoric about the 1 William Street project. However, the minister refused to accept the offer that I extended to him during the estimates hearing to explain how the Queen's Wharf project would proceed without the 1 William Street project. The minister declined to advise the committee what the Palaszczuk government would do about the displaced public servants from the Neville Bonner Building, 80 George Street and 100 George Street as the Queen's Wharf project proceeded in the absence of the 1 William Street project.

Finally, the minister is clearly hopelessly compromised by the conflict between Labor's election commitments in the area of natural resource management and the need for further reform, legislative modernisation and red-tape reduction. This was obvious when the minister was unable to explain to the

committee why the Palaszczuk government had adopted contradictory positions regarding the release of unallocated water in catchments that had concurrent EIS processes underway, despite both of them being within a single water resource planning area. It is concerning, from the point of view of the administration of the Water Act, that water can be released in the Flinders catchment at the same time as a coordinated project is undertaking an EIS, while the release of water in the Gilbert catchment has been suspended pending the finalisation of an EIS for a coordinated project.

Similarly, the minister could not explain how he would reconcile Labor's election commitments to repeal the former LNP government's common-sense changes to the Vegetation Management Act with the stakeholder roundtable review process that he has established. The minister stated emphatically that it would be 'improper' for him to fetter the outcomes of the stakeholder review process, but when asked how he would reconcile any differences between Labor's election commitments and any recommendations that came out of the review process the minister was forced to admit that all stakeholders came to the round table knowing Labor had made certain election commitments. Therefore, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that the review process is most certainly fettered. It is fettered by Labor's election commitments and that, regardless of the recommendations of the stakeholder round table, Labor will proceed with its election commitments. So those industry bodies that are involved in the stakeholder review process need to understand that the government has already made up its mind about what it is going to do with the vegetation management framework.

It is not so much that I feel sorry for the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines and Minister for State Development. He has made his own bed and now he needs to lie in it. But it does concern me that the progress that should be made in these important portfolios is obviously being frustrated and stalled by the dominance of the Left faction in the Labor caucus and the Palaszczuk government's election commitments to ideologically driven extreme green groups.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.13 pm): I rise to speak in support of the report that has been tabled on the estimates hearing of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee. As a new member of parliament and participating in my first estimates hearing, like the member for Gladstone, I was frustrated at the number of irrelevant questions asked by the opposition of both the Deputy Premier and minister. Here is a perfect opportunity to examine the budget, the Deputy Premier and minister and their respective portfolios. However, their time was wasted asking questions with no relevance whatsoever. There is no doubt that the persistence of members of the opposition to ask questions with no relevance tested the chair of the proceedings, the member for Mirani, but I congratulate the chair for his measured approach, as per usual.

Both the Deputy Premier and the minister's portfolios involve a lot of the heavy lifting when it comes to economic growth and creating jobs. They have had a big job to fix the economic hurt caused by the previous government. We know that when the Labor government came to office it had some pretty challenging economic issues—debt was up, unemployment was up, confidence was down and also household consumption had fallen through the floor. I am confident that both the Deputy Premier and Minister Lynham have been working incredibly hard towards growing our economy and creating jobs, whilst balancing growth and ecological sustainability, and the budget does just that.

We know that with good planning comes good development and that means jobs. The planning reform process is an important part of the plan for Queensland. Planning reform can improve the quality of places and spaces and deliver a stronger economy and jobs and make housing more affordable. As a qualified town-planner, I was so pleased to hear that the budget includes an allocation of \$59 million for planning reform and that the government is committed to planning reform that delivers a more efficient system that supports investment and jobs but not at the expense of community participation.

The \$59 million commitment for planning reform is in stark contrast to the zero dollars that were allocated by the previous government for the State Assessment and Referral Agency and the planning reform unit. The staff tasked with these responsibilities were set to have their contracts expire as at 30 June this year. I am extremely pleased that not only has the government made the commitment to make sure that we can get the planning reform process finalised and embedded and get councils working with government but also it will mean that Queenslanders get to keep their jobs.

Part of that planning reform process also includes a commitment to delivering a user-friendly electronic DA system. In my previous role as a planning consultant, I was often tearing my hair out over the flaws in the MyDAS electronic DA system. Poor scoping at the start of the MyDAS project by the previous government, along with bug fixes and other variations, resulted in incredible cost blowouts to the MyDAS system. I was concerned to learn that the original contract supplier, APN, was contracted

at \$491,000. However, the contract was varied some 14 times and it has now blown out to \$5.8 million. The system was so bad that, rather than invest in correcting and enhancing the MyDAS system, the decision was taken to redevelop the entire platform.

I was also particularly impressed with the Deputy Premier's commitment to Trade and Investment Queensland—in particular, the international education and training sector. This sector contributes \$2.5 billion annually to the economy. It is a growing industry which has doubled in the last 10 years and is Queensland's fourth largest export sector and second largest service export. This industry is estimated to create 20,000 jobs. However, Queensland is losing its market share to New South Wales and Victoria. We are losing market share because the former government did not prioritise export education in Queensland.

This budget allocates \$7.7 million over four years to stimulate export education. The Palaszczuk government will promote and elevate export education as a key sector within our trade agenda for Queensland. This is in stark contrast to the previous government where this was not even one of their four pillars and there was no continued funding in the export education part of Trade and Investment Queensland. That alone says a lot in terms of the future focus of the former government.

As a regional member of this House, I am also so pleased that \$200 million will be pumped into regional Queensland through the Building our Regions program, supporting around 600 jobs across the state and funding critical economic and community infrastructure.

I commend the Deputy Premier, Minister Lynham, all of their ministerial staff and all of the staff from the departments. I thank them for their tireless work and for being prepared for the scrutiny that we applied through the estimates hearing. I wish to thank the chair of the committee, other committee members and our secretariat staff. The Deputy Premier and Minister Lynham have demonstrated that Labor is committed to growing Queensland's economy.

(Time expired)

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (4.18 pm): I just want to make a few comments on the estimates committee report. This budget in general continues to perpetrate the fraud that this accidental government is paying down debt, controlling expenses and has a plan for growth in Queensland. Nothing could be further from the truth. We know that under this government debt continues to rise. We know that shuffling the debt around, like moving the deckchairs on the *Titanic*, is not going to solve the problem. We know that in typical Labor fashion the budget does not set a high standard for a fiscal surplus but simply lowers the standard for a surplus to an operating surplus—something that the LNP government achieved in each of its last two years in office.

There is nothing new in this budget. It is a failure; it would be marked as a failure. It delivers nothing new, it pays nothing off, it increases debt and it does nothing to reduce taxes. Not only is there no plan to pay down gross debt to restore the state's financial position, to get back the AAA credit rating that Labor lost or to strengthen the economy; it also has no plan to build new infrastructure. Queensland is in the middle of an infrastructure freeze under this government. It does not matter where one travels, be it from Currumbin to Cooktown: this state is languishing under Labor as there is no plan for infrastructure. The Deputy Premier was unable to identify one new infrastructure project she wants to build, except for a football stadium in Townsville for which she will not release the cost-benefit analysis. The Deputy Premier will not release the cost-benefit analysis or the business case in relation to the Townsville football stadium.

While the minister criticises the previous government, she should remember that all of the major infrastructure projects identified in the budget papers were LNP projects. Let us look at the projects here reported—\$8½ billion, Australian and Queensland government funded, 2013-14. That was when the LNP was in power and there was a coalition in Canberra. There was a \$635 million Australian and Queensland government funded Warrego Highway upgrade, 2014-15 to 2018-19. There was an LNP government in Queensland and a coalition government in Canberra. Look at the projects put forward that were funded by the LNP in Queensland and by the coalition in Canberra. The only project to which Minister Lynham and others referred this morning was the Queen's Wharf development. As I said on radio—I did predict the future and it was one of the few occasions when I got it right—there would be a conga line—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: No, we have the new member for Woodridge who cannot remember what he said. After the election loss in 2012 he said—

Ultimately I think we got it wrong with the people of Queensland on debt and deficit.

They were his words. Where has the member gone now? The member for Woodridge said on ABC News 24 that 'ultimately we got the message wrong on debt and deficit'. The member muscled his way in at Woodridge. Do members know why he wants better public transport? It is because he still has to get public transport from Holland Park to the electorate of Woodridge. The member still wants to get the train or the bus from home at Holland Park back out to his electorate of Woodridge.

Members opposite talk about the \$10 billion government spend. It is just the normal spend of government on infrastructure. There is not one new infrastructure boost project. There is not one new project coming on line to deal with the tapering off of investment in the resource sector. There is not one single new initiative of this Labor government coming through to pick up those jobs, and after seven months we are still waiting.

Even if members opposite had a plan, they would not have the funds to pay for it. They cannot figure out how they are going to pay for it. Debt continues to inch up towards \$80 billion over the forward estimates despite the hit-and-run raid on super and long service leave and despite the debt shift. This pea-and-thimble trick is not fooling anyone. Days after the election the Deputy Premier said that she needed to borrow money; in estimates she said that she did not want to. The minister refused to recommit to her previous position. This budget is a farce—a fraud on the people of Queensland—and infrastructure is no different. I want to thank the member for Mirani, Jim Pearce, for conducting a reasonable estimates process and I am glad—

(Time expired)

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (4.23 pm): I rise to speak in support of report No. 7 of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee as well as the information provided to the estimates committee by the Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade.

The Deputy Premier outlined the focus of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to improving rail services in South-East Queensland. Rail transport is particularly important to my electorate of Ipswich West as the Queensland rail industry commenced in my electorate. The first railway line in Queensland was constructed in 1865 and ran from North Ipswich to Grandchester. The first major rail construction and maintenance facility was constructed by Queensland Rail at North Ipswich and now serves as a major Ipswich tourist attraction, the Workshops Rail Museum. The Ipswich line remains central to life in the city of Ipswich, with thousands of commuters using the line each day. The line also serves as a major conduit for coal trains travelling from the Darling Downs to the Port of Brisbane.

The Deputy Premier outlined what the Palaszczuk government is doing to reform public transport fares in South-East Queensland and how this differs from the approach of the previous LNP government.

Mr Rickuss: We actually reduced them.

Mr MADDEN: I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. While in opposition, the Palaszczuk government committed to a comprehensive fare review for South-East Queensland. To do so, it has established a task force to determine the optimum fare strategy for South-East Queensland. Public transport patronage in South-East Queensland declined significantly under the former LNP government. There were two million fewer public transport trips on the system under their watch. The Deputy Premier advised that the task force includes industry representatives, leading public transport experts, university researchers as well as key local user groups. She advised that the task force will consider the needs of all transport users in South-East Queensland including seniors, students, jobseekers and people living with a disability. It will aim to boost patronage as well because we know that the more people who use public transport the fewer vehicles there are on the road. The Deputy Premier advised that the members of the fare review task force include Dr Neil—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr MADDEN: I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. Members include Mr Neil Cagney, who chairs the task force, as well as Mr Neil Scales, Mr Trent Zimmerman, Mr Mark Tucker-Evans, Mr Jarrett Walker, Dr Matthew Burke, Ms Sharon Boyce and Mr Robert Dow. The Deputy Premier advised that Mr Robert Dow was a fierce advocate for public transport and public transport reform, as many people would know, and does not mind giving anybody stick if he thinks they are not performing.

The Deputy Premier also outlined the progress of the \$4 billion New Generation Rollingstock project, which includes construction of a new purpose-built maintenance facility located at Wulkaraka in my electorate of Ipswich West. The Deputy Premier advised that, as more people choose to live and

work in South-East Queensland, we need to do more to meet the growing demand for public transport services. There are 76 new six-car trains to replace South-East Queensland's ageing rail fleet. The first trains will begin service next year. The entire new fleet is due to be rolled out in late 2018. It will increase our current fleet by about 30 per cent. The minister advised that hundreds of jobs have been created with the construction of the facility and that over the life of the maintenance contract there will be approximately 140 badly needed permanent jobs created. A large percentage of all the materials for the maintenance centre is being sourced from local suppliers, which has been fantastic for small businesses in the Ipswich and Somerset areas.

The Deputy Premier advised that it is very important to understand that the New Generation Rollingstock project was clearly identified by the previous Labor government. The project was part of the Palaszczuk government's long-term vision for better public transport services in South-East Queensland as outlined in the Connecting SEQ 2031 strategy. The New Generation Rollingstock project was clearly identified in the Connecting SEQ 2031 strategy. She advised that the previous—

(Time expired)

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (4.28 pm): It is a particularly great pleasure to talk about this estimates hearing and to follow the member for Ipswich West. First I congratulate the chairman on a reasonable performance in that role. I do have to take some umbrage at his earlier claim that the Deputy Premier was on her game, because what I heard that day was a minister out of her depth. Given that the member for Ipswich West mentioned fares, let me focus on what the minister said that day about fares.

What we saw was one of the most embarrassing performances I have ever seen from a transport minister in this House, a transport minister that had to be corrected by her director-general during estimates about how much fares would rise. What a ridiculous situation it was to see that. We asked the director-general what the budget was saying about fares—a 2.5 per cent increase from 1 January; that is what the budget said. Then we saw the Deputy Premier, the minister, apparently on her game, correct her director-general and say—

I do want to reassure the committee that the commitment that we made at the time of the election in relation to fare increases of 1.5 per cent will be honoured on 1 January this year.

That was a 1.5 per cent increase on 1 January this year—straight from estimates. Then she had to get it corrected again back to 2.5 per cent. I have never seen a situation where a minister has corrected her director-general and has to go back.

Mr Bailey: No, that was under you; 7½ per cent under us.

Mr EMERSON: I take the interjection from the Minister for Main Roads. Let us go back. I am glad he wants to remember Labor's record on fares, because the last time Labor had a fare review they came out with a solution of 15 per cent fare increases every year—year after year after year. I want to remind the member for Ipswich West that the plunge in patronage occurred because of that 50 per cent plus increase in fares by Labor in less than three years—50 per cent increase in three years under Labor. That was a minister on her game having to be corrected by her director-general. We will make sure that she is kept to that promise she made in estimates of a 1.5 per cent increase in fares on 1 January despite her budget saying that it would be 2.5 per cent. It is no wonder that when we looked across the room at estimates we saw the bureaucrats in the back going white, blanched by her incompetence, indecision and the millions that she just cost them in that promise.

I do point out that the CPI rate from the government's state statistician is 1.7 per cent at this moment, well below the 2.5 per cent predicted. That means that at this stage under the budget Labor is promising to increase fares by almost twice the inflation rate. This is like going back to the bad old days under Labor of massive fare hikes—the fare hikes that drove people away, the fare hikes that we stopped. We stopped those 15 per cent fare increases that Labor put in place. Last year for the first time in Queensland history we saw a statewide cut to public transport fares of five per cent and this year they have been frozen under the LNP. What will happen next year under the first budget of Labor? They will start going back up again at almost twice the inflation rate, according to the budget—if you believe the director-general but not if you believe the minister, because she told the estimates hearing 1.5 per cent.

In conclusion, the member for Ipswich West was very proud to talk about the New Generation Rollingstock, an LNP project, of \$4.4 billion, 75 six-car sets—a great project. I can assure the member for Ipswich West and everyone else in this chamber that what we will not be delivering under that LNP project is trains that are too big for tunnels like Labor did, trains that have no seats like Labor did or

trains that cost us twice as much as these trains are going to cost. That is Labor's record on infrastructure; that is Labor's record on transport: fare increases of 15 per cent and trains that are too big for tunnels and trains that do not have seats. What a disgraceful performance by Labor!

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (4.33 pm): I would like to begin by thanking the committee for its summary report of the budget estimates for the 2015-16 financial year as they relate to my portfolios of State Development and Natural Resources and Mines. Furthermore, I thank the committee for its recommendation that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2015 for the committee's areas of responsibility be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

I would like to acknowledge the statement of reservation made by the members for Burleigh and Gregory and will briefly address the points contained therein. The first matter relates to a question about initiatives and projects originated by the government since February 2015. As I reminded the member for Hinchinbrook during the budget estimates hearing when he asked the question—and I will repeat it now for the benefit of those opposite. I said, 'You have claimed a lot of benefits as your own, and I am not going to waste the time of valuable public servants looking at how many Labor initiatives you have claimed as your own that have been pushed through during your term in government. However, any such list would include tenure reform for the resource industries, the development of the LNG industry and modernising land administration, all claimed by the member for Hinchinbrook but Labor initiatives.'

The member for Hinchinbrook asked how the Queen's Wharf Brisbane project would proceed without the 1 William Street project and what would the government have done with all the people who work in the Neville Bonner Building, 80 George Street and 100 George Street if we did not have 1 William Street. The opposition knows all too well that we cannot now go back on 1 William Street. They made that decision and it is now a fact of life. There was no business case for their 'tower of power'. They know that, too. We cannot turn back the clock and we are focused on moving ahead with Queen's Wharf and we have done this well with the recent announcement of the proponent being a key milestone in this iconic development project.

The Queensland government made the commitment to reduce Queensland's carbon emissions by reintroducing Labor's nation-leading tree-clearing laws; and, further, that it would be retaining the self-assessable vegetation-clearing codes where they maintain protections. I have repeatedly said that a key element of achieving this commitment will be through thorough consultation with a range of stakeholders. As such, a vegetation management community roundtable process will be used to achieve this outcome through participation from representatives from the agricultural and conservation sectors, the natural resource management collective and Indigenous interests. Once I receive the report from the round table, the government will carefully consider the recommended actions in the context of our election commitments.

On the issue of the proposed release of unallocated water in the gulf area, I have been asked to explain why a release will not be occurring in the Gilbert River catchment. I have also been asked why the Integrated Food and Energy Developments—IFED—and the Stanbroke Three Rivers Irrigation Project are being treated differently when both are coordinated projects undergoing an environmental impact assessment process. The answer is twofold but quite simple and it relates to the volume of water available for release and the eligibility to hold a water licence.

Firstly, the IFED proposal requires a quantum of water that is greater than the volume of water available in the amended plan. In contrast, there is enough unallocated water for Stanbroke's project in the Flinders River water resource plan as it stands. Secondly, in addition to the 28,000 megalitres of water that Stanbroke's project gained in the previous gulf tender process, as the owner of the land they will also be eligible to participate in the competitive tender release process. In contrast, IFED would have to resolve land tenure and ownership issues before it could participate in the tender process or hold a water licence for the project. Therefore, it is appropriate to release water in the Flinders River catchment as soon as possible, therefore allowing Stanbroke to compete in a transparent market process.

Some preliminary consultation will occur in the near future in the Flinders River catchment to help shape an unallocated water release and tenders for the newly available water will be called following this. The Gilbert River reserves will not be made available until after the environmental impact assessment process for the proposed Integrated Food and Energy Developments project in the Gilbert River catchment has been completed.

I would like to thank the committee for its detailed and diligent examination of the proposed expenditure for my portfolios. I commend the Appropriation Bill 2015 to the House.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (4.38 pm): I want to extend my thanks to the estimates committee and also to the secretariat for all of their work in relation to the hearing conducted on 19 August. Firstly, I want to clear up the opposition's confusion around public transport fare increases. Fares will change in January in line with CPI. It is as simple as that. This was our commitment to the people of Queensland during the election campaign and it remains our commitment to the people of Queensland today. The CPI is predicted to be 2.5 per cent and our budget is based on this. It also reflects the former government's approach in July 2014, as stated by the member for Indooroopilly, that fares would increase by 2.5 per cent over the next three years.

The statement of reservation also raises infrastructure funding. The budget includes a building program in 2015-16 of \$10.1 billion. This represents an increase of \$400 million on the former government's actual spend of approximately \$9.7 billion in the last financial year. We are also exploring innovative alternative funding models, as outlined in the infrastructure plan directions paper I released in June this year and reinforced through the market led proposal released in July by the Treasurer.

I also want to address the statement of reservation about government land sales. Buying and selling surplus land is part and parcel of government's ordinary business, and this will always be the case. During the election we said we would not sell Queensland's strategic and income-earning assets such as our ports and electricity generators, and we will continue to meet that commitment.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms TRAD: I note that those opposite have embraced that commitment as well. I also want to confirm that Building Queensland is ready to commence its lead role in a number of key business cases and has been busy preparing frameworks and guidelines as well as consulting with stakeholders since it was administratively established.

In relation to the cost-benefit analysis of Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2, I can confirm that significant analysis has been undertaken by DTMR and we have recently called for expressions of interest for the project to help finalise the business case. I encourage the opposition to talk up this project rather than talk it down and to tell the new Prime Minister, who is very much in favour of public transport, to fund it now.

In relation to the Townsville stadium, the Department of State Development is leading business case development. This process began shortly after the election, as it was a priority commitment of the government and prior to the administrative establishment of Building Queensland. It was a commitment to the people of Queensland and, most importantly, the people of Townsville.

I also note the opposition's claimed concerns about the cost impacts of legislation on local government. I can assure the House that this government fully consults with local government and the LGAQ on legislation, and I am very heartened by their statements of support in relation to our budget.

I wish to correct some aspects of the record from the estimates hearing on 19 August. On page 32 of the transcript, where I refer to councils and GraffitiSTOP grants, the number of councils should be 13 councils out of 77, not 11 out of 15. When advising of the progress of Building Queensland on page 48, it should say that we have had over 190 applications for five positions on the advisory board including the chair, not four. On page 53 I indicated that Building Queensland will release the full cost-benefit analysis of project business cases led by Building Queensland not including any commercial-in-confidence material. To be clear, the Building Queensland Act will provide that Building Queensland must publish a summary of each cost-benefit analysis on its website. I note that this will provide the highest level of transparency and accountability in advice to government about infrastructure ever without compromising commercial-in-confidence material.

Again I want to extend my thanks to the members of the committee and the secretariat for all of their hard work in relation to these estimates committee hearings.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.43 pm): This is my first response to an estimates hearing of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee. First and foremost I would like to acknowledge and say thank you to the staff of our committee. They do a wonderful job and they should be recognised: Erin Pasley, research director; Margaret Telford, principal research officer; Mary Westcott, principal research officer; and Dianne Christian, executive assistant. I would also like to thank the committee members and the chair, Jim Pearce, the member for Mirani, and the deputy chair Michael Hart, the member for Burleigh. Michael, our thoughts are with you. I think we have a good committee and we do work well together.

There are just a couple of issues that I would like to raise with regard to estimates. One of the big issues that I always want to talk about—and it is important that I do talk about it—is Western Queensland rail and rail services to regional Queensland. It is the lifeblood for us in regional Queensland. It is such an important service. During estimates I was a little concerned and disappointed that the Deputy Premier would not detail the current community obligation payment to Aurizon that is to be applied to regional rail services because of commercial-in-confidence despite the Service Delivery Statement highlighting the increased expenditure on the Lawnton-Petrie line here in the south-east that will be offset by a decrease in funding for regional rail services.

We need to be clear and we need to let the people of western and regional Queensland know—whether it is the Quilpie line, the Winton line or the Longreach line—exactly what is happening with the new contract that has been negotiated and what the key performance indicators are that Aurizon needs to put in place to deliver this service. I think it is only fair that people in the west get that explanation so they understand what sort of service they are getting with this new contract.

One of the other issues I would like to discuss regarding the estimates process was in relation to Dr Anthony Lynham, the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. The minister was unable to explain to the committee why the government had adopted a contradictory position regarding the release of unallocated water in catchments that had concurrent EIS processes underway despite both of them being within a single water resource planning area. Of course I am talking about the Gilbert and Flinders rivers. While the Gilbert and Flinders are a little bit further north of my electorate, I do see the need for regional development. While we need to develop the Flinders, we also need to develop the Gilbert River area. It has huge potential and can provide the jobs needed in that region while we are under drought.

Another issue that I am concerned with and would like to talk about is vegetation management. The Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Dr Anthony Lynham, could not explain how he would reconcile Labor's election commitment to repeal the former LNP government's common-sense changes to the Vegetation Management Act with the stakeholder roundtable review process he had established. The minister stated emphatically that it would be improper for him to fetter the outcome of the stakeholder review process, but when asked how he would reconcile any difference between Labor's election commitments and the recommendations that came out of the review process, the minister was forced to admit that all stakeholders came to the round table knowing Labor had made certain election commitments. The minister could not say that the recommendations of the vegetation roundtable process would determine any changes to the Vegetation Management Act; therefore, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that the review process certainly is fettered by Labor's election commitment and, regardless of the recommendations of the stakeholder round table, Labor will proceed with its election commitment.

Vegetation management under the former government was a good thing. It received a good response from landholders, who welcomed the common-sense changes to vegetation management that allow them to get on with the job and farm and also understand that they are the custodians of their land. They understand how to manage their land. There is confusion currently out there. People are wondering what is going to happen, when the changes to the vegetation management laws are going to happen under Labor and when will they follow on from their election commitment. This is worrying many landholders in Western Queensland.

I call on the Labor government to leave the vegetation management laws the way they are. They work with landholders, they work with the community and they provide jobs and increase production to provide more jobs in regional Queensland. Please leave the vegetation management laws alone. They are sensible and they need to be left intact.

Report adopted.

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! The question is—

That the report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee be adopted.

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (4.48 pm): As the chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee I rise today to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Training and Skills and

also the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services and their department officers for their responses to the questions provided on the Appropriation Bill and the information to the committee throughout the estimates process.

I want to emphasise that point on questions. Given the estimates process that we were involved in, I feel sorry for some of those members opposite—the member for Beaudesert and the member for Mount Ommaney—who were limited in actually asking questions because most of the time was taken up by those shadow ministers opposite not necessarily asking questions but certainly making statements. With 120 days of estimates under my belt, I think I have a degree of experience of what really should happen at estimates—that is, that questions should be asked of the budget and not of spurious, scurrilous matters that have nothing to do with the budget. It was good occasionally to get some in but, nevertheless, if they come along one day I might teach them how estimates are run and I will give them some tips from the 120 days under my belt.

Let us look at some of the matters that were raised. In the Attorney's portfolio we heard of measures—we heard more earlier today—on streamlining domestic violence applications and court processes for victims and the police who deal with these crimes. The Attorney also explained how the Labor Palaszczuk government shall provide \$1.1 million additional funding in 2015-16 to expand the domestic violence duty lawyer service across the state through Legal Aid Queensland. We will see the development of a domestic and family violence prevention strategy and implementing justice related recommendations supported by the government in respect of the report from the task force on domestic and family violence in Queensland.

In the area of youth justice this government shall provide \$2.4 million—that is, \$23.6 million over four years—to reinstate court ordered youth justice conferencing and explore options for an enhanced model of youth justice conferencing based on contemporary evidence. The committee also heard of the review into the number and type of licences in safe-night precincts and other entertainment precincts, including risk based assessment processes and introducing legislation to provide for new alcohol service restrictions and trading hours conditions for licensed venues, making these areas safe for police and emergency service personnel and the public and to stop the flood of victims being treated in emergency hospital wards throughout the state resulting from serious assaults from alcohol violence.

Furthermore, the Attorney explained to the committee about the abuse of taxpayer funds in transporting the former attorney via helicopter to visit the Lincoln Springs boot camp. Actually, that was around the time of a Speaker in Canberra using similar activities of flying helicopters around and who certainly took the lead on that particular point. The Attorney in her Training and Skills portfolio explained the investment of \$60 million as part of \$240 million over four years to reinstate the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative to support up to 32,000 Queenslanders back into work. Additionally, we heard about implementing actions and initiatives of the Queensland government's Rescuing TAFE policy, including investing \$6.63 million as part of \$34 million over three years to restore TAFE Queensland's status as Queensland premier provider of VET. On top of these initiatives we are investing \$40 million over four years to establish Jobs Queensland, an independent statutory entity providing advice to government on skills demand and long-term workplace planning.

I now turn briefly to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services. The committee had it explained that total expenditure for police will be \$2.085 billion over 2015-16, representing around 977 new and replacement police vehicles and 266 new police officers. The police officers in my electorate of Ferny Grove are overwhelmed with these sorts of responses, and earlier today we heard about the fast-tracking of the body worn cameras in parts of Logan and Springwood. It is important that this government has taken the initiative to deliver on its election commitments in its budget and delivered in the appropriate areas of need.

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (4.53 pm): I am the deputy chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I first want to express my thanks to the committee secretariat. What a great job they do, not only every week with our committee but also with the preparation for estimates. I just listened to the contribution of the chair, the member for Ferny Grove. I probably have a different perspective on the estimates process than he does. I do not think that is too surprising, but I want to make a few observations.

The two ministers and their portfolios on our committee were the Attorney-General and the police minister. I turn first to the police minister and will probably expand a little bit more than the member for Ferny Grove did as he just touched on police. I will talk about that a little more because I have to say that I was cringing for the highly decorated men and women who have had long, distinguished careers in the police force and who have put their lives on the line having to sit through the absolute embarrassment of the minister who focused on dog breeds, who talked about dog names and who wanted to do everything but actually focus on the questions at hand.

Mr Bleijie: There might have been a reason for that!

Mrs SMITH: I think there was a reason for that. It got to the point where we had to call for a no-confidence motion in the minister and her performance. As I said, in attendance were highly decorated officers and I was absolutely cringing for them in terms of the debacle of the estimates process.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mrs SMITH: It was not good. The next portfolio was Fire and Emergency Services. The fire commissioner did confirm that the department did engage in sending out political propaganda on behalf of the Labor member for Bundaberg. Again, this goes totally against open and transparent accountability.

It was interesting that the Police Commissioner confirmed that the former LNP government's criminal gang legislation targets numerous types of organised crime gangs and not just criminal motorcycle gangs as claimed by the Attorney-General and other ministers in the Labor government. I turn to my concerns of the Attorney-General doing a review of the VLAD laws. I do not believe that this can come at a worse time. We are seeing the winding back of the VLAD laws, which have been so successful. When in fact other Labor states are embracing them, we will be winding them back. The scope of the task force is to look at bringing in a different set of laws and not the laws that we currently have which have worked so effectively. We have seen that on the Gold Coast. To me that is a very worrying thing. It really is a worrying thing.

The former government had a focus on the safety of the community and people taking back their communities. In terms of motorcycle gangs and criminal gangs, the first person that was convicted under those criminal gang laws was convicted for drug related offences. That is really important. We are seeing the ice epidemic at the moment and our laws need to be strengthened, and that is something that this side of the chamber is very much committed to and focused on—a strong focus on law enforcement. I do not believe that we are seeing that from those opposite, and certainly not with the leadership of the current police minister.

I want to quickly touch on the Training portfolio, which falls under the Attorney-General. In reality those opposite have dismantled something that was an LNP incentive in terms of QTAMA and what it was doing.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mrs SMITH: We had under-utilised TAFE facilities as you very well know, member for Ashgrove. They were under-utilised. We had a program to get more people to use those facilities, but at the end of the day in Queensland the numbers of students enrolling—the most important thing—was on the increase.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (4.58 pm): I rise to speak in support of the report by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, but particularly the information provided by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills at the estimates hearing as to why the former government's early intervention boot camp program has proven to be a complete and utter failure. The attorney-general advised that in November 2012 the former attorney-general announced a \$2 million trial of boot camps and said loud and long that they were the solution to curb reoffending by young offenders. The subsequent processes he followed—or, more precisely, the lack of them—have already been the subject of a scathing appraisal by the Queensland Audit Office in April of this year. The report found that, at the time of writing, the cost had blown out to \$12.3 million and that contracts had been awarded under what can only be described as questionable circumstances. Expert evidence was ignored and contracts were awarded to organisations that did not even make the short list.

Further evaluation by independent experts KPMG is even more damning. The Attorney-General tabled a copy of the KPMG report at the estimates hearing. The KPMG evaluation found that the cost over three years has blown out from \$2 million to \$16.7 million. Most telling was that the evaluation audit had shattered the myth on which the trial was based. The KPMG evaluation found that boot camps do not break the cycle of repeat offending and that recidivism rates of participants in boot camp programs were no different from those experienced by offenders in areas such as youth detention centres. It was clear from the report that the program was hastily set up and was not supported by appropriate research. As the Attorney-General advised, it was an expensive failure cooked up by an Attorney-General who measured success by the amount of media interest he generated.

The Attorney-General advised that, as the former government had allocated only \$2 million for this trial, the department was forced to fund the additional \$14.7 million in costs caused by the former attorney-general's interference in the procurement process, the sudden expansion of the trial and the rushed implementation time frames contrary to departmental advice. The KPMG report also identified that significant profits were made by the providers. In the case of Lincoln Springs, it is estimated that over half a million dollars was made out of the project.

A government member: Shame!

Mr MADDEN: Shame! The Attorney-General advised that the Lincoln Springs station is some distance from the nearest regional centre. Transport to and from the property is difficult and time consuming. The property is 3½ hours driving time west of Townsville and up to six hours drive south of Cairns and Atherton. The majority of the drive to Lincoln Springs is on unsealed roads and appropriate vehicles and equipment such as satellite phones are required for the trip.

The Attorney-General advised that, while the DJAG staff travelled to the station by road, the former attorney-general chose to travel to the station by helicopter at an astonishing cost of \$14,980. She advised that the excuse given for the hiring of the two helicopters rather than travelling by road was that the former attorney-general was advised to take these helicopters for security reasons owing to the large contingent of security officers that he had with him at the time because of the VLAD legislation. However, the Attorney-General advised that, of the seven people who caught these two helicopters out to Lincoln Springs, only one was a Queensland Police Service officer. The others were a ministerial adviser, the Attorney-General himself, two other LNP members, the Townsville community safety committee chairman and a photographer who shot a promotional video.

As to whether the boot camp had any effect on repeat offending and recidivism, the Attorney-General advised that, of the 33 out of 51 young people who completed the program, 65 per cent reoffended. Having heard how the boot camp program had failed so dismally—

(Time expired)

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (5.03 pm): In speaking to the 2015-16 budget estimates for the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, I will follow on from the member for Ipswich West, who talked about boot camps. One of the recommendations in the government's own expert panel report was that the Gold Coast early intervention boot camp should remain open. But the government has ignored that recommendation, because this report is not about having a good, fair look at the boot camp process; it is all about undoing the good work that was done by the former government. That is the only agenda that this government has. I say shame on this government for ignoring the recommendation of the KPMG report.

Mr Furner interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: I take that interjection from the member for Ferny Grove. The report was only tabled on the day of the estimates hearing. It is a little bit difficult to ask questions about the whole report, which was about that thick, about 140 pages, when it is tabled on the day of the estimates hearing. That was a stunt put in place by the Attorney-General to try to divert attention from the fact that we have a police minister who is completely bungling her own portfolio. So the Attorney-General, running a protection racket for the police minister, brought in the KPMG report on the day of the estimates hearing and tabled it as a distraction from the terrible incompetence of our police minister, Jo-Ann Miller.

The budget itself is bad for jobs and bad for growth. The government has no plan for the vocational educational training sector of Queensland and no plans to keep Queensland safe. In fact, it was revealed in the estimates hearing—we finally got the Attorney-General to confess—that they are going to repeal the VLAD laws. The review that has been set up has a predetermined outcome, which is to repeal or substantially amend the VLAD laws. So when I am out in the community talking to people who are worried about organised crime, who are worried about criminal motorcycle gangs and ask, 'What's this review into the laws all about?' I tell them, 'They're going to repeal them or substantially amend them.' This government is putting the interests of Queenslanders and their safety at risk by putting in place a review that is going to see those laws repealed. The VLAD laws have worked in suppressing organised crime in Queensland, in particular on the Gold Coast. My electorate is close to the Gold Coast and the people of my electorate are very concerned about the impact of organised crime in that area.

In relation to vocational training, we also heard at the estimates hearing the fact that the government has no plan for our state owned training facilities. After one review was undertaken throughout the last term of parliament, this government is putting in place yet another review into how

those state owned training facilities need to be utilised. That is not good enough. Those facilities are under-utilised assets. Putting in place yet another review and restricting access by non-government providers to those assets is going to mean only one thing, and that is less income into the state from the use of those assets, under-utilisation will continue and the taxpayers of Queensland will have to fork out more of their hard-earned tax dollars to prop up a training sector that is completely underperforming and which has state owned facilities continuing to be under-utilised. We did not hear any recanting of that no-plan position in relation to training assets. We wait with bated breath to see where that situation ends up and whether, in fact, the government is going to enable greater access to those assets.

It is interesting to note that, in another inquiry, we have seen the number of training places go up in Queensland. More people are getting into training and undertaking state funded training. That is a great outcome. That is what we are here for—to provide training. But this government is undoing a system, undoing a process that has led to more and more people taking up training. I do not know why.

Can I also say that we had a lack of scrutiny in this estimates process. I believe that we had the Police Commissioner for an hour and 15 minutes. As has been mentioned, one of the questions that the Police Commissioner was required to answer was about the breed of police dogs. That makes a mockery of the whole estimates process. We had the Police Commissioner for an hour and 15 minutes and then the chairman of the committee asked about the breed of police dogs. That was all about protecting Jo-Ann Miller, the bungling police minister.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: I do not know what type of dogs they were but, frankly, it makes a mockery of the estimates process. The government members of the committee were protecting the police minister. Valid questions about her conduct were ruled out of order by the chairman. In fact, I do not even think that the police minister answered a single question from non-government members, because they were all ruled out of order by the chairman. This is a bad budget and a bad government that is bad for jobs and bad for growth.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (5.08 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2015. In particular, I refer to the estimates hearing held on 20 August 2015 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I am passionate about the betterment of Queensland's juvenile justice system and that is why I stand here to acknowledge the hard work the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills and her staff have carried out since the election of the Palaszczuk Labor government and praise her for making the seminal decision to terminate the previous government's unproven and unsound youth boot camp program. I commend the Palaszczuk Labor government for abandoning this retrograde and regressive program and for committing to developing a youth justice system based on the principles of restorative justice and a diversionary approach to youth offending.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills stated in the estimates hearing on 20 August 2015 that the independent evaluation completed by KPMG found that the youth boot camps do not break the cycle of youth reoffending and that the rates of reoffending of participants in the sentencing boot camps were no different to offenders in areas such as the youth detention centres. She stated that the report found the total cost of the trial had skyrocketed to \$16.7 million over three years, well exceeding the promised cost. It was further stated that the trial was an expensive failure cooked up by an Attorney General who measured success by the amount of media interest he generated. The Attorney-General said that the latest data showed that of the 74 young people who had gone through the sentenced boot camps, 47 had reoffended, which was on par with the number of reoffenders in youth detention centres. The KPMG report found the average cost of keeping a youth in the camps was approximately \$2,350 a day compared to about \$999 for youth detention, with no substantive improvements.

When will the LNP realise that its tough-on-crime stance is not working to improve our youth justice system? This tough-on-crime approach does nothing but show the failures of the LNP to carefully consider appropriate measures to address youth reoffending. I support the current government's decision of an early interventionist approach to youth crime. The Attorney-General importantly stated at the estimates hearing that the introduction of strong penalties by the previous government has been ineffective in reducing offending. She stated that the LNP's stance on crime—

... is inconsistent with the substantial evidence showing that increasing the severity of punishment is an ineffective means of reducing relapses to undesirable behaviour, particularly in relation to young people.

It was further stated—

The evidence tells us that intervening early to address the underlying causes of a young person's offending is essential to preventing further offending and a life of crime. Equally, engaging in families and other major stakeholders, such as education and health, is essential to addressing the risk factors that cause the offending.

Report 13 of the Queensland Audit Office, *Procurement of youth boot camps*, published in April this year criticised the lack of accountability of the former government's decision making. This is yet another example of the failure of those on the other side of the House to implement sound programs based on proper and adequate research. Time and time again, the LNP has proven that it rushes into major projects hastily without proper consideration of the consequences.

(Time expired)

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (5.13 pm): The estimates hearing process has left me despairing for the future of the Queensland economy. It has left me with no confidence that the members of this government have any idea of what they are doing. This was a process of stonewalling, filibustering, covering, running defence, smokescreens and treating the parliament and members of the parliament with disdain.

It became a farce when the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services spent valuable minutes talking needlessly about breeds of dogs and how much she liked dogs. It was an insult to the residents of my electorate and the residents of Queensland. We hear much about the importance members of this government place on the parliamentary process. It was appalling the way they conducted themselves by interrupting legitimate questioning about important issues just so that the minister could be spared from answering. There was filibustering about nonsensical issues which showed the complete disdain the government members have for scrutinising the budget. The minister and government members protested when the Commissioner of Police was asked about a proposed restructure of leadership positions for the Queensland Police Service, a restructuring that has since been announced in the media. Estimates is supposed to be about assisting the parliament in the scrutiny of the government's proposed expenditure. So I ask the government: if the budget is so good, if the Queensland investment and business climate is so healthy, then would not members of the government have been eager and ready for their ministers to speak effusively about their budget measures?

I am pleased that the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills advised the committee that she will reconsider her refusal to make Gympie TAFE facilities available for an expansion of the University of the Sunshine Coast in Gympie. In July I had asked the minister what actions she will undertake to enable the university to access unused and under-utilised government facilities in the Gympie region. USC wants to expand its services in Gympie and it makes great sense to use some of the under-utilised buildings of the TAFE site. In fact, one building is empty. This is a practical and sensible way of using empty facilities and increasing educational opportunities for Gympie residents.

The minister had previously said that decisions about the future of the facilities will not be made until an audit of the assets is undertaken to assess their physical condition as well as their future use. As that audit will not be completed until July next year, it would mean that Gympie and USC would have to wait with no guarantee that anything would happen. This response was just ludicrous and is unfair to the future educational opportunities for people in the Gympie region. It is especially unfair considering that the minister acknowledged to the committee that the university is already delivering its Bachelor of Laws by using the Mooloolaba TAFE facility. Given that Gympie has one of the lowest rates of tertiary education qualifications in Queensland, it flies in the face of providing more opportunities for locals to achieve their best chance of securing better outcomes.

The minister had earlier told the estimates committee that where TAFE identified it no longer needed those facilities—those campuses, those spaces—the government was open to discussion. This was in total contradiction to her earlier response. After being made aware of the inconsistency in her response to me and the information being provided to the committee, I am pleased that the minister has said that she will correct the answer to me. Let us hope that this is not an exercise in duckshoving and that it means a better chance for the university which wants to make more courses available in Gympie next year.

In conclusion, I thank the committee support staff and all those who appeared before the committee. It was my first committee process and, while I was frustrated at times, I certainly value the work of the committee staff and the assistance that those who appeared before the committee provided.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (5.18 pm): I thank the committee for its recommendation that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2015 for the committee's area of responsibility be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. The Palaszczuk government is committed to reducing violence in our community and one of our key initiatives, which was identified in the committee's report, is delivering responses to alcohol fuelled violence. We must ensure that we keep our loved ones safe from harm and reduce violence wherever we can in our communities. I am proud to be part of a government that is taking this important issue seriously. It is a crying shame that the LNP's commitment to ending violence does not include a single measure to tackle alcohol related violence. I note that tackling alcohol fuelled violence did not even raise an LNP eyebrow, let alone a mention in the dissenting report.

I thank the committee for its detailed report on this government's commitment to restoring accountability and an evidence based approach to youth justice. I am pleased that the report recognises our approach and that we will be delivering an effective youth justice system that reflects contemporary best practice in the management of juvenile offenders and their families, an approach that is focussed on prevention and rehabilitation. Our government recognises the importance of developing a comprehensive juvenile justice policy that includes interventional strategies, rehabilitation, management strategies and future infrastructure where it is required. We followed through on our promise to have youth boot camps independently evaluated and, as a result, the trial will not be extended when the contracts expire this month and next. I note from the committee's report that the public hearing identified the costs that were incurred under the boot camp policy implementation by the former LNP government. I also note some of the comments from members this evening in relation to this. I say that, if they were so concerned about services being extended or continued, maybe the former government should have made sure there was funding attached to it. The report also refers to my mode of transport to Lincoln Springs, which was a car. That is in sharp contrast to the previous Attorney-General, who spent \$15,000 on two helicopters.

Fighting organised crime in this state is a key election promise of the Palaszczuk government. The opposition's questioning in estimates hearings and its subsequent dissenting report are simply baffling. The opposition was critical that some of the funding granted to the CCC was temporary and that seven jobs ceased because that funding ended. When did that temporary funding end? In December 2014 under the LNP, yet the dissenting report in relation to the 2015-16 budget estimates seeks to criticise this government for seven positions that ceased and funding that ceased in December 2014. At some point, the LNP has to recognise that it was its funding that ceased.

The total grants and other contributions for the CCC for 2015-16 is \$53.584 million compared to \$52.179 million in 2014-15. This government is serious about tackling all forms of organised crime, whether it be extortion and money laundering, networked child sex rings, illicit drug markets or criminal motorcycle gangs. In the meantime, we will leave that legislation in place so that the police and those fighting organised crime on the front line have the certainty and continuity they need.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Order! Members, if you want to have a conversation, please take it outside.

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the non-government members for their statement of reservations submitted in response to the consideration of the 2015-16 portfolio budget estimates hearing in relation to training and skills. I think it is almost as much as I have heard for the first six months in relation to training skills and I was pleased to see at least two pages spent on this important issue. When in government, those opposite invested significant time and resources on ridding the state of the public provider of vocational education and training in Queensland. I can confirm that we are absolutely committed to restoring the status of TAFE. For the member for Gympie, I clarify that, in fact, we always said that we would take into account ongoing issues in relation to asset usage. That was made clear in my meeting with USC some months ago. Therefore, it is misleading to say that we were never going to consider any proposals until June last year. I clarified that in the estimates hearing. Again, this shows just how little the LNP understands about training in this state.

(Time expired)

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (5.23 pm): I was pleased to attend the committee hearings and, once again, I thank the chair of the committee for allowing me to join in the proceedings in which the Attorney-General, her staff and supporting people appeared. During my questioning of the Attorney-General, two issues came to the fore and she has dealt with some of those today. It is amazing

that the Attorney-General continues to deny something that is absolutely clear and uncontroversial. Let us go back to when the budget was brought in and we asked about there being seven fewer people working in the Crime and Corruption Commission than there were last year. The Attorney-General said, 'That was funding that ran out and you shouldn't take us up on that one.' In estimates she twisted and turned and, in the end, I had to ask Ms Florian to explain. I asked whether there were now seven fewer people working in the Crime and Corruption Commission on criminal motorcycle gangs than there were last year, and she said yes. That is exactly the point we had been making. It is quite within the power of this government to reinstate the extra people we had placed on this very important work. They have not done it. The effect is that there are fewer people working on the prosecution and detection of criminal motorcycle gangs than there were under our government. That was one of the issues that came clearly to the fore. It took a bit of questioning but we finally got there, and it is pretty simple: there are now seven fewer people there than there were last year and the grant funding is accordingly reduced.

The other issue on which we had lots of twisting and turning by the Attorney-General, but again we finally got there, was the very important question of this government's intention with respect to criminal motorcycle gangs. As we know, the government has been all over the place on this issue. They supported the legislation when it first came into this House. Then they were going to repeal it. Then they were going to inquire into it. They have a task force that is sometimes referred to as an inquiry and sometimes talks about how the laws are going to be tweaked, modified, looked at or investigated. However, that is not what is going to happen at all. Again, it took a fair bit to get the Attorney-General to this, but eventually, under some dramatic Walker cross-examination, the Attorney-General got to the point. I asked about the terms of reference of the task force that is allegedly looking into whether or not the laws are to be repealed. The first sentence of the task force's terms of reference refer to the government's intention to 'repeal, and replace' the laws. That is pretty clear. The first terms of reference also ask the task force to advise 'how best to' repeal or replace the laws—not whether to, but 'how best to'. I said to the Attorney-General—

Okay. So there is a clear intention to repeal and replace the legislation. The words are crystal clear.

I was getting a bit frustrated by this time. The Attorney-General said—

By either amendment or new legislation, yes.

That is pretty clear and it becomes even clearer if you are one of the poor members of the public who is trying to make a submission to this task force. There are no public hearings happening. People are not being asked what effect they think these laws will have, whether they will feel safer or better, or whether their lives will be improved by these laws. There are no public hearings into those matters. However, you can go onto the government website. If you find your way through it, finally you will get to a little site that allows you to submit your submission. At the top it says that before putting in your submission you should read the terms of reference. It is pretty clear why that is; it is because the first terms of reference you will read ask you to bear in mind the government's intention to 'repeal, and replace' this legislation.

Through estimates we found that this government is determined not to inquire into whether the laws should be repealed or replaced, but to get the task force to tell it how to do that. That is what this task force does and it is crystal clear from the terms of reference. At least we have moved now to some position of honesty and transparency in this regard. These laws are very important to many in this state, and I look particularly at my colleagues from the Gold Coast who have probably felt the brunt of this trouble more than anyone else. The member for Currumbin has told me that she has already seen signs of activity from motorcycle gangs with patched motorcycle riders on the M1. That is not good enough and this government is failing to deal with that. It is trying to cover up that fact as well—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. JR MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (5.28 pm): I rise to speak on the report following the estimates hearing conducted by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I thank the chair, the member for Ferny Grove, for overseeing the committee's examination of the budget estimates for my portfolio. I note the committee's recommendation that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2015 be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

It is an honour and a privilege to serve as the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services in the Palaszczuk government. The funds set aside in the 2015-16 budget reaffirm the government's commitment to ensuring the continued delivery of programs and policies that will make a real difference to people's lives and keep Queenslanders safe. Our police,

fireys, corrective services and emergency service officers and volunteers do an amazing job to keep our community safe, often at great personal risk. We will always support them and the work they do. The 2015-16 budget delivers on that promise.

There is an extra \$20 million over four years for police to tackle organised crime, alcohol fuelled violence and the drug ice; \$6 million over three years to roll out body worn video cameras; \$28 million to deliver 266 new police over the next year, bringing the total number of extra officers sworn in over the past four years to 1,100; and \$96 million for new and upgraded fire and emergency services facilities and equipment.

I note the statement of reservation provided by the members for Mount Ommaney, Beaudesert and Gympie. In particular, I note their reference to the 'Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Services'. No such department exists. Let me make this clear: it is not a department. For non-government members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to describe the Queensland Police Service as a department demonstrates a glaring lack of knowledge of public administration.

With regard to scrutiny by the non-government members of the committee, I can advise the House that very few questions were asked by those members about the budget. They did not ask about the funds set aside to roll out body worn video cameras. They did not ask about the centrepiece of the Corrective Services budget—that is, the recommissioning of the Borallon Correctional Centre to address overcrowding in prisons in South-East Queensland. They did not ask about the number of jobs that will be generated—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs MILLER: I am just waiting for some decorum in the House.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Order! Is it getting late at night, is it?

Mrs MILLER: Thank you for your protection. They did not ask about the number of jobs that would be generated out of this \$145 million project. If they had used this valuable time at estimates to examine the budget estimates for my portfolio I could have informed them that this major project will create more than 200 jobs. I hope that many will be in the Ipswich area. That is 200 jobs that could not have come at a better time when jobs and job security are more important than ever.

During the course of the hearing very few legitimate questions were asked of me. The parliamentary website notes—

The estimates process aids the Parliament in its scrutiny of the Government's proposed expenditure. Since 1994, committees of the parliament have undertaken the estimates process, by examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill.

It is regrettable that non-government members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee did not use this process to scrutinise the government's proposed spending in this critical public safety portfolio. As the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, I answered questions regarding the proposed expenditure for my portfolio. I congratulate all the officers who work in my portfolio.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.33 pm): I have had a hashtag recently that says #timetogojo. I think we should have #bringbacktheoldjo. The old Jo was much more sporty. We could have a debate in this place about the real issues. The chain that the member for Bundamba is on now does not let Queenslanders see what the member for Bundamba is really like.

In talking about this estimates process, I look up the back of the chamber and see the member for Pumicestone. I have to say that the shadow cabinet thoroughly enjoyed its time in Pumicestone a few days ago. We were getting feedback about their member from those in the Pumicestone electorate. It is probably unparliamentary to say what those in Pumicestone are saying about their member.

The reason I raise the member for Pumicestone is that he is on this committee but he was absent. Why was he absent? He is subject to criminal investigations by the Queensland Police Service. He could not even fulfil his role on the committee.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, it is unparliamentary to refer to a member's absence.

Mr BLEIJIE: From a committee. The Labor Party disendorsed him from the committee. It was a motion of this parliament. I take your advice, Mr Deputy Speaker.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: He was sacked from the committee. I take the interjection. He was actually sacked by the Labor Party members on that committee. That is why he was not there. He was actually sacked by the committee members.

I enjoy a bit of tennis and I enjoy a racquet. But what I do not enjoy is a protection racket—a protection racket for the police minister that went on day after day after day. The protection racket started on the Tuesday with the Premier and ended with the police minister. The member for Ferny Grove, the chair of the committee, thought he was in the red chamber and back in his Senate days. Senator Furner came back. We were in the red chamber. Senator Furner was on fire that day. He was not allowing any questions the opposition asked of the police minister. We know why. They did not want her to speak. They did not want her to answer any questions. If they could have gotten away with pulling a sickie for the Minister for Police they would have. She had to be there but she did not answer the questions.

Mrs MILLER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I find the words of the member for Kawana in relation to pulling a sickie et cetera personally offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I raise a point of order on that point of order. I actually said that the government wished the member for Bundamba had a sickie. I was not personally reflecting on the member for Bundamba.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member found the remarks offensive and it would be appropriate for the member to withdraw them.

Mr BLEIJIE: The standing orders provide that it has to be a personal reflection on the member.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, it is a subjective issue. It would assist the House if you withdrew that comment.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. We had the police minister there who did not answer questions. We had the Police Commissioner there who confirmed that last year he had eight hours of questioning and this year had 1.5 hours of questioning. We moved a motion for the Police Commissioner to be given more time and opportunity to tell Queenslanders about the budget. The Labor members on the committee quickly went aside and voted down that motion. We did not have an extension of time.

We also moved a motion of no confidence in the police minister. This is what I find really interesting. The committee went behind closed doors and had a meeting about the motion of no confidence, came back and did not report the outcome. I would have thought that if the Labor members had confidence in the Labor minister they would have come back bragging about the fact that they voted down the no-confidence motion in the minister. They came back all zipped up and had nothing to say. The police minister was thinking, 'Guys, you can tell me you have confidence in me,' but it was not forthcoming. Nothing. There was no confidence in the police minister. Is it any wonder? We have had bungle after bungle—

Mrs MILLER: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr BLEIJIE: #oldjoback.

Mrs MILLER: I find the remarks of the member for Kawana personally offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, the member finds those comments personally offensive and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The minister has gone from bungle to bungle. She closed the Ipswich communications centre—the Premier stepped in. She phoned a witness in a police investigation—the Premier stepped in. She said it was an 'error of judgement' and will not happen again. Then there was the launch of the police dog calendar with the wrong dates and that had to be taken back. The fireys can get it right; the police minister cannot.

Also, at the estimates hearing the member for Morayfield, who subbed in for the member under police investigation Rick Williams, made an absurd argument. I asked a question of the Police Commissioner about the police restructure. The member for Morayfield, in this protection racket for the police minister, chimed in and said, 'That has nothing to do with the budget.' I am sorry but the organisational structure of the Queensland Police Service and the wages that the police get have nothing to do with the budget that we are actually debating? How far does this protection racket go? The member for Morayfield stepped in. I read in an article that he will be the new police minister when the police minister finally falls on her sword when the Labor Party realise they cannot protect her any longer. I am not going to embarrass members opposite but many members opposite—

Mrs MILLER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the remarks of the member for Kawana personally offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Order! Member for Kawana, the member finds it personally offensive and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I do not have confidence in the police minister. The Premier has not confirmed that she has confidence in the police minister. The Deputy Premier said she does not have confidence in the police minister. The police minister should do the honourable thing and stand down from the embarrassment she is causing the government.

(Time expired)

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (5.38 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate in relation to report No. 7 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and the committee's examination of the budget expenditure for the 2015-16 financial year in respect of the portfolio areas of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services. I start by thanking the Attorney, the minister, their respective staff, the departmental staff and services staff, parliamentary staff, Hansard and, of course, the committee secretariat for their contributions to this year's estimates process.

It must be a very good budget because for five minutes we heard the member for Kawana talk about anything other than the budget—about any other concerns that he had. He did not raise anything about the budget. But we have also heard members of the opposition speak all afternoon about the problems they perceive with the estimates processes—timing issues, whether their questions were in order or out of order and perceived unfairness. If that is the only thing they have to talk about, it must be a pretty good budget.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr RYAN: Well, if they had problems with the budget, surely they should have been talking about it. Rather than do that, they want to talk about the process. Incidentally, the process that they are criticising is not only the process that Newman wrecked when he was premier but also the process that the former premier said he was going to restore after they got thrashed in the Stafford by-election. If the process is so bad, why was it going to be restored and why was it wrecked in the first place by the previous government?

Members of the opposition have failed to realise a very important thing about the estimates process. It is not that it is the government's estimates process. It is not that it is the opposition's estimates process. This is a process for the people of Queensland to have proper scrutiny of government expenditure—of their money, of taxpayers' money. For me to experience today the diatribe from members about the process, for me to experience them not really giving a genuine contribution at all about the budget, for me to experience the estimates process itself where members of the opposition wanted to play silly games about matters irrelevant to the consideration of government expenditure when they wanted to ask questions that they knew were deliberately out of order and were inconsistent with the standing orders and when they wanted to move silly motions that were, again, entirely irrelevant to the estimates process—I feel that they are failing the people of Queensland. They do not serve the interests of the people of Queensland by wasting the time allocated during the estimates process by moving frivolous and irrelevant motions and asking questions that were out of order.

Just imagine for a moment that the opposition actually made a positive contribution during the estimates process and, rather than moving those frivolous and irrelevant motions or asking questions that were out of order, they properly considered the budget and government expenditure.

Mr Rickuss: Don't you support the budget? You won't talk much about it.

Mr RYAN: I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer because it gives me the opportunity to talk about this excellent budget and the great initiatives in the portfolio areas that were considered by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I am happy to talk about the restoration of funding for the Murri Court and drug diversion programs—programs cut by the Newman government but restored by this government. I am happy to talk about the action being taken on domestic violence. There are some wonderful initiatives funded in this budget, and of course the Premier and other ministers have spoken about other programs to be funded moving forward.

I am happy to talk about the restoration of funding for youth justice programs and correcting the debacle that happened under the member for Kawana's watch as the former attorney-general. And wasn't that a debacle! I was pleased that the Attorney was able to provide some further information at

estimates following the release of the KPMG report into the debacle that the member for Kawana contributed to as the former attorney-general and the mess that he made. I was very interested to hear as well that on the occasions that departmental representatives and the Attorney attended the Lincoln Springs boot camp they did not fly by helicopter, wasting \$12,000 of taxpayers' money like the former attorney did; they drove. This is a great budget, particularly in the areas of legal affairs and community safety, and I urge all members to support it.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): I call the member for Everton. You have three minutes.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.44 pm): It is a great pleasure to take part in the debate on the estimates review by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. We have a government that cries from the rooftops that it has a record investment in the TAFE sector and it wants to restore TAFE to its rightful place. Despite this rhetoric and despite the extra money that has been put into the sector, it was interesting throughout the estimates hearing to look at the service standards that were put in the budget papers by the minister. Let's have a look at the result of the extra investment and what the government is trying to achieve.

The proportion of all attempted competencies successfully completed in 2014-15 was 93.9 per cent. What is the target for this financial year? Ninety per cent. They have a target that is less than the actual for the last financial year. The proportion of graduates in employment or further study last year was 87.3 per cent. What is the stretch target for this financial year? Eighty-seven per cent. They have gone backwards once again. The number of completions for apprenticeships for last financial year was 11,800. What is the stretch target for this financial year? It is less again at 11,500. So, despite all of the money that has been put into the sector, despite the rhetoric that says they are going to restore the VET sector, in these three key performance indicators their target is to achieve less than they achieved last financial year under the LNP government.

The other thing that was very disturbing to hear at the estimates hearing was the minister's plan for TAFE college assets right around the state. When we came into government, we inherited a system where the assets were heavily under-utilised. They were only used 40 per cent of the time. The assets were also run down—closed, unfit for people to use. So the plan of the LNP government was to make sure that those assets could be utilised far more effectively than they had been in the past. What have Labor done instead? They have repealed an act that would bring that about. They have repealed a statutory authority that was expert in asset management. What they have done is given that back to the department—the department that put us in this situation in the first place. The result of our reforms in the VET sector last year was that five per cent more people were involved in VET study than the year before. Despite that, this government is now reversing every good reform that the previous government brought in.

(Time expired)

Report adopted.

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Report

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

That the report of the Agriculture and Environment Committee be adopted.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (5.49 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion that the Agriculture and Environment Committee's report No. 5 on the 2014-15 budget estimates be adopted. Our committee recommends that the proposed expenditure for the committee's areas of responsibility as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2015 be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

I thank my fellow committee members for their contributions to what was largely a constructive and effective day of estimates hearings in August. It was our privilege to welcome the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and the Minister for Sport and Racing as well as the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef to appear before us in our public hearings. I congratulate the ministers on their impressive attention to detail and knowledge of their portfolios which greatly assisted the committee in its deliberations. I also thank the directors-general, CEOs and advisers for their professionalism during the hearing. I need to make

special mention of our committee secretariat, particularly research director Rob Hansen but also Megan Johns, Maureen Coorey and Carolyn Heffernan. I thank them for their extremely capable assistance which ensured a smooth running of proceedings.

In a unicameral parliament like Queensland, the committee system is absolutely essential to the proper functioning of democracy. From my position as chair, I found myself impressed by the great opportunity the estimates process affords non-government members to scrutinise appropriations. In their arrogance, the former LNP government tried to avoid this scrutiny by condensing a two-week process down to two days. They did this for no other reason than that they thought their large majority meant they could get away with it. We all know how that went! Unlike the previous government, the Palaszczuk government is committed to the integrity of our parliamentary process. We returned the estimates process to its two-week schedule. I take great pride in being part of a government that has delivered on its commitment to restore estimates to its rightful place in our parliament as a crucial and effective measure of accountability.

During public hearings our committee examined items of government expenditure across a range of vital portfolios. I was pleased that the serious issue of fire ants was raised during my committee's hearings. The impact of this invasive species was brought home in my electorate last year when the Ipswich Knights Football Club's main soccer field at Bundamba was closed due to infestation. Sadly, when I attended the opening of their 2015 season earlier this year the young players from Ipswich Knights were forced to move their game to another field in neighbouring Ebbw Vale. That is why I am pleased to see this government funding measures to help eradicate this biosecurity threat, which has had a direct impact upon the people of Ipswich.

I was also pleased to be a part of the committee's examinations relating to our government's measures to protect the Great Barrier Reef. The Palaszczuk government has committed an additional \$100 million over five years to protect this iconic part of Queensland's environment, the protection of which is one of our primary goals. These and many other important matters were aired in our hearings, and it was fantastic to see our committee's vital accountability role in action. However, I was disappointed that certain members of the opposition saw the hearings as nothing more than an opportunity to score cheap political points. These members repeatedly interjected and disrespected the committee process. I commend Minister Byrne and Minister Miles for their tenacity and patience in responding during these outbursts.

Overall, I feel that the Agriculture and Environment Committee's estimates hearing was constructive and successful. I once again thank all of those whose participation and efforts were so crucial to the smooth functioning of the hearings and the production of this report. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (5.54 pm): I rise also to talk about the 2015-16 budget estimates process and in particular report No. 5 of the Agriculture and Environment Committee. I also pass on my thanks to those colleagues who took an active part in the detailed review of the budget and the other members of the committee as well.

Report No. 5 has been tabled and all can read the content and reflect otherwise on the outcomes, but my contribution particularly concerns items not in the report. We heard the Minister for Agriculture talk about net-free zones and spruik about consultation. We all nearly choked when we heard selective references to 6,000 submissions that apparently supported a vicious and sneaky policy implementation but we did not hear reference to the 5,000 signatures tabled the week before about net-free zones and opposition thereto. It will be interesting to see how the minister now reacts to the 26,000 signatures tabled this morning. We do want the minister to continue to work with the community on this issue. At least that issue was raised in the estimates process. We did not hear anything from the minister about consultation with the commercial sector, but that is what we knew. In particular, we never expected that the minister would actually consult with commercial fishermen.

We also received confirmation from both departments that there are processes in place in relation to public servants making false statements or providing misleading information. We were somewhat surprised that Minister Miles started the deliberations by raising the issue of a protection racket and saved us from even asking the question. So thank you, Minister! It was also good that the department had processes in place and had stood down public servants for making false and providing misleading statements. That was under investigation. I welcome the fact that, after some deliberations on service area 3 of Fisheries and Forestry, our state's contracted supply commitments for native forest logging will not be mucked around with. Of course, the quarrying industry can now have some confidence that it will be able to continue working.

In terms of service area 3 of Racing, while there was a lot of debate and discussion around the racing industry, there is still no indication of where the million dollars for the 20 allocated country meetings will be spent. We again reiterate our support for country racing as it is vital for rural and remote Queensland communities.

We also established that employees of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and the newly created Office of the Great Barrier Reef funded from the appropriation of the budget actively participated in the election campaign in the minister's own seat of Mount Coot-tha. The committee heard how royalties of \$26 million from dredging on Moreton Bay go back into government coffers. There was much discussion and information about the costs associated with new positions in the department; namely, nearly \$1 million out of the \$20 million allocated annually for the government's plan for the Great Barrier Reef. More concerns were reported about the previous Labor government's policy of employees on the ground being known in the broader community as the 'reef police' and about commitments to reinstate the regime being on the government's agenda. Of course that will make Queenslanders, particularly country Queenslanders, very nervous.

During estimates questions we also heard of a list of agencies and groups that receive funding without going through a formal tender or procurement process. Issues around coastal hazard adaption strategies and the government policy were discussed, but clearly unintended impact on coastal communities was not prosecuted and we know that there are significant issues across Queensland with the new planning schemes now arising. The delayed responses from the minister to the member for Hervey Bay in terms of urgently requesting action on the cancellation of permits to dispose of sea scallops and the endangering of 50 jobs still have not been resolved.

I am particularly disappointed in the response to a question from the member for Mount Isa regarding flying fox management that indicated the minister's complete lack of understanding. If the minister had taken the time to talk to those in the industry who utilise the currently existing mitigation practices, he would have found significant success in an LNP management process that should not be altered.

The committee heard about the activity of coal seam gas and the land spraying of drill mud process that has increased significantly under the new minister's regime. Of course, different regulatory frameworks appear to have decreased surveillance in monitoring, particularly in the gas fields in western Queensland. I was pleased to see disappear the hysteria proposed by those opposite in the lead-up to the election regarding grazing on state controlled land and national parks. We thank the minister for that confirmation, considering that emergency grazing and drought conditions prevail in Queensland. The minister's sensible response regarding the management of buffel grass is a significant change in policy, and we welcome those comments. The issue of grazing leases over state forest was discussed, and we acknowledge the conversations had around key stakeholders that are affected. Of course, the minister's commitment in estimates that no changes will be introduced will help many nervous farming families ensure a sustainable future for primary industries.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hinchliffe, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Referral of Auditor-General's Report and Reporting Dates

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.59 pm): I advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 1 of 2015-16 titled *Results of audit: internal control systems 2014-15* be referred to the Finance and Administration Committee.

The committee has also resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Finance and Administration Committee report on the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2015 by 2 November 2015; the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee report on the Energy and Water Ombudsman Amendment Bill 2015 by 2 November 2015 and the Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2015 by 17 November 2015; the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report on the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015 by 9 October 2015 and the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill by 9 October 2015.

MOTION

Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence



Ms DAVIS (Aspley—LNP) (6.00 pm): I move—

That this parliament formally thank the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence, established by the previous government, with bipartisan support and input, and expresses its appreciation to all those who contributed and made submissions to the final *Not now, not ever* report with recommendations to put an end to domestic and family violence.

At the outset I would like to offer my deepest sympathy to all of the families and loved ones of victims of domestic and family violence who have tragically lost their lives. Their grief would be beyond the scale of our imagination. It is incumbent upon community leaders and the community more broadly to ensure that we do all we can to eradicate domestic and family violence not only for those who have lost their lives but also for all those who are currently victims of this terrible crime. When we were in government, crime was generally on the decline, but sadly there was one area where it bucked the trend and that was in regard to domestic and family violence. Whilst there was a DV strategy 2011 to 2014, it was clear that more needed to be done. A broader review of the domestic and family violence landscape in Queensland was needed and the LNP was determined to address this.

On 10 August last year the LNP in government established the Premier's Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence. The task force was chaired by Dame Quentin Bryce and supported by former members of this House as well as influential welfare advocates. I think it is really important to acknowledge the individual task force members and thank them for the work that they undertook in delivering a comprehensive report with recommendations that will have a positive long-term outcome for Queenslanders. Those members alongside Quentin Bryce were Mr Ian Kaye MP, former member for Greenslopes; Ms Kerry Millard MP, former member for Sandgate; Mrs Desley Scott MP, former member for Woodridge; and Mrs Liz Cunningham MP, former Independent member for Gladstone. Along with those former members of parliament sat Mrs Anne Cross, CEO of UnitingCare Queensland; Ms Ada Woolla, Aurukun local commissioner for the Family Responsibilities Commission; and Ms Heather Nancarrow, CEO of Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety. I would also like to offer my thanks to the many others who worked behind the scenes including the task force secretariat; staff from DPC; Office of the Premier; Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services; and my former ministerial office staff.

With a great deal of personal and professional experience, the task force was directed to make recommendations on the challenges and issues facing victims, law enforcement and the sector. Over the five months of the review, the task force received 185 submissions, met with 367 different groups of victims and service providers, considered 961 surveys and held two summits with leading experts in domestic and family violence. Throughout this time the task force's unwavering message was that more needs to be done to show those who are suffering that they are not alone, and I wholeheartedly agree with that. I commend the task force on reinforcing that a whole community response is needed to eradicate domestic and family violence. Government alone cannot tackle this without the community standing united.

The task force conducted an extensive statewide engagement program during the course of the review and heard from many brave men and women who shared their stories, often very private battles, of being victims of domestic violence. It was through their courageous act of talking to the task force and putting forward their written submissions that we were able to understand the complexities faced by victims of this crime and the challenges of the sector that work so well to support them. Through them we hope that other victims realise that they are not alone. We thank each and every one of those very brave people who came forward to assist the task force.

In February this year the report was presented to the Premier with 140 recommendations at its core to develop a strategy and framework for implementing, resourcing and evaluating initiatives highlighted in the suite of recommendations. Seven months later, the Labor government has given support to the recommendations, but I note that the task force urged the implementation to occur immediately.

The LNP has shown that it has listened to the voices of Queenslanders and was ready, as a moral imperative, to take action and we did. We as parliamentarians cannot let this opportunity to achieve real and permanent change pass us by. That is why the LNP has offered bipartisan support. We must act with the right level of haste on the task force recommendations, and we must continue to learn from others and find ways of keeping people safe from this most sinister form of harm.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.05 pm): I am very happy to talk about our government's strong response to and implementation of the 140 recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report and take this opportunity to thank the members of the task force for their very comprehensive report. Over the past few days I have proudly stood with the Premier to announce initiatives to implement priority recommendations. As I said this morning, implementation has commenced on 73 of the 121 recommendations directed at government, and work is underway on all the others.

Although the opposition's motion expresses bipartisan support, I note that this morning and tonight they chose to criticise the government for taking seven months to respond, a criticism that is not only not bipartisan but is unfair and untrue. Let me just spell out for the members of the House the key actions that we have taken each and every month since this report was handed down.

In February the report was handed down to the Premier. In March, on International Women's Day, we announced urgent work would begin on two new 72-hour crisis shelters, the first in over 20 years. In April the Premier attended COAG and agreed that Queensland would contribute \$3 million to a national awareness campaign and that we would be a trial site for a nationally consistent DVO scheme. In May the government announced an additional \$1½ million for DVConnect. In June, sector and location based round tables across Queensland were held to consult with the community on how we can all work together and inform the government's response and implementation of the Bryce report. We accepted the invitation to join Our Watch, an invitation rejected by the former government in 2013.

In July the first Palaszczuk government budget prioritised domestic and family violence with a \$31.3 million package aimed at the priority recommendations including a specialist Domestic Violence Court and the death review panel. In August the government released the full response to the *Not now, not ever* report, accepting each and every one of the 140 recommendations. This month we have made several announcements fast-tracking police and justice responses and, of course, the Beenleigh Logan trial site for an integrated response. But there is still more to be done if we are to achieve the full implementation of the road map that Dame Quentin Bryce has provided for us to tackle this scourge on our community. The Premier has also indicated that we would be happy to host a national summit called for by opposition leader Bill Shorten and we hope that the new Prime Minister will join Mr Shorten in a bipartisan way to commit to this summit.

We have set out in our response to the report that there are a number of other priorities for the coming months. We will have our shelters up and running by the end of this year. We will establish the Premier's implementation council, which Dame Quentin Bryce has agreed to chair. We will continue to develop resources to support respectful relationships in our schools. We will consult and consider the locations of two other integrated response models—in a regional community and in an Indigenous community. We will finalise the audit of support services already underway by KPMG to inform a long-term investment strategy. We will continue to consider further legislative reform to strengthen protection of victims and hold perpetrators to account. We will conduct a review of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act and how it works with other key pieces of legislation.

I have to say, it was disappointing this morning to see the opposition try to link this important issue to gambling and gaming machine licences in an attempt to score political points. Let us be clear: although there are factors which can exacerbate the violence and aggravate the circumstances, there is no excuse for domestic and family violence—not gambling pressures, not the economy and not substance abuse. As I have said, we will only end this violence if we tackle underlying attitudes towards women. We are acting with a sense of urgency and priority across the whole of government, and we will methodically work through the recommendations and ensure that we are offering the best and most comprehensive response possible to end this epidemic of violence.

I heard it stated over the weekend that the shadow Treasurer thought our implementation was haphazard, but I think we can all agree that Dame Quentin Bryce's approach is anything but haphazard. I suggest that in the spirit of bipartisanship the opposition get on board, get involved, look at the government's response and you will see that we are acting on the recommendations.

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (6.10 pm): I rise to speak to the motion. I begin by echoing many here when I say that domestic and family violence is an insidious crime in our community. Recent horrific incidents in Queensland have resulted in the deaths of innocent women and children, and this must end. The LNP's resolve to tackle domestic violence and the escalation in violence that we have seen was evident last year when we engaged Dame Quentin Bryce to lead a task force into domestic and family violence in Queensland.

This special task force on domestic and family violence undertook a comprehensive and coordinated review to make Queensland as safe and secure as possible for families. When the LNP announced this task force, we hoped to drill down into this hidden form of violence and strive to highlight the community's role in changing current attitudes to domestic and family violence. The task force filled this brief, so congratulations to each and every member on that task force. As a government we were pleased to have Dame Quentin Bryce lead the task force because it required a cool head and compassionate approach. We again thank Dame Quentin and her committee for the work that they did in a very short time frame.

As part of the LNP's commitment to making Queensland a safer place to live when we were in government, we wanted to take the strongest lead possible to reduce and prevent domestic and family violence and we wanted to ensure that there was timely and appropriate support for victims. The statistics on family violence in Queensland were rising, and we knew that many perpetrators of domestic violence show a complete disregard for court orders. Sadly, we saw evidence of that again last week. We wanted to make sure that we had a better, coordinated response to these crimes and that those who inflict domestic violence are held to account.

The former LNP government established the task force on 10 September 2014 and requested that it deliver a report to the Premier of Queensland by 28 February 2015. My colleague, the member for Aspley, has clearly articulated what occurred over those five months and how far that committee went in looking at the issues. One of the things that has really disturbed me as the shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs and multiculturalism was what the *Not now, not ever* report found. It states—

The picture in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is even bleaker. The Taskforce was deeply distressed by what it heard about violence in these vulnerable communities. Violence and abuse is reported as being so prevalent in some communities as to have become normalised—the people who live there consider violence to be a part of 'every day' life. The lack of support services and poor access to the justice system compound the violence and make it virtually impossible for victims, who are predominantly women and children, to escape.

I do not think we should ever lose sight of that. Another important issue in relation to child safety is that we have to break through the fear experienced by women reporting domestic violence. They are scared that child services will become involved, and I am so pleased that in the last government our focus was on early intervention and setting up family units so it was kept out of the statutory area. More importantly, the minister committed \$50 million to ensure that child safety and family violence were combined.

I will quote some statistics that are very interesting, but I want to ensure that we do not become desensitised by these figures because this is the impact domestic and family violence is having in Queensland. In 2013 there were 64,246 reported incidents of domestic violence in Queensland, and that was on the increase. The worrying part about this is the number of unreported incidents, and I believe this is only the tip of the iceberg. It is also important to note that intimate partner violence is the most common type of violence against women, affecting 30 per cent of women worldwide, and one in six Australian women has experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former partner. It must end.

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (6.15 pm): I rise this evening to contribute to the private member's motion as well, and I do so with regard to my speech this morning in this chamber about the responsibilities that I feel as a father to play my role, however small, in setting an example against violence. As a White Ribbon ambassador I swore, and still do at events, never to commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women. That is my oath.

As a male community leader, I can extend my influence and speak out against violence against women and safely and effectively challenge the attributes and behaviours of a minority of men who use or condone violence against women. Most men are good men; they are not violent. There is nothing masculine about being violent or in control. It does not make you a strong man to belittle women. We have to face the stark reality that, as Quentin Bryce clearly stated in her report *Not now, not ever*—

One in six Australian women have experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or former partner, compared to one in 19 Australian men.

One in five women have experienced sexual abuse compared to one in 22 Australian men.

One in four Australian women have experienced emotional abuse from a current or former partner, compared to one in seven Australian men.

Our Queensland Governor, Paul de Jersey, is leading the way, along with sports figures and media stars, in stating very clearly to the people of Queensland—

Domestic violence is a heinous species of violent crime. These appalling offenders must be held to account. It is also critical that we stand up for victims with our comprehensive support.

I think he is right. As I mentioned this morning this matter is beyond politics. As stated by Dame Quentin Bryce—

Stories bring us together as a community—and it is the Taskforce's sincere hope that the stories that are told here will move the community forward in the journey to collectively act to put an end to domestic and family violence.

Dame Quentin Bryce could not have known that the Queensland community would be so shocked and devastated by the stories we heard last week and the murders we saw in public places, but, as the Premier and ministers have said, it can be a turning point. I am proud to be part of a government that has put domestic and family violence front and centre of our priorities. We have begun work on more than half of the recommendations aimed at government, and we are working to support non-government partners to respond to the other recommendations.

I am pleased that the opposition is today committing to bipartisan support for the full implementation of the comprehensive road map which has been handed down to us by the task force. Today we have all received a kit to help us engage with our communities on this issue. This morning I spoke about the community forum that I am hosting on 21 November in Ferny Grove. I am encouraged by the enthusiasm that is growing. The momentum is increasing day after day and people wish to engage with that community. I do encourage all members in this chamber to bring your stakeholders and your interested community members together to commit to a community response to this crisis.

Just as we in this House need to work together on this crucial issue, we need all parts of our electorates and all parts of Queensland to work together—schools, hospitals, doctors, workplaces, sports clubs, playgrounds, churches, everyone. On the subject of sporting clubs, on Saturday morning I was lucky to be at the Samford Rangers soccer presentation and I commented on the number of young female players who are playing soccer. What a great start for collaboration and respect by male and female players playing together, creating generational change for the future. We all must work together on this. We all must commit for the long haul. There are no excuses.

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.20 pm): I rise in this House to place on the record my congratulations and thanks for those who were involved in the special task force which has reported to the Queensland Premier and for their historic report, *Not now, not ever*. I listened with interest to the obvious passion of the member for Ferny Grove, who carried on from the passion that he portrayed in this place this morning when he outlined his own personal circumstances with regard to experiences around domestic and family violence. Those stories are not easy stories to tell in this place and the honourable member indicated his pride in being part of a government that is committed to implementing these recommendations and making sure that those recommendations are carried forward.

It is also important that I place on the record that I have a similar amount of pride, as does my team, for our role and involvement in requesting the very well respected Australian Dame Quentin Bryce to oversee this task force to put in place a road map to deal with domestic and family violence in this state now and into the future. I also want to pay tribute to former premier Campbell Newman, who motivated and who personally pushed for this as his own deep and abiding passion, because it was his idea. It was his firm commitment that we needed to do something about this, and he personally stewarded this matter through our cabinet at a time when we were not confronted with the horrific images that we were confronted with here in Queensland last week. Certainly it was an issue which was a part of the consciousness of many Australians, and at that stage we had great Australians like Rosie Batty talking about this issue.

As a consequence of Campbell Newman's personal drive and passion on this issue, Dame Quentin Bryce was engaged, as was a group of very dedicated Queenslanders in a bipartisan way, and I thank the then opposition for its commitment and involvement in that. I think it is a test and a testament of the undying logic and righteousness of this move by Campbell Newman that we had such a great group of people put together in a bipartisan way. The greatest indicator of the success and the substance of that road map is the fact that 140 recommendations were made and 140 recommendations have been accepted. I am not sure that I am ever aware of any report to this parliament by an expert group where 100 per cent of the recommendations have been adopted. I think it is also important to give acknowledgement and commendation for the adoption of that by the then incoming Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, and we had that discussion earlier this year.

The ultimate test is going to be the effective implementation of the recommendations. It is the role of the opposition in this place to ask questions, as it is for all members to ask questions in this place, as to the logic of certain decisions that are made. That is why we asked the questions that we

asked today in this place, because there is no single reason for domestic violence or family violence but there can be an accumulation of factors and they all need to be considered. If this parliament is satisfied that there are some matters that we need to concentrate on as a priority in our efforts, then so be it. But also in that spirit of consultation and bipartisanship I again encourage—I wrote to the Premier today—and indicate the support of the opposition to expedite matters through this place to provide protection and support to vulnerable Queenslanders who are at risk of domestic and family violence. As a part of that it is extremely important that we have that cross-chamber involvement—not only opposition but also the crossbenchers—to make sure that right throughout this process in the construction of those ideas we know what is being put together because that keeps the spirit of cooperation and bipartisanship which is so much alive in the *Not now, not ever* report going into the future.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (6.25 pm): This evening I rise to also provide support to the motion and thank the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence established by the previous government, with bipartisan support and input, and express my appreciation to all those who contributed and made submissions to the final *Not now, not ever* report, which made 140 recommendations to put an end to domestic and family violence. As a regional member, I am pleased at the bipartisan commitment to the Bryce report's recommendations, and I particularly thank those regional Queenslanders who contributed to it through the consultations. There are a number of recommendations aimed at addressing the regional disadvantage in responding to domestic and family violence. The fantastic organisation operating in my electorate, Life Without Barriers, put it so succinctly in its submission to the task force—

While domestic and family violence is prevalent across Queensland, people in regional and remote areas face particular issues associated with the smaller size of communities and the consequent difficulties in seeking help without escalating the abuse. In these locations there are fewer services and greater distances between those services.

The government has committed to trialling an integrated response in a regional centre with outreach to rural and remote communities, and the statewide audit of support services being conducted by KPMG will no doubt highlight the particular pressures on regional communities to both access and deliver services.

There are a number of initiatives to counter domestic violence, and I welcome the outstanding support given by the Premier and cabinet ministers to responding to the increasing and tragic deaths that have occurred too recently. To put it clearly, from 2006 to 2013 Queensland experienced 180 deaths in the context of domestic and family violence. Each one of those deaths not only affect the immediate family members but rock communities to their very core. To those who respond to such violent and horrific incidents, I can only say—and, unfortunately, I know that a number of members of this House have worked in front-line emergency services or health areas—that those memories stay with you forever. I will touch briefly on a couple of experiences that remain ingrained in my memory. Domestic violence does not discriminate. From precious and innocent children to partners to the elderly, domestic violence in my mind has become this state's major and social health challenge. This is a complex issue with significant crossover with alcohol and drug related issues, so we certainly have a job ahead of us in the Queensland government.

The cases I speak of were extremely violent. The first was a house we entered as paramedics to find a middle-age lady laying in a pool of blood. I thought she was deceased. Her face was completely unrecognisable and she was barely alive, deeply unconscious. Her partner lay in another part of the house with a knife still stuck in his chest from a self-inflicted wound. His shoes and socks were covered in her blood. It took all of my effort to treat that person whilst with the only obvious injury he was awake and conscious. That was the only silent trip I can remember in an ambulance over 25 years.

The second was just as violent, however more recent. Forty-seven stab wounds says it all. I cannot really articulate that scene. It will live with me and a lot of other people forever. That lady was taking her last breaths as I arrived. She died in front of me. It was difficult to even know where to start. She simply bled out. I could go on: an 18-month-old with multiple stab wounds. I think the point is made.

I do worry about our younger and new emergency services staff who no doubt will be exposed to this type of violence in our community. So I say enough is enough. What we are seeing is barely the tip of the iceberg. For those victims I have spoken about or who have recently shocked all of us in our state, it is what is happening behind closed doors that should be of concern. Action needs to be taken well before these violent, horrific incidents occur. I commend the Premier on her strong stance to address this issue and the other members of the parliament such as the member for Ferny Grove and Minister Lynham who spoke so passionately today from personal experience.

We need men to step up and lead the way in our homes and communities to show what is acceptable behaviour. After all, it is about the choices we make and this is a change in our culture that is required for future generations. The continued violence has to be addressed. Steps are being taken by our responsible government to educate students in schools and make tougher laws in relation to domestic violence breaches in the hope of reducing the incidence of such horrific violence that is so prevalent in our communities throughout Queensland. I commend this motion to the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Report

Resumed from p. 1777 .

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (7.30 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2015 and the estimates committee report of the Agriculture and Environment Committee. The Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing and the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef need to be commended for the fine work they have undertaken with their departments. Both ministers have demonstrated a solid knowledge of their budgets, portfolios and government departments. Both portfolios cover a large number of important service areas for Queensland, including agriculture, Biosecurity Queensland, sport and recreation, racing, national parks, environment protection services, species and ecosystems services and heritage and protection services.

The objective of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is to connect industry to opportunities, enabling producers and businesses to grow their markets, secure investment, lift productivity and better manage economic and climatic adversity; manage biosecurity risks to protect agricultural resources, human health, social amenity and the environment; and provide customer-responsive services. This is being achieved. Farmers need support with research and development to produce new and emerging products to stay competitive on world markets. The minister's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has allocated \$150,000 over two years for the development of a 10-year agriculture and food research development and extension blueprint. The minister was able to share with the estimates committee hearing that he has already tasted some of the new varieties of fruit that have been developed in Queensland to be released into the market soon.

My electorate of Mackay is surrounded by farming communities. I know that the development of different varieties of crops and new breeds of stock is very important to combat changing weather patterns and in the need to increase productivity of yields from existing land. The sustainable development of our crops will capitalise on the strength of our agricultural industry and grow our food and fibre industry. The agricultural sector has great potential to tap into the emerging Asian markets. Our farmers have the opportunity for growth in the sector and the ability to drive job creation. These initiatives in the development of the industry will be linked to the Advance Queensland initiative. In conjunction with the industry, the minister has undertaken an outbound trade mission that promoted existing food and fibre and showcased new, niche and emerging products and investment opportunities.

We are in the midst of a terrible drought, which is ripping through our agricultural centres. Currently, 80.35 per cent of our state is drought declared. The government is fulfilling its election commitment to continue existing drought arrangements until 2018 and to review existing arrangements should the wet season fail. The drought assistance package is for four years, starting from 2015-16, and it is a \$52.1 million package. The package will include freight subsidies to move fodder and water during drought, a rebate on the purchase of emergency water infrastructure and additional funding for

rural financial counselling. Also, there is relief on electricity charges for the agricultural water supply administered by Ergon. This is a stressful time for farmers and their families. This stress is realised through primary mental health support through the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which is administered by Queensland Health. The government will support initiatives for the development of a national multiperil crop insurance scheme to provide insurance cover for a range of climatic events that could result in a poor harvest, such as the drought and, in previous years, floods.

The government's state election commitment to implementing the net-free fishing zones was announced by the minister at the estimates committee hearing. During the recent consultation process the government received over 6,300 submissions. Ninety per cent of those submissions were in favour of introducing the net-free zones. Adjustments were made to some boundaries as a result of the consultation with stakeholders. The commercial fishing industry has some concerns with the implementation of the zones. That is why the state government has—

(Time expired)

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (7.35 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, could I have your indulgence to acknowledge my beautiful family sitting in the gallery: my husband, Jason, and three daughters, Elke, Isabella and Lucy. It is wonderful to have them here. Let us hope that the future of the agricultural industry is sitting in one of those three up there. That would be lovely.

Tonight I rise to speak to the estimates process. I would like to thank the committee, in particular the chair, for giving me the indulgence of being able to attend and sit on that committee. I would like to congratulate the LNP members on that committee, particularly the deputy chair, Stephen Bennett, and also Ted Sorensen, the member for Hervey Bay. It is very good to be able to take the opportunity that is afforded to us in opposition to question the government and, in this case, the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing, but not forestry. I had an opportunity to ask the minister what he did with the 'F' from DAFF. The department is just known as DAF now. There are no longer two 'FFs'. I asked about the cost of getting rid of the second 'F'.

An honourable member: What's the second 'F' for?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Forestry, of course. I must say that, although there is not anything new in this budget for forestry, I was pleased—and I am on record saying this—that the minister acknowledged that there is still a forestry sector within DAF. As I represent the great seat of Nanango, a solid forestry seat—one of few, I would dare say—I think it is important that DAF has a second 'F', hence why I am very pleased to be the shadow minister for agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

I want to follow up on the net-free zones that the previous speaker and, in particular, the chair talked about. In the estimates process the minister's answer to fisheries management being based on sound scientific principles was particularly poor. In his attempt to justify the creation of three net-free zones on the Central Queensland coast, he and his government appear to be blatantly ignoring scientific advice from their own fisheries department that shows that state fisheries are sustainably managed.

The minister's explanation that the zones were all about protecting the Great Barrier Reef bears no correlation to the scientific advice from his own fisheries experts. Further, his explanation of compensation to the 53 commercial fishers who will be displaced—not even going towards the other businesses downstream—was weak and showed a lack of understanding of the impact that his government's decision is making on those 53 businesses. But more than that, the government keeps talking about 6,000 people. What about the 26,000 people from Queensland who signed the petition that was tabled in this House?

I refer members to *Hansard* where I asked the minister, in relation to net-free zones—

Just so I can be clear, so you are telling commercial fishermen they are allowed to continue to fish should they wish to do so?

The minister's response was—

They can.

I am looking for clarification on that from the minister and so is the commercial fishing industry. We have gone backwards and forwards over this many times in the House, but I need to touch on the funding and staffing cuts in the department and need it to be on the record. No matter how one looks at it there have been cuts in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. No-one, particularly industry, can believe the minister's explanation to estimates about the staff cuts at DAF. His own SDS at page 15 clearly shows FTE numbers were cut by 138. This is a reduction of the DAF workforce no matter how you look at it. If the minister was so proud of them, why not keep them on the books? Why not put

them into biosecurity? We have gone over and over this. We need to look at this for what it is—that is, the budget papers clearly show that there is a reduction in staff in DAF. I was disappointed in the minister's response in relation to this.

(Time expired)

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (7.40 pm): We in the Agriculture and Environment Committee bear a great responsibility to the thousands of Queenslanders who work in agriculture, including the many in my own seat of Logan who produce on the banks and also on the flood plains of the Logan River some of the cleanest and healthiest produce that is grown in Queensland. Many Queenslanders, not only in Logan but also across our state and indeed internationally, look to us to bear the responsibility of being the guardians of our great natural heritage, including the Great Barrier Reef but also our wonderful national parks and other environmental areas that are worthy of protection.

As a new member of this place I was interested in the process of the committee asking questions about the budget. I assumed there would be great detail as we delved into the budget, examined individual line items, the execution of them and the performance criteria, but instead I was somewhat disappointed. I did notice that the member for Mount Isa asked questions that addressed the very nature of the portfolios. He asked about the profitability of farms and the prices at the farm gate. He asked about sustainable farming and the strategies that the minister was using to try to encourage the profitability of farmers and their sustainability. However, many of the other opposition members who were asking questions did so not to delve into the detail of the government's response and budget but instead to score points possibly for the next day's newspapers, which I found disappointing when this was such a great opportunity.

We got to play 'protection racket bingo', where phrases that were the lines of the day were put by opposition members and used regardless of the circumstances. In this I have to commend the chair of the committee who gave enormous leeway to the questioners. I myself would have ruled every single question of the opposition out of order because they seemed deliberately intent on asking questions—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr POWER: I agree. Some people do not know the process, member for Lockyer. They do not know that questions have to address the budget before them, they are not to make inferences or engage in personal innuendo. If the letter of the law were followed, many of the questions would have been ruled out of order. I commend the chair of the committee who allowed much leeway to the members of the committee to put questions. I also commend the ministers who took it in good spirit and attempted to give serious answers to the questions put to them. I appreciated that.

I was disappointed there were questions about protection rackets. There were questions about stationery: endless questions about the removal of a single letter off the stationery. There were attacks obviously aimed at getting a news story for the next day. There were questions about policing in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries which obviously fell on fallow ground as they should have been asked on different days. There were very few questions about the Great Barrier Reef and its importance and value to Queenslanders and how we were making representations to the world to show how we were protecting it. I was disappointed that the opposition could not ask those questions.

Another difficult and serious matter was the personal attacks on public servants that I found disappointing. When a public servant takes the opportunity to stand for their views publicly and politically they should not be attacked for it, but that is what we saw. There was an allegation of favouritism. We had to look to see whether this public servant had indeed been promoted in the department. There was tension as we waited. We found out that this person had not been given any preferential treatment or promotion but had recently been promoted by the LNP for their work. It was the height of hypocrisy. There is a soldier standing for election this weekend. Will the LNP question his integrity if he has to return to the Army because he took the opportunity to participate in our democratic process? I hope they will not do this again.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.45 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Agriculture and Environment Committee's consideration of the Appropriation Bill 2015. May I thank the committee for permitting me to attend. The estimates process for 2015 was, according to this already arrogant Labor government, going to be an open and transparent exploration of the state budget, but it was more of a truth evasion exercise by an incompetent sport and racing minister. The racing service area objective is to 'maintain public confidence and ensure the integrity of the Queensland racing industry', but nothing could be further from the truth. Right now the industry is in limbo. The minister has no plan. He had upstanding individuals sacked by phone calls from staff and sacked his own DG. Revelations of abhorrent live-baiting practices in the greyhound racing industry led to the Queensland greyhound

commission of inquiry. They had to be investigated swiftly and stopped. However, it is little wonder that wagering revenue was not increasing because right from the start the member for Rockhampton savaged the entire Queensland racing industry and its reputation, continually talking it down and refusing to meet with stakeholders—unless, of course, they were a Labor or union mate.

The unannounced online release of a discussion paper by the minister on the evening prior to the estimates hearing was another example of his ongoing determination to prevent disclosure of the figures that he is using to defend numerous negative statements he has made about the finances of Racing Queensland. It is therefore no surprise at all that respected industry commentators have scoffed at its merit and the loaded questions that it contains. When I asked if the minister would table the draft document shown to the interim CEO of Racing Queensland, Mr Hall, by the chief financial officer that purportedly reflected the size of the cost blowout, he tried to pass off the newly minted discussion paper as containing the financials and then point-blank refused to table the draft budget documents that Mr Hall used to accuse the former Racing Queensland board of massive cost blowouts. Despite the minister's comment at the hearings that 'every single piece of information we have has been made publicly available', it became clear that the minister and the government did not want Queenslanders to see these documents.

I am told of numerous Racing Queensland meetings being held around the state with racing industry stakeholders who are shown a PowerPoint presentation. But when they have asked to have a copy of what they have seen, the request is denied. In the parliament on 16 July the minister said—

Later today Mr Hall and I will be outlining in detail the current extent of the expected losses in Racing Queensland.

But he did not, did he? He put some figures on a graph and blamed them on somebody else. Why would he not hand the graphs to the media? Why would he not table them in public back then? What did he want to hide? Wasn't the truth of the matter that there was no budget document when the former chairman and all three racing code boards were shown the door? Wasn't it the case that discussions were due to start with departments and agencies the following week?

I am not the only person who finds it highly suspicious that this government seized upon an opportunity presented by the greyhound live-baiting inquiry to tear down Racing Queensland. With the release today of Racing Queensland's 2014 annual report, now we know the reasons. The unqualified accounts show a \$23 million profit and some \$3 million in the bank, exposing this minister's and the Palaszczuk government's scandalous concerted agenda to discredit the former board. Sadly, the axe looks set to fall not only on country racing in Queensland with the four-year funding commitment set to end this year but also the future of our bookmakers and prize money facing a severe slash and burn. The LNP recognised that country racing is the lifeblood of so many regional communities across Queensland, but Labor does not.

The minister's aloofness about key areas such as the cost of transitioning Racing Queensland out of administration arrangements was unacceptable and his failure to answer important questions about the high cost of Mr Hall's services was inexcusable and highlights Labor's poor form in fiscal matters. Likewise, the minister's total lack of knowledge regarding costs incurred through the greyhound inquiry was unsatisfactory and withholding details in the questions taken on notice lacks integrity. Not only has Minister Byrne shown that he has no understanding of an industry that generates \$855 million but also he has eroded confidence, instilling in people a fear of losing their jobs and their livelihoods.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (7.50 pm): I thank the members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee and, in particular, the committee chair and member for Ipswich for their consideration of the budget estimates for my portfolios. I appreciated the opportunity to engage with members of the committee on the matters of key interest to their constituents and to start conversations that I look forward to continuing. I have not forgotten that the member for Hervey Bay has promised me a tour of the heritage listed Woody Island lighthouse in his electorate. I understand our officers are talking about potential dates, so I will be holding the member to that. The member for Mount Isa queried the effectiveness of government policies on managing flying fox roosts in urban areas and that is something I am looking forward to discussing further with him and the member for Dalrymple later this week. Shortly, I will be visiting the member for Logan to speak with his constituents about our work examining options for reducing plastic waste in Queensland.

Therefore, while there may well have been some other places we all wanted to be on that Friday evening, I felt the debate was constructive, respectful and ultimately useful. Personally, it was an honour to highlight how the Palaszczuk government is delivering for the environment, our national parks and the Great Barrier Reef in its first budget. In this budget, we have delivered \$100 million in new money

that we pledged during the election campaign to improve the water quality of the Great Barrier Reef. Our work will include tracking the health of Gladstone, Mackay, Cairns and Townsville waterways and investing in scientific research, tools to help business transition to better environmental practices and funding buyback net fishing licences in Cairns, Mackay, Yeppoon and Rockhampton.

On climate change, we are providing \$15 million over the next three years to address and manage climate change and coastal hazards. That includes \$12 million to help councils address coastal hazards including sea level rise, inundation and erosion in their planning processes. That program will be delivered in partnership with the Local Government Association of Queensland. Soon coastal councils will be able to apply for funding to assist with the development of local plans and options to deal with their escalating climate risks. We are also providing \$3 million for the development of a Climate Adaptation Strategy in collaboration with industry, local government and the community, to develop responses to the varying impacts of climate change across Queensland's regions and sectors.

The successful NatureAssist program will receive a boost of \$5 million to continue its work providing incentives for private landholders to undertake conservation management on their land and creating nature refuges for land of significant conservation value and climate change resilience. To ensure our natural places are managed to best preserve the unique natural and cultural values and enhance sustainable visitor access, we are also investing in greater joint management with traditional owners and Indigenous ranger employment opportunities. This includes North Stradbroke Island, where we will invest \$12.4 million to support joint management with the traditional owners, the Quandamooka people, and to employ rangers and a joint management coordinator. We are also providing \$7.4 million over four years to jointly manage with traditional owners 2.6 million hectares of park estate on Cape York Peninsula as part of Indigenous management agreements and to employ a further seven Indigenous rangers. Also on Cape York, \$7.3 million over four years will go to providing for the continued employment of 15 Indigenous rangers to manage and maintain protected areas.

In my portfolio, we are committed to protecting the state's unique environment and heritage with initiatives that will improve the health of the Great Barrier Reef, reconnect landscapes through protected areas, preserve our rich history and protect wildlife. I am delighted, as I am sure is my colleague the member for Rockhampton, that the committee recommended that the proposed expenditure for the committee's areas of responsibility be agreed to without amendment. Again, I thank all the members of the committee for their contributions during the hearing. I acknowledge the hard work that has gone into their deliberations and the work of the parliamentary staff who support the committee. I also take this opportunity to thank my directors-general, John Black and Tamara O'Shea, and acknowledge the effort by a great many departmental staff, as well as the staff of my office, that went into preparing for the estimates process.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (7.55 pm): Tonight I rise to speak on the budget estimates report of the Agriculture and Environment Committee. I thank all the committee members: our chair Mrs Howard, Mr Bennett, Mrs Gilbert, Mr Katter and Mr Power. I also acknowledge the three members who attended: Mrs Frecklington, Mrs Stuckey and Mr Powell.

The first issue I wish to raise is that of net-free zones. We only need to look at the table of the House to see the petition signed by over 220,000 people from the fishing industry, asking for what I believe at the end of the day is some sort of justice. Net-free zones have caused a lot of harm. Yesterday, a fisherman came to me and asked, 'What's the minister going to do when the first bloke commits suicide?' That is the feeling among some of the fishermen at the moment, especially in my area where they do not know where they are going or what they are doing. In the estimates hearing Minister Byrne said—

I say what I have said all along. Now that we have completed the zones, we will be engaging with individual affected fishers to establish where what their options are, and there are a couple of options available to them ...

However, what happened to the communication before those net-free zones went in? Did they go to the fishermen and ask what sort of compensation they needed? No! They were just left hanging. According to the Rockhampton paper, one guy was offered only \$5,000 in compensation. That would not even pay for the nets.

Mr Byrne: You don't understand what you're talking about, do you?

Mr SORENSEN: Yes, I do.

Mr Rickuss: You're the one who hasn't got a clue. You have not got a clue.

Mr SORENSEN: I will take that interjection. There is a fishing industry in my area and people are deadly worried about what the minister is going to do next. Once one industry is knocked off, the ramifications and the domino effect are very serious for the whole community.

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr Bennett: You haven't spoken to the commercial fishermen, Bill.

Mr SORENSEN: You haven't spoken to the commercial fishermen. There is a big industry in my area.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! The member for Hervey Bay has the call and will be heard in silence.

Mr SORENSEN: With the scallop industry in Hervey Bay, they have stopped one of the processes and they are arguing over whether or not it is a vessel. It is ridiculous. One part of the department says it is a vessel and the other part says it is not. An operator has been stopped from dumping the scallop shells and the scallop guts into the sea. At the estimates hearing I asked the minister to give me an answer on that, but I have not heard anything yet. You have not written an answer to that one.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Address your comments through the chair, please, member for Hervey Bay.

Mr SORENSEN: I would like to ask the minister when I am going to get a response to my letter. It is worth 50 jobs at the end of the day. If there is no action they will send it overseas for processing. It may come back or it may be better to sell it into the Asian market.

Mr Bennett interjected.

Mr SORENSEN: It was on 10 July that I first wrote to the minister. The LNP introduced things like the Get in the Game grant. I nearly fell off my chair when I saw those outlined in the budget. They have not wound those back. It is a really good program. I hope it continues. That was an LNP initiative. I am very proud of that initiative.

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing) (8.00 pm): Following my appearance at the estimates hearing this year, I would very much like to thank the committee and the staff of the committee, the departmental staff and my staff for the part they played and the hard work they did behind the scenes. All involved saw the estimates process come to a very successful conclusion.

What I am really pleased about is the fact that there was no statement of reservation or no dissent reflected from the opposition in the committee report. I may be wrong, but I think mine was the only portfolio which had no such commentary. Is that not amazing given some of the speeches from opposition members this evening? There seems to be a few reservations. There seems to be a little dissent. They are too lazy and too incompetent to put any of that into the report. There is nothing, zero, zip. They could not even get to the point of putting a statement of reservations into the committee report. If they had put something in the committee report I would have stood up here and refuted every single piece of it.

The exhibition we have seen tonight from the member for Currumbin is absolutely extraordinary. What we have seen is hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil in terms of the racing industry. The racing industry is in the position it is in thanks to the legacy of the LNP. What happened to the LNP when they were in government? They spent millions of dollars pursuing a political agenda where they did not act on any of the recommendations of their million dollar inquiry.

How many prosecutions came from it? Zero, zip, none. Not a damn thing came out of that million dollar political witch-hunt executed by the LNP. Meanwhile in the background Racing Queensland continues on its trajectory as does the rest of the racing industry. What did we do—

Mrs Stuckey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! Member for Currumbin, you have had your turn.

Mr BYRNE: What did we do as a government? The day I was sworn in *Four Corners* arrived. Let me run members through it. We put in place a commission of inquiry. The recommendations of the commission of inquiry were not criticised by the member for Currumbin.

Mrs Stuckey interjected.

Mr BYRNE: She is whingeing and whining. The previous minister is sitting down the back as quiet as a mouse. He has his fingerprints all over this. They are all over it.

The member for Currumbin does not believe the statement of affairs. The member for Currumbin does not believe what has been put in front of her by KPMG and what is in the annual report, which was audited by the Queensland Audit Office. They say that none of that is true. That is all a Labor Party plot. That is some sort of political agenda being pursued by the Labor Party.

Let me tell the member for Currumbin and all the deniers across the room that everything that occurred under their watch has put us in this position. The Queensland taxpayer—and those over there are so respectful of the taxpayers' dollar—has to underwrite the industry to keep it afloat. That is their legacy. Their legacy is an operating—

Mrs Stuckey interjected.

Mr BYRNE: You cannot read an SDS and you cannot read an annual report. Where did that number come from? It came from the valuations of property. It is as simple as that.

Mrs Stuckey: Read it.

Mr BYRNE: Look at the operating deficit.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Currumbin, that is enough!

Mr BYRNE: Read the report.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, direct your comments through the chair, please.

Mr BYRNE: If those opposite bothered to inform themselves of the financial position as outlined in the statement of affairs tabled in this House today—if they bothered to read it or bothered to scrutinise it—they would see what I mean. They cannot read an SDS. They cannot read a statement of affairs. The annual report, which has been audited by the Queensland Audit Office, is there. Every single aspect of where we are now sheets home to those opposite. The nonsense that I have seen tonight from the member for Currumbin and the member for Nanango is horrific. It is horrific that they simply cannot read the truth.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (8.05 pm): I rise in support of the report tabled by the Agriculture and Environment Committee. I am pleased to be invited to speak here tonight. I enjoyed reading the responses of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing in relation to a wide range of important issues to the people of Queensland, particularly those like me who live in rural areas.

One of the issues the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries was asked about was the three net-free fishing zones. The minister advised that the Queensland government is moving ahead with the three new net-free zones that Labor took to the last election: St Helens Beach to Cape Hillsborough north of Mackay; Yeppoon, Keppel Bay, Fitzroy River on the Capricornia Coast; and Trinity Bay off Cairns.

He advised that the calls for submissions to the committee about the three-zone policy had met with an enthusiastic response, with around 6,300 public submissions received during the recent consultation process. Some 90 per cent were strongly in favour of introducing the net-free zones. Having considered the submissions, some important changes were made to the zones.

In the case of the zone in Mackay, at Seaforth the boundary of the zone has been amended to align with the local dugong protection area. For the Capricornia Coast zone, based on consultation, there has been a reduction in the overall size of the area while still including the waters of Keppel Bay and the Fitzroy River. In the case of the zone in Cairns no changes have been made.

The minister advised that the policy is designed to increase and generate tourism activities with charter boat fishing and recreational fishing in these net-free zones. Unlike the LNP who say one thing before the election and do something completely different after the election, the government was delivering on its commitments for these net-free zones.

The minister was also asked about drought funding for the long-suffering farmers and graziers in drought affected areas of Queensland—a matter of great concern to me. The minister advised that more than 80 per cent of Queensland is now in drought. In many parts of the state primary producers have not seen useful rain for over three years. The Labor policy going into the last election was very clear. Labor would continue existing drought arrangements until 2018. However, should the wet season again fail in some areas of Queensland, the Labor government would review this stance.

The minister advised that the government could not have been clearer on this policy, yet immediately after the election and for some months afterwards the LNP tried to make mischief in the media by saying there was no clarity past June of this year. The minister advised that the Queensland government would be continuing with the existing arrangements. The recent budget includes more than \$46 million in drought relief for primary producers and rural communities this financial year.

As a first step, the Palaszczuk government expanded the limit for the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme, DRAS, to \$40,000 for producers in their third year of drought who have a drought management plan. This extension was first introduced as a temporary measure in the millennium drought by the Bligh government in 2006, and the Palaszczuk government has brought it back. The government will continue to monitor and assess the assistance it is providing in line with producers' needs. The government is clearly delivering on its policy to support primary producers with drought relief.

As well as \$32.925 million for DRAS, the budget includes additional funding for wild dog and feral cat control, primary mental health services provided by the Royal Flying Doctor Service, \$2.5 million in relief for electricity charges for irrigators, \$4 million to waive annual water licence fees and land rent rebates for producers in drought declared areas, and \$4 million for community assistance packages to help drought affected communities impacted by the drought. In addition to delivering this drought assistance, the Queensland government will continue to assist the Commonwealth government in administering and delivering components of its drought package in Queensland that includes \$2.1 million of Australian government drought funding to support communities.

(Time expired)

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (8.10 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation Bill and its consideration by the Agriculture and Environment Committee. I refer to the questions that were put to the minister throughout that process. A big focus of those questions for me being in Western Queensland was the drought assistance and our approach to that. The drought assistance package in Queensland has been a failure and has not been anywhere near commensurate with the size of the problem and the threat that the cattle industry faces west of the Great Divide. That assistance has been rolled out through QRAA, so a big focus of our questioning was the assistance package through QRAA.

We found that there was \$141 million in cash sitting in QRAA at the moment, undelivered, and \$300 million in equity sitting in QRAA as well for all of their activities. Let me put that into context with the state of an industry that is worth \$4 billion to the state economy. Having that money sitting there with the threat that that industry is facing would lead one to think that we should be reconsidering our approach to the drought industry and what we are doing to help what is a flailing industry at the moment. That was a big focus of that line of questioning. One part of the drought assistance that was addressed was the water infrastructure. That is about the only part of the drought assistance that has been well received. However, the one big issue with that is dam desilting is not allowed under that program, and for people who have run out of money that is a good area for them to get involved in. That is one area we are very interested in.

Another interesting point that came up in looking at the budget papers was the fact that productivity was referred to countless times throughout the documents. I think that is central to a policy failure that is coming through successive governments in the area of agriculture. There is too much focus on productivity and not enough focus on profitability. I saw a criticism of me and the KAP in the *Courier-Mail* once that said that productivity has been improved in the dairy industry and how that is a wonderful thing. What that means is that dairy farmers stay up until 10 or 11 o'clock at night doing the work of two people and getting paid less for it and that is considered a wonderful achievement in productivity and good for the industry. Well, I disagree. Industries should be profitable and that should be the aim of a policy, not just productivity. It would be great to see when policy and budget documents come out that there is more focus on profitability. That is central to the theme of what we should be trying to achieve in government.

Another issue that is very close to the heart of people in Western Queensland is country racing. The minister graciously addressed some of those issues. There is a big problem in country racing—it is measured and put in the same parcel as many other races. The point I am trying to make is that there are many country race meetings in my electorate that are a community service or a social event more than they are a racing event. If you put yourself in the shoes of someone who works in a remote town of Richmond or Hughenden, they might have one race meeting a year and that means a lot to them but the Queensland racing industry views that as something that should be profitable or should contribute to the racing industry in some commercial way. They are not commercial and they never will be.

Those race meetings desperately need to be revisited in the way they are funded. They could be funded through the department of communities, because they are probably more akin to a social event or something like the multicultural festival in Mount Isa that gets funding assistance to celebrate some part of the community. I think country racing could be funded through that avenue because it is something that is holding these flailing communities together at the moment. It is one of the last things they have and they cannot afford to lose it.

(Time expired)

Report adopted.

Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee

Report

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

That the report of the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee be adopted.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (8.15 pm): I rise to speak on report No. 4, the 2015-16 budget estimates report, of the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee. The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2015 for the portfolios of Education and Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

I wish to thank Minister Jones for the depth of her responses and the breadth of knowledge of her portfolios in providing fulsome answers to all questions to the point where the minister did not take a question on notice in the 6¼ hours of questioning. I also wish to express the appreciation of the committee to the ministerial staff and the departmental staff for their efforts and their involvement. Estimates is a very important process in that it provides government members with the opportunity to discuss the budget items to provide the finer detail, as well as providing the opposition the opportunity to question the minister in depth. I believe that that outcome was achieved quite successfully.

One of the cornerstones of Labor's values is education as it is the key to empowerment of the future and for the future. In this year's budget, the Palaszczuk government will invest a record \$11.497 billion to ensure Queensland students are provided with world-class education and training opportunities. It will prepare our students to meet the ever-challenging and changing society in which we live as global citizens with global issues.

Teachers in our schools, like parents, also celebrate milestones in learning—the first time a student reads or the first time they write a full sentence with meaning. But like learning to walk and talk or reading and writing, children learn these skills at different times and with different strategies. I am pleased to see \$152.4 million over three years and \$86 million ongoing to deliver initiatives under the government's extra teachers policy to lower class sizes and support high schools, including hiring up to an additional 875 teachers beyond normal growth in Queensland schools. This will support students to learn and develop skills at different rates of learning and with the highest level of support available.

The Queensland economy is starting to make some positive moves. However, with the additional \$70 million for maintenance of existing state schools, bringing the total investment to \$178 million for 2015-16, with a further \$230 million invested over the next three years from 2016-17 for state school maintenance, that means that local tradies will have more work and that will encourage them to take on an apprentice to meet the needs of the maintenance demands.

As a former principal of Townsville State High School, where the head of the science department, Sarah Chapman, is the 2013 winner of the Prime Minister's Excellence in Science Teaching Prize, I am very happy to see that the Palaszczuk government will improve the participation of students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in state schools. This will be achieved by strengthening implementation of the Australian Curriculum for STEM, in teacher professional development and in developing partnerships with key STEM stakeholders. I wish to thank the research staff of the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee for their professionalism, hard work and support—namely, Sue Cawcutt and Melissa Salisbury, who now has moved on to another portfolio area in the parliament. I also wish to thank the government and non-government members of the committee for their participation and for their ability to work together in a rigorous and transparent manner.

 **Dr McVEIGH** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (8.20 pm): I begin by acknowledging the efforts during the estimates hearing of members of the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee, parliamentary committee staff, attendants and of course management and staff from the department.

Having said that, I remain tremendously concerned and disappointed about some of the bluff and bluster of members of this government during the estimates process as opposed to demonstrating a true commitment to engage in probing questions on this government's first ever budget. Labor promised a transparent approach, but we all at times witnessed in these estimates hearings flippant responses and a lack of respect and regard for the estimates as a key process in our parliamentary calendar—so much so that during estimates even the Premier herself left and went on holidays.

In the case of the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee hearing, we saw that lack of regard for the estimates process so clearly through the responses and behaviour of the Minister for Education, Tourism and Small Business and the Commonwealth Games. Given her portfolio responsibilities, it is not surprising that she functions as little more than a part-time minister for the separate but very critical areas in her portfolio. I also note that the answers to questions on notice due at 10 am on the day before estimates were in fact not provided to committee members until 4.30 pm, raising further suspicion about the whole process.

In relation to tourism, the minister indulged a propensity to go off on a tangent in attempting to answer questions. For example, she answered a question about the potential impact on tourism if VLAD laws were watered down and the potential impacts on the safety reputation of the likes of the Gold Coast and Cairns. The minister did that by ignoring the question about VLAD laws and safety and went on to refer to the Great Barrier Reef. I suggest that when one wants to go off on a tangent one has to be tremendously careful.

In relation to the scare campaign about the reef, an issue that was raised in the estimates hearing, the minister was clearly unaware of the fact that this important issue had in fact been discussed by the committee itself earlier this year in the presence of representatives of Tourism and Events Queensland. The minister ignored other regional industries along the coastline of Queensland by referring to the reef and showed astonishing lack of knowledge in relation to the sustainability efforts of our sugar and grazing industries. These are important regional industries—and the minister was the one who went on this tangent—that in fact have significant tourism benefits, be it in farm stays, outback experiences, of course the iconic Bundaberg Rum distillery and even mill tours right along our coastline.

I note the minister effectively ignored questioning on tourism bosses on the Gold Coast being concerned about the government's proposed lockout laws and the fact such laws may cripple tourism in those areas. The minister dodged questions about business confidence, particularly in relation to the Sensis small business report referred to in estimates that shows that net confidence in Queensland is the lowest in the nation and that support amongst small businesses for government policy is significantly lower than in December 2014.

In relation to the Commonwealth Games, again questions about preparations for the safety of those games and the security of confidential information were ignored by the minister when the member for Surfers Paradise quite clearly put those questions that are important not only to his part of the world and the Gold Coast but also to the rest of Queensland.

In Education, we saw the same ignorance of questions about the IT system failure in relation to the OneSchool system. These estimates displayed a lack of respect and regard by the government for the process and highlighted the megaportfolio structure of this government that goes to the heart of concerns expressed by many, both inside and outside this House, about the part-time nature of the disparate effort of ministers opposite, which was clearly on display in these estimates hearings.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (8.25 pm): I rise today to speak to report No. 4, the 2015-16 budget estimates report, of the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee. The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2015 for the portfolios of Education, Tourism, Small Business and Commonwealth Games be agreed to without any amendments.

I enjoyed my first experience of working in this portfolio committee environment and would like to thank the committee, in particular the chair, my parliamentary colleague the member for Townsville, and my fellow committee members, government and non-government. I also acknowledge the work and professionalism of our committee secretariat. I particularly acknowledge the outstanding work of Minister Jones, who displayed her detailed and in-depth knowledge of all portfolio areas. The process of estimates is an important one, providing opportunity for the budget to be discussed in finer detail, and Minister Jones provided succinct and detailed responses to all questions. As I stated, this was my first experience of estimates and I must say that, as some of my colleagues before me mentioned, I was disappointed by the opposition's line of questioning of non-portfolio related matters.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to education and to providing outstanding educational outcomes. This government will invest \$152.4 million over three years and \$86 million ongoing to deliver initiatives under the extra teacher policies. This will lower class sizes and support high schools and will include the hiring of up to an additional 875 teachers, which includes 275 specialist high school teachers beyond the normal growth in Queensland state schools. With a record investment in Education, this will ensure Queensland students receive the world-class education that they deserve. Further, \$1 million has been allocated as part of \$8.9 million over three years to employ 45 guidance officers to increase counselling and career advice for Queensland state high school students.

This government is committed to small business and innovation, as can be seen by the Palaszczuk government's rollout of the Queensland Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow program which will provide \$1 million over three years to structured entrepreneurship and IT skills learning programs to primary and secondary schools across Queensland. The government will invest \$1 million over three years for stay-at-home parents to develop home based businesses. I know that these initiatives have been received with much interest and enthusiasm by the community of Lytton.

The extension to the service, growth, reach, quality and maturity of the Queensland government's online service delivered via the Business and Industry Portal has also been well received by local business and entrepreneurs in Lytton, as has the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council which will provide direct input to government on issues facing the small business sector. Further, the forward funding commitment by the government ensures that the Queensland Destination Events Program can now be planned with confidence, meaning that more events can be attracted and planned for in Queensland. Further, the government will deliver the Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Program, which includes enhancements in tourism capability building, quality standard and new tourism facilities.

Mr Speaker, I am sure that you are very excited by the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, as I am. The implementation of the Embracing 2018 action plan and the continued implementation of the Gold Coast games venues and infrastructure program ensures that the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games are on schedule and will be the best Commonwealth Games yet. In conclusion, I again thank Minister Jones, the chair, my colleagues on the committee and the secretariat.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (8.30 pm): I rise tonight to make a short contribution to the debate on the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee and the Appropriation Bill 2015. Firstly, I would like to thank the committee staff: Sue, Melissa, Lynette and Julie. I thank my fellow committee members as well as the chair, Mr Scott Stewart—I must say that my accountant's name is Stewart Scott, and I am happy I got it right—and the deputy chair. The committee process is certainly a key cornerstone in the parliamentary make-up in Queensland and it is something that we all must take very seriously as it is a very precious part of the debates in this state.

From the outset I can certainly say that I was very disappointed that the answers to the questions on notice were received to my email address at 4.28 pm on 24 August. This was about a 6½-hour delay which, I must say, can only be classed as pretty poor form. Furthermore, I found it interesting that the Premier decided to take a vacation whilst estimates hearings were being conducted. When it comes to estimates it is the most important part of the calendar year for a government. That is almost unforgivable. Small business—

Mrs MILLER: I rise to a point of order. The member is referring to the absence of the Premier in relation to committee proceedings. My understanding is that that is against the protocol of this House and I would ask you to rule on that.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! A point of order has been taken. Can the member please withdraw those comments—

Mr BOOTHMAN: I will withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:— and please be careful not to mention the absence of members.

Mr LANGBROEK: I rise to a point of order. Madam Deputy Speaker, as I understand it, the member referred to the absence of the Premier during the estimates time period, not her attendance at a particular estimates committee hearing. You have accepted that point of order and I would ask you to clarify. This was not a reference to a particular committee, and you have accepted a point of order that it was.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand the point; it is technical. However, the convention is that we do not refer to people's absences in the committees. That is the direction that I have received.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Small business is a crucial cornerstone of the Queensland economy. This government has shown very little respect for our 400,000 small businesses. As highlighted by the member for Clayfield, the Sensis small business report shows that net confidence in Queensland is at

its lowest in the nation. Support for this government's policy amongst small businesses in our community is negative 22 per cent compared to the previous government, which was plus 16 per cent in December 2014.

Estimates also highlighted that this government has no vision for cutting red tape as they cannot set a benchmark. It seems that this government is committed to a whole lot of spin and has displayed little confidence in helping small businesses, something I hear loud and clear in my electorate. When I go to my business breakfasts and when I doorknock my local businesses, the message is loud and clear: this government is just making it up as it goes. The previous LNP government supported our small businesses. They set targets to cut red tape and businesses responded with soaring business approval ratings.

Over the last couple of years education in my electorate has thrived and it has thrived throughout Queensland. Schools like Norfolk Village have received their best NAPLAN results in the history of their schools. The Great Results Guarantee has empowered our education leaders, our teachers and our principals to direct funding where it is most needed. Each school community is different and they may require specialist direct funding to improve results. It certainly is heartwarming to see the results of the vision of the previous education minister, John-Paul Langbroek, for empowering our Queensland school education system. I have received many comments from parents excited about their children's new-found abilities at school, empowering them to undertake reading, writing and arithmetic.

Tourism is a key sector of the Albert local economy. I would like to support my local Gold Coast colleagues with the vehement opposition to the winding back of legislation that targets criminal organisations. These lawless individuals have previously tarnished the reputation of the Gold Coast—

Mr Rickuss: And the Gem Hotel.

Mr BOOTHMAN: And the Gem Hotel. Where is the Gem Hotel?

Mr RICKUSS: On the way to Woongoolba.

Mr BOOTHMAN: That is in the electorate of Coomera. The reputation of business and tourism is everything. This leads to my final comments about the scaremongering campaign regarding the Great Barrier Reef. I would like to highlight an article from the *Courier-Mail* on 10 July this year. It states—

Tourism Australia is developing the campaign as research shows the number of potential tourists googling the Reef has dropped 10 per cent in the past year.

Scaremongering campaigns like that from Greenpeace have done enormous damage to the reputation of the Reef, say tourism operators.

I would like to thank the shadow ministers for holding this government to account and for highlighting that this government has no vision—no vision for the future.

(Time expired)

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Before calling the member for Maryborough, I will let the House know there are two special guests in the gallery—Aunty Lesley Williams and her daughter, Tammy Williams. I welcome them and congratulate them on their book *It's Not Just Black and White*, which was the winner of the David Unaipon Literary Awards. Congratulations. I call the member for Maryborough.

Mr SAUNDERS (Maryborough—ALP) (8.36 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill 2015, report No. 4 of the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee and the Commonwealth Games. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge my fellow committee members: Scott Stewart, the member for Townsville as the chair; and Dr John McVeigh, the member for Toowoomba South, as the deputy chair. I also acknowledge the hard work put in by the committee research team, Sue Cawcutt and Melissa Salisbury, and the staff of the committee, Marion O'Connor. I would also like to acknowledge the minister, Minister Jones, who did an absolutely fantastic job, as well as the advisers, the staff and the public servants. It was my first estimates process. I was thoroughly enthralled and I really enjoyed the process. It is great for our democratic process to go through the estimates hearings.

The education of our youth is the future of Queensland. I was pleased to note that the Appropriation Bill shows an increase in funding as well as new initiatives from the Palaszczuk Labor government. The 2015-16 budget saw an investment in Education of \$12.4 billion. That is up seven per cent. That is a great thing for Maryborough because, being a low socioeconomic area, it means we are getting more funding. We have got nine new teachers—and thank you, Minister—in our area for this year. There is \$152.4 million over three years and \$86 million ongoing to deliver initiatives under the

government's extra teachers policy. It lowers class sizes and supports high schools including hiring up to an additional 875 teachers, including 275 specialist high school teachers beyond normal growth in Queensland state schools.

There is an amount of \$1 million as part of the \$8.9 million over three years to employ 45 additional guidance officers to increase counselling and career advice services for Queensland state high school students. This is very, very important to me because it is the first time that Maryborough State High School will have a guidance officer. It is the first time in the history of that school that we have a full-time guidance officer, and that was delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government. In addition there is \$70 million for maintenance of existing schools, bringing the total investment to \$178 million in 2015-16 with a further \$230 million invested over three years from 2016-17 for the state school maintenance program. Education is the most important thing to lift the standard of living in my electorate. I congratulate the education minister on delivering for the electorate of Maryborough. Thank you very much, Minister.

Just as education is key for future investment in our great state, the entrepreneurs of tomorrow play a vital economic role in keeping Queensland going. I was pleased to see the budget deliver \$1 million over three years for structured entrepreneurialship and IT skill learning programs to primary and secondary schools across Queensland as well as \$1 million over three years in grants to assist stay-at-home parents develop home based businesses.

Since that has been announced, my office has had lots of queries. It is a very good policy and once again I congratulate the Palaszczuk government for thinking ahead and keeping Queensland on the straight and narrow. This is a welcome initiative by the government, providing support for the young entrepreneurs of tomorrow—

Mr Rickuss: How many people will get that grant?

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection. I think plenty of people will get it, because they would not have had the opportunity under the LNP. As a regional member I understand how vital investment is for tourism and small business. It is often the backbone, and in my area tourism is a very big part of the economy. The increased tourism funding from the Palaszczuk government will keep events such as Relish and the Mary Poppins festival alive in my electorate. These could have been in jeopardy had the LNP continued in government because, as we all know, they had slashed funding for tourism which was supposed to be one of the pillars of their economy. As a regional member who has many tourism events, it would have had devastating effects.

This is a government which is here to assist small businesses, with \$4.7 million in 2015-16 to continue to enhance and transform how the Queensland government delivers online services. This government is committed to listening to small businesses, and as a former small business owner I know that this government is on the right track. It is maintaining the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council. The council will provide direct input to the government on issues facing the small business sector.

Again I would like to thank all those who participated in this process for their hard work and commitment to Queensland education, tourism and small business and the Commonwealth Games. I would like to personally thank the minister for her hard work and for delivering for my electorate.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (8.41 pm): It is a great pleasure to speak tonight on the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee's estimates hearing. The greatest concern that the LNP government had during the estimates hearing was whether the minister has the ability to give the education portfolio the attention it deserves. She has a very, very big portfolio. Many people call it a megaportfolio. She is the Minister for Education, the Minister for Tourism, Major Events and Small Business and she is also the Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Could you imagine an LNP government not having education as a single portfolio? Could you imagine the education unions walking down the street protesting about the fact that education, which represents 20 per cent of the state's budget, did not have a stand-alone minister?

At the moment the education sector has a part-time minister. This is a ministry which involves an enormous responsibility. The minister is responsible for approximately 100,000 registered school teachers, 1,700 schools, the education and welfare of 770,000 children and an annual budget of \$9 billion. As I said, that is around 20 per cent of the state's annual budget. During the estimates hearings I pointed out that we had had a look at the minister's diaries for that first six months and—

Ms Jones: I went to more schools than John-Paul ever did!

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection. What a ridiculous comparison. The comparison is embarrassing: she compares her first six months with your last six months. A review of those diaries shows that over the six months, 38 per cent of her meetings were relevant to education. Education represents 98 per cent of the budget of the minister's portfolio, yet she only puts 38 per cent of her time towards education. When I put this to the minister her flippant response was, 'See, I am a busy girl!'

Mr Langbroek: Imagine if you said that to her!

Mr MANDER: I take the interjection from the member for Surfers Paradise. Can you imagine what would happen if I called the minister a 'busy girl'? So, Minister, using your words you have been a busy girl, but you have been too busy to pick up the IT system failure for the reporting of suspicions of child abuse. You have been too busy to spend time with more school principals. If you had spent more time with school principals, you would have had more chance of picking up on that IT bungle. You have been too busy to ask the investigative questions of the bureaucrats about the IT bungle; rather, you have simply accepted at face value the advice that they gave you that the system was working. But, Minister, you have not been too busy to meet with Michael Ravbar, the CFMEU official—

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! Can we put some reasonableness into this debate? Please direct comments through the chair, stop the interjecting and get on with the debate. The member for Everton has the call.

Mr MANDER: Through you, Madam Deputy Speaker, the minister has not been too busy to meet with Michael Ravbar, the CFMEU official; she has not been too busy to go to the Noosa International Food and Wine Festival dinner; she has not been too busy to officially start the Gold Coast Airport Marathon; and she has not been too busy to swan around at the V8 Supercars race in Townsville.

A government member interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection. If you get in your seat, Minister, that would be even better.

Honourable members: Ha, ha!

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Stop the clock. Would everyone please tone it down? We have had our fun. The member for Everton has the call.

Mr MANDER: For the benefit of the school students of Queensland, I call on the Premier to urgently appoint a minister who is able to dedicate the vast majority of their time to the education and welfare of 770,000 young Queenslanders. Another consequence of the megaportfolio which has already been brought up is that through this estimates hearing we had less opportunity to put the minister under scrutiny regarding the education sector.

Ms Jones: That is not true!

Mr MANDER: Yes, it is true. I take that interjection. During the last estimates hearings we had four hours and 15 minutes to ask questions of the minister, and this time we had 3½ hours. That is not the proper scrutiny that the education department and the education sector deserve.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (8.46 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise to speak to report No. 4 of the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee regarding the appropriations which fall within the responsibilities of that committee. I am not on that committee, but I did have the great pleasure of watching most of that estimate hearings that day and I have to congratulate the chair, the member for Townsville, and all other members of the committee. But I particularly congratulate the minister. I recall listening to the member for Barron River today when we were talking about the report from the Finance and Administration Committee. We had all been listening to the members opposite speak about their perception of the estimates hearings, and I remember the member for Barron River saying that he thought he had been in a different estimates hearings. I must admit that I feel like I am in some parallel universe as I sit here listening to these members opposite recount the estimates hearing.

I listened to them on the day trying time after time to pin something on the minister suggesting that she was somehow not across her portfolio, and it was absolutely futile because this woman practically went the entire day without looking at her notes. This is a woman who is totally across her portfolio, who is deeply engaged and meeting with all stakeholders to get the best possible outcomes. She talked about this person and that person, and this meeting and that meeting, and what this person said and what the issues were here. She was totally across the names and the issues and the details of all of her portfolios, and I was quite bemused that they kept on trying to pin this on her when they could not fault her. There was nothing that she was not across. For them to talk about the amount of

time they did not have to ask questions about the education portfolio is quite amazing, because they kept on asking the same questions over and over again and they could not pin anything on her. I have nothing but the utmost admiration for the minister.

There are 13 schools in the Bulimba electorate and every single one of them is a first-class school. Whether it is a government or non-government school or a single-sex or co-ed school or a secondary or primary school, we are spoilt for choice in my electorate. No matter where you live in the electorate, you have access to an excellent education with wonderful, vibrant school communities and principals, teachers and support staff who are professional and engaged and who work incredibly hard to make sure our kids are the best they can be. The same goes for our excellent kindergartens, and that is why I am so proud to be part of a party that is synonymous with good education. As the minister herself said during the estimates hearings, Labor is the party of education. In the last decade we have delivered the prep year and universal access to kindergarten, and I can see our local kids thriving as a result of that initiative. We are already seeing the benefits of it with the improvements in the NAPLAN figures which show that we are showing the fastest gains in Australia when it comes to NAPLAN results. We also introduced the transition of year 7 into secondary school. That is a fantastic initiative that is making a difference to our kids.

In the 2015-16 budget we have delivered a record \$9 billion budget. I have to say from the outset that there are many things that I am delighted about with that budget. One of the big things is the \$7 million for classrooms at Bulimba State School, and I thank the minister very much for the funding at that school, which is bursting at the seams. It is so exciting to have those classrooms. Other things that are also going to benefit us are the new teachers. There will be 2,500 over three years and five of those will be in the Bulimba electorate. There is \$763 million for school maintenance which will be used in a much smarter and more cost-effective way. I know the principals in my electorate are really excited about this and very interested as to how they can make the dollar go further. We all have a role to play in the education system to ensure that our teachers are looked after, and having those extra numbers is going to make such a difference to what they can do in the classrooms and what they can do to help our kids. I commend the work of the education minister and look forward to working with her for the betterment of the schools and the students in my electorate.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (8.51 pm): Firstly I want to thank the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee for permitting me to appear, but so much for the estimates process of 2015 being an open and transparent investigation of the state budget. It was more an exercise in avoiding the truth, especially when it came to budget figures. Labor's protection racket was notched up a rung when the questions on notice replies were deliberately withheld until around 4.30 pm the day prior to the hearing. Despite being delivered to this committee by 10 am on the Monday morning, there was an inexcusable delay of 6½ hours and the minister said she wanted a reason for the delay as well. I wonder if she has asked the committee chair yet and what was his reason and has he offered an apology?

The Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games has been rudderless. There was no director-general at estimates despite being named on the budget papers, because Dr Richard Eden was callously sacked without any explanation. One has to wonder how the Commonwealth Games legacy is coming along without him as he had so much corporate intel. Labor does not have an overarching plan for the \$23 billion-plus tourism industry and the minister is too busy talking down the industry and playing politics at its expense. Negativity and scaremongering over the Great Barrier Reef campaign caused real harm for Queensland's tourism industry, as recent media reports have indicated.

This minister stood in parliament in May and described the industry as the 'Leaning Tower of Pisa' and she has continued to spread fear since. Rather than mock the solid efforts of operators who were united in their goals to double overnight visitor expenditure, the minister should be encouraging them to aim high, to reach for the stars. When in government the LNP set an aspirational target that aligned with Tourism Australia's 2020 visitor expenditure targets, but Minister Jones has scoffed at that and discarded it. This minister is all about innuendo over substance. She uses flaky figures and holds up what can only be described as a chart that was made for the TV cameras as it had minimal details, no mention of tourism and was not possible to be identified as it had no headings and it could have represented anything. I want to table that chart. There is no proof that this chart came from Mr Stephen Gregg or that it indeed was what she purported it to be and it does not match the figures on a TEQ chart circulated by CEO Leanne Coddington in January 2014.

Tabled paper: Bar graph from 2012 to 2019 [[1069](#)].

One of the biggest measurable success stories of this year's budget was the \$150 million listed as new investment attraction. The LNP's target of \$25 million was very impressively exceeded, yet nowhere does the SDS refer to the Tourism Investment Attraction Unit by its name—a unit established

by the LNP. The acting director-general of DTESB mentioned it three times as he tried to explain why Labor was only aiming for \$50 million. The minister could not bring herself to mention it at all. I was pleased to see the board of TEQ reduced in size, as this was the original plan when I formed the new entity in 2012. I was also pleased to see the LNP's aviation attraction unit maintained. Two of the three new routes that the minister claimed were actually secured under the LNP. However, just adding more dollars to this fund without enhancing the criteria will not guarantee growth.

The minister was all over the shop with funding figures, particularly regarding the certainty of current funding for RTOs. Neither the minister nor the CEO gave ironclad assurances it would remain, and the same applied to the new regional events model. And what of the \$20 million promised by the LNP to continue drive tourism strategy initiatives like the attractive landscape signage? I want to credit the former minister for transport and main roads for rolling those out throughout Queensland. It is noted the minister recognises the impact Labor's lockout laws will have on tourism, so let us see if she stands up for the industry when Labor's laws are brought in—1 am lockouts threaten to cripple tourism on the Gold Coast and elsewhere. And what of her government's direction to the task force reviewing VLAD laws to repeal or amend them? The Gold Coast is a tourism mecca, one whose reputation took a serious hit over bikie behaviours, yet the minister dismissed the seriousness of it and tried to change the subject. Queensland's tourism industry deserves a minister who is committed to fighting for them and working with them to grow the market in Queensland, not one who places unnecessary restrictions upon them and mocks their efforts.

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (8.56 pm): Today I stand in support of the report tabled by the member for Townsville supporting the Appropriation Bill. It was wonderful to hear through the estimates process about some of the most innovative spending programs under the Palaszczuk government. There are two that I shall mention in particular, and one of these is the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund, which was set up to deliver airlines and airline routes to Queensland. What I did learn from the estimates process is that this originally came from a Labor initiative that was originally under the Queensland Investment Trust and then it morphed into the aviation attraction fund.

As we have heard, the Palaszczuk government has increased this commitment from \$8 million over three years to \$10 million over three years. We will use that to build tourism. It will be used to target our key markets and seize new tourism opportunities. It has already been used to grab opportunities such as the new Jetstar flight between Wuhan in China and the Gold Coast announced by Minister Jones and Premier Palaszczuk. We now have an agreement with Jetstar Airways and Hubei Wanda New Airline International Travel Services where from September Jetstar will operate two flights a week between Wuhan and the Gold Coast providing seats for up to 35,000 additional travellers a year. This has the potential to generate \$53 million in visitor expenditure to the local economy.

Another opportunity we have nailed down is that of SilkAir, which now flies three times a week between Singapore and Cairns. This is projected to deliver 20,000 visitors a year in a \$40 million economic boon to Cairns, and I know the member for Cairns will appreciate that. Another opportunity we have acted upon is from China Eastern which will run a seasonal service between Shanghai and Cairns to commence in October and operate during the Chinese New Year. The China Eastern and SilkAir secured routes will result in a net increase of approximately 47,000 international visitors a year, overnight expenditure of approximately \$90 million a year and support up to 270 new direct jobs.

These secured air routes and secured opportunities are a great start for the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund as it is operating under the Palaszczuk government. This fund is part of our plan to grow the tourism industry and tourism jobs—a \$23 billion industry that supports local economies and more than 200,000 jobs.

The latest Tourism Research Australia figures show that, in the year to March 2015, international visitors spent a record \$4.4 billion in Queensland. We aim to inject an extra 108,000 travellers into Queensland each year, which will increase the Queensland economy by \$64 million. To do that, we have delivered more than \$400 million in funding for Queensland tourism over the next four years.

The second issue that I shall mention is that of school maintenance. During the estimates hearing we learned that the Palaszczuk government will be investing \$763 million over four years in school maintenance. We are delivering a smarter, more cost-effective way of maintaining our 1,234 schools, 18,000 buildings and 32,000 classrooms. Minister Jones revealed that we have a holistic, long-term plan to deal with the maintenance that is needed over 10 years at a school. We will focus on delivering both maintenance and asset renewal to a number of schools bundled together. That bundling will deliver better value and more effective contracts.

Mr Mander: We've been doing that for two years, mate.

Mr WHITING: Yes, they have been doing it for two years. I thank the member for that interjection.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr WHITING: Indeed. I will get to that in a moment. We had a lovely Queensland Auditor-General's report in March on exactly how well those guys opposite did. That report said that the money that the former government spent dealt only with the backlog up to 2011-12. What is embarrassing is that the Queensland Auditor-General's report said that the former government left a long-term problem. For \$300 million you did not—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order, member for Everton! Member for Murrumba, you have the call.

Mr WHITING: My point is that the two LNP programs—the Fixing our School program and the Advancing Our Schools Maintenance program—created a \$232 million maintenance backlog. That backlog is now worth \$260 million. They did not resolve the fundamental problem that contributed to the backlog in the first place. The former government's programs did nothing to resolve problems that will happen again. We need to combine that maintenance and look at that renewal to renew all of those facilities that we have in our school system.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (9.01 pm): I wish to make a few comments on the small business section of the estimates committee hearing, which is dealt with in the committee report. I have to say that the small business section of the hearing only reinforced my view that this minister's small business portfolio is simply an afterthought with no care and no consideration. I suspect that, in terms of small business, this minister's responsibility is to make small businesses even smaller. Ninety-six per cent of businesses in this state are small businesses, yet small business gets only two mentions in Labor's *Jobs now, jobs for the future* budget document. That shows that this is a government that has no appreciation that the engine room of job creation, the engine room of economic development in this state, the engine room of innovation and entrepreneurship, is the small business sector. There are only two mentions of small business in the entire *Jobs now, jobs for the future* budget document.

I contrast that with the many pro small business policies that were implemented by the LNP. We just did not talk about it. We did not spend seven months waiting to form one committee; we got on with the job. What was the first thing we did? We got rid of Labor's \$373 million waste tax. Who introduced the \$373 million waste tax? The member for Ashgrove. It was one of her proudest moments. That is \$373 million on every small restaurant, on every little business, on every hairdresser, on every machine shop, on every car yard.

What did the member for Ashgrove also do? She supported a carbon tax on every business in Australia—an extra \$200-plus on every power bill, on top of all the other expenses. She was part of a government with a treasurer named Andrew Fraser who wrote to the federal minister, Martin Ferguson, and said, 'We're not earning enough money on our power bills. Can you please jack them up a bit more?' That was what Labor was about.

Then what did they do? They increased car registration. So every mother and father who ran a small business was going from paying the lowest car registration in Australia to the highest car registration in Australia. That was what this Minister for Small Business did. She introduced more red tape and more regulation and she increased debt as it headed towards \$80 billion. People ask, 'What does that mean to me?' It meant that if a person was running a small bed and breakfast up in Maleny, such as the one that I visited, and had to pay an onsite wastewater treatment fee, their fee went from \$500 to \$5,000 in one year. Thank you very much, member for Ashgrove, the Minister for Small Business. That is what she did. That is what the member for Ashgrove talks about when she talks about small business.

During the estimates hearing, when we asked the minister to name one red-tape-reduction action that she had taken, do members know what the answer was? Can anyone guess? Just one red-tape-reduction action. None! It has been seven months—since February to the end of July—and there has not been one action to reduce red tape. We were going to ask who was on the minister's red-tape-reduction panel, which was announced with much fanfare. The Premier was going to announce it. The minister was going to announce it. We thought, 'We haven't heard anything about it for six months.' That is unusual for this government because, if there is a soft story or a good-news sell, it is all over it like a rash. But no, we had not heard anything about it. Do members know what happened? The Thursday before the estimates hearing there was a tweet announcing it.

I said, 'Hang on a second. It is now just after two o'clock in the afternoon.' I think that was when it was. I will stand corrected on the time. I asked, 'Has anyone put it up on the website for the department?' No, not one name of one member of the red-tape-reduction task force had been put on the website for the department. It had been done in such a hurry. When the names were put on there, who were on the red tape advisory committee? There was someone called Kimberley James. My investigations revealed that Kimberley James is a card-carrying member of the Labor Party. There was also a Kathleen Garner, who featured heavily in Labor's pre-election campaign pledges. So there is our Small Business Advisory Council, which was cobbled together at two minutes to midnight after six months of gestation and in the main it consists of party apparatchiks and hacks. It is farcical. Small business receives two mentions in an entire budget. Under this part-time minister, small business will be even smaller.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (9.07 pm): I thank honourable members for the opportunity to speak. I would like to begin by thanking the committee for its summary report of the budget estimates for the 2015-16 financial year as it relates to my portfolios of Education, Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games. I also thank the member for Clayfield for his contribution. In the seven months of this government, he has never written to me about small business, spoken to me about small business, or asked a question in this parliament about small business. In actual fact, I was surprised that he even was the shadow minister for small business, because in that whole seven months he has never, ever said a single thing about it.

Furthermore, I thank the committee for its recommendation that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2015 for the portfolio areas of responsibility be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. I would like to acknowledge the statement of reservation made by the deputy chair and member for Toowoomba South. I will take this opportunity to briefly address some of those points.

Clearly, the opposition has chosen to ignore the facts regarding the education department's student protection reporting IT failure. The former minister had no oversight of the department's implementation of the Carmody report. I am advised that, as the minister, he did not sign off on the changes to the protection reporting procedures. His public diaries confirm that he did not have any meetings in relation to the Carmody report or to ensure that his department was enacting the changes that were designed to protect Queensland students from harm. Further, the former minister never—never—bothered to meet with the child protection reform implementation committee that was established to lead the implementation of the Carmody recommendations in the Education portfolio.

When I became aware of the IT failure, I ordered an immediate investigation into student protection reporting. I asked the department to manually—

An honourable member interjected.

Ms JONES: That is exactly right. So one would think that, when the former minister introduced those reforms, he would meet with the implementation committee. He did not. During its investigations the department discovered that an additional 27 reports failed to be delivered to police or Child Safety because they were caught in the department's IT firewall. This firewall has been in place since online reporting commenced in September 2013—when they transitioned to an online system in September 2013—and there was a child protection reform implementation committee set up which the former minister never bothered to meet with.

The former minister also oversaw cuts of more than 500 full-time teacher positions. By contrast, this government will employ an additional 875 teachers above growth. This means that in our term we will deliver 2,500 teachers in our schools. One of the more bizarre claims from the member for Toowoomba South was that the estimates process prohibited proper scrutiny. I note that the *Courier-Mail* reported that the opposition members of the committee ran out of questions. They come in here saying they did not have enough time but the *Courier-Mail* reports that they ran out of questions. So do not come in here and say that to me. When you talk about time, which was the main attack of those opposite—and I take the comments made, and I was not going to go here until you went there, honourable member for Everton Park—you said name some of the events that I went to. You know for a fact that I have gone to more schools in my first six months than the former minister did in his last six months.

An opposition member: What a ridiculous comparison, Kate! It is ridiculous.

Ms JONES: What he made time for—I will give you a good comparison—was Santo Santoro three times.

An opposition member: Michael Ravbar.

An opposition member: Michael Ravbar, you nitwit.

Ms JONES: What he made time for was to attend the advance screening of *Beautiful Creatures*, to attend *Driving Miss Daisy*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! Minister, just take your seat. Member for Everton, that conduct is disorderly. I ask you to withdraw that comment.

Mr MANDER: Which comment was that one?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The comment you made to the minister. You know what it was and I expect you to withdraw it.

Mr MANDER: I have no idea. Mr Deputy Speaker, you will have to clarify. I have no idea what you are talking about.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You referred to the minister as a nitwit.

Mr MANDER: I did not. I beg your pardon. I did not. I have never done that, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I clearly heard it and I ask you to withdraw it.

Mr MANDER: I will stand here and state on the Bible I did not say that word.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You were heard and I am asking you to withdraw that.

Mr MANDER: I will not withdraw something I did not say.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will be raising this with the Speaker.

Mr MANDER: Please do.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, please continue.

Ms JONES: I was just saying that the honourable member for Everton raised events that I have gone to in my tourism portfolio and I will talk about the events that the former minister for Education prioritised when he was the Minister for Education. He attended the advance screening of *Beautiful Creatures*, attended *Driving Miss Daisy*, the Australian Ballet's *Swan Lake*—not once but twice. He also attended *Legally Blonde*—I know that is a favourite given our previous comments. He also attended *Cinderella* at QPAC twice. I have lists and lists of events that he attended outside his portfolio. Those opposite have the temerity to come into this parliament and attack me for that.

In regard to tourism, you could not get a starker choice when you look at our commitment to giving the four-year funding guarantee, the one thing industry has been crying out for and those opposite failed to deliver when they were in government. Small business got slugged with the highest electricity prices—a 120 per cent increase—under the watch of the shadow minister for small business.

Can I say this to members: I will stand in this parliament and fight for everybody in this state to ensure that not only are we delivering the best education system and real jobs in tourism, but we are also delivering for small businesses that are the backbone of this community.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (9.13 pm): I rise to speak to the committee report and today's events in question time when the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games accused me of hypocrisy. It was a cheap shot, Mr Deputy Speaker, a bit like the character assassination that we have seen from the minister—

Ms JONES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I never accused the member of hypocrisy. I never said that about him and I ask him to withdraw that. I never said that. I was talking about the member for Everton who started reading into *Hansard* what I had attended. I never accused the member for Surfers Paradise of hypocrisy and I ask him to withdraw it. I would never say that about the member.

Mr LANGBROEK: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker, but let me get to the detail of what happened this morning in question time. It is to do with the Broadbeach Bowls Club and today's assertion by the minister in relation to my attempts to lobby on behalf of the Broadbeach Bowls Club, which has made a significant contribution of \$1.5 million towards the redevelopment of their own particular club which is

going to become the headquarters for bowls at the Commonwealth Games. They are unable to obtain the poker machine licences that the bank has said that they need in their business plan to make sure they can make the repayments on the loan that they have taken out to assist and augment the money that the government is providing for the upgrade of the Broadbeach Bowls Club. They are typical of who the member for Clayfield has spoken about before, a small to medium business making their own efforts, asking for a hand up not a handout, and today in question time the minister asserted that I, by asking about this particular issue at estimates, was being hypocritical in the sense that we had also asked today about extra poker machine licences being given to Echo for the Queen's Wharf project and that that was some example of my hypocrisy.

The poker machine licences that the Broadbeach Bowls Club are asking for are within the current cap. That is the issue that we raised today. It was about the current cap of machines that are often exchanged between clubs as certain clubs go to the wall or they give them back into the general pool and other clubs purchase them. The Broadbeach Bowls Club is in need of these particular machines. I asked the minister in good faith about what action she had taken as the minister and, of course, just as we have seen tonight, that gets turned back into some snide, sniping back the other way when I have always expressed a clear bipartisan attitude towards making sure that these games are a success. When it comes to the specific details about something like the Broadbeach Bowls Club, this is indicative of what the honourable member for Everton and the honourable member for Clayfield have just pointed out, and that is that this minister cannot be across all of the various aspects of her portfolio, including some of the front-line aspects. She says she is not being part-time, that she is getting across it all.

That is what I have seen tonight from this minister again in this debate. It is very disappointing. The Broadbeach Bowls Club is something that I spoke of in one of my first speeches in this House when they could not pay their land tax. The responsible minister at that time was Stephen Robertson. Thankfully we were able to achieve a result where that club could, through an arrangement with the council, afford their rates. The Australian Open will be hosted by the Broadbeach Bowls Club. The headquarters of Bowls Australia are now in Broadbeach. It has been moved from Melbourne. It is imperative for their repayments that they get these poker machine licences. The minister said to me that she would speak to Mayor Tom Tate. I am asking again: has the minister spoken to the local mayor, Tom Tate, to make sure that the Broadbeach Bowls Club can get their poker machine licences? This is not about politics. Small to medium business, as we have already heard, has had no red-tape relief from this minister who would rather score cheap political shots instead of getting on with the portfolio aspects.

The Commonwealth Games is something that was handed to us with a \$2.4 billion bill.

Mr Nicholls: Not one cent in the budget.

Mr LANGBROEK: As the Treasurer has pointed out, not one cent was in the budget. Thanks to our strong and prudent fiscal management that cost is now down to \$1.8 billion. We have been able to do that with \$6 billion of writedowns. The Gold Coast is looking forward to the games. We know it will lead to an enhanced reputation for the Gold Coast. There is great business confidence at the Gold Coast, but no confidence that in the area of tourism this minister will speak up against the removal of the VLAD laws that this government is saying it is going to remove. The people of the Gold Coast, and Broadbeach in particular, are concerned about the removal of those laws that will invite criminal gangs back into Queensland. Gold Coast members will stand up against that.

Report adopted.

Health and Ambulance Services Committee

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

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

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (9.18 pm): I rise to speak on the Health and Ambulance Services Committee's report on the 2015-16 budget estimates process. The committee has made one recommendation: that the proposed expenditure detailed in the Appropriation Bill for the committee's areas of responsibility be agreed to.

I have had the opportunity to work behind the scenes in a policy role on a number of estimates over the years. I found this past experience invaluable in understanding the mechanics of the estimates process, but I do not mind telling you that the experience of sitting behind a minister during a hearing did not bear much resemblance to sitting in front of a minister as a committee member and chair.

Apart from some spirited debate with my committee colleagues across the chamber and the member for Caloundra on who talks when, for how long and what constitutes an appropriate question, I am happy to report that all survived relatively unscathed. However, histrionics aside, I enjoyed immensely the opportunity to participate in the process and chair the hearing. I take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Health for his frank and comprehensive responses to the committee's questioning. His mastery of a complex portfolio was obvious at the hearing. I also thank the director-general, Commissioner Bowles, senior executives of the Department of Health and the Ambulance Service and chief executive officers of agencies within the committee's portfolio area for their attendance and contributions at the hearing.

The Health and Ambulance Services portfolio is very large and service driven with a budget to match. The proposed health expenditure considered by the committee represents a record investment of \$14.2 billion in the current fiscal year and an additional \$2.3 billion over four years to make sure health and ambulance services keep pace with the ongoing growth and demand for services across Queensland. The \$320.3 million to reverse former cuts to front-line services and address priority areas of need, \$11.8 million to rebuild intensive mental health care for young people through expanded youth residential mental health services and the re-establishment of patient safety and quality improvement services with 20 new positions was very welcome and will benefit all who rely on Queensland's public health system. Funding for 4,000 new graduate nursing and midwifery places and 400 nurse navigators over four years is a highlight of the budget and was a significant focus of government member questioning during the estimates hearing. Prioritising and funding nursing workforce initiatives is an investment in patient safety, further complemented by the government's commitment to legislate a safe nurse-to-patient ratio to ensure fair workloads. As the minister knows, I am married to a registered nurse and sit beside one in this chamber. I thank the minister for making this investment in Queensland nurses. My electorate of Nudgee and all of Queensland will be well served by these investments.

In reviewing the budget estimates for the portfolio, it would be remiss of me not to mention the significant impact that federal funding cuts will have on Queensland public hospitals. The budget papers estimate that Queensland's share of these cuts on a population basis is \$11.8 billion from 2017 to 2025. I hope that new leadership at a federal level may mean revised thinking and a renewed commitment to funding public health care in this country.

The Queensland Ambulance Service is working in close partnership with the state hospital and health services to deliver an integrated and timely patient focused service. Funding included in the budget to recruit an additional 75 paramedics throughout the state and an expansion of extended acute therapy for patients suffering a heart attack to all advance-care paramedics was welcomed by no-one more than our own resident committee paramedic, the member for Thuringowa.

I will reflect for a moment on the overall conduct of the hearing. Consideration of the budget estimates allows for the public examination of both the responsible minister and chief executive officers of agencies within the committee's portfolio area. Standing order 181(d) allows for the direct questioning of the director-general or chief executive officer in accordance with Schedule 7. I think this capacity to directly question those senior officers charged directly with operationalising government policy and, therefore, expenditure is an important accountability measurement. However, I do not believe that the intended purpose of standing order 181(d) is to inhibit responsible ministers from answering questions related to their portfolio expenditure. On a quick review of the questions asked by opposition members during our hearing, 90 per cent were directed to the director-general or senior executives and only 10 per cent to the minister. I do not believe this serves the public interest, which has an expectation that the government will be held to account for its policy decisions, not simply the director-general for the operationalisation of those policies.

I acknowledge my fellow committee members for their contributions. As a committee, we have spirited debate and we disagree vehemently on particular points, of course, but also find points of shared agreement. I feel certain that, with continued quality time together, my committee colleagues across the chamber will more and more come around to my way of thinking. In closing, I must right a tremendous faux pas committed on the day of the estimates hearing—call it a rookie error. When concluding proceedings, I overlooked thanking the committee secretariat. I do so now and convey my sincere and heartfelt thanks to Brook Hastie, Kath Dalladay, Emily Booth and Clare Keyes for the professional and expert advice provided. They do a tremendous amount of analysis and work on behalf of the committee.

(Time expired)

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (9.23 pm): I rise to reflect on the estimates proceedings of the Health and Ambulance Services Committee and inform the House of why the LNP opposition is deeply concerned for hospital and health services in Queensland under this Labor government. Firstly, I

acknowledge the chair, the member for Nudgee, for the professionalism with which she executed her role. Throughout the proceedings of 26 August, the opposition asked legitimate and pertinent questions of the government to ensure that the expenditure of the Health portfolio contained in this year's budget was subject to scrupulous review.

At the end of the day, the shadow minister sought a direct reassurance from the director-general that, after the Health payroll debacle of the former Labor government that saw nurses paid incorrectly or not at all, the rollout of new ICT infrastructure at the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital would not see another ICT bungle. Despite \$9 billion being budgeted for this ICT rollout, we were not given any unequivocal reassurance that this ICT rollout would be successful after the former Labor government's health payroll debacle. As the member for Caloundra said, it remains to be seen whether this will become yet another mess that a future LNP government will have to fix.

In addition, when it comes to mental health the LNP has always sought a bipartisan approach to ensuring best possible outcomes for Queenslanders suffering from mental illness. Unfortunately, under this government and throughout the estimates process this year, we have seen a Labor government make political statements and criticise the previous LNP government without putting forward any clear details in relation to the Mental Health Act review.

In a similar manner, when the opposition asked questions about the direct involvement of the Queensland Nurses' Union in the formation of nurse-patient ratio policy, unfortunately we were provided with no clarification from departmental staff. In particular, we raised concerns that Queensland Health staff had been frequently visiting the QNU as part of nurse-patient ratio policy development, meaning public servants and publicly funded contractors may have been developing QNU or Labor policies at non-government premises. Upon questioning by the member for Caloundra, the director-general refused to detail whether staff members from his department had routinely visited the QNU during the formulation of this very important policy, stating these activities were 'the daily workings of the activity of doing the business'. Queenslanders deserve to know who is involved in the development of their healthcare policies and who is running policy development: the Labor government or the union bosses. Unfortunately, our concerns were not addressed in the estimates proceedings. In fact, despite my attempts to move that documents related to union involvement in policy development be tabled in the interests of transparency, the government voted down that motion in an apparent attempt to hide that information from the public.

In addition, the opposition's concerns surrounding the outsourcing of crucial health services in Queensland hospitals went unaddressed, with little clarification provided on whether the Labor government had reneged on its earlier promises to the contrary and had commenced outsourcing critical patient services. The major concern of the opposition, as we articulated during estimates, is that what is contained in the budget papers does not reflect what the Labor Party promised during the 2015 election campaign and immediately after taking government. In fact, the shadow minister tabled a letter quoting the Premier as saying, 'Previously in Government, Labor had a policy of employment security and no-contracting-out provisions,' going on to say, 'Labor will restore this policy.' That is in stark contrast to the budget papers and, during estimates, the CEO of the Sunshine Coast hospital stated that there are clear cases of outsourcing occurring under this Labor government, with the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service having an outsourced radiation-oncology service. Upon questioning from the opposition, the CEO admitted that under the Labor government outsourcing had occurred as public patients were being routinely transferred to receive care from Ramsay Health Care, in direct contrast to Labor's election pledges. In addition, we heard that vital oncology services in regions throughout Queensland are at risk after this Labor government adopted an approach that favours selective outsourcing, despite its earlier commitments not to outsource vital health services.

The opposition also expressed concern about the recent review of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital after the minister admitted he had not sought or asked for any documents related to the review. The minister went on to say that he had 'not seen any submissions' and had 'not seen any document' in relation to the review, which would be a matter of great concern to Queenslanders.

Thereafter, the government failed to address the concerns of the opposition in relation to medical cannabis trials initiated by the Labor government. After questioning from the member for Caloundra, the minister was not able to explain the costs of the trials, who will be responsible for their delivery, which state they will be conducted in or provide any concrete details for the benefit of the committee. The cost eventually put forward by the minister of 'probably \$3 million' was vague at best. Queenslanders deserve better after such a major policy announcement by the Premier and the Minister for Health. It is disappointing to see that, despite all the government's talk about medical cannabis trials in Queensland, very little policy detail existed and very little information was available for the committee during estimates.

Of course, of great concern to the residents of the Gold Coast, and my electorate of Mudgeeraba in particular, was the failure of the government to address the opposition's concerns in relation to code black security incidents at the Gold Coast University Hospital. Prior to estimates, the minister's department came back and said that they would unnecessarily divert Queensland Health staff from their duty by providing this information. Unfortunately for the minister, I was able to provide that for him. The average number of code blacks at the Gold Coast hospital was 60 and at the end of the estimates hearing the minister came back with the amount of 62.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (9.28 pm): Today I rise to give support to the Appropriation Bill as detailed at the public estimates hearing of the Health and Ambulance Services Committee on 26 August 2015. The overall Health budget for 2015-16 will provide the required funding for the 16 health services, including the local area service networks for the Queensland Ambulance Service, that span the state and was provided in detail per the service delivery statement.

The relevant departments that provided that detail should be acknowledged for the significant work that went into the SDS, as should the honourable Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services who availed himself for the day under what can only be described as difficult personal circumstances, after the passing of his father earlier that week. That demonstrates, however, a committed minister who believes and appreciates the work of the 86,000 dedicated men and women who make up Queensland Health and the Ambulance Service and who deliver outstanding service and professional care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year across our state.

A record budget for those health services of over \$14 billion is allocated for 2015-16. In Townsville our health service provides services to the electorate of Thuringowa. It is pleasing to see an increase of 6.1 per cent in funding going to the tertiary hospital that provides service delivery to the vast area of North Queensland. That funding went from \$758 million to \$804 million to ensure North Queenslanders have the health services they deserve and require. This increase in funding will see improvements across the broad health services from paediatrics to aged care and mental health and the important area of closing the gap on Indigenous health. Providing a health service is indeed a challenging and changing environment.

The key area of Health is, of course, our nursing workforce. They will see additional funding of \$110 million to provide up to 4,000 graduate nursing and midwifery places and the 400 additional nurse navigator positions across Queensland. This is in stark contrast to the 1,800 nursing and allied health positions Queensland witnessed go under the previous government.

This is a government that cares about delivering health services. This is a government that is adding staff to the Health workforce to ensure safe nurse-to-patient ratios are in place, ensuring patient safety is always the priority in the complex and challenging area of Health. I commend the extra \$11.8 million for intensive mental health care for the young people of Townsville through expanded youth residential mental health services.

I am concerned, as are the people of Thuringowa, that the federal funding for public hospitals will be reduced by a massive \$57 billion from 2017 to 2025, with estimates that Queensland's share of these cuts will be, on a population basis, a staggering \$11.8 billion. Let us hope Prime Minister elect Malcolm Turnbull revisits this extremely concerning and worrying outcome.

Of particular interest to me is the Queensland Ambulance Service. I thank the member for Greenslopes for providing me the opportunity to talk about the highlights for the Queensland Ambulance Service in the budget. With a workforce of over 4,000 and having had over a million interactions with Queenslanders in the last financial year, the QAS is indeed a very busy service.

This vital service provides ambulance and transport services, and planning and coordination of multicasualty incidents and disasters. The QAS has seen an increase of funding which is budgeted at \$633 million. That is an increase of \$44 million or 7.5 per cent. This is vital funding for what is often seen as the first part of the patient journey through health services to discharge. Of course, those vital first interactions with the patient do make a difference, often resulting in a reduced length of stay.

This can be no better articulated than by the rollout of training for prehospital thrombolysis for advanced care paramedics throughout Queensland. Queenslanders can be assured when faced with a family member suffering a serious form of heart attack that advanced help is at hand. It is also impressive to see funding for 75 extra paramedics to manage an increased demand for services.

Of course, paramedics cannot deliver care without the correct tools. I thank the minister for commissioning 155 new and replacement vehicles. We look forward to the reduction in lifting injuries often associated with moving patients, the commencement of the use of power assisted stretchers and the rollout of the state-of-the-art defibrillators. Well done, Minister.

The people of Thuringowa should feel safe in the knowledge of increased funding for Kirwan station, resulting in 2.6 positions, which equates to approximately 100 operational hours for that station. I commend the report to the House.

(Time expired).

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (9.34 pm): I asked a question of the director-general of the health department—

Are there any concerns at the lack of planning investment by the Labor government to properly service the transport and traffic needs for the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital and whether that will have a detrimental impact on the safe start-up and timely delivery of health services to the Sunshine Coast?

This is a very important question. It is very important that this Labor government explains to Sunshine Coast residents how they intend to deal with the road pressures and congestion that will be generated once this hospital opens in 2016.

To make the point very clearly, we are delivering with a hospital the size of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, on the Sunshine Coast on a two-lane road. The Labor government has decided not to build the road network that is able to service this new hospital. I asked for a clear, lengthy explanation as to how this problem is going to be fixed before next year.

Unsurprisingly, not only was the health minister clueless about the urgent need for the upgrade of the MRI but the director-general of the health department could not provide the committee with any information either. Apparently, the issue had not been raised with him. More baffling, frankly, was the admission that the minister and the director-general are not responsible for the delivering of a \$2 billion hospital, the \$440 million road network and the \$9 million investment in ICT. Apparently the chief executive of the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service is 'the single point of accountability'. How do you get a job like that? Do you search for 'fall guy' on Seek?

This situation has all the hallmarks of a great Labor Health fiasco where those opposite were incapable of paying the nurses. Now Labor cannot get the nurses safely to the hospital. It is not just the nurses; it is also the other healthcare workers, patients and visitors to this new facility who will be affected, and it is also the other road users who already have to run the gauntlet on the Sunshine Coast Motorway even before the extra hospital traffic is added.

The member for Maroochydore raised the issue with the main roads minister. Again, I thank her for doing so. The main roads minister waffled on about planning initiatives and significant traffic pressure, but clearly had no plan for the Mooloolah River interchange either. I remind the honourable member that under the LNP the previous government had a plan to build a \$440 million Mooloolah River interchange. The question remains: who in this Labor government is going to take responsibility for delivering this important piece of infrastructure for this new facility?

The use of the drug ice has emerged as a significant issue in our community. It is linked to increased levels of violence, related serious criminal activity and deterioration in mental health. During the estimates hearing I also asked a question relating to the priority areas for action in the health department in the fight against Queensland's ice scourge. It appears the use of ice is linked to an increase in violent crime against people and property because of the psychopharmacological effects of these drugs and their highly addictive nature.

I am particularly concerned about the implications for our emergency responders, including the Police Service, dealing with issues relating to public safety and family violence. I am of the view that there needs to be a coordinated government response to ice use across the law enforcement, health, justice and education departments in Australia.

I note that in 2013 the former LNP in Queensland introduced what many described as the strongest laws in Australia dealing with criminal gangs. I believe the legislative changes strengthened the law enforcement response to ice. I am very concerned that the current Labor government in Queensland has stated its intention to overturn these laws in Queensland, even when other states are looking at these laws as an example. If Queensland weakens its antiassociation or anticonsortium type laws when other states are looking to toughen up their laws, Queensland could become a soft landing place for organised crime. Effective legislation combined with better resourcing and targeted enforcement activities saw falling crime rates and a safer Queensland under the previous LNP government.

The only conclusion that we can draw from these estimates hearings is that Labor has no plan for Queensland apart from turning back the clock and 65 reviews. Frankly, Queensland deserves so much better. I leave this message with the health minister: please build the road to our new hospital.

Those opposite know it needs to happen. The money should be made available. People's lives will be lost. This is an opportunity for the government to do what it should do—deliver road networks, deliver hospitals and look after Queenslanders.

(Time expired)

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.39 pm): I rise to speak in support of the report that has been tabled on the estimates hearing of the Health and Ambulance Services Committee. I was impressed at how quickly the member for Woodridge has got on top of his brief. Maintaining a state of good health and delivering care to those who are sick or injured is an incredibly complex task, but the minister demonstrated that he has a deep understanding of all of the activities of his department.

Health is best maintained by preventing illness—a simple and seemingly obvious statement, but the previous government did not seem to understand that.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! Member for Lockyer, you are not in your seat and you are interjecting. Member for Chatsworth, this banter across the chamber on irrelevant issues while someone is on their feet is disrespectful. I ask that you respect the House. The member for Greenslopes has the call.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chatsworth.

Mr Dick interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, please. I am speaking. The member for Greenslopes has the call. Any more of that and I will start to warn.

Mr KELLY: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, particularly when someone is on their feet saying something relevant. Health is best maintained by preventing illness—a simple and seemingly obvious statement, but the previous government did not seem to understand that. However, the SDS outlined no less than 10 initiatives to restore preventative health services in this state: the health for life program, the 10,000 steps program, kilojoule labelling, the Go for 2 & 5 program and empowering councils to further discourage smoking—

Mr Dick interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, please. The member for Greenslopes has the call. I ask you to cease this interjection and banter across the chamber.

Mr KELLY: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. These are the sorts of programs that we need to prevent people from developing diabetes and many other common health programs. These programs will save significant money in the future but much more importantly will help people to lead full, healthy and long lives.

As we discovered in our recent health coaching review, the sorts of things that will prevent diabetes—more exercise, more fresh fruit and vegies, limiting alcohol and soft drink intake, stopping smoking and dealing with stress—will also prevent stroke, heart disease, macular degeneration and, as the federal Mental Health Commissioner suggested at a recent talk I attended, will also play a role in promoting mental health. I was amazed in this review how many government, non-government, academic and private businesses are involved in health promotion and how much activity there is in this area. Of course all of this activity will only be more effective if it is being coordinated and planned. That is why it is good that this budget provides \$7.5 million over the forward estimates to establish a statewide Health Promotion Commissioner.

Like many Queenslanders, I was shocked at the decision by the former government to close the Barrett centre for adolescent mental health—a decision taken against the advice of experts, the outcry of the community and the pleas from the patients and their families. I am pleased that this budget not only moves to reintroduce this service but allocates funding for the expansion of this service in North Queensland.

The allocation of funding—\$361.2 million over the forward estimates—to tackle the significant number of people waiting longer than clinically recommended to see a specialist will be welcomed by the people in the electorate of Greenslopes. As a registered nurse, I absolutely applaud this budget.

Ratios will save lives and the allocation of funding for this initiative is world leading and is something that nurses have been calling on governments to do for decades. The 1,000 new graduate positions, 400 nurse navigator positions and re-establishing primary school age nurse services in vulnerable communities like Logan are all initiatives that nurses will welcome.

Safety and quality units have achieved some amazing things in recent years. They regularly change behaviours, attitudes, policy and processes that result in real benefits for patients. The management of deteriorating patients and clinical handover are just two areas that I could highlight that have saved countless lives. Sadly, the previous government decimated safety and quality units around the state, and I am proud that this budget allocates money to re-establishing these services.

The biggest threat to our health system is the threat posed by a federal Liberal National Party government that does not believe in a universal public health system. We know they do not believe in it because they think that it is okay to rip \$11.8 billion out of the system from July 2017. We have had a change of captain but will he steer the ship in another direction? I very much doubt it. This is a frightening reality and one that I hope the Australian people deal with appropriately at the next federal election.

I commend the health and ambulance services minister and his staff, and all of the staff from the Department of Health, the Queensland Ambulance Service, the health and hospital services, the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, the Mental Health Commission and the Health Ombudsman. I thank them for their tireless work and for being prepared for the scrutiny that we applied through the estimates hearing. There is so much in this health budget that I could cover. I have deliberately left the discussion of ambulance services to my colleague the member for Thuringowa.

I wish to thank the chair of our committee, other committee members and our secretariat staff. My final praise is for the minister who, together with the Premier and the Treasurer, has demonstrated that Labor is committed to promoting, maintaining and restoring health for the people of Queensland. I commend the report to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.44 pm): I rise to address the budget estimates report No. 3 and the Appropriation Bill 2015 and specifically the Health and Ambulance Services Committee's area of responsibility in scrutinising the relevant estimates papers and proposed expenditure by the Queensland Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. I would like at the outset to acknowledge the hardworking parliamentary secretariat staff in preparing all the relevant information and documentation in order for the committee to be able to undertake its due diligence and governance responsibilities on behalf of not only my constituents in Moggill but also the people of Queensland. I also acknowledge my fellow committee members.

In this year's budget, there are a number of initiatives, public policy announcements and areas of proposed health expenditure which give me cause for great concern. Specifically, I am concerned about the proposed nurse navigator positions, whereby \$101.6 million is allocated over four years, with \$9.3 million allocated in 2015-16. It remains unclear to me the true evidence base for these positions, how they will be integrated into current clinical care models and whether their intended clinical contribution will translate into improved care outcomes for patients of the public hospital system and/or the taxpayers of Queensland.

Whilst fragmentation of health care, due to communication and coordination issues, can exist between primary, secondary and tertiary environments, funding specific new nurse navigator roles is yet to be a proven strategy to reduce unplanned hospital readmissions, enhance quality-of-life metrics or reduce length of stay within our hospitals. In fact, enhancing existing care processes and protocols and undertaking clinical redesign using existing staff could achieve a much more optimal clinical and financial outcome. In fact, the *Medical Journal of Australia* in its edition of 6 July 2015 published a study highlighting these exact concerns.

There is also a lack of information as to whether these roles are intended for hospitals in all urban, regional and rural contexts within Queensland, whether they will be full- or part-time and whether there will be complete transparency as to who was consulted on the formulation of this policy prior to its announcement and whether this policy was a part of discussions with, and a commitment given to, the Queensland Nurses' Union prior to the last election.

In relation to the establishment of a statewide Health Promotion Commission, whereby \$7.5 million is allocated over four years including \$600,000 in 2015-16, it is unclear to me as to the proposed governance and oversight arrangements for this commission as well as whether there has been appropriate and extensive consultation with relevant professional and general practitioner

organisations including the Australian Medical Association and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. The Labor government also intends to mandate nurse-to-patient ratios. Again, without a published framework factoring in acuity, complexity, geography and other relevant factors, financial wastage could result in no translatable benefit for patient safety and quality improvement within our hospital system. I am of the understanding that the government intends to mandate nurse-to-patient ratios for both the public and private healthcare sectors, and presumably this was also a commitment and an agreement struck between this Labor government and relevant unions prior to the last state election. And we all know this government is run by unions and is captive of left wing factions.

There also continues to be an underinvestment in inpatient and outpatient alcohol and drug services, despite an increasing prevalence of substance dependency disorders within our community. Illicit amphetamine use including ice, problematic synthetic drugs which mimic illicit drugs, over-the-counter codeine misuse, pharmaceutical drug dependence, alcohol fuelled violence and alcohol related disorders are continuing to cause alarm and require an enhanced specific package of funding for direct service provision and harm minimisation programs in many of our communities right across Queensland.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing funding of the Queensland Mental Health Commission and the work of Dr Lesley van Schoubroeck and of the clinical drug and alcohol advisory committee of which I was a previous member. The Queensland Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2014-2019 has the potential to make a real a difference if specific initiatives are appropriately funded.

There is also an allocated commitment in this budget to health information technology infrastructure, including hardware and software, and my concern and reservation relates to the capacity of the Palaszczuk government, like the previous Bligh government, to discharge its governance responsibilities without episodes like the payroll fiasco, the fake Tahitian prince episode or the Dr Jayant Patel saga. I would like to see a greater understanding and financial appreciation of the great challenges in health related to new and emerging infectious diseases, electronic clinical information management, workforce challenges in rural and remote Queensland, as well as funding for further research in genomics, genetics and translational pharmacogenetics.

Finally, at this year's estimates hearings we also saw a protection racket implemented in relation to the police minister, Jo-Ann Miller. The member for Bundamba's previous slur on the reputation of visiting medical officers still deserves a formal apology. My constituents and Queenslanders deserve better not only in relation to health but also in relation to infrastructure planning and the delivery of enhanced public transport services. There are no new plans. Debt still continues to grow despite the Treasurer's 'cheap tricks'. Queenslanders deserve better.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.50 pm): I am delighted to contribute to this debate on the committee report by the Health and Ambulance Services Committee on the budget appropriation for the Health portfolio for the 2015-16 financial year. I thank all members for their contribution; in particular, I thank the member for Nudgee for the way she convened and managed the estimates committee hearing. I think she did a sterling job as a new chair in this parliament to manage what often is a difficult hearing because of the contested nature of ideas. I also thank the members for Greenslopes and Thuringowa for their contributions today. I particularly note the member for Thuringowa's very kind comments about my late father.

There are a few issues this year on which I want to comment and hit the highlights again of the Health budget. There is a record operating budget for Queensland Health of \$4.183 billion. This is great news for the people of Queensland, wherever they might live in this state. We have sought to restore balance in the health system in this state with significant investments in front-line services that were so badly damaged by the Liberal National Party government. There are investments in preventative health and patient safety and an additional \$2.3 billion over four years for our hospital and health services to ensure that with a growing population we can continue to deliver health and ambulance services.

I acknowledge the comments of the members for Greenslopes and Thuringowa on the No. 1 threat to our health system—the cuts to health that Tony Abbott was going to deliver, that Joe Hockey still wants to deliver as the federal Treasurer and that no doubt Malcolm Turnbull will have to reconsider because of the consequences it would have for our state. There is \$361 million over four years for our outpatient waitlist strategy. In seven months this government has reduced the waitlist for the waitlist from 100,000 to 82,000 by the application of money but also by the application of the great work of clinicians and staff in our hospitals who are dedicated to front-line service delivery and not distracted by the burden of the cuts poured on them by the previous administration.

In terms of our nursing commitments, there is \$212 million over four years involving 400 nurse navigators, senior nurses coming back into our health system. There are up to 4,000 nursing graduate positions for those new nurses. We are reinstating the school age nurse program, with 16 nurse educator positions as well after nursing was thrashed and trashed by the previous LNP government. In terms of 800 nurses and midwives—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: Listen to those opposite rewriting history. Some 800 nurses and midwives were removed from the system by the previous government.

I shall make a few observations on this debate. One theme during the entire debate today on the budget and the estimates committee reports was the lack of time. All members opposite are out there with the hourglass: 'Last year it was eight hours, 35 minutes and 62 seconds instead of nine hours, 15 minutes and two seconds.' If members opposite have to get into a process argument, they have lost the debate on the substance of a great Labor budget. That is all they are worried about—the drivel of time. What did they do in government? They fixed the system so that all estimates committee hearings occurred on the same day, at the same time, so that the government would not be subject to the scrutiny of the media and so the community would not be able to follow what was going on. What a disgrace! They stand condemned by their government.

In my estimates committee debate there was nine to one, so only 10 per cent of the questions were directed to the relevant minister. Members opposite could not even ask the minister questions. They want to complain about the system yet did not have the gumption or the guts to ask me questions about the budget. What did we hear? The absolute high point in the debate today was the member for Buderim deliberately misrepresenting what happened in the debate about the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital and the allocation and determination of issues relating to the roadworks around that hospital. I clearly put an explanation on the record. The member for Buderim said, 'I need a clear, lengthy explanation.' He could not even read the transcript of the hearing. He did not even want to listen to the hearing, although what we were planning to do was clearly put on the record at the end of the hearing, including further examination of that issue. That is what members opposite do: LNP members never let the facts get in the way of a fabricated argument. This debate, represented here through the member for Buderim and the other members, represents the distortion of what otherwise is a terrific Labor budget that puts front-line services back into helping the people of Queensland.

(Time expired)

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (9.56 pm): I start by thanking the committee chair for her great job in controlling the Labor members on that day and for also allowing me to appear. I acknowledge the minister's being there at a very tough time. I acknowledge that his father had passed away and that the minister presented at a very tough time.

I refer to the Lady Cilento hospital. I wanted a couple of very simple submissions that were put to the reviewer on the draft report of the opening of the Lady Cilento hospital. I got 'yes and no' and 'yes and no' and the minister said that he would look at it. The minister then said that the documents were cabinet-in-confidence. Is this the same minister who berated the Leader of the Opposition to breach cabinet-in-confidence in regard to documentation relating to the wait-time guarantee? In answer to a question on notice the minister said, 'No, I cannot do that because they are cabinet-in-confidence.' They are not cabinet-in-confidence: they are hiding these documents. These documents were not made in preparation for submission to cabinet; they were made by individual outside entities to put to the reviewer. They cannot in any way constitute documentation or submissions made for the purpose of putting the final report to cabinet. It is not only that, because not once but twice the minister said, 'I have not seen any submission. I have not seen any document.' How can the minister then turn around and say that they are cabinet-in-confidence when he has not even seen them? What a rort! What a hide! What is he hiding? What is the government hiding about the Lady Cilento hospital? They are hiding a lot, because it was this Labor mob that built this hospital on a whim, a hope and a prayer and then finally planned for it. The rooster had laid the eggs and they are coming home now.

Mr DICK: I rise to a point of order. Roosters cannot lay eggs! The member for Caloundra must withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! The member for Caloundra has the call.

Mr McARDLE: Let us move to the wait-time summit referred to in the budget. We put in place the wait-time guarantee which meant that anybody needing elective surgery would get it on time. There are figures both for July 2015 and August 2015. In category 1, two patients in July 2015 waited longer

than recommended. That figure has jumped to 39 in one month. For the most critically sick people requiring surgery, the wait times are starting to blow out. The figures increased from 182 to 255. The figures are starting to blow out under this government. We are back to the bad old days. Remember the figures? Hundreds of thousands of people are waiting longer than expected not just for surgery but as outpatients as well. Yet again, this issue is starting to come home to roost.

The minister made a point about us asking him questions. I asked him questions in relation to medical cannabis. We all recall that the minister and the Premier made a big deal about re-joining New South Wales in their trials starting this year. Even though the trials are starting this year, the minister struggled to commit what this state would put on the table for those trials or provide a figure until he fumbled and came up with one. The minister could not tell us who in New South Wales was conducting the trials. He could not even tell us if Queensland was on the oversight body in New South Wales. Of course we would be if we had been part of a trial process. This minister and this Premier went out and made a song and dance about medical cannabis but they could not answer the question. The minister could not answer the question on the day about our contribution or our involvement. This is a con job on children in this state who suffer from epilepsy, and they are suffering seizure after seizure after seizure. If this minister was across the portfolio and had made such a big deal, why could he not answer these very simple questions?

I turn to the nurse-patient ratio. I tried three times to get the nurse-patient ratio from Cairns, Townsville and the RBH and not one CEO could give me the nurse-patient ratio in their hospital. This is the data they are going to use to operate the nurse-patient ratio moving forward. I am keen to see the bill—

(Time expired)

Report adopted.

Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! The question is—

That the report of the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee be adopted.

 **Ms DONALDSON** (Bundaberg—ALP) (10.00 pm): I rise as chair of the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee in support of the budget estimates and the Appropriation Bill 2015. Firstly, I would like to thank the committee secretariat, who worked very hard to support the committee members and ensure that we had what we needed to perform this critical function of government. I would like to thank the deputy chair, the member for Caloundra, and committee members—the members for Pine Rivers, Redlands, Cairns and Warrego—for their hard work and their commitment to the committee and the estimates process. I would like to further thank the shadow ministers who came along to the estimates hearing and participated in making this estimates process a success. I would also like to note how the opposition members were given a very fair share of the question time.

I would like to congratulate the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs on her hard work in restoring our community services sector after the preceding dark time under the Newman government when they were gagged from speaking out against the injustices of the previous government and were threatened with losing their funding if they did act as advocates for their vulnerable and marginalised clients. The minister is to be congratulated on the budget, this year delivering an increase for child and family services of 8.26 per cent on the 2014-15 adjusted budget. There are too many highlights in the 2015-16 budget to mention them all in the short time I have. However, they include \$54.5 million for services for vulnerable families and their children in line with the 10-year road map for implementation of the recommendations from the Child Protection Commission of Inquiry as well as initiatives aimed at addressing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in the child protection system.

In the 2015-16 budget for Communities, there is an increase of five per cent on the adjusted budget of 2014-15. The key new measures include reprioritising funding to be delivered to implement the recommendations in the domestic and family violence task force report as well as extending support measures in drought declared areas, \$10.8 million over three years for initiatives in drink-safe precincts and \$770,000 per annum to implement multicultural recognition legislation.

I would also like to congratulate the Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland on the 5.58 per cent increase in 2015-16 on the 2014-15 adjusted budget. Very importantly, the funding will ensure adults and children with disabilities will be supported. Seniors also have not been forgotten, with estimated concessions for pensioners and seniors in 2015-16 reaching almost \$238.2 million.

Despite no interest in Multicultural Affairs or Seniors being shown by the opposition, both ministers showed a solid knowledge of these issues in their respective portfolios and demonstrated their authentic commitment to vulnerable Queenslanders and were not distracted by the shallow politicking by those opposite. The departmental staff who worked hard to prepare the information are to be commended for their thoroughness. Despite knowing the hours of work in getting ready for the hearing by public servants and ministerial staff, the shadow minister for multicultural affairs could only ask about a website, showing no interest in what was actually happening around Queensland in our multicultural communities or how the Palaszczuk government is supporting our culturally and linguistically diverse Queenslanders through the initiatives detailed in the estimates process.

The fake outrage shown by those earlier regarding the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland not appearing on day one of the hearings was shown to be just that as, despite knowing the minister would be appearing at the 28 August 2015 hearing, those making the most noise were nowhere to be seen. I would like to thank all the departmental staff and once again thank everybody for making the estimates process run so smoothly.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (10.05 pm): First of all, I acknowledge all those on the committee. I congratulate the member for Bundaberg on chairing the committee on the day in question. I acknowledge also my colleagues on this side of the chamber who posed questions.

The issue of domestic violence has held this House in a grip this day, and during the estimates hearing the minister focused a great deal on the Bryce report. I intend to do the same thing myself. I think the perception is that domestic violence is where a woman is attacked by a male—and I do not doubt for one second that that is in fact the bulk of the situation. What I do want to point out to the minister is that, if she goes to page 73 of the Bryce report, she will find that between September 2013 and September 2014 some 15,656 protection orders were given to an aggrieved female but some 4,486 males were also given an order as an aggrieved person. Those figures are not dissected in the report and there is no annexure to the report to indicate the breakdown thereof, and of course you can have a male child who is an aggrieved person. If those figures are correct, it shows that 22 per cent of the aggrieved persons between those two dates were, in fact, male. I think it is very important that when we put into play the recommendations of this report we understand that domestic violence is not a gender based issue; it is a human based issue, and male and female can be impacted because of it.

If we go to chapter 5.6 at page 139, there is a small but very important chapter on the LGBTI community. In the terms of the report, they have unique situations that do not exist in what I would say is the heterosexual community. It also says quite clearly in here that data in regard to domestic violence in the LGBTI community is very much unknown. Recommendation 14 does say that more needs to be done to look into that aspect as well. I point out to the minister two things: please do not focus purely on women being the victims of domestic violence—it cuts across both male and female; and the LGBTI community is a community that for a long time has been ignored in this area and we need to fix that very quickly.

Every time we hear of initial domestic violence, the perpetrator will always say that they love their partner or they love their wife or they love their husband. In this day and age, love is a word that is thrown around quite readily in magazines, soap operas and the like and many people have a very distorted view of what love really is. Someone a long time ago defined love by a comparison with other words. It is said it is affection, respect, encouragement, support, sacrifice and giving. The Bryce report, which formed a large part of the minister's input into the estimates hearing, dealt with the impact of domestic violence. The impact of domestic violence also has to be tackled from the other end. We can treat the outcome but we also need to understand how we can prevent the symptoms. That in large measure depends upon how we educate our young people—even we as parents learn, let alone at school—to respect one another.

If we start at that base level we have a much better chance of not getting larger and larger cohorts of perpetrators. The tragedy of domestic violence is clearly the children who are subjected to it either directly or indirectly and the impact it has upon their young psyches. As they grow up they develop traits

and habits that mirror either being a perpetrator or a victim. Being the subject of ongoing domestic violence as a child must indeed shape your attitude towards yourself and the way you look. It is most important that domestic violence be dealt with fully—

(Time expired)

 **Miss BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (10.10 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Communities, Disability Services, Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's report No. 3, 2015-16 budget estimates. Labor has always had at the core of our values the drive to ensure that no-one gets left behind in our community. This Appropriation Bill goes to the heart of that. This Appropriation Bill protects the most vulnerable—often those who cannot protect themselves. It is about providing a safe environment, fairness, dignity and equality.

When it comes to child safety, this budget sees more than an eight per cent increase in the operating budget for Child and Family Services in 2015-16. In Moreton Bay we have recently seen the implementation of the Family and Child Connect service. This is only one of five new services with a \$4.5 million allocation. Family and Child Connect is aimed at early intervention in families before issues escalate. Under the previous government, community organisations had gag orders placed upon them. This had a serious impact on service delivery, since services could not be vocal about the challenges that they and their communities faced. We changed that. On this side we took the alternative view that our non-government organisations should be partners, not servants. The Palaszczuk government removed gag orders and the suppressive culture that comes from autocratic rule.

This Appropriation Bill sees an investment of \$2 million for the maintenance and upgrade of multipurpose and neighbourhood centres at a total cost of \$12.2 million over four years. In Pine Rivers we are fortunate that the previous Labor government saw fit to build a new neighbourhood community centre for our community. It is located right on the boundary with the member for Kallangur's electorate, and both of our communities benefit from this centre. Both the Premier and the Attorney-General have come and explored the centre and seen firsthand the great work that they do. What we have seen is that there is so much demand in our community that the centre is bursting at the seams. Although it is under five years old, the testament to its success is how often we are told about how expansion is necessary, and some service components are actually taking up residence at local shopfronts to be able to service the demands of our community. This is community in action and it reflects the government's partnerships—creating something useful for my community. I am proud to be part of a government that continues to invest in them.

I believe that everyone in this place knows what a scourge domestic and family violence is on our community. We have seen it far too often, particularly in the last week. Our government is one that will take decisive action on domestic and family violence. That is why we have committed to implementing the 140 *Not now, not ever* task force recommendations. That is why the Palaszczuk government is acting to implement more serious penalties for perpetrators and repeat offenders through legislation this week. We know there needs to be an holistic approach when tackling the issues of domestic and family violence. We must make sure that there is support for those who escape domestic violence, but there also needs to be somewhere for victims to escape to. That means an investment in infrastructure as well. I am pleased that this budget allocates \$4 million to crisis shelters in Brisbane and Townsville for families escaping violence at a cost of \$8 million over two years. This will address the communities' needs and ensure there are mechanisms for victims to find safety.

In this Appropriation Bill the Palaszczuk government reprioritised over \$12 million in funding in response to the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* domestic and family violence task force report. I have been to DVConnect and I have spent some time with the CEO and staff, where I saw firsthand the tremendous work they are doing. I have spoken in this place before about my experiences visiting the DVConnect office, where the \$1.5 million to assist women, men and children who are suffering is sorely needed. Domestic and family violence is sadly a familiar story in our community. The abuse, the harm, the betrayal—we see so much of this and it is numbing. I am pleased that this numbness is not resulting in paralysis, but action from our state government. I commend the report to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (10.14 pm): I rise to speak on report No. 3 of the Communities, Disability Services, Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. I take this opportunity to acknowledge all members who participated in this estimates committee process. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the committee secretariat staff past and present for their help with this estimates committee process. This was my first estimates committee hearing, and I was pleased to participate as a member of the committee.

The committee's areas of responsibility are communities, women, youth, child safety, multicultural affairs, domestic and family violence prevention and disability services and seniors. It is difficult to single out any one particular sector of these portfolio areas as more important than the other; they are all important. They touch the lives of Queenslanders, sometimes on a daily basis. However, some portfolio areas like that of domestic violence, as we have seen in recent weeks, make the news for what can only be said are the wrong reasons and require great attention and further action.

There is no single solution to deal with the increase in domestic and family violence incidents in our communities. It will take a combination of solutions, strategies and some very hard work to turn the corner and reinforce that domestic and family violence is not acceptable in our communities. I am pleased and I am proud that the former LNP government started some of these processes with the *Not now, not ever* report.

I also move to the issue of drought that is affecting my entire electorate. There are drought declarations right across my electorate. I asked the minister in the estimates committee hearings about the funding that her portfolio extends to community support measures in drought declared areas. It would give some confidence to these drought stricken communities if the hardworking not-for-profit organisations had some indication from the state government as to who will be eligible for this funding, how and when it will be distributed and what type of support is envisaged to be funded. I am disappointed that the minister could only advise that these funds would be flowing soon. Drought waits for no-one, so not only are these drought-affected constituents and communities waiting for the heavens to open, but they are also waiting for George Street. At the rate the state government is going, the drought might break before George Street opens the purse strings.

I found the estimates committee process to be a highly interesting one, especially in relation to the Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland. When the minister appeared before the estimates committee, she was not able to explain to the committee why her role as Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland was not mentioned in the service delivery statement except for her ministerial title on page 1. It is disappointing that there are no service objectives, no service descriptions or service measures associated with the minister's responsibility as the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland in the service delivery statement that the committee examined.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.18 pm): May I begin by thanking the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee for the consideration of my 2015-16 budget. The estimates process is fundamental to the delivery of transparent and accountable government, and I welcome the opportunity to discuss my priorities for my portfolios. My portfolios provide support for vulnerable Queenslanders, children and families, as well as creating opportunities for women and young people. As we have heard, one of the more urgent areas of need for my department is addressing the scourge of domestic violence. No-one should be in any doubt about the determination of the Palaszczuk government in working to eliminate this scourge from our state.

I would like to touch on some of the comments made by the member for Caloundra during this debate. I absolutely accept that men are victims of domestic violence, and I did state that earlier today in this House. Page 7 of the *Not now, not ever* task force report clearly states—

The majority of people who experience domestic and family violence in Queensland are women.

...

The statistics ... tell us ... that the most common pattern of domestic ... violence is ... committed by men against women.

Understanding the gendered nature of domestic ... violence is vital in designing the response model and identifying reforms to provide better support to victims and measures to change the culture.

I am so pleased that the Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$66 million this financial year on a broad range of measures to reduce domestic and family violence in Queensland and I am proud to be the Minister for Women in the Palaszczuk government—unlike members opposite, who did not see fit to appoint one. I look forward to hearing if the new Prime Minister does a better job selecting our new federal minister for women, but my tip would be actually appointing a woman to the role. As the communities minister I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know key stakeholders from the communities sector. Everywhere I go I meet incredibly hardworking people dedicated to supporting women, children, young people and families and I have been heartened by how many have told me that they are grateful to have a government and a minister who understands what they do and

appreciates their efforts. The previous government alienated the communities sector by gagging advocacy in funding agreements and cuts to vital funding. I am proud that this government is rebuilding the communities sector, recognising the role that it plays in helping families, children and vulnerable people in Queensland.

The 2015-16 budget provides funding for 341 community organisations big and small right across the state. In contrast, the LNP's fiscal repair included Child Safety cuts totalling \$73 million and community services cuts totalling \$63 million. The impacts of these cuts cannot be understated and there was significant damage right across the state to our communities sector. A good example of this was the LNP's neglect to our neighbourhood centres. Unlike the LNP, we intend to support them. The previous LNP government scrapped the capital works program. This Palaszczuk government is investing \$12.2 million over four years for upgrades and replacements to our neighbourhood centres as well as \$14 million to support 121 neighbourhood centres across the state. I know from my volunteer work with the Beenleigh Neighbourhood Centre that does such great work supporting local vulnerable families that it provides an invaluable service.

We made an election commitment to continue the implementation of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry recommendations and I believe child safety is an area that is above politics and deserves bipartisan support, and I acknowledge the support from the member for Aspley that our budget was very good news for our ongoing child and family reforms. But one way in which we are building on these reforms is the introduction of free parenting support for Queensland parents through the renowned Triple P parenting program. It is free for Queensland families. We know that this is what families have been asking for. Through the Talking Families campaign run by the Family and Child Commission, parents were telling us that they needed this parenting support and I am delighted to be launching the first Triple P seminar in Red Hill tomorrow. The opposition had not one question about how our Triple P support programs—

(Time expired)

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (10.23 pm): Tonight I rise to speak to report No. 3 of the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. I want to thank the hardworking committee secretariat for their dedication and professionalism: our initial research director, Peter Rogers; research director, Mr Karl Holden; and principal research officer, Ms Lucy Manderson. I acknowledge my fellow committee members: chair and member for Bundaberg, Leanne Donaldson, deputy chair and member for Caloundra, Mark McArdle, and the members for Pine Rivers, Warrego and Cairns. We know that Labor's take on the estimates process has resulted in less time, fewer questions and less scrutiny of how taxpayers' money is being spent. Rather than being transparent, this government is opaque and obtuse. Queenslanders deserve better.

I was disappointed that the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs stated in her opening address that the previous government had no plan to tackle domestic and family violence and then in the very next sentence claimed credit for the LNP initiated *Not now, not ever* report—the minister sanctimoniously suggesting that a wrong had been righted. Family and domestic violence prevention ought to remain above this petty point-scoring. Yes, we must hold each other to account, but we all lose when the argument descends into outright fabrication. Our local communities deserve better. Within the electorate of Redlands many people give of their time to help those within our community—the most vulnerable, the most in need. From the Bay Island Community Centre Service, the Redlands Disability Network, WAVSS, The Cage Youth Foundation, Redlands District Special School and the Redland Community Centre to name just a few, they do critically important work and I commend them.

In undertaking the role of committee member, I gave pause to reflect on how domestic and family violence has impacted on my life. I know what it is like to see your mum hurt. I know what it is like to be flogged. I have borne witness to how domestic and family violence affects other families and I know what it is like to be a child in a siege situation. A gunman roamed outside the residence for seven hours. With two very brave police officers, we huddled in the dark on the floor wondering when bullets would come through the curtained windows or when the gunman would burst through the door. The gunman called the residence to inquire as to how his estranged partner was enjoying the night. He called later to ask after the children asleep upstairs. Minutes felt like an eternity. The police, their guns drawn, went room to room upstairs as there was a separate phone line and it was feared that he had got into the house. He was captured outside just before dawn, but in many ways he has stayed with me for the subsequent 33 years. Unfortunately, these are all-too-common experiences for many Queenslanders. The issues that this committee considers deserve respect, not base politicking. Our communities deserve that same respect.

 **Mr PYNE** (Cairns—ALP) (10.27 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the appropriation bills for 2015-16 and reflect on the estimates hearing. What an interesting period my first estimates was—a real festival of public disclosure, a celebration of transparency and accountability no less. I did learn a lot during the estimates hearing. I learned that the Palaszczuk government will invest more than \$66 million in this financial year on a broad range of measures to reduce domestic and family violence in Queensland. I also learned that the former government chose not to have a minister for women, which is a bit concerning. For the last three years Queensland was the only jurisdiction in the country without a plan to tackle domestic and family violence. In delivering our response to the landmark *Not now, not ever* report, we have righted a wrong. Planning is in full swing for the delivery of our two new 72-hour crisis shelters in Brisbane and Townsville and through the Office for Women we are working towards providing greater support and promoting equality across the state. Of course, at the heart of what we do is helping support families. We made an election commitment to continue the implementation of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry recommendations. Child safety deserves to be bipartisan. It requires a sustained effort that must outlive any political term and rise above any political wrangle. That is our commitment to the children and the families of Queensland.

We are also supporting our hardworking community centres and neighbourhood centres. That is why we are investing \$12.2 million over four years for upgrades and replacements for our much loved neighbourhood and multipurpose centres. This is in addition to \$14 million in support of 121 neighbourhood centres across the state.

I would like to speak specifically about migrant communities and the need to invest in supporting those communities. As members are aware, we are introducing legislation that recognises and promotes multiculturalism in our state. Currently, Queensland is one of the few jurisdictions that does not have a legislative statement from its parliament recognising our multicultural heritage and our commitment to support our culturally and linguistically diverse communities. New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia all have multicultural recognition legislation. So I think it is high time this was introduced.

There is a lot of evidence to show that newly arrived migrants are often disadvantaged in terms of participating in our economy. The proposed multicultural recognition bill will introduce a multicultural charter and a multicultural Queensland advisory panel. This bill will not just be principle based; it will also commit all future Queensland governments to give due respect to our multicultural society through a range of government multicultural policies and an action plan. It will also complement existing anti-discrimination legislation, such as the Anti-Discrimination Act, which I think is about 20 years old now and a little bit outdated.

It was interesting to participate in my first estimates committee hearing process. I must say that both ministers did an exceptional job, especially the Minister for Disability Services and North Queensland, who I think was absolutely outstanding in her first estimates. Well done, Minister.

(Time expired)

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (10.32 pm): The Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee estimates hearing was most revealing in a number of ways. It crystallised what we had known since 31 January, and that is that the Palaszczuk government has no plan and no new ideas for Queensland. Instead, throughout the hearing we heard two ministers on the one hand sledging the former LNP government and on the other hand taking credit for LNP initiatives—great initiatives such as the child protection reforms and the domestic and family violence task force, to name a few. It took a bit of questioning of Minister Fentiman for her to finally acknowledge that, for all of the language around rolling out the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report, only \$5 million of new funding has, in fact, been allocated to tackle domestic violence this year. It was also revealed that no comprehensive financial modelling had been done for the government to understand what budgetary allocations would be needed to implement all of the recommendations. The minister could only provide advice on how much was being paid to an external company to undertake an audit of existing funded services.

Although it is pleasing to see that the LNP's work in the area of domestic and family violence will now help shape a better outlook for the future, and we have offered bipartisan support to the government in addressing this scourge in our community, the reality is that \$5 million in new funding is less than what this government is spending on the maintenance of the cultural precinct in South Brisbane and nearly \$3 million less than the total allocation for the GraffitiSTOP program. Despite the minister's continued harping about her horror at the fiscal repair task that had to be undertaken by the

former LNP government because of the parlous financial state that the Bligh-Fraser government left us with, she gave a quick flick pass to the Treasurer when I asked her whether or not she had advocated to get that money back to her department.

But we did learn that the minister was handing back money to Treasury—money that could have been used to enhance front-line services, such as perhaps that at the Pine Rivers neighbourhood centre: \$7.5 million this financial year, almost \$13 million next financial year and \$13 million each year thereafter until 2018-19. Whilst the minister went on happily stripping her department's budget, she overlooked a very important thing: there are no new front-line positions in this year's budget. Whilst the minister sledged the LNP, she needs to be reminded that the LNP allocated 135 new departmental and Child Safety positions in its last budget. So we will be watching the impact of the failure to build on departmental staffing numbers, particularly the impost that this is likely to have on Child Safety case loads.

In my attempt to qualify whether or not a contingency fund for the child protection reform had been accessed, I was met with avoidance. The minister would not answer and neither would the director-general, leaving me to speculate that perhaps sticky fingers may have been in this fund or soon would be and not for the express purpose of addressing any unforeseen emergency services that may arise during the implementation of the child and family reform program.

I turn now to the estimates committee hearing of Disabilities Services portfolio. It did not start very well, with the minister unable to confirm which agencies did not have current disability service plans. I wondered whether the minister actually knew what a disability service plan was. We went on to talk about the NDIS, Queensland's preparation and implementation time frame, but I left the estimates hearing with some serious concerns about this government's ability to negotiate a bilateral agreement in time with the Commonwealth and serious concerns about how this government plans to deliver accommodation support and respite services when, during the hearing, the minister was unable to provide any clarity at all when I asked if the National Disability Insurance Agency price points around accommodation support had progressed. Would it not be right for the government to be across potential price points for accommodation support and respite services before making any announcements? I can wrap up, I think, with one short statement: openness, accountability and foresight are not this government's forte.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! Can I ask that everyone note that these are unusual circumstances. I want no conversation in the House whatsoever at this point in time. Hansard needs to concentrate on what is being said and be able to listen to the speakers. We have a little more business to get through. If anybody breaches any of the standing orders, I will warn them only once and I will take action. These are unusual circumstances. Respect the standing orders. Having said that, I call the Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland.

Hon. CJ O'ROURKE (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (10.45 pm): I rise to speak to the estimates report of the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. It is my pleasure to speak about all three of my portfolio areas as part of the estimates process and I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government that restored the transparency and accountability of the estimates process to the people of Queensland. Everything I do in my capacity as Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland is with integrity, transparency and accountability in mind. This was absolutely clear during my estimates hearing, and the LNP is clutching at straws to suggest otherwise.

I am always happy to talk about issues impacting North Queensland and during my estimates hearing I answered 15 questions on a range of topics relating to North Queensland, including clarification around my role, meetings I have had with North Queensland stakeholders and how I am engaging with the federal government to leverage opportunities from their Northern Australia white paper. In addition, across the two weeks of estimates hearings every committee had the opportunity to ask questions of my cabinet colleagues and the Premier on North Queensland matters relevant to their portfolios. While the opposition did not even have a North Queensland portfolio when it was in government, I am incredibly proud of my role as an advocate for North Queenslanders around the cabinet table. My role is to assist the Premier. My ministerial charter letter, which is publicly available online, very clearly outlines my role and my responsibilities. These include consulting with stakeholders, identifying infrastructure priorities, improvements to service delivery and to assist in building the resilience of North Queensland communities to natural disasters. These responsibilities give me an opportunity to work closely with the Premier and my cabinet colleagues to deliver on our government's commitments to North Queensland.

It is interesting that the member for Caloundra and deputy chair of my committee—that is, the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee—has not raised any matters relating to disability services and seniors in his statement of reservation. Instead, some LNP members showed that they were more interested in playing politics than looking at the issues that are important to North Queenslanders, people with disability and seniors. I felt privileged to answer questions relating to disability services and the excellent work that my department is doing to transition to the NDIS as well as ensuring that the department continues to deliver high-quality disability services. The Palaszczuk Labor government's budget provided an operating budget for Disability Services of \$1.547 billion, an increase of 5.58 per cent. At estimates I appreciated the opportunity to answer questions around how some of that money has been allocated to initiatives such as NDIS readiness activities, as well as the funding of an early NDIS launch site. I was also able to detail how this budget offers job certainty to AS&RS staff and clients and the assurance that this government values the public servants working in the disability sector. And importantly, I answered questions that detailed the investment this government has made to assist people with disability who live in hospital and health facilities, people who have complex behavioural issues and the provision of respite to assist carers and families of people with disability.

Finally, I thank the members for Pine Rivers, Cairns and Bundaberg for asking questions about this government's commitment to Queensland seniors. It is important to me that older Queenslanders know that this government sees them, cares about them and is taking them into consideration when making decisions. I was pleased to talk about the exciting things that we are doing in the senior space in Queensland. From stepping in when the federal government cut funding to concessions to delivering the one-stop shop and advisory task force election commitments, older Queenslanders can be confident that they are in safe hands. I would like to thank all those involved with the estimates, the committee, its secretariat, as well as the departmental and ministerial staff for all the hard work that goes into this important process.

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (10.50 pm): The question I am going to ask is: how important is the multicultural portfolio to this minister? Let us explore that, because tonight it did not even rate a mention in the minister's contribution. In the SDS, there were maybe two to three references with scant detail. In estimates I asked the minister whether she was across the portfolio and she answered yes, only to find from the very next question that our cultural diversity and action plan for multiculturalism was still on the webpage nearly seven months later. The member for Noosa was touted as the minister. I am sure you, Madam Deputy Speaker, will be pleased to know that the former member for Brisbane Central was touted as the assistant minister who had done all of the work. We pointed that out to the minister. Today I checked the website and those two pages have been removed, but clearly our policy and action plan are still clearly up there. It is important to note that when that was highlighted to the minister she wanted to talk about the legislation that they want to put in place.

However, the issue with the legislation is that, at the end of the day, we have already addressed how to get people from a multicultural background into work and we have already said how we are going to assist in the four key areas. That is already on the plan. It already has a pathway. Interestingly enough, we then talked about the new multicultural advisory committee. We already have a peak body and a new multicultural advisory committee has come to fruition and an interim committee is in place at the moment. However, they tell me that they are going to continue with 129 of our policy points. We put up 170 policy points and they are already committing to 129 of those. My point is that the work has already been done. The government wants to talk about transparency, accountability and openness, yet it is our policies that it is addressing, implementing and trying to take credit for. We have seen that time and time and time again through this estimates process.

The other very interesting point is that the government has come in with a mantra of jobs, jobs, jobs and yet guess what? Oops! It forgot to put a job target in its multicultural policy service delivery statement. When I asked the minister about that, she sidestepped and again wanted to pass the question to the Treasurer. The reality was that the Treasurer had explained it and put his targets in as part of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander portfolio statement. This minister could not tell how many jobs will be created with the \$770,000 associated with new legislation that is coming in or how we are going to measure how effective that will be.

As I said, this document was incredibly scant on detail in the multicultural portfolio, which is an incredibly important portfolio. I need to say this: when we talked about the money that goes into the different festivals that are on, we were told that we were not going to have any measures anymore. That is an absolute pork-barrelling of the electorates in this state. If we have no measures to work out how effective an event has been, how do we know whether the taxpayer's money is going to the right

events and is attracting the right people, getting our communities on side? To be quite honest, I think that this has been an absolute embarrassment and a debacle, showing disrespect to the multicultural society of Queensland.

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (10.55 pm): I attended the estimates committee hearings for this portfolio to continue my investigations into exactly what the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland is responsible for in relation to that part of her portfolio. The reason I needed to investigate this issue further is that it has been extremely difficult to work out exactly what the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland is responsible for in respect of this part of her portfolio. However, now it is a little clearer. The Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland did not appear at the estimates committee hearings for the Premier and Minister for Arts on Tuesday, 18 August this year despite being listed as a responsible minister in the Service Delivery Statement for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. To date, no explanation has been forthcoming to explain the minister's absence from that hearing, notwithstanding that she was listed as a responsible minister in the SDS.

I know it is not normally in order to refer to a member's absence from proceedings of the House, which estimates committee hearings are, but this seems to be a special case. Was the minister unwell? Was she dispatched to undertake an urgent task in North Queensland on behalf of the Premier? Was there a personal or a family issue? In the absence of a satisfactory explanation, we are left to ponder these things aloud. With no explanation available, we can only conclude that her failure to appear before the committee is a clear abrogation of her ministerial responsibilities to the Queensland parliament under our system of responsible government. I have to ask the obvious question: does not turning up to an estimates committee hearing where you are listed as a responsible minister meet the high standards of accountability and transparency that the Premier insisted would be the hallmark of her government? If it does, it is a complete disgrace. If it does not, what disciplinary action has the Premier taken?

When the minister did appear before the estimates committee for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services on Thursday, 27 August, she was not able to give an explanation to the committee as to why her role as Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland was not mentioned in the SDS except as part of her ministerial title on page 1. It is unacceptable that, unlike all the other cabinet ministers in other portfolio areas, the 2515-16 budget papers contain no service objectives and no service descriptions or service measures associated with the minister's responsibilities as the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland.

During the course of the estimates hearing the minister was able to confirm that, as far as her responsibilities relating to North Queensland are concerned, she is responsible for no budget allocations, no public servants and no legislation under the machinery-of-government arrangements. Therefore, it is difficult to reach any other conclusion, at least for the purposes of the budget estimates process, than that there has been a distinct lack of accountability and transparency demonstrated by the government as far as the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland is concerned. This House, through the estimates process, and the people of North Queensland deserve some answers from the Premier and this minister. We have established that her own departmental SDS contained nothing with respect to her responsibilities as Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland. I point out that, during the second reading debate on the budget, the only real mention of North Queensland was in the Capital Statement in respect of the federal government's Northern Australia white paper.

What else are we to conclude then from this dearth of content, this dearth of measurement and this dearth of structure other than that this minister's responsibilities in respect of North Queensland are nothing more than administratively token and demonstrably superficial? Here we are debating the budget estimates. We are supposed to scrutinise outcomes. We are supposed to examine the figures. We are supposed to inquire about performance, efficiency and targets, but with respect to the responsibilities of the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland this task, within the context of these budget papers, is like getting a firm grasp of the contents of a bucket of custard. The responsibility for this outrageous lack of accountability and transparency must be accepted by the Premier. Quite frankly, this minister is a bewildered and hapless bystander. North Queenslanders deserve better than that.

As I mentioned earlier, it is now a little clearer as to what the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland is actually responsible for in respect of this area of her portfolio. The answer is precious little.

(Time expired)

Report adopted.

Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee

Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! The question is—

That the report of the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee be adopted.

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (11.00 pm): I rise today to speak to the third report tabled by the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee—the report on its consideration of the Appropriation Bill 2015. As committee chair for the first time I was excited to see how the process worked. I must also admit to being a bit apprehensive. As this was our committee's first public hearing, it seemed a bit like a trial by fire. However, our committee negotiated well together to nominate the times and conditions for the examination of each portfolio area. We worked well together during the day.

I would like to thank the committee's deputy chair, Rob Molhoek, and committee members Jason Costigan, Dale Last, Don Brown and Chris Whiting for their work and for the amicable way all issues were resolved. I hope our committee can continue to work together in this way as I think that is what the people of Queensland would want and expect. I would also like to thank the ministers, their staff, the directors-general and their departments and the GOC executives for their participation on the day. We had a number of non-committee members who attended on the day to question the ministers, directors-general and CEOs. I would like to also thank them for their participation. I would, however, mostly like to thank the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee secretariat for their hard work in preparing for the day and their work on the day. To Kate, Rachelle, Julie and Lisa, thank you all very much. I give many thanks to the Hansard staff as well.

Obviously, as a new chair there was a fair bit of testing carried out on me by the opposition. There were a few ideologically, politically motivated rants. I had an interesting, and at times challenging, session following the standing orders to rein in questions which were speeches instead of questions, imputations and interjections, hypothetical questions, the asking for opinions and the asking of policy questions of departmental staff instead of the minister. This was all while I was still trying to give opposition members the lion's share of the time allotted. Once we sorted out the rules, a robust, bipartisan examination occurred. Although time did favour opposition members, it still provided an interrogative look into the Appropriation Bill for the portfolios examined.

I was disappointed to see the amount of money spent by some GOCs, departments and port authorities in their preparation for possible privatisation and contestability—that is, asset sales—despite assurances from the former LNP government that asset sales were being taken to the election and not already being worked on. As I am from the energy sector, my highlights from the process were largely from that area. Firstly, I must say that I am immensely proud that we have kept our electricity supply assets in public hands and maintained the uniform tariff policy to keep regional power prices in line with metropolitan prices. I think our regional people would like that. It is important that we as a government look after our regions and make living in the regions as affordable as possible. Retaining this policy is vital to remote and regional residents. I was pleased to see that we seek to lead the development of biofuels and to expand Queensland's biofuel and biomanufacturing industries.

One other highlight from the budget with regard to the portfolios we examined was the news that flashing lights have been and are continuing to be installed at several schools in my electorate. Kallangur State School received flashing lights on School Road in May this year. Narangba State School got flashing lights this month. I was pleased just last week to be in attendance at Pine Rivers Special School with the acting principal, the deputy principal and the local councillor, Mick Gillam, when the lights went up there. This is a particularly dangerous bit of road. A lot of trucks use it regularly. These lights are very welcome and timely. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (11.05 pm): I rise tonight to speak about the estimates committee hearings of the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee. I would like to start by thanking the chair of the committee. Although there may be some difference of opinion about fairness and the time spent, I think that he was fairly discerning in giving us a reasonable hearing and reasonable latitude during the course of that hearing. I also want to acknowledge the work of my fellow committee members. I particularly acknowledge the contributions of the various shadow ministers who came in support of the estimate hearing and supported the line of questioning of the government on the final day of estimates, the Friday.

There are a large number of things that raise concern for me as the deputy chair and also the shadow minister for housing and public works. I felt that some of the performances and responses from the ministers were disappointing, to say the least. I want to draw particular attention to the comments

of the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply who took great pride in diverting his attention away from the line of questioning to tell us about the great initiative to have one million roofs with solar by 2020. We heard at length about 150 new solar power storage systems that will be trialled throughout regional Queensland. We heard about off-grid technologies. We heard about a 40-megawatt renewable auction to support private investment in jobs in renewable energy.

When we started to drill down and ask questions about what jobs this is going to create, the answers were a bit thin on the ground. We heard the minister refer to battery power cells being purchased and installed in regional Queensland to capture solar energy and yet the minister was unable to identify where these solar battery cells may come from. There was little detail about the technology. Frankly, I have to wonder just how many jobs will be created through the manufacture of battery storage systems that would predominantly come from either China or Germany. The last battery manufacturer in Australia was in Adelaide, and I think they went offshore about three years ago.

Sadly, the technology around battery storage is still fairly limited. It is still very reliant on lead batteries. I am not really sure that these systems will deliver what the minister was alluding to. I will be very curious to see what jobs come out of that. I am looking forward to a further response on that.

I also want to touch on some issues raised with the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation. It was disappointing to hear her response when asked about the killing off of both the Logan and Gold Coast public and affordable housing revitalisation initiative that had been approved by the former LNP government. I thought it was ironic that the incoming government that spruiked so much about jobs and economic growth would do that. We heard the Premier speaking at the recent Labor state convention about her commitment to jobs, fairness, decency and restoring the balance. At the same time, they were party to killing off these two significant projects, some \$1.6 billion of investment at little cost to the government. It would have resulted in some 2,000 new homes in South-East Queensland.

One of the questions that I asked, which she could not answer but has subsequently answered on notice, was the simple question: how many new dwellings will we see on the Gold Coast under the current budget and how many for Logan? It is 52 on the Gold Coast and 12 for Logan. That is hardly a government that is really delivering on public and social housing for the people of South-East Queensland. I was very disappointed with the higher level outcomes of the budget. The minister herself even admitted that most of the initiatives within the capital works program were simply a rolling program that had been put in place by the former minister, Tim Mander, the member for Everton.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (11.10 pm): I rise tonight to speak to the budget estimates report No. 3 of the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee. Firstly, I would like to thank the ministers, Minister Bailey and Minister Enoch, for their attendance and thorough answers to the questions. I also thank their staff, DGs, CEOs, the secretariat, Hansard, opposition members and also the courageous chair, the member for Kallangur, Shane King, and also my colleague the member for Murrumba.

As many members would be aware, this was my first estimates committee. I found it enlightening because it really showed to me that the committee process had been restored in a unicameral system by the Labor government. It made sure that ministers gave full and thorough answers and made sure that they brought the budget papers to life for me. I also found it interesting that we have been debating the issue of time in budget estimates. As it was getting towards the end of a Friday and being the last day of the estimates, the opposition was starting to run out of questions. I note that the member for Southport had the art of rephrasing the same question over and over again.

Mr Rickuss: We were trying to get an answer.

Mr BROWN: The opposition got plenty of answers; they should read *Hansard*. A few highlights I want to go through are the decreases in bulk water prices in many SEQ areas and a genuine commitment to renewable energy. No longer does the government refer to solar energy users as the 'champagne set'. There is a real commitment towards solar and solar energy jobs in the industry. There was also the simple fact that our power providers, Ergon and Energex, were actually sitting at the table and able to answer questions. I note that the member for Glass House asked many questions of those two representatives.

Other highlights include our support for pensioners and seniors in the reform of electricity rebates; a massive spend in roads and infrastructure, with an extra \$757 million over the forward estimates for QTRIP; the introduction of fairness to our public housing system; and the increase in funding for public housing upgrades for my local area and also for the stock in Capalaba, so I thank the minister for that.

It is also refreshing to hear about science and innovation. It has been missing from both federal and state levels under conservative governments. I look forward to the Advance Queensland program, because I know that will deliver jobs, jobs, jobs, and it will also deliver for our economy.

Unfortunately, it was not all highlights. We did see some lowlights, and they included an extra \$30 million spent on the preparation of asset sales, which was not a mandate of the previous government. Also, how can we forget the photo wall of the previous transport minister—27 wall hooks, the photo wall of fame that had to be repaired when the new transport minister took office?

The final lowlight was my comrade the member for Whitsunday. Unfortunately, he was gagged by his party. I looked forward to the member talking but he did not get to ask a single question all day. The hierarchy of this party need to recognise the talent that this man has and give him a chance. I look forward to the next five minutes because, unfortunately, we had a whole day in which the member for Whitsunday did not even get to ask a single question. I look forward to next year's estimates and I look forward to the response of the member for Whitsunday right now.

Madam DEPUTY (Ms Grace): Order! I call the member for Whitsunday.

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! The member for Whitsunday has the call.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (11.15 pm): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I will do my best to be somewhat restrained after the diatribe we have just heard from our friend across the chamber.

Mr Hinchliffe: You can't take a compliment!

Mr COSTIGAN: Thank you, Leader of the House. I will get on with it, if I may. I am quite pleased to rise this evening to speak briefly to the Appropriation Bill. I am happy to talk about Proserpine as well. It has been a great year with the Origin team coming to the great sugar-milling town of Proserpine, which I was pleased to support. But I am here to speak about the Appropriation Bill as a member of the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee, orUSIC, as it is known, as opposed to 'useless', which comes to mind when I look across the chamber.

I, too, would like to acknowledge the professionalism and the support of the secretariat here at Parliament House. Over many decades, as much as the technology changes and the resources change, what does not change from talking to former members is the support and professionalism. We had the former member for Peak Downs, Keppel and Belyando, the great Vince Lester, in the parliament here tonight. I am sure that, whilst the times have changed, the support and professionalism has not. That is a credit to the secretariat here at Parliament House—in the case of our committee the research director, Kate McGuckin, and her team. Well done. It is very much appreciated. I am sure that government MPs, as well as non-government MPs, would be singing from the same hymn sheet in relation to that matter.

I want to thank myUSIC colleagues regardless of where they are from. The chair, the member for Kallangur, was very gracious in his roll call. Naturally we do not always see eye to eye but we get in and do our work, albeit with a bit of argy-bargy, as we saw at our hearing on 28 August. Ultimately, of course, what we are about as members of Her Majesty's opposition is to hold the government of the day to account.

I must say I was a little disappointed by the performance of the Minister for Main Roads. He seemed a little geographically lost when quizzed by his fellow red-ragger the member for Capalaba, who I often think of whenever I see a 'keep left' sign, especially on Shute Harbour Road. There is the 'keep left' sign—come on down, Mr Brown! It was a Dorothy Dixer.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Could the member please refer to the honourable member by his proper title?

Mr COSTIGAN: Of course. I was referring to the honourable member for Capalaba. As I say, those 'keep left' signs keep coming to me. The aforementioned MP asked a specific question about the Vines Creek bridges project, which is of great interest to many of my constituents and those in the adjoining electorates of Mackay and Mirani and, in fact, across the broader region. After all, these bridges across Vines Creek have been ageing for years and years and, given that they are on busy Harbour Road on the way to the port of Mackay, they probably should have been replaced some time ago, because it is the port of Mackay that feeds the Bowen Basin when it comes to fuel and energy.

Unfortunately, the former member for Mackay did nothing about it in his 20 years in the parliament despite holding down a senior position in the cabinet. But back to the member for Capalaba and what he asked the minister at estimates. This is what he asked—

With reference to page 117 of Budget Paper No. 3 and the output funding capital items, what is the Vines Creek bridges project?

What did the minister say in reply? He said—

Productivity is a very important priority for me as Minister for Main Roads. One problem I came across early in my term as the minister ... was the inability of the previous government to solve the Vines Creek bridges issue on the main road into the Hay Point port at Mackay.

There are two things completely wrong with that. First, the previous government did move to solve the issue because of my strong representations to the then minister, the member for Indooroopilly. He came to Mackay and he checked it out himself. He saw the speed restrictions, the load limits and on it went. It was disgraceful. I thank the former minister for coming. At the time of the 2015-16 state budget, my mail was that 70 per cent of the planning had been done, so to crow about more money for planning is misleading from the current Labor government as far as I am concerned.

The second issue is the minister's reply in relation to the port. He said, '... on the main road into the Hay Point port at Mackay'. The problem with that is that the port of Hay Point is 40 kilometres away from the port of Mackay. He has obviously got his ports mixed up and has no idea. I am sorry but coal comes out of Hay Point and sugar comes out of the port of Mackay. The minister has no idea, and that is typical of a government that the Greens have got by the short and curlies.

(Time expired)

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (11.20 pm): I stand today in support of the report tabled by the member for Kallangur. It was an honour to be involved in the estimates process here in the Queensland parliament and it is a vitally important part of the democratic processes here in this unicameral parliament. Not only were we able to scrutinise the proposed spending by the Palaszczuk government; I was able to discover some vital information about the political ideas and political ideology of the LNP opposition. I have discovered that they are out of touch with what Queenslanders want and need from a government. They remain fixated on political battles, not the political solutions that we in our state need. They believe that good government is more or less about cuts to spending and as little to do with governing as possible.

What I did find illuminating in the committee's hearings was the federal LNP government's reneging on its commitments to fund main roads projects of national significance in Queensland. They have a very clear policy about funding national roads projects along an 80-20 split, but in the case of the Darra-Rocklea section of the Ipswich Motorway they are offering only fifty-fifty, and the LNP have reneged on the Rothwell roundabout in my electorate of Murrumba. An upgrade is needed because of the construction of the rail link, a project of national significance. We learned in estimates that there was an in-principle agreement for this project and that there is a fully designed solution ready to go but that they reneged on it. What is most frustrating is that the money is there. The federal government pulled \$159 million from this project and it is being held in a contingency fund, but they refuse to release it. We learned that the federal LNP is running away from its responsibilities and has a different set of rules when dealing with Queensland. Or it may be just another example of the LNP philosophy of cuts and more cuts.

I really found it illuminating that the LNP did not use estimates to scrutinise but to fight political battles in which the rest of Queensland has no interest. Over the two weeks of estimates, I assessed the questions from the LNP. According to my criteria, they asked 157 questions on the budget—that is, questions primarily focused on expenditure, funding and programs—but 137 questions relating to the police minister. Queenslanders can ask, 'What is the point? What did you achieve from this?' What is worse—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr WHITING: I do not think the members have it. I find it most interesting that members opposite asked just eight questions on the Queensland economy and seven questions on Queensland jobs. We have a massive innovative program called Advance Queensland, which will diversify our economy and deliver the knowledge based jobs of tomorrow, yet there was barely a squeak about it. The members opposite just indulged in a bit of political bullying. Queenslanders can ask, 'Why are you not focusing on the things that are really important to us?' We see that they really are not concerned about building a better Queensland; they are just interested in political gamesmanship and the pursuit of political

power. It shows that they have not moved on from the Campbell Newman days. Those were the days—remember those?—when governing was about picking a fight and it did not really matter with whom one picked a fight.

From the government side, it was also beneficial to hear from Minister Enoch. It was interesting to hear from Minister Enoch about the Logan Renewal Initiative, the largest transfer of social housing in the country—4,900 properties—to a non-government manager. But we learned that the LNP government did not engage or consult with any of the affected tenants. Before the contract was signed there was no consultation; after the contract was signed one letter was sent out. We have instructed the department to engage in full engagement and consultation, extensive meetings with all levels of government and stakeholder information forums as well. Yet what is the concern of the LNP members when they ask questions of this in estimates? Their only comment was that we should simply not waste time, that we should simply go out and get it done. It shows that they cannot move past the Campbell Newman regime. They do not want to consult with the people of Queensland or give them the opportunity to ask questions. The Campbell Newman era is not over. We have seen it living on in the mindset of the LNP.

(Time expired)

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.25 pm): I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the debate on the report of the Utilities, Science and Innovation committee. Before I commence I acknowledge my fellow committee members and the hardworking parliamentary staff who support our committee. The estimates hearings provided an opportunity for Queenslanders to hear firsthand the detail behind the 2015-16 budget—a time for this government to provide clarity and certainty on the way forward, to demonstrate prudent expenditure of public money and to explain its plan for economic development and job creation. Instead, I saw indecision, a lack of accountability and no commitment to the big infrastructure projects that we need to kickstart our economy and create those much needed jobs. I will give an example.

During the estimates hearings I asked the minister when the initiatives announced in the government's Advance Queensland plan would be implemented. The minister responded that the plan had not yet commenced as the government was establishing an implementation committee to oversee delivery of this plan. Given that this is meant to be the flagship initiative for this government, the minister was unable to answer questions in detail on the Advance Queensland initiative, particularly in relation to the funding that will be directed to the administration of this program. It seems incomprehensible that the central platform of the government as announced as part of its budget remains stalled at a time when unemployment is rising.

I have spoken on many occasions in this chamber about the desperate need for job creation in electorates such as Burdekin and am disappointed that there is nothing in this year's budget to give the people of the Burdekin hope in terms of job creation. Where was the government's commitment to priority road projects such as Stuart Drive in Townsville and the Haughton River Bridge at Giru, a priority project for the Bruce Highway? Where was the commitment to water projects such as the Urannah Dam, Elliot Main Channel and raising the Burdekin Falls Dam? We have tens of thousands of hectares of land available for farming around Collinsville between Home Hill and Bowen that cannot be developed because of a lack of water, yet the government seems hell-bent on developing the gulf, where there is no infrastructure and where costs are prohibitive. Where was the commitment to the development of the Townsville state development area, an area seen as vitally important for the economic development of North Queensland?

For a government with a so-called focus on jobs, there was nothing in the responses by the ministers at the estimates hearings to engender any confidence going forward that we will see these much needed projects progress. Already today we have heard how important the development of the Galilee Basin is to Queensland's economy. The thousands of jobs involved in the construction of the Carmichael Mine and the associated railway line would go a long way to solving Queensland's job crisis. Yet all we have seen is more procrastination from a government with no clear vision on how these projects will proceed.

The escalating costs of electricity are well known and, whilst I am pleased to hear that the review into agricultural tariffs will take place, I urge the minister to fast-track this review as our farmers cannot sustain paying the skyrocketing electricity prices they continually pay for irrigation. Agriculture is the cornerstone of our economy and our farmers are among the best in the world, yet they continue to be hammered by rising utility costs, forcing many of them to leave the industry.

Finally, I express my concern at the number of reviews being undertaken within the Housing and Public Works portfolio, particularly in terms of the temporary absence policy and the three-strikes policy. I have experienced firsthand the issues associated with problem tenants and can unequivocally state that the overwhelming majority of my constituents support the three-strikes policy and the relevant protection it affords to other members of the community. There are thousands of people on the waiting list for public housing and we should not have to put up with errant tenants who abuse the privilege of that public housing.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.28 pm): I rise to speak to the 2015 Appropriation Bill, particularly as it pertains to the Utilities, Science and Innovation portfolios. On the day of this committee's estimates hearing we saw that the protection racket from those opposite was not limited to the CFMEU and the police minister; it was alive and well in the ETU as well. It was probably the first time ever that a committee chair had 'phone a friend'. Every time I as the shadow minister endeavoured to ask a question of the energy and water supply minister, it was, 'Kingly, it's Peter Simpson here, mate. You can't ask that question.' The first question was a question on future electricity prices and the endeavours, particularly of Ergon but also of Energex, to increase electricity prices over the next five years. 'Kingly here.' 'No, can't ask that question, mate, ruled out of order.' Questions on job cuts in Ergon: 'Kingly here.' 'No, can't ask that one either.'

Let me give honourable members a classic example of how this played out, and I refer members to pages 21 and 22 of the transcript from the estimates hearing, but particularly page 22. I will start with a comment from the chair after I put a question to the head of Ergon about potential job cuts. The transcript states—

CHAIR: Once again, I really do not think that that question is relevant to the Appropriation Bill.

Mr POWELL: The minister just outlined in a lengthy response his views on front-line service positions.

CHAIR: Yes, within the public sector. This is a government owned corporation.

Mr POWELL: This is within the government owned corporation. It was also referring to his comments about what he considers to be a front-line worker within a government owned corporation. I am struggling to see how you can distinguish between the two.

CHAIR: Because there is standing order 180.

Mr POWELL: Correct, but you allowed the minister's response without question.

And here it is—

CHAIR: I did, and I was—

A government member: Fascinating!

Mr POWELL: No, there is a lesson here for the member for Capalaba. It goes on—

CHAIR: I did, and I was not quick enough to pick it up, but I am picking it up here. Have you got another line of questioning?

That is an ETU protection racket through and through. Why are they wanting to prevent the energy minister, the head of Ergon and the head of Energex from answering these questions? The Labor Party went to the election with a couple of key policies around electricity. Firstly, they said they would pay down the government's debt by using the revenue from our electricity companies; secondly, they said there would be no job cuts in our electricity companies; and, thirdly, they said they would keep electricity prices down. We now know there are three from three; none of them are going to occur. For starters, they are not using the revenue from the electricity companies to pay down debt. They are, in fact, lumping the electricity companies with additional debt to the point that they cannot afford to pay down the debt, continue to manage the networks and make sure there is some money put away for that inevitable rainy day that we here in Queensland have. That means that Ergon and Energex have to go running off to the AER asking for more money. When you ask the AER, the Australian Energy Regulator, for more money and if you get that, what does that mean? Electricity prices are going to go up. We saw it five years ago when Andrew Fraser went running off to the federal minister saying, 'Please give us some more, sir. Please give us some more.' We got whacked with double-digit increases in our network prices over the subsequent five years. We are seeing it again. We have heard that if they do not get this new revenue that they are seeking from the Energy Regulator, at least 800 jobs will go in Ergon.

I come back to what I started with: why did we see the ETU protection racket during the estimates hearing on that day? We saw it Monday a week ago when that came out from the head of Ergon in front of the minister. Who was out here within the parliament's grounds 30 minutes later saying, 'Over my dead body. I will take higher electricity prices any day over seeing 800 jobs go from Ergon Energy.'?

Who was it? It was the head of the ETU, Peter Simpson. He was out the front of parliament saying, 'I will take higher electricity prices over job cuts any day.' Labor members say one thing when they are in opposition and do a complete and utter other thing when they are in government. They have completely misled the people of Queensland when it comes to keeping electricity prices down, paying down their debt and securing the jobs in Ergon and Energex.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (11.33 pm): I rise to respond to the budget estimates committee report prepared by the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee. I would like to start by thanking the committee for its time and consideration and all those who made the arrangements and provided support for the process. I am also pleased to have the opportunity to reiterate my passion and commitment for the work being done in my portfolio and to address a number of points raised in the statement of reservation by the member for Southport. A number of issues raised in the member's statement were, in fact, addressed and answered during the hearing, but for the benefit of the House and the member I am happy to go over them again tonight.

When it comes to social housing policy, members opposite simply do not understand the serious negative impacts that their policy changes have had on housing tenants. That was evident at the estimates hearing and it is evident in the member for Southport's statement of reservation. The previous LNP government's changes to housing policies have had a direct impact on vulnerable Queenslanders. That is why we have committed to reviewing the state's social housing policies in order to ensure there is fairness in the system. This is a commitment we took to the election and this is a commitment we are delivering on now.

We are also reviewing other decisions that were made by the previous government without consideration for the impact they would have on tenants. The Logan Renewal Initiative will affect almost 5,000 households. It is the largest transfer of social housing stock ever planned in this country and the project will span 20 years. But as big as the project is, no effort was made by the previous government to consult with any of these families about how the initiative would affect them. Furthermore, there was no consultation with existing community organisations that serve Logan.

The interests of those people who will be impacted by this project and integration with the existing service system in Logan must come first. This project is huge. So it is important that we get it right. That is why I have commissioned an independent readiness review of the initiative as part of the final step before proceeding with the project. The implementation of any large scale programs of this kind will be informed by the outcomes we see in Logan.

We are also continuing to invest in new social housing projects across the state. The government has approved more than \$334 million in social housing projects over the 2015-16 Capital Works Program. That is \$84 million more for social housing this year alone, meaning more jobs in construction and maintenance across our regions. When it comes to providing housing for government employees, there is no question that it needs to be comfortable and secure for our hardworking teachers, nurses, police et cetera in places where it is needed. Where properties are identified by departments as surplus to requirements, they are divested in a business-as-usual way. The proceeds are then reinvested into the purchase or construction of new accommodation and/or upgrades to existing properties. Property market variations play a role in how this activity is managed. That is why it is normal practice for more properties than initially identified in the budget to be advertised for sale so that the government is in a position to make prudent financial decisions based on market realities. Despite the member for Southport's comments in his statement of reservation, this was explained to him at the hearing.

I now turn to my Science and Innovation portfolio. In response to comments relating to Advance Queensland, I would like to emphasise that we are working to refocus Queensland as a knowledge based economy. As I informed members of the committee at the hearing, Advance Queensland is already rolling out across the state. Comments made by the member for Southport in his statement of reservation that Advance Queensland had not yet commenced are incorrect and do not reflect the answers I provided to the committee. To name just a few, the Advance Queensland research fellowships were launched by the Premier on 5 August, the PhD scholarships were launched on 15 August, the Women's Academic Fund was launched on 15 August. Since then, the Knowledge Transfer Partnership program was launched on 3 September. Also announced on 3 September was the extension of the PhD Industry Experience program, and the Advance Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Fellowship and PhD Scholarship programs were launched on 11 September. We are actively engaging with stakeholders to ensure the program will deliver a bright future for Queensland.

I also refute any suggestion from the opposition that we do not have a business plan for CITEC. My department is leading a program of work to determine CITEC's future operating model to address its financial position and create a sustainable business. Development of a new CITEC business model also provides the opportunity to strengthen the government's capabilities, as it proved during G20, to address emerging cybersecurity challenges. Regarding the management of ICT systems across the government, as minister, I am committed to ensuring we have the best governance arrangements in place. We have robust systems and policies to manage the complex nature of government ICT.

Across my portfolios, I am committed to delivering on the election commitments that this government took to the people of Queensland including restoring fairness to the social housing system and the implementation of Advance Queensland to provide jobs now and jobs for the future.

 **Dr McVEIGH** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (11.38 pm): At the outset I would like to thank the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee for granting me leave to participate in the estimates process as shadow minister for science, information technology and innovation. In reflecting on this estimates hearing, there are a few themes that jump to mind: avoidance of proper scrutiny, lack of clarity, lack of plans and ongoing uncertainty. My concerns in this estimates process were immediately realised when we saw the allocation of just one hour out of the roundly 250 hours of the total estimates process to the so-called flagship centrepiece of this budget, Advance Queensland, which is supposedly overseen by the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation. Contrast that to the five hours of scrutiny that the former Minister for Science, Innovation, Information Technology and Innovation, the Hon. Ian Walker, had in last year's estimates.

The Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and numerous ministers opposite have lauded Advance Queensland in this budget, and yet they have hidden it from proper scrutiny. The minister could not even explain details around the implementation and administration of Advance Queensland or when very specific initiatives would have been implemented. It is a great concern therefore, as quite rightly outlined by the member for Southport in our statement of reservation, that this apparent plan remains somewhat stalled.

It is also a concern that the minister was unable to outline the future plans for CITEC or detail, to quote the government's own statements, how it will be 'futureproofed'. In the hearing I also noted the SDS's reference to CITEC and the chief information office in the department and the fact that they, as quoted by the government, provide independent quality advice to ministers and consolidated data integration and aggregation to the whole of government and run a secure government network that allows government departments to exchange information easily and securely. And yet the minister could not explain why the education minister did not refer to the department of information technology—her department—in responding to the government's IT system failure in the One School reporting system between agencies related to, and involved in, child safety. If the very department that, in the government's own words, is supposed to provide quality independent advice to ministers on exchanging information easily and securely is not involved, what is the role of that department? Indeed, it begs the question as to what the minister is actually doing.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (11.42 pm): I rise to address the Main Roads component of this committee's hearing. The issue that I particularly wish to draw to the attention of the House is a matter I touched on in the estimates hearing. It is one that I think is the most serious, and it is that this budget reveals there was up to \$760 million being rolled over from the last financial year to projects in this financial year. There were excuses from the government as to why this was so. They said that the projects were still going to be delivered on time; however, that is \$670 million that was not expended last year putting shovels into the ground and roads under construction, with that money flowing into the economy. That is a lost opportunity and there were jobs lost as a result.

It is so serious that I have had senior figures in the civil construction industry say to me it is the worst they have seen in 35 years in the construction industry here in Queensland. This Labor government has stalled projects. The policies of this Labor government have resulted in an 11 per cent slump in construction figures in Queensland just in the last quarter. You can imagine that, when you have a government that is drip-feeding projects rather than having a consistent pipeline, it means there are lost opportunities to ensure that that capacity in the industry is taken up and people with those skills can maintain gainful employment. While there will be some legitimate reasons for some of the delays, to try to excuse \$670 million is quite unfathomable. This government simply cannot deliver infrastructure in a timely way.

I want to address the issue of RoadTek. RoadTek certainly has a place within Queensland, but one has to question why this government has failed to clearly answer questions about the potential to bring this government owned construction company back into the market within the South-East

Queensland corner to compete in an industry which has such excess capacity or, as the DG said, where conditions are 'soft'. One has to question whether this is a good use of public resources in South-East Queensland. As opposed to other—

A government member: Market failure.

Ms SIMPSON: Are you serious? Market failure in South-East Queensland? The minister is out of touch with industry. If the minister seriously thinks there is not the capacity in South-East Queensland, I suggest he go back to that place south of the border where they smoke some interesting things. That is the only way you could seriously say there is a market failure and lack of capacity in South-East Queensland.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! Member for Maroochydore, can I get a ruling on that, please? Can I see the Clerk for a moment, please?

Ms SIMPSON: I am happy to withdraw if the member and the chair find it offensive. I would suggest the minister is completely out of touch. I want to address the issue of the Mooloolah River interchange. This much needed Mooloolah River interchange upgrade is critical to ensure that the future Sunshine Coast University Hospital has safe and uncongested access. I raised the need for this Labor government to tell us what its plan is to fix this dangerous bottleneck. We did hear a plan from the government. I acknowledge that the minister promised to look at the issue of hospital access and address it. I am concerned, though, that he may not understand that this means the Mooloolah River interchange as well, not just the bitumen outside the hospital, as this interchange is the main arterial link through which most people will access the hospital from the north. There is no doubt that this road is already dangerous, as the accident rates prove, but when the new hospital opens traffic will have to grind through this northern access point where the east-west and north-west sections of the Sunshine Motorway intersect with the Nicklin Way and local roads near the Mooloolah River.

I quoted the figures which were provided by the parliamentary library using Transport and Main Roads figures which reveal a very high accident rate in that area, but I may have inadvertently misled the House by omission because I did not include all of the roads leading into that interchange. In fact the accident rates are higher. I wish to table figures provided by the library which show that in this area there have been nine fatalities, 148 hospitalisations—

Tabled paper. Queensland Parliamentary Library research brief, dated 2 September 2015, regarding road accidents near proposed upgrade areas by the Mooloolah River Interchange [\[1070\]](#).

(Time expired)

 **Mr EMERSON (Indooroopilly—LNP) (11.47 pm):** I want to thank the committee and its chair for giving me the courtesy of being part of that committee. First off let me touch on the issue of road safety. Obviously it is a concern to all of us that the budget figures forecast an increase of almost 20 per cent in the road toll this year compared to the previous year, which is a tragedy across Queensland. Hopefully that will not be the reality, but across Queensland if that is the reality it means that even more families will suffer the tragedy of deaths on our roads. We can be proud that under the LNP our record Road Safety Action Plan did achieve the lowest road toll on record in Queensland. Having said that, what we did see is another plan brought down by the Labor government.

What is concerning is the extraordinary situation revealed in estimates that the Road Safety Action Plan was delayed. Or, to use the words of the minister, the timing was 'adjusted'. Why was it adjusted? The reality is that it was adjusted to protect the police minister, Jo-Ann Miller. The reality is that Labor was intent on hiding the police minister away from scrutiny and away from the media, and they sacrificed the launch of the Road Safety Action Plan. The minister admitted that the timing of that launch had been adjusted but, despite constant questioning, refused to say who ordered the adjustment or even why it was adjusted. The reality is that road safety was put second to political expediency and the determination to protect the police minister from scrutiny. That is an unfortunate situation, to say the least.

What we also saw revealed in the budget through the admissions of the director-general was that under the previous budget it was forecast that \$3.9 billion of capital infrastructure spending was due to be spent in 2014-15. Instead what we saw was a billion dollars of underspends—a billion dollars! How many jobs would that have created if that money had been spent? How many projects would have been underway? How many roads would have had their capacity improved? How many roads would have had their flood maintenance improved? How many roads would have seen their safety improved if that full \$3.9 billion was spent? Instead what we saw was 2.5 according to the budget figures and, as the director-general admitted, more than \$600 million worth of projects had been, to use his word, 'deferred'. He admitted that those projects would have included safety treatments on roads and safety

improvement of roads but those projects had been deferred. So it is not just an issue of jobs and not just the loss of economic stimulus but some roads would have been made safer if the government had done its job and made sure those projects were delivered.

Instead, what we did see was a situation where that money was not spent. This is a government that talks about creating jobs, but here is a perfect example where it is clueless on this, it has no plan and it failed to spend money on projects that create jobs and that stimulate the economy. When we see a billion dollar underspend and the deferral of more than \$600 million, we know that those opposite are not serious about the economy. More concerning is the reality that that work would have improved those roads and would have improved their safety. I think that that is something that every member of this House would be determined to see—that is, that our roads are safer and there are fewer fatalities on the roads. But to see an underspend like that is a disgrace. Surely this government should have had as its priority to spend that money to ensure those roads were improved. Instead we saw that \$600 million deferred and of course the reality was that we did not see it included in other years because the quantum of the QTRIP program did not increase by that amount of money. It went missing. It went missing which means this government has underspent. It has not spent the money, it has not created the jobs, it has not improved the roads and it has not made them safer. That is a disgraceful situation.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (11.52 pm): Obviously there are a lot of reforms happening in my portfolio, and certainly the major ones are the fact that we have kept our assets in public hands such as our ports and our energy corporations. We are proceeding with our commitment on ethanol. We are implementing our road safety plan and our strategy—something that the previous government had no strategy on once the one ran out in 2012. We are proceeding down the renewable energies area. We are creating jobs that are the new jobs of the future. There is a massive injection into infrastructure. There is the western roads package. There is the TIDS program. There are marine infrastructure commitments. There is our protection of the reef. There is our fair price for solar review and we have nearly 15,000 jobs across TMR. It is a very active portfolio and a very active area in delivering our election commitments through this budget. It is a very strong budget from the Treasurer. It is a jobs budget that is creating jobs right across this state. It is always a bit rich being lectured by the opposition when it comes to either unemployment or democracy. Of course we saw unemployment surge under the opposition over the last three years and it is up to this government to restore confidence in this state. That is what we have seen through various job surveys. We are seeing confidence return and we are seeing jobs return.

I want to take the opportunity to thank the committee for its efforts and all of the staff involved. I congratulate the member for Kallangur for his work as chair of the committee and all staff involved. In response to a number of the issues raised here from members of the opposition, what a precious performance and how fragile they are. Those opposite are a divided opposition devoid of policy. What we had was a two-page whinge—not in fact a statement at all—and now we have had five-minute whinges with no policy and no suggestions whatsoever. The member for Indooroopilly continues to try to distort the SDS with regard to the road toll. I can report to the chamber that the road toll is tracking at the moment two above last year's at 162 and I am hopeful that we can get that down further, but we are serious about our road safety reforms. He attempts to distort that when the relativities in the SDS reflected his SDS the year before where we look at the long-term trend in terms of road safety, because it is a jagged path downwards. His attempt to say that we tolerate fatalities, to be quite frank, is extraordinarily base to be generous.

It was fantastic to see the member for Whitsunday make a contribution to the debate today. I did not hear a word from him during my sessions at the estimates hearing at all. They obviously had gagged him and would not allow him to speak for some reason, but it was lovely to hear from him. I love delivering the Vines Creek bridges. Those opposite had three years to do it. They had three years and they were going to do it but they just never quite got there, did they? They had three years to do it. They had three years to do the Mooloolah interchange—three years! Did they get it done? No, they did not.

Then we had the contribution of the member for Southport, who still seems confused today. I thought the matter was cleared up at the committee. He was finding it hard to work out how to create jobs in renewable energy in the year 2015. Well, we have 448,000 houses with solar PV and a battery revolution coming along and he seems to think that battery installation will happen sort of by magic—by someone clicking their fingers—and there will not be Queensland workers installing them. He made an astonishing contribution, especially given our commitments on large scale solar through our reverse auction where we will exceed our election commitment by 50 per cent. There will be 60 megawatts of large scale solar in this state when those opposite lost 1,300 jobs over the last three years. That is their

record. We will get large scale solar going. We will also bring in 150 megawatts of renewable energy through Ergon's expression of interest. The fact that the opposition thinks there are no jobs in renewable energy just shows what century they are living in, and it is certainly not the century that we are living in. In terms of Energex and Ergon, the member for Glass House asked lots of questions but not many of me, I might add. He asked very few of me—I think 11 out of 61—but he did not get the answers that he wanted. Energex and Ergon stated themselves that their projections over the next four years would see prices below CPI. He did not get the answers that he wanted and came into this place to have a moan. This is a strong budget. I commend the estimates process and the budget to the House.

Report adopted.

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.58 pm): I move—

That the bills be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bills read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.58 pm): I move—

That the long titles of the bills be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Referral to Ethics Committee

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, standing order 16 provides—

The Deputy Speaker and Temporary Speakers shall, while occupying the Speaker's Chair, have the full powers of the Speaker. Standing order 11(5) provides—

When Temporary Speakers occupy the Chair, they shall be called the Deputy Speaker.

Earlier this evening the member for Everton was ordered to withdraw comments made during an interjection. The order was made on more than one occasion and the reason, the offensive word, which was unparliamentary, was enunciated by the Deputy Speaker. The member for Everton refused to withdraw and indicated a willingness to swear that the alleged offensive comment was not made by him. The Deputy Speaker indicated to the House that he would report the matter to me, which subsequently occurred.

The member for Everton has refused to follow an order of the Deputy Speaker, who has the full power and authority of the Speaker. I refer members to standing order 235(1), which states—

A member required under these standing orders, or pursuant to any other order of the House or the Speaker, to make an apology or retraction in the House shall make an unreserved and unqualified apology or retraction.

Regardless of the merit of the Deputy Speaker's order, the member should have withdrawn. The Deputy Speaker could have exercised the power to suspend the member or even name the member but chose instead to report the matter to me. I have decided to refer the member to the Ethics Committee for disobedience of the order of the Deputy Speaker.

I add that I have listened to the reporting service's recording of proceedings. The offensive word is quite clearly audible. The reporting service, in accordance with normal practice and procedure, will not be identifying the precise member who made the interjection. I leave it to the Ethics Committee the task of determining who made the offensive interjection if the committee believes it necessary.

If any member wishes to make a confession, let them do so to the Ethics Committee. I make it clear that I am referring the member for Everton to the Ethics Committee for disobedience to the order of the Deputy Speaker.

Mr DICKSON: I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, what is your point of order?

Mr DICKSON: I was in the House when that occurred and it was not the member for Everton who made that statement.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, that is not a point of order. If you want to write to me about this matter or to the Ethics Committee, I invite you to do so.

Ms SIMPSON: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, can I ask for a point of clarification?

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, member for Maroochydore. Member for Buderim and member for Maroochydore and all other members, under standing 271 this matter is now referred to the Ethics Committee. I will leave it in the hands the Ethics Committee to pursue this matter. Member for Maroochydore, what is your point of order?

Ms SIMPSON: I rise on a point of order and seek your clarification in respect to the standing orders. Specifically, if a member were to make a retraction for something that they did not actually say, would they not be misleading the House? I appreciate that it is a matter that is contentious that you are referring to the—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, resume your seat.

Ms SIMPSON: I am seeking your clarification about misleading the House.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, please resume your seat. As a former Speaker, you are aware of the standing orders. This matter is now referred to the Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee will decide the matter.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Speaker, with the greatest respect I am not referring to the specifics of the matter that you have referred to the Ethics Committee; I am seeking a ruling in respect to whether a member can be asked to mislead the House by retracting something they did not say.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. It is very common practice that, when the Speaker or a Deputy Speaker asks for a member to withdraw a comment, despite what feelings they might have about the matter they respect the role of the chair and withdraw. I think that the matter and the question that the member for Maroochydore is raising is rather spurious. Mr Speaker, it is quite clear that you have referred the matter to the Ethics Committee. We need to respect that decision in the way that all members should respect any decision that the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker makes in that chair and we move on with the matters before the House.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. I am speaking to the point of order raised by the Leader of the House. Quite clearly, the Leader of the House made the clear commitment that there was a statement, or word, or speech made by the member for Everton that the Speaker ordered should be withdrawn—and it should be withdrawn when the Speaker says so. I understand that completely. What we have here clearly, and the Deputy Speaker may well have misunderstood the hearing of the House and in terms of the—

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker—

Mr STEVENS: I have a point of order to explain, Mr Speaker. I am entitled to that right to explain a point of order.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: It has become clear in the raising of the point of order that the point of order is out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I am not interested in more argy-bargy. I have made—

Mr STEVENS: Can I put my point of order? Can I put my point of order, please?

Mr SPEAKER: Okay. What further information do you want to put to me in raising your point of order?

Mr STEVENS: What I am saying clearly is that the member for Everton has denied making the comments. So for him to be ordered to withdraw a comment that he did not make is inappropriate. It should be referred to the Ethics Committee for consideration. That is what I am saying.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member. You are now arguing the merits of the case.

Mr STEVENS: Correct.

Mr SPEAKER: This matter has been referred to the Ethics Committee and the matter will be decided by the Ethics Committee.

ADJOURNMENT



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.05 am): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Algester Electorate, Events; North Queensland, Indigenous Housing



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (12.05 am): I rise to acknowledge some of the many individuals and groups who work tirelessly to serve their communities, particularly in my electorate of Algester. Last month, I had the pleasure of taking part in school celebrations at St Stephen's Primary School in Algester and Grand Avenue State School in Forest Lake.

At the St Stephen's spring fair, I had the honour of officially opening the fair and dedicating the Taylor Oval, named after the school's foundation principal, Steve Taylor. The fair was a wonderful community event and a huge fundraising success for the school. It was a true tribute to the principal, Phil Manitta, his amazing school staff and the dedicated P&F, led by Kathryn O'Toole.

Earlier in August, I joined Grand Avenue State School for its EKKA Day fete, sponsoring the barbeque and working throughout the day on the stall serving our wonderful community. I would like to congratulate Gavin Rook and Donna Clark from Grand Avenue State School P&C, the school's principal, Mick Quinn—

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Pause the clock. Members, would you please leave the chamber quietly so that we can hear the speakers speak. I call the minister.

Ms ENOCH:—and his hardworking staff who, through their combined efforts, raised nearly \$30,000 to help build new tennis and handball courts.

I was also pleased to host earlier this year the Greenbank RSL Photography club in this place. Nearly 20 members of the club, including the organiser, Glen Barton, attended a tour of parliament, taking great photos and sharing a meal together. I am looking forward to the upcoming exhibition where their wonderful photos of this beautiful building will be displayed. These are just some of the many incredible community groups that I have had the opportunity to work with since being elected the member for Algester.

I would also like to inform the House of my visit to Far North Queensland last week. As the Minister for Housing I had the pleasure of visiting the many public housing properties that are being built in the communities of Lockhart River, Hope Vale, Wujal Wujal and Yarrabah as part of the Palaszczuk government's remote indigenous housing program. I enjoyed an incredibly warm welcome and spent much of my time listening to and discussing with councils and community groups how we can work together into the future. Whilst I was in Hope Vale Aunty Shirley Costello delivered a moving welcome—something that I would to share with the House. I seek leave to incorporate Aunty Shirley's message into *Hansard*. I confirm that this document has been shown to Mr Speaker.

Leave granted.

Minister, good morning to you from our own piece of paradise on a truly tropical Spring morning. Just a very brief account of our history to share with you, Minister.

James Cook and his team wrote down a lot of the Guugu Yimithirr language which then became the first Aboriginal language to be written in this country.

One of the most popular words written was the word 'gangurru' which famously became known as the kangaroo and of course the kangaroo is one of our nation's national emblem on the Coat of Arms. In this room are descendants of those ancestors.

The Guugu Yimithirr people and its historical owners were forcibly evacuated to the Aboriginal community of Woorabinda during World War II. My own parents were both 10 years old at that time. So I grew up with the many stories of this piece of history of our people.

Our ancestors, the Guugu Yimithirr Tribe engaged with the early explorer James Cook who was then a Lieutenant when his good ship the Endeavour ran into difficulties on a reef outside of Cooktown. For seven years they lived in exile until finally given permission to return and create a new community. There is a documentary titled 'War of Hope' that is often screened on NITV telling of our story. In 1949 the first group of men arrives. This year our town is 66 years old.

One of the longest serving missionary George Schwarz lived and worked with this tribe coming at the age of 19 years old and dying at 91 years. This coming Sunday we commemorate his arrival with a church service at the beach, marking the 128 year of Missionary Schwarz arrival.

We have seen many changes that started with being called an Aboriginal reserve, then it was called a mission, then under the Community Services Act we were known as a community. Now under the Local Government Act, we are a town.

We proudly still have our language the Guugu Yimithirr language which is also part of our school's curriculum.

Our people enjoy our children performing the corroboree and children as young as 1 year old can shake a leg. Our NAIDOC celebration is celebrated by a huge crowd, where the Aboriginal colours of black, yellow and red is worn and shown with pride.

With your presence today no doubt there may be more changes, but we have the intelligence, the enthusiasm, the knowledge for improvement to make way for changes that can better our future for the coming generations to embrace.

We learnt to enjoy our two worlds, like going hunting and gathering using Toyotas and Yamaha boats and outboard motors. Minister today you have met with people who have gone through category 5 Cyclone In and category 4 Cyclone Nathan, our people took the leading role and we were all safe.

I thank you for being here and I hope through this summary you are in the midst of caring, trusty and capable people.

Thank you.

Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital, Mooloolah River Interchange

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (12.08 am): Again, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the Sunshine Coast and a road issue that continues to plague my electorate of Buderim under this Labor government. As I have said before, I welcome the funding for the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital, but I remain very concerned that Labor has not committed to providing the road network to support the hospital. This important issue was raised at the recent estimates committee hearing with the Labor government failing to provide answers.

I asked the director-general of the health department to clarify the Labor government's plan for the Mooloolah River interchange on the Sunshine Coast, which provides a critical link to the new Sunshine Coast university hospital. I was dismayed to learn that not only was the health minister clueless about the urgent need for the upgrade of the MRI but also the director-general in the health department could not provide the committee with any information either. Apparently, the issue had not been raised with them. Consider it raised.

Because I cannot stress enough how critical this piece of infrastructure is, the member for Maroochydore raised the same issue with the Minister for Main Roads. I sincerely thank her for doing so. The Main Roads minister waffled on about planning and initiatives and significant traffic pressure, but clearly had no plan for the Mooloolah River interchange. I guess it was not raised with him, either. Well, consider it raised with him, too.

While we are on the issue of driving safely to the new Sunshine Coast hospital, what are people going to do once they get there for their appointments or to visit their loved ones? What is this government doing to ensure that people do not need a second mortgage to park in these facilities? What is the government doing to ensure that parking for those workers at the hospital will be safe and affordable? People on the Sunshine Coast recently expressed their concerns at a public forum about the parking situation for nurses at the Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital. Nurses are choosing to leave their cars parked 15 minutes from the hospital entry to save money, walking hundreds of metres in the dark after a late-night shift. These are issues that need to be addressed before the hospital opens. These are valid community concerns that deserve answers and not review No. 65 from this Labor government. Labor needs to explain to Sunshine Coast residents how it intends to deal with the road pressures and congestion that will be generated once the hospital opens in 2016. Under the LNP, the previous government had a plan for a \$440 million upgrade of the Mooloolah River interchange. The question remains: who in this Labor government is going to take responsibility for delivering this infrastructure? I brought this topic up and I will continue to bring it up until the bitumen actually gets laid. The government needs to realise it is building a huge hospital on the Sunshine Coast without delivering the road network. This government has no plans for the future. Everything it does it has stolen from this side of politics. Those opposite will be lucky to survive the next six months let alone the next 16.

Arnott's, Sesquicentenary

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (12.11 am): In 1847 a Scottish baker and pastry cook named William Arnott arrived by sailing vessel in the colony of New South Wales. He quickly found work as a baker and went where the custom was, baking pies and ships biscuits, later opening a bakery in Newcastle.

Armed with a single-minded determination to succeed and an irresistible product that original bakery went on to become the iconic Arnott's Biscuits that now, 150 years later, can be found in 95 per cent of Australian households. Today Arnott's employs 2,500 people in state-of-the-art bakeries in Brisbane, Sydney and Adelaide, exports to more than 40 countries around the world and spends approximately \$500 million each year on raw ingredients, packaging and other services. Raw ingredients are sourced from farmers across Australia, including flour and grains from the Darling Downs and sugar from North Queensland.

Arnott's is more than just a major manufacturer. For me it is a local manufacturer and a much-celebrated business in my electorate of Nudgee. Arnott's Virginia bakery employs 600 staff and produces 40 per cent of Arnott's total Australian manufacturing output. It produces around 100 different products, from Cruskits to Monte Carlos and almost 1 trillion Tiny Teddy biscuits each year—numbers that my own two children have made a willing contribution to. Like many Nudgee locals, I have grown up with the Arnott's smell floating over our local suburb and now my electorate office. On a recent tour of the facility I was struck by the cutting-edge robotic technology employed there. Over the past few years Arnott's have invested more than \$100 million in a major automation project to ensure that the plant remains competitive. This technology is operating side by side with hundreds of dedicated employees in what could only be described as an impressive operation.

When Arnott's asked me recently if I would be willing to host an afternoon tea to mark their 150th anniversary my immediate answer was yes. It was a pleasure, along with the Premier, you, Mr Speaker, and many colleagues from across the chamber, to welcome Mr Umit Subasi, President Campbell Arnott's; Mr Craig Funnell, Vice President Supply Chain; Mr Anthony Jones, Group Plant Manager and manager of the Virginia bakery; and 24 hardworking Arnott's staff members to parliament this afternoon to celebrate their 150th anniversary. It was wonderful to have such a cross-section of the parliament in attendance and I thank the Premier and my fellow members for making this event such a memorable one for those wonderful long-serving employees of Arnott's who came along today.

Last Sunday Arnott's Virginia also opened their gates to the public for the first time and organised a family fun day in celebration of their 150th anniversary. It was a pleasure to be invited to attend and cut the cake along with federal member for Lilley, Wayne Swan. I understand from discussions with plant manager Tony Jones that approximately \$50,000 was raised for Camp Quality, supporting children with cancer. I would like to thank Arnott's for their kind welcome to my family on Sunday and to wish them and all their staff a very happy 150th anniversary.

Aspley Electorate

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (12.14 am): Last week we marked the 125th anniversary of Aspley State School. As one of the oldest schools on the north side, Aspley State School began with 40 students in 1890 and has since evolved into a progressive, independent public school with a cohort of over 700 students. Aspley State School recognises the importance of hard work and focuses on continually improving its practices to ensure the best results for its students. I am very proud to say that this is consistently reflected in strong NAPLAN results, with more than 94 per cent of its year 3 and 5 students at or above the national minimum standards.

While many Aspley State School celebrations have taken place throughout the year, last week culminated in the 125th birthday blast and reunion dinner. The blast was a party like no other, with entertainment, amusement rides and fireworks, plus tours of current classroom facilities. Hundreds of families, both past and present, enjoyed the opportunity to take part in this special milestone and, as a past parent myself, I thoroughly enjoyed being part of the festivities. The reunion dinner was also attended by over 200 people, with guests spanning the years from as far back as 1930. We heard some beautiful stories about the history of the school and it was a great opportunity to say thank you to those who, over many generations, have provided a quality education to Aspley State School students.

I would also like to remind the House that this week is Disability Action Week which aims to empower people with disability, to raise awareness of disability issues and to promote inclusion throughout the broader community. I would like to encourage members to engage with their community and attend local events taking place this week. On Friday last I attended the Aspley Special School art and wine show. The biennial event celebrates the artistic abilities of the students and also raises money to support important school projects. This year they are raising money to create a gym and therapy room. It was fantastic to see the unique pieces created by the students and I know a great night was had by all who attended, including myself.

Last month I also joined some of the best bowlers with disability in the state to launch the 2015 Multi Disability State Championships at the Aspley Memorial Bowls Club. It was great to see so many people come together on a bowls green and I would like to congratulate all the participants, as well as their supporters, for their achievements across the four days of competition. Aspley really is a great electorate. There is a wonderful fellowship amongst our local community groups, schools and businesses and I am truly pleased to be their local member of parliament.

Stretton Electorate

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (12.17 am): As I have said before in this House, we are very fortunate to have so many community minded people in my local area. This has been ably demonstrated in recent community events that have been organised in my local area. I want to acknowledge some of the efforts that community members in my electorate have made recently in organising some fantastic events that have been open to the whole community. In particular, I want to acknowledge the efforts of all those who assisted in the successful Warrigala at Warrigal Road State School, the Funfest at Runcorn State School and the Taiwan Festival which was held at Sunnybank Hills State School.

Warrigala, held at the Warrigal Road State School, had fantastic family fun and entertainment and also showcased the fantastic international food in our local area. As an Eight Mile Plains local myself, it was great to see so many people from our local community attend this fantastic event. I want to congratulate Jerry Zhao and all the members of the Warrigal Road State School P&C team for all their hard work in putting the event together. I look forward to attending future events.

Earlier this month I attended the Runcorn State School Funfest. Runcorn State School is located just down the road from my electorate office and it was an honour for me to officially open this event. I want to congratulate fete co-ordinator Liz Douglas, P&C president Samara Frye and P&C secretary Rebecca Simpson on a very successful event.

I also want to put on record my congratulations to all the organisers of the Taiwan Festival held recently at Sunnybank Hills State School. It was a fantastic cultural celebration involving great entertainment and, of course, some wonderful food. I want to congratulate Stanley Hsu, Paul Shih and Arthur Liu, all the organisers, sponsors and volunteers on a fantastic event. There were some challenges with the weather later in the day, but the organisers showed that good planning combined with some good humour could overcome even those challenges that Mother Nature may throw at such an event. Once again, I thank all those involved in organising these events. It takes many hours of work from volunteers to make such events a success. It was great to be a part of these events and the member for Sunnybank has told me the same. I look forward to working with our community leaders into the future.

Palm Beach/Currumbin Red Cross; Elanora Police Beat

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (12.19 am): Tonight I speak in admiration of the Palm Beach/Currumbin Red Cross branch, which has been honourably serving the southern Gold Coast since 1971, well and truly living up to its mission to 'care for the most vulnerable'. I attended the recent AGM and would like to record my appreciation to Vice-President Vola Bass, Treasurer Gail Wilkins, Secretary Stephanie Shaw and Hall Convener Allan Bass. It is appropriate for me to also acknowledge past president Margaret Thomas, who sadly passed away in April. Her dedicated service and commitment to the Red Cross and beyond will be remembered with genuine fondness.

Red Cross volunteers are a key part of the fabric of our community, providing a lifesaving blood service, beauty service, crafts, hall hire, Bunnings barbecue and regular fundraising events, just to name a few. Through these initiatives, they have raised an impressive \$25,500 over the past financial year. Through their mobility equipment hire service, for the 2014-15 year 1,403 clients were serviced with 1,982 pieces of equipment, which translates to about 40 pieces being hired out each week. The income raised from this invaluable service was close to \$40,000, taking the grand total raised by the Palm Beach/Currumbin branch to over \$65,000, which is a highly commendable figure indeed.

Recently, our local Elanora Police Beat celebrated 10 years of remarkable service within the Currumbin community. In August 2005, I stood with the then minister and the Police Commissioner as we opened the doors to the Elanora Police Beat for the first time. Dedicated police officers working there have embedded themselves in our local community, working side by side with young people and their families to make our neighbourhoods safer. Since the establishment of the Elanora Police Beat, I

can report some fantastic statistics: an 80 per cent reduction in wilful damage to schools, a 70 per cent reduction in burglaries and an 85 per cent reduction in youth violence. Whether it is playing a mentoring role in the successful youth project Booyah, supporting our Neighbourhood Watch groups, working with disengaged youth or implementing anti-hooning strategies, those officers and volunteers have made a huge difference to many lives. On behalf of the Currumbin community, I thank Senior Constable Kurt Foessel, Dave Sammonds, Laci and the team for their unwavering dedication to our community.

I take this opportunity to thank all of our police officers for their outstanding efforts to keep Currumbin safe. The LNP supported them with tough anti-criminal bikie laws, unlike Labor which wants to repeal them and water them down. Recently, I direct mailed the entire electorate on issues that concerned them. An overwhelming 92 per cent of respondents did not want to see Labor weaken the LNP's bikie laws. Let us hope that for once Labor will listen to the community it pretends to support.

TS Pioneer

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (12.22 am): I had the honour of attending the training ship *Pioneer* Australian Navy cadets' mess dinner, held recently in Mackay. The *TS Pioneer* Navy cadets has been named the most efficient unit in the North Queensland flotilla. The dinner was an opportunity for cadets to celebrate this great achievement. The awards recognise the hard work and dedication of all *TS Pioneer* cadets and staff. Units are judged on the general presentation of cadets and staff, training skills, cadet skills, the operation of the unit and community support. *TS Pioneer* Navy cadets were recognised as being outstanding in all of those areas. It is a wonderful achievement for the unit, which is comprised of 45 cadets aged between 13 and 19 years. While speaking to the cadets, it was wonderful to hear about their experiences and to see the pride that they felt from their accomplishments. Each and every one of those young people personifies the values championed by the Australian Navy cadets: honour, honesty, courage, integrity and loyalty.

The *TS Pioneer* has a long and proud history in Mackay. Thousands of young people have gained quality learning opportunities and valuable life skills through their experiences as cadets. The *TS Pioneer* began operation in 1958 as a unit of the Australian Sea Cadet Corps and received RNA recognition on 20 March 1959. The *TS Pioneer* became the perpetual holder of the AMP shield for the most efficient unit in Queensland back in the early days and soon gained a reputation for being a well-equipped and well-organised unit. The cadets' annual camps were held in the sand hills north of Mackay Harbour, with cadets sailing out to Slade Rook and beyond in the unit's 27-foot whaler.

The standard of training in these activities saw the unit become the most efficient unit in Queensland for 1986, 1987, 2001 and 2003. The unit won the national award in 2001. The *TS Pioneer* was awarded best in flotilla in 2011 and again is the proud holder of that outstanding title in 2015. The unit now has its sights set on competing in the national title later this year. Based on their past achievements and from what I could see during the time I spent with the cadets and staff, the *TS Pioneer* is certainly a strong and deserving contender for that title. Young people are the future of our communities, our state and our nation. I am incredibly proud to see—

(Time expired)

Everton Electorate

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (12.25 am): I rise to speak about an amazing number of events that took place in the electorate of Everton on the weekend. We had two school fetes, one at Albany Hills State School and one at McDowall State School. Fetes had not been held for a few years there. I thank the organisers of the Albany Hills school fete because they did not have a dunking machine, which I really appreciated, whereas the McDowall school had a pitch burst, which is a little different to a dunking machine. I do not know if members have seen a pitch burst. People throw at a target, which is a balloon above your head. If members go to my website they will see it operating in slow motion. It is fantastic vision. Those were two very good events.

On the weekend, I also attended two trophy days. The Albany Creek Brumbies is a very successful Rugby Union club. Last year a couple of its teams went through undefeated, which is a fantastic feat. The ACE Football Club, home of the Albany Creek Excaliburs, is a very big club. Probably it has the largest number of juniors on the north side of Brisbane. It was great to visit that club and also to hear later on that the club that they feed into, the Moreton Bay United Football Club, won the premiership. Congratulations to them on a fantastic result. On Sunday I went to the Mitchie Football Club to watch the under 18s play. They won the grand final in extra time. Congratulations to their coach, Skie Hanifin, who is a fantastic guy. The club is really happy about that particular result.

Sunday was National Bilby Day, which is celebrated right across the country. We celebrated it in the Bunyaville Environmental Education Centre, which is in the Bunyaville State Forest Park in the middle of my electorate. It was great to go there, because this is not about just saving bilbies. The bilby is symbolic of all the endangered species that we need to protect in this country. It was great to spend time with the guys who promote the bilby and every other endangered species.

On Sunday night, we had the 25-year celebration dinner for the Picabeen community centre, which is in the seat of the Ashgrove, but obviously it covers a whole lot of electorates in the north-west, including my electorate. It was great to go along to the Tavener cafe on Blackwood Street to celebrate the past 25 years and to hear a number of young students sing for free. It was an opportunity for them to have great exposure. It was a very busy weekend in the electorate of Everton.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (12.28 am): I rise to speak about the response of the Ipswich community to the *Not now, not ever* Bryce report into domestic and family violence. Given the horrific events of recent weeks, I am especially proud to serve in a government that does not sweep domestic and family violence under the carpet; a government that is not afraid to stand up for the women and children of Queensland who are suffering daily at the hands of perpetrators.

The sobering facts are these: last year 29 homicides relating to domestic and family violence occurred in Queensland. Already this year 62 women have died at the hands of a family member. The estimated annual cost of domestic and family violence to the Queensland economy is over \$3 billion. One in four Australian women has experienced emotional abuse at the hands of a current or former partner.

Ipswich, like every other community in the state, is not immune from this reality. That is why it gave me so much pleasure to open the Ipswich Domestic and Family Violence Collaborative Forum earlier this month. As the forum champion, it was heartening to see over 130 people come together at the Ipswich showgrounds. There were representatives from Ipswich's community organisations, Indigenous groups, police, local and state government. These are the decision-makers and the people of action in our community. It was fantastic to see them all working together to find a path to the forum's vision: a Queensland free from domestic and family violence. I thank them for giving their time to take part in this valuable conversation.

I also give special thanks to those who put so much time and effort into making the Ipswich Domestic and Family Violence Collaborative Forum a reality. In particular, the passion for this project and hard work of Brooke Winters and Anne-Maree Carey from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services in Ipswich was essential to making the forum a success.

This forum followed on from the Ipswich community leaders round table in June, led by the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I thank the minister for her initiative in promoting these round tables on domestic and family violence across Queensland. It was inspiring to hear the minister urge the Ipswich community to continue to bring the issue of domestic violence out from behind closed doors.

It was with great pride that I told the Ipswich Domestic and Family Violence Forum that the Palaszczuk government will implement all 140 recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report. This is a government that takes the challenge of domestic and family violence seriously and is working to address it.

Once again, I give my sincere thanks to everyone who took part in the Ipswich Domestic and Family Violence Collaborative Forum and the community leaders' round table that preceded it. The outcome of this good work from our government and from the decision-makers in the Ipswich community will be a strong local action plan for Ipswich. It is our responsibility to lead, but it is everybody's responsibility to prevent domestic and family violence and to build a community that does not support or condone violence. It is by working together that we can aim to achieve the vision of a Queensland free of domestic and family violence.

Tourism Noosa

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (12.31 am): I rise to congratulate the 584 business partners, the scores of volunteers, the board and the staff of Tourism Noosa. Tourism Noosa is an organisation which consistently achieves extraordinary outcomes and compares well with other similar bodies far larger and with far greater financial backing.

According to statistics from Tourism Research Australia, TRA, which is the only tourism data provider which all tourism bodies can access, at the end of the 2015 financial year Noosa's inbound visitor numbers increased by 18.8 per cent. The data showed a fourth consecutive quarter's growth in international visitor numbers, with Noosa now accounting for 80.6 per cent of all international spend on the Sunshine Coast. Noosa's domestic market also surged, according to the latest research, with interstate travel increasing by 22 per cent. The results from Melbourne were particularly strong with numbers up 51.3 per cent.

These results are achieved by creative thinking and hard work, which included a significant winter campaign in the high-yielding interstate markets of Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra. As well, Tourism Noosa developed and implemented the Welcome to Noosa project—an online education program aimed at revitalising and re-energising the destination Noosa experience. This program offers training courses to anyone in the hospitality area. It provides operators and employees with an understanding of Noosa and results in friendly, well-educated staff who value-add to a visitor's experience.

Tourism Noosa has already implemented two more modules into the Welcome to Noosa program, with the recent addition of the Eco Check module and the launch next week of Noosa's youth ambassadors, an initiative which I am very proud to sponsor. The Eco Check program assists business in adopting environmentally friendly practices which support Noosa's goal in being a sustainable and healthy environment. Our youth ambassadors are students from Sunshine Beach State High School who have completed the Welcome to Noosa education program. During the school holidays they will be roving spokespeople, welcoming tourists, answering visitors' questions and being great young representatives of our vibrant community.

The Welcome to Noosa program has been so successful that it has now been recognised as a key aid in achieving growth through tourism and, at the request of the department of tourism, Tourism Noosa has developed a 'Welcome to' program now planned for use across the state of Queensland. Mr Speaker, for you, who I know lives very close, and all of my other colleagues in the House, I will table the organisation's activity report which illustrates the professionalism of Tourism Noosa. I say to all of my parliamentary colleagues, that they are more than welcome to visit Noosa anytime.

Tabled paper: Report, undated, titled 'Tourism Noosa Activity Report 2014-15' [\[1071\]](#).

PRIVILEGE

Withdrawal of Comments and Apology

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (12.35 am): Mr Speaker, earlier this evening the Deputy Speaker made a ruling asking me to withdraw a comment. I have now actually heard a recording of that and acknowledge that I was wrong on two accounts. I apologise for defying the Deputy Speaker's ruling to withdraw. I also apologise for making the comment that was made. It was totally unintentional and I did not realise I had made it.

Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee Vacated

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Thank you member for Everton for your prompt action. Accordingly, I will vacate the referral to the Ethics Committee.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12.35 am (Wednesday).

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, Seoney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams