



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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 Phone (07) 3553 6344 Fax (07) 3553 6369

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 15 October 2015

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THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2015



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

PRIVILEGE

Correction of *Record of Proceedings*



Mr WALKER (Mansfield—LNP) (9.30 am): I wish to inform the House that in my introductory speech for the Constitution (Fixed Term Parliament) Amendment Bill I mentioned the year 2008 as the year that four-year fixed terms came into effect for local governments. The correct year is 2000 and I wish to correct the record.

PETITIONS

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

Melton Road, Sound Barrier

Ms Linard, from 70 petitioners, requesting the House to extend the sound barrier on Melton Road, Nundah due to excessive train noise and increased freight train movement [[1399](#)].

Mount Coolum National Park, Facilities

Ms Simpson, from 616 petitioners, requesting the House to provide public toilet facilities and better parking solutions for visitors to Mt Coolum National Park [[1400](#)].

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

Tingalpa Creek, Cleanup

Mr Brown, from 203 petitioners, requesting the House to remove all dumped and abandoned vessels from Tingalpa Creek [[1401](#)].

Airports, Passenger Transport

Ms Donaldson, from 26 petitioners, requesting the House to clarify in legislation that persons have freedom of choice between the use of shuttle services, taxis or other public transport at airports; persons who book a shuttle service in advance have priority over walk-ins; and airport management provide an opportunity for persons to book spaces on shuttle buses at a counter or other designated space as designated by management [[1402](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

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

[1403](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade (Ms Trad) to an e-petition (2411-15) sponsored by Mr Stevens, from 1,235 petitioners, requesting the House to call upon the Federal Government to reject the proposal by Gold Coast Airport Pty Ltd to install an Instrument Landing System (ILS) at Gold Coast Airport which will create a new flight path over residential homes on the Gold Coast

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

[1404](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Mr Dick) to a paper petition (2448-15) presented by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), from 206 petitioners, requesting the House to continue to give every child the opportunity for child care, kindergarten, school or other education or care, regardless of vaccination status

Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey)—

[1405](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to a paper petition (2449-15) presented by Mr Dickson, and an e-petition (2428-15) sponsored by Mr Dickson, from 369 and 28 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to ensure that no right turn into the proposed development is permitted from Burnett Street due to safety concerns and the adverse impact on school traffic, residences, businesses and the local shopping precinct

Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey)—

[1406](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to an e-petition (2375-15) sponsored by 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

MEMBER'S PAPER

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

Member for Maroochydore (Ms Simpson)—

[1407](#) Non-conforming petition regarding the provision of public toilet facilities and better parking solutions for visitors to Mt Coolool National Park

OTHER PAPER

The following paper pursuant to section 3.3.4 of the Members' Remuneration Handbook was tabled by the Clerk—

[1408](#) Travel Benefits Afforded to Former Members of the Legislative Assembly—Annual Report 2014-15

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.32 am): This evening, Brisbane will come together, stand united as a community and say enough is enough. We will gather at Queens Park in the city at 5.30 for the Queensland Says 'Enough' rally which will signal to every perpetrator, every victim and every Queenslander that the domestic violence that is gripping our state and gripping our country must come to an end. My government and governments throughout the country have taken swift action against domestic and family violence—particularly in Queensland where the issue has become shockingly confronting and public in recent months.

But this is an issue and a crisis that transcends politics. I think the true demonstration of that is that this parliament will rise early this evening to give all members the opportunity to attend the Queensland Says 'Enough' rally. That will allow not only members from the Brisbane and south-east region to attend but members from across the state and across the political spectrum. It will allow us to stand as one to say that domestic violence will no longer be tolerated in our society and, critically, it will no longer be swept aside. The sad, confronting, horrific fact is that each week in Australia a woman is killed at the hands of her husband or partner or former husband or partner. The horrific events of recent months in this state have appalled and galvanised us all, but those murders have also reminded us that, although they occurred in public places, countless others take place behind closed doors—in the supposed safety of home.

My government has acted swiftly and, I should stress, with bipartisan support. We have introduced operational and legislative changes, including changes to the way police deal with domestic violence complaints, increased penalties for breaches of domestic violence and special witness status in courts to protect victims from intimidation. We have also allocated an additional \$1.2 million to the extraordinary team at DVConnect who field an extraordinary volume of calls each day. There will be two new crisis shelters—one in Townsville and one in Brisbane—and we are trialling a specialist domestic violence court on the Gold Coast. But domestic violence is an issue we must face at the grassroots. We must address the fact that something very fundamental in our society is broken. We must confront the fact that the very fundamental principles of respectful relationships have broken down. We have to go back to basics and address the sad fact that attitudes are wrong, and we do this by starting with our children, by teaching them to respect one another and by setting examples.

We must never forget those who have lost their lives in this epidemic and at the same time we must look after our future generations. Thankfully, there is a mood for change. There is a desire to stand united and there is a desire to truly bring domestic violence out of the shadows and face the fact that our society simply must change. I truly encourage every member of this place to take part in this peaceful gathering this evening to remember victims of domestic violence. I hope that by showing strength in numbers we can all lead by example, we can help change attitudes and we can honestly face up to this—because enough is enough.

Trade Mission, China and Japan

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.35 am): When it comes to tourism and when it comes to export markets, Queensland must continue to build on its critical key partnerships with both China and Japan. Never has that been more apparent to me than during my

seven-day trade mission to those two countries in late September and earlier this month. This trade mission was critical to cement the vital relationships between our top two trading countries. I was able to meet with critical players at the highest levels in both government and the private sectors and I will touch on those important meetings in a moment.

Firstly, I want to touch on the fact that there is much more Queensland can be doing to build on our opportunities with both China and Japan, particularly in the tourism space, and those are opportunities my government will grasp. The simple fact is that we need to immediately start changing the very way we do business with China and Japan in relation to tourism. One of our biggest competitors for Chinese and Japanese tourist dollars is New Zealand, but I am sure all members would be surprised to learn that New Zealand is struggling with the numbers of visitors from both countries flooding its shores. In fact, I am advised that New Zealand is at the point of facing a lack of hire cars and hotel rooms to go around, and that is because they have centred their tourism campaigns around a total New Zealand experience, importantly emphasising wining and dining. Queensland needs to seize this opportunity, and we will immediately with my tourism minister, Kate Jones, undertaking a mission to China in a matter of weeks.

My government will be listening to what these important tourists want, and what they tell me is that they want a Queensland food and adventure experience. The Japanese and Chinese still want to travel to the Gold Coast, Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef but they want their experience to include the best we have to offer in food and wine. They want to do simple things, the things we take for granted, such as trying our seafood at a local seafood restaurant or attending a barbeque. We will be focusing on that relatively simple tourism experience in our future campaigns into China and Japan.

During my trade mission, I held high-level government and private sector meetings to consolidate and build upon Queensland's established long-term relationships. In China I met with Mr Wang, the CEO of the Wanda Group, which is currently developing the Jewel resort at Broadbeach. Wanda is extremely interested in developing major theme park resorts in Queensland and we will help them every inch of the way. Apparently, at the moment the competition is on between Queensland and New South Wales, and there is no way we are going to let Mike Baird win this one. The Chinese Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Wan Gang, whom I met in Beijing, shares my government's passion for new and emerging industries and technologies—key to my Advance Queensland initiative. Japanese retail giant, Uniqlo, will open two stores in Brisbane by the end of this year, and they indicated to me in Tokyo that they are actively looking at further locations in Queensland regional cities.

I was extremely fortunate to meet in Japan with the Acting Prime Minister, Mr Suga, to whom I spoke at length about strengthening our state's relationship with his country. Both the Chinese and the Japanese are determined to increase their ties with our state, particularly around food exports, predominately beef but also our fresh produce, and tourism. To capitalise on my visit, my government will develop an Asia tourism strategy focusing not only on China and Japan but also on Malaysia, Korea and India about how industry and government can work together to capture each of these opportunities.

Bundaberg Community Cabinet

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.39 am): I made a commitment to the people of Queensland that I would be a Premier for all of Queensland. That is why I am looking forward to visiting the Bundaberg region this weekend, along with my cabinet colleagues, for the upcoming Bundaberg community cabinet. The member for Bundaberg, Leanne Donaldson, and the member for Maryborough, Bruce Saunders, have both been very vocal in ensuring I make it to their patch and listen to locals. I am looking forward to the community forum on Sunday where I will be happy to take questions, unlike the former premier, and listen to what locals have to say as well as get out and about in the local area before a special cabinet meeting in Bundaberg on Monday. Bundaberg was the first regional centre I visited after being sworn in as Premier and I, along with all of my cabinet colleagues, look forward to returning this weekend.

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.40 am): Thanks to the foresight of Labor in supporting the establishment of an LNG industry, the Queensland economy is improving under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Our positive economic policy settings are laying the foundations to return to the kind of growth that we have traditionally seen characterising state Labor governments. The job cuts, service cuts and stymied growth from the bad policies that were the hallmark of Campbell Newman's LNP government have been consigned to history.

I am pleased to advise the House that, according to the latest state accounts that will be released later today, in the June quarter 2015 Queensland recorded its strongest economic growth in more than three years. In real trend terms, Queensland's gross state product rose by 1.3 per cent in the June quarter 2015, to be 2.2 per cent higher over the year. This was the strongest quarterly trend growth since the December quarter 2011. It was also higher than the rest of Australia, which was up 0.3 per cent over the same period.

The Queensland state accounts provide a complete assessment of Queensland's economic activity each quarter, including the all-important trade sector. State final demand, a good measure of our domestic economy, was minus 2.6 per cent in 2014-15. This contrasts with the last year of the former Labor government when annual growth in the state final demand peaked at 9.2 per cent in the December quarter 2011. In the June quarter, state final demand weakened 0.6 per cent, which reflects the transition the Queensland economy is undergoing following the decline in business investment for LNG construction. Of course, there are regular revisions of this data, but clearly we saw growth slowed and it remained subdued throughout last year under the LNP. I am the first to recognise that much of the growth we are seeing right now is export-led. However, there remains much work ahead to grow the domestic economy and repair the damage done by the previous government.

What these numbers show is that the \$60 billion investment in LNG, the state's newest major industry, is bearing fruit. While the wind-down in LNG construction saw declining business investment drive lower overall domestic activity, this was more than offset by a boost from the trade sector. The LNG sector is a brand-new export industry that was conceived and developed under Labor governments. Recent trade data shows the value of the state's LNG exports has totalled more than \$1.3 billion so far in 2015. LNG exports are expected to surpass \$17 billion by 2018-19, to become Queensland's second largest resource export after coal. However, the Queensland economy is more diverse than just the resources sector. In fact, no one, single industry makes up more than 11 per cent of our GSP. While the resources sector is important to us, it contributes around 10 per cent of Queensland's overall economic output. To put this in context, our construction industry is about the same size as our mining industry in terms of economic output.

In more good signs for Queensland, the nominal value of Queensland's overseas merchandise exports rose 15.7 per cent over the year to the August quarter 2015, to total \$47.9 billion in annual terms. Growth over the year was driven by the ramp-up of LNG exports, which commenced in January 2015, while exports of coal, meat, grain and grain sorghum also contributed to growth. Recent ABS data shows Queensland housing investor finance commitments remain at near record levels. Another encouraging sign is that Queensland's business confidence is now the highest of all mainland states for the third month in a row, according to the NAB Business Survey for September. More importantly, Queensland has added 28,500 extra jobs since the Palaszczuk government was elected in January.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering for Queenslanders: there is a \$10.1 billion capital works spend supporting 27,500 direct jobs this financial year; a \$1.6 billion Working Queensland jobs plan; \$180 million for Advance Queensland strategy; the strongest forecast growth of any state in Australia at 4.5 per cent in 2015-16 and 2016-17; and, of course, nation-leading budget surpluses of \$6.9 billion over the next four years. What these figures show is that the fundamentals of the Queensland economy are strong and there is cause for optimism from business and consumers that the economy is well positioned to deliver more jobs and more growth in the future.

Queensland Mental Health Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention Action Plan

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.44 am): Last week was Queensland Mental Health Week, an opportunity for Queenslanders to reflect on mental health and take some positive steps to highlight the importance of mental wellbeing. On behalf of the Palaszczuk government, I unveiled a plan to improve the mental health and wellbeing of Queenslanders by taking early action.

The Queensland Mental Health Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention Action Plan is another milestone following the introduction by the government of the Mental Health Bill 2015 and the release of the Suicide Prevention Action Plan last month. Mental health and wellbeing is important because it enables us to cope with the everyday stress of life and to make a productive contribution to our community. By acting early and promoting good mental health and wellbeing, we can reduce the number of people who experience mental illness in Queensland.

The plan was developed by the Queensland Mental Health Commission and brings together over 90 different actions from across the Queensland government. For example, the Department of Education and Training will create an online resource to help teachers support students with mental

health difficulties. Queensland Treasury and the Office of Fair and Safe Work will develop a new mental health at work action plan to help Queensland businesses protect staff from psychological hazards like bullying. I was very pleased to see senior leaders from across the state government attend the launch of the plan, reflecting the importance placed on this new plan. Leaders who attended included the Commissioner of Police, Ian Stewart; the Acting Commissioner of the Queensland Ambulance Service, David Eels; Steve Armitage, the Principal Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission; and Helen Gluer, the CEO of Queensland Rail. This plan is the next step in promoting mental health and wellbeing and reducing the incidence and impact of mental illness.

The plan also includes a grants program from the Mental Health Commission. This year the program will see 14 organisations awarded grants of up to \$50,000. These community organisations help improve mental health through social inclusion and community participation. The government is proud to work with them to help deliver better mental health for all Queenslanders.

Police Service, Annual Statistical Review

 **Hon. JR MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.46 am): My top priority as police minister is to ensure the safety and security of all Queenslanders. It is also my priority to ensure that Queenslanders get the full picture of what is going on in their communities and how their local police are working hard to keep them safe. That is why one of my first decisions as minister was to reinstate the Queensland Police Service Annual Statistical Review. At 2 pm the Police Commissioner will officially hand the review to me, the first time that this has been done in three years. Unlike the LNP government, our government is open and transparent.

I am pleased to advise the House that the annual statistical review will show that crime has continued its decade-long downward trend in Queensland with a drop of 12 per cent in the overall crime rate over the last 10 years. Over the last financial year we have seen crime in Queensland remain relatively stable with a slight increase overall of just 0.4 per cent. Fortunately, there has been a 2.3 per cent decrease in the rate of total offences against the person, a five per cent decrease in the rate of total offences against property and a seven per cent increase in the other offences category. These are offences that are generally detected by police rather than reported by the public, demonstrating a proactive commitment to policing within the community. Importantly, we have also seen a drop in the rate of serious offences such as armed robberies, unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences and unlawful entry offences such as break-ins and assaults, with a drop of 22, 12.4, 15.9 per cent and 2.9 per cent respectively.

We have also seen overall reductions in the crime rate across the Capricornia district, down 6.2 per cent; the South Brisbane district, down 3.3 per cent; my home city of Ipswich, down 4.9 per cent; and Logan, down four per cent. This reflects the hard work and dedication of our women and men in blue, who put their lives on the line each and every day to protect the people of Queensland. While the number of drug-related offences has increased by 22 per cent over the past financial year, we must never lose sight of the fact that this also means that our police are nabbing more drug pedlars and keeping more dangerous drugs off the street.

Over the last financial year we have also seen a 13 per cent increase in the breach of domestic violence protection orders. This should not surprise Queenslanders, as domestic and family violence is something that our government and the Queensland Police Service are working hard to stamp out. The Palaszczuk Labor government will always support our police to continue this important work. That is why we have committed \$20 million over the next four years to tackle alcohol fuelled violence, organised crime and particularly the drug ice. It is also why we are delivering over 1,000 new and replacement police vehicles across the state. The Palaszczuk Labor government is strongly committed to keeping the people of Queensland safe.

Judicial Appointments

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.50 am): Mr Speaker, confidence in the expertise, independence and impartiality of the judiciary is essential to the proper functioning of government in Queensland. This government believes that the public will only fully share that confidence if the process for the selection and appointment of members of the judiciary can be seen to be transparent and consultative. Accordingly, this government has committed to review the current processes for the appointment of judicial officers in Queensland and to consult extensively with stakeholders in the development of a protocol as to how judicial appointments ought to be made.

I am pleased to announce that a discussion paper will be released for public consultation today to stimulate discussion and debate around the regime governing the appointment of judicial officers in Queensland. This discussion paper will be published on the government's Get Involved website at www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au. The paper outlines the current regime for judicial appointments to the Supreme, District and Magistrates courts in Queensland and sets out the legislation, policies and procedures for judicial appointments in other Australian jurisdictions as well as in England and Wales.

The discussion paper asks whether there should be a formal and publicly available procedure for judicial appointments in Queensland, the form such a policy or procedure should take and the elements of that procedure. The discussion paper also seeks the views of the public and stakeholders on the skills, attributes and qualities, both personal and professional, required of a judicial officer, strategies that could be adopted for identifying suitable candidates for appointment and the best process for assessing judicial candidates.

In making this announcement I would like to acknowledge and thank the people who I consulted with in relation to a number of recent appointments. Their assistance and advice was greatly appreciated and formed a central part of the process of making those appointments. I also thank them for the genuine spirit with which the consultation occurred and the mutual respect of confidentiality in that process. In particular I note that in consulting as to the appointment of the new Chief Justice, the Hon. Catherine Holmes, I consulted broadly across the profession. Those opposite were involved in that consultation, and I thank them for their input.

This review is an important step towards a more transparent and accountable judicial appointments framework for this state, and I encourage interested members of the public and stakeholders, including the opposition, to become involved and to provide feedback on the issues and questions raised.

Sexual Violence Awareness Month



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.53 am): As I have said many times in this place, the Palaszczuk government is taking strong and urgent action to tackle domestic and family violence, and I am really pleased that the House will adjourn this afternoon so that members can attend the public rally to say 'enough is enough' and to remember those whose lives have been lost through domestic and family violence.

October is Sexual Violence Awareness Month, and I take this opportunity to thank members for wearing the teal ribbon to show their support. Sexual Violence Awareness Month is a time when we encourage Queenslanders to show their support for ending sexual violence and violence against women and inform those affected about the help that is available. It is an opportunity to let those affected by sexual violence and abuse know that they are not alone and they have the community's support.

This is an issue right across our state and impacts many women, including rural and regional women, which is particularly worth mentioning today as it is the UN's International Day of Rural Women. I take this opportunity to thank the Centre Against Sexual Violence and the Murrigunyah Family Cultural Healing Centre in Logan for holding a candle-lighting ceremony to start the month of October and remember those women we have tragically lost to sexual violence. It was an extremely moving remembrance ceremony. In Australia one in three women have experienced violence or sexual violence, almost one in five women report that their most recent incident of sexual violence was perpetrated by a current partner, and in almost one in three cases it was a former partner. The Palaszczuk government is investing \$6.2 million in sexual assault services and \$4.4 million in women's health services.

Before entering parliament I spent a lot of time at the Centre Against Sexual Violence on the organisation's board of management, and I saw firsthand how devastating sexual assault and violence are and that women's health, sexual violence and domestic and family violence are all intrinsically linked. That is why I was so pleased last week to speak at the launch of the Ending Violence Against Women Queensland peak body, made up of more than 20 different community organisations to provide a united and representative voice across sexual violence, women's health and domestic and family violence services. It is the kind of action we need to drive change and really make an impact. We need to recognise that domestic and family violence and sexual violence go hand in hand. Domestic violence, sexual assault and violence against women broadly are all gendered forms of violence and are driven by the same cultural attitudes and disrespect towards women. The Palaszczuk government understands the importance of working together with the community to develop coordinated strategies to end violence against women.

Advance Queensland

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.56 am): Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Labor government recognises the challenges and opportunities that are facing our state in the future. That is why we are committed to reinvigorating our state's science and research sectors and building a strong innovation system to support a diverse knowledge-based economy in Queensland. This is what our \$180 million Advance Queensland program is all about: jobs now and jobs for the future.

An important part of this approach is the new Advance Queensland Expert Panel. I can announce to the House today that we have established the expert panel to guide our investment and ensure we have the most effective policies and programs in place. We have brought together an outstanding group of 16 successful leaders from across the business, research and education sectors. Among our panel members are people such as Professor Ian Frazer, who developed the Gardasil vaccine; Professor Frank Gannon from QIMR Berghofer; Wayne Gerard, CEO of Red Eye; Winna Brown from Ernst and Young; and Elaine Stead of Blue Sky Venture Capital. What we have here is the best possible mix of people to work with government to shape future innovation in Queensland.

Moving forward the expert panel will provide input and oversight for our state's science and innovation strategy and policy and Queensland's science and research priorities. They will also provide high level advice and direction for all future Advance Queensland initiatives. The experience and expertise of this panel will ensure that programs and funding provided through Advance Queensland are being effectively invested and targeted. Perhaps most importantly, the panel members are advocates and examples of Queensland's innovation strengths on the national and international stage.

We want to give Queenslanders the best chance to succeed in a highly competitive and dynamic global economy. With the new Advance Queensland Expert Panel in place we will continue to drive innovation-led growth across our state and create high-value jobs for Queenslanders. I table the full list of expert panel members.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Advance Queensland—Expert Panel [\[1409\]](#).

North Queensland, Disability Housing

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (9.59 am): I am pleased to advise the House that organisations across the north and far north can apply for a share of \$1.6 million to provide better housing for people with disability with high and complex support needs. The Palaszczuk government has allocated \$800,000 for Cairns and \$800,000 for Townsville organisations to construct or purchase and modify housing for disability clients and their carers. We know how important it is for people with disability to have the same opportunities as everyone else, to live as part of their community. That is why I am absolutely delighted that we have allocated \$1.6 million to see that dream become a reality.

Organisations have until the end of November to submit proposals for innovative and sustainable housing solutions, which can also be funded through other sources. Organisations can apply for the funding by visiting my department's website. Priority will be given to applications that provide specialised housing required for clients with high and complex disability support needs.

We know that we need more long-term suitable housing for people with disability, and that is why we are taking action to address this issue. We allocated close to \$25 million in this year's state budget for a range of initiatives that will provide accommodation options for people with disability across Queensland. There is certainly more to be done to ensure people with disability can remain in their own communities, particularly as we transition to the NDIS.

By the end of the NDIS rollout in 2019 around 97,000 Queenslanders with disability will be covered by the scheme. The NDIS is due to roll out in Queensland from next year, and this will greatly increase the demand for appropriate disability housing, which is already under pressure. We need some answers from the federal government about how they will use available Commonwealth funding to provide suitable housing in Queensland to meet the growing demand. Malcolm Turnbull has shown that he is serious about the NDIS by signing off its early launch in North Queensland. I call on him to now look at the housing shortage as a matter of priority, and I look forward to getting more information from the federal government about their funding contribution.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games; Livingstone, Mr D

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (10.02 am): There are now 902 days until the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. We are continuing to see hundreds of local jobs being generated from venue construction. The Coomera indoor sports and leisure centre is supporting 400 full-time jobs during construction.

Mr Crandon: Hear, hear.

Ms JONES: I take the interjection from the very excited member for Coomera.

Ms Trad: He was not this excited last term.

Ms JONES: No. Sixty per cent of contractors working on the \$101 million sports centre are Gold Coast based, with most other contracts awarded to Queensland businesses.

I am also pleased to inform the House that Griffith University has signed on to become a tier 1 sponsorship partner for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. As the official university partner of the games, Griffith University will provide up to 250 Queensland students to work as interns on the Commonwealth Games. The Griffith University student interns will get a career-defining experience in every aspect of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, the largest event to be held in Australia this decade. I know that this is a very exciting partnership that will deliver long-term benefit for the broader Gold Coast community. This is the second tier 1 sponsorship for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games after last month's signing of Echo Entertainment.

While I am on my feet, I inform the House that the former member for Ipswich West, Don Livingstone, who served in this House for more than 14 years, passed away at approximately 3 am today peacefully in his sleep after a long battle with cancer. I am sure I speak on behalf of all members when I pass on my deepest sympathies to his wife, Cheryl, and family at this difficult time.

Honourable members: Hear, hear.

Mining Industry

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (10.04 am): The Palaszczuk government knows that it is the private sector that creates jobs, and that is why we are creating an environment for business and industry to thrive. That is why last month I released a policy paper outlining proposals for modernising Queensland's complex system of resource permits, authorities, leases and licences. The paper examines new exploration and tenure systems that will cut red tape for miners, encourage innovation and protect landholders. Consistent with the Palaszczuk government's vision for mining in Queensland, the paper also proposes to strengthen environmental outcomes by recognising within the new tenure framework decommissioning and rehabilitation activities once production has ended.

The current mining, petroleum and gas exploration and production tenures are regulated by five separate acts. This makes our tenure systems complex, duplicative, overly prescriptive, administratively inefficient and generally unresponsive to the needs of a globalised resources sector. The proposed innovative resources tenure framework will change that. It is the latest stage of a reform project that started under Labor six years ago.

This reform is needed now more than ever. The resources industry is currently in a cyclical downturn, with communities and families dependent on mining across this state struggling. The Palaszczuk government is moving to ensure real reform is delivered to assist industry during this downturn and to maximise benefits to Queenslanders when the resource sector again expands, as it will. Key changes proposed include: five new uniform authorities—for information, exploration, development, production and infrastructure; all exploration authorities to have set terms—no renewals; incentives for early and strong exploration performance, balanced with handing back land halfway through the term of the authority; and more flexibility to give explorers incentive, for example, to amend their work on the ground according to the result they are achieving. For landholders it is positive. It will make doing business with miners and explorers easier.

These proposed changes will make exploration tenures uniform, whether they are for coal, minerals or petroleum. This modernised, flexible framework will be an essential part of maintaining Queensland's competitiveness in a rapidly changing global resources market. I encourage landholders, industry and community members, if they have not already, to read the policy paper available at

dnrm.qld.gov.au, speak to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and make a submission before the closing date, which is this Friday, 16 October. In the second half of 2016 I intend to introduce into this parliament legislation to put this work into effect, that recognises and strengthens industry's and community's common interest and enhances the longstanding contribution the resources sector makes to the economy of Queensland.

Irrigation, Local Management Arrangements Project

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (10.07 am): I am pleased to advise the House of the next stage of the Local Management Arrangements Project. Earlier this year I visited Eton, with the member for Mirani, and St George to meet with local irrigators to listen to their case for local management arrangements. I am pleased to report that irrigators in Eton, Emerald, St George and Theodore are now closer to managing their own irrigation schemes following the Palaszczuk government's decision to transfer ownership of the schemes into the hands of local irrigators. Irrigators accessing these schemes have demonstrated their strong commitment to the local management concept. These changes will empower local communities and encourage the growth of Queensland's agricultural economy, productivity and regional jobs.

Local management is designed to use local knowledge and know-how to reduce costs, increase productivity of the irrigation scheme and add value to our agricultural sector. Special structures will be established for these four schemes to commence the transition to local management, which is likely to occur over the next 12 to 18 months, subject to agreement between irrigators and the government.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: The opposition seems to be having problems with this decision. How embarrassing. Irrigators would be embarrassed.

The four companies will be led by boards of directors made up of local irrigators and appropriately skilled independent directors. This announcement has been welcomed by a wide range of stakeholders. Cotton Australia said that it is 'a significant step forward for growers in these districts' and thanked the government for 'backing the process to the next stage'. The Queensland Farmers' Federation commended the government 'for taking this step in supporting locally managed viable agriculture into the future'. The local irrigators interim board in Theodore said—

What this means for irrigators and the Theodore community cannot be underestimated. We are looking forward to working with the Queensland government and SunWater to ensure a smooth transition to local management.

Work will continue on the potential transition to local management for the Burdekin-Haughton, Bundaberg, Lower Mary and Mareeba-Dimbulah channel irrigation schemes. Interim boards will be established to conduct further investigations into a potential move to local management for these schemes and are expected to report back to the government within 12 months.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: One would think that members of the opposition would support this, but judging from their interjections I am doubtful about that. Local irrigators will be given the opportunity to respond to expressions of interest to become directors and members of the interim boards and special purpose vehicles in the near future. I am happy to acknowledge that this was a process that began back in 2012 and I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is working closely with these irrigation communities to deliver better results.

Get in the Game

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing) (10.10 am): Following this government's commitment of \$80 million to invest in grassroots sport and recreation in our communities, new rounds of Get Playing Places and Spaces, Get Going Clubs, Get Playing Plus and Get Started vouchers—there are quite a few, aren't there—have opened as part of the Get in the Game suite of programs. The revamped and enhanced programs will provide assistance to more sport and recreation clubs and increase funding to assist more children and young people to join these clubs. Round 6 of Get Started vouchers opened on 15 July 2015 and had to close early, with the vouchers being fully allocated by 10 August 2015—a record time for a summer sports round. Over 11,500 vouchers were issued to Queensland families to assist with membership and participation fees for sport and recreation activities.

Get Going Clubs and Get Playing Places and Spaces opened for applications on 3 August and closed on 2 October 2015. Under Get Going Clubs eligible organisations can apply for funding of up to \$7,500 and under Get Playing Places and Spaces eligible organisations can apply for up to \$100,000. Over 650 applications were received for Get Going Clubs while Get Playing Places and Spaces applications numbered 300. On 1 September 2015 registration of interest opened for round 2 of Get Playing Plus. With a budget of \$22.6 million, Get Playing Plus provides funding of between \$300,000 and \$1.5 million to organisations looking to develop places and spaces that support participation in sport and recreation activities. Registrations of interest close today. So far we have received over 70 applications requesting something in the order of \$56 million in grants that would result in \$171 million worth of investments to grassroots sports. This will be a challenge, with \$22 million allocated for this round. This affirms and reaffirms this government's focus on supporting community-led programs and strong focus on grassroots participation in sport rather than supporting the big end of town. We plan to continue strengthening the connection between government funded sport and recreation activities to participation and community based outcomes. I encourage members of parliament to promote the sport and recreation grants programs to encourage increased participation and connections through sport and recreation in our communities—another great Labor initiative!

SUGAR INDUSTRY (REAL CHOICE IN MARKETING) AMENDMENT BILL

Allocation of Time Limit Order

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

That further to the resolution of the House on 17 September 2015 the second reading debate on the Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Bill 2015 now commence during the sitting week starting 1 December 2015, with all remaining stages to be completed by 5 pm on 3 December 2015.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (10.13 am), by leave: I table Ethics Committee report No. 156, titled *2014-15 annual report*. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 156—2014-15 Annual Report [[1410](#)].

NOTICE OF MOTION

International Day of Rural Women

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (10.14 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House recognises today as International Day of the Rural Woman and recognises the invaluable role the rural women of Queensland are playing socially and economically during this time of extreme drought.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Electricity Prices

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.14 am): Another day, another revelation about Labor's diabolical plans for this state's electricity companies—diabolical plans that will lead to higher power prices for Queensland households and businesses. Another day, another criticism, so let us just recap on where we are to date. First there was the ACCC. Rod Sims, Chairman of the ACCC, noted that Queensland already had the most concentrated energy market in mainland Australia and foreshadowed that a further reduction in competition could result in higher electricity prices in Queensland. Then there was the QCA. Consultants for the Queensland Competition Authority echoed a similar warning earlier this year, saying if the two generation portfolios were to be merged in a way that increased market concentration then wholesale prices would likely increase. And today we have the Queensland

Productivity Commission saying that merging state owned generators CS Energy and Stanwell, which Labor promised at the last election, risked making it worse by reducing competition. The warning is contained in a 93-page issues paper released yesterday as part of QPC's inquiry into power prices.

On the back of loading up our electricity companies with debt; on the back of ripping nearly \$3½ billion worth of dividends out of our electricity companies; on the back of delaying deregulation in the electricity market in South-East Queensland—a move that could have seen some \$600 to \$900 a year taken off the average bill; on the back of another new renewable energy scheme that will cost Queenslanders while we are still paying off their last debacle to the tune of \$3½ billion; on the back of legally challenging the Australian Energy Regulator, demanding more money for Ergon, for Energex and for Powerlink so that Queenslanders end up paying more we now hear that the Minister for Energy is rigorously forging ahead on merging our electricity generators. Is there no part of the electricity sector that Labor cannot botch up? Colleagues and Queenslanders, there are two things that you can be sure of: firstly, Labor does not know what it is doing when it comes to electricity in this state and, secondly, Queenslanders will pay as a result through higher power prices. Today's editorial in the *Courier-Mail* summed it up perfectly—

In the Government's priorities, it seems the long-suffering electricity consumer comes a distant second to filling the state's coffers.

Electricity Prices

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (10.17 am): Like moths to the flame, the LNP is returning to the issue of electricity prices. Its record over the last three years has been appalling, and to listen to the member for Glass House come in here with these distortions is a disgrace. We know what the LNP's record is on electricity. It tried to wipe out concessions to vulnerable Queenslanders in the budget only last year. That is its record. Its record is secret expenditure of \$100 million on Strong Choices and contestability and privatisation measures. When it said that there would be no privatisation without a mandate, it did that secretly instead of giving relief to electricity consumers. What the member for Glass House has referred to is nearly 12 months old. The Labor policy acknowledged that we would implement a merger subject to consultation with the ACCC on competition issues. If the member for Glass House wants to keep up with the process, that would be very good for all of us. This is not news. This is old news. I might add that we believe in keeping our energy companies in public hands, which is exactly what we are doing, and we will continue to do that. Why do we do that? So that their profits benefit the public and not private interests. What are electricity prices doing this financial year? On average, they are dropping by half a per cent. I will put that reduction against 43 per cent increases anytime.

Additionally, in the budget on 14 July we regeared the debt levels on the energy companies. Why? Because the Newman government had undergeared the energy companies to sell them off after the election as part of Strong Choices. It had undergeared them and loaded the debt onto the government ledgers in its ideological pursuit of asset sales and privatisation.

If the members opposite had instead spent the \$100 million that they spent on Strong Choices and contestability on relieving electricity consumers in this state, they might be still on the government benches. Queenslanders saw through their policies. They saw through their deception, their appalling record, their dishonesty and, most importantly, their inaction on electricity prices over three years. They stand condemned. That is why they lost 33 seats, or 36 seats—it is hard to keep up with how many they lost. That is why they got tossed out—because their record on electricity was pathetic. To see them trying to dig themselves out is a sad sight to see.

OneSchool, Information Technology

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (10.20 am): On 31 July this year, the Minister for Education announced that there had been a major IT failure in relation to child protection reporting on the education department's OneSchool system. The minister advised that, as a result of this bungle, 644 reports by conscientious principals concerned about the protection and welfare of students were not reported to the relevant authorities. On 3 August, as is the practice of this government, the minister announced one of its 69 reviews into this debacle and stated that Deloitte's would report back within eight weeks. Today, it is close to 11 weeks since that announcement and we still do not know the reasons for this alarming oversight and whether vulnerable children in our schools are safe.

Let me talk about what we do know. We know that, whilst this system was implemented during the caretaker period of the last election campaign, it became operational when school resumed and when the minister assumed control of the department. We know that most, if not all, of the 644 cases

of failed reporting happened on this minister's watch. We know that this minister stated that she did not want to play politics on such a sensitive issue and then blamed everybody but herself. We know that, during estimates, the minister dropped another bombshell when she revealed quite casually that there may be another 300 cases of child protection notifications not getting to the authorities. We know that, through further questioning, the minister had simply accepted the advice of department officials that the system was working—and it was not. We know that the minister also advised that, because of her massive workload that comes with her megaportfolio, she has been—and I quote—'a very busy girl'.

I go now to what I suspect. I suspect that this minister is so busy in her megaportfolio that she did not have the time to do more than simply accept the advice of her officials without question. I suspect that this minister did not have the time to ask the probing, investigative questions that the public expect from somebody on a very high ministerial salary.

Why did this minister, on viewing the three categories of reporting, not find it unusual that, in two categories there were hundreds of reports but in one category there were zero?

Ms JONES: Mr Speaker, I have listened intently and I feel—

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Ms JONES: My point of order is that the information that the member is putting on the public record is not factually correct and it contradicts what was said at estimates.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr MANDER: We have a portfolio that is responsible for 100,000 registered teachers, 1,700 schools, the education and welfare of 770,000 children, a budget of \$9 billion, but it is not a stand-alone portfolio. This report is overdue. We need to know whether or not our kids are safe in our schools.

Elective Surgery, Waiting Times

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.24 am): The report compiled by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare—a federal government body—titled *Elective surgery waiting times 2014-15: Australian hospital statistics* released today shows that the average waiting time for an elective surgery procedure in Queensland is 27 days. That means that Queenslanders' wait for elective surgery is eight days fewer than the 2014-15 national median wait of 35 days.

We are going to attack all waiting lists in Queensland, looking at the full patient journey, not just elective surgery. That is starting to show results. Since we have come to government we have seen a reduction of almost 20 per cent in those long-waits—the waiting list for the waiting list. Those people waiting for a specialist appointment in a hospital is down almost 20 per cent. What has happened in surgery? Let us look at the data as at 1 August, after this report was completed. What was the percentage of ready-for-surgery patients on the elective surgery waiting list who were within the clinically recommended time for treatment? Of those people, 99.4 per of them were being treated within the clinically recommended time. In terms of category 1 patients, the percentage is 99.9 per cent; for category 2, it is 98.3 per cent; for category 3, it is 99.9 per cent. Those percentages were as of 1 August and on our watch.

All of this has happened because of increased federal funding. We had a federal Labor government that put money into elective surgery. It put money into national partnership agreements. All of that is now at threat, with \$11.8 billion that was coming to Queensland to be ripped out of our system. Not one of those members opposite stood up to Tony Abbott or has stood up to Malcolm Turnbull and said, 'Give Queensland its fair share.' An amount of \$11.8 billion is going to be ripped out.

I will tell members these percentages did not have anything to do with that discredited wait-time gimmick, which was all about spin doctors and not real doctors. That is what the Leader of the Opposition was into. I ask members to look at his record. No wonder the member for Everton is doing the audition for the backbench today. No wonder the member for Everton is circling. What happened under the watch of the Leader of the Opposition? All of a sudden the personnel file of the member for Stafford, Dr Anthony Lynham, was stolen and released publicly. That happened when the Leader of the Opposition was the health minister. That happened under his watch. What else did he do? He stood up at a press conference and used the names of the innocent children of a member of parliament. He circulated their names to the media to score a political point. That is the sort of leader he is. No wonder the members opposite are split down the middle. They know that there is no future in that behaviour. There is no future in that sort of conduct by a leader.

Of course, one record that the Leader of the Opposition will not talk about is the thousands of people who were sacked from the health system in Queensland under his watch—1,800 nurses and midwives—thousands of people who went out of the system while he was the minister. He is dishonest, desperate and has no idea or policy for Queensland.

Draft Queensland Economic Action Plan

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.28 am): The government has been in office for eight months and still has no plan. The government has been in office for eight months and the people of Queensland continue to wait for its plan. Indeed, yesterday in this parliament we released the first formative stages of this Labor government's plan. Today, I can release the rest of it—the entire 67 pages, which were compiled during the period of June and August.

When we raised this matter in parliament yesterday, what did we hear from the members opposite? It was either Tony Abbott's fault or it was the fault of one single rogue public servant. Indeed, that public servant must have been very, very busy, because I have here 67 pages of ideas to be presented to this government, and it is cabinet in confidence. Anyone who knows and understands what cabinet in confidence is all about would know that this is a document that was prepared for presentation to cabinet for this government to at least come up with a plan.

The reason that we got this was the frustration of public servants in the Premier's department who have been given no direction and who are saying that they have been forced to come up with this sort of stuff. Indeed, we have in here a mixture of things, from congestion taxes, a rum-led recovery, increasing the height of high-rises in Queensland, tolls on existing roads across the state—just to mention a few of the hundreds of things that are outlined here.

This document probably would not have been presented if it had not been leaked to us, but many of those ideas would have been adopted and they would have been wrapped up in spin. The challenge is simple: if this is not the Premier's plan, what is the government's plan? If you do not believe in this then rule the whole lot of it out today and all of the ideas as well.

What we have here is a situation where the only person who is doing something in the government, this so-called poor hapless public servant, is now in trouble for actually doing something. He is the only person in the government who has actually done anything and now he is in trouble. One can only assume that as this was put together by the economic policy group, there is only one person in the economic policy group. I can guarantee that the accelerant and the matches and all of the thatch and the stakes have been got out today up in the Premier's office as they go on a witch-hunt to try to cover this up. This was devised for presentation to the cabinet. This is their plan. One can see what happened as these ministers go in there gasping for air, scratching their head and thinking of these ideas.

Tabled paper. Department of the Premier and Cabinet: Economic Policy Group, Draft Queensland Economic Action Plan, August 2015 [[1411](#)].

Mr SPEAKER: We will now proceed to one hour of question time. Question time will conclude at 11.31 am.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Draft Queensland Economic Action Plan

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (10.31 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to her government's draft economic action plan. I say to the Premier: is it the Premier's serious belief and contention that this document is the actions of one single public servant or is it the actions of many?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! This is the first question. I am keen to hear the point of order.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Under standing order 115, the Leader of the Opposition's question is clearly seeking an opinion.

Mr SPEAKER: I will allow the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Can I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As we canvassed yesterday, it is not government policy. Clearly written on the top of the document—I think it was the third line down from memory—is ‘not government policy’. I have not seen that document. My cabinet has not seen that document. I have asked my director-general about the origins of that document. I think the parliament should really listen to the origins of this document.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Clayfield might like this. In fact, the member for Clayfield might know about this. I advise that thinking around the development of an economic strategy commenced in 2014. This included a review of productivity initiatives and ideas in November and December 2014, culminating in a report in January 2015. There was also further scanning work undertaken looking at other initiatives being considered by organisations such as the Productivity Commission and the Commonwealth government’s Federation reform considerations. I confirm that this document was not cleared by me and neither was it provided to the Premier or the Premier’s office.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It started under the former government.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: All right, members. That is enough. You have had a good go. I would ask you to allow the Premier to answer the question in silence, please.

Ms PALASZCZUK: At the last state election the people of Queensland rejected the LNP style of government, pure and simple. When I travel around the state talking to families they want to hear our ideas, such as the ideas about diversifying the economy and the education plan that the Minister for Education and I released yesterday. They do not want to see this style of politics, this style of rubbish being dished up by those opposite.

The Leader of the Opposition should start developing some policies of his own. At least he has found a policy. He cannot create one of his own; he found one. It was clearly started under the LNP. He has kicked an own goal.

Draft Queensland Economic Action Plan

Mr SPRINGBORG: My second question without notice is also to the Premier. I refer to the Premier’s draft economic plan for Queensland on page 3 where it says ‘Target customer—the Premier and CBRC’.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPRINGBORG: I think it was in June of this year. I ask the Premier: can the Premier rule out the introduction of congestion charging and road tolls across Queensland?

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the Premier to answer the question, I would urge government members to allow the questioner to ask the question in silence.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said very clearly, this document is not government policy.

Mr SPRINGBORG: I rise to a point of order. I refer to your previous rulings around relevance. The Premier did not answer the question. My question was: can the Premier rule out the introduction of congestion taxing and tolls?

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, my ruling is that the Premier has answered your question.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, the Premier has answered the question. That is my ruling, member for Hinchinbrook.

North Queensland, Jobs

Mr PEARCE: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Arts. Will the Premier please explain to the House how the Palaszczuk government is preparing North Queensland regions to be job ready?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mirani for a question about jobs in this House. We know one job is under threat on that side of the House. As I travel around Queensland it is very clear to me that the people of Queensland want to see us diversifying our economy. That was made very

clear to me when I went over to the United States and we talked about developing a biofuels industry in this state. It is something we have not seen from those opposite. There has been no commentary on whether or not they support our direction.

Next week my subcommittee of cabinet will be travelling to Mackay and Mirani to talk about establishing a biofuels industry in Queensland. There is an enormous opportunity. Just coming back from Japan I was able to meet with Asahi. They are undertaking groundbreaking research with QUT. They could have chosen any other educational institute in the world to partner with and they chose QUT. This is a great opportunity for us to hear from QUT when we visit Mackay next week. I have also invited the regional mayors to come along as well. I believe that this is something we can all work together on. We can have the members of our subcommittee there. We can have members of QUT there. But also we can have the mayors there to talk about diversifying our economy and the flow-on jobs that this will create.

We also have introduced into this House of parliament an ethanol bill. This is about a mandate. This is something that I know the minister is very passionate about as well. This will grow the industry. While we are there we also want to have a look at the industries that are operating in Mackay and how we can strengthen those opportunities but also where we can establish new jobs and industries right up and down the Queensland coast.

It is very important that my government is getting out to the regions and is listening. Hopefully, from this we will be able to develop an action plan for the biofuels industry into the future. I thank very much the member for Mirani for constantly raising this issue in his local community. I know the member for Mackay is looking forward to our visit, as is the mayor of Mackay, who also accompanied me on the trade mission to China and Japan. I know the member for Mackay is very supportive. This is about growing jobs. This is about creating a new industry. This is about developing the skills for the future. This is about developing jobs for our children and it is about our children's future. My government is determined to make sure we have the opportunities and we grow the opportunities. We are talking about the future, while those opposite are clearly stuck in the past.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I remind members that I do not get forward notice of questions that members intend to ask. I am now giving fair warning to all members that an interjection being made whilst a member is asking a question is disorderly conduct. Neither the Clerk, the minister nor I can properly hear the question. Any member interjecting during question time will be warned under standing order 253A. If you want to change the rules and give me notice in advance, written copies of your questions, I am more than happy to do that. It will make it much easier.

Draft Queensland Economic Action Plan

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Local Government and Planning. I refer to the Palaszczuk government's draft economic action plan that, at page 1, refers to election commitments and proposed new initiatives. I ask: will the minister rule out more development on Brisbane's Kangaroo Point cliffs, as well as increasing Brisbane city building height limits?

Ms TRAD: I thank the honourable member for the question. I repeat the statement made by the Premier: this is not government policy. What the member is referring to is an internal departmental document that was never circulated to cabinet, never circulated to the Premier and, in fact, commenced under the former Newman LNP government. Let me confirm once again that this is not the Palaszczuk Labor government's economic policy. It has nothing to do with the Palaszczuk Labor government's agenda. For the opposition to continue to claim that it is our policy agenda is inaccurate and untruthful.

Mr LANGBROEK: I rise to a point of order. In my question I clearly referred to the document referencing election commitments and proposed new initiatives. The minister has not answered the question.

Mr SPEAKER: My ruling is that she has answered the question. If you want to challenge my ruling, I invite you to have a discussion with me after the session this morning.

Youngcare

Mr RYAN: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on the government's commitment to supporting young Queenslanders with high needs?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Morayfield for the question. We know that this government is firmly focused on helping young people with a disability. When I was the former minister for disability services in this state, we also had a very firm focus on ensuring that young people with a

disability are not placed in nursing homes. Today I pay tribute to the work of Youngcare. Youngcare is doing an incredible amount of work in the community such as fundraising, working with government and working with other organisations to ensure that young people with a disability are not facing being forced to live in aged-care facilities.

Recently, we opened the new Youngcare facilities at Woolloowin. I thank the member for Clayfield, who also attended that event. Whilst we were there, we were able to meet with the four residents who will now call that amazing place their home. I spoke to the family of a young man named Brian. Brian had been living in a nursing home for the past six to seven years. His family told me that having now moved to the Youngcare house in Woolloowin, for the first time in six or seven years Brian has spoken five words. This is transformational. This is what we must be focused on: moving young people out of nursing homes and making sure that young people with a disability are living with their peers.

I place on record my thanks to David Conry. David has been inspirational in setting up Youngcare. He has worked tirelessly. Many people will remember that his late wife was faced with the prospect of having nowhere else to live but in a nursing home. I remember meeting her at Sinnamon Park, where Youngcare focused its efforts in the first instance. I believe that as a parliament we must do more to make sure that young people are kept out of nursing homes. My government will continue to keep that focus, which was carried on under the former government. This is a bipartisan approach.

I place on record my thanks to all the disability support workers who help people fulfil their dreams. Those young people now are able to move freely about the community. The house is a wonderful environment that provides the sort of place that young people so desperately need when they are faced with the alternative of many years languishing in a nursing home, not around their peers. Thank you very much to Youngcare. It is great to see the transformation that is happening. For many years to come we will continue to make sure that we focus on disability in this state.

Draft Queensland Economic Action Plan

Mr EMERSON: My question is to the Minister for Transport. I refer to the Palaszczuk government's draft economic action plan. I ask: will the minister rule out plans to remove the limit on the number of taxi licences in Queensland?

Ms TRAD: I am sorry, Mr Speaker, but could you ask the member to repeat the question? I missed the beginning of it.

Mr EMERSON: Read the plan. I refer to the Palaszczuk government's draft economic action plan. I ask: will the minister rule out plans to remove the limit on the number of taxi licences in Queensland?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for the question. I will repeat my answer: this is not the Palaszczuk Labor government's economic plan. It never was, never has been, never will be. For the opposition to continue to claim that it is is untruthful, it is mischievous and it just proves that they come into this House with absolutely no ideas of their own and no plans of their own. They have no ideas for Queenslanders.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members.

Mr EMERSON: I rise to a point of order. The minister has not answered the question. I have asked her to rule out that plan. She has not given an answer. Will she rule it out?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Indooroopilly, just because you may not like the answer that the minister has given, my ruling is that the answer is relevant. The minister is answering the question. She has further time to answer it, if she chooses.

Ms TRAD: I will talk about the Palaszczuk Labor government's plan for transport. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to talk about what we are doing in the transport portfolio. Let us start with the Gold Coast Light Rail project, which was started, funded and built by Labor.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! One moment, Deputy Premier.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. My point of order is that the Deputy Premier is ranting on about nothing to do with the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Mermaid Beach. I call the Deputy Premier to answer the question. Member for Lockyer, if you have a question to raise, I would ask you to get on the *Notice Paper*.

Ms TRAD: I am happy to talk about the Palaszczuk Labor government's plan for transport for Queenslanders, because it is a critical issue. Firstly, let us talk about transport infrastructure. Quite frankly, this side of politics understands what it means to work hard to deliver transport infrastructure for Queenslanders so that they can move around their cities, their regions and their state more freely. Let us start with Gold Coast Light Rail stage 2. This is a project—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Premier. I think you have adequately answered the question. I ask you to resume your seat.

Ms Trad: Mr Speaker, I love talking about transport.

Mr SPEAKER: No, there will be no argument. There is plenty of time to go.

Renewable Energy

Mr BROWN: My question is also to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on any work her department is doing to support Queensland's renewable energy sector?

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need your assistance, member for Hinchinbrook.

Ms TRAD: I thank the honourable member for the question. I do understand that, as one of the younger members of the House, he is interested in the future of renewables and the future of innovative and futuristic industries in Australia.

Ms Jones: Lawrence is into renewables—four goes.

Ms TRAD: Perhaps he is not as much into renewables as the honourable Leader of the Opposition, Minister. I take that interjection.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to increasing the production and use of renewable energy in this state. A key part of the renewable energy mix will have to be wind. Queensland has significant potential when it comes to wind farms. Whilst wind farms generate renewable energy, we know that proposals for this type of development must be carefully considered and balanced against the three core objectives of liveability, sustainability and prosperity.

To ensure appropriate planning and assessment, my department has prepared a draft wind farm code and guideline for future inclusion within the state development assessment provisions. These documents give a statewide, consistent, whole-of-government approach to assessment and regulation of wind farm development. Once adopted, the code and guideline will establish a clear requirement for the design, assessment and construction of wind farms in Queensland. This has been missing to date. Public consultation on the draft code will actually start from tomorrow. For the benefit of the House, I table these documents.

Tabled paper: Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning: Draft Wind farm state code planning guideline, October 2015 [[1412](#)].

Tabled paper: Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning: Draft Module 20—Wind farm development, undated [[1413](#)].

The government is committed to maximising our consultation and engagement with the community and relevant stakeholders. To this end, I have proposed an extended eight-week consultation period, closing on 11 December this year.

Wind farms are unique developments. As such, the preparation of the draft code and guidelines has been based on the best available resources and research. This includes: expert technical advice and the review of recent emerging research; extensive consultation with key interdepartmental and external stakeholders; and the detailed review of national and international best practice.

The new draft code and guideline was built on drafts released in 2004 but revised and improved based on public consultation last year. We listened and have now prepared a draft code and guideline that will deliver the appropriate social, economic and environmental outcomes. We will then review all submissions and make any required amendments to the code and guideline.

I hope to release the code and guideline in 2016 along with the changes to the Sustainable Planning Regulation to allow the state to be the assessment manager for all wind farm developments in Queensland. I call on all interested members to make sure their communities have a say.

Housing Industry

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Planning. I refer to the Palaszczuk government's draft economic action plan which refers to election commitments and proposed new initiatives. Will the minister rule out proposals to allow a greater proportion of housing blocks for development and allow for demolition of character housing to make way for new development in Brisbane's character suburbs?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Clayfield for the question. Let me again be clear because, as I said yesterday, I do understand that those members opposite are rote learners and we need to repeat ourselves in order for them to understand. The document being referred to repeatedly by those opposite is not government policy—

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

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr NICHOLLS: In terms of relevance, the question was: will the minister rule out proposals to allow a greater proportion—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, will you repeat your complete question.

Mr NICHOLLS: Indeed, Mr Speaker. I refer to the Palaszczuk government's draft economic action plan which refers—

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education, I do not need your assistance. I ask the member for Clayfield to again repeat his question.

Mr NICHOLLS: I refer to the Palaszczuk government's draft economic action plan which refers to election commitments and proposed new initiatives. Will the minister rule out proposals to allow a greater proportion of housing blocks for development and allow for demolition of character housing to make way for new development in Brisbane's character suburbs? My point of order is that the question was: will the minister rule out these proposals?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. Perhaps through you we can get some guidelines for those opposite who do not seem to be so nimble on their feet. Clearly, you have ruled on the way that these—

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: You have ruled that these questions and the way that they have been asked are being answered by the ministers—

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need your assistance, members of the opposition.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: On the basis that members opposite appear to be requiring themselves to make reference to a so-called economic action plan, you have clearly given the opportunity to ministers to answer the questions based upon that erroneous statement. Maybe you can give some guidance to those opposite in terms of being able to ask questions appropriately.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. In response to the point of order raised by the member for Clayfield, the Deputy Premier commenced to answer your question. She has an opportunity to further explain her position in answering the question. I rule the point of order out of order.

Ms TRAD: I will repeat my answer. Let us be clear that the document being referred to by those opposite is not government policy. It is not draft government policy. It has nothing to do with the Palaszczuk Labor government. Therefore, I am not going to respond to untruthful and mischievous comments.

If the opposition want to continue to come into this place and refer to a document and claim that it belongs to this government when it quite clearly does not—and that is after statements being made by the Premier and it quite clearly being written in black and white on the document itself—then they can do that because it shows the whole of Queensland how hollow and vacuous they all are. They come into this place not to put forward the position of their electorates and not to put forward ideas for diversifying our economy. They do not even come into this place and apologise for the last three years of arrogance and vindictiveness. They come into this place—

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

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr NICHOLLS: Bearing in mind your previous ruling, I was listening and waiting for the answer to develop, as you suggested. I think the Deputy Premier is now straying into completely different areas not raised by the question. I would ask you to bring her back to her answer and to complete her answer to the question which was whether she is going to allow character houses to be bowled over.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Clayfield. I think the Deputy Premier has already answered your question. You may not like the answer, but I believe she has answered the question to my satisfaction. Deputy Premier, if you have nothing further to add, I am happy to move on to the next question.

Before calling the member for Pine Rivers, I now warn the member for Toowoomba North and the member for Nanango for their interjections. You are now warned under standing order 253A. Please desist from further unnecessary and unprovoked interjections. I call the member for Pine Rivers.

Work Health and Safety

Miss BOYD: My question is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer outline why it is important for injured workers to return to work sooner and what the government is doing to help injured workers return to work?

Mr PITT: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for her question. We have a campaign called 'Getting back'. This is an advertising campaign which is all about the fact that a worker and their workplace both benefit from an early return to work. Work plays a vital role in any rehabilitation process. As we know, the act of doing itself promotes recovery.

Being off work for long periods of time can significantly reduce the likelihood of an injured worker ever returning to work. It can have a negative effect on the worker and also on their family. If a person is off work for even 20 days, the chance of ever getting back to work drops to 70 per cent. If that time off extends to 70 days, the chance of ever getting back to work is as little as 35 per cent.

We know that the best results are achieved when employers encourage and support workers to recover at work, and in those cases where the worker is at home it is about helping them return to work as soon as they are cleared to do so. The 'Getting back' advertising campaign is about raising awareness for workers, for employers and for medical professionals about the health benefits of early return to work and also, of course, the importance of good communication between these partners to ensure that parties can achieve this.

Speaking of getting back to work, there is one group that really does need to get back to work, and that is those opposite. What we know is that they have been somewhat on a philosophical sabbatical since losing government in January, on a search to find their real selves. Getting back to work is an important thing. They are not sure whether they stand for asset sales or not, what their position is on debt, what their position is on the mining sector. They thought they had a 'gotcha' moment yesterday when it came to an apparent ALP economic policy document, but it is an internal document, as the Premier and the Deputy Premier have clearly stated, and is not actually related to this. It is clearly marked 'not government policy'. I would say there is no chance of a leaked document coming from that side because it is still a policy-free zone.

Perhaps though the little birdie the member for Caloundra keeps referring to is the genesis of this whole discussion. I just wonder whether the little birdie that the member for Caloundra is referring to is actually the same canary in the coalmine which is what the Leader of the Opposition uses to gauge the mood of the party room in terms of his future leadership prospects. We have not heard from the little canary for a little while, but we know that the little canary may need to get some advice. Perhaps the little canary is in bad health. Maybe we should not be asking the little canary; we should be asking the member for Everton, because he is obviously going to be very clued up in terms of getting back to work. We could ask the member for Everton, but unfortunately we are not sure that he can remember whether he has said something on the topic or not.

Draft Queensland Economic Action Plan

Mr WALKER: My question is to the Treasurer. I refer to the Palaszczuk government's draft economic action plan, and I ask: will the Treasurer rule out removing restrictions on business opening hours across Queensland?

Mr PITT: Sorry, was that 'businesses opening out' or 'business opening hours'?

Mr WALKER: Business opening hours.

Mr SPEAKER: Do you want the question repeated?

Mr PITT: Yes.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, would you please repeat the question?

Mr WALKER: I refer to the Palaszczuk government's draft economic action plan, and I ask: will the Treasurer rule out removing restrictions on business opening hours across Queensland?

Mr PITT: I thank the honourable member for the question. I think sadly we are going to have to repeat ourselves for those opposite again. This is not the Palaszczuk government's economic policy. Even considering it to be a draft one when it says clearly that it is not government policy should be a really big concern.

What we know is that the question related to opening hours for business. I am happy to say that I have had many meetings since becoming the Minister for Industrial Relations looking at the issue of trading hours, and I think that issue is an ongoing debate. I am very happy to say that there are always discussions happening about what happens with business opening hours right across Queensland. I am happy of course to see how those discussions will continue.

Even in recent times I have met with the master grocers association. Clearly the NRA have their own views as well. So we will continue to have those discussions. What is important though for those on this side of the House is that we do have those discussions. We are a consultative government. Again, it is very different from what we saw under the previous government, and that is being remarked upon to us all the time. The fact that we are having open and frank discussions with our stakeholders is something that I think people in Queensland expect of their government, and that is exactly what we are going to do. We are going to continue that work.

What I can definitely rule out is a so-called rum-led recovery. We are definitely not going to be having a rum-led recovery, notwithstanding it is a very important aspect of Queensland's state economy. I will say though that the former deputy premier certainly knows all about rum-led recoveries because he said when he is on the rum he is not in charge.

Elective Surgery, Waiting Times

Mr KELLY: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. I refer the minister to the report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in relation to elective surgery around Australia. How did Queensland perform in this report and can the minister update the House on the Queensland government's approach to wait times? Are there any alternative policies?

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, was that question in relation to waiting times? Could you repeat the question please?

Mr KELLY: I refer the minister to the report released today by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in relation to elective surgery around Australia. How did Queensland perform in this report and can the minister update the House on the Queensland government's approach to wait times? Are there any alternative policies?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Greenslopes for his question. He had a very long career in nursing before entering this parliament. He has a very keen interest in health matters, as do other members of this House. I know that the member for Greenslopes and others are very interested in the performance of our health system and how we are delivering and the impact on real Queenslanders, on the constituents that we all represent.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, a federally funded body, released their report into elective surgery performance across Australia. I am pleased to report to the House that Queensland enjoyed the lowest median wait times of any state in Australia at 27 days—the lowest median wait times of any state in Australia. The largest increase in wait times was in ear, nose and throat treatments—ignored by the members opposite. That is why we came into government and injected more than \$30 million into ear, nose and throat treatments which will be rolled out over the next two years to a very significant group of people who are waiting to get into a public hospital for a specialist appointment, where they can often get day treatment to be treated straightaway. They do not need hospitalisation but they need to get into a hospital to get an appointment so they can be treated, to get them out of the waiting room so they can get on with their lives.

We expect that 12,000 Queenslanders will benefit from that injection of more than \$30 million. That is what Labor governments do—inject money into front-line service delivery. It is what we promised during the election campaign and it is what we doing as part of the government. I commend all of these hardworking doctors, nurses and allied health professionals. We are a government that wants to support our staff, not sack them like the Leader of the Opposition when he was in government. I thank them. At every hospital I go to I thank them personally for the work they do because they are at the front line making a difference in the lives of Queenslanders.

Who thought of that? Where does it come from? It comes from the National Partnership Agreement on the Elective Surgery Waiting List Reduction Plan. Who thought of it? Federal Labor. Who funded it? Federal Labor—federal Labor working in partnership with state Labor to make a difference. The member for Southern Downs was happy to pick it up. He was happy to sit back and let federal Labor do all the work, put all the money in. What was his idea? He had one idea—a wait time gimmick. That was his plan—money for spin doctors, not real doctors. There was \$15 million for an advertising campaign—that was his idea. There was \$77 million for bureaucracy and advertising, not one cent for front-line service delivery. Now he is so embarrassed by it he will not release the cabinet documents that justified the program. He said it was worth \$500 million. He said the money was there. He said it was fully costed. It is 106 days since I have called on him to release the documents. Stand up, Leader of the Opposition, and release all of the documents in relation to your discredited gimmick.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the member for Everton, member for Albert, you have been making numerous interjections all morning. You are now warned under standing order 253A. Please desist from further interjections.

Draft Queensland Economic Action Plan

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Minister for Education. I refer to the Palaszczuk government's draft economic action plan, and I ask: will the minister rule out options to increase revenue within state schools that include the introduction of advertising spaces and food outlets like McDonald's?

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, what was the last part of your question? Can you please speak slowly? I could not understand the last sentence.

Mr MANDER: Sorry, Mr Speaker. I will try again.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need assistance from government members either. I am more than happy to take to the Committee of the Legislative Assembly a proposal that all questions without notice be provided to me in advance so that I know in advance and that the Clerk and staff know in advance what your questions are. It is your call, members.

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Minister for Education. I refer to the Palaszczuk government's draft economic action plan, and I ask: will the minister rule out options to increase revenue within state schools that include the introduction of advertising spaces and food outlets like McDonald's?

Ms JONES: I am very pleased to answer the question in the same way that all of my colleagues have, which is to say again and again that this is not government policy. In fact, on the front of the document it says 'not government policy'. The Premier has put it on the record that this never went to her office, it was not crafted in her office and she has never seen it, yet you do not accept that. I do recall there was something crafted in the now Deputy Leader of the Opposition's office that he denied not knowing about. What was that beauty? That is right: tasers for teachers, which was created in the Liberal National Party's parliamentary offices. You expect the public to believe that something that was actually crafted in your office—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, direct your comments through the chair.

Ms JONES: This highlights the hypocrisy of the opposition which we know knows no bounds. One minute they are saying they knew nothing about things that were crafted in their own office, but they continue with the charade that we have seen over the last two days. I agree with the journalist who said yesterday that it backfired.

What we have seen when it comes to education is no new ideas and no belief in moving forward. We have seen an idea put out today by the member for Southport in a tweet which reads—

Southport State High announces plans to start teaching Mandarin from 2016, can't see a German or Japanese invasion happening anytime soon!

Mr Dick: What does that mean?

Ms JONES: I do not know, but it is very concerning to me and I worry that is very xenophobic. That tweet was put out as your education policy today I guess against learning Asian languages in schools. I acknowledge that the honourable member for Southport has now withdrawn this tweet. I commend him for withdrawing it, as he should. What we have seen here is no commitment to public education in Queensland from the LNP. Thank you for asking me a question because it gives me another opportunity to say that the only party in this country which wants to means test public education in this state is the Liberal Party of Australia.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Before I proceed to the next question, the member for Lockyer, the member for Burleigh, the member for Buderim, the member for Caloundra and the member for Southport are now all warned under standing order 253A. Please desist from making interjections. I do not think it is a joke, member for Everton. You are now warned under standing order 253A for your unnecessarily disorderly interjections.

Small Business, Red-Tape Reduction

Mr RUSSO: My question is to the Minister for Small Business. Will the minister please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's work to reduce the burden of red tape on Queensland small businesses?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. All of us in the Palaszczuk Labor government are committed to growing small business in Queensland and we are committed to working with small business to reduce the regulatory burden that they face. We know that often one of the key concerns for small business is the cumulative regulatory burden that happens with three levels of government in this state. That is why I was very disappointed to read the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland's report that was publicly released today confirming that the former LNP government failed to reduce the burden of red tape for small businesses despite promising that they would. The red-tape survey report, which was conducted in early April and reports back on the last two years, showed that the burden of red tape had increased under the former government and adversely impacted their ability to grow. The report also shows that small businesses were concerned about duplication and lack of coordination across all levels of government.

Mr Nicholls: That's not what it says.

Ms JONES: I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield. What it clearly says in the report, which was conducted in April and reports on the two years prior, is that—

Mr Nicholls: That's not what Nick Behrens says.

Ms JONES: I take the interjection. What did Nick Behrens say? Nick Behrens said in an email to my office last week, 'I wish to confirm the survey was conducted in April this year and, accordingly, CCIQ's view is that the growth in red tape has not occurred under your watch.' That is what he wrote to me. It did not occur under our watch; that is what he said to me in an email. What he says in the report is that they believe under the former LNP government there has been an increase in red tape in this state.

This is why when we came into government we committed to setting up a Red Tape Reduction Advisory Council, which the honourable member for Clayfield knows has already met, and we are working with industry to look at practical ways of reducing red tape. We know that across the government we are seeing a lot of action in this space. For example, the department of environment is currently streamlining its application, assessment and compliance processes. We also have the exposure draft of a planning bill that will cut red tape on development applications while still ensuring appropriate planning. We take this seriously from a whole-of-government perspective, because we know that small business is the backbone of our economy. We will be working with CCIQ and all small business stakeholders to ensure that we start addressing the CCIQ's genuine concerns about seeing red-tape reduction in this state.

Glencore, Jobs

Mr KATTER: My question without notice is to the Premier and Minister for the Arts. Given the heavy impact of the recent 460 job cuts at the Mount Isa Glencore mines announced last week, will the Premier commit to immediate discussions about state charges and other initiatives to stabilise employment and stimulate mining in the region?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mount Isa for that question. As the Minister for State Development said earlier this week, we are seeing a downturn in commodity prices. At the end of last week we heard the news that Glencore was downscaling some jobs in the industry, and those workers were hit very hard. At our North Queensland economic forum on Friday, I was able to speak to the Mayor of Mount Isa, Tony McGrady, directly about this issue. I also had the opportunity to catch up briefly with the member for Mount Isa. We are talking about families who will face sudden unemployment, but I do know that Glencore has met with the Minister for State Development and the Treasurer about working through some of these issues. They have also said to my government that, although a downturn is happening in the zinc industry at the moment, they do see some prospects in the future of that coming back.

Today I would like to commit to the member for Mount Isa that I will talk to my director-general immediately. The Mayor of Mount Isa, Tony McGrady, also handed me the north-west province economic development plan. The government will look at that plan and see whether there are any issues that we can fast-track. We have also brought forward our Building our Regions fund which should stimulate some growth out there. The western roads package should also provide some employment.

This is clearly why my government wants to diversify our economy. We know how important the resources sector is, but we also know that there are emerging industries that we need to grasp to create jobs. My government will work very hard for those families, and I will commit to having ongoing discussions with the member for Mount Isa. Thank you very much for raising that important issue in the House today. It is one that I think all members of the House share, as we see the downturn in commodity prices and the impact that is having on families and their children.

Southport, Domestic and Family Violence Magistrates Court

Mr FURNER: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Will the Attorney-General please update the House on the progress of the Southport domestic violence court trial?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. I know he, like all members of this House, is very interested to hear about how the Southport Domestic and Family Violence Magistrates Court trial is going. This trial commenced on 1 September at the Southport court with Magistrate Colin Strofield as the presiding special magistrate. The initial feedback from stakeholders has been very positive. On 30 September I had the opportunity to go to the Southport court and meet with key stakeholders to see for myself how the trial was going. I visited and viewed the domestic and family violence court registry, the safe room and the court itself including sitting in on a number of matters with the consent of the parties appearing.

I met with many dedicated, hardworking people—the registry staff, the magistrate, the police prosecutors, the not-for-profit organisations, the duty lawyers. They are doing an incredible job. It was gratifying to find out that many of them actually volunteered to take on this role and be part of this very important trial. This trial is about identifying the best model going forward to enhance the safety of victims and their children through timely coordination and consistent responses to victims and perpetrators. The trial will be evaluated and the results will inform the development of a specialist approach to domestic and family violence proceedings across the state.

The numbers of applications for domestic and family violence protection orders at Southport have increased significantly with greater awareness and attention on this issue. We are keen to ensure that the trial is responsive to ongoing challenges so that we can identify the best model and options going forward. The worst thing you can do is implement a model and then six months later just say, 'Did it work, or didn't it?' We need to make sure we have got a model that actually adapts and is responsive as it goes. We are already doing that, and today I can advise members of the House that I am announcing that a further magistrate will be allocated to assist with the high workload of the court. Additional measures include the registry staff being expanded, the court facilities being expanded, the safe room being expanded and modifications being done, and additional duty lawyer services being added. My department is working with other agencies involved to expand the support services for parties coming before the court. We want to make sure we get this model right. We want to identify the best measures going forward to ensure we are providing support to victims and to all the parties and to ensure we are providing a system that is fair and accessible to all Queenslanders. I once again thank all of those involved in the trial for their hard work at Southport.

Draft Queensland Economic Action Plan

Dr McVEIGH: My question is to the Minister for Transport. I refer to the Palaszczuk government's draft economic action plan and I ask: will the minister rule out options to stop running long-distance passenger and high-speed tilt train services to the north coast line and western system and increases to QR freight rail fares to a full cost recovery model?

Ms TRAD: I refuse to answer a question that is premised on an untruth.

Mr CRIPPS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. I seek your ruling. Isn't it your responsibility as the Speaker of the House to rule whether or not a question is out of order and not for a minister to determine that in formulating her answer?

Mr SPEAKER: I thank the member for Hinchinbrook. I cannot force a minister to answer a question in a certain way. I can certainly rule on the issue of relevance. My ruling is that the minister has answered the question. I am now moving on to the next question and I call the member for Logan. If you want to pursue the matter, I invite you to have a conversation with me after question time.

Mr CRIPPS: I will. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Domestic and Family Violence

Mr POWER: My question is to the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Having heard with the minister directly from the community representative at the minister's culturally and linguistically diverse round table—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Deputy Leader of the Opposition, will you please resume your seat or conduct your conversation outside the chamber. We have a question being asked. I have made significant comments this morning about the importance of silence when a question is being asked. I call the member for Logan to please repeat your question. It is not a joke, Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I would like you to go outside if you want to continue your conversation. I call the member for Logan.

Mr POWER: My question is to the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Having heard with the minister directly from the community representative at the minister's culturally and linguistically diverse round table on domestic violence, will the minister advise the House how the government is supporting the victims of domestic violence from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who often face particular challenges?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Logan for the question. He proudly represents his diverse and multicultural constituents in Logan. It is no secret that domestic and family violence is a serious issue facing Queensland families, and we know that women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds can be particularly vulnerable. Challenges facing them include a lack of support networks, socio-economic disadvantage, language barriers, community pressure and other cultural sensitivities. It is particularly—

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Who has their mobile or recording devices on? Will you please leave the chamber now or turn it off. I call the minister.

Ms FENTIMAN: It is particularly significant when you think that one in five Queensland women were born overseas.

In my local community, it was great to see more than 450 people from different cultures join a public rally at the weekend organised by the Logan City Council and make a pledge to never commit or be a bystander to domestic and family violence. Whilst at the rally, I spoke with Jatinder who told me about the particular problems and challenges of tackling domestic violence in our multicultural communities. DVConnect Womensline reported that last year just over seven per cent of their calls came from women who did not speak English as a first language, and in the same year close to 11 per cent of those requiring crisis intervention through Womensline did not speak English as a first language and many of these women needed interpreters.

In July this year, I hosted a round table of culturally and linguistically diverse community leaders in Beenleigh with the member for Logan. Our discussion drew attention to the issues for women experiencing violence in these communities, particularly in relation to reporting violence and how they can seek help. Participants shared their ideas about initiatives that would make a difference on the ground in their communities.

The *Not now, not ever* report includes several specific recommendations which this government has accepted which relate to enhancing interpreter services and other supports for women from multicultural communities. I am proud that this government provides almost \$1 million to the Immigrant Women's Support Service, which provides support for women from non-English-speaking backgrounds who have experienced sexual assault and domestic violence.

All of the services provided by my department are required to be accessible to people from diverse backgrounds and meet quality standards and cultural appropriateness, but we know more needs to be done and we are committed to providing better domestic and family violence services to support women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. That is why we are working with representatives of multicultural communities as we continue to consult on the development of the domestic and family violence strategy to ensure it meets their needs. We need to make sure that all of the resources we are developing that encourage women to speak out about the violence they are experiencing and where they can go for help are translated into the languages they need. It is very important that we make sure these vulnerable women have the help they need when they reach out for help.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the member for Glass House, I am informed that the former member for Ferny Grove, Dale Shuttleworth, is in the public gallery.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Draft Queensland Economic Action Plan

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. Is there anything in the economic action plan that the Premier actually supports, or is she ruling it all out?

Ms PALASZCZUK: This issue has been canvassed at length. It says very clearly it is not government policy. It is not government policy.

North Queensland, Economy

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland. Will the minister update the House about initiatives being undertaken to develop the North Queensland economy?

Mrs O'ROURKE: I thank the member for Townsville. I know he is a great advocate for our region. On Friday last week, the Premier and I hosted a forum with about 40 of the north's 45 mayors to identify regional priorities from the federal government's white paper on developing Northern Australia. At the forum, I announced that I will shortly be leading a delegation of mayors to Canberra to lobby relevant Australian government decision-makers about our plans for the north. We committed to working with the Australian government, industry and investors to make sure Queensland gets its fair share of federal funding. With almost three-quarters of the population of Northern Australia residing in Queensland, it is only right that we get the lion's share of the funding on offer. In Mackay last week, I also hosted the third of a series of economic round tables. I must say that I was very impressed with the passion and commitment from the business leaders in this region.

Discussion around the table ranged from tourism to sugar, mining and of course water security. In the next few weeks I will also host round tables in Mount Isa, Brisbane and Rockhampton. At the end of a series of round tables, we will identify the five projects in North Queensland that I will champion over the next few years.

In addition to the round tables, we have more exciting events on the horizon for North Queensland. In November the Premier and I are heading to Cairns to host a North Queensland economic summit. The summit, from 4 to 6 November, will showcase to investors that Northern Queensland is open for business. We have had a great response so far and I am really looking forward to working with the Premier, my cabinet colleagues, business and industry to grow the north.

This government is proud of the commitment that we have made to North Queensland and the work that we are doing to deliver on this commitment. I will keep the House informed as this work continues. Unlike the previous government, who closed the office for North Queensland and turned their attention to the south-east corner, this Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to growing the economy and creating jobs now and jobs for the future in the north.

Mr SPEAKER: I have been informed that we have students from the Banora Point Public School in the state of New South Wales currently observing our chamber, together with students from the Hillcrest Christian College in the electorate of Mudgeeraba. Question time—I call the member for Nanango. There is one minute left.

Agriculture, Water Pricing

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Minister for Agriculture. I refer to the Palaszczuk government's draft economic action plan, and I ask: will the minister rule out the introduction of a full cost recovery model for agricultural water pricing in Queensland?

Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Local Government

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (11.31 am): The Local Government Act 2009 provides a framework for dealing with complaints about the conduct of individual councillors as well as for the intervention by the state in certain circumstances. Yesterday the member for Cairns provided my office with a range of documents pertaining to local government in Queensland, and I understand these same documents were subsequently tabled in the House yesterday afternoon. My office immediately referred this material to my department for consideration and assessment.

My department has undertaken an initial review of this material. Based on this initial review, they have not found any basis to substantiate the claims that local government in Queensland is broken or that a systemic judicial inquiry is needed. More specifically, I can advise the House there are two complainants who have raised a series of allegations regarding Cairns Regional Council related to conflicts of interest, the letting of contracts and breaches of the EPA—the Environmental Protection Act—and this documentation included a reasonable level of detail and particulars. These will be immediately referred back to my department and back to the CEO of Cairns Regional Council for preliminary assessment as provided for under the Local Government Act 2009.

Additionally, a significant volume of material has also been provided in relation to the Tablelands Regional Council. I am advised that some of the claims made in this material may be referred to the CCC given the nature of the allegations. I am also advised that the vast majority of the material, however, is very difficult to classify in a short period of time as it is a mix of broad allegations of breaches of particular sections of the act, citing comments by councillors and staff in council meetings, media articles and what appears to be 'reports' prepared by complainants. Much of the material cannot be attributed to an individual as these do not have any author or complainant details.

Nonetheless, I have instructed my department to review all the material thoroughly and provide advice to me once this has occurred. I will update the House in due course once I have received detailed advice from my department.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next member, member for Southport and member for Toowoomba North, would you please take your private conversation outside the chamber.

OneSchool, Information Technology

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (11.33 am): I rise to update the House on Deloitte's independent investigation into the failed OneSchool update that was implemented in January this year. The safety and wellbeing of children in Queensland schools is the department's No. 1 priority. That is why when the OneSchool IT failure was discovered in July, I ordered an independent investigation to look at the decisions and processes that led to 644 cases of suspected child abuse failing to be reported to police.

Cases of suspected child abuse are reported in three categories, one to Child Safety only, two to police only and three to Child Safety and police. The failure that was discovered in July relates to the second category, reports due to police only. As I said at the time and at estimates, Queensland Police were still receiving reports via the third category. That is why when I asked the police about the system in April, they reported to me that the system was working.

When this failure first emerged, the department acted immediately to contact police and handed over all of the reports for the police to investigate. With regard to the independent investigation being undertaken by Deloitte, let me repeat what I told the member for Everton during estimates. When the IT failure was discovered, I ordered the department to manually check every single report lodged since January 2015. Through their investigation, it was revealed that 27 reports failed to be delivered to police or Child Safety because of a failure with the IT firewall. The firewall has been in place since online student protection reporting was introduced in 2013. So Deloitte's investigation was expanded to examine all issues relating to the online student protection reporting system since its introduction in September 2013. This is a massive task that Deloitte is undertaking methodically. I can advise the House that Deloitte is currently finalising the report, and I will not rush them. As I said in July, I am committed to making the report public. When I get the report I will honour that commitment.

In closing, I think it is important for everybody—and I will probably be writing to you, Mr Speaker—in this House to know that my office and the department gave the honourable member for Everton a briefing on this. So either he has come into this House to deliberately mislead this House or he does not understand the basic facts.

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.36 am): Further to the good news around the state accounts that I spoke of earlier today and in keeping with the good economic news for Queensland, I can advise the House that the latest ABS data shows that Queensland's trend unemployment rate was unchanged in September 2015 at 6.3 per cent. Queensland's trend unemployment rate has fallen 0.2 per cent since the election, from 6.5 per cent in January 2015 to 6.3 per cent in September 2015. Seasonally adjusted, the unemployment rate dropped from 6.4 per cent in August to 6.3 per cent in September. Trend employment in Queensland rose by 4,000 persons—up 0.2 per cent—in September 2015.

Since the Palaszczuk Labor government came to power, we have recorded eight consecutive monthly rises in employment. In trend terms, over the eight months since January 2015, 34,500 jobs have been created in Queensland. This consisted of a 10,600 person rise in full-time employment and a 23,900 person rise in part-time employment. That is around 1,320 full-time jobs created each month. This record is in stark contrast to the shameful record of the LNP when in government. In trend terms, between March 2012 and January 2015, they recorded a loss of 10,700 full-time jobs. That is around 310 full-time jobs lost per month. Queensland's trend unemployment rate rose a full percentage point during this term, from 5.5 per cent in March 2012 to 6.5 per cent in January 2015, and it had been higher.

The encouraging labour force data dovetails with the latest state accounts to be released later today, where Queensland recorded its strongest economic growth in more than three years, with Queensland's gross state product rising by 1.3 per cent in real terms in the June quarter 2015 to be 2.2 per cent higher over the year. This was the strongest quarterly trend growth since the December quarter 2011. These are all encouraging signs that our positive economic policies are restoring the jobs growth that was stymied in Queensland under the previous LNP government's ineffective policies. Under the LNP, unemployment peaked at 6.7 per cent, as Campbell Newman's government slashed jobs and turned his back on Queensland businesses. The Palaszczuk government is promoting jobs and growth, and we are engaging with business through our business open-door policy to get more Queenslanders back to work.

CRIMINAL LAW (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE) AMENDMENT BILL

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

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 14 October (see p. 2240), on motion of Ms D'Ath—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (11.39 am): Domestic violence is a dreadful scourge on our community, and the only way that we are going to be successful in tackling it is by working together across all levels of government in all states and communities. I was proud to be part of an LNP government determined to address this odious and very confronting social issue by establishing the special task force headed by Dame Quentin Bryce. Last Sunday I joined the opposition leader and a number of my parliamentary colleagues to take part in the Safer Families, Better Communities march against domestic and family violence, and tonight we will also attend the rally organised by DVConnect. These rallies and many rallies that are being held across the state are a powerful expression that domestic and family violence will not be tolerated.

In keeping with our commitment to a bipartisan approach to addressing domestic and family violence and implementing the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report, the LNP will be supporting the bills. However, we do have some concerns around one element which was highlighted in the statement of reservation to the committee. The Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015 seeks to increase the accountability of perpetrators and increase protection for victims of domestic and family violence. These are important provisions which are necessary to signal to anybody who perpetrates domestic violence that it will simply not be tolerated. The bill increases the maximum penalties for breaches of domestic violence orders under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012. It also seeks to allow a former conviction to be retrospectively changed to a domestic violence conviction.

During the public hearing on 30 September, the Queensland Law Society raised some concerns about the retrospective nature of the penalty provision, as did the Bar Association of Queensland in their submission. The Queensland Law Society explained that at the time of prosecuting an offence not all circumstances may have in fact been explored—for example, whether the evidence concurred with the offence insofar as did it in fact occur within a domestic relationship. I acknowledge the Attorney's explanation around this provision in her second reading speech yesterday. However, there are still concerns which I expect will be further explored during consideration in detail. I very much agree with having enabling legislation that charges full criminal offences and indicating that they occurred in a domestic violence context. By doing this police will have the ability to know the full extent of a person's violent history and it will enable them to paint a picture of cumulative patterns of harm, escalation in violence that has been perpetrated and the risk that is posed by an individual to potential victims, but I believe that the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association do have some valid points in terms of the retrospective nature of the penalty provisions.

There is a nexus with this provision in giving police the ability to disclose information in a supportive and timely way to potential victims. As you may be aware, Madam Deputy Speaker, in May this year I tabled an exposure draft bill to provide for the disclosure of convictions for domestic violence or sexual offences. In June the Leader of the Opposition and I launched and released a consultation paper, *Queensland domestic violence and sexual offences disclosure scheme*, and we invited all interested stakeholders to contribute their feedback on a number of key questions about the disclosure scheme for Queensland based on the United Kingdom's Clare's Law model. I am very appreciative of the insightful submissions that we received and to all who attended the roundtable discussions we held around the state.

The feedback provided a clear signal from stakeholders that a disclosure scheme does have a place as part of a range of strategies in Queensland to deal with domestic and family violence. In fact, the Australian Association of Social Workers provided a submission to the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Bill 2015 strongly recommending that the government consider implementing a disclosure scheme as proposed by the LNP so that people in intimate relationships can access their partner's or their prospective intimate partner's criminal history in order to make an informed decision about pursuing that relationship.

We have heard from the Minister for Women that introducing a disclosure scheme in Queensland is premature. I very much challenge that position, because there is nothing about addressing domestic violence that should be considered premature. It is time for the government to take a serious look at a disclosure scheme so that we can protect Queenslanders and possibly save lives. I would note that yesterday, as part of a suite of initiatives to deal with domestic and family violence in New South Wales, the LNP government announced locations to roll out a disclosure scheme. I was very pleased last week to meet up with Minister Goward to discuss the benefits of a disclosure scheme as an early intervention measure in the quest to eradicate domestic and family violence across the nation.

I move on to the second bill, and I want to lend my full support to amending the Evidence Act 1977 to ensure that the availability of protections for special witnesses applies to all victims of domestic violence. This is certainly a move in the right direction.

I would also like to touch on the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015. This bill seeks to establish an independent body to systemically review domestic and family violence related deaths. The independent body is not intended to forensically examine individual cases as this is the job of the coroner. However, the task force report highlighted the importance of taking immediate steps to enhance current review processes for domestic and family violence related deaths in Queensland which will inevitably increase our understanding of systemic root causes.

When the LNP was in government we established a similar independent review body to examine the deaths of children known to the department in the 12 months prior to their death at a systemic level. That panel was also required to identify common systemic failures and gaps and to make recommendations to improve systems, practices and of course, importantly, procedures. From the experience that we gained in establishing that review board it is absolutely essential that the specialist experience, qualifications and expertise of individual members is secured in order to synthesise the best possible outcome for the process. As politicians we all have a responsibility to ensure that our communities are safe, victims of domestic and family violence are supported and perpetrators face the full force of the law.

I conclude my contribution by thanking the Attorney for arranging a briefing last week with her departmental officers along with officers from DPC and the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. I would like to particularly thank those who shared their stories, their insights and their experiences through the committee process. If we all work together we really can make a difference.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11.47 am): Domestic and family violence is one of the most complex social issues facing Queensland and indeed the country. For those affected it is a devastating and traumatic experience, which is why the Palaszczuk government has said 'enough is enough'. Combating domestic and family violence is an absolute priority for this government. The *Not now, not ever* report made 140 recommendations for change. The government has accepted, and is committed to implementing, each and every one of them. We have announced initial funding of \$31.3 million over four years to implement the Palaszczuk government's response to the final report of the special task force on domestic and family violence, and we are already acting on key recommendations. This includes the trial of the specialist domestic violence court in Southport, supported by a new bench book and best practice report, to deliver better outcomes.

Local government and non-government agencies are working together to support this trial, and extra funding has been provided for perpetrator intervention programs to support men to change their violent behaviour. We have also announced that Beenleigh and Logan will be the first trial sites of a new integrated service response to domestic violence and will deliver a well-informed and coordinated approach to the needs of people affected by domestic violence across the region.

To support women in crisis we have commenced work on two new 72-hour crisis shelters—Brisbane and Townsville—to be operational by the end of the year. We have also fast-tracked initiatives to immediately change the way our police stations respond to individual domestic violence complaints, rolling out 300 body worn cameras on the Gold Coast. In addition to these and many other initiatives, the government is reviewing the legislative response to domestic and family violence.

Over the past few months I have been all across Queensland—at events, community round tables and rallies—talking to people about domestic and family violence and its horrific impact on our state. I have been so heartened in recent months to see the very public strengthening of the resolve of our community to stand up, to speak out and to say that Queensland will not tolerate domestic and family violence. In my conversations with victims and the service providers who support and protect them, increasing penalties and reforming the domestic violence order system have come through again and again as clear concerns. Today we are acting on those concerns.

The bills before the House begin the Palaszczuk government's legislative reform process to strengthen Queensland domestic and family violence laws. Queenslanders are outraged by domestic and family violence, which is tearing our families apart. It is time to send a clear message to perpetrators that domestic and family violence is unacceptable.

I note that the member for Aspley has mentioned a proposal for a disclosure scheme along the lines of the United Kingdom's Clare's Law. On the face of it this may sound compelling, but we need to look carefully at how such a scheme might work and its implications particularly for victims. Clare's Law was not a recommendation in the *Not now, not ever* report, the most comprehensive examination of this issue ever undertaken in Queensland. The domestic violence sector has indicated that we should prioritise information sharing and delivering joined-up services to help victims and deal with perpetrators. It is the sector that is saying to us that this would be premature. The sector is worried about the unintended consequences of a disclosure scheme like Clare's Law, including potential risks to women, victim blaming or the creation of a false sense of security. Sadly, there is no evidence that such a scheme improves victims' safety by preventing domestic violence from occurring; nor do these models lead to any action being taken against perpetrators. Such a scheme would not address any gaps in support from police and the legal system. There are more effective ways to direct resources, for example, into legal assistance, crisis accommodation, housing, counselling and financial assistance for victims.

While the New South Wales government plans to pilot such a scheme, the Western Australian government decided not to introduce one. We will closely monitor the New South Wales pilot scheme and we will continue to discuss this idea with the sector. We would be keen for the opposition to share all of the material from their consultation to help further inform our views. All stakeholder issues and concerns would need to be thoroughly explored prior to introducing such a scheme in Queensland. Early informal stakeholder consultation of key players in the domestic violence sector has revealed a range of concerns and a firm desire for the priority to be on the delivery of the *Not now, not ever* recommendations, which are strongly supported by the sector.

I now turn to the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015, which contains amendments to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act. The criminal law amendment bill proposes to strengthen penalties for breaches of domestic violence orders to increase perpetrator accountability. The bill will also ensure that a higher maximum penalty for breach of a domestic violence order applies when the offender has been convicted of a criminal offence committed in a domestic violence context within the previous five years. This ensures that courts sentencing offenders can take into consideration patterns of past behaviour when they are imposing a sentence for a breach of a domestic violence order.

Where a perpetrator of domestic violence has previously engaged in domestic violence related criminal conduct, it is so important that this history of similar conduct can be taken into consideration when imposing a penalty for a subsequent breach of a domestic violence order. This will help ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions and that patterns of escalation are taken into account when assessing risk. Sentencing courts will retain the discretion to impose a penalty, taking into consideration all of the circumstances of an individual case. The bill also allows a court to identify particular convictions on an offender's criminal history as being domestic violence related, and this will assist police and the judiciary to identify patterns of behaviour over time.

When I speak to victims of domestic and family violence and the hardworking people in the domestic violence sector who work to protect and support them, there are a few themes which constantly come through. One of those is the need for reform of the DVO system and to crack down on perpetrators who flout a DVO in an effort to further harass or commit violence on their partners or former partners. Offenders who are subject to a DVO need to know that there are serious consequences if they breach it, and victims who take out a DVO need to have confidence that it will offer them protection. That is what the changes today aim to do.

The member for Caloundra has indicated that the opposition has concerns about the potential retrospectivity of these provisions. The provisions in the bill are critical to enable courts to effectively identify the pattern of behaviour that often underpins domestic and family violence. Such patterns have to be recognised and taken into account by courts in order to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions and keep victims safe.

Only a court sentencing an offender for the breach of a domestic violence order or a domestic violence offence can record a previous conviction as a domestic violence offence. Before recording a previous conviction a court must be satisfied that a previous offence for which a conviction has already been recorded is a domestic violence offence. Courts will continue to have discretion to decide the matter, taking into account the information that is provided by both the prosecution and the offender's

legal representatives. There is a simple way to avoid having your previous convictions recorded as domestic violence offences: do not breach a domestic violence order or commit domestic violence offences.

I am very supportive of the provisions of the bill which will give special witness status to victims of domestic and family violence in criminal proceedings. Over and over I have heard about the concerns women have when they experience the court system and that navigating the system makes them traumatised all over again. Imagine the bravery it takes to stand up to a violent partner, only to find that you have to give evidence in front of them in court. These provisions will provide courts with the flexibility to allow victims to give evidence without the offender in the courtroom.

I turn to the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015. The task force highlighted the need for a specific domestic and family violence death review process to comprehensively review domestic and family violence services, supports and systems and to identify any failures or gaps which may have contributed to domestic and family violence related deaths. This recommendation is one which has been welcomed very enthusiastically by the domestic violence sector as they have fought so long for its establishment.

Across this country, two women a week are dying at the hands of their partner or former partner. That statistic is utterly shameful and highlights why we are so determined to eliminate domestic and family violence. We must ensure that these women have not died in vain. It makes sense that when a death occurs we look at what it can tell us about how the system has worked or did not work in that case.

These bills lay a strong foundation for further reforms in this area. My department has commenced a broader review of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act and I look forward to continuing these reforms with members of the House.

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (11.58 am): I rise to speak on the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015 and the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015. I thank the secretariat staff and my fellow committee members, who have undertaken their role with typical professionalism and under considerable time pressure.

Domestic violence is a scourge on our society. Its impact is felt across regions, social groups and demographics. In Queensland, nearly half of all homicides over the past eight years have been linked to domestic and family violence. The recorded trend of deaths in the context of domestic and family violence is increasing.

Domestic violence is typically viewed by the public as physical violence within a relationship in the family home. The National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children found that an essential element of domestic violence is an ongoing pattern of behaviour aimed at controlling one's partner through fear, for example, by using violent or threatening behaviour. The violent behaviour is part of a range of tactics used by the perpetrator to exercise power and control and can be both criminal and non-criminal in nature.

To effectively combat this societal disease we must have a very clear understanding of all its causes and symptoms and effects. This necessarily involves the whole community. The previous LNP government established a special task force on domestic violence chaired by the Hon. Dame Quentin Bryce. The *Not now, not ever* report is the culmination of the dedication and hard work of many people, but I especially want to acknowledge those extraordinarily brave women who told their personal, harrowing stories. Of the 140 recommendations, 128 pertain to government and the legislative process, and I acknowledge the fact that the current government has committed to acting on every recommendation. This bipartisanship is emblematic of the seriousness of the situation and the determination that the community has to rid our society of domestic violence.

The Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee has received many submissions and heard from witnesses. The *Not now, not ever* report recommended a body be established to thoroughly investigate cases of domestic violence leading to death. The task force found that there were likely gaps and failures in the current system and a formal body ought to be established to identify systemic failures or issues and make recommendations to improve systems, practices and procedures. The Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill is the legislative result.

This bill provides for the establishment of a board; definition of domestic and family violence death; functions and powers of the board; the respective roles of the State Coroner, the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit and the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Board; the administration and resourcing of the board; board membership, which includes government and non-government entity representatives; governance; information access; confidentiality; and reporting. The bill empowers the board to make recommendations to both government and non-government entities and importantly enables the board to monitor the implementation of the recommendations.

The committee notes that the reforms in the bill have been fast-tracked. However, the committee reminds the department that the committee's consultation process—necessarily truncated—is not a substitute for government consultation in the policy development stage of drafting a bill. The committee notes that the department has undertaken to further consult with service providers and stakeholders prior to debate on the bill.

The Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015 was examined in parallel. This bill amends the Criminal Code Act 1899 to introduce a definition of 'domestic violence offence' and to increase the maximum penalty for breaches of domestic violence orders and special witness protection for domestic violence victims. In addition, it provides notation of domestic violence offences to ensure a perpetrator's criminal history clearly illustrates any pattern. However, I remain concerned over the retrospective application of proposed new section 12A(6) of the Penalties and Sentences Act. The Queensland Law Society and Bar Association of Queensland raised concerns about the court's ability to retrospectively classify prior convictions as domestic violence offences. The QLS stated that this approach was—

... fraught with danger in that the context in which the earlier offence occurred may not have been explored at the time of the conviction.

The policy intent behind the increasing maximum penalties for breach of domestic violence orders is to provide greater deterrence for perpetrators of domestic violence and to reinforce the community's view that domestic violence is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. However, during public hearings Dr Silke Meyer, the Women's Legal Service, BoysTown, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service all cast doubt on whether increasing maximum penalties would act as a deterrent given that existing maximum penalties are rarely, if ever, handed down. I would urge the government to consider these points raised in the report and look at the potential benefit of investment in intervention that addresses underlying causes of domestic and family violence.

The committee acknowledges the work the department has undertaken since the bill's introduction and its intention to undertake further consultation. This provides the department with additional time to consider the retrospective application of this legislation and to acknowledge the concerns of the Law Society and the Bar Association. Notwithstanding these concerns, these bills are a critically important step in the right direction on what I am sure will be a long and at times difficult road for our community. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.04 pm): I rise in support of the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill and the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill. On 18 August 2015 the Premier released the government's response to the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence report, *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*, accepting all 121 of the government recommendations and supporting the 19 non-government recommendations. The task force report tells a story that as Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships makes me particularly concerned.

A Draft Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy, which is the vehicle to drive change across all sectors of the Queensland community, has also been released for community consultation. I encourage all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members to provide feedback and contribute to this important strategy. Indigenous Queenslanders experience disproportionately high levels of violence, including domestic and family violence. In some communities violence and abuse is so prevalent it has become normalised to the extent that people who live there regard it as inevitable. The tragic result is that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are 35 times more likely than non-Indigenous women to be hospitalised for spousal or domestic partner assaults.

The report also noted that the impacts of violence and abuse in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities cannot be underestimated, contributing to negative effects on psychological and physical health, homelessness, poverty, children's wellbeing and education. This violence and abuse must stop, and it must stop now. It is incumbent on every one of us to take a stand against violence. Together with the Premier, my ministerial colleagues and each of you as members of parliament, I am committed to working with the Queensland community to champion change.

On 24 July this year I chaired the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Men's Leaders Round Table in Cairns, with participants from across the state taking up the challenge to end the violence and abuse. At this round table participants agreed to make a pledge as men not to tolerate violence in any form, to call out relations and friends who commit any form of violence and to collectively apologise to and support victims of family violence. This is a very powerful statement and is the kind of commitment we need across the state to bring about a shift in attitude towards domestic and family violence. The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships will continue to take up this challenge as we work with relevant agencies and all stakeholders to implement the government's response.

In my electorate of Mulgrave we have completed work on the new Yarrabah women's shelter—finally! For me this was a priority back in 2011 when I was previously the minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships and committed \$800,000 to constructing this essential piece of infrastructure to help keep women in Yarrabah safe. Construction was scheduled for completion at the end of 2012, but unfortunately there was an election in 2012 and the LNP had not delivered by this time as we had committed way back in the previous term. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Leanne Enoch, for her absolute understanding of this important facility. In fact, last week she visited my electorate to inspect the shelter in Yarrabah and was able to see firsthand the kind of environment and services that will be offered to women and children in need. This five-bed shelter will provide temporary supported accommodation and support for women and children escaping domestic and family violence. It will be operated by the Yarrabah Aboriginal Corporation for Women and I know that it will be an invaluable part of this community and my electorate.

I must also commend the practical grassroots initiatives like the annual football game being held between the Yarrabah Seahawks and the Mossman-Port Douglas Sharks to create awareness of Domestic Violence Month by wearing pink jerseys on the field. We all know that sport, especially local Rugby League clubs, can have an enormous influence on their communities, and in North Queensland local teams have been showing leadership on many of the issues facing the communities they are from. The Normanton Stingers come to mind with their anti-domestic violence campaign 'Domestic violence—it's not our game' back in 2010. That campaign was adopted by 14 Rugby League teams in New South Wales and two in New Zealand as well as an Aussie Rules team in Victoria. It is a great example of how strong teams with strong messages can have a wideranging influence within and beyond their communities.

The kind of cultural and cognitive change we are striving to achieve in this fight against domestic violence starts at home, so these initiatives matter and they do make a difference. That is why the Palaszczuk government is leading and supporting the implementation of a number of recommendations, including amending the Family Responsibilities Commission Act to include the requirement for a court to notify the FRC when a protection order under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act is made naming a welfare reform community resident as the respondent. I introduced this important legislation into the House this week. DATSIP is also working with agency partners to develop an integrated response to domestic and family violence in discrete Indigenous communities, including a trial of integrated service provision and support development of a local authority model to respond to crime and violence.

Other critical reforms include these bills that are now before the House, as introduced by the honourable Attorney-General. It is critical that we commit to protecting victims of domestic and family violence and, importantly, we must increase the accountability of perpetrators of domestic and family violence.

The Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015 achieves that objective by increasing the maximum penalties for breaches of domestic violence orders under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, enabling charges for criminal offences to indicate that they occurred in a domestic violence context, providing that convictions for domestic violence offences be

noted on a person's criminal history and amending the Evidence Act 1977 to ensure that the availability of protection for special witnesses applies to all victims of domestic violence. These are vital changes that will ensure that those who perpetrate violence are held to account for that violence and that victims are better protected.

Through the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board, we will have an independent body that is able to review at a systemic level domestic and family violence related deaths. The Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015 will, among other reforms, ensure that the membership of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board includes representatives of government and non-government entities with specialist experience, qualifications and expertise; empower the board to make recommendations for government and non-government entities; and enable the board to monitor the implementation of the recommendations. Having an independent body conducting systemic reviews will enable the identification of effective strategies to be put in place to prevent future deaths. Again, this is important work.

In Queensland over the past eight years nearly half of all homicides have been linked to domestic and family violence. From 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2013, 180 deaths occurred in the context of domestic and family violence. The number of deaths occurring in this context is increasing. As I noted previously, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are overrepresented in all of these statistics. But it is critical to remember that these statistics are not figures, but women who deserve to be safe, women who deserve to be secure. It is vital that we take steps now to address these issues.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (12.11 pm): I rise to speak to the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015 and the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015. In recent weeks, like many of my colleagues and constituents, I was shocked to see violence and public incidents occur on the Gold Coast that, once again, drew attention to the scourge of domestic violence, which has become so prevalent in our society. These events were tragic and should not have happened. They shook the members of my local community, who were outraged by what they had seen, and rightfully expected to see their elected representatives take action to address this systemic problem. At the time I said that it was the responsibility of every individual in our community to help tackle this ongoing problem by ensuring that we not only punish offenders but also provide adequate support and legal assistance for victims.

I am pleased to see that the government has so far continued the work of the former LNP government in addressing domestic violence by implementing the recommendations of the special task force on domestic and family violence contained in the *Not now, not ever* report. This task force was created by the former LNP government whilst my very good friend the member for Aspley was the minister for communities, child safety and disability services. We knew that there was no excuse for domestic violence in Queensland and something had to be done.

When it comes to domestic and family violence, the LNP opposition has taken a bipartisan approach. We know that this issue is too important to let politics get in the way of real reform. The bills that we are debating today will implement a number of the task force recommendations to address some key issues related to domestic violence. The Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill will increase the maximum penalties for breaches of domestic violence orders, commonly known as DVOs, thereby cracking down on offenders. This legislation will increase the maximum penalty for breaching a DVO, a police protection notice or release condition from three years imprisonment to five years imprisonment.

In addition, the bill will enable charges for criminal offences to indicate that they occurred in a domestic violence context and provide that convictions for domestic violence offences be noted on a person's criminal history, making offenders' past crimes more easily accessible in the future. The bill will also ensure that the availability of protections for special witnesses apply to all victims of domestic violence, recognising that not wanting to report domestic violence is a common problem in addressing this issue.

Meanwhile, the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill will establish an independent Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board consisting of multidisciplinary experts to identify common systemic failures, report to the oversight body every six months on its findings and be supported by the Domestic and Family

Violence Death Review Unit. With the task force noting the lack of a comprehensive death review structure to review the system as a whole, this is an important step towards reducing the number of deaths that occur as a result of domestic violence.

Although I, too, take a bipartisan approach to the government's implementation of the task force's recommendations, I remain deeply concerned that the Robina Community Legal Centre, which provides critical assistance to domestic and family violence victims in my electorate, remains unfunded. As I have said in this House in recent weeks, funding certainty for the Robina Community Legal Centre would mean that that centre could directly expand the free front-line service that it offers, increase its case load and ensure that it has the administrative and support staff to help those who approach the centre in times of need.

In recent weeks, amidst a six-figure funding announcement by the government for one of more than 13 community legal centres based in Brisbane, I was disappointed to see that the Gold Coast has missed out as no funding was announced for the Robina Community Legal Centre. That is despite the Robina Community Legal Centre being one of only two community legal centres available to help Gold Coast residents in times of need. Despite the impassioned pleas of my community and the recent tragic events on the Gold Coast, it remains to be seen whether the government will deliver funding certainty for a second community legal centre for this rapidly growing city.

As we embrace a bipartisan approach to tackling domestic violence, it is important that we not only work to enact improved legislative frameworks and appropriate punishments but also ensure that adequate legal assistance is available for victims of this insidious crime. With that in mind, I again call on the government to urgently ensure that the Robina Community Legal Centre receives the funding that it needs to care for the most vulnerable in our community.

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (12.16 pm): I rise to contribute to this cognate debate on the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015 and the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015. When we consider that, over the past eight years, nearly half of all homicides have been linked to domestic and family violence, it really brings home to us why these changes are necessary. From 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2013, 180 deaths occurred as a result of domestic and family violence. Last night, the Attorney-General went through the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* task force report and why this parliament needs to introduce these changes.

The Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015 will amend the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 to increase the maximum penalties for the offence of contravening a domestic violence order. It will also amend the Evidence Act 1977 to include the presumption that victims of domestic and family violence be regarded as special witnesses. That means that victims of domestic violence will have increased access to 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 videotape recording. By providing these changes for victims of domestic and family violence, those suffering from this insidious disease in our communities will have more confidence.

The last time I spoke in this chamber about domestic violence, I spoke from a personal perspective in regard to my own daughter, Sally. Since that time, copious numbers of people have contacted not only my office but also the offices of other parliamentarians telling their stories. I think it is important that people continue to come forward with their stories of domestic violence and the impact that that has had on themselves, their families and their communities.

Recently, a bright Indigenous young woman from Cairns named Renee delivered a speech at Cape York House at a Stand Up Against Domestic and Family Violence event. When she finished, there was not a dry eye in the place. Renee spoke of her parents growing up in a different era—a time when everything was kept secret, behind closed doors. She spoke about how it should not be a child's responsibility to hide knives, fearing that her parents' fights would escalate into violence or stand between them screaming for them to stop so that she could have one night of peace and be able to go to school and function the next day.

Members of the public are coming forward asking for help. My office received a phone call from a father who told an alarming story that bore striking similarities to that of the road rage of Tara Brown, which tragically led to her death. More recently, in the electorate of Bulimba, I was fortunate enough to attend with Di Farmer, the member for Bulimba, a Queensland African Communities Council dinner. At that function I purchased a book titled *Prison to palace* by a Liberian-born lady named Lucy, which told her personal story of domestic violence, both in Queensland and Africa.

I note the submission of the Immigrant Women's Support Services which drew parallels to Lucy's book. This 55th Parliament is acting decisively in making incremental changes to legislation for a change—a change where victims, a change where fathers like myself, will be left without worry that our daughters will be treated with respect by males in their lives. We owe it to our current and future generations to remedy this insidious scourge which has infected our communities for far too long. We should be proud to leave a legacy as parliamentarians of this 55th Parliament that we have done our best to assist victims of domestic violence in Queensland. I commend the bills to the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Before calling the member for Moggill, I acknowledge in the public gallery student leaders and teachers from Holland Park State High School, Villanova College, Loreto College and Whites Hill State College hosted by the member for Greenslopes, Mr Joe Kelly. Welcome.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.19 pm): I rise to address the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015 and the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015. I support the intent of the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015. I support the intent of the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015 given that it will enhance relevant penalties and sanctions for those who commit acts of domestic and family violence. The rate and severity of domestic and family violence in Queensland continues to be problematic despite initiatives and efforts by community and government representatives over many years. Women and children must feel safe in their own homes. Estimated costs of domestic and family violence to the Queensland economy range between \$2.7 billion to \$3.2 billion annually. These figures are truly staggering. It was the LNP government that initiated the special task force chaired by Dame Quentin Bryce which produced the *Not now, not ever* report. I, along with my LNP colleagues, have given full bipartisan support to the Queensland government's response to the 140 recommendations.

Throughout my professional life as a doctor I have had to protect, report and manage some truly tragic domestic violence situations. As a medical superintendent in a small rural community I remember having to treat a female patient who had been attacked with a small tomahawk axe. The physical injuries healed with time but not the emotional scars for either the patient, her family or all the health professionals, including me, involved in her care. Alcohol was certainly a factor in the case of this violence and often illicit drugs such as amphetamines can also be involved. Whilst I acknowledge the Palaszczuk government's recent \$6 million investment in front-line prevention strategies, more still needs to be done with respect to alcohol and drug disorders, particularly access to alcohol, tobacco and other drug services across Queensland and in our hospital and health services.

I am particularly concerned about amphetamine type stimulants and the role they play in violence in our community, including domestic violence. There are varying stimulants: methylenedioxymethamphetamine, otherwise known as ecstasy; paramethoxyamphetamine, known as death; and amphetamine sulphate, speed, with often a purity of five to 10 per cent, base, with a purity of 40 per cent; and crystalline methamphetamine, ice, with a 90 per cent purity meaning it is highly addictive, often causing extremely dangerous psychoactive episodes of paranoia and psychosis leading to violence. Ice, crystalline methamphetamine, is neurotoxic and extremely cheap, with one point—which equates to 0.1 of a gram—selling for \$100 with users often consuming \$100 to \$200 per day compared with a gram of heroin at \$450 a day. Whilst supply reduction strategies, including policing and law enforcement, are important, greater investment is still needed in demand reduction and harm minimisation strategies.

I was recently a keynote speaker at the International Conference of Addiction, Prevention and Treatment in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. As an addiction medicine specialist I am particularly concerned about the wave of new synthetic stimulants coming from China and South East Asia over the next three to five years and what this means for Queensland and Australia and all forms of violence in our community but specifically domestic and family violence. Assistant Commissioner Mike Keating, from the Queensland Road Policing Command, said yesterday at the Australasia Road Safety Conference that one in 10 motorists are now testing positive to drug-driving compared to one in 50 seven years ago. Drug-driving is a growing public safety issue on our roads which must also be addressed.

Recently I hosted a roundtable forum on domestic violence in my electorate of Moggill with key stakeholders attending, including DVConnect, the Queensland Police Service, the Brisbane Domestic Violence Service and the LNP's shadow minister for communities, child safety and disability services,

the member for Aspley, the honourable Tracy Davis MP. I thank the shadow minister for attending that forum. This local forum provided a key opportunity to discuss appropriate strategies for dealing with domestic violence, including the LNP's proposed Queensland Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Disclosure Scheme. Any breach of an individual domestic violence order needs to be taken extremely seriously with appropriate actions taken, including imprisonment and periods of incarceration applied increasing via this legislation to between three and five years depending upon the circumstances. The Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015 will ensure cross-jurisdictional alignment and consistency of application. There is clear evidence of extensive consultation in drafting this legislation with a range of individual stakeholder organisations and also service groups involved in managing this shameful stain on our supposed civil and humane society. Ensuring courts can take into account previous domestic violence related convictions is also an important measure.

The Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015 allows for the establishment of an independent body to review domestic and family violence related deaths. It is vitally important that a root cause analysis be undertaken when any such tragic incidents occur, allowing for system and service improvements to be identified in order to avoid future occurrences. Occurrences of domestic and family violence should never occur and a number of incidents in the last few weeks have been particularly tragic.

The intended board will have broad representational input, appropriate governance oversight and realistic reporting time frames. It is certainly time as a community that we eliminate all forms of domestic and family violence and I, along with the residents and other community leaders of my electorate of Moggill, will ensure that comprehensive strategies are implemented to end this shameful culture. Domestic and family violence is perpetrated by cowards. It is un-Australian and it will be not tolerated in Queensland, not now and not ever.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (12.26 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015 and the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015. The recent very public, very violent deaths in Queensland have highlighted the domestic and family violence taking place in our communities in a deeply shocking way. The shock of these deaths has brought the issue into the forefront of people's consciousness and their discussions and contributed to the fast-tracking of the reforms we are considering today.

I recall when I was about nine years old learning that a school friend had been murdered by her father. He had attempted to kill the family via acute carbon monoxide poisoning—or attaching a hose to the family car and gassing my friend, her baby sibling and mother. But as this did not prove entirely successful and my friend escaped the vehicle, he then shot her in the back as she ran from the car and then killed himself. Our school community was of course devastated, but there was limited discussion of what happened that day and why, because it was a private issue, an issue within their family and none of our business. Domestic and family violence is not private business. It is everyone's business. Embarrassment or discomfort at witnessing or becoming aware of such behaviour and perhaps fear of reporting it must give way to a resolute rejection of it and concern for the safety and welfare of victims.

The bills before the House give effect to recommendations contained in the *Not now, not ever* report. The Queensland government has committed to fast-track reforms that will increase accountability of perpetrators and protection for victims of domestic and family violence and establish an independent review and advisory board to review, at a systemic level, deaths resulting from domestic and family violence and identify failures or gaps that may contribute to such deaths. The bills achieve their objectives by increasing maximum penalties for breaches of domestic violence orders, enabling charges for criminal offences to indicate that they occurred in a domestic violence context and providing that convictions for domestic violence offences be noted on a person's criminal history and by ensuring that all victims of domestic and family violence have access to the protections under the Evidence Act 1977 afforded to special witnesses. The bills send a message to perpetrators that domestic and family violence will not be tolerated.

Under clause 17 of the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill, a court will have the power to order that previous criminal offences, for example, assault occasioning bodily harm, be noted on a person's criminal history as a domestic violence offence. The recording of such convictions is consistent with the approach adopted in NSW and in accordance with recommendation No. 119 of the *Not now, not ever* report. Currently in Queensland offending that occurs in a domestic violence context is not obvious in the recording of the offence. Should the offender subsequently appear before the court

on another criminal offence that occurs in a domestic and family violence context, the prosecutor and court are unlikely to be aware of the offender's previous offending. The bill overcomes this and recognises that, to enhance the safety of victims, information must be available to the court, police and other supporting agencies to allow for appropriate action to be taken against the offender. I appreciate the debate that has occurred already in the House on the retrospective nature of this amendment, but cannot but support any measure that provides greater protection for victims against future and escalated violence through timely identification of this type of behaviour.

The Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill will establish an independent review board to review, at a systemic level, deaths resulting from domestic and/or family violence and identify failures or gaps that may contribute to such deaths. One of the key functions of the board, set out under new section 91D, is the analysis of data and application of research to identify patterns, trends and risk factors relating to such deaths in Queensland. Having a strong evidence base of this nature will further assist government to ensure optimal selection of measures that reduce or prevent incidence of domestic and family violence moving forward. Establishment of the board under the Coroners Act will also ensure that the board's activities complement the existing work and capabilities of the Office of the State Coroner.

It has been heartening to see the very open and public dialogue that has followed recent tragic events. I hope gone are the days that I experienced as a child, when domestic and family violence was not discussed as openly. Now very much on the national agenda and at the forefront of this government's agenda, there is significant momentum for action and I thank the Premier, the Attorney-General and the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth for leading this momentum. I also acknowledge the strong bipartisan support from across the House for action in this regard.

However, government cannot do it alone. Domestic and family violence is not a government issue, but rather is an issue that we all must own as a community. Recently, my colleague the member for Sandgate and I co-chaired a community leaders' forum on domestic and family violence. The forum brought together community leaders from across our neighbouring communities, along with the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Shannon Fentiman, to discuss collaborative action arising from the *Not now, not ever* report recommendations. Importantly, the forum was an opportunity for the minister, the member for Sandgate and I to listen to the ideas and challenges being experienced by our local women's refuges, service providers, schools, Indigenous leaders, Queensland Police Service officers and academics. I know similar forums are occurring across the state.

Recently, I was contacted by a survivor of extreme domestic violence. For obvious reasons I will not provide her name or identifying particulars. Her reflections on how her life and the lives of her children were daily impacted by violence and the palpable relief she now feels at seeing her children grow and thrive in the absence of it is deeply impacting. I quote her words—

I remember saying once that all the security in my house was useless, as although it would prevent burglars from breaking in, it was the person who lived in the house with me that I needed protection from.

I left twice and returned ... (I know many people would wonder why) ... because I had nowhere to live, no car (it was in his name), 2 very young children, and by the time I paid childcare I was working for about \$2 per hour, I could not even afford rent, much less feed and clothe the children. Centrelink would not assist me as when I said we were no longer together, he would tell them that we were (more of his manipulation game; knowing that without financial support there was no other option than to return to him).

She did leave, but it has not been easy. The perpetrator followed her from house to house and state to state. I thank her for her words and her courage in allowing me to share a little of her story here today.

The reforms before the House today matter. They have the capacity to make an appreciable difference to victims of domestic violence. However, we all know there is still much to be done and I thank the Attorney-General for her continued advocacy in regard to work on cross-border recognition of apprehended violence orders moving forward. With nearly half of all homicides in Queensland over the past eight years linked to domestic and family violence, I can think of no better way to conclude my remarks on these important bills today than to use those of one who has survived it—that is, the woman I spoke of earlier. She said—

I won't say it is an easy road, as that would be untrue, but it is a road that I am so glad I found the courage to take, and I hope that other victims of domestic and family violence can also find themselves free from the hurt and fear, and rebuild their lives the way that my children and I have been able to.

I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.34 pm): I agree with the previous speaker in saying that the changes we are discussing today do matter. They are appreciable, but there is more to be done. With that introduction, I too rise to comment on the two bills before the House. The Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill establishes the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board to review, at a systemic level, domestic and family violence related deaths. The Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill increases the maximum penalty for breaches of domestic violence orders.

As was outlined by the shadow minister and by many of my colleagues on this side of the chamber, we are broadly supportive of both of these bills. The shadow Attorney-General will, of course, focus on one area where we have some concerns. Our broad support is consistent with the bipartisan approach to implementing the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report. As the shadow Attorney-General said, the LNP is proud to have initiated that special task force, which was chaired by Dame Quentin Bryce and which, earlier this year, produced the *Not now, not ever* report.

I will focus my comments specifically on the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill and, in particular, the fact that what we are discussing is an increase to the maximum penalty, which is a fantastic start. It is a really good start. However, as the previous speaker said, it is a start and we need to do more. I wish to share an email that I received from one of my constituents. For obvious reasons, I will not identify him. He writes—

I am writing to ask if you would please sponsor an e-petition. I am seeking an amendment to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 as I have a daughter who has been the victim of domestic violence by her ex-partner for the past 20 years. Her mother, sisters and I have all witnessed the trauma she has endured by having to repeatedly apply for protection orders to remain protected. Her ex-partner is relentless and resumes his violence immediately on the expiration of each order by presenting himself on her doorstep and parking her in on the very next day after an order expires. She has to apply for a temporary order prior to the expiry of each order, just to keep him at bay. This situation is also traumatic for all of our family, as we cannot help but expect the worst from him in that he may one day cause her serious harm or death, as he has threatened on many occasions in the past.

No-one should have to live like this. Laws should be made to protect the innocent, not the guilty. So I believe it only fair and reasonable that the onus should be placed on the respondent to have a protection order lifted by application to the court rather than the aggrieved victim to bear the considerable cost, both financial and psychological, of having to apply time and time again for protection.

I am pleased to say that, with the assistance of this constituent, we will be launching an e-petition very soon to see if that change could be considered by the Attorney-General.

I want to keep my comments brief, but before I conclude I will share another story that I received from a constituent. It is one that presents a slightly different perspective on domestic violence. Because of that, I will be clear from the outset: I abhor violence and abuse perpetrated by males. As a husband, a father of five, a white ribbon ambassador and a former employee of the department of child safety, I believe that such practices are despicable and inexcusable. However, the current focus on domestic violence has brought numerous constituents to me outlining abuses of the existing domestic violence system itself. It is on that basis that I share the following—

As a single working mother of two children, my ex-husband and I do not face a lot of the domestic issues that arise from separation. This is mainly from the fact that my father wrote an agreement, signed by both of us, within a month of our separation. This agreement was to ensure that the children were not kept from either parent, that their needs were met by both parties and that we had an independent drop-off and pick-up venue away from the home.

Now this worked for us well. In fact, when you reached the angry phase of separation it was a God send to have this document. Now separated two years, our children have a healthy, happy relationship with both parents—no courts, no lies, just time to heal and deal and support our children.

As you know, my story is so very different from most. During this same time a male friend of mine had separated from his wife. In the same two-year period there were six domestic violence claims made against him. He lost two jobs as he had to attend court almost fortnightly and the issue of police attending the workplace to serve him.

The first domestic violence application was immediately granted to his ex without any form of evidence—just that she said it had happened. After going to court quite a few times, with strong evidence that he had not committed any of the allegations made against him, he was eventually awarded his own domestic violence order against her.

When they went to trial over those issues he lost his against her because he is a man and does not need to be protected from a woman. She was granted a two-year DVO, to which she has then alleged through police about six breaches, and six times the police have found no breach. He also was not allowed any form of visitation with his then nine-year-old son because she just simply would do not let him. Her words being, 'Take me to court.'

After losing his last job he went to a lawyer and was granted legal aid. They won the court case, giving him back access to his son. He now has every second weekend and half of the school holidays along with phone contact. Fathers have rights as well, but you know the only person really hurt by this nonsense was a nine-year-old child. There was nothing to protect him from the situation—nothing.

The reason for me telling you this story is because I want to know how this can happen. I want to know what is being done to cull the vicious women who use domestic violence as a weapon in separation. What is being done about their false allegations? Why are they not accountable for their false allegations and the waste of police and court funds while other women seriously need to be protected from their abusers? They get missed, they get hurt, they get killed. Their children lose mothers and fathers because nothing is being done to the women who use this as a weapon and treat DV as a joke. There are no repercussions for actions when, in fact, there are—the deaths of women who desperately needed that help and did not get it because the police are wasting their time with false accusations.

I again stress that I am not, for one minute, suggesting every allegation of domestic violence is false, but it is intriguing that a woman in my electorate has come to me with that story, concerned that there are abuses of the current system.

I do hope in our current focus on domestic violence—this important focus that we have on domestic violence—that we look to create a system that protects the innocent, whether they be the man or the woman in the situation.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.42 pm): I rise to speak in support of these two bills. I am sure I will be joined by all in this House in support of these bills. I would like to start by acknowledging the student leaders from my electorate who are here today. I am sure they will play an important part in the changes we need to achieve over the coming years.

We recently witnessed some truly tragic and shocking public acts of domestic violence. These public acts rightly sickened and disgusted the community. Sadly, these public events are played out every week in our community, away from the glare of the media spotlight and the community outrage that the media exposure triggers. However, there is a deep and sincere desire right across our community and the political spectrum to bring these issues to light and to do what is necessary to put an end to domestic violence.

Responding to a challenge from Premier Palaszczuk to show leadership on this issue in our community, I worked together with the Women's Legal Service and federal member for Griffith, Terri Butler, to hold a rally in support of survivors and victims of domestic violence in the electorate of Greenslopes. The rally drew over 150 local residents and representatives of many community groups including Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre, the Holland Park RSL, the Holland Park Islamic Society, Cavendish Road State High School and Mount Gravatt Community Centre.

The event demonstrated the bipartisan approach that is possible to this issue. It was good to welcome former member for Greenslopes, Mr Ian Kaye, to address the rally. I thank him for his work on the *Not now, not ever* task force. We were joined by a range of organisations like DV Connect and the SafeTCard that took the opportunity to inform community members about what people can do if they are involved in a violent relationship or know somebody who is. This rally demonstrated that our community is willing to work together to end domestic and family violence.

Like many people in the community, I have been aware of domestic violence as a concept, but I have led a life that is free of this type of violence. As a nurse I have seen many sad things. Perhaps one of the saddest things that I have had to deal with are families and people who supposedly love each other doing each other great damage.

While inviting people to attend the rally I was actually quite shocked at how many people shared with me that they had personally suffered as a result of domestic and family violence. We have heard many tales and stories in the last little while from various people in this House about their own personal experiences with domestic violence. I particularly want to thank the member for Pumicestone for sharing the very tragic events that he shared with us last night.

I want to acknowledge the work of the *Not now, not ever* task force led by Quentin Bryce. The report laid out a plan for moving towards eliminating violence. I congratulate Premier Palaszczuk, Minister D'Ath and Minister Fentiman for their action on this plan thus far. I certainly acknowledge the fact that they intend to implement all recommendations.

Raising community awareness and educating people about what they can do about domestic violence is fundamentally important, but the report outlined 140 recommendations. That is why I am supporting these two bills. They are driven by recommendations from this extensive report.

The establishment of an independent body to systematically review all domestic and family violence related deaths will yield valuable information—information that will allow for the improvement in systems, practices and procedures. As a nurse I have seen firsthand how careful analysis of tragic situations can assist greatly in avoiding a repeat of that situation.

I certainly support the increase in penalties for breaching domestic violence orders. It sends a strong signal to the offenders and the community that breaching an order is a very serious matter. Noting domestic and family violence convictions on an offender's criminal history will allow judicial officers to be aware of patterns of escalating offending and appropriately sentence them. It will also assist judicial officers to facilitate the victim obtaining assistance.

I note that the bill also provides further protection for victims of domestic violence when they are acting as witnesses by giving them protections as special witnesses under the Evidence Act 1977, something I very much support. The documenting of escalating patterns of behaviour also provides the opportunity for perpetrators of domestic violence to take responsibility for their actions and seek help before it is too late.

While discussing this issue with people in my electorate there were many different reactions. Many have expressed their sympathy and solidarity with survivors and victims of domestic violence. Many have a strong desire that anyone in a violent relationship seeks help before tragedy strikes. Some feel an utter sense of hopelessness and lament that anything can ever change.

On many issues in this place we have very differing views on what should change, but we are all united in our belief that society can change. When I speak to these people who lack hope, I encourage them to think about what has happened in relation to sexual harassment in the workplace. Sexual harassment, once common and ignored, is now unacceptable, both socially and legally. While it still occurs, it is more rare. As a society we can and we must once again stand together to say not now, not ever to domestic violence. I fully support these bills.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Before calling the member for Albert, I acknowledge in the gallery student leaders and principal, Mr Jeff Major, from the Wavell State High School, hosted by the member for Nudgee, Leanne Linard.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (12.48 pm): I rise today to speak in the cognate debate on the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill and the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015. As everyone has certainly said in this chamber over the last day or so, domestic and family violence is absolutely and utterly disgraceful. It certainly is a blight on our modern society and has direct impacts on the liberty of individuals.

History tells us that we have progressed far as a society. We have created modern marvels through science and innovation as education has empowered our society. But there are those out there in our communities who obstruct the rights of others, whether it is through violence or verbal abuse. It is certainly not welcome in our modern society but, unfortunately, it is very prevalent.

This behaviour is totally and utterly unacceptable, and it is even more disturbing when it is instigated by a person who is in a relationship with them. It is an abuse of power by one person over another through fear and control. As a father of three children—I have a little boy and two little girls—I hope that we create a far better world in the future for them so they do not have to live with this scourge in our society.

In September 2014 the previous Newman government set about establishing a special task force headed by the former governor-general, Dame Quentin Bryce. This was a comprehensive review into domestic and family violence that handed down its report in February this year. The report was titled *Not now, not ever*. This report made 140 recommendations of which I am very happy the government has implemented 121.

To give some statistics, in 2013 there were 64,246 reported instances of domestic violence in Queensland. In 2012 we saw 12,828 breaches of domestic violence orders. In 2014, 18 of the 49 homicides in Queensland were directly related to domestic violence. Other members have spoken about the particulars when it comes to tougher legislation in the bill, especially the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill. I will not go into detail due to time constraints, but I 100 per cent agree that we need to get tough on this issue.

I would like to highlight the efforts of my local community groups and the local police which cover the wonderful electorate of Albert. The Coomera Police Station hosts a specialised domestic violence squad, which is made up of four officers. They work extremely hard in our community to combat this scourge. This is proven by a 95 per cent clearance rate of domestic violence cases in our local area. This has made a real impact, especially in the southern sections of my electorate and around the electorate.

The Beenleigh Police Station also hosts a specialised domestic violence squad. They have six officers and they have certainly hit the ground running. They currently have 100 high-risk cases on their books, and it is sad but this number is increasing. The media is getting the word out there that people can come forward—and I certainly appreciate that people are doing that—but it is a blight on our society that this is happening. It is certainly a tough job for the front-line officers who turn up to these situations. I 100 per cent support everything they do.

I just want to elaborate on the STAAR program, which is a local program. STAAR stands for Standing Tall Against Abusive Relationships. It is a physical fitness program that is designed to empower women who have been subjected to or are currently subjected to an abusive relationship. This program is about getting mothers and certainly children involved. It consists of strength, conditioning and aerobic training sessions. The STAAR program is conducted within the electorate of Coomera at the Eagleby centre, and it is a fantastic program. I just want to put a good word in for them and thank them for their efforts.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (12.54 pm): I rise to show my strong support for the passage of these two bills through parliament which will address the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* task force to provide for domestic and family violence related convictions to be recorded; to hold perpetrators to account for repeat contraventions of domestic violence orders; to implement alternative evidence procedures for victims of domestic and family violence providing evidence in related criminal matters to reduce the trauma of the experience; and to establish an independent domestic and family violence death review board in order to identify systemic failures, gaps or issues and make recommendations to improve systems, practices and procedures.

I wish to speak only relatively briefly, but I know my local community would want me to speak, to pass on their wholehearted support for the two bills but, most importantly, for the bipartisan approach that is being taken and the genuine commitment of all concerned to get all of those task force recommendations implemented as quickly as possible. Again, on behalf of my community, I express my admiration for the way in which the Premier, the Attorney-General and the Minister for Women in particular have taken up the challenge of delivering on those task force recommendations. Their personal passion for doing so is palpable and they have left no stone unturned. I also acknowledge the recent commitments of the federal government in this area and of the opposition in initiating the task force when they were in government and for their clear commitment to working together with the government to address this shocking issue.

Like everyone in this state, and I am sure around Australia, the people from my area were sickened by the recent tragic domestic and family violence related deaths which so publicly played out before our eyes. For many people I spoke to in the weeks that followed, and in the public discussion about those deaths, it was clear that it was just the very tip of the iceberg that is domestic and family violence. It was the first time that many people were even aware of just how pervasive that violence is in our society and how absolutely critical it is to take action. I know that that has been confronting for many, many people. However, what that public discussion has achieved is a far greater awareness of exactly what is happening in our society—and that is in fact one of the recommendations of the task force—and also how important it is for all of us to take responsibility for that, and that is also what the task force has asked us to do.

I would like to congratulate my local community and say how enormously proud I am to represent them in the way that they bonded together and have made so many approaches to me in so many ways to ask how they can help—the police, the refuges, the schools, the students, the churches, the local sports clubs, the service organisations, the individuals who already have huge issues happening in their lives. They are all so desperate to make a difference. I thank the minister for committing to coming out to speak to those groups in the next month to work out what we can do locally to really address these issues.

I know how important it is in my own community to have a strong network of support. Many people say to me, ‘You wouldn’t have much domestic violence happening in your electorate, Di, would you?’ We are an electorate which is largely characterised by people who are tertiary educated, professionals and people with high self-efficacy, and we are a reasonably affluent area in so many ways. However, that could not be further from the truth. I think we all know that domestic violence spares nobody. It does not matter who you are or what your background is. Everybody could be a victim.

In fact, when I go out and speak to community groups about domestic violence, there is not one instance when somebody does not message me afterwards—and it is usually the person you would least expect—who says to me, 'Di, that's me, and I am so pleased that you have raised that because it means that I know there is something that can be done.' In fact, what has been shocking to me is not only that it is the people I least expect but also that in one instance it was even a very dear friend of mine, and it sickens me to the stomach that I did not realise what she had been through in the last number of years.

However, those people are coming forward now because they feel there is a climate of support, because some of them know for the first time that what they are experiencing is not actually okay. It is the first time that they have realised that it is not actually okay because we are having this very public discussion about this issue. But it is why this debate in this House is so important today and it is why these bills today are so important. People need to know that there is a groundswell of support, that there is a momentum which now cannot be stopped and that things will be done and will continue to be done.

I congratulate the committee, chaired by the member for Bundaberg, for the enormous amount of work they put in to get this process through as quickly as possible and to consult with stakeholders as quickly as possible. I note the comments from the Law Society which I think encapsulate the approach of everyone. They had not really had the opportunity to give the Coroners Bill the full consideration that it probably required but that this legislation is 'lives in the balance' type legislation. We know it needs to go through. We all know that. We just have to move these things through as quickly as possible. The people of Queensland want this government to take the initiative. They want us to do this, and I am so proud that we are doing this as one of the many, many things that will go through this House to address the scourge of domestic violence. I support these bills wholeheartedly.

Debate, on motion of Ms Farmer, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Indooroopilly Electorate

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (2.30 pm): Those who dedicate their lives to the care, education, growth and happiness of our youngest children are invaluable to our community. My electorate of Indooroopilly has been blessed over many years with two such individuals who have now announced they are retiring. Known to most as Miss B, Suzanne Burdon started working at St Lucia's St Thomas's Riverview Kindergarten in 1976.

An honourable member: That is the year you were born!

Mr EMERSON: Something like that—I wish! As the centre's founding director, over the last 40 years she has taught two generations of many families. As she told the *Westside News*, much has changed over that time but the pleasure she gets in guiding her young charges remains. 'We get a lot of fun and humour from them, and I love to see them blossom and develop in their learning and their social interactions,' she said. 'I miss the days of having time to play in the mud, although I am getting old,' she joked.

Centre committee president Sam Freshney described Miss B as having an infectious, positive nature and an ability to bring out the best in children. I personally remember during the challenging days for my local community after the 2011 flood when two generations of former students rallied to St Thomas and helped in the clean-up of the centre. It was the clearest indication of the affection they felt for both Miss B and the centre she has run over the decades.

Chelmer Station Community Kindergarten is also saying farewell to its director, Anne Marlay. After more than two decades serving and educating children, Anne's name is synonymous with the Chelmer Station Community Kindergarten. Both centres have been holding events to commemorate, reflect and thank both Suzanne and Anne for their wonderful contribution to their kindergartens and local communities. I join them in thanking both these remarkable women and wish them the best in the years ahead.

Like these kindergartens, there are many fine schools in the Indooroopilly electorate. Six of them featured in the list of the 20 top schools for the NAPLAN results. Dedicated teachers and progressive leadership contribute to producing strong academic results and well-rounded students. The other contributing factor is the hardworking parents who support their students and their schools, especially

those who are members of the Parents & Citizens' Association. P&C members are tireless in their commitment to promoting the growth and achievements of the school and doggedly raise funds to finance additional resources and facilities to enrich student learning opportunities. I would like in particular to commend parents in my electorate such as Derek Brown of Graceville State School; Ray Osborne of Ironside State School; Georges Lefevre of Holy Family Primary School and Megan Dorloff of Fig Tree Pocket State School for their hard work and dedication to their local schools and communities. Many others also contribute to making Indooroopilly such a wonderful electorate to be the member for.

DestinationQ

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.33 pm): I rise today to inform the House of the DestinationQ forum that was held on Thursday and Friday last week in Townsville. Attended by approximately 400 tourism industry members, the DestinationQ forum theme was invest, excel and grow, and proved to be yet another great Palaszczuk government event.

The Queensland Tourism Industry Council and the Premier renewed an industry-government partnership that encouraged all members to commit time, money and effort to ensure that the tourism industry is positioned to meet the expectations of visitors and that it has the support of the community to excel and deliver an exceptional experience for all visitors to Queensland, whether they come for a holiday, an event, a meeting or to study and whether they are Australian or from overseas. They were encouraged to grow and increase jobs in the tourism industry, boost visitor expenditure in Queensland and lift profitability of tourism businesses.

Keynote speakers included Mark Sundquist from Fiftyfive5 who presented research data into what tourism consumers are looking for and what businesses can do to improve conversion. Perhaps one of the most interesting keynote speakers was Sarah Mathews, the head of destination marketing with TripAdvisor, who presented to the forum the gold-star tip that every tourism operator can do, and that is to provide free wi-fi. Every member in this House relies on tourism in their electorate. This simple service is guaranteed to ensure guests and consumers are able to immediately post photos on Facebook and blog sights as they boast to their friends about their adventure in your part of the country. I encourage all members to take that tip on board.

Fiona Caulfield's keynote address challenged operators to move from guests 'liking' Queensland to 'loving' Queensland by providing travellers with authentic experiences. It means engaging guests through all of their senses, making a personal and emotional connection, understanding that the experience trumps anything you do with cost and that time is the new currency.

Perhaps what made this forum different from past experiences was the ability for operators to access industry leaders and Palaszczuk government ministers who reported on their progress and were later involved in a question and answer session by participants. The Premier outlined the significant impact the Asian visitor market will have in Queensland and the need for operators to effectively prepare for the influx of Chinese visitors to Queensland. Deputy Premier Trad outlined the key transport initiatives to support tourism across Queensland including the need for the federal government to support stage 2 of the light rail project on the Gold Coast and the impact this would have for the Commonwealth Games.

Minister Jones spoke of the increase in visitor numbers while the Treasurer spoke of the impacts to the local economy that tourism brings to every community and the need to meet market demands. Minister Bailey announced the \$20 million worth of road upgrades that would support the drive market and better and safer roads. Minister Miles utilised the forum to announce the draft ecotourism plan while Minister O'Rourke spoke of the importance of the NDIS and how it will encourage greater accessibility for those with disabilities.

Schools, Road Safety

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.36 pm): Everyone in this House would acknowledge that road safety plays such a critical part in protecting everyone here in the state of Queensland but especially important is road safety around our schools. Like no doubt all MPs in this House, I am passionate about improving road safety around each of the 18 schools in the amazing electorate of Glass House. I am passionate about advocating for 40-kilometre zones. I am very grateful for the hard work of the P&C president at Montville State School, Kate Beard, and I also acknowledge the TMR regional director, Amanda Yeates, who together after seven years of trying finally got 40-kilometre speed signs in Montville.

I am passionate about school crossing supervisors. Whilst many schools have volunteers and they do this out of love, some simply need to be paid because of the time taken to do what they have to do to protect our kids. As members would know, we are working on getting funded school crossing supervisors at Chevallum State School, and I am confident of good news very soon.

I am also very passionate about getting flashing school zone lights. We have been very successful in the Glass House today in already having these lights at Beerburrum, Elimbah, Wamuran, Woodford, Chevallum, Conondale and Mount Mee, but it is Peachester State School's turn. Earlier this week I tabled both an e-petition and a written petition from residents in and around Peachester calling for flashing school zone lights for the school. I thank P&C president Margie Jennings for leading the charge and collecting 78 e-petition signatures and 603 written signatures. That will now go off to the relevant minister, and I do hope the minister will give this serious consideration.

Peachester State School is a bit unusual. It is on a main road—the road that connects Beerwah through to Kilcoy—but it is set back from the main road and unless you know the area you would not necessarily know there is a school there. For some time that has been used as the justification for not putting in flashing school zones, but the fact that they do not know the school is there is exactly the reason why they should be putting flashing school zone lights there. It is also a very heavily utilised tourist route connecting the Sunshine Coast with the South Burnett and Darling Downs. Many people simply do not know the speed limit through that area and need an extra reminder to know there are kids about, they need to slow down, they need to take a little extra time in getting through Peachester. Most importantly, they need to keep the kids at Peachester State School safe. Again, I thank Margie and her team. We had a fantastic day at the Peachester State School fair collecting signatures. I am very confident that when the minister sees the petition and the amount of support it has that we will be successful in getting flashing school zone lights.

(Time expired)

Self Help Queensland

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (2.39 pm): In a sentence, Self Help Queensland helps Queenslanders to help themselves. It is my belief that this organisation is unique in this state. In 1983 a group of like-minded Queenslanders worked together from their homes to establish a network of people who would go out into the community to encourage and inform people of the self-help groups that were available to them when adversity strikes. This was no mean feat because, as we all know, a crisis can come in many forms—in the form of chronic illness, mental or physical health, grief and loss, or simply loneliness and isolation.

Self Help Queensland has created a model that provides a range of services to develop, sustain and promote self-help and self-help support groups throughout Queensland. It now works with approximately 2,500 groups and assists approximately 400,000 Queenslanders each year. The range of support groups now covers not only illness but also support for a range of community issues such as social justice and gender matters through to aged care and even climate change. On that point of social justice, the self-help group in Sunnybank ran a forum where migrants were able to come along and engage in a mock election, and they learnt how to vote and what our voting system was all about.

Its value to the community cannot be analysed purely by financial outlay. The Newman government in its wisdom took away funding from the self-help groups. The reason for this decision is not clear, but I do suggest perhaps the previous government's understanding of the community and its willingness to support and be supported was sadly lacking. I had the privilege of attending a presentation of 100 sewing machines which were donated by a member of the community who became aware of the situation through Self Help Queensland. The 100 sewing machines were donated to Somali women who had arrived in Queensland after 14 years in a refugee camp.

(Time expired)

Atherton Hospital, Upgrade

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (2.42 pm): Yesterday I tabled a petition containing 5,588 signatures calling for an urgent upgrade to the Atherton Hospital. This petition of the residents of the Atherton Tablelands draws to the attention of the House the critical need to upgrade the Atherton Hospital. The residents of the Atherton Tableland have waited long enough for a new hospital and they call on the government to replace the facility as a matter of priority and urgency. The current facilities are outdated and inefficient. Rather than spending large sums of money on more bandaid solutions, the petition requests that the money be put into the redevelopment of a new facility. A new upgraded hospital would attract a broad range of specialists that patients currently have to travel to Cairns,

Townsville and Brisbane to access. A new hospital would ensure that patient care and emergency services are maximised. An upgraded hospital would also relieve pressure on the Cairns Hospital, provide an alternative hospital during severe weather events, provide more specialists to consult patients and also incorporate a training facility.

Many of the burns victims from the Ravenshoe cafe explosion received their initial treatment at the Atherton Hospital. The unprecedented emergency resulted in the patients who were being treated in the hospital being urgently discharged in order to make room for the critically injured and freeing up the staff to assist with the emergency. Without any doubt, the fantastic work on the day resulted in much better outcomes for the injured. However, we need to recognise that this was done under extreme pressure.

On a recent tour of the hospital with the Minister for Health, Cameron Dick, we were able to see firsthand how desperately this hospital needs an upgrade. The small group could hardly fit into the emergency department. The space is just too small and well below the standard one would expect in an emergency department in 2015. The lack of air conditioning in the tropical location means that unscreened windows are left open to create air flow. This exposes patients to all manner of bugs and germs and, again, this is just not up to today's standard. The hospital has had its use-by-date. It is becoming unworkable and cramped and there is a high cost of maintenance. This has been recognised for many years.

I commend all those who work at the Atherton Hospital in such outdated conditions. This has been acknowledged by the community, as is evident by the sheer size of this petition which reveals the massive support for the upgrade of the hospital. We call on the state government to come up with the funds to fast-track the approval for a new upgraded hospital to provide a much needed health boost to the Atherton Tablelands and surrounding districts.

Bundaberg

 **Ms DONALDSON** (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.44 pm): I rise today to talk about the bright future I see for the people of Bundaberg under this government. This weekend Bundaberg hosts community cabinet and there is a real buzz from locals about having the whole ministry in town. Our region has so much to offer. Our economy is turning a corner after many hard years. It looks like we have a good sugarcane harvest, an increase in agricultural diversity and increased building and development growth. Businesses are investing and new small businesses are opening. Tourism is growing. Recent investments will see new facilities and attractions this turtle season. Our activities to deliver our election commitments for the region are well under way. This weekend there will also be some exciting announcements that will have long-term benefits for my community. I say this to the ministers: no minister is allowed to come empty handed.

We still have a long way to go after years of LNP neglect, but the hard work of the community working with a government that supports them is starting to pay off. It might surprise the House to hear that it will be exactly 12 months since Campbell Newman brought his cabinet to Bundaberg, but I can tell you the difference this weekend will be stark. The thing we will not see on Sunday is regular people, mums, dads, teachers, doctors and community representatives being excluded from turning up and asking questions of the Premier and ministers. Last year, Bundaberg was overrun by police and security in case some scary, little old lady got too close to Campbell Newman and some of those opposite to ask the real questions. The LNP did not want to hear about the community issues, job cuts and cuts to services. They did not want to justify their plans to privatise services, close our TAFE, sell assets, increase job insecurity and increase unemployment. They did not want to stand up to Tony Abbott and the LNP in Canberra and their closure of our Bundaberg Medicare local, the removal of services and their rollout of an inferior NBN.

There was another reason the LNP did not want to face the people of Bundaberg. The LNP did not want to look into the eyes of people and admit they did nothing positive for Bundaberg while in government. Actually, I am wrong; they did do something. They cut. There were lots of cuts. Lots of people were sacked. There was lots of fighting with doctors, nurses, emergency personnel, lawyers and workers. That is well documented. Our community was screaming out for help—for help from high unemployment, from the cost-of-living pressures, from the devastating floods—but those opposite would not let anyone just turn up at community cabinet and have their say. Many people were outside though. There were teachers, nurses, firefighters. There were many union members, standing up for workers. They were guarded by police of course in case they got too close. They were protesting against—

(Time expired)

CCIQ Noosa

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (2.47 pm): Noosa is home to people who overwhelmingly have made a conscious decision to move into our community and contribute to its ongoing prosperity. One organisation which over the last few years has made great strides in showcasing itself in the Noosa community at large is CCIQ Noosa. Under the excellent stewardship of past president, Sarah Fisher, and the new president, Peter Chenoweth, the Noosa chamber hosted in July of this year their inaugural best practice forum which I attended.

Also participating in the forum were representatives from chambers of commerce in Maroochydore, Caloundra, Mackay, Brisbane Bayside, North Lakes, Fortitude Valley and Toowoomba. The chamber's recently elected management committee includes Peter Chenoweth, Dick Barnes, Ingrid Jackson and Robyn Walter who, along with a vibrant membership, are taking CCIQ Noosa to new heights of professionalism.

I am really excited about the partnership this organisation is developing with other local businesses and community groups. This will allow the small business sector to speak as one on issues vital to their wellbeing. I congratulate the Peregian Business Association, the Tewantin Traders Association, the Noosa Parks Association, Country Noosa, the Noosaville Business Association and the Hastings Street Association for their support and involvement and which, when combined, are a strategic and powerful voice for our area's 4½ thousand small businesses.

That is the local strategy. Regionally, CCIQ Noosa is the only Chamber of Commerce belonging to the Sunshine Coast Business Council and the only chamber on the Sunshine Coast to be accredited by the peak body, Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland. Five years ago another great initiative was the development of Business Mentoring Noosa. This outstanding service is offered by a group of highly successful, semiretired and retired businesspeople who lend their expertise to helping local small business owners improve their profitability. CCIQ Noosa is also involved in driving other projects which include an international film festival, a proposal for a convention centre and fast-tracking the introduction of high speed broadband for businesses in the region.

In business, there always needs to be an overarching goal and for CCIQ Noosa, it is to grow the average revenue of the 4½ thousand small businesses in Noosa by 10 per cent by June 2017. All of this is done by volunteers with one aim: to see small business expertise and employment in our community grow.

Rockhampton Hospital, Cancer Services

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.51 pm): Thursday, 8 October 2015 was a very important day in the delivery of the history of healthcare services in Central Queensland. Around 500 Central Queenslanders each year will benefit from new cancer treatment services following the opening of Rockhampton Hospital's cancer services building last week by our Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, the Hon. Cameron Dick. The new cancer services building houses three floors of cancer services, which includes day treatment and inpatient beds for overnight care, staff office space, an expanded intensive care unit, two general hospital wards, a plant room and the rooftop helipad. The opening of the new cancer services building means that people living with cancer in Central Queensland can have their treatment closer to home instead of having to travel long distances. Having cancer is traumatic enough without being separated from your family and friends and other support networks. With this facility, people in Central Queensland who require treatment for cancer can have their family and friends around them at a time when they really need such support. It is important to realise that we are dealing with people and people with cancer need to have the best possible chance of beating it. Having facilities close to home gives them that chance.

The origins of the centre go back to 2006 when Stephen Robertson was minister for health and Peter Beattie was premier, when provision was made for a cancer centre in Rockhampton. This building has been a long time coming and my colleague Minister Bill Byrne, member for Rockhampton, has been a strong advocate for the centre along with former state and federal members Robert Schwarten and Kirsten Livermore. It was then Prime Minister Julia Gillard in 2011 who committed the \$140 million needed for the project, and I thank the federal Liberal government for continuing this project started under a Labor government.

The centre will provide a better quality of life for the people of Keppel, Rockhampton and Central Queensland more broadly. This centre will save Central Queensland lives. Currently, less than one-third of Central Queensland cancer patients receive radiotherapy treatment and they have to travel to Townsville or Brisbane for treatment. That is two-thirds who do not access this potentially lifesaving

therapy and are at a significantly higher risk of an early death. Patients at the hospital have already started receiving chemotherapy and other cancer treatments, but this facility has three radiation oncology bunkers and room for two linear accelerators for the future delivery of a radiation oncology service, which I understand is not far away.

Many thanks go to the Chairman of the Central Queensland Health and Hospital Service Board, Charles Ware; CEO Len Richards; and all the staff who have played a role in delivering the new centre. Many thanks go also to the doctors and nurses who had to put up with the inconvenience, the security people who had to tell patients and visitors the best way to get into the hospital, the wardies, the administrators and everyone who works at the hospital. Congratulations also to the tradies for whom this has been their daily work site for several years and the builders Hansen Yuncken.

Sunshine Coast, Roads Infrastructure

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.54 pm): I raise an issue with the House, a very important issue on the Sunshine Coast, and that is the crippled road networks we now have because of a lack of investment and foresight by the new Labor state government. We have a \$2 billion hospital opening next year, one year away, which the LNP brought forward by six months because we believe in investment on the Sunshine Coast, particularly for the health of the region and its people. Going into the election we had a plan to deliver a \$400 million road infrastructure network upgrade. That was the Mooloolah River interchange. It would have provided additional capacity off Kawana Way. It would have provided additional carriageway at the Mooloolah River crossing. It would have provided additional support in terms of road infrastructure to Mooloolaba from north of Nicklin Way. Those who travel on Kawana Way and Kawana Way link road from Caloundra Road and Nicklin Way would know that at peak times it is already crippling. The member for Caloundra will understand that coming into Caloundra and then turning onto Kawana Way link road, our roads can hardly handle the traffic congestion as it is.

The LNP had a plan to come up with a \$400 million strategy to deliver the Mooloolah River interchange. What was the first thing the new Minister for Transport and Main Roads did when he became the minister? He cancelled the infrastructure project. The problem is that we have got a hospital opening next year—a \$2 billion hospital opening in 2016—without appropriate road infrastructure to support the hospital.

The other day I was travelling to the office and I went over the little bridge on Kawana Way and there was an accident on the bridge. The emergency services had to close one lane of the bridge and it was mayhem there for 45 to 55 minutes as cars travelled that road. Guess what? It was right out the front of the hospital. Can honourable members imagine a situation when the hospital opens in one year's time and emergency service vehicles like ambulances are going to have to use that road to get to the hospital? It is not going to happen, particularly as demonstrated by the accident on that road the other day.

It is shameful that the first thing this Minister for Main Roads did was cancel that project; \$400 million was stripped from the Sunshine Coast. It would have provided the opportunities and the road infrastructure needed—

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order. The member for Kawana is misleading the House by saying that we have cancelled the program. We cancelled no program. There was no commitment whatsoever.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! There is no point of order. I call the member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: We have a road project that has been cancelled. I do not have a copy of it, but the *Sunshine Coast Daily* quotes the minister saying that it is off the agenda. The department of main roads had a plan for it. I think if you go onto the main roads website the plan is still there for the Mooloolah River interchange, and he denies it ever existed. There were plans there by his own department.

I do not want anyone to die because they cannot get to the hospital. Unless this new Labor government starts taking roads and the Sunshine Coast seriously, someone will die when this hospital opens next year. We can avoid it by building the roads now.

Roads Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (2.57 pm): Firstly, I will address those extraordinarily untrue comments made by the member for Kawana, who is trying to cover up three years of inaction on the

Sunshine Coast by alleging that there was a cancellation of a program. There was never any funding by his government whatsoever for the project he just mentioned. It was put forward as part of the Strong Choices program, a program that was resoundingly rejected at the last election. It was never funded by the former government. The member opposite had three years to do something about it. He failed, and all of his Sunshine Coast MPs failed. Now he is trying to get us to solve something that he could not solve for three years. He can be assured that we are planning for the road needs of the Sunshine Coast, but he is misleading this House by alleging that a program was funded when it was not.

I move on to the important issue of the M1. It is a crucial part of our Queensland road network. The member for Springwood has been raising this very important matter with me and I thank him for his very strong advocacy on behalf of not only his constituents but the many constituents who use the M1 every day. Despite the federal government failing to commit any funding whatsoever, the Palaszczuk government has now committed to funding the business case for the upgrade of the Gateway Motorway-M1 merge.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): The level of audible conversation in the House is growing. I ask people to take their conversations outside.

Mr BAILEY: This is needed to unlock the funding for the construction required to meet the needs of this fast-growing region. Queensland is sick of waiting for the federal government to commit to a fair and appropriate funding model for the M1. That is why we are pushing ahead with a business case for the southbound section of the Pacific Motorway between the Gateway Motorway merge and Rochedale Road. A multimillion dollar upgrade is desperately needed for this vital freight and commuter route that links Gold Coast to Brisbane and beyond. Currently more than 147,000 vehicles battle congestion on this motorway each day, including more than 12,000 heavy vehicles.

To date the federal government has ignored our calls to commit the same 80 per cent funding they do elsewhere in Queensland and around the country. We just want Queensland to be treated the same as other states. In New South Wales, for example, they are getting \$5.64 billion in an 80-20 funding split for the same road across the border. Elsewhere in Queensland the federal government provides funding at 80-20 for the Gateway arterial, Toowoomba, the Warrego and up on the Bruce Highway, all of which carry less traffic per day than the M1. Without a debt commitment from them to fund planning on an 80-20 basis we have been caught in a no-win scenario, but we are getting on with the job by pushing ahead with this planning.

Our business case proposes a new 100-metre-long, four-lane overpass on Underwood Road which will enable the motorway to better service cars, buses and trucks. In total, the planning provides for the upgrade of three kilometres of motorway from three to five lanes in the southbound direction to be completed in early 2016.

(Time expired)

MINISTERIAL PAPER

Petitions, Government Responses



Hon. SJ MILES (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (3.00 pm): I lay upon the table of the House the responses to petition numbers 2412-15, 2450-15, 2430-15E, 2451-15 and 2432-15E.

Tabled paper: Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, Hon. Steven Miles, to an e-petition (2412-15) sponsored by the member for Cleveland, Dr Mark Robinson, from 177 petitioners, requesting the House to engage and consult with the local North Stradbroke Island community; to listen and act upon their concerns; and to commit to adhering to a 2035 end date for mining so as to ensure that a proper economic transition can be planned for, and delivered, to enable the island and its people to be sustainable post sandmining and into the future [\[1414\]](#).

Tabled paper: Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, Hon. Steven Miles, to a paper petition (2451-15) presented by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Andrew Cripps, and an e-petition (2432-15) sponsored by Mr Cripps, from 2,095 and 4,424 petitioners respectively, 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 sick and injured cassowaries and orphaned chicks are cared for by trained and properly resourced professionals [\[1415\]](#).

Tabled paper: Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, Hon. Steven Miles, to a paper petition (2450-15) presented by the member for Keppel, Mrs Brittany Lauga, and an e-petition (2430-15) sponsored by Mrs Lauga, from 1,195 and 1,634 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to support a total ban on single-use plastic bags, including biodegradable and degradable bags, due to the presence of plastics [\[1416\]](#).

MOTION

Order of Business

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.00 pm): I move—

That government business orders of the day Nos 1 to 6 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Revocation of State Areas

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (3.01 pm): I move—

REVOCAION OF STATE AREAS

1. (1) That this House requests the Governor in Council to revoke by regulation under section 9 of the *Marine Parks Act 2004*, the declaration as Marine Park of the area as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz—

Description of areas to be revoked

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Great Sandy Marine Park | Area described as Unallocated State Land adjacent to Lions Park (Lot 5 on CP880110) within the Burrum River at Burrum Heads and containing an area of 2.2 hectares of tidal lands and tidal waters as illustrated on the attached sketch |
|-------------------------|--|
- (2) That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef for submission to the Governor in Council.

Revocation of part of a marine park is a matter that I do not consider lightly; however, on this occasion I believe that the revocation of a small part of the Grand Sandy Marine Park to allow for construction of a new, safer public boat ramp facility at Burrum Heads, is justified. The local community has waited a long time for this. The new public boat ramp will allow more locals and tourists to enjoy and appreciate many of the values that make the Great Sandy Marine Park special.

Before proceeding with any revocation, substantial justification and a thorough assessment is needed. This includes a determination that there is no reasonable and practical alternative. Ensuring the revocation will not significantly impact on the integrity of the marine park is also a key consideration. Ninety-nine per cent of Queensland's east coast sits within a marine park. With this extensive coverage there is occasionally a need to revoke small areas from the marine park network to address location-specific management issues. This revocation will allow for the development of infrastructure that is incompatible with the marine park's management.

I propose that a 2.2-hectare area from the Great Sandy Marine Park at Burrum Heads be revoked. Burrum Heads is a coastal township located at the mouth of the Burrum River 30 kilometres north-west of Hervey Bay. Boating and fishing are important to Burrum Heads, both as recreational pursuits for many residents and as drawcards for visitors and holiday-makers to the region. While the town has two existing public boat ramps, they are both in exposed locations. This makes them difficult to use and unsafe in some weather conditions. They also have very limited car and trailer parking.

These issues make the existing boat ramps problematic for users, particularly during busy periods such as long weekends and holidays. For well over two decades the local community has lobbied for an improved public boat ramp facility. The key challenge has been to find a suitable location with an adequate area of land for the car and trailer park that is adjacent to a suitable part of the river for a new ramp. The Burrum River is within the conservation park zone of the Great Sandy Marine Park. Based on the reclamation requirements, approval cannot be granted for the construction of this new boat ramp facility within the Great Sandy Marine Mark. The marine park zoning has historically prevented the previously proposed ramp siting options to be progressed.

During the last two to three years the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Fraser Coast Regional Council have been seeking to finally resolve the boat ramp issues at Burrum Heads. This has included considering a range of options, impact and feasibility assessments and community

consultation. These helped identify the most appropriate solution to the public boat ramp issue. The outcome of this work requires the revocation of a 2.2-hectare area from the marine park. This will allow for the development of a new two-lane boat ramp, a floating walkway, small rock groyne to protect the ramp from strong currents and waves and a 49-space car and trailer park.

The proposed 2.2-hectare revocation area is a very small portion of the 593,300-hectare Great Sandy Marine Park. It includes the area to be reclaimed and a buffer around the completed ramp. This is consistent with the 30 existing boat ramps that enter the Great Sandy Marine Park. Assessments have confirmed that the proposed revocation is unlikely to impact on habitat for threatened or migratory species. The Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Fraser Coast Regional Council have undertaken significant community consultation. This ensures that the proposed design and location of the boat ramp facility has strong public support.

I believe this proposed marine park revocation is justified and will provide a public benefit. The project will, however, result in the permanent loss of some marine habitat through filling to create the car and trailer parking area. Part of the Burrum declared fish habitat area will also be subject to revocation for this project. To compensate for these losses to the marine park and the declared fish habitat area, the Department of Transport and Main Roads will contribute approximately \$103,000. These compensation funds will be utilised for habitat enhancement projects and management initiatives within the marine park and declared fish habitat area.

In summary, this is an important and long-awaited project for the Burrum Heads community. I am satisfied that sufficient environmental assessment and investigation of options has been undertaken. There is significant justification to support the proposed marine park revocation. Madam Deputy Speaker, on this basis, I commend the motion to the House.

Interruption.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Visitor to Public Gallery

 **Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! Before I call the member for Burnett I would like to welcome to the gallery Mem Fox, much loved and inspirational Australian author, who is here with the member for Morayfield.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

MOTION

Revocation of State Areas

Resumed.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (3.06 pm): I hope the gallery is not disappointed with such an uninteresting but important debate here this afternoon. We on this side of the House support the motion moved by the minister—

Mr Hinchliffe: No green sheep on a boat ramp!

Mr BENNETT: Yes, very exciting. Thank you, Stirling—to revoke by regulation under section 9 of the Marine Parks Act 2004 an area described as unallocated state land adjacent to Lions Park within the Burrum River at Burrum Heads containing some 2.2 hectares of tidal land and tidal water.

Burrum Heads is a town full of boaties; some streets have more boats than houses and when there is a big fishing event there are hundreds more. Not only is the boat ramp good for the residents who have boats, it is something good for the 9,500 registered vessels in the Fraser Coast region and the tens of thousands of people who visit the region each year. A safe boat ramp with adequate parking, with due consideration to the ecology and aesthetics, is more than a luxury: it is an essential feature for this town.

Potential locations for the ramp and whether it was even needed in such a small town have been the topic of debate since it was first proposed in 1992. When we came to government we heard, 'Why has it taken two decades?' There was no resolution in sight. The town was determined to get a suitable boat ramp—and we should acknowledge Anne Maddern for making this project a reality—but it took

two decades even for the most cynical observer of the bureaucratic process, particularly when the community and council, and sometimes the state government of the day, all have been in agreement. There was delay after delay. The local government amalgamation could have been a hiccup. The need for rezoning of a marine park would—and should quite reasonably—lead to a delay. We support this motion, and I thank the minister for allowing this project to go to completion.

We all breathed a sigh of relief when we heard that the new member for Maryborough supported the boat ramp. We heard the rumours that were circulating about the new member's stance on this issue back in February, and we are glad that it is going ahead.

All matters raised in objections to the Burrum Heads boat ramp were appropriately addressed by council back in 2014. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the council's assistance and determination over 21 years in seeing this project reach an appropriate conclusion. In 2014 the council endorsed plans to build the ramp at the western end of Lions Park. In 2014 the council received 62 written submission—45 in support and 17 against. This project stacked up on environmental and financial considerations. All gave it a tick.

The state government is responsible for building the ramp and the sea based facilities while the council is responsible for land based facilities such as car parks and rigging areas. We again thank all those involved in the project. This is a sensible revocation of state areas and it should be and is supported.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (3.10 pm): They say that good things come to people who wait. They have certainly waited a long time at Burrum Heads—since 1992. It has been a great committee; the member for Burnett is correct. Being a new member—we are spending \$4½ million of taxpayers' money—I like to drill down and make sure the taxpayer is getting value for money.

The transport minister, Minister Bailey, and the environment minister, Minister Miles, worked with me and the community to get this project underway. I pass on the thanks of all the people at Burrum Heads to these two ministers and the departments, who worked diligently. All of the TMR people in Bundaberg also put a lot of effort into this. Both ministers listened to me countless times when I rang up and asked where it was.

I make mention of three people who have really pushed this project since 1992. It is ironic that the three men are now getting beyond the age of putting the boats out in the water. One of the other great supporters of this boat ramp at Burrum Heads is a former member for Maryborough, Bobby Dollin—a great member. Bobby was also there. George Dart, Bill Cardiff and Zorro Tarnawsky were the three men who pushed hard and worked hard along with the Fraser Coast council. They started this project in 1992. Many people would have walked away from it before now, but these three men hung in there. They worked hard. They designed along with TMR and they did a good job.

Mrs Frecklington: Anne Maddern.

Mr SAUNDERS: The former member did some good work. The boat ramp committee states—

In a very short period of time our local Member of Parliament, Bruce Saunders, has completely endorsed this project and has made incredible advances towards its completion. Congratulations, Bruce. Your continued efforts and involvement are greatly appreciated by our local and visiting families.

That great action was achieved by this government, through the two ministers who really worked hard to make sure this project went ahead.

Burrum Heads is an absolutely great fishing spot. This will be a game changer for Burrum Heads. We will see great things happen in the community now with boat hire, fishing and the fishing competition that happens at Burrum Heads every year. Last year there were about 1,400 entrants in that competition—not all boats.

This will put Burrum Heads on the map. I thank both ministers. I thank the committee, because they have worked hard. Let us really get Burrum Heads moving.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (3.13 pm), in reply: I thank the members for Maryborough and Burnett for their contributions to the debate. I urge all members to support the motion.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

CRIMINAL LAW (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE) AMENDMENT BILL**CORONERS (DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW AND
ADVISORY BOARD) AMENDMENT BILL****Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Resumed from p. 2289, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bills be now read a second time.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Before I call the member for Gaven, I acknowledge in the gallery today Dani Keogh and Mel Holman from Australians Against Domestic Violence.

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (3.13 pm): I rise to speak to the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill and the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015. Domestic violence is a scourge that has been occurring in our communities for far too long. It is an issue that needs to be addressed by the entire community. We in this chamber are representatives of our communities in our respective electorates, so I wholeheartedly support the bipartisan approach of this Queensland parliament to address the truly horrendous culture of domestic violence.

I welcome this legislation providing the tougher measures needed through increasing the maximum penalty for breaches of domestic violence orders under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, enabling charges for criminal offences to indicate whether they occurred in a domestic violence context and providing for convictions for domestic violence offences to be noted on a person's criminal history. Very importantly, this legislation applies the protection of special witnesses to victims of domestic violence, allowing them to not have to face the perpetrators in a courtroom. Domestic violence victims advise me that having to attend a courtroom with the perpetrator is both a harrowing and a traumatic experience, leaving some victims too scared to undertake the process.

It is fair to say that the whole nation was left feeling shocked at the recent brutal attacks causing the deaths of two innocent Gold Coast women, Tara Brown and Karina Lock. There are a number of people in the Gaven community who knew these victims personally. I know that they are counting on us as community representatives to do everything in our power to tackle the scourge of domestic and family violence. Whilst we on this side of the House oppose the retrospective nature of the penalty provisions as we believe that these should apply moving forward, I do support this legislation in line with our bipartisan approach.

As a member of the LNP opposition I am proud to be implementing the recommendations of *Not now, not ever*, a report commissioned by the former LNP government through a dedicated task force chaired by former governor-general Dame Quentin Bryce. The focus of the task force was to reduce and prevent domestic and family violence and ensure timely and appropriate support for victims.

I also take this opportunity to commend our shadow minister for communities, child safety and disability services, Tracy Davis, for her work in consulting Queenslanders on the LNP's proposed introduction of Clare's Law, which would allow a person to make an application to police for information on whether their partner has a history of domestic violence or sexual offences.

Domestic violence is occurring on a scale that just cannot be ignored. In 2013 there were 64,246 reported incidents of domestic and family violence in Queensland—up from 57,963 incidents in 2012. This equates to over 180 incidents of domestic and family violence being reported in Queensland every day. What is even more concerning than these figures is that there are countless more unreported incidents where victims are too terrified to break free. Some of these have been occurring for decades, and the stories of the range of violence inflicted are truly heartbreaking.

I congratulate the efforts of the community organisations and individuals who do work within this space, caring for the survivors of domestic and family violence. I would especially like to highlight the incredible work of Di Macleod, a local Gold Coaster and director of the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence. The organisation commenced with Di setting up a table and a couple of chairs in an unused room at the old Gold Coast hospital more than 25 years ago. She has been assisting victims ever since. Many of my Gold Coast LNP colleagues have known and supported Di's efforts for many

years, especially my good friends the member for Southport, Rob Molhoek, who puts in incredible efforts every year to raise money for Di and her organisation, and the member for Currumbin, Jann Stuckey, who recently advised me of a story about Di's absolute belief in the need to implement a death review board so that lost lives would be brought to the attention of authorities and steps would be taken to prevent further deaths. The member for Currumbin, herself a long-time advocate of and champion for the rights of women and children, shared Di Macleod's views on this and was able to assist in spreading the word by sharing the petition she had started amongst the Gold Coast community and through social media channels.

I also recently had the privilege to speak at the Sexual Violence Awareness Month Gold Coast launch and promote the 'book of hope' dedicated to all courageous survivors, who every day show incredible strength and hope. There is hope that survivors can take comfort from within its pages to find and embrace strategies that work for the healing process.

Looking back on my own life, having lived during my teenage years in a household where it seemed that domestic violence was just a regular part of life, I am immensely proud now to be an active participant in the fight against the incidence and severity of domestic violence. It is time to say that enough is enough.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.19 pm): I rise in support of the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015 and the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015. 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 the government and 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. There were 140 recommendations in the report as to how the government and the Queensland community can better address and reduce domestic and family violence. All 121 of the government recommendations have been accepted and the 19 non-government recommendations will be actively supported.

The objective of the bill is to increase accountability of perpetrators of domestic violence and family violence and increase protection for victims of domestic and family violence. The bill will achieve its objective by increasing maximum penalties for breaches of domestic violence orders under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012. It enables charges for criminal offences to indicate that they occurred in a domestic violence context and provides that convictions for domestic violence offenders be noted on the person's criminal history. It will also amend the Evidence Act 1977 to ensure the availability of protections for special witnesses apply to all victims of domestic violence. The bill also amends section 177 of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 to increase the maximum penalties for a breach of domestic violence orders. The increase in penalties is considered justified due to the seriousness of the offences, particularly where there is a pattern of domestic violence behaviour involved. The increase also brings maximum penalties closer in line with those applying in some other Australian jurisdictions—for example, Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. To assist in the process of identifying what are domestic violence offences, the bill provides for a court to have the power to order that previous criminal offences—for example, assault occasioning bodily harm—be noted on the person's criminal history as a domestic violence offence. Although this further information has been added retrospectively, it will assist in ensuring that the offender's pattern of domestic violence behaviour is more easily identifiable on a person's criminal history and therefore ensures that offenders can be sentenced more appropriately.

As the Attorney-General stated in her explanatory speech, domestic and family violence affects women, men, children and families from all sections of society. It is a scourge on our community. Everyone has the right to feel safe and be safe in public and at home. Domestic and family violence, which is often perpetrated at home in private, should be just as concerning to us as a community as crimes in the street. 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. The *Not now, not ever* report also indicated that strangulation is often a precursor to domestic homicide and a clear indication of an escalation in violence. The task force recommended considering making this a criminal offence. A key recommendation of the report 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.

The government will trial a new integrated response system in three locations across Queensland—one urban, one regional and one Indigenous—to find the best way to deliver seamless help for victims and their families. The government has also moved on key recommendations, including a specialised domestic violence court and funding two new crisis shelters in Brisbane and Townsville. Over four years \$31.3 million will be invested to implement the high-priority initiatives recommended in the *Not now, not ever* report. This is a huge undertaking, from challenging the culture and attitudes which underpin violence through the help we offer to victims to ensuring they are supported and do not get lost in the system. I congratulate the committee for its hard work in preparing this report but also want to particularly thank those members of the chamber who have relayed their own personal experiences with regard to domestic violence, particularly the member for Pumicestone. I thought his speech was excellent and I think we all learnt from it. I commend the cognate bills to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.25 pm): Domestic and family violence is a scourge. It is a black mark on what would otherwise be good, healthy and emotionally enriching communities, families, streets and houses. We have to tackle the source of domestic violence by bringing together all families, all communities and all levels of government. As leaders in a community, many of us have to step up and be counted and to loudly and vocally proclaim that domestic violence is abhorrent to decent Australians. The Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015 and the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015 will help to address this tragedy in Queensland. In a domestic violence context, these bills seek to establish the advisory board to review at a systemic level domestic and family violence related deaths; to increase the maximum penalty for breaches of domestic violence orders; to enable charges from criminal offences to indicate if they occurred in a DV context and that this be noted on a person's criminal history; and to amend the Evidence Act to give protection to special witnesses. Driving these changes is the universal support in this parliament to introduce all 140 recommendations of the landmark *Not now, not ever* report. As a father of two daughters, I welcome the report, which was commissioned by the LNP in August last year, by Dame Quentin Bryce to investigate how to tackle this national tragedy.

In the LNP's bipartisan support for the implementation of the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report, we support these bills in principle. However, there should be much concern about the government's intention to yet again introduce retrospective laws. Making laws retrospective, which seems to be a favoured response by this government, undermines our system of justice. On that basis, the retrospective nature of the penalty provisions should be opposed. Key legal stakeholders have raised their concerns with this, stating—

For example, if it is an assault occasioning bodily harm from two years previously, the question of whether or not it occurred inside a domestic relationship may not have been explored. The two parties involved in the offence may have a different view as to whether or not that did occur in a domestic relationship. It will be too late at the later offence for that to be explored ...

The danger we see is that you have pleaded guilty to an offence which can be turned into a different offence or a greater offence and the elements of all of that have not been addressed in the initial phase.

Whatever we can do to eliminate the domestic violence scourge is welcome. The LNP recognises that preventative measures are also needed to complement other laws to improve the safety of people at risk of domestic violence through those preventative measures. That is why we have also released a consultation paper that allows discussion to begin on a proposed scheme which allows access to vital information about someone's violent past and crimes.

It is modelled on the United Kingdom's Clare's Law, which is currently being trialled in New South Wales. The laws would mean that a person, their friends or family members who have a concern about his or her partner would be able to make an application to the police for information on whether that person has a history of domestic violence or sexual offences. Clare's Law was initially set up in the United Kingdom after a woman named Clare Wood was murdered by her former partner. In the course of the investigation, it was discovered that he had a violent past that had it been known by the victim or her family may have saved her life.

In my local community of Gympie, in late June I was able to hold a round table on the issue. I thank the shadow minister for attending. Only by working together can we develop an effective policy to lead the way in stamping out this insidious crime. Domestic and family violence is a national tragedy. As a community, we need to be outraged that, in 2015, domestic and family violence is still being perpetrated in homes. According to the *Not now, not ever* report, in 2013-14 there were 66,016 domestic violence incidents reported in Queensland. Two years earlier—in the 2011-12 year—that figure was 58,000. That represents a 13 per cent increase over two years. As the report notes, every day there are about 180 reports to police of domestic violence incidents.

Too often domestic violence is regarded as an easily dismissed statistic. Australians need to be shocked into action. The public has to see that domestic violence, be it through rage, devious planning, mental manipulation, simple misogyny, alcohol abuse, mental illness or just plain disrespect for fellow humans can hit home anywhere and at any time. The truth is that, like a coward's punch, it can happen to anyone no matter how wealthy or well adjusted they are. After decades of ignoring domestic violence, Australians have learned to condemn it. The statistics are now well known. Each week in Australia, one woman dies as a result of violence committed by a partner or former partner. That is one woman being killed every week by somebody who knows her. Every three hours across the country one woman is being hospitalised because of domestic violence. Researchers say that those statistics make Australia per capita a far more dangerous place for women trying to escape violent men than England and Wales. Access Economics has estimated that about 1.6 million Australian women have experienced domestic violence in some form. In 2009, the total cost of domestic violence to the Australian economy was \$13.6 billion. One in three Australian women have suffered violence in their lifetime. One in six women has experienced violence by a partner. One in four young Australians aged between 12 to 20 years are aware of domestic violence against their mother or stepmother. An estimated 25 per cent of women have experienced emotional abuse by a partner.

Despite growing confidence in the police, it is still a massively underreported crime. Police estimate that they get called out to only approximately 40 to 50 per cent of cases. We say that we are horrified and wonder what could possibly make a man hurt a woman he claims to love. Does he drink? Take drugs? Was he stressed, unemployed or frustrated? Did she provoke him? What could make a man lose control like that? There must be some reason for it. We reach for these excuses because the alternative—that hundreds of thousands of Australian men have chosen to inflict diabolical cruelty on their partners—is almost inconceivable. In 2014 Australia's state and territory police commissioners overwhelmingly singled out society's attitude towards women as a cause of domestic violence. As one said, we are all responsible for shifting social norms that blame, excuse, minimise and justify violence against women and their children. Addressing this issue is going to require lasting, generational change.

 **Mr PYNE** (Cairns—ALP) (3.33 pm): I rise to speak to the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill and the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill. Having listened last night to the member for Caloundra and the member for Bundaberg speak eloquently to this bill and hearing the heart-wrenching address from the member for Pumicestone, I am not sure that there is that much that I can add, but I will do my best.

The policy objectives of the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill are to establish an independent body to review, at a systemic level, domestic and family violence related deaths and set out the membership, functions and powers of the review body. The report of the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, titled *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*, released on 28 February 2015, recommended that immediate steps be taken to enhance the current review processes for domestic and family violence related deaths in Queensland. In particular, the report recommended that the government immediately consider an appropriate resourcing model for the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit—the DFVDRU—in the Office of the State Coroner to ensure that it can best perform its functions to enable policymakers to better understand and prevent domestic and family violence. The report also recommended that protocols be developed with the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit to ensure that government departments with relevant policy development responsibilities have access to the research and resources available to that unit.

Yesterday we heard the member for Caloundra talk about procedures in the bill to ensure that there is no conflict of interest in relation to the role of the Coroner or Deputy Coroner. In consultation with key domestic violence stakeholders, the Queensland government immediately established an independent Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Board, consisting of multidisciplinary experts to identify common systemic failures, gaps or issues and make recommendations to improve systems, practices and procedures; report to the oversight body every six months on these findings and recommendations; and be supported by and draw upon the information and resources of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit.

In Queensland over the past eight years nearly half of all homicides have been linked to domestic and family violence. From 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2013, 180 deaths occurred in the context of domestic and family violence. The numbers of deaths occurring in the context of domestic and family violence is increasing. Currently, domestic and family violence related deaths in Queensland are reviewed under processes established within the Office of the State Coroner. The Domestic and Family

Violence Death Review Unit, which sits within the Office of the State Coroner, provides specialist assistance to support the role of coroners in their investigations of domestic and family violence deaths. The task force was critical of the lack of a comprehensive death review structure to review the system as a whole and identify failures or gaps that may contribute to domestic and family violence related deaths. That situation is being remedied by this legislation.

As the task force highlighted, under the current arrangements not all domestic and family violence related deaths are reviewed through the inquest process, because not all deaths subject to the Coroner's jurisdiction will result in an inquest. Although coroners can make non-inquest findings following a coronial investigation, coronial recommendations can be made only at an inquest. In the period 2013-14, only two domestic and family violence related deaths proceeded to inquests. The task force was firmly of the view that a board that reviews at a systemic level domestic and family violence related deaths and makes recommendations for tangible improvements to systems, policies and strategies to prevent further deaths is needed.

In August 2015 the Queensland government accepted the recommendation of the special task force on domestic and family violence, including the recommendation to immediately establish an independent Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Board. This bill will achieve those objectives by ensuring the membership of the board includes representatives of government and non-government entities with specialist experience and qualifications and expertise, conferring the right on the board to information necessary to perform its functions, empowering the board to make recommendations for government and non-government entities, enabling the board to monitor the implementation of the recommendations and requiring the board to report to the minister annually and otherwise at the board's discretion.

I must say that it was very interesting, as someone fairly new to the parliament, to be a part of the hearings on this committee and a part of the committee meetings. It was very sobering indeed to realise that some of the systemic issues come to the fore as a result of a Coroner's findings or of an inquest. Tragically through that process of people losing their lives gaps in service delivery have been identified. It is very sobering indeed.

The enjoyable part for me about working on this committee was the sense of unity of the committee members who were committed to pursuing the same objective and importantly acting on empirical data and adopting a scientific approach to putting in place systems to address the scourge of domestic violence in our community.

I heard the member for Caloundra and some members of the opposition talk about some nature of retrospectivity in this legislation. Coming from a legal background that does concern me too. I understand the long tradition as to why retrospectivity is not something you want to see in legislation, let alone in legislation that affects someone's individual liberty and matters of criminality. Nonetheless, having weighed up this issue against the other elements, I have come to my conclusion based on the fact that this legislation will protect the most vulnerable at-risk people in our community. Added to that fact, as pointed out by the member for Bundaberg, is if someone previously was guilty of the offence of assault they will remain guilty of that offence of assault. If they were previously convicted of the offence of robbery, that conviction will remain. There will be no changing of sentences handed down in that way. Weighing up those concerns about a whiff of retrospectivity in this legislation and the overwhelming community benefit and how these pieces of legislation will operate, I am comfortable to support the government legislation in its entirety.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank the member for Bundaberg for her leadership throughout the committee process and her speech yesterday which I found to encapsulate the committee's proceedings very well and concisely. I also thank the committee staff for their hard work in presenting reports and all of the people who came through at the public hearings. I found it quite informative to hear people who specialise in the area of sexual violence, sexual violence against people with disabilities and women's health services. So many different people have made submissions that contributed and I feel that we are far more informed as a result. I think this whole process has been quite well informed and as a result I think we will have an outcome that will well serve the people of Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.43 pm): I rise in support of these two bills that represent the next step in our campaign against domestic violence: the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015 and the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill 2015. I congratulate the committee for the fast turnaround of their reports and

appreciate the amount of effort that they would have had to put in. Where are we now? The statistics are absolutely terrifying. An average of two people a week die in Australia from domestic violence. Last year 29 people died in Queensland from domestic violence. One in six women have experienced physical abuse, one in four emotional abuse and one in four of our children experience domestic violence. In fact, I have witnessed firsthand the aftermath of murder—a most terrible murder—and the effect that it had on my family, my wife and other close members of our family. We did not know about the domestic violence. In fact, we think the domestic violence had been going on for 25 years. It seems also that the perpetrator had previously committed domestic violence.

What is domestic violence? It is physical or sexual abuse, emotional and psychological abuse—and we think the abuse in relation to our family member occurred in the psychological area—economic abuse and other threatening, coercive or controlling behaviour. On the subject of economic abuse, I recently had a constituent come to see me for support for some programs that she was running for survivors of domestic violence. I have known this lady for many years. When she first came into my office she revealed to me that she had, in fact, been the victim of domestic violence for all of her married life. It was, in fact, economic abuse in her particular circumstances. She is working through it and as a result of that she is now doing wonderful work in the community to assist others who are survivors of domestic violence.

Where to now? If you are a victim of domestic violence there is more help now than ever before. The *Not now, not ever* report headed up by Dame Quentin Bryce is a big first step. It was the result of a bipartisan approach in this chamber. The report contains 140 recommendations, with 100 per cent taken up. Funding for programs and support has been significantly increased. Just recently we have seen the Re-focus app launched here on these premises. The app has various contact details and other advice. There is a danger for victims of domestic violence; it is important that if they are in a dangerous situation they should not download the Re-focus app. Perhaps a friend can do that for them. If you are a supporter of someone experiencing domestic violence, I urge you to download it so that you can help that friend. It is so important to have all of those contact details at your fingertips. For victims and supporters we also have a freecall number, 1800737732, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is free, it is nationwide, it is confidential and it is a domestic violence support and counselling line.

The basic messages we are sending out to the community are these: if you are a victim, it is not your fault and we urge you to seek help and report the offence. If you are a perpetrator, stop now before it is too late for those you purport to love and for you because Queenslanders have had enough.

I attended a meeting with a young lady who spoke to me at one of the fairs that all of us go to. She asked me if she could speak to me about some domestic violence issues and I said of course. She had some transport problems so myself and my electorate officer went to her home. She had two friends with her. Each of them shared their horrific stories about what had gone on. She had basically been a prisoner in her house for five years. She was locked in the house with her children when the husband went to work and he unlocked the house when he came home and woe betide her if she had not done everything that she was supposed to have done; trouble would follow. She has finally escaped that. However, what still haunts me today—and it is something that we need to address—is the question she posed to me. She asked, ‘Why is it that mum and the kids have to give up everything to escape while the perpetrator gets to stay put?’ That is a very good question and perhaps it is one that we in this House have to address in the near future.

As I alluded to earlier, sometimes domestic violence starts out as something that is not that obvious to the outside world: controlling behaviour, mental abuse and so on. It gets very dangerous for the victim when that stops working for the perpetrator and the victim starts to push back, often culminating in physical abuse and, sadly, all too often, the murder of or suicide by the victim. We all know that the *Not now, not ever* report was the first step that we have taken and that there are other steps to come. In fact, these bills are the next step and, of course, there will be many steps further on. As a parliament, we will continue working on this issue to make sure that we deliver to the community what needs to be delivered. We will beat this scourge on our society. We will work with our communities, we will work with our police and judiciary, we will work with the business sector and organisations such as CEO Challenge and, of course, we will work with our children through school programs. And, yes, we will also work with perpetrators to try to get them to change their ways.

Finally, I remind everybody that White Ribbon Day is 25 November. I call on men everywhere to make or renew their pledge, as I will now. I swear to never commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (3.50 pm): I rise to add a few short words to this very significant debate in support of the cognate bills before the House, the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill and the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill. These bills go some of the way towards the realisation of the commitment of the Palaszczuk government to support the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report, which was brought down under the leadership of Dame Quentin Bryce. A range of other people were involved in that task force. I acknowledge my predecessor in this place, Kerry Millard, the former member for Sandgate, who was a member of that task force. Obviously there are a number of issues on which Ms Millard and I disagree, but we have spoken on these matters on a number of occasions in the lead-up to the election and since. Her role in this particular matter was one that garnered her great respect in the community.

As we have heard from a number of speakers here today, the scourge—as it genuinely is—of domestic and family violence is absolutely and utterly multifaceted. It has a huge range of implications in the community. It has a huge range of causes and consequences. The most disturbing thing about it is the way in which, in so many ways, our community has ignored it for far too long. That is why it is vitally important that as a community and as a society we make a change. Our government will play a role in that and legislation, such as that before us today, will play a role, although it will not be the final role. The final role will be a cultural change. It will be the changes that we make in our hearts, the changes that we make in our attitudes and, most importantly, the changes that we make in our actions.

Therefore, it is important that what we are doing as part of the implementation of the *Not now, not ever* report is not seen as an end in itself. This is very much the beginning of a long and what will be at times very difficult and very challenging process. That is why it is important that we continue the conversation; that we keep the conversation going. That is why it is important that, as I have heard a number of members say, we work as activists within our own communities and talk with, ventilate and engage the broader community on these issues.

On 24 September, at the Fitzgibbon Community Centre in my electorate of Sandgate, I was very proud and pleased to host with my electoral neighbour the member for Nudgee, Leanne Linard, a north side domestic and family violence forum. We were very pleased to provide the community with an opportunity to have input in discussions and engagement with the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth. It was fundamentally important that all interested community organisations and individuals had a chance to be a part of that conversation. They included an organisation that does a tremendous amount of work on these issues on the north side of Brisbane, particularly in my area, that is, SANDBAG, the Sandgate and Bracken Ridge Action Group. In our local area, SANDBAG works under the auspices of DVConnect. Maggie Daunt, the DVConnect coordinator, does absolutely tremendous work. The leadership that she has shown over many years in this area has been very important. Attending the forum from the Nudgee electorate were representatives from the Zillmere and Nundah neighbourhood centres. More broadly across the area, we had groups such as Jabiru Community Youth and Children's Services and the Burnie Brae Centre, which does a lot of work across the whole area. A range of local shelters and other service providers that provide services to individuals who have experienced the effects of domestic and family violence were also represented. It was very heartening to see the very significant contingent of local officers from the Queensland Police Service who provided very timely and useful input into the conversation around these important issues.

I conclude my comments in relation to the bills before us by thanking the Attorney-General for her commitment to leadership in this area in terms of the development of the government's response. A lot of the hard edged areas are in her portfolio of responsibilities. The way that she has worked with other cabinet colleagues, including the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, lends great credit to her. The leadership that the Premier has shown in cabinet on this matter, working with the Attorney-General and the Minister for Communities, has been very important. I endorse the bills before the House.

I finish with a final note of caution, which was a topic that came up as part of a domestic and family violence round table that I chaired on behalf of the government in Toowoomba on 7 October. The round table involved a number of service providers and community leaders. It was great to see the real ownership that the community leaders in the Toowoomba and Darling Downs region have taken in relation to this issue. At that round table, the issue of language came up. Language is very important. Language is one of the ways in which domestic and family violence is inflicted upon people. When we think about the way that we conduct ourselves in relation to these issues, we need to be very conscious that we do not make issues harder or more difficult because of the language that we use. It is not sticks and stones; it is language that can really make difficult issues more difficult.

In the process of learning more about these issues, particularly in the conversation we had at the recent round table in Toowoomba, I have learnt the importance of avoiding language such as 'perpetrators' and 'victims'. Frankly, if we talk about people as victims, we are casting them as that for the rest of their days. We need to be talking about people who 'have been victims' of domestic and family violence or 'who have experienced' domestic and family violence.

Equally, we have to be careful about referring to people as perpetrators. Turning people into 'perps' means there is no redemption, there is no way out of it and they might as well continue to execute the awful and terrible behaviours that are inflicting so much harm in our community. We have to talk about people who have perpetrated domestic or family violence. We should not say that they are perpetrators but that they have perpetrated. We need to give them a way out of that situation. As I said earlier, that involves multifaceted responses. That is why I am very pleased that this government is leading with this legislation and its range of responses to the *Not now, not ever* report.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.00 pm): I rise to support the minister's bills before the House and wish to educate the House. So many have spoken so well here today that I would like to focus on the needs of a particular part of our community that struggle to access our services and struggle to understand and make their way through our legal system.

Tolstoy wrote, 'All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.' I cannot truly say that all happy families are exactly the same. However, I do know that they share common traits. They find a way for all members of the family to have respect for each other and give each member of the family a right to be an independent human being and not seek to dominate and control other members of the family. Perhaps this is what Tolstoy meant when he said 'all happy families are alike'.

I also know in families where the respect for other family members breaks down that the causes are often complex and the solutions often unique. It is a difficult journey to return to a mutually respectful relationship when this respect has been removed. I know that for many Australians from a non-English background the road to build or restore mutual respect within couples and families is even more difficult. It is even more difficult when families have a traumatic refugee background that leaves the scars of past traumas embedded in the fabric of these families.

I recently met with the passionate staff at a very special centre. This centre assists refugees on their journey to find a safe place and success for their families. Last week I met with Access Community Services and saw how they lead fragile families through the journey from a dangerous refugee camp or settlement to Australia and to settlement, education, work and success. They recognise that families struggle with learning a new language, cultural norms and other things we take for granted.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! Member for Logan, could you please wait a minute. Members, please treat the member speaking with respect. I can barely hear him.

Mr POWER: I sat in with a class of Karen refugees who were previously settled in Malaysia who were learning how to manage new bank accounts and keep their family finances in order. We take these things for granted. They are things that without help create stress and difficulty for those who come from a cultural background where these things are not commonplace.

I have also visited Harmony Place in Yeronga where a small, passionate team focus on services for a culturally and linguistically diverse group. They have a special focus on mental health. They spoke of overcoming a cultural reluctance to admit to a mental problem and stigmas that carried over from other countries. They spoke of how specialist services worked to overcome stigmas and, in some cases, superstitions.

I also went with the minister to a domestic violence round table for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. I heard from a variety of peak organisations and individuals from these backgrounds the struggles that they have with domestic violence. Just like anywhere in Australia, there are families where respect breaks down. However, they have to struggle in a different way to overcome these things—there are cultural pressures and pressure not to admit difficulties within the Australian society.

This was made clear to me a little over a week ago when an African woman came to my office asking for assistance. This mother of eight children sat in tears in my front office. She explained her difficult situation. Naturally, without her permission I will not go into any details or reveal the country of her background. It was difficult for her to explain to a stranger in her limited English exactly what her situation was. Together we called DVConnect. For the benefit of members and all those who are

listening, their number is 1800811811. We asked for a translator in her preferred African language. I cannot say that I understood the details of their conversation, but I could watch as her eyes dried, her shoulders straightened and she began to smile as she could express her difficulties in her own language. I do not know how her journey to finding a respectful relationship in this country will end up, but I do know that we in this country and in this society gave her a clear message—not now, not ever.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (4.04 pm), in reply: I thank all honourable members for their contributions to the debate on the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Bill 2015 and the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015. These bills represent a pivotal step toward fulfilling the Queensland government's commitment to combat domestic and family violence by implementing major recommendations from the special task force's report on domestic and family violence in Queensland entitled *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*. The bills reinforce our intention to ensure that our justice system works as effectively as possible to support and protect victims of domestic and family violence and to hold perpetrators to account to end the violence.

The Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Bill 2015 establishes an independent body, comprising multidisciplinary experts and separate from the coronial and criminal process, to conduct systemic reviews of domestic and family violence deaths and make recommendations to government and non-government agencies to improve systems, practices and procedures. An independent body that identifies common systemic failures, gaps or issues and draws on the knowledge of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit within the Office of the State Coroner will increase recognition of and circumstances surrounding domestic and family violence deaths.

This will assist the government and community in gaining a greater understanding of the context in which domestic and family violence deaths occur and the steps that can be taken in the short and long term to prevent these deaths. Domestic and family violence deaths are preventable and having a mechanism in place to identify where the system is failing, as well as what is working well, will give Queensland a clear path to preventing these tragic deaths.

The Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill strengthens and increases the maximum penalties for offences of contravening a domestic violence order under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012. The maximum penalty for a breach offence where the respondent has previously been convicted of a domestic violence offence, including a breach offence, within the last five years is increased from three to five years imprisonment. Otherwise the maximum penalty for a breach offence is increased from two years to three years imprisonment.

The bill amends the Evidence Act 1977 so that victims of domestic and family violence are automatically regarded as special witnesses. This means that victims of domestic violence will have increased access to orders and directions that the court can make to support victims giving evidence.

Amendments are included in the bill to enable a notation to be made on a charge and on an offender's criminal history to specify that an offence occurred in a domestic violence context. These amendments send a clear message to perpetrators that continuing to commit domestic violence offences will be considered by a court in any future court proceedings.

I will now address some of the matters raised by honourable members during the course of the debate. The member for Aspley raised in her contribution the prospect of a scheme that would provide for the disclosure of an individual's criminal history involving offences of domestic violence or offences of a sexual nature to certain parties. This is what is commonly referred to as a Clare's Law scheme. The government is concerned that there are broader implications and issues concerning information sharing and that, in isolation, these sorts of measures do not prioritise victims' needs and safety. The Bryce task force report did not recommend the implementation of a Clare's Law scheme.

On the issue of information sharing, the task force recommended that enabling legislation be introduced to allow information sharing between government and non-government agencies within the context of an integrated service response, with appropriate safeguards. That is recommendation 78 of the report. The government has accepted this recommendation and will consider such amendments as part of its current review of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act.

The approach recommended by the task force promotes victim safety by ensuring that victims have access to appropriate supports if required through a coordinated integrated service response. There is an ability to disclose information under existing law if satisfied on reasonable grounds that the

disclosure is necessary to lessen or prevent a serious threat to the life, health, safety or welfare of an individual. For these reasons, this government does not support adopting this form of disclosure scheme and the amendments during consideration in detail as proposed.

The member for Warrego made some comments about the Roma Community Legal Service in her contribution. In addition to the matters already covered in my response in question time on Tuesday, I would like to place the following matters on the record. The allocation of funds for community legal assistance in Roma was appropriately handled via a closed tender process run by the department, according to a set of clear criteria and relying on an independent panel's recommendations.

The outcome of that process has been a resoundingly good one for the provision of that vital service in Roma. Previously the Roma Community Legal Service provided one lawyer who would travel to Roma for one week each month, primarily on days when court was sitting, to deliver legal advice and assistance. The Advocacy and Support Centre commenced as the new provider of these services in Roma on 1 October. They have one lawyer working in Roma already, providing a similar level of service that was provided previously. This service level will importantly increase up to 1.34 full-time equivalent lawyers on the ground in Roma from January 2016, which is a significant increase in front-line legal advice and assistance services in Roma. In addition, I can confirm that the new provider is accredited as a community legal centre pursuant to the national scheme.

A number of members, including the shadow Attorney, have raised the issue of the retrospective application of the notation scheme introduced by the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill 2015. There is no automatic retrospectivity proposed by these notation amendments. The offences already on a person's criminal history do not suddenly become more serious by operation of the proposed laws. While the government acknowledges that the further information contained in the domestic violence notation is being added retrospectively, inasmuch as it applies to an offence convicted in the past, the underlying purpose of the proposed new section 12A is about ensuring that the context of those criminal offences is evident to the court into the future.

Can I underline the comments I made about this issue in the second reading speech, which go to the heart of what the government is trying to achieve with these amendments—that is, that if the notation scheme only applies to convictions post commencement of this bill, as suggested by those opposite, it will take many years before the benefits of the amendments will be realised. In order to highlight the significance of this point, I will go through the proposed procedure in detail.

Under the proposed new section 12A(6) of the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to be inserted by the bill, an application can be made by the prosecution seeking an order from the court that an offender's previous conviction be noted on their criminal history as a domestic violence offence. This can only take place when that individual comes before the court and is convicted of a domestic violence offence after the commencement date. A determination of that application will be by the court—that is, either by a judge or a magistrate—and the offender will be able to make submissions in response to that application.

Furthermore, that decision is reviewable. Proposed new section 12A(8) of the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, inserted by clause 18, gives the court power to order that a correction be made to an offender's criminal history if they are satisfied that an error has been made in recording or entering an offence as a domestic violence offence. This can happen on application or of the court's own initiative. In addition to the review within the provision itself, as the notation of an offence under proposed new section 12A is an order of the court under legislation, it will also be subject to review under the Judicial Review Act 1991.

I understand that in practice the prosecution will provide information to the sentencing court about previous convictions through a range of documents including, for example, police information at the time of the offence—called the QP9; transcripts of evidence from the trial, if there was one; and sentencing remarks made by the court when sentencing the offender for the previous conviction. The defence will be able to make submissions about whether those previous convictions are relevant or not.

While an offender may not have been aware at the time of the previous conviction that the particular offence may be noted to have occurred in a domestic and family violence context, a sentencing court can already have regard to a person's criminal history and must treat each previous conviction as an aggravating factor if the court considers that it can reasonably be treated as such having regard to the nature of the previous conviction, its relevance to the current offence and the time that has elapsed since the conviction, bearing in mind that the sentence imposed must not be disproportionate to the gravity of the offence in question.

The higher maximum penalty of five years imprisonment under section 177 will apply to a person who has a previous criminal conviction for an offence which falls within the definition of a domestic violence offence. This could be a breach offence or a criminal offence which is committed in a domestic and family violence context. The definition of 'domestic violence offence' in the amended section 177 inserted by the bill does not rely on a notation being made on a charge or on a person's criminal history under the other amendments in the bill.

Further, an offender will only be liable to the higher maximum penalties if the offence was committed after commencement. This extended application of section 177 of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act to domestic violence offences as well as offences under the act is justified on the basis that perpetrators should be held to account for repeated criminal conduct which occurs in a domestic violence context regardless of whether a conviction relates to a breach of a domestic violence order or another criminal offence. A sentencing court will retain discretion in relation to the appropriate penalty to be imposed in the particular case.

As I said in my second reading speech, the increase in maximum penalties in the bill for breaches of domestic violence orders sends a clear message to offenders that this type of conduct will not be tolerated. It reflects community attitudes that domestic and family violence is unacceptable, and strong penalties are required to condemn and deter this behaviour.

The issue was raised in debate about concerns with a possible conflict of interest with the State Coroner being the chair of the death review board. As the State Coroner is Queensland's chief judicial officer in the coronial system responsible for overseeing and coordinating the coronial process, the State Coroner is best placed to chair the board. The State Coroner has the authority and the expertise to lead the development of the necessary recommendations. This will also have the input and support of board members who will be appointed because they have relevant experience and expertise in matters relating to the board's functions, such as domestic and family violence, law enforcement, health and the justice system, with responses to have the aim of preventing or reducing the likelihood of domestic and family violence deaths.

Any potential for conflict between the role of State Coroner or Deputy State Coroner and as acting as chair of the board can be avoided by having other coroners assume responsibility for conducting coronial investigations and inquests in circumstances where a death has occurred in a domestic and family violence context. There are also clear provisions under the bill for how potential conflicts of interest are to be managed—in proposed new section 91X. Can I also point out that only a very small number of domestic and family violence deaths are the subject of a coronial inquest. The death review and advisory board is intended to examine systemic issues relating to domestic and family violence and is likely to consider a wide number of cases that have not been the subject of a coronial inquest and to make recommendations with a view to preventing future deaths.

I want to once again thank members for their contribution to the debate. I think there were considered and passionate contributions from both sides of the debate. We may not have agreed on every point or on the finite detail of every policy, but I think the committee process and debate in the House was handled with maturity and sensitivity, and I thank members for that. Of course, that maturity and sensitivity I have to say was sorely lacking in the contribution last night from the member for Glass House. Rarely have I seen a member in this House so blind to the circumstances of the debate and the nature of his own contribution. I am sure there were many members on his own side of the chamber who were simply embarrassed by such an awkward and out of touch contribution. But, thankfully, the debate on this legislation has largely been conducted with a genuine approach, and I hope that this House can continue to tackle the scourge of domestic and family violence.

In conclusion, these bills represent a critical part of the government's commitment to combating domestic and family violence. I once again thank all honourable members for their contributions during the debate.

Question put—That the Criminal (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail**Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill**

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—

Mrs D'ATH (4.19 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 After clause 1

Page 4, after line 5—

insert—

1A Commencement

Sections 4 and 5 and parts 5 and 6 commence on 1 December 2015.

I table the explanatory notes to my amendment.

Tabled paper: Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill, explanatory notes to Hon. D'Ath's amendments [\[1417\]](#).

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 6, as read, agreed to.

Clause 7—

Mrs D'ATH (4.20 pm): I move the following amendment—

2 Clause 7 (Amendment of s 177 (Contravention of domestic violence order))

Page 6, line 25, 'and'—

omit, insert—

or

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 8 to 17, as read, agreed to.

Clause 18—

Mrs D'ATH (4.21 pm): I move the following amendments—

3 Clause 18 (Insertion of new s 12A)

Page 11, line 9, 'domestic violence offences'—

omit, insert—

offences relating to domestic violence

4 Clause 18 (Insertion of new s 12A)

Page 11, line 10, 'This section'—

omit, insert—

Subsection (2)

5 Clause 18 (Insertion of new s 12A)

Page 11, lines 14 to 16—

omit, insert—

(b) the offender is convicted of the offence; and

(c) a court is satisfied the offence is also a domestic violence offence.

Note—

See the *Evidence Act 1977*, section 132C which provides for the sentencing judge or magistrate in any sentencing procedure in a criminal proceeding to act on allegations of fact.

Amendments agreed to.

Mr WALKER: I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 18 (Insertion of new s 12A)

Page 11, lines 25 to 31 and page 12, lines 1 to 28—

omit.

I table the explanatory notes to my amendment.

Tabled paper: Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill, explanatory notes to Mr Walker's amendments [\[1418\]](#).

This issue goes to the retrospectivity of classification of offences as domestic violence offences. It has been canvassed pretty widely in the second reading debate. The point is whether it is fair to recategorise an offence that has been pleaded to in the past as a domestic violence offence. If it is so recategorised, the person who is guilty of those offences faces a higher penalty than would otherwise be the case. This is not simply a matter of academic concern to the opposition. It is a matter of serious concern to the legal bodies within the state. The Queensland Law Society made a submission to the committee on 24 September 2015 which states—

Allowing the court to retrospectively classify prior convictions as domestic violence offences is fraught with danger in that the context in which the earlier offence occurred may not have been explored at the time of the conviction.

I table that submission.

Tabled paper: Submission, dated 24 September 2015, by Michael Fitzgerald, President, Queensland Law Society to the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee (Submission 009) [1420].

The Queensland Bar Association, in a letter dated 24 September 2015 to the committee, had the same reservations in relation to that provision. The Bar Association of Queensland is concerned about the retroactive operation of the newly increased provisions. I table that submission from the Bar Association as well.

Tabled paper: Submission, dated 24 September 2015, by Shane Doyle QC, President, Bar Association of Queensland, to the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee (Submission 017) [1419].

The opposition's position is that this amendment takes away the retrospective application but still allows the classification of future offences during which the accused person knows the consequence of what they are pleading to and can fairly be heard in that regard. It allows that proactive operation but takes away the retrospective operation.

Mrs D'ATH: I have already made statements in relation to this issue, but I want to reiterate because I think it is important for members of the House to understand that in relation to this provision right now a prosecutor can walk into the court and in arguing the case in relation to sentencing before the court already draw attention to the court of the criminal history and whether those offences or convictions in that criminal history are related to domestic violence matters. What this does is allows an application to be made so that a notation can be made in that criminal history so that in future matters before the court the court can be easily aware of those notations and that history so that the parties do not need to go back on each and every occasion to identify the same matters before different courts. We can draw attention to the court—and hopefully early—whether there is evidence of repeat offending and a pattern of offending in relation to domestic violence so that can be taken into account in considering sentencing.

Importantly, it is not automatic. An application must be made. The court must consider on the facts whether that previous conviction is a matter related to domestic and family violence before deciding whether the notation should be made on that file—that criminal history—and that decision of that court is reviewable. There are mechanisms in place to ensure there is fairness, justice and proper consideration of the facts before the court and for the offender involved. If we do not allow for this notation to occur in relation to criminal histories, it could be years before the intent of this recommendation of the task force ever sees the light of day; that we can see the real effects which is trying to catch early repeat offending in relation to domestic and family violence and to act on that. The government will be opposing the amendment of the opposition.

Non-government amendment (Mr Walker) negatived.

Mrs D'ATH (4.26 pm): I move the following amendments—

6 Clause 18 (Insertion of new s 12A)

Page 11, line 25, 'the court'—
omit, insert—

a court

7 Clause 18 (Insertion of new s 12A)

Page 11, line 25, after 'subsection (2)'—
insert—

or convicts an offender of an offence against the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012*, part 7

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 18, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 19, as read, agreed to.

Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill

Clauses 1 to 6, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (4.26 pm): I move—

That the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Question put—That the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (4.27 pm): I move—

That the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill be now read a third time.

Question put—That the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (4.28 pm): I move—

That the long title of the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (4.29 pm): I move—

That the long title of the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

International Day of Rural Women

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.29 pm): I move—

That this House recognises today as International Day of the Rural Woman and recognises the invaluable role the rural women of Queensland are playing socially and economically during this time of extreme drought.

I am proud to ask for this recognition for this important day, as I stand here very honoured and humbled to be representing the rural and regional women of Queensland. As I have said in this House before, I am extremely proud that I am the first female in Queensland to represent the agricultural industry from the government or the opposition. It is also an honour to work on behalf of all of our primary producers, but today on the International Day of Rural Women I would like to focus on the contribution of women to the agricultural sector.

The UN notes that rural women make up one-quarter of the entire world's population. They represent 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force and are also primarily responsible for the production, process and preparation of food that is available—therefore, giving them primary responsibility for food security. At the same time, it is important to remember that some 76 per cent of the world's extreme poor live in rural or regional areas.

The first International Day of Rural Women was observed on 15 October 2008. It is about empowering and activating women in our rural communities so they can help decrease world hunger and rural poverty both globally and here in Australia. In our country, about one-third of Australians reside outside of our capital cities and agricultural commodities alone are responsible for 12 per cent of Australia's GDP. They grow 90 per cent of our locally consumed food and fibre and they have much to be proud of—and Australia has much to be grateful to them for.

From a Queensland perspective, many of Queensland's primary producers, particularly those in Western Queensland, are facing significant challenges with the historic drought conditions. I touched on this matter yesterday right here in this House when I talked about the extreme drought conditions that we have had. The women of our farming families deserve our attention today because they are the ones stoically supporting their husbands while trying to keep the family unit together and functional through these tough times.

Just this morning, I made a call to a very good friend of mine, Anna, who runs a small business in the township of Aramac. She said to me that her town is losing people, that there are hardly any sheep left on the surrounding properties and that, therefore, shearers are moving down south to try to find work. She had two women in her shop who had just dropped their kids at school and she put them on the phone to me. It was wonderful to be able to talk to these two wonderful women, but it was extremely distressing at the same time.

Tracy, a primary producer from out of town, said that every night her husband is unable to sleep. She is always worried about how she can pay the bills and how she will keep feeding her family. Yesterday her husband had to shoot another six of their cows and they are now down to a third of their stock. This morning she was standing in Aramac waiting on a \$15,000 load of cotton seed so they could try to continue to feed their stock but that it will only last them for another six weeks. She said that she is one of the lucky ones.

Then she put Liz on the phone. Liz is from another property, and she is an amazing, stoic woman. She said that every second day she goes out to one of their places and feeds, while David, her husband, feeds every other day on the other place. She said that the hardest thing for her is having to keep her children well and happy through this because they see the damage this drought is doing. I would like to say thank you to these amazing rural women. Thank you for sharing your stories with me so I could highlight them here in this House for all members. Queensland's rural women are truly courageous—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Member for Nanango, your time has expired.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I have two seconds left. Could I please have the indulgence of the House?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Two seconds.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I ask for your support in the Queensland parliament as we officially recognise the International Day of Rural Women.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (4.34 pm): Today is the United Nations International Day of Rural Women—a very important day to recognise the critical role women play in rural communities. It is wonderful we can recognise this today in this House. One of my first events as Queensland's Minister for Women here at Parliament House was to present Sherrill Stivano with her Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Rural Women's Award. It is regional women like Sherrill who demonstrate the important role women play across our rural and regional communities, industry and agricultural sector. As the Minister for Women, I recognise the important role that women's organisations—such as the Country Women's Association, the Queensland Rural, Regional and Remote Women's Network and many others—play in Queensland's regional communities.

I recently travelled to Biloela for the annual conference of the Queensland Rural, Regional and Remote Women's Network, along with the member for Nanango, and I have to say that it was absolutely fantastic to be in a roomful of women leaders from across Queensland who are making such a difference in their local communities. It was also great to meet inspirational young rural women who have taken up leadership positions in their local communities—young women like Madeline Brewer

from Burnett who raised issues facing young people and young women during a panel discussion held at the conference. When Cyclone Marcia caused devastation across Central Queensland communities, it was regional women's organisations like QRRRW who in the face of adversity teamed up with Baked Relief to provide food and care packages to residents hit hard by the floods and the cyclone and of course to support our emergency workers and volunteers.

I also recently had the opportunity to meet with the Queensland Country Women's Association and hear firsthand the struggles their members in drought-affected areas are having. The things they needed were often not just the events that would lift people's spirits; they needed more practical, hands-on support as well. An example they raised with me was a woman on a farm who was too embarrassed to ask for help to replace her dentures, so she wrote a letter to the organisation that she trusted and she connects with, the CWA, to ask them to help her out and of course they did.

The current widespread drought has hit our western and northern communities very hard, and women are central to holding these communities together. The drought has the potential to rip communities apart and grind the resilience of rural Queenslanders to dust. The effect that drought has on the emotional strength of rural people will linger on well past those magical days when the drought-breaking rains return.

In the past, governments have provided funding for community-building events in order to counter the effects of drought and have funded support services, but it was never clear whether that funding for these events was really hitting the mark. As a result, my department has conducted an internal review of this funding, and the findings prove to be very interesting. After face-to-face workshops, teleconferences and a survey of community members in affected regions, the review confirmed the success of, and ongoing support for, community events but identified the need for more practical support for community members. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that the allocation of the government's \$4 million community drought support package will be taking a different approach to ensure that help is being provided exactly where it is needed.

The funding will be split into four main areas. Financial hardship funding is to be distributed by emergency relief providers or neighbourhood centres where they operate in drought-affected areas. In areas without those services, local councils will be asked to coordinate the distribution of funds through local community groups who have those established relationships, such as Lions or Zonta. Further one-off funding will be provided to local councils to undertake drought-related resilience planning and conduct community events. In addition, a grant of \$250,000 will be made to the CWA's public crisis fund to provide financial hardship assistance for families in drought affected communities. That is a significant increase from the \$100,000 they received last financial year.

Finally, \$250,000 will be given to AgForce to organise and deliver small-scale, on-farm practical skills development activities which incorporate a connectedness and support element for farmers, graziers and other participants. We are going to continue to monitor the effectiveness of these measures to help our struggling communities and only hope that there is a change in the weather sooner rather than later so everyone can get back on their feet. I am so happy to be supporting this motion to recognise the International Day of Rural Women.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.39 pm): I rise to support this motion and acknowledge the shadow minister for agriculture, Deb Frecklington, for moving it. The member is a great example of the quality of rural women we have in regional Queensland: a wife, a mum, from the land, a professional career in law before politics, a fantastic advocate for regional and rural Queensland and the first woman to hold the position of shadow agricultural minister. I would also like to acknowledge the shadow minister for communities, child safety and disability services, Tracy Davis, who last term was the minister and played a tremendous effort in rolling out much needed funds to help establish counselling for the drought. Of course, I cannot forget the member for Warrego, Ann Leahy, who joined this parliament with me, a fantastic advocate for agriculture. She has been involved in agriculture for a very long time and advocates not only for Warrego, but for the whole of Queensland.

The first year of the International Day of Rural Women was held in 2008. It seems astonishingly recent, especially to an Australian, because rural women play such a vital role in our country and its story. This day was established in order to recognise 'the critical role and contribution of rural women, including Indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty'.

In speaking to this motion, I wish to pay tribute to the rural women of Queensland, particularly to the fantastic rural women in my seat of Gregory. My predecessor the member for Gregory spoke frequently in this House on this topic. I think Vaughan felt we men would still be living in tents without the force of women in our lives. They make a massive contribution to the west. Through drought and flood it is the women who know the way to reach out and sustain their communities. These are particularly tough times in Gregory with a fierce drought and the collapse in the mining economy. I can tell members it is a bitter time, a time when many feel despair and exhaustion. Our rural women are playing their part with courage. Sometimes that courage means hours of dreary and repetitive work to feed stock and check bores and windmills and then find the strength to wrestle the kids through their school day and still produce the comfort of a family meal for everyone at the end. Many times it means stepping to the front with courage and optimism to lead the way for her family or, indeed, her entire community.

When gathering my thoughts to speak on this motion, I started to list the names of all the outstanding women I know who play the leader's role and make a difference in many different areas in the life of Gregory. I quickly realised that if I tried to name them, my tribute would be more like a rollcall. So instead let me describe the areas of accomplishment, as in Gregory we know who they are as individuals.

Firstly, I wish to pay tribute to the women who drive agriculture at every level. Our agripoliticians, agriscientists, economists, agronomists, agricultural educators and, most of all, our female farmers and graziers who provide a vital economic platform for the west and for Queensland. I pay tribute to our women in government, especially local government where women are established as a driving force for our rural communities, helping their townships adapt, survive and achieve so that everyone's lives are better. I praise the women who sustain the rural health system: the doctors, the nurses and the allied health professionals. I also praise the women who make the work possible as administrators, cleaners and cooks, running our hospitals and our clinics. I earnestly thank the women who serve as our first responders in the ambulance and Police Service of the west. I thank the many female volunteers in the rural fireys and the SES.

I pay tribute to our women in small business and trades, the backbone of our economy across all towns in regional and rural Queensland who provide the necessities and luxuries of life to their communities and many sponsorships to local causes. I admire the accomplishment of our women in journalism for their intelligence, compassion and dedication to rural communities. I pay tribute to the rural women who drive education in Gregory, from the universities and TAFEs, through the high schools and primary schools, to our community kindergartens and child care. Without them, life would be impossible; we could not provide the opportunities for our children despite the issue of distance.

I also praise their partners in this: the mothers who form the P&C and run the tuckshops and fundraise for school camps and band instruments. I especially salute the amazing women of the Isolated Children's Parents Association. They are a really amazing group. I thank the many women who have driven community development and resilience, whether it has been through their paid or elected employment or whether it is just through their mighty organisations such as the QCWA, Rotary, Zonta and Lions.

Rural women are inspirational and never more so than when the chips are down. I say to the rural women of Queensland and to the great women of Gregory: the House salutes you.

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing) (4.44 pm): I rise to endorse this motion and the comments of the previous speakers as well as acknowledge and note your presence in the chair, Madam Deputy Speaker, which in some ways is appropriate for this debate. The role that rural women play in both agriculture and fisheries as well as sport and racing is critical to the foundations of our regional communities. We all know this. The drought makes this particularly so and poignant. The role played by so many women in outback Queensland was at the forefront of yesterday's Women and Girls in Sport Breakfast run by the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Guest speakers at the event spoke about the critical role many women and mothers in particular play in keeping the sporting industry alive and well across Queensland, particularly in rural and remote Queensland. In particular, those areas of the state rely heavily on volunteers and parental support which are often in those very small communities in regional and remote Queensland. From driving their children two to three hours from

an outback town to attend sporting events in the city, from coaching the teams, to volunteering at the canteens and sitting in the various sporting committees or leading those committees, it is primarily the women of rural Queensland who keep local sporting, social and recreational clubs alive.

In total, over the next three years the government is providing \$80 million for four programs which comprise the Get in the Game initiative, benefitting women in rural areas as well as other parts of the state. Funding provided to local councils under Get Out, Get Active encourages more women and girls to participate in sport and active recreation. This week councils received grants of up to \$20,000, including Blackall-Tambo, Maranoa, Rockhampton, Mackay, Charters Towers, South Burnett, Somerset and Scenic Rim regional councils and the Bulloo, Barcoo, Winton, Flinders, Livingstone, McKinlay and Cloncurry shire councils. Encouraging and assisting more women and girls to be involved in sport and active recreation is now one of my department's priorities and is critical to supporting communities during this drought. This is the focus of a suite of activities under the Start Playing, Stay Playing initiative. This applies as much to women in rural areas as it does to those in other parts of the state.

More generally, funding for almost \$30 million has been provided over three years to 78 state-level organisations to support sport and active recreation service delivery across the state. This includes women and girls in rural and regional areas. Specifically, \$740,000 has been approved in support of service delivery. Further, within the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries we provide in kind support to the annual Rural Women's Awards. These awards aim to identify and support women with strong leadership potential who have a project to benefit their primary industry or rural community.

Similar to sports, it is often women in our regional communities who contribute significantly to our agriculture and fisheries industries. Within DAF itself we employ almost 900 women across the department located across the state, and this year for the first time Labor announced the appointment or future appointment of the first-ever female director-general of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, something that I am particularly proud of.

I am proud of the work that has been done by my departments to do what they do in supporting and encouraging women in rural communities and it is particularly so during this drought. This government brings a particular emphasis to encouraging grassroots participation and women in sport. Many of the announcements that have seen us deliver to this point—and we will continue to do so—focus on those areas. I recognise the importance of sport, recreation and the contributions women in agriculture, fisheries and other industries make towards sustaining our rural and regional communities at this time. I look forward to continuing our efforts to maintain the foundation of those communities.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.48 pm): I rise to support the motion that recognises the valuable contribution that rural women in Queensland are making socially and economically during this time of extreme drought across so many parts of the state.

I would like to thank the member for Nanango for putting forward this motion. I welcome the opportunity to inform the House of the challenges that women are facing during this dreadful drought, and I am pleased to be able to honour rural women and talk about a day in the life of a rural woman. I find it disappointing that there have been things like the draconian vegetation management laws of previous Labor state governments and the closure of the live cattle export trade which have seriously impacted on the profitability of primary producers across rural and regional Queensland. This reduced profitability means that rural businesses cannot afford staff, and it is the rural women who are stepping into these roles to support their husbands, the businesses and their families' future. Women across the state are taking on many extra responsibilities and doing a very good job of it. They might be the financial and account manager, the home education tutor, the school bus driver, the station hand, the tractor driver, the helicopter pilot, the Briggs & Stratton consultant—

An honourable member interjected.

Ms LEAHY: I take that interjection from the member. That has frustrated many women and many men, I can tell you—to name a few of the extra roles, whilst all the time being a mother, a carer and a loving wife. These are truly amazing women who juggle these roles on a daily basis whilst all the time coping with a drought that has no end date. Some properties are destocked due to drought and grazing pressures from kangaroos or stock might be away on agistment, causing further significant financial pressure.

So what is a day in the life of a rural woman like? I will attempt to give a general outline of some of the tasks with which they are faced. They are up before dawn and organise breakfast and the lunches. They run the dogs and feed and check the other animals. They drive the children to school

over a dirt road to meet the school bus. They return to the house, they run the waters, they check the troughs and they implement their Briggs & Stratton consultancy skills. They return to the house and they check the phone messages and emails. They travel to town over that dirt road again to attend a meeting with the bank manager. They pick up the children. Then they will attend another meeting of local land holders about fencing initiatives and grazing pressures. They drive home over that dirt road again, hopefully before dark. They dodge the kangaroos and the other pests, living and dead. They arrive home to organise the children, check on the animals, cook dinner and supervise the homework. If they are lucky, maybe at about 10 o'clock at night they might get to make their way to bed. And if a rural women is lucky her husband might be in that bed with her, as he is often out sleeping in a swag caring for the stock who might be away on agistment. Or he might be out there chasing down the menacing wild dogs that are causing trouble across inland and regional Queensland.

It is for all of these reasons that I ask this parliament to recognise the valuable contribution that the rural women of Queensland are making socially and economically during this time of extreme drought, and I ask that this parliament honour them accordingly by supporting this motion.

 **Ms DONALDSON** (Bundaberg—ALP) (4.51 pm): I never cease to be amazed at the strength and resilience of rural women. There is no greater test of this strength than the unrelenting drought that is currently facing a large part of Queensland. The Minister for Communities has just advised the House that the CWA will have the funds available to them to support drought-affected families more than doubled by the Palaszczuk Labor government. As a proud supporter of the local branch of the CWA in Bundaberg, which is 91 years strong, I could not be more pleased with this announcement. As the granddaughter of a women who was a life member of the CWA out in western New South Wales, I could also not be any more proud.

I see women like these in branches across Queensland—and indeed Australia—working tirelessly to raise funds to support women and their families both here and abroad. We have seen the CWA swing into action to support their friends and colleagues in Ravenshoe after the terrible cafe explosion that affected so many people in that town, and we continuously see them rally the troops to support their sisters overseas when natural disasters strike. At a local level they tirelessly supported families after floods devastated our city, and they continue to fundraise for farming families at the opposite end of the rain spectrum: families in drought.

I am pleased that the community cabinet is to be held in my electorate this weekend, and I know that the minister for agriculture and many of the other ministers will be meeting with families and organisations representing those families who will tell them of the hardships faced by drought-stricken farmers. The government's drought relief package shows respect for people on the ground in rural communities by ensuring that funds are distributed by emergency relief providers with a local presence or neighbourhood centres based in these communities. In areas where those services are not present local councils will be asked to coordinate the distribution of funds through local community groups such as Lions or Zonta, which is another fabulous organisation where women give back to their community and of which I am a proud member.

Recognising the significant role that the CWA plays and the special connections they have with rural and regional women in particular, the CWA's fund will be boosted significantly which will allow them to help more women and their families. More importantly, the CWA ensures the fund's impacts reach further by making sure that the money stays in the local community, supporting local businesses. President Robyn McFarlane says that the CWA's public crisis fund ensures that food is on the table, telephone bills are paid and vehicles are registered. Last year they helped 330 families, and this year to the end of May it is already 398 families. I congratulate the women of the local CWA branch and all their Queensland colleagues for the incredible work they do to support so many families across Queensland.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.55 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 27 October 2015.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.55 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Join the Drive to Save Lives

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.55 pm): Today I would like to talk about an issue that is affecting our community in Toowoomba, and that is fatalities on the roads in our region. As my good friend Dr John from Toowoomba South and Pat Weir from Condamine would know, we have had 17 fatalities in our region since the start of this year. I would like to raise an issue that has come up in my community this past week where we have had several fatalities.

The question has been asked about what happened to the Join the Drive to Save Lives community action program. This was a community action program that was introduced in December 2014, and a meeting was supposed to be held each month to come up with a local solution. It was designed to involve community groups in discussions to make decisions about road safety because the Queensland government on its own cannot solve our road safety issues; it involves the community and it involves everybody changing their attitudes and behaviours. The idea of this community action program was to come up with local solutions by meeting regularly with a facilitator and the department to give some local ownership to road safety, to effect some change in our local communities and to build on already strong community networks and programs that are running such as the Rotary educational program that runs in Toowoomba.

Unfortunately, this community action program was put on hold in January 2015 as we went into caretaker mode, and 10 months later it has not been re-enacted. I call on the government to re-enact this program so that we can look at some of the issues that are affecting our young people and our road users in Toowoomba, because 17 in our small region is far too many people who have lost their lives. Ultimately it is about local solutions being developed by local people so that the community has some ownership and we can start to address issues that affect the people who live in Toowoomba. Those issues are different for people who might live in the city and they are different for people who might live in North Queensland, but it will take government to help facilitate and coordinate this activity. I really urge the minister to look at this. It was a good program that was well supported by the community and it clearly needs to be re-introduced. If there is no plan for road safety in Queensland, then consider this plan—because it is a good plan and one that I think the minister should adopt.

(Time expired)

Logan, Islamic Practice and Dawah Circle

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (4.59 pm): On 18 September this year I joined leaders and community members in Logan at the annual general meeting of the Islamic Practice and Dawah Circle at the Australian Unity Centre, Slacks Creek. Those attending included Mr Ismail Cajee, president of the Islamic Council of Queensland; Dr Rafiqul Islam, IPDC central president; Dr Mohammed Akram Hossain, president IPDC Queensland and chairman of the Australian Unity Centre; Imam Akram Buksh, imam at the Australian Unity Centre; and Mr Jamal El Kholed, president of the Logan City Mosque. Also attending were representatives from Queensland government agencies and members of the Queensland Police Service in Logan.

The Islamic Practice and Dawah Circle is an important organisation that is committed to improving education, health, training and development within both the Islamic and the broader community. Programs conducted by the IPDC are focused on education and promoting social cohesion within communities in Logan City and throughout Queensland. In addition, the IPDC also works to promote community activities like Clean Up Australia Day. It raises antismoking and antidrug awareness issues, it assists new migrants and students, it promotes blood donations and it helps people affected by natural disasters.

I am a strong supporter of the vibrant multicultural community that is the city of Logan and the electorate of Woodridge. That multicultural community makes our state and our nation unique. Bringing family, life and cultural experiences together creates strong communities that embrace and accept people from all walks of life.

Islam is a peaceful and accepting religion that promotes the principle of treating others as you would have them treat you. There are some people in the Australian community who want to divide our community, spreading messages of extremism, fundamentalism and vilification. We need to stand against this. We need to stand for peace and unity. We need to turn towards each other and support each other and work together to continue to embrace diversity and to embrace multiculturalism.

I also visited the Logan City Mosque recently to celebrate Eid al-Adha, and I thank Mr Jamal El Kholed for arranging my participation. This festival embodies compassion and togetherness. It is a time to help others less fortunate and to pray for peace and for harmony. It is also a time for all of us to be close to family members. It was great to be able to celebrate these important days with the Islamic community in the electorate of Woodridge and in the city of Logan.

Young Diggers Dog Squad

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (5.02 pm): I am honoured to share an inspiring story about a group of volunteers making a massive difference to the lives of our returned service men and women. The Young Diggers Dog Squad helps out by training dogs to become loving and loyal companions to defence personnel who return from service with post-traumatic stress disorder. The results have been inspiring. Lives have been changed for the better. Potential suicides have been averted. The squad deserves a big 10 out of 10 for their compassion, efforts and social impact.

The Young Diggers Dog Squad informs me that a sobering 20 per cent of service men and women return from tours of duty in places like Afghanistan with the some sort of post-traumatic stress disorder. This horrible mental hardship is borne out of those continued and extreme stresses placed on the soldiers as they serve in hostile and unpredictable combat zones many thousands of kilometres from home. They take on this hardship so that the rest of us back here in Australia can live safer lives. Unfortunately, however, these stresses are too heavy a burden for many suffering soldiers, and too many feel that the only way out is to take their own life. The Young Diggers Dog Squad training program and their wonderful dogs are helping treat these troubling wounds and giving these diggers a reason to fight on.

Recently I was fortunate enough to meet with Shane, one of our returned diggers, to learn firsthand the positive impact that one of these dogs, Ed, has had on his life. Shane said that it was profound and life changing.

It has also been rewarding for me to help promote this group's fundraising efforts. The Young Diggers Dog Squad and the Diggers Military Motorcycle Club, Buderim chapter, set a target recently to raise \$2,500 in a 30-day online crowdfunding campaign to pay for the training of a post-traumatic stress disorder dog. In a sign of the respect and support these volunteers were able to foster in our community, the goal was achieved in only two weeks. It means that another young digger suffering the effects of combat will be able to get one of these beautiful dogs to help him through the dark times. Well done to all involved.

There is still more good news to come. The Young Diggers Dog Squad advises that the dogs trained for this role are not the pure breeds you might expect. They do not come from a breeder or a pet store. The dogs used for this important mission are rescued from RSPCA pounds and animal centres. In a beautiful irony, many of these dogs have themselves been through trauma and, by being part of this amazing program, are being saved from a fairly grim future that most likely ends in euthanasia.

As members can see, the whole program is having a positive impact on many lives. I pay my respects to the Young Diggers Dog Squad and the wonderful work they do to support our defence personnel. I encourage everybody in the House to please spread the news to people living in their areas or to put some money towards this program. There are so many returned servicemen taking their lives. We have to do what we can to help.

Lake Kurwongbah, Waterskiing

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (5.05 pm): I rise today to bring to the attention of the House recent events which have provided fairer access for users of Lake Kurwongbah in my electorate. For over 50 years, waterskiers and rowers have shared our lake and enjoyed its beauty while enjoying their activities. Under the old Pine Rivers shire council, the Lake Kurwongbah Water Ski Zone was set up. As the lake is fairly small, numbers of club members have been limited by council rules and now are set by Seqwater. The number of boats allowed to be used concurrently for skiing has been set by the level of water in the lake at any particular time.

In early 2014 Seqwater made a decision to allow water paddlers on the lake as part of their water quality review of water resources in the area and, as a consequence, kicked skiing off the lake completely—after 50 years. Rowing was not affected. The Lake Kurwongbah Water Ski Zone approached me as the then candidate for the state seat of Kallangur to see if any help could be rendered to assist them to get back access to this beautiful resource in my electorate. I enlisted the help of my friend and neighbouring candidate and now MP, Nikki Boyd, and together we worked with the Lake Kurwongbah Water Ski Zone and the then opposition to approach Seqwater to see what could be done. At no time was there any expectation from the Lake Kurwongbah Water Ski Zone to remove paddlers from the lake. All the skiers wanted was shared access in some form.

After some months and a parliamentary petition sponsored by Curtis Pitt, Seqwater relented in part and allowed the skiers to access the lake from Tuesdays to Thursdays inclusive. While this outcome was a relief for the skiers, it was still somewhat unfair as skiers could not ski with their families on the weekends. After the election Nikki Boyd, the skiers and I continued to lobby Seqwater for a better outcome. I am pleased to announce that we have reached an interim arrangement whereby skiers can access the lake on one weekend day and paddlers can have the other weekend day. The preferred final outcome is, of course, for mutual shared access under a zoned arrangement. We will continue to work with Seqwater to achieve this fairer outcome. I would like to thank Nikki Boyd and Seqwater for their continued consultative approach to this issue and hope we can continue to work at the conclusion of the water quality survey.

Mudgeeraba Electorate

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.07 pm): I rise to inform the House of how my LNP colleagues in the shadow cabinet are working to ensure Mudgeeraba stays a great place to do business and a safe place to live, work and raise a family. In recent weeks I have been delighted to host visits from the Leader of the Opposition, Lawrence Springborg; the shadow minister for infrastructure, planning, small business, employment and trade, Tim Nicholls; and the shadow minister for police, fire, emergency services and corrective services, Jarrod Bleijie.

During each of their visits I gave the Leader of the Opposition and shadow ministers the opportunity to explore the Mudgeeraba electorate and hear directly from local residents. During the visit by the member for Clayfield on 8 September we met with local business owners and asked how a future LNP government could assist them to grow and expand. Unfortunately, the message we heard overwhelmingly was that jobs and growth are at risk in Mudgeeraba in light of the economic uncertainty being created by the Labor government. While the LNP has put forward a real economic plan to create jobs and foster growth in my local area, in the view of small businesses in my electorate the Labor government has no plan and no interest in our local economy, putting business confidence and jobs at risk.

The Leader of the Opposition was just as keen to get out and about and hear directly from local residents on 22 September. Understandably, the message we received as we walked around the Mudgeeraba Market Shopping Centre and chatted with locals was that law and order under a Labor government remains of great concern. When in government the LNP introduced the comprehensive Safe Night Out Strategy to keep our young people safe during nights out through education and awareness, tougher penalties and targeted policing. This progress is under threat as the Labor government has announced its plans to repeal or rescind our Safe Night Out Strategy in favour of shutting young people out of pubs and forcing them on to the streets.

Mudgeeraba locals told the Leader of the Opposition and myself that they were worried for our young people as a result. The member for Kawana and I heard similar concerns about community safety as we caught up with local residents on 24 September. As a result of the former LNP government's tough approach to crime and antisocial behaviour, criminal gangs have fled the state and for the first time police have the tools they need to bust organised crime rackets. As Labor plans to repeal or replace our criminal gang laws, local residents are concerned our area will once again fall victim to criminal thugs. No-one should feel unsafe in their community, and that is why local residents urged us to do everything we can to keep our laws in place. On behalf of my constituents I thank the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Clayfield and the member for Kawana for the time they took to visit my electorate and hear local views firsthand. I am sure they will keep these views firmly at the front of their minds as they continue to hold this Labor government to account.

Safe Work Month

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.10 pm): Queensland Safety Ambassador Shane Webcke kicked off Safe Work Month events at an industry breakfast in Mackay last week. The sponsor of the event was Zarb Road Transport, a company that residents of Mackay see on a daily basis hauling sugar to the Mackay harbour. This event was to bring awareness to the smart safety solutions that are driving down injuries and ensuring that workers go home to their families at the end of each working day. I was honoured to join with Mr Webcke and Antarctic expedition leader Rachael Robertson for the event which was to help remind workers and employees why staying healthy and safe at work is so important for the community as well as the state of the economy. In Queensland the cost of work related injuries to our economy is about \$6.2 billion or 2.8 per cent of our gross state product each year. In some good news, recent surveys show that safety really matters to business and very few employers now accept dangerous behaviours in the workplace. Because of this, work related deaths and injuries are trending down and our businesses are paying the lowest workers compensation rates in this country. But as long as workers are getting injured there is more that each of us can do, especially if we want to see workplaces in our state become the safest in Australia.

It was inspiring to see so many people from businesses in Mackay come together to discuss and learn from each other and demonstrate a strong commitment to improving safety in our community's workplaces. Mr Mark Lalor from Zarb Road Transport presented his workplace plan for a safer, injury-free workplace. At Zarb Road Transport workplace health and safety is everyone's responsibility. The expectation is for the whole of the workforce to show respect and take responsibility for everyone's safety. Employees are encouraged to say if they believe something is unsafe. The expectation is that all equipment is handled in the correct and safe manner. Mark told us that when interviewing potential drivers they take them out and test-drive them at the locomotive siding. Drivers need to be able to back a semitrailer up to the siding for the cane bins. It is a very difficult manoeuvre. The semitrailer driver has to align the tracks on his truck with the train tracks. They do not necessarily employ the person who gets it right the first time; they employ the people who use common sense and look out for the safety of themselves and the vehicle. Mr Zarb told me that he is proud of his team. He and Mark take a barbecue out to the workers on their work site and they sit down and talk to them and they find out how they are feeling. They like to look after their mental and emotional health as well. Work health and safety is everyone's business.

Queensland Universities

 **Dr McVEIGH** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (5.13 pm): In my role as shadow minister for science, information technology and innovation I want to share with the House the fact that I have spent considerable time in recent months with senior academics and researchers in our great Queensland universities right throughout the state. This has also been significant in relation to my role as deputy chair of the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee of this parliament. I have spent some time with my good friend Professor Jan Thomas, the President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Southern Queensland, which is my own alma mater, and it is important to recognise that she was recently appointed chair of the Regional Universities Network, and I want to talk about our regional universities in particular.

The University of Southern Queensland with its Institute for Agriculture and the Environment and the Institute for Resilient Regions deals with the balance between agricultural production and environmental stewardship and the challenges of ensuring our state is resilient in the face of climatic and other structural changes—so important to the Darling Downs region in which it is based. The University of the Sunshine Coast is focused on interactive technology through the Engage Research Lab and is focused on solving societal challenges that mean so much, particularly to the Sunshine Coast community—for example, interactive planning tools, digital devices that help in therapy for Alzheimer's sufferers and the list goes on. The Central Queensland University has had an innovative merge of the university and TAFE sector in Central Queensland led by the former LNP government where engineering graduates from the university can go next door on the same campus to also pick up a trade qualification and vice versa. James Cook University focuses on marine science and land use issues that are so important in coastal regions and in North Queensland, together with the Centre for Tropical Agri-Tech Research processing and handling our horticultural produce from the north.

We are the most decentralised state and we see campuses of our universities in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Gatton, Sunshine Coast, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, Cairns and other locations throughout our great state. Together with our shadow minister for education, Tim

Mander, I am firmly of the belief that the future of our great state is based on a strong education sector coupled with a focus on scientific research and innovation in all of our industries in all regions of our great state. We are fortunate indeed to be supported by universities throughout Queensland and I encourage all members to acquaint themselves with these universities, both metropolitan and regional, right throughout the state from one end to the other.

Australian Hockey League

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.16 pm): Much has been said during the week regarding the outstanding result for Queensland Rugby League on the first Sunday in October—a great and proud result for Queensland. Queenslanders from across our great state should be equally proud of another mighty Maroons result in a national sporting battle that took place a couple of days earlier at Sydney Olympic stadium—the grand final of the women’s Australian Hockey League, known to the hockey world as the AHL. The AHL is Australia’s premier national domestic hockey competition and is widely recognised as one of the strongest and most competitive national leagues in the world.

The Queensland Scorchers, our women’s team, clinched a 2-1 victory over the Victorian Vipers and the Blades, our men’s team, had a hard-fought 2-1 win over the WA Thundersticks. These results are outstanding. It is the second grand final win in three years for both teams and is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of the players and the coaching and support staff. Congratulations must go to Lee Bodimeade, the Scorchers coach, and Mick Evans, the Blades coach, for their successes. These women and men, many who compete at an international level representing the Hockeyroos or the Kookaburras, are professionals and great role models. But, unlike the NRL, these players do not get paid, there is no national television coverage and nor is there any corporate sponsorship. Hockey, which has great and strong female regional representation, is played across our great state and both the Scorchers and the Blades are strongly represented by players from Far North, Central, Western and South-East Queensland and across to the Tweed border.

With the support of the Queensland Academy of Sport, Hockey Queensland, regional hockey associations, clubs, volunteers, parents and sponsors, these elite players are given the opportunity to reach their potential. I acknowledge the contribution of the Queensland Academy of Sport head women’s coach, Des King, and the QAS men’s head coach, Matthew Wells, for the Scorchers and Blades success. The Australian women’s team, the Hockeyroos, are ranked second in the world and the men’s team, the Kookaburras, are ranked No. 1 in the world. Hockey is our most successful team sport at the Olympic Games, with the Hockeyroos being regarded as one of Australia’s most successful sporting teams, boasting three Olympic gold medals from the past six games as well as winning two world cups and four Commonwealth gold medals. The Hockeyroos have been crowned Australia’s Team of the Year five times. Queensland is strongly represented in these Australian teams. Madonna Blyth, the current Scorchers and Hockeyroos captain, has a record 308 test caps and 67 goals. Donnie has been named in the FIH all-star team of the year many times. She is a proud Queenslanders who leads by example, scoring the winning goal in the AHL final. Hockey is truly a world game and it is a game where our Queensland players, both women and men—

(Time expired)

Cleveland Electorate, Cleveland-Redland Bay Road

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (5.19 pm): Cleveland-Redland Bay Road is a significant arterial road in the Redland City region and a road that needs an upgrade urgently. The road connects the northern and southern-most ends of the Redlands, running from the Cleveland electorate to the Redlands electorate, including the suburbs of Cleveland, Thornlands, Victoria Point and Redland Bay.

The section of the road that is most important to the residents of the Cleveland electorate is the section that runs through Thornlands from South Street to Beveridge Road. In the past, certain sections of the road were duplicated by state governments, especially at particular intersections. More recently, there have been some new housing developments along the road and the developers have contributed to the road duplication in those areas. But even with the government and developers’ contributions to the road, several single-lane sections of the road remain.

A few months ago Lawrence Springborg visited the Redlands area. During the trip, he joined Matt McEachan, the member for Redlands, and me at Cleveland-Redland Bay Road at one of the Thornlands sections where the road narrows. While we were inspecting the road at the narrowing section a local resident came out to talk with us. She pointed out the issue of congestion and safety. In

her case, owing to the road narrowing outside her property, she told us that her car had been run into before as she turned into her driveway. Others have also expressed such safety concerns. I thank the opposition leader for taking the time and for his interest in the issues affecting those residents.

In recent weeks I have met with a Cleveland local, John Wilson, at his request to look at his situation along the same road. He owns a house there, which also has a dangerous situation around it. He expressed concerns that, when his son tries to pull up in his truck, it takes a long time to find a break in the traffic to be able to negotiate the driveway and it is quite dangerous now. John was so concerned that he sponsored a petition calling on the Queensland government to duplicate the remaining single-lane sections of Cleveland-Redland Bay Road. We also set up a petition through John that asks every Redland citizen to sign the online petition at the Queensland parliament website and, in so doing, to join John and me in the campaign to have this road upgraded so that Cleveland and the broader Redland City does not grind to a halt in peak times in the next few years. The petition focuses on certain sections of the road that still need upgrading.

I acknowledge the work of my colleague Matt McEachan, who also has a petition circulating using a particular postcard around shops at Victoria Point and elsewhere. If people see it, I ask them to please sign it. I thank John and other residents who are keen on the upgrade to this road to occur. We are getting reports of more congestion and accidents along that single-lane section. Today, it was good to talk to Minister Mark Bailey about it briefly. I certainly welcome him to come and have a look at the road with the aim to upgrading it soon.

Central Queensland, National Rugby League Team

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (5.22 pm): The communities of Central Queensland are united in a bid for a National Rugby League team. Every community within the vast Central Queensland region—from Bundaberg in the south to Mackay in the north and west to the border—is standing as one to make a concerted bid for a Central Queensland based National Rugby League team. Not only are the NRL fanatics in the region keen to see a Central Queensland team represented in the national competition but also business and community leaders are encouraging the bid to promote the Central Queensland region as an economic powerhouse sustaining the most exciting and liveable region in Australia. This bid brings together a focus and a vision for the future and the whole region is uniting as one for the CQ NRL bid.

Central Queensland enjoys a proud heritage in Rugby League, with notable Rugby League legends such as Gary Larson, Jason Hetherington, Dave Taylor, PJ Marsh, Reece Wesser, Steven Bell, Matt Sing, Alan McIndoe, Julian O'Neil and the great Mal Meninga, to name just a few. There are many more.

A government member: Hear, hear!

Mr BUTCHER: I thank the member for that.

A government member: What about Rod Reddy?

Mr BUTCHER: And Rod Reddy. Those players have made a significant contribution to the game in the past and the present and will in the future.

This bid is proudly supported by business, community and sporting leaders throughout the region. The bid team is working as one with a common vision, proudly representing major provincial cities, regional towns and rural communities with one goal: a Central Queensland based NRL team. Support is also being sourced from some of the largest corporate names in Australia, largely possible because of the region's special status as the engine room of Queensland. Currently, more than 40 CQ players are registered in the NRL and countless numbers in the Intrust Super Cup and the under-20s Holden Cup competitions.

On the day of the most recent NRL grand final, four CQ boys were playing: Matt Scott and Jake Granville for the Cowboys and Ben Hunt and Corey Oakes for the Broncos. In addition, currently Melbourne Storm alone has three CQ players playing for them in their A-grade side: Cameron Munster, Tom Glasby and Kurt Mann. Melbourne Storm's CEO and football manager are also Central Queenslanders.

This year alone, 10 under-15 Central Queensland boys were selected in the Queensland team and the under-15 Capricornia schoolboys won the state title. Cathedral College, Emmaus College and St Brendan's College are constantly in the top five most successful football-playing schools in Queensland year in, year out.

Central Queensland badly needs a CQ NRL team so that the communities in the area can retain their players so that they can live, work and play in front of their families, friends and local supporters. The current Q Cup team, the CQ Capras, are struggling owing to players being poached by Brisbane clubs. I plead to the NRL to please give Central Queensland its own National Rugby League team.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 5.25 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Crawford, Cripps, D'Ath, Davis, de Brenni, Dick, Dickson, Donaldson, Elmes, Emerson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Gordon, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, McVeigh, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pyne, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams