



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hansard Home Page: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/hansard>
 Email: hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au
 Phone (07) 3553 6344 Fax (07) 3553 6369

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 14 June 2016

Subject	Page
ASSENT TO BILLS	2221
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Message, dated 25 May 2016, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 25 May 2016.	2221
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS	2221
Alleged Access to Former Member's Data	2221
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Seminar	2222
<i>Record of Proceedings, Incorporation of Material</i>	2222
PETITIONS	2222
TABLED PAPERS	2222
MENTAL HEALTH BILL; RACING INTEGRITY BILL	2225
Errors in Bills	2225
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	2225
Orlando Shootings.....	2225
Aurukun	2225
Queensland Greats Awards.....	2226
Public Transport, Fares	2227
International Education and Training Strategy	2227
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Trade and Investment Queensland: Draft International Education and Training Strategy to Advance Queensland 2016-2026.....	2227
Advance Queensland.....	2228
Global Schools Initiative.....	2229
Townsville Stadium.....	2229
Public Transport, Fares	2229
Rural Doctors Association of Queensland	2230
Queen's Wharf Redevelopment, Major Projects Series.....	2230

Table of Contents – Tuesday, 14 June 2016

Toowoomba Courthouse, Renovations	2231
Cairns Southern Access	2232
Neighbourhood Centres.....	2232
COMMITTEES	2233
Membership	2233
MOTION	2233
Amendment to Standing Orders.....	2233
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS.....	2233
Orlando Shootings; Queensland Greats.....	2234
Office of Small Business.....	2234
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Jobs	2235
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Jobs	2235
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Industry Attraction Fund.....	2236
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	2236
Queensland Budget.....	2236
Business, Competition.....	2237
Biofutures	2238
Queensland Budget.....	2238
Townsville Stadium.....	2240
Transfer Duty Surcharge.....	2240
State Infrastructure Fund.....	2241
Transfer Duty Surcharge.....	2241
Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Service.....	2242
Innovation.....	2243
<i>Tabled paper: Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts: Queensland Government ICT strategy 2013-17, June 2013.....</i>	<i>2243</i>
Schools, Funding	2243
Transfer Duty Surcharge.....	2244
Townsville Stadium.....	2244
Transfer Duty Surcharge.....	2245
TAFE Queensland.....	2245
Queensland Budget.....	2246
Queensland Budget, Police Resources	2246
Member for Woodridge	2247
Public Transport, Fares.....	2247
MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST	2248
Queen's Birthday Honours List; Queensland Budget.....	2248
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance	2249
Townsville, Infrastructure.....	2250
<i>Tabled paper: Front page of the Townsville Bulletin, dated 13 June 2016, with the headline 'It's Ours: Prime Minister guarantees CBD stadium with \$100m pledge that will transform Townsville' ..</i>	<i>2250</i>
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance	2251
Gladstone Electorate.....	2252
Oakey, Water Supply.....	2252
<i>Tabled paper: Questions on notice and questions without notice, various dates, asked by the member for Condamine, Mr Pat Weir MP, regarding groundwater contamination at the Army Aviation Centre Oakey.....</i>	<i>2253</i>
Business Development Fund.....	2253
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance	2254
Education.....	2255
Jobs.....	2256
<i>Tabled paper: Article from the Courier-Mail, dated 11 June 2016, titled 'Employment body yet to generate a single job despite \$40 million budget'</i>	<i>2257</i>
<i>Tabled paper: Article from the Brisbane Times online, dated 10 March 2016, titled "Do as I say, not as I do": Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk'.....</i>	<i>2257</i>
National Broadband Network.....	2258
LEGISLATION (DECLARATION) AMENDMENT BILL	2259
Introduction	2259
<i>Tabled paper: Legislation (Declaration) Amendment Bill 2016.</i>	<i>2259</i>
<i>Tabled paper: Legislation (Declaration) Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes.....</i>	<i>2259</i>
<i>Tabled paper: Letter, dated 8 June 2016, from the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, to the Leader of the House and Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, regarding an error in the Racing Integrity Bill and the Mental Health Bill presented for assent.</i>	<i>2259</i>
First Reading	2259
Declared Urgent.....	2259
Second Reading	2259
Consideration in Detail.....	2260
Third Reading	2260
Long Title.....	2260

Table of Contents – Tuesday, 14 June 2016

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION (NATIONAL INJURY INSURANCE SCHEME)	
AMENDMENT BILL	2260
Introduction	2260
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (National Injury Insurance Scheme) Amendment Bill 2016.....	2260
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (National Injury Insurance Scheme) Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes.....	2260
First Reading	2262
Referral to the Finance and Administration Committee	2263
ELECTRICITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	2263
Second Reading	2263
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Transportation and Utilities Committee: Report No. 16—Electricity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, government response.....	2263
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	2265
Visitors to Speaker's Gallery	2265
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT	2265
Queensland Budget	2265
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 20 April 2016, from the Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury, Mr Jim Murphy, to the State Actuary, Mr Wayne Cannon, regarding the actuarial investigation of the State Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (QSuper).....	2266
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 26 April 2016, from the State Actuary, Mr Wayne Cannon, to the Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury, Mr Jim Murphy, regarding actuarial investigation of the State Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (QSuper).....	2266
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 20 May 2016, from the State Actuary, Mr Wayne Cannon, to the Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury, Mr Jim Murphy, regarding actuarial investigation of the State Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (QSuper).....	2266
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Treasury: State Actuary's Office—Actuarial Investigation of the State Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (QSuper) as at 30 June 2015.....	2266
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 20 May 2016, from the Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury, Mr Jim Murphy, to the State Actuary, Mr Wayne Cannon, regarding the review of the State Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (QSuper).....	2266
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 31 May 2016, from the Chief Executive, Queensland Investment Corporation, Mr Damien Frawley, to the Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury, Mr Jim Murphy, regarding QIC's investment management of the state's Employer Fund and other long-term assets.....	2266
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Charter of Fiscal Responsibility.....	2266
APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL	2266
Message from Acting Governor	2266
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Message, dated 13 June 2016, from Her Excellency the Acting Governor recommending the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2016.....	2266
Introduction	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2016.....	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2016, explanatory notes.....	2267
First Reading	2267
BUDGET PAPERS	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Appropriation Bills.....	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Budget Speech—Budget Paper No. 1.....	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Budget Strategy and Outlook—Budget Paper No. 2.....	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Capital Statement—Budget Paper No. 3.....	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Budget Measures—Budget Paper No. 4.....	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Budget Highlights—Advancing Queensland's Economy.....	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Brisbane.....	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Darling Downs.....	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Far North Queensland.....	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Fitzroy.....	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Gold Coast.....	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Ipswich.....	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Logan.....	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Mackay.....	2267
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Outback Queensland.....	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay.....	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Townsville.....	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Wide Bay.....	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Office of the Governor, Public Service Commission, Queensland Audit Office.....	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Treasury.....	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Legislative Assembly of Queensland.....	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.....	2268

Table of Contents – Tuesday, 14 June 2016

<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Education and Training.	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Energy and Water Supply.	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Housing and Public Works.	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman, the Public Trustee of Queensland.	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning.	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing.	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Natural Resources and Mines.	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Health.	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Public Safety Business Agency, Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management.	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation.	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of State Development.	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games.	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Transport and Main Roads.	2268
APPROPRIATION BILL	2268
Message from Acting Governor	2268
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Message, dated 13 June 2016, from Her Excellency the Acting Governor recommending the Appropriation Bill 2016.	2268
Introduction	2269
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Appropriation Bill 2016.	2269
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Appropriation Bill 2016, explanatory notes.	2269
First Reading	2277
DUTIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	2278
Introduction	2278
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Duties and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.	2278
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Duties and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes.	2278
First Reading	2279
APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; DUTIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	2279
Declared Urgent; Cognate Bill	2279
ADJOURNMENT	2280
ATTENDANCE	2280

TUESDAY, 14 JUNE 2016

 The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

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

The Honourable P.W. Wellington MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of assent: 25 May 2016

“A Bill for Act to amend the Retail Shop Leases Act 1994 for particular purposes”

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Land Act 1994, the Marine Parks Act 2004, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 and the Acts mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes”

“A Bill for an Act to establish the Director of Child Protection Litigation and for related purposes, and to make consequential amendments of this Act, the Child Protection Act 1999, the Child Protection (International Measures) Act 2003, the Childrens Court Act 1992, the Family and Child Commission Act 2014 and the Public Service Act 2008”

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Child Protection Act 1999 for particular purposes”

“A Bill for an Act providing for an efficient, effective, transparent, integrated, coordinated and accountable system of land use planning and development assessment to facilitate the achievement of ecological sustainability”

“A Bill for an Act about the Planning and Environment Court”

“A Bill for Act to make consequential amendments to the legislation stated in this Act for the purposes of the Planning Act 2016, and to amend other legislation stated in this Act for particular purposes”

“A Bill for Act to amend the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 and the Biosecurity Act 2014 for particular purposes”

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to provide for minimum nurse-to-patient ratios and midwife-to-patient ratios and other workload matters for public sector health services to ensure patient safety and the delivery of high quality health services”

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

25 May 2016

Tabled paper: Message, dated 25 May 2016, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 25 May 2016 [\[824\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Alleged Access to Former Member's Data

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 26 May 2016 I received material from the State Secretary of the Australian Labor Party regarding allegations he had received about the member for Cairns accessing the electronic data of the former member. As the allegations relate to conduct within

an electorate office and parliamentary computer systems, on 2 June 2016 I authorised the Clerk to conduct further preliminary inquiries to determine whether there was any evidence of official misconduct or a matter affecting parliamentary privilege.

It was not my intention to make any statement about this matter until the Clerk had reported the outcome of his inquiries, as I did not wish to jeopardise any evidence or the member's reputation. However, given that this matter is now in the media, I think it is in the best interests of the House to be informed.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Seminar

 **Mr SPEAKER:** As honourable members are aware, the 27th Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar was hosted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Queensland branch here at Parliament House from 5 June to 11 June this year. The seminar was very successful. We had 21 delegates from 12 countries attending, in addition to many of our own local members. Jurisdictions attending included Fiji, Quebec, Singapore, Pakistan, Namibia, South Africa, Jersey, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Cameroon, Nigeria, the National Parliament of India and three Indian states, and three Australian states, New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia.

I thank all of the Queensland members and staff who made presentations or assisted in the organising of the seminar. The feedback from the seminar was very positive. Particular thanks go to Ms Erin Pasley, who was the project leader. Well done, Erin.

Record of Proceedings, Incorporation of Material

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in accordance with previous practice, I advise that for debate on the appropriation bills, which will be debated later this week, members may, by leave of the House, incorporate a portion of their speech in the second reading debate. However, the following rules must be followed: the member's total speech must not exceed that which would normally be allowed in a 20-minute speech, thus no speech should exceed 3,500 words; speeches should not include graphs, charts or other material; members must provide the Parliamentary Reporting Service and the chamber services with their speech in electronic form prior to rising to give their speech; other members will be provided access on request to a member's speech prior to the publication of the *Record of Proceedings*, and all speeches must be shown to me as Speaker or the deputy speakers prior to leave being sought for incorporation. Speeches intended to be incorporated should not offend the standing orders in any way, such as by containing personal reflections or imputations et cetera.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, sponsored by the Clerk—

Ravenshoe Community, Generalist Counsellor

From 150 petitioners, requesting the House to continue to provide a Generalist Counsellor to support the Ravenshoe Community [\[825\]](#).

The Clerk presented the following e-petition, sponsored by the Clerk—

Burrum River, Proposed Bridge

From 425 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a technical investigation and feasibility study in preparation for a submission to Infrastructure Australia for federal funding to provide a bridge over Burrum River between Buxton and Burrum Heads [\[826\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

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

27 May 2016—

[804](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a visit to New Zealand by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills (Hon D'Ath) to attend the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council, 26-28 April 2016

[805](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Mr C R Dick) to a paper petition (2583-16) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), from 142 petitioners, requesting the House to commit to building a new Roma Hospital with enhanced clinical capability

- [806](#) Transportation and Utilities Committee: Report No. 17, 55th Parliament—Inquiry into Auditor-General Report to Parliament 8: 2015-16—Transport infrastructure projects
- [807](#) Transportation and Utilities Committee: Report No. 18, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 February 2016 and 19 April 2016
- [808](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a visit to New Zealand by the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon Byrne) to attend the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council, 26-28 April 2016
- 30 May 2016—
- [809](#) National Heavy Vehicle Regulator—Annual Report 2014-15
- 31 May 2016—
- [810](#) The Queensland Music Festival Pty Ltd—Financial report for the year ended 30 September 2015
- [811](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 19, 55th Parliament—Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, interim government response
- 6 June 2016—
- [812](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 29, 55th Parliament—Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016
- 7 June 2016—
- [813](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 19: 2015-16—Early Childhood Education
- [814](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on an official visit to the United States of America by the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business (Hon Enoch), 30 April 2016—8 May 2016
- 8 June 2016—
- [815](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 20, 55th Parliament—Child Protection (Mandatory Reporting—Mason’s Law) Amendment Bill 2016
- [816](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 23, 55th Parliament—Inquiry into the legislative arrangements assuring the Queensland Auditor-General’s independence
- [817](#) Education and Care Services Ombudsman, National Education and Care Services, Freedom of Information and Privacy Commissioners—Annual Report 2014-15
- 9 June 2016—
- [818](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to paper petition (2584-16) presented by Mr Dickson, and an ePetition (2548-16) sponsored by Mr Dickson, from 407 and 254 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to provide the necessary upgrade to the intersection of Killick Street and Old Maroochydore Road, Kunda Park to ensure the safety of motorists
- [819](#) Response from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Dr Lynham) to a paper petition (2582-16) presented by Mr Walker, from 30 petitioners, requesting the House to review the land valuations in Mansfield
- 10 June 2016—
- [820](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills (Ms D’Ath) to a paper petition (2585-16) presented by Ms Bates, and an ePetition (2535-16) sponsored by Ms Bates, from 719 and 118 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to deliver a funded coordinator and practice manager to the Robina Community Legal Centre
- [821](#) Response from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Mr Byrne) to an ePetition (2529-16) sponsored by Mr Boothman, from 836 petitioners, requesting the House to address the need for an additional 50 police officers for the Coomera region and the construction of an Ormeau Police Station
- [822](#) Response from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Mr Byrne) to an ePetition (2539-16) sponsored by Mr Boothman, from 413 petitioners, requesting the House to construct a new police station in the suburb of Ormeau
- 13 June 2016—
- [823](#) Letter, dated 13 June 2016, from the Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport, Hon Curtis Pitt, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, regarding statements made in the Legislative Assembly on 26 May 2016

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

- [827](#) State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 55
- [828](#) State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 55, explanatory notes

Hospitals Foundations Act 1982—

- [829](#) Hospitals Foundations Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 56
- [830](#) Hospitals Foundations Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 56, explanatory notes

Major Events Act 2014—

[831](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 57

[832](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 57, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

[833](#) State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2016, No. 58

[834](#) State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2016, No. 58, explanatory notes

Acquisition of Land Act 1967, Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980, Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, Explosives Act 1999, Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988, Fossicking Act 1994, Geothermal Energy Act 2010, Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, Land Act 1994, Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002, Land Title Act 1994, Land Valuation Act 2010, Mineral Resources Act 1989, Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, Petroleum Act 1923, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, Surveyors Act 2003, Valuers Registration Act 1992, Vegetation Management Act 1999, Water Act 2000—

[835](#) Natural Resources and Mines Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 59

[836](#) Natural Resources and Mines Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 59, explanatory notes

Corporations (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2001—

[837](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 60

[838](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 60, explanatory notes

Queen's Wharf Brisbane Act 2016—

[839](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 61

[840](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 61, explanatory notes

Casino Control Act 1982, Sustainable Planning Act 2009, Queen's Wharf Brisbane Act 2016—

[841](#) Queen's Wharf Brisbane Regulation 2016, No. 62

[842](#) Queen's Wharf Brisbane Regulation 2016, No. 62, explanatory notes

Brisbane Casino Agreement Amendment Act 2016—

[843](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 63

[844](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 63, explanatory notes

Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004—

[845](#) Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 64

[846](#) Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 64, explanatory notes

Agriculture Standards Act 1994, Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Stock Act 1915—

[847](#) Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 65

[848](#) Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 65, explanatory notes

Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2015—

[849](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 66

[850](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 66, explanatory notes

Health Act 1937—

[851](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 67

[852](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 67, explanatory notes

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

[853](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 68.

[854](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 68, explanatory notes

Exhibited Animals Act 2015—

[855](#) Exhibited Animals Regulation 2016, No. 69

[856](#) Exhibited Animals Regulation 2016, No. 69, explanatory notes

[857](#) Decision Regulatory Impact Statement

Mineral Resources Act 1989—

[858](#) Mineral Resources Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 70

[859](#) Mineral Resources Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 70, explanatory notes

Liquor Act 1992—

[860](#) Liquor (Rapid Intoxication Drinks) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 71

[861](#) Liquor (Rapid Intoxication Drinks) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 71, explanatory notes

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The Clerk tabled the following report—

[862](#) Report pursuant to Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any Bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by His Excellency the Governor, viz—

North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

'North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Act 2015'

Insert—

'North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Act 2016'

MENTAL HEALTH BILL RACING INTEGRITY BILL

Errors in Bills

 **The CLERK:** Honourable members, it is my duty to advise the House of errors in two bills presented for assent, such errors being discovered after assent had been granted. The errors were contained in the Mental Health Bill, which was presented to the Governor for assent on 4 March 2016, and the Racing Integrity Bill, which was presented to the Acting Governor for assent on 27 April 2016.

On 1 June 2016, the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel notified me that the Racing Integrity Bill, introduced in 2015, was prepared in an earlier version of the OQPC software. The bill was subsequently manually converted into a different version of software. In that manual conversion process, human error in OQPC has meant that some text has mistakenly been repeated and omitted. Later, the errors to the Mental Health Bill were also uncovered, where some text was omitted. This error occurred in the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel and is not the result of departmental or ministerial actions.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Orlando Shootings

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.36 am): On behalf of all members and the people of Queensland, I would like to express my sorrow and despair at the latest mass shooting in the United States. Forty-nine people are dead, many more are injured and countless family members and friends have had their lives changed forever, all because of an act of terror from one individual. Whatever that person's motivation, the specific targeting of one group of people simply because of their sexuality, race, gender or religious beliefs is abhorrent in the extreme. It highlights the sad fact that, despite it being 2016, there are some depraved individuals who still harbour hatred in their hearts for those different from themselves.

In times like these, it is up to community leaders such as us to lead by example, to prove that we live a society where tolerance and acceptance underpin the way we treat other people. To that end, I thank you, Mr Speaker, for your gesture of lighting up Parliament House tonight in rainbow colours. Not only does it show our support for the victims in Orlando; it shows that we stand in solidarity with the LGBTI community here at home.

Having just returned from the US, it goes without saying that the American people and Queenslanders share a strong and enduring friendship. We stand with them against violence. We stand with them against discrimination in all forms. We stand against acts of terror, whatever its motivations. Our hearts go out to those who have lost someone close to them through a senseless act of hatred.

Aurukun

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.38 am): My government wants to see the community of Aurukun thrive and be a strong, safe and supported community. Our vision for Aurukun can only be realised when it is owned by the community. When driven by the community's leaders, elders and members, and supported by all levels of government, real and sustainable change can happen. My government is working hard to contribute to that vision.

During my visit on 27 May, I had the opportunity to speak with and, more importantly, to listen to the community. As a government, we can best assist by supporting actions and initiatives led by the community. While some of those actions are immediate, others are more complex and require continued effort. Working hand in glove with the community and council, a four-point plan sets out the key areas of action.

Firstly, we want Aurukun to be a place where workers and residents are safe and supported to contribute positively to the community. There are 23 police deployed in Aurukun, maintaining a 24/7 presence. That will continue. Vehicle patrols are conducted overnight. There will also be an increase in foot patrols. There is also an enhanced presence of security officers. The Aurukun Shire Council also employs up to 10 local people as community police officers. These community police officers assist with patrolling during the day and safeguarding assets at night. Practical solutions have been agreed with the community, including extending the CCTV network and improving lighting and security.

Secondly, education is key to a more prosperous future. Access to education in Aurukun is my government's priority. We want to see our children and young people get to school every day in an environment where our teachers feel safe and supported. We are working on arrangements so that at the start of term 3, 11 July, teachers and students can return to their classrooms.

A review of education delivery in Aurukun is being undertaken by education minister Kate Jones, who also joined me on my recent visit to Aurukun. It is expected that the review will be finalised this month and the government will then consider the recommendations. In the meantime, students are being supported to access distance education services by an interim principal. Around 90 students have been attending school daily. The interim principal is being assisted by teachers, the PCYC and other staff. As of last Friday there are seven teachers in Aurukun assisting with the distance education program and doing a remarkable job.

Thirdly, we are building the community of Aurukun through a collaborative partnership with council and the community. A well-respected community advocate with experience working in Aurukun has been appointed as a senior government coordinator. Senior Sergeant Brendon McMahon commenced on 30 May and continues to coordinate government and the community working together on these important issues. Round tables are also being held to ensure members of the community have a voice and can contribute collaboratively.

The last round table was held on 1 June and was hosted jointly by the mayor and government champion and Director-General of the Department of State Development Michael Schaumberg. The community wants to be heard and wants to contribute to change, evidenced by the attendance of more than 60 people. Participants were clear about taking the lead on issues impacting their community, with support from government.

The Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships continued these discussions when he also visited Aurukun on 6 June. Sustainable communities are connected communities, both in terms of people and technology. We are also working closely with Telstra to install a 4G cable to connect Aurukun. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2017. My government will do what we can to help expedite this process.

Finally, a thriving community is one that has jobs and economic opportunities. I am advised that there are jobs available in Aurukun, but we need to ensure the skills match the roles available. There are many initiatives already available to help achieve this. We just need to harness those opportunities. We are doing this through engagement with the federal government and Cape York Employment to ensure readiness for the jobs available right now and those in the pipeline.

My government will ensure this momentum continues and real progress is made. Sustainable change to build a thriving community can only be achieved when we all work together.

Queensland Greats Awards

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.42 am): On Sunday night I had the opportunity to thank Queensland greats past and present as part of the 2016 Queensland Greats Awards. The awards recognised a range of people and organisations for their service to our community and their actions that have made Queensland a better place. I acknowledge that the Leader of the Opposition, Tim Nicholls, also attended this fantastic event.

Recipients included: former Queensland and Australian cricket great Allan Border; former Governor and Governor-General as well as domestic violence advocate Quentin Bryce; Queensland Youth Orchestra founder and director John Curro; Indigenous Rugby Union legend and leading barrister

Lloyd McDermott; Rugby League royalty Mal Meninga; and the RSPCA Queensland. Former Townsville deputy mayor George Vivian Roberts was posthumously recognised for a range of work, including his role in overseeing the construction of James Cook University, which ultimately transformed Townsville.

I congratulate all recipients on the awards the 2016 Queensland Greats have received as part of Queensland Week celebrations. Unfortunately, there were only seven awards that could be handed out. I think all members of this House would agree that there are great Queenslanders in each of our communities. I would like to thank those Queenslanders who work hard to make their communities a better place and often do so with little or no public recognition.

Public Transport, Fares

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.43 am): My government has delivered on its promise to deliver fairer fares. We have considered and listened to the expert advice of the independent fare review task force. We have incorporated this advice into our Fairer Fares package. Under our plan, more than 93 per cent of public transport users in South-East Queensland will get cheaper fares. That is higher than the 86 per cent who would have benefited under the recommendations from the task force.

On Sunday I joined the Minister for Transport and the member for Brisbane Central to announce the details of the government's strategy. The new zone and fare structure will be implemented from 1 January next year. It will restore affordability and fairness to public transport fares in South-East Queensland.

As part of my government's fare strategy we will be simplifying and streamlining the network. The existing 23 zones will now be consolidated to eight zones, reducing the need for commuters to cross multiple zones. Fares will better reflect the distances that public transport users travel. It will encourage people to use public transport not only for commuting but also for short journeys within their local area. Families will also benefit from the introduction of the children travel free at weekends initiative. Seniors will continue to enjoy free travel each day after two journeys with the retention of One, Two, Free.

My government understands that many jobseekers also rely on public transport. The new fare strategy will now allow those on the Newstart Allowance to travel on a concession fare, giving a welcome boost to those trying to find employment in South-East Queensland. We will also be extending concession fares to one of the most vulnerable groups in our society—asylum seekers.

The government will keep fares frozen until the changes take effect on 1 January next year. In addition, we have guaranteed that fares will not be increased in 2017 when the major fare savings are passed on. The government is now asking people for their feedback over the next six weeks. I look forward to the implementation of the new fare strategy and the real improvements it will make to our public transport system.

International Education and Training Strategy

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.45 am): I am pleased to inform the House that last weekend I released the Palaszczuk government's draft International Education and Training Strategy to Advance Queensland. I table a copy for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Trade and Investment Queensland: Draft International Education and Training Strategy to Advance Queensland 2016-2026 [[863](#)].

I can also advise the House that the government is committing more than \$25 million over the next five years in new funding to deliver this strategy and grow the sector, which, in turn, will create up to 6,800 new jobs for Queenslanders.

International education and training is already Queensland's second largest service export industry, and it sustains around 20,000 jobs. Last year it generated \$2.9 billion in export revenue. By 2026 this could grow to \$7.5 billion under our strategy. Importantly, this is an industry that benefits regional Queensland as well, with one third of all international students studying outside Brisbane.

Our strategy is focused on initiatives that will put Queensland on the map as a top study destination for international students. Our strategy aims to forge strong partnerships and improve cooperation between the four education sectors—higher education, vocational education, schools and English as a second language colleges—and related service industries, peak bodies and government.

Once those students are here we want to ensure they experience the best that our first-class education system has to offer. Outside the classroom, those students and their visiting family and friends can enjoy our fantastic Queensland lifestyle, our beautiful beaches and our many world heritage tourist attractions.

The strategy includes a range of targeted initiatives which are now out for consultation, and they include: establishing a network of international student hubs offering referral services for health or legal issues and advice on topics such as accommodation and employment opportunities; a stronger focus on overseas and interstate campaigns, like the recently launched 'Best semester abroad' competition; new marketing and promotional activities, including major web enhancements, improved social media presence and engaging video content; and central implementation and coordination, including an advisory group and a ministerial champion.

This strategy was developed in close consultation with industry. I particularly want to thank the expert panel who assisted in the drafting of this strategy: Professor Peter Hoj, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Queensland; Professor Sarah Todd, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) Griffith University; Carol Doyle, President, Study Cairns; Richard Brown, Managing Director, Browns English School and member of the Australian Council of Private Education and Training board; Monica Bradley, Director, Purposeful Capital; and Phil Honeywood, National Executive Director, International Education Association of Australia.

Consultation on the draft strategy is open until 26 August. I encourage Queenslanders to provide their feedback on this exciting and important initiative for jobs and the Queensland economy.

Advance Queensland



Hon. LM ENOCH (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (9.49 am): The Palaszczuk government is continuing to support growth in Queensland's regions through an investment of an additional \$49.5 million for regional innovation under the Advance Queensland initiative. Queensland is Australia's most decentralised state with large populations in regional centres such as Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Toowoomba.

The Palaszczuk government recognises that our regional centres represent a unique economic opportunity to harness and build on our diverse regional strengths. Our regions are also home to some of the state's most innovative entrepreneurs. To support their growth, the Palaszczuk government is committing \$6 million over three years to support the development of regional innovation hubs across Queensland. These hubs will assist innovation by connecting locals, leveraging key regional strengths and lifting the capability of innovative local firms. The hubs will be interconnected, creating a network of innovation and collaboration right across the state.

This program will collaborate with locally based champions to build localised communities that are connected by place, leadership and learning. This will ensure regional Queenslanders have the tools to provide solutions to local, national and global social and business challenges, ensuring their industries and businesses remain competitive to drive growth in local economies and jobs. A further \$10 million will be put towards an innovation hub in Cairns, located on the James Cook University campus.

In March, I released the *Regional Queensland Startup Ecosystem* report, which highlighted the potential value of start-up ecosystems across regional Queensland. The report identified Cairns as having the highest start-up rate per capita outside South-East Queensland. There is already a lot of work happening in our regions with some exciting new technologies and innovations that will contribute to the growth of local industries and create jobs now and jobs into the future. The Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland grant programs such as the start-up Queensland fund and the Young Starters Fund continue to provide assistance to regional Queensland to deliver entrepreneurial and start-up related activities that build capability.

Our regions may also play host to international start-ups through the Advance Queensland Hot DesQ program. Their unique locations and industry strengths will attract start-ups from around the world. Through Hot DesQ they will relocate for at least six months, providing local entrepreneurs with access to new skills, talent and global connections. Our government remains committed to supporting Queensland innovation and entrepreneurship to diversify the economy and create jobs. I look forward to providing further updates in the future.

Global Schools Initiative

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (9.52 am): We are preparing young Queenslanders now to embrace the future opportunities of a globalised world. We know that by 2050 Asia will provide more than half of the world's gross domestic product. Our ability to connect with the Asian economy will depend on our understanding of other cultures and our proficiency in Asian languages. That is why through Accelerating Advance Queensland we are delivering \$7.1 million for the Global Schools initiative. Global Schools will see a new focus on language and cultural studies for students in Queensland state schools. We will expand the offering of languages and culture from prep to year 12 with a focus on Asian languages. I am advised that around 70 per cent of Queensland students study an Asian language. However, only around five per cent continue those studies until year 12. We want to boost the number of students continuing the study of Asian languages right through to their senior years and expand it into the early years of learning right down to prep, with currently only around 69 schools offering language studies in the prep year.

We are also rolling out grants of up to \$50,000 to boost the capability of our state schools to deliver high-quality language education. Through the Deputy Premier's new international education and training strategy, we are encouraging more school-age students to study here in Queensland. We know that international students diversify and enrich school communities and help local students become global citizens sharing languages, ideas and social and cultural experiences. This is all part of the Palaszczuk government's efforts to advance Queensland and further our global reach as we transition to the new economy.

Townsville Stadium

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (9.53 am): Yesterday I welcomed the news from Malcolm Turnbull that he has listened to our government's calls and has committed to the stadium. This is something that I have been lobbying for and something that I have spoken about many times in this chamber. Can I say that this is a great win for Townsville. It has been a real community effort, and I am glad that the pressure from the community, the Cowboys and from state and federal Labor has paid off.

The Palaszczuk government has been 100 per cent committed to the stadium from day one. Last week I had the pleasure of joining the members for Townsville and Thuringowa when we welcomed the Treasurer to Townsville and announced a further \$40 million to our commitment, taking the state's contribution to \$140 million. With the \$10 million contribution also announced by the Cowboys and their captain, Johnathan Thurston, this project is now fully funded.

We know how important this project is for the community. We have said many times that this is more than just a stadium; this is a game changer for Townsville—a game changer that creates up to 700 jobs during construction, will attract business and investment, draw visitors, major events and see our local economy thrive. It is a shame that it has taken so long to see any action from the Turnbull government. It was only yesterday, the day before pre-poll opens, that the announcement was made, even though Malcolm Turnbull has had the business case since December last year.

For six months we have been fighting for and pushing every step of the way for a commitment from Malcolm Turnbull and his local federal member Ewen Jones. While I welcome any commitment from the federal government, at this stage it is not clear what the exact conditions are that have been placed on the commitment. This project is vital for our region, and it should be an unconditional commitment just like the unconditional commitment from Bill Shorten. This is certainly a win for Townsville and bipartisan support will see this stadium delivered. As Johnathan Thurston said best on grand final night, 'North Queensland deserves a new stadium.'

Public Transport, Fares

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (9.57 am): The Palaszczuk government understands that the cost of living is a huge pressure in the lives of Queenslanders. That is why I was so proud to stand with the Premier in announcing this government's Fairer Fares package for South-East Queensland. The Palaszczuk government's Fairer Fares package delivers on our election commitment to review public transport fares policy in Queensland and make them fairer, simpler and more affordable for the largest number of people.

We set the goal of designing a fare structure that got people back on public transport, simplified the network and delivered value for money. On Sunday the Premier delivered that goal. This is the single largest reform to public transport services in South-East Queensland in more than a decade. From 1 January next year South-East Queenslanders will benefit from cheaper fares across all travel zones; 23 travel zones will be cut to eight; 20 per cent off-peak discounts will be extended from 3 am to 6 am; children aged between five and 14 years will travel free at weekends; the One, Two, Free incentive for seniors and pensioners will stay; and the '9 and free' incentive will be replaced with an eight plus 50 per cent incentive.

This is a government that is committed to not only creating jobs but also getting people better connected to their work. We know that public transport is critical in connecting people with jobs, education, health care and essential services. This package delivers fare relief for 93 per cent of existing public transport users. Some will save hundreds or more a year. These reforms will encourage more people to use public transport and reduce congestion.

This government said it would reduce fares, and we have done that decisively with our Fairer Fares package, along with a freeze on fare increases for the next 18 months across the rest of Queensland. Under this government, public transport fares have remained frozen or they have been slashed. Consultation is also open and, as the Premier said earlier, South-East Queenslanders will be able to have their say on this package until the middle of July.

For too long affordability has been a barrier to patronage growth on public transport. As minister, I believe that transport is about the movement of people, capital, goods and ideas. Through Fairer Fares, the Palaszczuk government is backing the public transport users in South-East Queensland, and we are doing so because we are also backing the economy in South-East Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Minister for Health, member for Coomera, you are warned under standing order 253A. Continuous, repetitive interjections are disorderly conduct.

Rural Doctors Association of Queensland

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.59 am): Last Friday, 10 June, I was pleased to attend the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland Annual Conference. The RDAQ is one of the key medical associations that operates in Queensland. One of the issues I spoke to the RDAQ about was long-term workforce planning. The Department of Health has been working hard to develop a medical practitioner workforce plan for Queensland under the guidance of the Deputy Director-General, Prevention Division and Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young. It is an important piece of work that will create an enduring, positive legacy for health care in Queensland.

One initiative that has arisen out of this plan will lead to better trained GPs for rural and remote areas, something that I know many members of this House are interested in. GPs have an important complementary role to play in Queensland's public health system, particularly in rural and remote hospitals. To recognise this, the Palaszczuk government will subsidise training costs for general practitioners in regional, rural and remote Queensland. We will fund up to \$35,000 for regional, rural and remote general practices, and hospital and health services to facilitate opportunities for qualified procedural general practitioners to undertake skills maintenance and upskilling opportunities, supported by public hospital and health services. We will fund up to 10 positions in the first year, up to a maximum of \$350,000. This funding can be used for the GPs to undertake supervised procedural practice in anaesthetics, obstetrics and surgery. The funding may also be used for special interest maintenance and upskilling opportunities in mental health, paediatrics, dermatology and other non-procedural specialties.

A highly skilled and motivated workforce is a great thing for Queensland. A highly skilled medical workforce in the right numbers in the right place delivering the right services at the right time will deliver Queenslanders the best possible health care.

Queen's Wharf Redevelopment, Major Projects Series

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (10.01 am): This government is always seeking ways to maximise opportunities for Queensland's regions to generate jobs and diversify their economies. That is why we are rolling out a major projects series of events to ensure that Queenslanders are ready to take advantage of the

opportunities coming out of the massive \$3 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane project and other new developments. My Department of State Development will run this series with guest speakers from one of the Queen's Wharf consortium partners Star Entertainment Group as well as supply chain and economic experts. They will present information on how to access the opportunities created by Queen's Wharf and other major projects, including the proposed \$850 million redevelopment of Jupiter's on the Gold Coast. These two projects alone will create more than 3,000 construction and 10,000 valuable operational jobs here in Queensland.

The series will be presented at nine regional centres to provide procurement insights on these two latest projects as well as the latest information on what is happening locally. Opportunities abound for business across sectors including engineering, construction, agriculture, tourism, hospitality and food service in regions all across Queensland. Suppliers and producers can get the knowledge they need to access new markets and to tender to provide goods and services. The series starts in Brisbane on 12 July, followed by events in Toowoomba, the Sunshine Coast, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gold Coast, Cairns, Townsville and the Wide Bay and Ipswich regions.

This government expects the Major Projects Series will attract major business groups and stakeholders from a range of new and emerging industries that will drive productivity, opportunities and future jobs for regional Queensland. I encourage anyone to attend who wants to know what these and other upcoming projects mean for their business and for their local area. As the series rolls out across the state in coming months, local experts will join the major projects proponents to focus on regional prospects. As I told parliament in April, the 1.4 million additional Queen's Wharf Brisbane tourists will no doubt want to try our Moreton Bay bugs, our gulf prawns, barramundi from Innisfail, Granite Belt stone fruit, lamb from the Darling Downs, ginger beer from the Sunshine Coast, pawpaw ice-cream from the Daintree, sapphires from Anakie, pearls from Thursday Island and even rum from Bundaberg. Queen's Wharf might be a Brisbane CBD project, but it is all about jobs and opportunities right across this great state of ours.

Toowoomba Courthouse, Renovations

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.04 am): The Department of Justice and Attorney-General has completed the final stage of renovations at the Toowoomba Courthouse, which started back in 2008. The department has completed approximately \$15.3 million of works at the courthouse in that time, which includes an internal lift installation, an air-conditioning upgrade, a dock upgrade, an internal refurbishment, CCTV installation and, most recently, a \$2.4 million external refurbishment.

The refurbishment was commissioned in April 2015 and concluded late in the year by FK Gardner and Sons, a local builder in Toowoomba. FK Gardner and Sons should be congratulated on generating employment for over 110 construction industry workers from 38 local firms. I want to congratulate them on choosing all local firms in all of the work they did during this refurbishment. These sorts of projects are a great example of how government can stimulate local economies, something we are constantly mindful of across all portfolios. This work completes the upgrade of this building and ensures that this thriving region will have modern facilities to provide contemporary justice services to its locals. As with the renovations in 2011, the upgrade was carried out progressively to ensure the courthouse continued to operate throughout the works. I am sure that any inconvenience caused is certainly justified by the end result.

Toowoomba Courthouse is multijurisdictional, hearing matters in the Supreme, District and Magistrates courts as well as the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Our courthouses are important hubs for the provision of justice in Queensland. That is why this government committed to undertaking a comprehensive audit of all Queensland courts and tribunals with the view to providing appropriate resourcing of our courthouses. I am advised that the Department of Justice and Attorney-General has now completed the audit of all 85 courthouses. This audit was a commitment of the Palaszczuk government and it will help my department capture a comprehensive picture of our courthouse facilities to inform current and future needs. The results of the audit are currently being analysed by my department.

The government values the work done in the regions by devoted and hardworking people. Investing in providing first-class facilities to enable this work is the least we can do. It was a pleasure to travel to Toowoomba recently to rededicate the courthouse and to see it revitalised to continue to serve the city of Toowoomba for many years to come.

Cairns Southern Access

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.07 am): The Palaszczuk government understands the importance of a safe and reliable road network. We are constantly improving roads throughout our state. The Bruce Highway is a major priority for the Palaszczuk government and vital for our Queensland economy.

Last week I was in Cairns with the hardworking member for Barron River, Craig Crawford, who as a former paramedic knows how important our roads are. We visited the early works occurring on the \$58 million Cairns Southern Access Corridor Stage 2 on the Bruce Highway. I can inform the House that major works are due to start in coming weeks. This project widens the Bruce Highway from four to six lanes between Foster and Robert Road and will support an average of 147 Far North Queensland direct jobs over the life of the project.

I was also pleased to announce the Palaszczuk government has secured an in-principle agreement from the federal government to accelerate planning and delivery on the \$135 million Cairns Southern Access Stage 3. Earlier this year I wrote to Minister Chester requesting this project to be accelerated as it is an important upgrade for local residents in Far North Queensland. This project will widen the Bruce Highway from four to six lanes from Kate Street to Aumuller Street. This acceleration will bring construction forward more than 12 months to mid-2018, creating employment opportunities for locals at a time when Cairns really needs it. It will also reduce congestion and, of course, improve road safety for all users. These projects are jointly funded using the funding formula used for roads on the national land transport network as set out by the federal government, which should be applied to all sections of the national land transport network in Queensland.

I note that the Prime Minister is in Queensland this week and has yet again failed to commit to funding the M1, which is also on the National Land Transport Network. Not one single dollar for one single kilometre of the M1 has been committed by the Turnbull government—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: It would be better for the opposition to lobby the federal government rather than bleat in here—to upgrade this crucial road. It is the highest trafficked road in Queensland with 147,000 movements a day. The Palaszczuk government has put real money on the table—\$42 million under the State Infrastructure Program—to fix the M1 at the merge, and the Turnbull government continues to do nothing. On the other hand, we have seen a \$168 million commitment from the federal opposition to fully fund the Gateway-M1 merge, which I welcome as a clear fix to a major stop on the M1. We want Queenslanders, no matter where they live, to be able to travel safely along our roads. We will continue to invest and advocate for funding for our roadworks, especially the M1. It is time the federal government stood up and started investing in the most highly trafficked road in Queensland.

Neighbourhood Centres

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.11 am): Neighbourhood centres are the backbone of our communities. I have been fortunate enough to visit many of our wonderful neighbourhood and community centres right across the state. Before I was elected I volunteered as the duty solicitor at my local neighbourhood centre in Beenleigh, so I know firsthand how vital neighbourhood centres are in local communities and what a real difference they make to the lives of local community members, particularly vulnerable individuals and families. Whether it is joining a playgroup or getting help with budgeting, parenting, counselling or literacy and numeracy, there are a range of services available conveniently under the one roof. Neighbourhood centres are an excellent example of how local issues are often best resolved with local solutions. Neighbourhood centres are also a key part of our efforts to address domestic and family violence, with support services available to people affected by this unacceptable form of violence at a local, familiar centre.

The Palaszczuk government believes that every Queenslanders deserves a chance to reach their full potential to participate equally in our economy and society, and that is why this morning I am delighted to announce that the 2016-17 state budget is delivering for some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders—and the places and the services that support them—with almost \$6.9 million over four years to go towards our neighbourhood centre investment strategy to better support communities right across Queensland. Three million dollars of this funding will be directed towards the employment of

new Community Connect workers. These specialist workers will provide additional support to meet the needs of vulnerable people in Manoora, Darra, Lockyer Valley, Gympie, Eagleby, Nerang, Chinchilla, Blackall-Tambo, Upper Ross, Bowen, Monto and Mossman. These new Community Connect workers will be able to provide extra support for people with high needs so they will not miss out on the kinds of services they need. It also means that further support will be available to those people affected by domestic and family violence and other complex issues. It also means new jobs in these communities.

A further \$6.4 million in capital works funding has been committed this financial year to neighbourhood centre replacements and upgrades. This includes projects in Inala, East Murgon and Mackay. All in all, it means that Queensland's vital neighbourhood and community centres will be better resourced and better equipped. I am also thrilled that we are committing almost \$3 million over four years to top up the funding of each and every one of our community and neighbourhood centres to at least \$110,000 a year. For some centres like Cooktown, Healy near Mount Isa, Malanda, Pomona and Maleny, it means their funding will more than double this financial year.

One of the great things about our neighbourhood centres is that they always come together and share ideas. Unfortunately, in recent times that has been harder since the former LNP government cut funding for the neighbourhood centre peak body. I am pleased to announce that we are restoring the peak body for our neighbourhood and community centres, with \$120,000 going towards re-establishing this vital organisation. It is all about putting our money where our mouth is with this state budget to ensure the future of our vital neighbourhood and community centres to benefit all of Queensland.

COMMITTEES

Membership

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the member for Pine Rivers, Ms Boyd, be discharged from the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee and the member for Pumicestone, Mr Williams, be appointed to the committee.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Amendment to Standing Orders

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.15 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly be amended in accordance with the amendment circulated in my name.

1. Standing Order 211 (Confidentiality of proceedings for Portfolio Committees and the Committee of the Legislative Assembly)

Insert new subsections (5), (6) and (7)—

'(5) A committee in (1) may authorise a submission to it to be published at any time after receiving it.

(6) A submission in (5), if not already authorised to be published, is deemed authorised to be published on the committee hearing oral evidence from the witness who made the submission subject to any express resolution of the committee to the contrary.

(7) Paragraph (1) does not prevent the release of a submission by the person who submitted it.'

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Orlando Shootings; Queensland Greats

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.16 am): I join with the Premier in extending the sympathy, prayers and thoughts of the opposition—and I am sure many, many Queenslanders—to the people of Orlando and the United States with respect to the horror and terror we have seen on our TV sets in the last 48 hours as they mourn the loss of 49 of their countrymen and countrywomen—49 of their own—and the critical wounding of so many others. I have sent a message to the US Consul General Hugo Llorens, who I am sure is a friend of many in this House and a great friend of Queensland. Our deepest thoughts and sympathies are with the people of Orlando and the people of the United States as they deal with this awful, awful horror.

It is difficult to comprehend how such tragic events can unfold, and we also find it difficult to comprehend how people can act in such a fashion against any section of our community. To strike as this person has, in the way that he has, makes us all think more deeply about why people behave the way they do and the vulnerabilities we all face. It is beholden on all of us to continue to condemn these all-too-frequent attacks of terror and in particular this appalling attack on the freedom of people to associate with whom they please, when they please. Our thoughts and prayers are with loved ones as they deal with the dead and wounded and also the first responders, who were no doubt faced with carnage. We saw reports that people were asked to put up their hands if they were still alive, and that is very difficult to imagine. We join with the government and the Premier in condemning such attacks and we express our solidarity with the people of the United States. We must not allow this to curtail the freedom that we enjoy to live our lives in the way that we choose, and I do that very clearly today.

I also join with the Premier today in congratulating the Queensland Greats from the awards service on Sunday night. I had the opportunity to sit with the family of George Roberts, who died two weeks short of his 100th birthday. As the Premier said, he was a stalwart of the Townsville community and a founder and driving force behind the James Cook University. While sitting with the Roberts family I was also fortunate to sit with David Roberts, who was a partner at the law firm where I worked, so we reminisced and spoke with the Roberts family. It is fair to say that the Roberts family are still proud North Queenslanders and are still pushing for Townsville and North Queensland. In that respect it is very good to see the outcome that we saw from the Queensland Greats Sunday night.

Office of Small Business

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerst—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.19 am): As part of the Palaszczuk government's soon-to-be-released Advancing Small Business Strategy, we will be creating an Office of Small Business to help make Queensland the place for business to start, grow and employ. Our plans to further assist small business are part of our \$405 million whole-of-government Advance Queensland agenda.

The Office of Small Business will work proactively across government to achieve better coordination and connectivity, delivering improved outcomes for small business when interacting with government departments. One particular area of focus will be improving outcomes for small business when it comes to state government procurement programs. Another critical task of the Office of Small Business will be collaborating with stakeholders across the state to drive the implementation of the Advancing Small Business Queensland strategy. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that our state's 406,000 small businesses get the support they need to employ more people and create jobs. The establishment of the Office of Small Business is one of many actions that will be taken to ensure that Queensland's small businesses have the support they need to compete on global markets.

In addition to the Office of Small Business, the Palaszczuk government is also establishing the position of Small Business Champion to advocate on behalf of Queensland's small businesses on the national stage. The Small Business Champion replaces the position of Small Business Commissioner, which was abolished by the former LNP government. That move was yet another example of the LNP's refusal to engage the sector in any meaningful way with regard to the challenges it faced, particularly in the wake of the downturn in the resources sector.

Queensland's new Small Business Champion will perform several important functions, including advocacy to all levels of government on matters of concern to small business; representation at a national level on the Small Business Commissioners' forum—something that we have been absent from as a state since the abolishment by the LNP government of the Small Business Commissioner; and supporting small businesses to access information and education. The Small Business Champion will not have responsibility for investigating complaints or providing dispute resolution services as this would be a duplication of existing services.

Expressions of interest for the position of Small Business Champion will open soon and potential candidates will need to be an experienced businessperson and highly respected by small business. As with all senior appointments in the Palaszczuk government, they will be appointed through a merit based selection process. The Palaszczuk government's commitment to and support of small business is in stark contrast to the disregard shown towards the sector by those opposite when in government. They had no plan to support small business when they were in government, and they still do not.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Jobs

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.21 am): Today I rise to reflect on the last 12 months since the last budget and what that has meant for jobs in rural and regional Queensland. Twelve months ago we sat here and listened to the Premier, the Deputy Premier, every minister and all backbenchers use the catchcry, 'Jobs now and jobs for the future.' What have we seen 12 months on? It is all talk and no action.

An opposition member: A lot of hot air.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: There is a lot of hot air. The figures speak for themselves. In rural and regional Queensland we are seeing astronomical youth unemployment rates and our youth unemployment rates are the second highest in Australia. That is what this Palaszczuk Labor government has done to the youth of Queensland. In Cairns, for example, there have been 1,200 fewer people with jobs in the past 12 months. In the Fitzroy region 800 fewer people have jobs. In Ipswich there are 1,000 fewer people with jobs than 12 months ago. All we are hearing—and we have heard it again this morning—is all talk and simply no action, and we have proof: the government's signature jobs policy does not even have a website. We discovered that over the weekend. The government has also announced the Rural Jobs Agency, yet there has never been a ministerial statement about that in this House. This morning I did some googling to try to find where the Rural Jobs Agency is at a time when there is 33 per cent unemployment in the outback. Regional members such as the member for Gregory and the member for Warrego are feeling this out there with their constituents. When they stand in this House—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment. Pause the clock. Minister for Health, if you persist you will be warned under standing order 253A. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has the opportunity to speak, as will other members.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The Minister for Health obviously has not spent much time in the regions.

Mr SPEAKER: Please do not provoke the minister.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Today we wait again. Where is the Rural Jobs Agency that was talked about in last year's budget? Twelve months on, it is all talk and absolutely no action. We know that this Premier does not support jobs for the regions. She cannot even get in a candidate for the Toowoomba South by-election. That is a complete rejection of rural and regional Queensland. If you cannot even represent a seat like Toowoomba South, how is the rest of regional and rural Queensland feeling when there is no plan for rural and regional Queensland?

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Jobs

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (10.24 am): It seems that the member for Nanango is a little bit confused when it comes to employment in Queensland, because we know that when the LNP came into office the unemployment rate in Queensland was 5.5 per cent. What was the unemployment rate when those opposite left office? It was 6.6 per cent! I think she may have got it around the wrong way. Unemployment went up every single year under their administration, peaking at the honourable member for Clayfield's best effort of 7.1 per cent. That is the legacy that they left for Queenslanders—the highest unemployment rate in years. For those opposite to come into this House and deny that that is what they left Queenslanders with denies history. We had the GFC and we still did better than you! In stark contrast, we are absolutely focused on creating jobs for all Queenslanders no matter where they live in this state, particularly in regional Queensland. When we look at the efforts of the honourable member for Mundingburra and her hard-fought fight to secure the Townsville stadium with the deafening—

Honourable members interjected.

Ms JONES: I am living the dream, thanks to your unemployment rate! We know that in complete contrast there was deafening silence from those opposite. The member for Hinchinbrook likes to paint himself as the champion of North Queensland. Where was he when we came to fight for Townsville

stadium? He was mute, which is unlike him. We know that jobs are absolutely crucial to people's prospects.

Ms Trad interjected.

Ms JONES: I take that interjection from the member for South Brisbane. We are absolutely committed to creating jobs, and that is why in the Accelerating Advance Queensland package announced yesterday we saw an extra \$33.5 million for tourism in this state. We know that tourism is one of the major growth industries in Queensland and we know that it is creating jobs right across our state, whether that be in Cairns or the Whitsundays or Rockhampton or Bundaberg or Gladstone. We are creating jobs right across this region and the Premier and I are absolutely focused. They are saying that when those opposite were in government they cut funding for tourism. That is right: \$188 million was ripped out of the forward estimates for tourism. That was the legacy of the honourable member for Clayfield.

Ms Trad: And that was one of their pillars!

Ms JONES: Instead of building a pillar, they were pilfering from tourism. That is what they were doing. In 2015 when we came into office the budget allocated under the honourable member for Clayfield was half of what it was the year before. We had to come in and restore the funding and I am very pleased that as we go into this state budget we are allocating an additional \$33.5 million—

(Time expired)

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Industry Attraction Fund

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (10.28 am): We have seen the Treasurer set a record over the last week. Never before have we seen a Treasurer make three significant bungles in the week leading up to a budget—three significant bungles, a record. Yesterday we saw the latest from this incompetent, confused Palaszczuk government—a confused Premier and an incompetent and confused Treasurer. Yesterday they announced the key part of their policy, the Industry Attraction Fund. The Premier was asked, 'Will this include tax incentives?' She said, 'No, no, no.' Then the Treasurer was asked, 'Will it include tax incentives?' He said, 'Yes, yes, yes.' They do not even know! The question one has to ask is this: is the Premier so ignorant of her own government's policy or did the Treasurer explain it wrong to her? Was it the incompetence of the Premier? Did he set her up?

They cannot even agree on how the setpiece of their policy works. Of course, that is not the first mistake we have seen. At the beginning of last week, the Treasurer had the numbers wrong on the difference between the average tax levels in Queensland compared to those of the rest of Australia. What did he have to do? He quietly, sneakily, put out a correction in an online media release.

Mrs Frecklington: Blamed the staff.

Mr EMERSON: He probably blamed the staff. This incompetent, confused Treasurer had to make a correction. Later in that week we saw the biggest bungle of all. Here was the centrepiece of his policy: the transfer duty surcharge on foreign investors. He told the media, 'No-one is going to be frightened by this because, on a \$366,000 home, it will be only \$336.' Only \$336! Of course, what was it? Thirty times that amount. He made a 3,000 per cent mistake. That is why, today, no-one will believe what the Treasurer says. No-one will believe his figures. No-one will believe his forecasts.

Of course, we all know they want to get rid of him. The Labor backbench wants to get rid of him. His Labor colleagues in cabinet do not want him there. Of course, the member for Woodridge wants his job. We have seen one mistake, two mistakes, three mistakes. Three strikes and you are out, Curtis. You are up, Cameron. Batter up.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will finish at 11.31 this morning.

Queensland Budget

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (10.31 am): My question is to the Premier. Now that the Treasurer is already talking about tax increases from 2018 and given that budgets are for four years, is not today's budget already meaningless and wrong?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. What I will say about today's budget is that, unlike the budgets delivered by the former LNP government, it will be measured,

it will be responsible and it will be focused on growing jobs across our state. We all remember the first budget of Tim Nicholls and Campbell Newman. What did that contain? Cuts to the core and 14,000 jobs slashed. Lately, I have been travelling around Queensland and I have had public servants come up to me to say, 'Thank goodness Labor is in office. Thank goodness Labor is treating people with dignity in their workplace.'

Today, the budget that the Treasurer will hand down will focus on innovation, it will focus on infrastructure and it will focus on investment. We know that the regional communities across Queensland are hurting. There has been a downturn in commodity prices and no thanks to those opposite. No thanks to the person who now holds the seat here as Leader of the Opposition. This is the man who was responsible for gutting regional Queensland. That is when we saw the downturn in those regional communities. Jobs were slashed and people left the homes they loved. They had to go elsewhere. They had to leave their communities and go interstate.

In the budget to be delivered this afternoon, there will be a key focus on getting people back into work. There will be a key focus on infrastructure in our state—building on our capital works agenda that we put in place in our last budget. What does that mean? It means jobs across Queensland. My government is focused on jobs, jobs and jobs. Those opposite never had any good news in their budgets, because they did not value Queenslanders. They cut front-line services across the state—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. One moment, members. Leader of the Opposition, you will be warned if you continue to talk over the top of the very person you have asked the question of. You have had a pretty good go. I would urge you to consider your comments.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The budget that will be delivered today is focused on Queenslanders across the state. We are delivering on our election commitments. We will continue to grow the economy and we will continue to focus on getting people back into work.

Mr SPEAKER: Can I give members notice that, if you ask a question, we should be able to hear the minister's response without continual interjections.

Business, Competition

Mr NICHOLLS: I am sure I do not know who you are referring to, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Given that yesterday the Premier was unable to explain Labor's incentive policy, can the Premier today rule out providing incentives to businesses that compete against businesses already established in Queensland?

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: If the Treasurer and the Leader of Opposition Business want to persist, they will both warned.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Our business attraction policy is clearly about growing industries across our state, identifying where there are gaps, identifying new industries and luring them to Queensland. The Advance Queensland initiative is clearly about advancing our state. If that means attracting businesses from New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia or from overseas, we will get them to Queensland.

There is no greater example than Southern Oil. It was trying to speak to the New South Wales government, but would it listen? No, it would not. Southern Oil liked dealing with the Queensland government. It saw that we had a policy in place about biofutures. It liked what it saw. It liked our initiative. It liked the promotion of this new industry and it set up in Gladstone. Recently, the member for Gladstone, the Minister for State Development and I welcomed a southern company to Queensland. I hope that our \$40 million business attraction package will attract even more businesses here to Queensland.

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order. My question clearly was will the Premier rule out offering incentives to businesses that compete against Queensland businesses.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier is answering the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I welcome big business to Queensland, because that means job. There is no clearer answer to the Leader of the Opposition's question. We are about incentives and luring people

here to create jobs across Queensland. It could be jobs in Cairns. It could be jobs in Callide. It could be jobs in Woodridge. It could be jobs in Nudgee. It could be jobs in Mackay.

I am sorry: by asking this question, is it against this policy? This policy has proven to work in the past. We need only to look at when Virgin Australia set up its offices in Queensland and since then it has grown.

Ms Trad: Qantas was here.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. I take that interjection from the Deputy Premier. Qantas was also here. That drove the industry. It drove the new economy and that is what we are about. We are about building Queensland's new economy, diversifying the economy and creating jobs. It is about time those opposite stopped being critical and started supporting our proposals to grow the economy. All we hear is negativity.

Ms Trad: They're anti competition Liberals.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, that is right. I take that interjection from the Deputy Premier. They are anti competition. Who would have thought that the Liberal Party would have been anti competition.

Biofutures

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Premier. Will the Premier advise the House on any progress the state government has made towards developing a biofutures industry in Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mackay very much for the question. We are about creating a new industry. Biofutures has the enormous capacity to grow jobs in regional Queensland. I am very pleased to report that, having just come back from my trade mission to the United States, I was fortunate enough to have two key visits that will actually help power this industry into the future. The first one was the second meeting I have had with the US Navy. The first meeting, members may recall, was during the previous trade mission where we actually went to the Pentagon. During the recent trade mission I was able to meet with US Vice Admiral Nora Tyson about the needs of the Navy in terms of the South Pacific supply of their green fleet initiative. We know how important that is. That is why my government is prepared to meet that challenge. We are prepared to do whatever it takes to meet the demand supply of the US Navy as they embark upon their green fleet initiative. Mackay stands to benefit from this initiative; Gladstone stands to benefit; Cairns stands to benefit; Sarina stands to benefit; Bundaberg; Maryborough—right up and down our coast communities can be part of this biofuels revolution.

I also had the opportunity when I was in San Francisco to meet with a commercialisation company that not only utilises biofuels but also breaks down the molecules to look at pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. It is not just a biofuels industry that we can create here; it is the flow-on impacts of biomedical products as well as cosmetics. What does that mean? It means jobs in a wide range of industries, it means jobs for our communities right up and down the coast and it also means a brand new industry for Queensland. Can we do it? Of course we can, because Labor governments have a proven track record of doing it in the past. The LNG industry in this state was founded by the former Labor government. Now we have the third train open in Gladstone and LNG exports are going right across the world. Can we develop this new industry in biofutures and biofuels? Absolutely we can. We will continue to drive it. We have put \$19.5 million into our Advance Queensland initiative for our biofutures road map for the future. The Minister for State Development is right behind it as is, of course, the Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply.

Queensland Budget

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. I refer to Labor's flagship \$40 million Jobs Queensland which was the centrepiece of last year's budget and has led to no increase in jobs. My question is: how can we believe anything the Treasurer will announce in this year's budget?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. The question is laced with opinion and did not have any facts behind it, there was no reference that provided evidence to support any of it and I ask you to consider whether it should be ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: My understanding is that the question was worded in the context that it has led to no increase in jobs. I think the Premier understands the intent of the question.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. Indeed then the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is misleading the House because we have seen an increase in employment in this state.

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. Frivolous points of order have long been considered to be disorderly in this House. I would suggest the Leader of the House is adopting a deliberate strategy to take points of order to allow the Premier and the ministers time to consider answers to questions. This is a frivolous point of order. The Leader of the House is out of order and he should be warned for being disorderly.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, it is not a frivolous point of order. I was listening very carefully to see if there was an assumption or an opinion included in that question. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, will you repeat the question and then I will call the Premier to answer it in whichever manner she chooses.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I refer to Labor's flagship \$40 million Jobs Queensland plan which was the centrepiece of last year's budget which has led to no increase in jobs. Given that, how can we believe anything the Treasurer will announce in this year's budget?

Ms TRAD: I rise to a point of order.

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, you will be warned under standing order 253A. I call the Deputy Premier.

Ms TRAD: Clearly the question poses and asks for an opinion of the Premier. It is not about details in terms of her portfolio or any other portfolio that any other minister holds. It is asking whether or not the Premier can believe the Treasurer. It is a question seeking an opinion.

Mr SPEAKER: Part of that question does include the context of an opinion. Will you remove that part and we will get on with question time. Failing that we will move straight on to the next question.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. I refer to Labor's flagship \$40 million Jobs Queensland statutory authority which was the centrepiece of last year's budget. How can we believe anything that the Treasurer announces in this year's budget in relation to increasing jobs in Queensland?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. The question has not been rephrased sufficiently to change the fact that it is seeking an opinion.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, you will be warned if you want to shout across the chamber. Premier, I invite you to respond as you choose. We will then move on.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am delighted to answer this question. Let us look at people's records. I am prepared to put my government's record against their record any single day of the week. The gall of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to come in and talk about jobs. How many jobs did those opposite cut in their first budget? 14,000 jobs! Do we remember this: '*Cut to the core*'?

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, one moment. We do not need a prop and I do not need the Leader of the Opposition to continually speak over the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Those opposite are there because they took the people of Queensland for granted. When they scrapped the jobs of 14,000, these were 14,000 families.

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier! Pause the clock. What is your point of order, member for Callide?

Mr SEENEY: You have made a number of rulings this morning about the opposition interjecting when ministers are answering the questions. The question was asked of the Premier; but she spent the first minute abusing the opposition.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. I will listen to the point of order.

Mr SEENEY: I would suggest if you expect us to comply with your ruling to not interject on the Premier when she is answering, it would be appropriate to direct the Premier to answer the question. The question was about her confidence in the Treasurer.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, resume your seat. I have made a ruling in relation to the answer. There is no point of order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Under my government, the unemployment level has come down. We have created more than 50,000 jobs. That is the record of my government. Each and every day I will stand up for Queenslanders right across this state, because I care about them and I care about their families. I care about them putting food on the table and I care about them having a roof over their head. My grandfather taught me about the dignity of work. My grandfather, who all of his adult life worked hard as a boilermaker, said that there are three things fundamental in this life: to be able to put food on the table—

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. The question was about the Premier's Treasurer, not her grandfather.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, resume your seat. There is no point of order.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. I heard somewhere today that frivolous points of order should—

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat, Leader of the House.

Ms PALASZCZUK: This afternoon when the Treasurer hands down the budget—it is not long to go, now—guess what that budget will contain? It will contain a plan for growing jobs! They do not know what a good budget looks like, because they never had one. It was just about cutting. The Treasurer has listened to the cabinet. The Treasurer has listened to the members of my government. The Treasurer has listened to the community. This budget will focus on innovation, investment and infrastructure. We make no apologies for that.

Townsville Stadium

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on progress towards the new stadium for Townsville?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Townsville for that very important question. In doing so, I pay tribute to the other members who represent Townsville, Minister Coralee O'Rourke and the member for Thuringowa. The three Labor members of that strong Townsville team were elected at the last election after listening to their community, and now they are delivering for their community. What does a stadium mean for the people of Townsville? It means jobs! The project will create up to 700 construction jobs in the region, which Townsville needs at this point in time as they are going through a tough time.

Finally I can welcome the Prime Minister's news. How many times have we raised the issue in the House? How many times have the members stood up and spoken about this in the House? How many times have those opposite stood up and spoken about this issue? Not much at all!

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; I take that interjection. I thank Mayor Jenny Hill for her leadership on this issue. I thank the Cowboys and Johnathan Thurston. I well remember that grand final night when he stood up and said, 'And Townsville needs a stadium!' I remember the Prime Minister asking me, 'What's this Townsville stadium all about?' It is good to see that finally it is being delivered. What did the federal member for Herbert say? He told the *Townsville Bulletin* that the Townsville stadium was a half-baked plan. In March last year, Mr Jones told the *Bulletin* that he was not talking with the Prime Minister or any ministers about funding the stadium. His Senate colleague Senator Macdonald told the *Bulletin*—

It's his issue rather, than mine. It's an internal Townsville thing.

My government stands on its record. We have now increased our contribution to \$140 million. The Townsville stadium will become a reality and that means jobs for Townsville.

(Time expired)

Transfer Duty Surcharge

Mr EMERSON: My question is to the Premier. Last week we heard about Labor's decision to break another election promise and slug the property sector with a new tax. Can the Premier advise who is a foreign investor under Labor's new three per cent transfer duty surcharge?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the shadow Treasurer for this question. Obviously, he has not heard the news from New South Wales. We have just heard that in its budget next week New South Wales will slug overseas property investors four per cent. Victoria started at three per cent and is up to

seven per cent. The Treasurer has announced that our surcharge will be three per cent. Once again, we are making Queensland the most attractive place for overseas investors. The government had to make some tough decisions and we have to be financially responsible. That is why—

Mr EMERSON: I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Premier. Pause the clock.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They do not like the answer. You have not—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier!

Ms PALASZCZUK: You have not—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, you will be warned if you persist. Member for Indooroopilly, what is your point of order?

Mr EMERSON: My point goes to relevance. I asked very clearly if the Premier would advise who is a foreign investor under Labor's new three per cent transfer duty surcharge. She still has not answered that question.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: No.

State Infrastructure Fund

Mr CRAWFORD: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on what the Palaszczuk government is doing to support significant regional infrastructure projects through the State Infrastructure Fund?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Barron River for the question. The member for Barron River has been very active in promoting what he thinks are important and significant regional infrastructure projects for the Cairns community. I know that there are many members on this side of the House who have identified that the State Infrastructure Plan and the State Infrastructure Fund provide fantastic opportunities to advocate for critical projects in their local communities that will deliver economic activity and jobs. That is what the State Infrastructure Plan is all about. It is a plan that this state and the sector have cried out for, for more than three years. Under those opposite, it was missing in action. They had no plan, no infrastructure funding and nothing for regional Queensland.

I know that the member for Barron River has been particularly advocating for the Bill Fulton Bridge upgrade. Along with the member for Barron River, all members on this side of the House will hear the details of the Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program articulated in the budget that the Treasurer will hand down later this afternoon.

Last week I was very pleased to be in Townsville to announce one of the projects, which is the upgrade and refurbishment of the paediatric ward at the Townsville Hospital. That is a \$6.6 million injection into the Townsville Hospital. I pay tribute to the local member, the honourable member for Mundingburra, who advocated very strongly for this, as well as the health minister, who prepared a lot of the internal work in relation to getting the project up. The project will mean better care for some of the sickest children in regional Queensland. Not only that, it will also mean upgraded services, upgraded facilities, an additional six beds in the paediatric ward and 10 additional ongoing jobs because we are boosting front-line services.

I pay particular tribute to the new chair of the hospital board, Mr Tony Mooney, and the CEO, Dr Peter Bristow. I also pay tribute to the Townsville Hospital Foundation, which has spent time raising \$1 million for this critical project. Now they can use their funds for other purposes, such as additional furnishings and equipment. I thank Chair Fay Barker and General Manager Judy Higgins for all their work in fundraising for this project.

This clearly shows that the Palaszczuk government can do what those opposite could not in their term in office: we can build critical infrastructure, we can grow the economy and we can boost front-line services. The state budget will prove that this afternoon.

(Time expired)

Transfer Duty Surcharge

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Premier. As it appears the Premier could not answer the member for Indooroopilly's previous question, could the Premier advise if a New Zealander might be considered a foreign investor for the purposes of Labor's new three per cent transfer duty surcharge?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I have some information about the definition of a foreign acquirer. It states—

A person will be a foreign acquirer if they are: a foreign individual, an individual other than an Australian citizen or permanent resident; a foreign corporation, a corporation incorporated outside Australia or controlled by another foreign individual, foreign corporation or the trustee of a foreign trust; or a trustee of a foreign trust, a trust in which a foreign individual, corporation or another foreign trustee holds a trust interest of at least 50 per cent.

I am glad the member has asked that question because it gives me an opportunity to talk about what the New South Wales Treasurer has said today. The New South Wales Treasurer has said today that they are putting in a foreign investor surcharge. She said—

If you asked most economists, they would say people who are going to invest in these houses who are foreign investors are going to do it anyway. We assume they are going to invest anyway. We want to ensure that they are paying tax revenue for our services. This is one way for us to ensure a strong revenue stream into the future.

In Victoria there was a three per cent surcharge which will go up to seven per cent. In New South Wales it will be four per cent. This was announced as part of their prebudget announcements. Their budget will be handed down next week. In Queensland it will be three per cent. This means we will still be the most attractive place for overseas investors to invest in.

The question for the LNP opposition is: do they support this new initiative or do they not? The revenue raised from this measure will go towards the \$20,000 boost for people wanting to acquire a new property. This is about giving—

Ms Jones: Young Queenslanders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: This is about giving young Queenslanders—I take that interjection—a chance to get into the property market. That is what it is about. It is about opportunity. My government has thought long and hard about this. It is the right thing to do. It is the measured and responsible thing to do. As we have seen, it is not out of kilter with what the other eastern seaboard states are doing.

Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Service

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister advise the House how the government is creating jobs that improve quality and safety for patients in hospitals and whether the minister is aware of any other approaches to patient safety in Queensland?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Gladstone for his question and for his strong support for public health services in Gladstone, including the new emergency department that this Labor government will be building for the people of Gladstone and that part of Queensland. Since we have come to government we have delivered more doctors, more nurses, more allied health professionals to strengthen what happens in public hospitals. That has done two things. It has delivered more effective patient outcomes and it has delivered on patient safety for Queenslanders.

I am delighted to be able to report to the House that we have recently completed our recruitment campaign for 20 new patient safety and quality positions within the Clinical Excellence Division of the Department of Health. We are moving immediately to appoint people to those 20 positions. It was the previous Labor government that established the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Service over a decade ago.

What happened under the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition when he was the Treasurer? What happened in Queensland was that he dropped an anvil of austerity on our state. He dropped it on our state. It smashed our economy. Unemployment went through the roof and, most significantly, he dropped it on the Queensland Public Service, slashing thousands of jobs. Under his stewardship of the Treasury 29 full-time equivalent positions were taken out of patient quality and safety in the Department of Health. Some 29 positions were removed from the department.

What did the Productivity Commission say about the responsibility of the then treasurer now Leader of the Opposition? What did the Productivity Commission say about the consequences of his actions and his conduct of the state's finances? In 2013-14, the year when they gutted the patient quality and safety system in Queensland, what happened in Queensland? These are not my figures but those of the Productivity Commission. There was a 71 per cent increase in reported adverse events resulting in serious harm to patients.

Mr Butcher: Shame.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Gladstone. It is a shame. I do not blame the Leader of the Opposition for those outcomes, but there was a 71 per cent increase in reported adverse events at the same time that the patient quality and safety division was slashed.

That is the difference. Labor governments fund the front line. We have a strong focus on patient quality and safety. The recklessness of the Leader of the Opposition is plain for all Queenslanders to see. This afternoon you will see another Labor budget delivering for the front line in health—strengthening patient safety and quality. Queenslanders will see very clearly the difference between this Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, and between this government and the LNP.

Innovation

Mrs SMITH: My question is to the Premier. Given innovation is said to be a centrepiece of the budget, can the Premier advise why Labor's cutting edge ICT strategy has not been refreshed after nearly 18 months and still features the former minister Ian Walker? I table the document.

Tabled paper: Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts: Queensland Government ICT strategy 2013-17, June 2013 [864].

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I do not think I would be mentioning the member for Mansfield in any question.

Mr Dick: What about the separation of powers?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, the separation of powers. We could go into that and then point it out to the media—embarrassment.

As outlined yesterday, in the budget that will be handed down today there will be a large component allocated for Advance Queensland. There will be an allocation of \$400 million, building on our \$180 million commitment in last year's budget, to focus on diversifying the economy and growing the economy. In relation to the member's particular question, I am happy to look at it. I am quite sure that the Minister for Innovation is happy to fix the website if that is the case. We are more than happy to clarify it.

Schools, Funding

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Education. In 2015-16 education was allocated a record \$636 million infrastructure budget. Will the minister advise how this record funding was spent to improve and expand Queensland schools?

Ms JONES: I thank the member for the question. As the member knows, this time last year our government delivered in the budget record investment in infrastructure in Queensland schools. I am very proud to be standing here on the day our second budget will be delivered to say that all of this funding has been committed to projects right across this state. In actual fact, more than 1,100 new school capital works projects have been delivered in the last 12 months because of our first budget. I thank all of the local members who have worked hard lobbying on behalf of their local communities to ensure that we invest this money where it is needed most.

There are two challenges that we face. One is that we have seen significant growth, particularly in the state schooling system, in the last couple of years. This year we had to build accommodation and classrooms for more than 9,000 new students. We are seeing the trend in growth in state schooling continue to go up. This is something that we will be looking at in today's budget. We are creating jobs and work throughout regional Queensland because of the capital investment that we are making.

In total we spent over \$41 million building new classrooms right across this state including in the honourable member for Murrumba's electorate at Bounty Boulevard State School—a great school that I have had the privilege of visiting; he is always in my ear about it—in the member for Morayfield's electorate, Caboolture Special School, which I know he has been a strong advocate for; in Caloundra, the Currimundi Special School; in Currumbin, the Currumbin Valley State School; in Mr Speaker's electorate, the Peregrine Springs State School; in Bundamba, the Springfield Central State School and the Springfield Central State High School.

Mr Watts interjected.

Ms JONES: I have been ignoring the member who is continuing to make meaningless interjections, but I will pick him up on this because he went to the electorate—

Mr WATTS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. The minister is referring to the capital budget and I am referring to a piece of capital equipment on an education facility in my electorate. It is certainly not meaningless.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Resume your seat. There is no point of order.

Ms JONES: What I think the member for Toowoomba North was just referring to was the fact that he went to the 2015 election promising a hall at Wilsonton State School with no money. There was no money in the capital budget and no money in the forward estimates. He was untruthful to the people whom he was elected to represent. It is shameful that he would play politics with this school when he knew that he did not commit one dollar for the project. Even worse, he knows that when they were in government they went down the path of a PPP that only built schools in South-East Queensland and delivered nothing for regional Queensland. That is their legacy in regional Queensland schools. As the Premier has already said this morning, we will put our record for delivering infrastructure in Queensland schools right across the state—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Before I call the member for Kawana for his question, we have students in our gallery from the All Saints School in the electorate of Beaudesert observing our proceedings.

Mr Watts interjected.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Education and member for Toowoomba North, I urge you to take your conversations outside.

Transfer Duty Surcharge

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. I note last week the Treasurer miscalculated by about 3,000 per cent the impact of his broken election promise not to increase taxes, and I ask: given the magnitude of this blunder, how can the Premier have any confidence in the member for Mulgrave as her Treasurer?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Clearly the question is seeking an opinion that is outside of the standing orders. I think we need to move on to the next question.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The question relates to whether the Premier has confidence in the minister. I will allow the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, I do.

Townsville Stadium

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Minister for State Development. Will the minister advise the House of the next steps to be taken to deliver the new stadium for Townsville?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Thuringowa and I have one word for him: finally. I can advise the House that the Turnbull government has finally agreed to provide \$100 million towards a Townsville stadium. Labor in opposition promised \$100 million for a high-quality stadium back in 2015. Those opposite even backed it. That was under a different captain, of course, but we all know that the new captain has the same game plan written on the back of his hand.

Federally, the Abbott Liberal government had a long warm-up and solid opportunity to get this stadium across the line. All he had to do was toss in their \$100 million, but he did not. Who did get behind North Queensland? Bill Shorten and Labor. They backed it. \$100 million is on the table. When the Liberal government sacked captain Tony, there was another chance under Malcolm—a new captain-coach, a new game plan and another chance to get behind it, and they still did not. It all changed when the Palaszczuk government stepped up and announced that we would put another \$40 million on the table. We did it because we know that Townsville and the north need the jobs, the business opportunities and the growth that this stadium offers.

Here we are. Let us set the scene. It is well into the second half. Pre-polling is about to start. The member for Herbert is fading fast, and captain Turnbull and his Liberal team realise they are going to be a man down unless they can pull something out of the hat. What a comeback! There was Malcolm—the 'don't argue' with the right hand, the \$100 million in the left—charging to the line. When he tries to throw the pass, where is the member for Herbert? He is still 50 metres back, sucking in the big ones and he still has no chance. He is further back than the National Party is here.

Now we know that whatever the result of the federal election North Queensland will have a stadium. I want to assure North Queensland that we will get on with the task as soon as we can, working towards a new stadium for the start of the 2020 NRL season. Tenders could be called late this year, with site works underway about May next year. All dates are subject to final agreement by all three levels of government. If it is a Turnbull government we are dealing with, it could be held up by six

months sorting out his city plan. This could have started any time in the past 15 months. Why did it not? Because successive Liberal federal leaders were resting in the sheds when the North Queensland community needed them.

Transfer Duty Surcharge

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Treasurer. In the last week the Treasurer miscalculated Queensland's tax advantage—it was out by about 3,000 per cent on his broken election promise—and fumbled Labor's incentive announcement. Given this, can the Treasurer tell Queenslanders how they can believe anything he tells them this afternoon?

Mr PITT: The member needs to understand that there are ways to ask questions in this place. He might need to rehearse that a little more. There was an imputation in the question because he said that we have a broken election promise. We have not increased taxes on Queenslanders as a result of introducing anything new. This is a very clear point. I am happy to answer—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members, the Treasurer is indicating that he is happy to answer. Allow him to answer.

Mr PITT: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Surely they want to hear this. Last week at the Media Club I gave an address which said that, because of the \$4.7 billion in writedowns over the forward estimates, we would be introducing a foreign property transfer duty surcharge, which of course is not impacting on Queenslanders. It is in no way impacting on Queenslanders. We also flagged that there was speculation that New South Wales would introduce a surcharge of a very similar nature—one that had already been introduced in Victoria in its budget in 2015-16. In 2016-17 they went up from three per cent to seven per cent. Today Gladys Berejiklian, the New South Wales Treasurer, has announced a four per cent surcharge. In addition, they have put a 0.75 per cent loading on land tax. Similarly, the Victorians did that. When we start looking at where our level playing field is, we are better than the level playing field even including this new surcharge. Why? Because we have overheated markets in Sydney and Melbourne, and our surcharge is less than that in Victoria by a long way and less than that in New South Wales.

In terms of the information that I gave at the Media Club, I have acknowledged that I was given an example; it was not correct. We corrected that. It did not change the fact that there were—

Mr Emerson: Blame the staff.

Mr PITT: No, I am not blaming the staff. I am saying that we acknowledged there was incorrect information. We are expecting a yield of \$15 million from that when it hopefully takes effect from October this year and of course going into next year.

It seems I am not the only one who has been given incorrect information. When we look at the online version and an updated version of the article about Gladys Berejiklian today, the *Daily Telegraph* is referring to the fact that the increase on a \$656,000 Sydney median unit price will be adding \$1,000 to the stamp duty bill. It has then be updated to talk about it being \$26,240 that will be added to the stamp duty bill.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr PITT: The New South Wales Treasurer or the *Daily Telegraph*—and I suggest it is the former—has done exactly the same thing with the example that we produced last week.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr PITT: The important thing here is that we are not introducing new taxes, fees and charges on Queenslanders. We are boosting our home owner's grant for first home buyers on new properties to \$20,000. We know that those opposite have no policy and they have bungled so many of their questions today. I am surprised they came in here—

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Member for Glass House, you are warned under standing order 253A for your continuous interjections.

TAFE Queensland

Mr RUSSO: My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills. Will the minister advise the House about the work that TAFE Queensland staff do each and every day across the state?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Sunnybank for his question, because he understands the importance of quality training and investing in our TAFEs and our TAFE staff. I certainly would welcome a question from the other side in relation to Jobs Queensland. They are more than welcome to ask me a question about that. I will explain to them the importance of training and skills.

Mrs Frecklington: Where is it?

Mrs D'ATH: I might say that the member for Nanango might want to undertake some reskilling herself and learn how to Google.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I would urge you not to provoke the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs D'ATH: Research by those on this side has found a lot more than she has.

At the end of May I had the privilege to attend the 2016 TAFE Queensland Staff Awards. These awards were an excellent opportunity to showcase some of the many outstanding achievements of TAFE Queensland and a time to recognise the people who contribute to making TAFE Queensland a success. The event itself was highlighted by the involvement of students from the hospitality training area who provided outstanding service and high-quality catering to the event. They were a credit to themselves and their teachers.

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: The TAFE Queensland Staff Awards acknowledged the individual or team who consistently achieve high levels of results in their own work and set an example of behaviour that others would strive for and inspire others to achieve excellence. I am going to pick up on that interjection. Those on the other side are saying, 'Sad, sad, sad.' They think it is sad to talk about the achievements of TAFE students and TAFE staff. That is a pretty appalling reflection on those on the other side.

I proudly talk about some of the examples of the award winners this year. Vaughan Wakefield was awarded Educator of the Year from TAFE North Queensland. Working in the Mount Isa region, Vaughan logs thousands of kilometres per year looking after his students and always aligns his teaching with a community project. In recent times his students have worked on homeless shelters, men's sheds and sun protection for our local schools. The Lifetime Achiever Award was won by Barry Wellington from TAFE Queensland's SkillsTech, based in the electorate of the member for Sunnybank. Barry's 37 years as an educator with TAFE were honoured as well as his continued passion for his work and finding new and innovative ways to teach. The Great Team Award was won by the design studies team at TAFE East Coast.

I want to acknowledge all of the tremendous work of TAFE staff, both teachers and other staff in TAFE, right across this great state who are there to serve the community each and every day, to deliver quality training, to ensure that TAFE has a great future going forward, to ensure that TAFE not just survives but thrives well into the future and that we see growth in this area. We support our TAFEs right throughout Queensland and this country.

Queensland Budget

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Premier, and I ask: given net debt will increase due to Labor's superannuation raid, is the Premier concerned her government will break yet another election promise to pay off general government net debt?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The budget will be handed down at 2.30. I am quite sure that all members will be watching the Treasurer closely as he outlines our clear plan to grow jobs across Queensland.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, you are warned under standing order 253 for your interjections. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

Queensland Budget, Police Resources

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is of the Minister for Police. I ask: will the minister advise the House how the \$32 million for police vehicles announced in this year's budget will be allocated?

Mr BYRNE: I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. I know how much and how hard he works for his local police to ensure that they have the resources in their region to deliver the outcomes for the Queensland community. I can assure the member that the Palaszczuk government is also 100 per cent committed to guaranteeing that the Queensland Police Service has the resources it requires to keep Queensland safe. Last year we made a commitment to deliver an additional 266

officers in Queensland and we have done that. We have met that commitment. Unlike the LNP, we also recognise that additional police come with additional requirements such as police vehicles. I want to refer to the press release put out last year by the Queensland Police Union after the last budget about various replacement items. It states—

977 new and replacement vehicles is vital. This is 15 more than last year—
the last LNP budget. It goes on—

However, if other vehicles are kept longer this will add even more cars. The QPS is crying out for more vehicles and this will hopefully address the issue. Crucially—

and this is the point I really want to make—

the last three budgets gave nothing but police numbers and no on-cost funding such as accoutrements, vehicles et cetera, and other commitments were made but not funded and came from 'existing resources'.

That was the commentary from the Queensland Police Union on the first Labor budget, a marked contrast to the three years before, when virtually nothing was done to support the Queensland Police Service.

We have committed an additional \$32 million this year which will accompany about 490 new or replacement vehicles. That process is fully supported by the Queensland Police Service, and the government responds to advice provided by the service. It is a rigorous process conducted internally within the department to identify where the needs are for such investments. That is the advice that we have taken forward and we have been entirely successful as a government in delivering against those expectations of the service.

We also funded in the last budget about 1,000 extra vehicles, as I have already indicated, and the advice from the service is that the Queensland Police Service is well equipped to address its mobility issues in all regions of Queensland. As I have said repeatedly in this House, this government ensures that the Queensland Police Service has the resources it needs to keep Queenslanders safe. Any other suggestion that we are not meeting that obligation is entirely false. I am entirely confident and supportive of the Queensland Police Service and the requests put by the commissioner. Queenslanders should have great faith in the fact that the Queensland Police Service is well positioned to deliver their expectations.

Member for Woodridge

Mr CRAMP: My question without notice is to the Premier. Given that in the last week the Treasurer has made a trifecta of errors, will the Premier replace the Treasurer with the member for Greenslopes—sorry, Woodridge—when he makes mistake No. 4?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Treasurer will be handing down the budget at 2.30 today. I have confidence in the Treasurer. I have confidence in all of my cabinet. If honourable members opposite want to talk about confidence, I ask: how many people voted for the Leader of the Opposition? How many?

Mr Dick: A third of them voted for him.

Ms PALASZCZUK: A third of them voted for the Leader of the Opposition. Who are they? Name them.

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will finish at 11.31 am this morning. I call the member for Nudgee for your question.

Public Transport, Fares

Ms LINARD: My question is for the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister inform the House of the benefits of the state government's Fairer Fares scheme, particularly for residents in Brisbane's north?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Nudgee for her question. The member is a great advocate for public transport. As I have said already this morning, on Sunday I joined the Premier to announce the government's response to the Fare Review Taskforce report. The Palaszczuk government's Fairer Fares package means that commuters across South-East Queensland will be able to travel further for less. The north side of Brisbane and Moreton Bay regions are big winners under the Fairer Fares package. This includes savings of up to \$315 a year for regular commuters travelling from Nundah station, in the member for Nudgee's electorate, to the Brisbane CBD. Elsewhere in the member for Nudgee's electorate those travelling from the Chermside shopping centre bus exchange to the CBD

will be able to save up to \$328 a year. Commuters travelling from Narangba station in the member for Kallangur's electorate will be able to save up to \$565 a year. Travellers taking weekly journeys to the city from Strathpine station, in the member for Pine Rivers' electorate, will see annual savings of up to \$889 which is a great outcome for the residents of Strathpine. I can go further north. For the information of the shadow transport minister, commuters in his electorate travelling from Eudlo station to the Brisbane CBD will save up to \$1,196 a year. Those travelling from the Glasshouse Mountains station to Brisbane will save up to \$1,067 a year.

What did we see from the member for Glass House on Sunday? We saw the world's most lonely man walk out here in front of Parliament House. Truly, he was the only sad person on Sunday. Everyone else saw a great benefit for the commuters of South-East Queensland, and there he was all 'sad dog' expressing concerns and upset about this, bemoaning the \$25 a week saving for his own constituents. He had to come out and criticise—

(Time expired)

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Queen's Birthday Honours List; Queensland Budget

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.32 am): I would like to begin with something I did not address in my three minutes prior to question time. I acknowledge the great number of people who have been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, which has not been mentioned here today. I noticed some very prominent Queenslanders including Geoffrey Thomas, who has been made an officer of the Order of Australia. Members will recall that he and John Mickel carried out the review of Trade and Investment Queensland which saw it go from a body that, under Labor, had had nine ministers in almost 10 separate departments in the previous 10 years to a stand-alone authority now representing Queensland throughout the world effectively on a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week basis. To Geoffrey Thomas we say congratulations. Trevor St Baker has done a tremendous amount within the gas and energy industry.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take the interjection from the member for Caloundra. We have all had dealings with Trevor. He has really been at the forefront of the industry, and he is not shy in letting people know his views on how the industry should go.

Mr Emerson interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes, and a constituent of the member for Indooroopilly. I also recognise Geoff Rodgers, Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division. Geoff started his business Rowland 30 years ago and has built it up around the world. Other worthy awardees and recipients include: Mike Byrne from the Catholic Education Commission; Mark Stoneman, a former member of this House; and public servants such as Pat Vidgen. I join with all Queenslanders in congratulating them on their awards.

The closer we get to the budget this afternoon the more obvious this government's lack of an economic plan has become. The evidence of their lack of an overarching economic narrative is no starker than in the releases, the leaks and the signals we have seen from this government over the last week and a half. Already this budget is shaping up as another budget of broken promises where the Palaszczuk Labor government walks away from its election promises and walks away from Queenslanders. It builds on the short-sightedness and hollow log rage we saw in the 2015-16 state budget.

In that budget, those opposite tried every stopgap solution at their disposal in an attempt to hide their fiscal ineptitude. They made promises going into the last election that they were never going to be able to keep. What is the more heinous part of that crime is they knew they were never going to be able to keep them when they made them. They knew that they could not keep their promises at the time they made them, and that did not stop them—like all Labor governments—from continuing to mislead the people in a desperate bid to grab votes.

They promised that they were going to use funds from the GOCs to pay down debt and they have failed to do so. In response we have seen raids on super and long service leave, a \$4 billion debt and a plan to strip all retained earnings out of the GOCs, and that was never mentioned or put forward by the Premier as opposition leader or the Treasurer as shadow Treasurer. Never once did they say that they would raid super; that they would raid long service; that they would move \$4 billion worth of debt; nor did they say they would strip all the retained earnings out of the GOCs.

The state's independent Auditor-General has seen the raids and called them for what they are: a short-term strategy. He challenged the government to find a more permanent solution to address the state's growing debt burden, and unfortunately this is advice that the Premier and the Treasurer have not heeded. This budget continues to deliver more of the same short-sightedness. It includes measures to help prop up Labor's short-term electoral prospects through one-off sugar hits. It has no long-term plan for growing the Queensland economy and securing a brighter financial future for our state.

No matter which way you look at it, the government has failed. Queenslanders are not receiving jobs; jobs are down. Since the last budget, 20,000 full-time jobs have been lost. Since the last budget the number of Queenslanders in unemployment has grown by 11,500, and the youth unemployment rate has increased from 13.2 per cent to 15 per cent. We have a government that makes promises about jobs, but is so inept that it has failed to establish its own board for a signature promise: the \$40 million Jobs Queensland agency. The Queensland economy has shrunk in every single quarter under this government. This government has no plan. Only the LNP can get Queensland moving.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (11.37 am): What an extraordinary performance we saw from Labor here today. Let me go through it and review what we have learned today. When the Premier was asked who is a foreign investor and who will be charged the transfer duty surcharge tax, she had no idea. When I asked her the question she could not answer it. That is the first thing: a clueless Premier.

Secondly, we saw a clueless Treasurer. When he tried to explain his 3,000 per cent mistake he said, 'The *Daily Telegraph* did the same thing.' What an appalling excuse. I have never heard a treasurer of this state speak such rubbish as we heard today. It is an extraordinary performance. Then he tried to explain his mistake by saying, 'They gave me the wrong example.' 'So you are blaming the staff?' 'No, I am not blaming the staff, but they gave me the wrong example.' This is a clueless and incompetent Treasurer, and we saw that here again today.

Finally, we heard him say that he never made a promise about no new taxes or charges. What he said was, he said, 'I only made it for Queenslanders.' I will be very interested to see where he can find evidence to show that clarification, because I point to what he said last year. Last May the Treasurer strongly argued that there would be no new taxes on his watch, and I will quote from the Treasurer's media release at the time titled 'No new state taxes for foreign property investors'. It states—

In the lead up to the election we made it very clear that we wanted to provide certainty to businesses and investors, and that we would not be changing the existing revenue policy settings this term of government.

Therefore, we're ruling out any stamp duty surcharges for foreign investors who purchase a house in Queensland.

We want to send out a very clear message that Queensland is open for business and that we welcome foreign property investment.

The Treasurer was very clear: no new taxes and charges, not just for Queenslanders but for anyone. He made it very clear in his statement. Also, 12 months ago he ruled out this transfer duty surcharge for foreign investors when he said, 'This is bad news. This is a job-destroying tax. This is shutting the door on business confidence.' That is why we saw the property sector—whether it was the Property Council or the REIQ—come out and condemn this policy. Let us look at some of the statements that were made. Property Council of Queensland Executive Director Chris Mountford said—

The Treasurer's actions are likely to intensify the market's cooling process, impacting construction work and ultimately jobs over the next 12 months and beyond.

Warwick Temby from the Housing Industry Association said—

The 'Queensland is open for business' tag that the Government has used rings hollow as a result of this decision: it send all the wrong signals to potential buyers of Queensland property.

The Real Estate Institute of Queensland said—

This could not come at a worse time—regional Queensland is struggling and we have rising vacancy rates along with falling job rates.

We heard from the deputy opposition leader today about the crisis out there for the unemployed, particularly in regional Queensland, and here we have the REIQ saying—

This could not come at a worse time—regional Queensland is struggling and we have rising vacancy rates along with falling job rates.

Queenslanders should be very worried that the Treasurer now wants to have a conversation about tax hikes. When the Treasurer wants to talk to Queenslanders we know what it means. It means that they will have to reach into their pockets. We know that Labor loves to spend taxpayers' money. We know that taxes are in Labor's DNA. We know, because it is something the Treasurer has always planned. To see this we need only go back to the response to the 2014-15 state budget, when the now Treasurer was asked by the ABC's Chris O'Brien to outline his plans. He stated—

The Labor Opposition will release its economic and fiscal policies before the next election. Of course, we will be dealing with the issues this Government doesn't want to deal with and that is of course revenue ...

We know that taxes are in Labor's DNA. When Curtis Pitt opens his mouth—

(Time expired)

Townsville, Infrastructure



Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (11.42 am): I rise to talk about the great news that was on the front page of yesterday's *Townsville Bulletin*, which I table.

Tabled paper: Front page of the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 13 June 2016, with the headline 'It's Ours: Prime Minister guarantees CBD stadium with \$100m pledge that will transform Townsville' [865].

The headline reads 'It's ours'. I talk of course about the Townsville stadium. Monday, 13 June will go down in Townsville's history books as the day everything changed for a city that has been doing it tough. To use a boxing analogy, it is the day our city lifted itself off the canvas. In recent times we have taken some hits in terms of job losses in the minerals and mining sector and other sectors involving Aurizon and Telstra.

We took a low blow, a hit to the guts, no thanks to Mr Palmer and the sad tale of QNI. Not only were 800 jobs lost; literally thousands of others across our city in supply and logistics were affected. This affected many small and medium businesses in our fine city. Of course, our city was left reeling from job losses in the public sector, and business confidence was also smashed from the previous LNP government. These conditions contributed to a perfect storm when we came to government.

The member for Townsville, Scott Stewart; our champion Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland and member for Mundingburra, Coralee O'Rourke; and I never threw in the towel. Collectively, we fight on. We remain determined to deliver for Townsville. We knew that we had to build upon our government's \$100 million election commitment for the stadium in order to deliver this major infrastructure project. We know that it will provide a real and tangible lift in confidence, to pick up our great city and deliver much needed jobs in a transitioning economy.

We three local state members continued our strong representations to a range of ministers over the last year and applied more pressure to our senior executive to deliver. We thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer for not only hearing us but also delivering a win for all of Townsville. We responded with a combination of strikes to try to fell our opponents' doom and gloom: \$248 million in accelerated Capital Works Program projects, delivering 400 jobs; \$55 million spent on the berth 4 redevelopment; \$6.17 million to widen and resurface Hervey Range Road; and many other projects in the Townsville area.

Then there is the State Infrastructure Fund. I mention \$150 million of real money in today's budget. There is \$30 million for stage 1 of the duplication of Riverway Drive and \$6.6 million for the redevelopment of the paediatric unit at Townsville Hospital. Our thanks again go to Minister O'Rourke.

We also had the Treasurer's recent and welcomed announcement of an extra \$40 million for the stadium, taking our total investment to \$140 million. That is another investment in Townsville. I believe it was a show of much needed confidence which also spurred on the NRL North Queensland Cowboys, who also committed \$10 million to the project. As we know, \$100 million is on the table from federal Labor's Bill Shorten, direct to stadium construction. At the eleventh hour our Prime Minister finally heard the Townsville community call and also pledged \$100 million, albeit with conditions. No matter who wins the day on 2 July in the federal election, Townsville will be the clear winner.

We have said all along that we needed a collaborative approach. We have a local government committed, with \$9 million invested in the priority development area. We must acknowledge Mayor Jenny Hill and the council for their strong desire to see the stadium built. We also had the business sector in our corner: Troy Popham from the chamber of commerce; Townsville Enterprise CEO Patricia O'Callaghan; and the *Townsville Bulletin*, which pushed at every opportunity to see this project delivered.

I will finish with a few positive reflections from Townsville locals. The chair of the REIQ, Damien Keyes, said that the news had renewed confidence in the city's property market. Peter Tapiolas, a developer in Townsville, said that the stadium guarantee was a catalyst for CBD renewal. Chair of the North Queensland Cowboys and developer Laurence Lancini said that this is an important junction in Townsville's history. Mr Peter Honeycombe, with CQ University looking to put a campus on-site in the PDA, is a great supporter. I love this one: Pete Rowling, publican of the Ross Creek Hotel, said that this will be the best thing to happen to Townsville in its living memory.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.47 am): I acknowledge in the gallery students from a school in the electorate of Beaudesert. It is wonderful to see these young people of regional Queensland come to parliament.

In the past 18 months, this Palaszczuk Labor government has completely failed Queenslanders, whether in managing the state's finances, growing the economy, encouraging foreign investment in this great state or building productivity and boosting infrastructure. As I travel around Queensland and listen to everyday people, particularly in rural and regional Queensland, I hear the common tale that this government is completely asleep at the wheel and that Queensland is moving backwards while all other states are moving forward. More and more people are moving across the border—deserting Queensland—because of this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government.

The numbers from the ABS do not lie. As much as the Labor government tries to deny these figures, Queensland's domestic economy has shrunk every quarter under this Palaszczuk Labor government. Tens of thousands of jobs have been lost in Queensland since this Palaszczuk Labor government came to power. Regional areas such as Cairns, Mackay, Townsville and outback Queensland are hurting with job losses while statewide youth unemployment has jumped to 15 per cent. As I mentioned earlier, the youth unemployment rate in areas like the outback is double that.

Activity in the mining sector has halved in the past 12 months and total capital expenditure in Queensland is down \$12.2 billion or 32 per cent in the year to March 2016. In the past 18 months Labor has not commenced work on one significant infrastructure project that the LNP whilst in government did not already announce. The Palaszczuk Labor government's flagship \$20 million Building Queensland is yet to deliver a business case or a pipeline of projects. The Building Queensland website does not even list a regional project on it—that is, unless you count the Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade project but, again, this is hardly regional, again proving that Labor is not a party for all of Queensland. Labor has not created a single job from its signature \$40 million Jobs Queensland statutory authority.

It seems that Labor's Attorney-General can move amendments to fundamentally change our voting rights in Queensland in just 18 minutes but she cannot even appoint a board within 18 months. What has the Attorney-General been able to do for this signature policy for the last 12 months given it is budget day today? What has she done? She has been able to put in place an interim reference group—still not a board and still not appointed anyone to the job. We have no idea where that money has been spent, but it certainly has not been spent setting up the Rural Jobs Agency. I found that in the government's budget papers last year—those opposite stood in this House and they raved about it and said how wonderful it was—but not one minister has even made a ministerial statement on the Rural Jobs Agency. Nowhere on any website can we find anything about a Rural Jobs Agency. For the youth unemployed in outback Queensland and the youth unemployed in my electorate of Nanango and the unemployed youth all across Queensland, particularly in the rural and regional areas, I ask: where is this government helping them?

It is also incredible given the fragile Queensland economy that in the same week that Labor announces two new trade offices to try to encourage foreign investment into this great state—one in China and one in Singapore—two days later the Treasurer stands up and says, 'We're going to break that election commitment and we're going to impose a new tax on foreign investment.' How does that encourage foreign investment and trade in this great state? We have already seen this fragile confidence in our property and construction sector and now the government is attacking any form of foreign investment into this wonderful state. It really does beg the question: does the government even understand the impact of this tax? It is going to mean less tradies and less real estate agents because they will not be able to make a living due to this new tax.

Gladstone Electorate

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (11.52 am): Today I rise to speak about the unique opportunities in my electorate. Gladstone is primed to attract large-scale projects and investments with 30,000 hectares of serviced and unencumbered state development land in my electorate, with all of this being linked with corridors straight to the Gladstone port—not just any port but, thanks to this Palaszczuk government, one of only four priority ports in Queensland with a master plan that optimises infrastructure and addresses operational, economic, environmental and social relationships as well as supply chains and surrounding land uses. This government has demonstrated time and time again that we are committed to job creation and to attracting investment and new opportunities, with over 51,000 jobs created since we have taken office.

I also welcome the most recent announcement from the federal opposition leader Bill Shorten to fund stage 2 of the Gladstone Port Access Road in Gladstone. This infrastructure was declared a road of national importance by the Howard government in 2000 with the support of the Labor opposition and the Beattie government to secure an effective and safe heavy truck access road to the port central precinct of Gladstone harbour. In 2012 the minister for transport in the Newman government and current member for Indooroopilly wrote to the federal Labor government seeking to have the funds diverted to another Queensland road project. This request was refused so that this vital infrastructure could be delivered to the Gladstone community. Unfortunately following the election of the Abbott government, the member for Indooroopilly had another chop at resubmitting his request and \$50-odd million was removed from the federal budget and gifted to another Queensland project, leaving the port access road dead in the water. The people of Gladstone can only hope that there is a change in Canberra at the upcoming election and we can get on with delivering the port access road and the future economic benefits and jobs that come with it.

I acknowledge the fantastic investment from the Palaszczuk government in bringing the biofuels industry to Gladstone and many more other prospects of similar investments in my electorate. Since being elected the state member for Gladstone I have had many meetings with investors looking to take advantage of our state land with direct access to port facilities. The Port of Gladstone handles over 30 different products which are exported to 30 different countries and our government is committed to seeing that grow. The most recent announcement of the \$16 million advanced biofuels pilot plant will, if successful, be expanded to a large commercial scale refinery producing 200 million litres of advanced biofuel per annum suitable for military, marine and aviation use. It is clear that the Gladstone port has the potential to provide the gateway for industries of the future. It is not too hard to picture a time when navy fleet vessels are docked at the Port of Gladstone to refuel with our locally produced military grade biofuel, being serviced by local tradespeople and utilising our local amenities.

The Palaszczuk government's Queensland Biofutures 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan has laid the foundations to position Queensland as an Asia-Pacific hub for biofutures industries, creating the next generation of jobs in our state. I am thrilled that my electorate of Gladstone is poised to play an integral role in this new industry—not only this new industry but the expanse of state development land that will open up opportunities for investment in many fields, including the export of box chilled beef, made all the more viable due to the Palaszczuk government's \$40 million commitment to upgrading the supply route from the west to replace the timber bridges with concrete ones. This government and the Treasurer's budget today delivers investment, jobs and infrastructure projects for the people of Queensland. My electorate has been good to the state of Queensland and it is fantastic to see this government demonstrating its commitment to the people of Gladstone at every opportunity, investing in jobs for our future and welcoming new opportunities. The Palaszczuk government is presenting opportunities for future investment and jobs in Queensland and as the proud state member for Gladstone I am proud to say that we welcome these announcements and we are open for business in Gladstone.

Oakey, Water Supply

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (11.57 am): Today I rise to speak on an issue that is causing great concern and angst in an area of the electorate of Condamine. The residents of the township of Oakey are facing serious health issues and significant land valuation reductions due to the contamination of the water and land at the Oakey aviation centre from the use of firefighting foams over the period from 1997 until 2003. This firefighting foam is the substance known as 3M Light Water or aqueous film-forming foam and was used as a fire suppressant. It contained the chemicals perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanoic acid, more commonly known as PFOS and PFOA for obvious reasons.

This product was used in firefighting drills on the base at least once a month from 1977 to 2003. It is estimated that approximately 1.2 megalitres of the concentrate was discharged on the base in these drills during this time. Over the 16 years of usage these chemicals have leached through the soil profile and contaminated the shallow underground aquifer that lies beneath the town of Oakey. Until 1997 the town of Oakey, which has a population of approximately 4,500, drew its town water supplies from this underground system. There are also many private bores in the area which are used either wholly for domestic supply or to supplement supply. It would appear that the defence department became aware that there may be a problem in 2010 when some initial investigations began into possible contamination issues and more comprehensive tests followed in 2011. In 2013 and 2014 water testing was completed beyond the Defence perimeter to determine the extent of the footprint. It is now believed that the contamination affects an area of 24 square kilometres.

In July 2014, the defence department publicly announced that the groundwater had been contaminated by the use of these firefighting foams and that residents should not drink the water. This, of course, caused a lot of anger and questions within the community. The defence department held a public meeting in Oakey, where one of the officials speaking at the meeting told the packed hall that PFOS was the new asbestos.

Blood tests on some residents, both by the defence department and privately, have shown readings many times the internationally accepted level. While some residents with these elevated levels have used bore water extensively, others have had little contact with the bore water, raising the question of why their levels are so high. It would appear that some of the affected residents may have been exposed to the chemical through secondary means, such as eating meat, poultry and vegetables produced with the contaminated bore water. Although the defence department warned the residents not to drink the water, it did not warn people against eating food that was produced from irrigating with the bore, nor did it mention anything about showering, cooking or washing with the bore water.

There are many unanswered questions surrounding this whole issue. There are conflicting reports as to the long-term health effects of people having a high level of PFOS and PFOA in their bloodstream. While it has been stated by some in the medical profession to have a probable link to some forms of cancer, this has not yet been proven conclusively.

This issue is having a widespread impact on the town and its district. Many home owners have very real concerns about the impact that this issue is having on the value of their largest asset, their home and their land. There are several racehorse trainers based in Oakey. These trainers now have owners removing horses from their stables as they are concerned for the welfare of their animals. There are a number of agricultural properties within the contaminated plume area. They have real concerns about the water contamination and what that could potentially mean for the produce they are selling, whether that be milk, meat, lamb, lucerne, hay or vegetables.

This morning Marise Payne, the Minister for Defence, announced that Defence will be continuing to fund the monitoring of underground water in the bores around Oakey and would now fund the blood tests for residents. Although that may ease the minds of Oakey residents to some extent, there has been nothing forthcoming about addressing the devaluation of people's properties.

Like the people of Oakey, I have been very disappointed in the role that the state government has played in this incident. I table a list of questions that I have asked of the Premier, the natural resources minister and the health minister, who have all said that this is a federal issue and have directed my concerns there. The people of Oakey are disgusted by the lack of support of this government.

Tabled paper: Questions on notice and questions without notice, various dates, asked by the member for Condamine, Mr Pat Weir MP, regarding groundwater contamination at the Army Aviation Centre Oakey [\[866\]](#).

Business Development Fund

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (12.02 pm): On 9 June, I had the great privilege to visit with the Treasurer a business in the mighty suburb of Murarrie in my electorate. Behind an unassuming frontage in Murarrie is a global leader in the development of technology for charging electric vehicles. The name of that business is Tritium. We were there to announce that Tritium is the first company to receive funding from the Palaszczuk government's Business Development Fund, one of the critical initiatives of our Advance Queensland program.

The founders of the company, David Finn, Paul Sernia and James Kennedy, met as students when they were competing in a University of Queensland solar car racing team. Since forming the company in 2001, they have been at the forefront of electrical vehicle technology, specialising in electric

vehicle fast chargers, electric vehicle components, battery management systems and solar car racing components. I was very interested to learn that electric vehicles are very much part of the future for vehicle manufacturers and that, in fact, all major automotive manufacturers now have them in the market and are increasing the number of models that are released each year.

Tritium is tapping into the growth of that industry, which is said to be worth \$1 billion. Tritium is in the final stages of its commercialisation journey for its Veefil electric vehicle fast charger—an electric car charging station, with the station currently taken up in 17 countries. Tritium has an aggressive strategy in place to make sure that it is leading the way and that it can capitalise on emerging opportunities.

Tritium is exactly the sort of company that the Palaszczuk government should be and is supporting. That is why this \$2.5 million investment from the Business Development Fund, alongside matched investment from co-investors St Baker Energy Innovation Trust and the Varley Group, is so important. That funding will help Tritium bring its technology to the market sooner. Quite simply, it will allow Tritium to stay in Queensland. On the day, David, the CEO of the company, made it very clear that Tritium would have had to go overseas if this investment had not come through.

This government has recognised great potential in Tritium. It is a business with a great idea that has a very real chance of becoming commercially successful in the global marketplace. The Business Development Fund shows us—in fact, what everything about Advance Queensland shows us and has shown Tritium and all other companies like it—that, if you are an innovator, then Queensland wants you. If you are an innovator, then Queensland is the place to be. Through Advance Queensland and the Business Development Fund, we are saying that we value initiative and we value new ideas and that people who think outside the square are critical to our future.

That is why Queensland has the fastest growing economy in Australia—because we have recognised that, if we are going to diversify our economy, we must deliver knowledge based jobs. We must back our innovative businesses and emerging industries. That is what is also incredibly important about this Tritium initiative: it will create jobs on top of the 52½ thousand jobs that have already been created by this government since we were elected. The jobs from Tritium will not be going anywhere else; they will be staying right here in Queensland—high-tech manufacturing export jobs, jobs for electrical and software engineers, jobs for designers and for high-tech manufacturing assemblers. I congratulate Tritium for the inspiration that it is for us locally, across the state and the country and, in fact, throughout the world.

Through our \$40 million Business Development Fund, the Palaszczuk government will invest from \$125,000 up to \$2.5 million in matched funding alongside private sector co-investors to help businesses turn their innovations into commercial realities. There are a range of other Advance Queensland programs that are aimed at supporting entrepreneurialism and transforming innovative ideas. I know how much all of my colleagues on this side of the House and I love talking about these to our local businesses.

The programs from Advance Queensland include the \$10 million Ignite Ideas Fund to help start-ups and small businesses develop new or improved products, processes or services to secure investment, launch into global markets and grow their businesses; HotDeskQ, which is aimed at attracting international and interstate entrepreneurial talent; and the \$8 million Knowledge Transfer Partnerships program, which positions talented university graduates with local companies.

This government knows that Queensland has so much to offer. We have confidence in what Queensland has to offer. We do not talk down this economy, which is all we hear from those on the other side, who would use Queensland's confidence as a matter for political expediency. This government aims to advance Queensland. This initiative will so ably support an amazing Queensland business and shows us all exactly how the government will plan to advance our cause.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.07 pm): This afternoon, Queenslanders will again witness a government that is asleep at the wheel, a government with no plans, a government breaking election promise after election promise and raising taxes and charges, and a government that is incapable of building anything. We are now nearly 18 months into Labor's infrastructure freeze. The one thing that Labor has been good at is taking credit for the work that the LNP did while it was in government in building infrastructure and getting Queensland moving. Up and down the length and breadth of Queensland, we see Labor taking credit for the LNP's investment, particularly in the Bruce Highway and the Gateway Motorway—a \$10 billion partnership with the federal coalition.

I digress for a moment. One such project that the federal coalition has committed to bringing forward is the Maroochydore-Nambour exit of the Bruce Highway—a \$187 million investment that will improve safety and traffic movement for many of the people of the Sunshine Coast who use that particular exit. It is only because of the LNP that the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing will be built. I acknowledge the member for Toowoomba North, the former member for Toowoomba South and the member for Condamine for their constant advocacy for that infrastructure. It was the LNP that rescued the new generation rolling stock program, which was bungled under the Bligh Labor government.

Labor's only plan for infrastructure is the 'Oliver Twist' approach: going cap in hand, asking the federal government for more and more money. Labor has gone back to the drawing board on Cross River Rail, demanding that the federal government stump up funding, yet it fails to produce a business case. The Minister for Main Roads, Mark Bailey, also took great pride in ripping \$160 million out of the Ipswich Motorway Darra to Rocklea project and short-changing local commuters.

Mr Bailey: What are you talking about?

Mr POWELL: If the minister is struggling to recall, it was a \$560 million project that is now only being funded for \$400 million. In my books—it might not be in the Treasurer's books—that is a \$160 million shortfall. A project that is again important to my electorate is the duplication of the Sunshine Coast line, again swept under the rug by Labor while they continue to review reviews and otherwise stall progress on this important upgrade. Labor has scrapped an upgrade for the Mooloolah River interchange at the Sunshine Motorway that will choke up local roads, particularly when the Sunshine Coast University Hospital finally comes online.

Perhaps in a perverse way it is okay that Labor is not building roads because they are making them too expensive to drive on anyway. This budget will be the second year that Labor increases family car registration by 3.5 per cent, or double the rate of inflation—another unfair price slug from a government with no plan to get the cost of living under control.

Government members interjected.

Mr POWELL: I take the interjections from those opposite. Yes, 3.5 per cent was the inflation rate when we were in government which is what those increases were. The inflation rate is now 1.7 per cent and they can change those increases any day that they like. Labor is addicted to taxes and Queenslanders are sick and tired of being treated like cash cows. Families with a four-cylinder vehicle will now pay over \$400 and that is simply unfair. We should not be surprised; it is in their DNA. Under the last four years of the Bligh Labor government car registration increased 30 per cent.

Only the LNP has a track record of keeping costs low for Queensland families and that is why in 2012 we froze rego for the family car for the term of our office. We know running the car is expensive, which is why we have committed to CPI increases only for the family vehicle in the next term the LNP is in government. Many Queenslanders lined up to condemn then transport minister Anastacia Palaszczuk's endless 15 per cent public fare increases: commuters, students, tourism bodies, public transport advocates and bus operators. Today we can add one more to the list: the transport minister, Stirling Hinchliffe. No wonder, because under Premier Palaszczuk's watch fares skyrocketed, patronage plummeted and the trains did not even run on time. The LNP has a strong record in making public transport affordable. We were the ones who ended Anastacia Palaszczuk's 15 per cent increases and made the first five per cent fare decrease in history. Queenslanders need to watch out this afternoon for yet more sneaky taxes.

Education

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (12.12 pm): It is my great pleasure to congratulate the Minister for Education, Tourism and Major Events on her Advancing Education suite of initiatives. Advancing Education lays out a new and groundbreaking strategic direction for the planning and delivery of education services in Queensland. As well as promoting the uptake of Asian languages in schools, the Minister for Education has also ensured there is a clear focus in schools for the critically important areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics through the announcement of a range of STEM scholarships for teachers, including a bursary of up to \$25,000 for 18 final year preservice teachers. This comes on the back of an education spend of \$12.4 billion in 2015-16, the largest amount ever committed in Queensland, and a huge 7.2 per cent increase on the anaemic Education budget forced on the people of Queensland by the LNP in 2014-15.

Truly, the future for students and teachers in Queensland is bright. But let us contrast the successes in education which have occurred under our government with that of the LNP, a government that was considered by many to be the worst government in the history of Queensland. In previous

speeches in this House I have accurately demonstrated the unmitigated failures of the LNP in its last term of government, as well as the contribution from the member for Clayfield when he was Treasurer. I have been consistent in highlighting his hopeless economic management and reckless approach to selling state assets well before the member for Clayfield ambushed the member for Southern Downs for the leadership. What a result! The architect of austerity, a man who enjoyed cutting the guts out of the state budget and contributing to the sacking of 14,000 public servants, is now the Leader of the Opposition. Congratulations, guys, you have done a great job there! What a sad state of affairs for Queensland and the LNP.

But today I am not going to focus on the Leader of the Opposition because I have already spent a lot of time in this parliament forensically uncovering his numerous economic and fiscal failures. Instead, I want to talk about the LNP's appalling disregard for education, one of the bedrocks of a civil society. In 2012 LNP members happily went along with the ruthless austerity cuts eagerly sought by the member for Clayfield.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! The member is not taking anyone's interjections so please allow him to deliver his speech.

Mr PEGG: In 2012 LNP members happily went along with the ruthless austerity cuts eagerly sought by the member for Clayfield.

Mr WATTS: I rise to a point of order. If the member wants to attack we should be allowed to interject.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr PEGG: As I was saying, as well as slashing over \$23 million from the Department of Education, Training and Employment, the LNP proceeded to implement a range of draconian savings measures, including reducing expenditure on parent awareness strategies, reducing research into the best way to achieve educational outcomes for students and reducing funding for the professional development of teachers. That was a great start for the LNP there, but the cuts did not stop. Under the LNP they never do. They also announced they would be cutting funding to the highly popular Fanfare program from 2013, a biennial music festival for Queensland state school bands and orchestras. Given that there was a total general government spend of \$48.5 billion in that year, guess how much this cut contributed to the budget bottom line? A paltry \$88,000, or 0.0002 per cent of the total budget. That is right, just 0.0002 per cent of the total budget. I have to question what on earth compelled those opposite to propose a savings measure that hurts students badly but effectively did nothing for the overall budget position. The answer is that the LNP could not help themselves. They love to cut the guts out of education funding, even when students are hurt along the way. Of course, the irony is that there has not been a lot of fanfare for the LNP in recent times despite the propensity for those opposite to blow their own trumpets. I can only imagine what kind of budget would be delivered today if the LNP still occupied the government benches.

I have conclusively demonstrated that the LNP care far more about slashing the budget than education outcomes for Queenslanders, which is really not much of a surprise. However, despite this appalling approach to education from the LNP I make this offer to those opposite and in particular the member for Coomera: in the spirit of bipartisanship I am prepared to sit down with you, go through the mistakes and failures you made in education and explain just how our approach to education is benefiting all Queenslanders now and into the future. As I was saying, I congratulate the Minister for Education on her Advancing Education suite of initiatives. Advancing Education lays out a new and groundbreaking strategic direction for the planning and delivery of education services in Queensland.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Kawana, I want to remind members that there are three members who have received warnings under standing order 253A. If they interject they will be asked to remove themselves from the chamber.

Jobs

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.17 pm): Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and the Labor government are asleep at the wheel when it comes to jobs in this state. This morning we heard the Premier talk about jobs, jobs, jobs. She said the budget being released this afternoon was going to be all about jobs. On the weekend in an article in the *Courier-Mail* it was stated that the big jobs package the Premier announced a year ago, which was Jobs Queensland with \$40 million over four years, has not even started. The response to the *Courier-Mail* was that it has been established and has an interim

board looking at how they get people to serve on the board. How does it take eight months to set up Jobs Queensland, which is their big employment package? They cannot even get people to serve on the board of Jobs Queensland. Does it not show that there is a lack of confidence from the business community in this government? I put to the House that there is an interim board because they cannot get people to serve on the board of Jobs Queensland.

In the article from the *Courier-Mail*, which I will table, the spokesperson for the Attorney-General says—

The recruitment process for the permanent board is progressing and the Interim Reference Group will remain in place until that is finalised.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 11 June 2016, titled 'Employment body yet to generate a single job despite \$40 million budget' [867].

Eight months ago legislation passed in the House to establish Jobs Queensland. In its budget for the last 12 months it had \$10 million to spend. No-one knows what it has spent the money on. No jobs have been created from Jobs Queensland. All we have seen is jobs created for mates.

Mr Mander: It is a headline.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is a headline; I take the interjection. About six months ago, the Premier threatened everybody in this House by saying, 'If you don't back my jobs plan, I am going to have an election'. Do members remember that? I table an article titled, 'Do as I say, not as I do', in which the Queensland Premier states that she will 'get the support of Queenslanders' if her jobs legislative agenda is blocked.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Brisbane Times* online, dated 10 March 2016, titled "'Do as I say, not as I do': Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk" [868].

Why does she need the support of Queensland when her own legislative agenda passed eight months ago and she has done nothing on it? An interim board is sitting there, but no jobs have been created in this state. All the time in this place Attorney-General D'Ath gets up and talks about skills, training, jobs and apprenticeships, and how Labor has the high moral ground for that sort of stuff. I have a news flash: I draw the attention of members to the 2015 Australian government NCVET traineeship and apprenticeship numbers. Members of the Labor Party might be surprised at this statistic: for December 2014 to September 2015, when the Labor government was in power, 30,000 apprenticeships were created. Let us look at the last year of the former LNP government: for December 2013 to September 2014, 32,000 apprentices were appointed. In Queensland, apprenticeships have gone down, not up. Under the Labor Party and under the training and skills minister as well as the employment minister, the member for Brisbane Central, apprenticeships are on the decline. Yvette D'Ath stands in here and talks about all their plans for skills and training, yet according to government records apprenticeship numbers are on the decline. If we go back one step further, in December 2012 to September 2013, 44,000 apprenticeships were created. Apprenticeship numbers have gone from 44,000 to 32,000 to 30,000 under this government. That was their big election commitment. 'Jobs will be created under the government I lead', she said. It was all about jobs, jobs, jobs.

Mr Mander: The numbers speak for themselves.

Mr BLEIJIE: The numbers speak for themselves: apprenticeships are on the decline. I say to members opposite that they cannot take the high moral ground for apprenticeships and jobs in this state, because the numbers speak for themselves: apprenticeship numbers are on the decline and unemployment is up. As at April 2016, 66,800 young Queenslanders were unemployed and looking for work; and 21,300 young Queenslanders have lost their jobs, part-time and full-time, since the election. Young Queenslanders are not getting the jobs. The jobs are not being created by the Labor Party. The only jobs being created are to serve the Deputy Premier's mates in the union movement. They are the only jobs being created.

Under Grace Grace, the Minister for Employment, youth unemployment has risen from 11.6 per cent to 15 per cent. She should not be the Minister for Employment; she should be dubbed the minister for unemployment, because in her time as Minister for Employment all she has achieved is a skyrocketing 15 per cent figure for unemployment. This afternoon, we will see a budget that is all talk and rhetoric. We will see them get up and talk about jobs. We will see them try to defend apprenticeship numbers going down by 2,000. This government is asleep at the wheel.

(Time expired)

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Before calling the member for Ferny Grove, I welcome another group of students from All Saints Primary School in the electorate of Beaudesert.

National Broadband Network

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (12.23 pm): Today I rise to talk about communications, particularly the national broadband network. We know the old cliché that we are the lucky country. If that is the case, if we are the lucky country, why are we one of the poorest when it comes to internet connection? Why is our communications one of the worst? In the latest internet speed report, Australia has dropped to 60th position in the world, well behind the international pack. The rating drop has happened because over a period a number of other countries are moving towards fibre based networks. The federal Liberal National Party government's position to switch from fibre to the home to a mixed fibre-copper network is part of the reason for the decline. Under the prior Labor government, we were moving towards an all-fibre based network, which is what most of our competitors are now doing and what consumers want.

The top 10 countries for average connection speeds are: No. 1 South Korea, No. 2 Hong Kong, No. 3 Japan, No. 4 Switzerland, No. 5 Sweden, No. 6 Netherlands, No. 7 Ireland—even the Irish are better than us—No. 8 Latvia, No. 9 Czechoslovakia and No. 10 Singapore. Even Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain and New Zealand have faster speeds than ours. Malcolm Turnbull, a former minister for communications and now Prime Minister, carries the legacy for this disgraceful mess.

Abbott as prime minister and Turnbull as the then minister for communications proposed a faster, cheaper model, instead of offering optical fibre direct to Australian homes. We now see NBN largely rolled out to street nodes, with the final connection to residents made through the existing copper network. Initially, the coalition claimed a new NBN would cost \$29.5 billion, as opposed to Labor's \$44.9 billion, and would deliver speeds of 25 megabytes per second to the country by 2016, which would be well ahead of Labor's scheme. We now know the cost of the scheme has blown out to \$56 billion. It is not expected to be finished until 2020, which is more than four years behind schedule.

The residents in Ferry Grove, which takes in parts of the federal electorates of Dickson and Ryan, are only able to reach internet connections during a full moon, when a westerly wind is blowing. I have spoken to the honourable members for Pine Rivers and Kallangur, who have indicated similar stories of connection problems in their electorates. This is not unique to Ferry Grove. That is why my office has been receiving copious complaints from constituents in the federal seats of Ryan and Dickson.

On 5 February this year, a family moved into Upper Kedron having lived in Canada for 12 years. Before moving, they checked with Telstra about broadband coverage and were told that their proposed home would be covered. They signed up for a 1,000-gigabyte account. In January, they had the internet connected only to be told by Telstra that their coverage did not extend to the house. Instead, they were offered a 3G connection at 25 gigabytes. That is not enough for a family of six. The family has been told that there are no plans to upgrade the network.

In Arana Hills, Mr Brown was receiving a 11.5-megabyte download speed. Today, on the same network and with the same provider, Mr Brown is receiving a four-megabyte download speed. His ISP has explained that the network is now at its maximum subscription and there are no plans to improve service as the NBN is coming in. However, Arana Hills is not slated for rollout until 2019 and, even then, it is cable to the home.

Dickson resident Bill McKeever, who lives at Mount Glorious, has discovered that the fibre-optic cable is already running past his home, but even under the Turnbull government's NBN plan, when Mount Glorious receives its version of the NBN it will not include any fibre or even cable options. Wireless is the best option and the best outcome for Mount Glorious. It is all they can hope for, despite the existing cable running past Mr McKeever's home.

A proper NBN is the national highway system of the 21st century. Without adequate investment that includes expansive capacity, there is little hope that the billions being spent will sufficiently meet the needs of Queensland or Australia in the coming decades. Working from home reduces the stress on our roads and improves the quality of our lives. Many more constituents, particularly in the federal seat of Dickson, choose to operate their businesses from home. To use the internet for work today requires what the current NBN is promising. What about the jobs for tomorrow? Should not we be planning for them? Do it once and do it right. Upgrade the technology at the home and in the exchange, not through the cabling in between. There is only one thing to do and that is to bring this federal government into the 21st century, throw them out and vote Labor—

(Time expired)

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! The time for matters of public interest has expired.

LEGISLATION (DECLARATION) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.28 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Mental Health Act 2016, the Racing Act 2002 and the Racing Integrity Act 2016 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Legislation (Declaration) Amendment Bill 2016 [\[869\]](#).

Tabled paper: Legislation (Declaration) Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes [\[870\]](#).

I rise to introduce the Legislation (Declaration) Amendment Bill 2016. The bill is technical in nature and is being introduced to put beyond doubt the validity of the Mental Health Act 2016 and the Racing Integrity Act 2016, which were both passed by the parliament earlier this year. As members would be aware, this morning in a statement the Clerk of the Parliament advised the House of the reason for this bill. As a result of unfortunate administrative errors, both bills as presented respectively to His Excellency the Governor and Her Excellency the Acting Governor for assent contained minor discrepancies. That meant that the bills assented to were different to the bills as passed by the parliament.

The Clerk has also written to me and advised that it is his opinion that proceeding with the Legislation (Declaration) Amendment Bill 2016, to validate the Mental Health Act 2016 and the Racing Integrity Act 2016, and correct the errors in the bills assented to, is the appropriate action for this parliament to take. I table that letter for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 8 June 2016, from the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, to the Leader of the House and Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, regarding an error in the Racing Integrity Bill and the Mental Health Bill presented for assent [\[871\]](#).

These errors occurred in the context of the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel implementing a new legislative drafting and publishing information system. The discovery of these administrative errors in bills passed by this parliament and prepared for assent is a source of great concern for the Parliamentary Counsel and for her staff. The Parliamentary Counsel, Annette O'Callaghan, has asked me to convey to the parliament her sincerest apology for these errors and for the impost on the parliament's time necessary to consider this bill to address them.

Given the bill's purpose of putting beyond any doubt the validity of the existing legislation, I will be seeking for the bill to be declared urgent and for it to immediately proceed through all stages today. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.30 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Declared Urgent

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.30 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 137, the Legislation (Declaration) Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill and be considered immediately.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Second Reading

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.31 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (12.31 pm): The opposition will be supporting the technical bill that has been introduced into the House by the Leader of the House in response to the statement that the Clerk made to the House this morning. The Clerk has explained the breach that occurred. The bill is of a technical nature to address that breach. I have no disagreement with the comments made by the Leader of the House. We will support this bill to correct the issue that is before the House.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.31 pm), in reply: I thank the Leader of Opposition Business for his support and the support of those opposite. I thank those across the parliament who have been briefed about this matter for their support. I trust that we will now see this dealt with expeditiously.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 7, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.32 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.33 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION (NATIONAL INJURY INSURANCE SCHEME) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12.33 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 and the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Regulation 2014 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Finance and Administration Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (National Injury Insurance Scheme) Amendment Bill 2016 [\[872\]](#).

Tabled paper: Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (National Injury Insurance Scheme) Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes [\[873\]](#).

I present a bill for an act to introduce compensation payments for lifetime treatment, care and support into Queensland's workers compensation scheme to implement the National Injury Insurance Scheme for workers who are catastrophically injured in workplace accidents connected with Queensland. The National Injury Insurance Scheme is a companion scheme to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and will have a significant positive impact on the lives of Queenslanders who sustain life-changing injuries as a result of their work.

The bill is part of a significant social reform which includes the establishment by the Palaszczuk government of the National Injury Insurance Scheme Queensland for motor vehicle accidents to commence from 1 July 2016. In 2013, the then government signed a national heads of agreement with the Commonwealth which committed Queensland to either implement a lifetime care and support scheme for workplace accidents that meets the national minimum benchmarks or be 100 per cent responsible for the costs of people who sustain catastrophic injuries from 1 July 2016.

Queensland's workers compensation scheme is the best performing in Australia. It is a fair, sustainable and efficient scheme which balances low premium rates for employers with good benefits for injured workers. Queensland is the only jurisdiction with a centrally funded, short-tail workers compensation scheme. No-fault statutory benefits are currently provided to workers who are catastrophically injured for a maximum period of between two and five years. If injured workers can establish their employer was at fault in causing their injury, they also have access to lump sum common law damages for future care and support, loss of future earnings and pain and suffering. While the workers who have catastrophic work related injuries in Queensland can receive their full statutory and common law workers compensation entitlements under the current scheme structure, current statutory no-fault entitlements are not guaranteed to meet their treatment, care and support needs for their lifetimes.

On 21 March 2016, the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee tabled in the Legislative Assembly its report on its inquiry into a suitable model for the implementation of the National Injury Insurance Scheme for motor vehicle accidents. The parliamentary committee recommended that the government consider the National Injury Insurance Scheme for motor vehicle accidents serving as a platform for the other proposed National Injury Insurance Scheme arrangements in Queensland. The deliberations of the parliamentary committee, as well as those of the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, to which the inquiry was originally referred, have informed the development of this bill.

Consistent with the parliamentary committee's recommendation, the bill proposes arrangements for treatment, care and support payments within Queensland's workers compensation scheme which align with the arrangements under the National Injury Insurance Scheme Queensland for motor vehicle accidents established under the National Injury Insurance Scheme (Queensland) Act 2016. These arrangements involve extending existing no-fault statutory compensation entitlements for injured workers who sustain serious personal injuries on or after 1 July 2016, while retaining common law rights to claim damages for treatment, care and support of injured workers who can establish their employer was at fault in causing their injury.

Under the proposed amendments, access to treatment, care and support payments will be available through the existing process under the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 where claimants can apply for statutory compensation benefits on the basis that they are a worker who has a work related injury. Workers will be eligible for treatment, care and support payments if they sustain serious personal injuries that include a serious permanent spinal injury, a traumatic brain injury, high level or multiple amputations, severe burns or permanent traumatic blindness.

Treatment, care and support payments for eligible workers will meet their necessary and reasonable treatment, care and support needs, including for medical treatment, hospitalisation, dental treatment, rehabilitation, ambulance transportation, respite care, attendant care and support services, aids and appliances, prostheses, education or vocational training, and home, transport or workplace modification. Workers may be assessed as being entitled to treatment, care and support payments for an interim period of up to two years initially or for their lifetime. In contrast with the Queensland workers compensation scheme's short-tail design, workers with lifetime entitlement will have treatment, care and support provided for their lifetime unless they opt out of these payments.

Where seriously injured workers claim damages for their injury, they will be able to elect to opt out of receiving treatment, care and support payments and accept a lump sum award of damages for treatment, care and support. In recognition of the challenges involved in managing large lump sum payments to ensure they continue to meet the recipient's needs, and consistent with the National Injury Insurance Scheme Queensland, this election will be subject to meeting certain safeguards. These safeguards include that the worker is entitled to receive treatment, care and support payments for their lifetime, their damages claim is not subject to contributory negligence of 50 or more, and the court has not prevented them from being awarded a lump sum. Seriously injured workers who cannot, or choose not to, opt out of treatment, care and support payments will continue to receive treatment, care and support services through the workers compensation scheme. To maximise choice and independence for workers, services will be available through individualised support plans or self-directed funding arrangements.

To support these arrangements and ensure consistent high-quality care, workers compensation insurers, including WorkCover Queensland and self-insured employers, will refer the management of seriously injured workers' treatment, care and support to the National Injury Insurance Agency Queensland established for motor vehicle accidents. This will be achieved through a contractual arrangement and will leverage the expertise established for managing the larger group of motor

accident participants to ensure that the treatment, care and support needs of all seriously injured Queenslanders are met consistently. Workers compensation insurers will continue to fund treatment, care and support payments, and contribute to the agency's operating costs.

The existing cost-effective and efficient dispute resolution process mechanisms within Queensland's workers compensation scheme will be used for disputes about treatment, care and support including the Medical Assessment Tribunals to resolve medical disputes, internal review by insurers, review rights to the Workers' Compensation Regulator and appeal rights to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. The additional cost to Queensland's workers compensation scheme of incorporating treatment, care and support payments for serious personal injuries will be met through employer premiums, and no impact on the average premium rate of \$1.20 per \$100 of wages paid is expected.

A stakeholder reference group comprised of workers compensation scheme stakeholders including representatives from insurers, employers, unions, legal associations and the Motor Accident Insurance Commission was consulted on the proposed amendments. I thank the members of this group for their contributions which informed the development of the treatment, care and support arrangements proposed in the bill.

To provide self-insurers with greater flexibility for managing claims liabilities, including additional liabilities which may arise due to treatment, care and support payments for serious personal injuries, the bill also provides for an alternative form of self-insurance security in the form of an unconditional financial guarantee issued by general insurers. The bill also removes the current minimum value of the guarantee of \$5 million while maintaining the requirement that the guarantee be set at 150 per cent of a self-insurer's estimated claims liability. This will free up significant capital that will enable these employers to fund business growth and employment in Queensland. The bill will also enable self-insurers who decide to return to a WorkCover Queensland insurance policy to return to self-insurance within five years under the same minimum employee criteria that applied at the time they originally became self-insurers.

The bill also amends the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 to restore the original policy intent and provide certainty for insurers, employers, workers and the courts after recent court decisions have interpreted various provisions in ways that could adversely affect the operation of the scheme. The bill prevents the contractual transfer of liability for injury costs from principal contractors or host employers to employers with a workers compensation insurance policy such as subcontractors or labour hire employers and clarifies that an insurer will not be liable to indemnify an employer for a liability to pay damages incurred by a third-party contractor under a contractual arrangement.

The bill also provides that, where the Workers' Compensation Regulator commences certain prosecutions including for fraud related offences against the act, it is the regulator's knowledge of the commission of the offence that is relevant to the time frame for the commencement of the proceedings. The bill will clarify that insurers must immediately refer such matters as soon as they have a reasonable belief that fraud has occurred.

To prevent financial hardship to those relying on workers compensation payments, the bill amends the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 to provide for an alternative indexation method for statutory compensation and common law damages entitlements. The proposed method will not result in a reduction to any payments or amounts as a consequence of a reduction in the value of Queensland ordinary time earnings while ensuring indexation keeps alignment to this measure.

By implementing the National Injury Insurance Scheme for catastrophically injured workers, this bill continues to build on the Palaszczuk government's significant reforms providing greater support and opportunities for the most vulnerable members of our community through the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the establishment of the National Injury Insurance Scheme Queensland.

First Reading

Hon. G GRACE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12.46 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Finance and Administration Committee

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

ELECTRICITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 15 March (see p. 688), on motion of Mr Pitt—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (12.46 pm): I would like to thank the Transport and Utilities Committee for its report tabled on 12 May 2016 regarding the Electricity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I would also like to thank those who made submissions to the committee about the bill and those who appeared as witnesses as part of the committee's inquiry. The committee has recommended that part 2 of the bill be passed. I am pleased to table the government's response to the committee's report.

Tabled paper: Transportation and Utilities Committee: Report No. 16—Electricity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, government response [\[874\]](#).

Whilst the bill in its entirety has the support of the government members of the committee, the opposition has issued a statement of reservation about parts 3 to 5 of the bill. This is unsurprising. Despite their token comments acknowledging that the Ergon-Energex merger was an election commitment of the Palaszczuk government, the opposition has left no stone unturned in their quest to sabotage the will of the people at the last election to keep this state's energy assets in public hands and it continues to this day. The opposition continues to not listen to the people of Queensland.

This bill is to help facilitate the operations of Energex and Ergon following the implementation of the electricity distribution businesses merger. It is not a bill implementing the merger itself. The so-called objections of the opposition to this bill are, in reality, the objections they hold about these assets staying in public hands. The mock outrage about manufactured job losses and the scare campaign about the energy services business are all just ploys to bring public ownership into disrepute and for a fire sale of our assets. I note in that vein the record of the opposition when in government, with 14,000 sackings of public servants and the highest unemployment level in 11 years under the member for Clayfield's reign as treasurer of this state.

In any event, the so-called objections fall outside the scope of this bill. If the LNP want to bring certainty to this debate they can come clean about their new privatisation plans, which we seem to get snippets of through various media outlets. I note the member for Clayfield's comments on the ABC last year when he said that he saw the government's role as being the regulator in these matters and that they should avoid any conflicts—a clear indication that his position on asset sales has not changed one iota.

At least on this side of the House we are clear that our electricity assets are staying in public hands and through this merger we will make them stronger. We are building an energy business for the future and it will be the largest power company in Australia with over \$24 billion in assets. This merger will remove duplication in areas like administration, shared services, boards, management and corporate costs. This will deliver for taxpayers greater efficiency.

We have developed and are implementing a measured and responsible plan to set a clear fiscal path for the future while keeping Queenslanders' assets in public hands, as we promised Queenslanders at the last election. The government's pre-election fiscal strategy and debt action plan identified significant savings in consolidating government owned corporations in the energy sector. The government has undertaken a detailed review of possible merger options to optimise the efficiency of government owned energy businesses. As was reported to the 2015-16 Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review, the government's review concluded that the two distribution business—Energex and Ergon Energy—should be merged to streamline operations, harness efficiencies and put the businesses on a footing to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving energy industry.

On 15 December 2015, the Treasurer announced that the businesses of Energex and Ergon would be consolidated under a new parent government owned company, expected to be in place by mid-2016. The new parent company—Energy Queensland—will be established as a government owned corporation and incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth). A regulation will be passed

under the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993 to declare the new parent company to be a government owned corporation and transfer shares in Energex and Ergon to the parent company. Energex and Ergon will become subsidiaries of the new government owned corporation. The consolidation of Energex and Ergon under a new parent company will create the opportunity to bring together the corporate and administrative functions of both Energex and Ergon, leading to the elimination of duplication and the adoption of industry best practice across the network.

The operational functions of the electricity distribution businesses will continue to be undertaken by Energex and Ergon. Whilst the new consolidated structure will be implemented using the existing framework under the Government Owned Corporations Act, the bill effects consequential amendments to various Queensland acts. These consequential amendments are necessary so that Energex and Ergon can continue to operate under the same level of regulation once they become subsidiaries of the new government owned corporation. This will provide regulatory certainty and ensure no business disruption to the essential operations of Energex and Ergon. Part 4 of the bill will also implement minor clarifying amendments to the Government Owned Corporations Act.

The consolidation of Energex and Ergon creates the opportunity to transform the business in response to sustained changes in the energy markets. This includes the development of an energy services business directed towards investigating opportunities for emerging technologies and meeting customer needs in the changing energy industry. The focus of this business will be on new markets and opportunities. It will not be entering into markets that are already well serviced.

I note the opposition's concerns, as expressed in the statement of reservation, that the development of an energy services business has been quarantined from parliamentary scrutiny. That is simply not the case. The fact is that the Corporations Act already provides a mechanism by which any of Energex, Ergon or the new parent company could incorporate a subsidiary. This bill is about ensuring that Energex and Ergon can continue to operate on a business-as-usual basis. Implementation of the merger is a key component of this government's fiscal strategy. It will create opportunities to streamline corporate and administrative functions and harness efficiencies in addition to ensuring the businesses are well placed to meet the challenges posed by a rapidly evolving energy industry.

Part 2 of the bill relates to amendments to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984. The Island Industries Board, trading as the Islanders Board of Industry and Service, commonly known as IBIS, is a statutory body governed by Part 7A of that act. Of course, IBIS has a long history in the Torres Strait region. The objective of these amendments is to modernise the provisions applying to IBIS.

Although IBIS is currently operating effectively and returning an operating surplus, the legislative changes are necessary because current trends in the retail industry endanger the future operations of smaller entities. These trends have resulted in a small number of large operators dominating the national market but having no interest in providing retail facilities in remote areas with small populations. Together with increasing transport, power and maintenance costs, these trends have exacerbated the increasing pressures on smaller operators, such as IBIS, resulting in declining terms of trade, escalating costs and pricing pressures. For IBIS, these are exacerbated by the remoteness of the area serviced, the growing impact of online purchasing and the limited incomes of many of its customers, who are dependent on this organisation for food security. Food security is the primary objective of government involvement in retail operations in remote and very remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Other objectives, such as maximising employment opportunities for local people, are also met through government involvement in this area.

To meet these objectives, the ability and agility of IBIS to respond to challenges is critical. Prior to these proposed amendments, if a remote or very remote Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island community had a store operated by a private operator and it closed leaving the community without a store, IBIS would only be able to open a store if the location was within the Torres Strait or Northern Peninsula Area. Given the challenges facing retailing in remote areas, this scenario is a real possibility. This limitation on IBIS operations is impractical and places remote communities at risk of not having access to a food supply.

Proposed amendments remove the current geographic limitations on the operations of the statutory body and change the name of the body to Community Enterprise Queensland to reflect this change. It is important to note that the trading name of the entity, IBIS, which has a long history in the Torres Strait region, will not change. Provisions relating to board governance, membership, operations and administration are amended to more readily facilitate operations of the statutory body, given potential changes to its operations as a result of the removal of the geographical limitations.

Retail operations are viewed as central to community life in remote and very remote communities. IBIS provides a range of food, drinks and essential household items as well as other essential community services such as access to banking facilities and distribution of maritime safety packs. The proposed amendments, which strengthen governance, provide the opportunity for enhanced ministerial oversight, strengthen administrative arrangements, and enhance the organisation's ability to respond to commercial opportunities which may emerge outside its current area of operations have been identified as the most appropriate way by which to address current pressures on this organisation and to mitigate the risks and possible future costs to government. Provisions in the current bill are intended to ensure that Community Enterprise Queensland is subject to ministerial oversight, which is appropriate given the critical importance of its operations to the welfare of the communities in which it operates.

Board membership requirements have been altered by the proposed legislation to enable appointment to the board of a maximum of 10 members. It is intended that the board comprise members with necessary expertise to successfully address the challenges that this organisation faces both now and in the future. Consequently, legislative provisions relating to the nomination of board members have been kept as non-specific as possible to enable nomination of persons with the expertise required to occur in accordance with non-legislative procedures. This is important, as retail is a very dynamic environment. IBIS, because of the isolation of many of its stores and geographic challenges arising during its operations, faces a multitude of other challenges including those involving weather conditions; unpredictable service demands arising from local ceremonies; transportation; power; building, systems and equipment provision; support; and maintenance. It is important that the board be able and willing to provide the guidance necessary for the organisation to effectively address these challenges.

The Transportation and Utilities Committee recommended that section 60DB of the bill be amended to provide for 'at least one community representative' on the board in addition to 'at least one consumer representative'. The government accepts this recommendation and I will propose this amendment during consideration in detail. Community representation is considered essential and, with the adoption of the committee's recommendation and appointment of this representative, together with at least one member who represents consumers, community representation on the board will be assured. The primary responsibility of these members will be to represent the interests of the consumers of services in those communities where the entity operates. The legislation attempts to address the interests of these consumers by ensuring access for consumers to 'a range of food, drinks and household items essential for a healthy life at a fair price'. These amendments are intended to place this organisation in the most favourable position to satisfactorily address current retail industry pressures and mitigate possible future risks and costs to government, while maintaining essential services to the communities where it operates. I commend the bill to the House.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

Debate, on motion of Mr Emerson, adjourned.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Visitors to Speaker's Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I am pleased to acknowledge this afternoon in the Speaker's gallery the Hon. Tom McVeigh, former member for Darling Downs and later the member for Groom, and his wife, Sandra McVeigh. I am informed that Mr McVeigh has been a regular visitor to our chamber over the years when the budget has been brought down. Welcome.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Budget

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (2.31 pm): At last year's budget I announced the first stage of our Debt Action Plan—a plan to reduce general government debt without selling government owned assets. Following advice from the State Actuary that the defined benefit superannuation scheme was in a very strong financial position as it is exceeding accrued liabilities by more than \$10 billion on a funding basis, the government decided to suspend contributions to the fund for five years. Last month I foreshadowed the intention of the government to repatriate some of the \$10 billion surplus in the defined benefit fund.

Today I table correspondence between Queensland Treasury and the Queensland State Actuary, including advice from the State Actuary supporting the repatriation of up to \$5 billion from the defined benefit scheme.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 20 April 2016, from the Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury, Mr Jim Murphy, to the State Actuary, Mr Wayne Cannon, regarding the actuarial investigation of the State Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (QSuper) [875].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 26 April 2016, from the State Actuary, Mr Wayne Cannon, to the Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury, Mr Jim Murphy, regarding actuarial investigation of the State Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (QSuper) [876].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 20 May 2016, from the State Actuary, Mr Wayne Cannon, to the Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury, Mr Jim Murphy, regarding actuarial investigation of the State Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (QSuper) [877].

I also table the actuarial investigation of the State Public Sector Superannuation Scheme, QSuper, as at 30 June 2015 and a letter from the Queensland Investment Corporation, QIC, confirming that QIC will continue to manage the assets held by the government to meet its defined benefit liabilities in accordance with the government's fiscal principle of targeting full funding of its long-term liabilities based on actuarial advice.

Tabled paper: Queensland Treasury: State Actuary's Office—Actuarial Investigation of the State Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (QSuper) as at 30 June 2015 [878].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 20 May 2016, from the Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury, Mr Jim Murphy, to the State Actuary, Mr Wayne Cannon, regarding the review of the State Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (QSuper) [879].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 31 May 2016, from the Chief Executive, Queensland Investment Corporation, Mr Damien Frawley, to the Under Treasurer, Queensland Treasury, Mr Jim Murphy, regarding QIC's investment management of the state's Employer Fund and other long-term assets [880].

Section 11(1) of the Financial Accountability Act 2009, the FA Act, provides—

From time to time, the Treasurer must prepare and table in the Legislative Assembly a charter of fiscal responsibility giving details of the government's fiscal objectives.

The government has a clear role in providing high-quality and appropriate front-line services that keep pace with growth in the population while maintaining fiscally responsible and affordable levels of expenditure. Accordingly, the government has decided to adopt a new fiscal principle following delivery of the government's commitment to revitalise front-line services. The government will work towards a sustainable Public Service by ensuring that growth in the public sector—full-time-equivalent employees, FTEs—on average over the forward estimates does not exceed population growth in order to maintain consistency between the budgeted documentation and the official charter. I table the revised Charter of Fiscal Responsibility.

Tabled paper: Charter of Fiscal Responsibility [881].

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

Message from Acting Governor

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

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

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2016

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, CATHERINE ENA HOLMES, Acting Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intitled—

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial years starting 1 July 2016 and 1 July 2017

ACTING GOVERNOR

Date: 13 JUN 2016

Tabled paper: Message, dated 13 June 2016, from Her Excellency the Acting Governor recommending the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2016 [882].

Introduction

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (2.34 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial years starting 1 July 2016 and 1 July 2017. I table the bill and explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2016 [\[883\]](#).

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2016, explanatory notes [\[884\]](#).

I introduce the appropriation bill for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service, which provides appropriation for the 2016-17 financial year. The bill combines the appropriation for the 2016-17 budget and interim supply for 2017-18 to allow normal operations of the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service to continue until the 2017-18 appropriation bill receives assent. The government remains committed to the independence of the Legislative Assembly, and this extends to the means by which public moneys are appropriated to ensure its continued functioning. We are therefore adhering to the convention that the Legislative Assembly's appropriation be contained in a bill separate from the Appropriation Bill for the other activities of government.

The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill will provide the necessary funds to ensure the continued operations of the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service. These include: advisory and information services to assist the parliament, its committees and members to fulfil their constitutional and parliamentary responsibilities; the services provided by the Parliamentary Library, committee office, Parliamentary Reporting Service, chamber and procedural services; Security and Attendant Services; and the provision of accommodation, hospitality and members' entitlements.

First Reading

Hon. CW PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (2.35 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

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

BUDGET PAPERS

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (2.36 pm): I lay upon the table of the House the following documents: Appropriation Bills Booklet; Budget Speech; Budget Strategy and Outlook; Capital Statement; Budget Measures; Budget Highlights; Regional Action Plans; and Service Delivery Statements, including statements for the Legislative Assembly of Queensland.

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Appropriation Bills [\[885\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Budget Speech—Budget Paper No. 1 [\[886\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Budget Strategy and Outlook—Budget Paper No. 2 [\[887\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Capital Statement—Budget Paper No. 3 [\[888\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Budget Measures—Budget Paper No. 4 [\[889\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Budget Highlights—Advancing Queensland's Economy [\[890\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Brisbane [\[891\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Darling Downs [\[892\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Far North Queensland [\[893\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Fitzroy [\[894\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Gold Coast [\[895\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Ipswich [\[896\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Logan [\[897\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Mackay [\[898\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Outback Queensland [\[899\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay [\[900\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Townsville [\[901\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Regional Action Plan—Wide Bay [\[902\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Office of the Governor, Public Service Commission, Queensland Audit Office [\[903\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Treasury [\[904\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Legislative Assembly of Queensland [\[905\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships [\[906\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Agriculture and Fisheries [\[907\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services [\[908\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Education and Training [\[909\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Energy and Water Supply [\[910\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Environment and Heritage Protection [\[911\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Housing and Public Works [\[912\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman, the Public Trustee of Queensland [\[913\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning [\[914\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing [\[915\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Natural Resources and Mines [\[916\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Health [\[917\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Public Safety Business Agency, Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management [\[918\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation [\[919\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of State Development [\[920\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games [\[921\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2016-17: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Transport and Main Roads [\[922\]](#).

APPROPRIATION BILL

Message from Acting Governor

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (2.36 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Acting Governor.

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

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION BILL 2016

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, CATHERINE ENA HOLMES, Acting Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for departments for the financial years starting 1 July 2016 and 1 July 2017.

ACTING GOVERNOR

Date: 13 JUN 2016

Tabled paper: Message, dated 13 June 2016, from Her Excellency the Acting Governor recommending the Appropriation Bill 2016 [\[923\]](#).

Introduction

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (2.36 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for departments for the financial years starting 1 July 2016 and 1 July 2017. I table the bill and the explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill 2016 [\[924\]](#).

Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill 2016, explanatory notes [\[925\]](#).

At the last election Queenslanders elected a Palaszczuk Labor government to save our revenue-generating assets from sell-off, to create jobs and restore front-line services and to bring stability back to government by replacing confrontation with consultation in our dealings with business and other sectors of the community. This budget, the second of the Palaszczuk government, will respond to the economic conditions facing Queenslanders—those who are working and those who want to be working. It is a budget with the clear intent to drive economic growth across all parts of Queensland. My job as Treasurer, and the job of this government, is to ensure that the confidence that has returned in our economy and in the community more broadly continues. Our economic plan is to build on the successes of the past 17 months and be pragmatic about the challenges that lie ahead.

Since the election in January 2015, 52,500 new jobs have been created in Queensland. This includes more than 1,200 full-time jobs each month, compared to the loss of around 360 full-time jobs each month under the former government. This has been achieved in challenging global and domestic conditions. We have consistently delivered among the highest business confidence of mainland states since last year's budget. We have worked hard to ensure that people are engaged and positive about our great state, about the opportunities across key sectors like tourism, agriculture and resources, and how these sectors can benefit from innovation—but there is still more work to be done.

This budget sets out a clear economic plan for Queensland that is focused on three priorities: job-creating innovation, investment and infrastructure. We will encourage and foster innovation by accelerating our Advance Queensland plan and looking to capture opportunities in industries such as genomics, robotics and biofuels. We will attract investment both from overseas and from interstate as well as give business opportunities to expand, become more profitable and hire people too, and we will continue building the transformative infrastructure that our state needs to grow and prosper.

Innovation, investment and infrastructure are all at their core about one thing: jobs. These three priorities will help secure the jobs that Queenslanders have now, they will help grow jobs in our existing industries by tapping new opportunities and they will help create new jobs for the future in new and developing industries. Importantly, we will also continue to support and assist those who are seeking to enter the workforce by providing opportunities to access the training and skills development they need.

To achieve all this, the budget I present today addresses both the challenges and the opportunities facing our state. It is an economic plan that advances Queensland by investing in the future; an economic plan that kick-starts new industries and creates new jobs by building on the strengths of our existing ones, harnessing the capacity of Queenslanders to innovate and foster new investment; an economic plan that has a specific focus on getting regional Queensland back to work; an economic plan that increases the resilience of Queensland to face future challenges and external shocks through further economic diversification and steady and responsible fiscal leadership.

Fiscal Strategy

This budget is about getting the balance right and making the right decisions for the circumstances we face; balancing sustainable fiscal management with the delivery of vital services and supporting the transition to a more diversified economy; balancing debt reduction with investment in services and infrastructure.

This economic plan builds on the work we began in the 2015-16 budget. It again allocates record funding to Health and Education. We are standing firm in the face of deep and continued federal funding cuts that have not been fully restored, we are supporting regional Queensland with more jobs and infrastructure and we are delivering a better public transport system for the south-east.

Before the 2015 election we gave a commitment to the people of Queensland that we would manage the state's finances responsibly, that we would invest taxpayers' money in the best possible way and make every single dollar go as far as possible. Our first budget did just that, because that is what people expect of their government. This budget again honours that commitment, with a surplus of \$152 million in 2015-16 and surpluses in each of the next four years.

The 2015-16 surplus is well down on the forecasts in our Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review, MYFER, in December last year, but that is due in no small part to the federal government's unilateral decision in last month's federal budget to defer more than \$1 billion in natural disaster funding from the 2015-16 year—money that belongs to Queensland but withheld and shifted in what was clearly a political move on the eve of a federal election.

For this 2016-17 budget we are forecasting a surplus of \$867 million, which will now be the largest surplus in a decade. No government is immune to revenue write-downs, particularly in the current global environment, where key commodity price forecasts have fallen more than 20 per cent in the past year. Despite royalties and tax write-downs since December 2015 of more than \$3 billion over four years, and almost \$4.7 billion since the last budget over the same period, the Palaszczuk government is forecasting surpluses each year over the forward estimates. Combined surpluses over the next four years are forecast to total almost \$3.2 billion. This, by any measure, is a very sound fiscal outlook—the result of responsible economic management, delivered in an environment where the international economy is soft and commodity prices have remained relatively low. We will achieve this by keeping operating expenses, which are forecast to grow at an average of 2.9 per cent per annum over the forward estimates, lower than forecast revenue growth of 3.2 per cent per annum.

In order to better secure the integrity of the state's revenue base, I can announce today a crackdown on state tax avoidance. We will target an additional \$10 million in revenue over three years from those taxpayers who try to avoid tax. This includes those who incorrectly claim to be a not-for-profit organisation.

New Fiscal Principle

Following delivery and consolidation of the government's commitment to restoring front-line services, the Palaszczuk government is adding an additional fiscal principle. The government's new fiscal principle is focused on maintaining a sustainable Public Service, by ensuring that growth in Public Service employee numbers does not exceed population growth on average over the forward estimates. Over the last year we have done what we could to restore the front-line services that were so severely damaged under the former government. Our election commitments included employing 1,000 nursing graduates each year for four years, introducing a legislated nurse-to-patient ratio and employing 875 extra teachers over that same period. Over the last year, 86 per cent of the increase in full-time equivalents were in Health and Education.

Given the significance of employee expenses to the state budget, this new fiscal principle will be another important contributor to the government's prudent fiscal management framework going forward. It will ensure a balance between delivery of high-quality services and the discipline that underpins this government's commitment to fiscal sustainability.

Debt Reduction

This is a budget that continues the critical debt reduction task that the Palaszczuk government commenced in 2015-16 with our debt action plan. Once again, that work has continued without asset sales, which we were told was the only choice. The economic and fiscal plan we took to the election was to reduce general government debt by \$12 billion over 10 years. Today I can confirm that general government debt is more than \$10 billion lower under our government than was forecast for 2016-17 in the former government's last budget. I am proud that this outcome stands in contrast to the \$13.6 billion increase in general government debt we saw under the previous government. We are forecast to save more than \$800 million in interest expenses in 2016-17 when compared to the 2014-15 budget.

Queensland's debt-to-revenue ratio peaked at 91 per cent in 2012-13. The estimated actual ratio achieved in 2015-16 is 71 per cent. This is forecast to improve further, to 68 per cent, over the forward estimates. We remain steadfast in our commitment to upholding the quality of our credit. We have proven that debt reduction does not rely on taking the easy option of asset sales. We proved there was another way, and we have proved there are alternatives to slashing jobs and front-line services or massively raising the taxes, fees and charges paid by Queenslanders.

Queenslanders expect their government to act when needed to deliver jobs and opportunities through investment in infrastructure and to responsibly pay down debt. That is what we will do through our proposal to utilise a portion of the \$10 billion surplus of the public sector defined benefit scheme. The government will manage the defined benefit scheme to minimise overfunding and based on the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, APRA, funding standards that apply to similar corporate schemes. The State Actuary has advised that a repatriation of up to \$5 billion could be undertaken while maintaining consistency with the APRA funding standards.

Consistent with our fiscal principle of targeting fully funded long-term liabilities in accordance with actuarial advice, this budget seeks to repatriate \$4 billion of the defined benefit scheme's surplus. Half of that \$4 billion will be used to reduce debt and half will be invested in infrastructure. We are making this decision to create jobs and to support the economy, and we make no apology for it. This is the right decision to respond to the current economic conditions and continues our debt action plan outlined in the 2015-16 budget. It means we are optimising the state's balance sheet to respond immediately and comprehensively to the economic conditions we face.

Let me be very clear once again that there will be no change for defined benefit scheme members, regardless of the opposition's unsubstantiated claims, which evidence shows have been proved wrong. Around 3½ thousand people left the scheme over the past 12 months and all have received their entitlements. This is because their entitlements and those of all members of the defined benefit scheme remain guaranteed by legislation and will continue to be paid as they fall due. There will be no change whatsoever for public servants with accumulation accounts.

Queensland will continue to be in the very enviable position as the only fully funded defined benefit scheme of any state or territory in the country. In fact, it will remain one of the few fully funded public sector schemes of its kind anywhere in the world.

Economic Outline

As I have already said, global economic conditions present major challenges to the Queensland economy. Forecasts for global economic growth have consistently been revised down over the past year, most recently by the World Bank and the OECD, there have been substantial downward revisions to the outlook for industrial production growth among Queensland's major Asian export markets, and world commodity prices have continued to decline. In the face of challenging global and national economic conditions, Queensland's economy continues to demonstrate resilience.

I can announce today that the estimated actual growth figure for Queensland in 2015-16 is 3½ per cent, with economic growth of four per cent forecast in 2016-17. These forecasts indicate that Queensland is set to record the strongest economic growth of all states over the next few years. This is something we can all be proud of and it clearly shows how strong the fundamentals of the Queensland economy are. Our traditional industries continue to make a major contribution to the Queensland economy—as a government we have supported them—and our economy continues to benefit from the ramp-up of LNG exports.

Advancing Our Economy

If our domestic economy is to prosper, it is clear that the path towards a more diversified economy is one that we must not only continue to follow; it is one that we must deliberately pursue. Our economic plan has a clear focus on fostering innovation, promoting business investment and delivering productivity-enhancing infrastructure. Like last year's budget, this budget has a clear and unwavering focus on job creation. Queensland's estimated actual employment growth for 2015-16 is 1¼ per cent, a substantial improvement on the 0.3 per cent recorded for 2014-15. Employment growth is expected to continue at similar rates over 2016-17 and 2017-18.

However, to date much of this jobs growth has been concentrated in South-East Queensland. Many of Queensland's regional areas have been hit hard by the slowdown in the resources sector and the impacts of drought, which is impacting on around 80 per cent of the state. Queensland's unemployment rate in April was 6.2 per cent—lower than the highs of 6.7 per cent under the previous government—and it is forecast to fall below six per cent over the forward estimates. In many parts of regional Queensland, however, the unemployment rate is significantly higher—in some cases stubbornly so. Taking on this challenge remains a key focus for our government.

Back to Work Regional Employment Package

Today I can announce that the Palaszczuk government's economic plan will deliver \$100 million extra funding for a new two-year Back to Work Regional Employment Package. This will directly fund getting around 8,000 regional Queenslanders back to work. That is 8,000 Queenslanders outside the south-east who will make a contribution to our economy. That is 8,000 Queenslanders who will have work to support their families. A critical element of Back to Work is of course a \$10 million new Certificate 3 Guarantee boost which will see more Queenslanders able to access subsidised cert 3 courses to help get jobs. It will help deliver skills and training to support jobs growth in regional Queensland.

Last year we commenced our payroll tax incentive for employers hiring apprentices or trainees—a direct way to drive employment growth whilst reducing an employer's payroll tax liability. This year the Back to Work package will give regional employers the confidence to take on new staff. It includes Back to Work employer support payments of up to \$10,000 for employers who hire and keep someone employed for 12 months or more in regional Queensland, and this payment increases to up to \$15,000 if an employer hires a long-term unemployed person. It includes Back to Work navigation teams that will help local employers looking to fill jobs and connect jobseekers to jobs or further skills, training and apprentice pathways.

Eligible employees will have access to job readiness support to help them start a new job. We want businesses poised for growth to have the confidence to grow their team. We want them to take a chance with long-term unemployed, young people, mature aged people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We know one of the best ways to drive economic growth is to have as many people as possible fully participating in our economy. Now, there are real business benefits to giving someone a go.

Building Infrastructure

Our economic plan recognises that building infrastructure in all regions of our state benefits local communities; strengthens our local, state and regional economies; and generates jobs. Over the forward estimates Queensland's total capital expenditure, capital grants and public-private partnerships will be a combined \$40 billion. This budget delivers around 31,000 direct jobs through a \$10.7 billion capital program this year, including public-private partnerships.

I mentioned earlier the decision of this government to make better use of the defined benefit scheme surplus. As important is where we allocated this money. I am pleased to announce this budget delivers \$2 billion towards a State Infrastructure Fund for priority infrastructure. The establishment of this fund was announced when our government released the first State Infrastructure Plan in five years. We said we would depoliticise infrastructure decision-making and give greater certainty to the sequencing of the building program, and that is what we have done through Building Queensland, an independent authority. At the centre of the State Infrastructure Fund is a commitment to deliver the state's share of nation-building and productivity-enhancing priority projects. This fund will provide \$300 million towards a Priority Economic Works and Productivity Program. It will help fund the state's share of projects like the Ipswich Motorway between Rocklea and Darra and the M1-Gateway merge.

The State Infrastructure Fund will deliver \$180 million towards the Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program. This will fund projects like the new paediatrics wing at Townsville Hospital and duplication of the Bill Fulton Bridge on the Cairns Western Arterial Road as well as new regional infrastructure in key centres like Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Mackay and Mount Isa.

I can also announce today that the State Infrastructure Fund will include a \$50 million down payment to kick-start the long-awaited Cross River Rail project. Cross River Rail is Infrastructure Australia's No. 1 priority initiative for Queensland and is the No. 1 infrastructure priority for the Palaszczuk government. Our \$50 million down payment will establish the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority and progress planning and environmental approvals in readiness for early and enabling works. To build a better transport system in preparation for Cross River Rail, the government will commit \$634 million to rollout the European Train Control System, ETCS, for the South-East Queensland rail network. ETCS will improve network capacity and reliability prior to Cross River Rail.

There is no escaping the fact that the nation's No. 1 infrastructure initiative for this state requires funding from the Australian government to make it a reality. The Palaszczuk government's economic plan recognises the power of infrastructure to transform local economies. One of Australia's largest regional cities, home to the best Rugby League side in the world—the mighty North Queensland Cowboys—deserves such a transformative piece of infrastructure, which is why we have increased our commitment for a new Townsville stadium to \$140 million.

This additional \$40 million, alongside commitments by Townsville City Council and the National Rugby League, means we have the land and \$150 million of the \$250 million required to deliver the Townsville stadium. It seems after this increased commitment was made finally we have seen both sides of federal politics put a commitment of \$100 million on the table, albeit one of them comes with strings attached. We have had our money on the table for a long time now. We are keen to get on with the job and this is progress towards this end.

Advancing Our Cities and Regions

This government continues to look for more innovative ways to fund infrastructure. Our economic plan is about advancing cities and regions. In the same way we have engaged with the private sector with our market-led proposals initiative, over the next 12 months we will identify specific precincts and economic zones across our core urban spaces in Queensland that can be unlocked through partnerships with the private sector. These precincts have enormous potential for value sharing and the delivery of public benefits. Such initiatives are about creating vibrant communities and shaping the cities and regions of the future.

Queensland First Home Owners' Grant

One of the best ways right now we can advance our cities and regions is to help Queenslanders achieve the great Australian dream of owning their own home. The Palaszczuk government wants to make home ownership easier for Queenslanders. We will do that with a 12-month boost to the Queensland First Home Owners' Grant, starting 1 July. Eligible Queenslanders will now get \$20,000 instead of \$15,000 towards buying or building their new house, unit or townhouse, valued at less than \$750,000. This does not just mean more Queenslanders in new homes; it also means more jobs for our building industry.

The budget also includes a three per cent transfer duty surcharge for foreign buyers of residential property in Queensland. This will ensure foreign acquirers of residential property who benefit from government services and infrastructure make a contribution to their delivery as local buyers do. I make no apologies for putting Queenslanders first. I am confident this surcharge will not damage the interest foreign investors have in sharing our state's economic strengths.

Queensland's three per cent surcharge on foreign residential property remains more attractive than Victoria's seven per cent surcharge. New South Wales will introduce an additional property tax on foreign investors. Even with this surcharge, a foreign buyer purchasing a property with a median price in Queensland is still likely to pay less than in Sydney or Melbourne, which have much higher median property prices.

Accelerating Advance Queensland

In last year's budget we established Advance Queensland, a \$180 million plan to fund innovation in our traditional industries and to build the jobs of the future in new and emerging ones. As the Premier announced yesterday, in one of the centrepieces of this budget the Palaszczuk government will allocate an additional \$225 million to Accelerating Advance Queensland. We are increasing our investment in Advance Queensland to a total of \$405 million over five years, because our economic plan believes in backing innovators. Backing start-ups, small businesses, school students, farmers, scientists, tradespeople, engineers, doctors and teachers will create a new era of opportunity for Queensland and it will create jobs.

Accelerating Advance Queensland will deliver new initiatives right through our state's economy, including new funding for industry accelerators, regional innovation hubs and a platform technology program. Accelerating Advance Queensland will allocate nearly \$20 million to deliver a 10-year road map for Queensland's biofutures industry. This includes a Biofutures Industry Development Fund designed to enable new proposals to complete due diligence and progress to financial close. This will see new investment across regional Queensland.

In the Far North, there is \$10 million from Accelerating Advance Queensland towards a new \$50 million Cairns Innovation Centre. It will be delivered in partnership with James Cook University, subject to the finalisation of a detailed business case and confirmation of financial contributions from the university and the Commonwealth. This centre will be used by students studying degrees that were previously the stuff of science fiction, like a Bachelor of Engineering in Electronic Systems and the internet of things. For younger minds, the \$3.3 million Schools of the Future initiative will enable children to engage with science, technology, engineering and maths—the STEM subjects—through a digital technologies curriculum in 2016 in virtual STEM academies for years 5 to 9. A \$7 million Global Schools initiative will prepare young Queenslanders to engage in the new opportunities of a connected and global economy. It will expand studies in culture and languages from prep to year 12 and increase the focus on Asian languages in Queensland schools.

Accelerating Advance Queensland also means accelerating health innovation, with \$35 million provided in this budget for the Integrated Healthcare Fund to support new ideas that better integrate and address the fragmentation in services. The aim is to achieve greater efficiency and value for Queensland's health system. A further \$25 million will be spent to establish a Clinical Genomics Service. This will help Queensland stay at the forefront of research in the field of human genomics.

Rural and Regional Assistance

I have said in this place before how proud I am to be a Treasurer who lives in regional Queensland. Regional Queensland gives so much to this state—our agricultural strength, our mineral wealth. That is why our economic plan has such an emphasis on supporting rural and regional Queensland through new measures that protect and grow the wealth that comes from outside South-East Queensland. A \$175 million increase in funding will continue the Building Our Regions program. This guarantees a full year of Building Our Regions grants in 2017-18 and additional funding to local councils through the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme—TIDS—which will be guaranteed over the next three years.

Last year I established the Rural Debt and Drought Taskforce, which was chaired by the member for Mount Isa. The task force heard stories from around the state of the strength and courage of our farmers in adversity. This budget delivers one of the most significant set of initiatives for those on the land in recent decades, with \$78 million for a Rural Assistance and Drought Package. This will include almost \$42 million to extend existing drought relief arrangements and \$36 million to tackle rural debt and to provide other assistance, like wild dog control. The Rural Assistance and Drought Package includes mental health support and more education support for children in drought-affected areas.

Farm Transfer Duty

It recognises that, while regional Queensland is the backbone of Queensland, the backbone of regional Queensland is the family farm. The Palaszczuk government is determined to make it easier for family farms to stay in Queensland families. That is why we will introduce a new family farm transfer duty exemption for intergenerational transfers of farm businesses. Families on the land will not pay stamp duty when passing the family farm down to the next generation.

When it comes to rural debt, prevention is the ultimate aim. This budget provides grants of up to \$2,500 for primary producers to get the very best advice on climate risks, financial management, succession planning and multiperil crop insurance options. We will establish the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority—QRIDA—as a new body with improved powers and more responsibility to tackle rural debt. QRIDA will be accompanied by a new Office of Rural Affairs within the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Investment Attraction

A clear priority on the path to job creation is attracting investment. This budget delivers a \$40 million Industry Attraction Fund over four years that will aggressively target interstate and international businesses to move their operations to Queensland. The Industry Attraction Fund will help establish new or attract existing businesses for expansion in Queensland. The fund will target priority industries such as biofutures, advanced manufacturing, defence and aerospace, mining equipment, technology and services—or METS—and biomedical and life sciences, using attraction incentives such as payroll tax rebates and transfer duty concessions.

We already know that Queensland is an attractive investment destination. We offer a great lifestyle, low cost of living and house prices and office rentals that are the envy of those in southern capitals. We have the lowest payroll tax in Australia and the highest payroll tax threshold of any mainland state. Our per capita state tax status is lower than the average for other states and territories. With our economic plan, there has never been a better time to invest in Queensland.

Advancing the Resources Sector

There has been no bigger investor in Queensland over recent decades than the resources sector. It is crucial that we support our resources industry during this period of historically low global commodity prices. Certainty is the best policy response that we can provide and today I confirm that this budget makes no changes to Queensland's royalty regime. We will fund a review of financial assurance and provide increased funding of \$42 million over five years for the Abandoned Mines Lands Program to ensure a more sustainable approach to mine rehabilitation. With staff based in Townsville, Rockhampton and Brisbane, the increased investment will allow the program to make even greater improvements to public safety, including for treating water impounded in mine sites and filling abandoned mine shafts. The government will also partner with the Queensland Resources Council to deliver an innovative new initiative called Jails to Jobs that will see 30 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders assisted to forge a new path in life via employment in the resources sector.

Advancing Small Business

We recognise the critical role that small business plays in the Queensland economy. Our \$22.7 million Advancing Small Business strategy will make it easier for small business. Now more than ever it is important to arm small business with the tools they need for the digital economy. This budget will deliver digital capability grants of up to \$10,000, matching dollar for dollar contributions by small businesses to help build their digital capability. This can include website development, training, social media, or adopting new online tools and technologies. We are establishing the first Queensland Small Business Champion, backed by a dedicated Office of Small Business, which will work with all levels of government and industry to identify challenges and new opportunities for small business.

Advancing Tourism

From homegrown to the globe, this budget sets out a serious overseas investment push that will include attracting new tourism and education investment. Last year we delivered the Tourism Guarantee by restoring Tourism and Events Queensland's funding to \$400 million over four years, boosting Queensland's tourism and events budget. This year our focus is on including Queensland's share of the Asian tourism market and increasing the number of tourism jobs in regional Queensland. A \$33 million Connecting with Asia tourism strategy will fund direct and intensive marketing to build on our partnerships with key Asian cities, encouraging visitors to spend their entire holiday in Queensland—not just a quick visit. We will expand our Aviation Attraction Fund to secure more direct flights and increase visits.

We will build the digital capacity of tourism operators to connect with their Asian target markets. Major events are a key driver of tourism and economic activity. The Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018 will be a testament to that. This year's budget commits more than \$12 million over four years for the Queensland Art Gallery and GoMA to bring back blockbuster exhibitions building on the success of previous exhibitions like *Warhol* and *Picasso* and driving interstate visitors to Queensland.

International Education

Overseas education is another booming export industry in Queensland and again the connection with Asia is critical. This budget will provide more than \$25 million over five years towards an International Education and Training Strategy. This, combined with new trade offices in Chengdu and Singapore, will help secure Queensland's place in the Asian century.

Restoring Front-Line Services

The Palaszczuk government promised to restore front-line services following three years in which they sustained sackings, cutbacks and neglect. Over the last 12 months we have employed over 940 teachers and teacher aides; 1,940 more nurses; 651 more doctors; 479 extra health professionals; 300 extra police; 54 new paramedics; and 44 new firefighters. I am proud that this is a government which recognises the value these front-line government workers provide. Our economic plan means we will spend more than ever before this year on health and education.

Health

Queensland's Health budget will grow by 4.3 per cent to \$15.3 billion this coming financial year. We will deliver a further 68 nurse navigators to bridge the gap between hospitals and the primary health system. We will fast track 75 extra paramedics and purchase 170 new and replacement ambulance vehicles. At the heart of the health budget is a new \$230 million Advancing Queensland's Health Infrastructure program. This will redevelop the Atherton and Thursday Island hospitals and repurpose Nambour Hospital as well as begin the development of a new health facility for the growing southern corridor of Cairns and deliver additional car parking at Caboolture and Logan hospitals.

Education

Queensland's education and training budget will grow by 5.9 per cent to \$12.9 billion this coming financial year. Our Advance Queensland strategy recognises that Queensland can be a world leader in future technologies. We must make sure that the education our children receive now will prepare them for the jobs of the future. We are making sure our children start school ready to learn, with nearly \$43 million more over two years for universal access to kindergarten. This will fund the shortfall from the Turnbull government's funding under the national partnership agreement.

We will make sure that young adults graduating from high school are equipped with the skills our modern economy demands, with over \$72 million in this budget to develop and implement a new senior assessment and tertiary entrance arrangements.

We are committed to delivering the schools of the future by building four new primary schools—in Burdell, Caloundra South, Coomera, Yarrabilba and the Cairns Special School. This budget provides a \$250 million increase to education infrastructure over four years. This will provide new and improved classrooms in our state schools, including building a new state high school in Calliope near Gladstone.

Transport

South-East Queensland deserves a better public transport system and fairer fares. We will deliver this by implementing a public transport fare reduction across all South-East Queensland zones; cheaper fares in the inner city, and cheaper for the outer suburbs, by consolidating the number of zones from 23 to eight. This will have a substantial impact on the weekly budget for many commuters.

The morning off-peak time will be extended from 3 am to 6 am to give early risers and shiftworkers the opportunity to save an extra 20 per cent. On weekends children will travel free on a go card. Instead of nine trips and free, we will see eight trips and half price travel each week. Overall, it means fairer fares for all. For regional commuters, fare structures will continue to be supported by government as they have been to ensure increased uptake of public transport.

We will continue to grow our rail network through \$100 million as part of the State Infrastructure Fund for improvement to the North Coast line improving freight movement capacity. This budget also progresses a business case for rail duplication between Beerburrum and Landsborough, as well as upgrades to existing rail infrastructure between Landsborough and Nambour on the Sunshine Coast.

Road Upgrades

Nearly \$4.4 billion will be spent this year building and maintaining Queensland's huge expanse of roads and transport networks, including vital upgrades to the Bruce Highway. This includes \$400 million to be spent this year on the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and \$250 million for the Gateway Motorway North. The budget will deliver almost \$97 million for the Northern Roads Package that guarantees Queensland's share of improvements to the Hann Highway and the Gregory Developmental Road. Our roads budget will deliver a host of other regional priority projects like Riverway Drive in Townsville and the Vines Creek bridge in Mackay.

Public Safety

The Palaszczuk government is serious about tackling all organised crime—not only criminal motorcycle gangs. We will provide around \$70 million to go after the organised crime kingpins. This includes more than \$39 million over four years to support the government's response to the Commission of Inquiry into Organised Crime.

We will make sure that our efforts to target organised crime are based on hard evidence through an independent body to research and publish crime statistics. We will make sure Queensland police will not just keep us safe from organised crime, but combat the threat of international terrorism. This budget provides over \$16 million to improve our counterterrorism capability and capacity. It also delivers a \$20 million boost to our court system, including the Land Court, to manage workload pressures.

Environment and Climate Change

Queensland's promise for the future is irrevocably tied to its environment. More than \$89 million is allocated to wildlife management and environmental protection, including over \$12 million for koala conservation. We must act now if Queensland's official animal emblem is to be protected from further decline, particularly in South-East Queensland.

This budget delivers funding for the Daisy Hill Koala Centre and the Moggill Koala Hospital, as well as establishing two new urban refuges for koalas in South-East Queensland. Habitat protection remains critical. Over \$38 million in this budget will help manage and expand our protected areas, including our national parks and state forests.

No government in history has been more committed to protecting the Great Barrier Reef than the Palaszczuk government. We will provide almost \$22 million next financial year as part of our \$100 million Protecting the Great Barrier Reef commitment which we announced in last year's budget. Queensland's coastal towns must be prepared for the effects of climate change, change which has the potential to substantially affect their communities. We will commit almost \$7 million over four years to develop and implement a Queensland Climate Change Strategy.

Queensland's food bowl needs to be protected from noxious weeds and overclearing. We are committing almost \$8 million towards new high-resolution satellite imagery to support our vegetation management strategies. This will give better information for planning and prevention.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Initiatives

As Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, I know firsthand that many of our Indigenous communities feel left behind. I want to introduce new methods of service delivery driven not by government but by the very communities they serve. This government will make sure our Indigenous communities have a real stake in their own future, with an additional \$2 million towards delivering a new Economic Participation Partnerships Project. This will redefine the way we create jobs and create growth in Indigenous communities, making sure that in a fairer Queensland no area is forgotten.

Stronger Communities

Our government is committed to fostering stronger communities. Accordingly, the Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services budget will grow by 8.8 per cent this coming year. This budget continues our response to the *Not now, not ever* report that will provide almost \$200 million over five years to address the devastating effects of domestic and family violence, including \$42 million for additional specialist domestic and family violence courts across Queensland.

This budget also marks the start of two groundbreaking reforms for the Queensland disability sector: commencement of the statewide National Disability Insurance Scheme rollout, which will see Queensland commit over \$2 million annually once fully implemented, as well as the commencement of the National Injury Insurance Scheme Queensland for people catastrophically injured in motor vehicle accidents. We will also strengthen our communities through a \$25 million, four-year Financial Resilience and Inclusion Action Plan.

Conclusion

This budget reinforces our strengths: a tourism industry that is the envy of all other states; a resources sector that is holding its own with world-class exports and strong volumes despite tough times; one of the best and most productive agricultural sectors in the world; and a property and construction sector that is ready, willing and able. This is a budget that will create jobs through backing innovation, attracting investment and building infrastructure; a budget that zeroes in on the pressure points in the economy; a budget of necessity, but also of inventiveness and pragmatism. Most importantly, it is unashamedly a jobs budget.

This budget now sets out our clear economic plan that is focused on jobs now and jobs of the future by growing innovation, attracting investment and building infrastructure. This is a back-to-work budget where every major initiative is geared at getting Queenslanders back in jobs or making their existing jobs better and safer. It is a budget that recognises that some areas of the state are doing better than others. This is a good Labor budget that responds to the needs of Queenslanders, helps the youth and the elderly, the unemployed and the disadvantaged, and also focuses on business and industry and the future. This is a budget that helps all Queenslanders share in the growth that our economy is generating. This is a budget that will advance Queensland and secure our economic future. It is the budget that we need right now, but with a clear path for the future, an economic plan for innovation, investment and infrastructure. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. CW PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (3.21 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

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

DUTIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (3.21 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Duties Act 2001 and the First Home Owner Grant Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Duties and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 [\[926\]](#).

Tabled paper: Duties and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes [\[927\]](#).

The bill introduces the revenue measures that I announced in the 2016-17 state budget to extend the transfer duty concession for interfamilial transfers of family farming property, impose an additional three per cent surcharge for foreign purchasers of residential land in Queensland and increase the Queensland First Home Owners' Grant to \$20,000 for one year. The bill achieves those objectives by amending the Duties Act 2001, the Duties Act, and the First Home Owner Grant Act 2000, the FHO Act. In light of the time available, I seek leave to have the balance of my introductory speech incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The Duties Act currently provides a transfer duty concession for the transfer of land used for a family primary production business, including adjacent residential land, and personal property used to conduct the business on the land between specified family members. This concession only currently applies to the extent the transfer is by way of gift, meaning that transfer duty will be imposed on the amount of any consideration paid.

The concession will be amended to remove the requirement that the transfer, or other dutiable transaction to which the concession applies, be by way of gift. The Bill therefore extends the application of the concession so that duty will not be imposed where consideration is paid for those types of property. The amendments take effect from 1 July 2016.

The Duties Act will also be amended to impose an additional rate of duty of 3% of the dutiable value of transactions on which transfer duty, landholder duty or corporate trustee duty are imposed. The additional duty will apply to transactions occurring on or after 1 October 2016. Consistent with the administrative framework for duty, a lodgement obligation will apply for acquirers where a relevant transaction is liable to the additional duty.

To limit exposure to avoidance, the additional duty will apply for all dutiable transactions for transfer duty, which include indirect acquisitions of interests in land through partnerships and trusts, as well as the separate duty types of landholder duty and corporate trustee duty.

The additional duty is referred to in the Bill as 'additional foreign acquirer duty' or 'AFAD'. In order to facilitate imposition of AFAD, the Bill introduces new concepts into the Duties Act of 'foreign person' and 'AFAD residential land'. The additional duty applies to the extent of the foreign person's interest acquired through the transaction, and to the extent the transaction relates to AFAD residential land. Calculation provisions reflect these criteria.

High quality Government services and investment in infrastructure in an area contribute to growth in property values for investors.

Foreign buyers of residential land are not necessarily subject to some of the other major sources of state government revenue, such as GST. It is important to ensure that foreign buyers of residential land, who benefit from Government services and infrastructure, make an appropriate contribution to their delivery, as local buyers do.

A 'foreign person' is defined as a foreign individual, foreign corporation or the trustee of a foreign trust. A 'foreign individual' is an individual other than an Australian citizen or permanent resident. A 'foreign corporation' is a corporation that is incorporated outside Australia, or is a corporation that is controlled by a foreign person or persons. Control tests for foreign corporations are specified. A 'foreign trust' is a trust in which at least 50% of the interests in the trust are held by a foreign person or persons. Interests of related parties are taken into account in these contexts, as relevant to effective ownership and control.

An acquirer will be obliged to notify the Commissioner of State Revenue of such a change in status. A reassessment provision will apply to ensure that structuring arrangements cannot be made to artificially avoid the additional duty, by shifting control or ownership of a corporation or trust to foreign persons after a transaction occurs.

Generally, 'AFAD residential land' is land in Queensland that is used, or will be used, solely or primarily for residential purposes. This includes established homes and apartments, vacant land upon which a home or apartment will be built, land for development for residential use and refurbishment of a building for residential use.

It is appropriate to capture these transactions to ensure that all relevant forms of residential property are part of the duty imposition model, so as not to create unintended distortions in the way the property market for residential land operates.

Imposition of AFAD aligns with the existing transfer duty, landholder duty and corporate trustee duty frameworks in the Duties Act. Accordingly, the same treatments will apply for AFAD as for the duty to which it relates, subject to specific provisions for AFAD. This includes, for example, the time liability arises and the liable parties.

Under the Duties Act 2001, as a revenue protection mechanism, all parties to a dutiable transaction are liable for the payment of transfer duty. This is a long standing feature of the State's duty laws, well understood by the parties involved in transactions (the parties, their professional advisers and their financiers) and incorporated into conveyancing practice. The parties deal with this contractually with the standard REIQ contract providing that the purchaser is contractually liable for the payment of duty.

Existing provision is made in the Taxation Administration Act 2001 for the Commissioner of State Revenue to recover the whole or part of the amount of a tax law liability from and one or more of the persons who are liable under a tax law. However, the Commissioner's rights in that regard do not affect the right of a taxpayer who pays an amount to recover a contribution from another person jointly or severally liable for the whole or part of the amount.

In this context, it would not be practical to make the foreign acquirer the sole party liable for Additional Duty, as this would create inconsistency with the existing duty framework, uncertainty for taxpayers and administrators including the Commissioner and Registrar of Titles, and unnecessary increases in compliance costs for parties, their professional advisers and financiers. It would also compromise the existing duty protections provided by mandatory duty endorsement as a pre-condition to Titles Office registration.

Where additional duty applies, if transfer duty is not paid, statutory charge provisions are introduced to provide the Commissioner with further recourse for recovery against an acquirer's interest in land the subject of a relevant transaction. These provisions are both appropriate for revenue protection, and as a practical matter, may reduce the need for the Commissioner to seek recovery of unpaid duty from other parties to the transaction, such as the vendor (as the existing framework entitles).

Together with this, the Bill inserts a statutory right of recovery as between non-foreign and foreign liable parties to the extent of any AFAD paid by the non-foreign party, to help ensure AFAD does not directly impact non-foreign persons.

Subject to the specific rules for imposition and calculation of the additional duty itself, it will become part of the transfer duty, landholder duty or corporate trustee duty that arises from the transaction to which it relates. Consequently, the normal administrative framework for those duties will continue to apply, including the operation of existing exemptions and rights of objection and appeal. To put the matter beyond doubt, certain concessions which might otherwise be expected to have some relevance for AFAD are specifically noted not to apply for the AFAD calculation. The concessions will continue to apply for the non-AFAD related transfer duty imposed, as intended. Other concessions will simply have no practical scope of operation for AFAD.

In the lead up to commencement of the additional duty on 1 October 2016, the Office of State Revenue will publish material to assist liable parties in clearly understanding their obligations for the duty.

The bill also amends the First Home Owner Grant Act 2000 (FHOG Act) to increase the amount of the Queensland First Home Owner's Grant to \$20,000 for eligible transactions entered into between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017, both dates inclusive.

Specifically, the eligible transactions are contracts to purchase new homes, contracts to build new homes and, for owner-builders, the building of a new home. All other eligibility criteria will remain the same.

To prevent abuse of the grant increase and to protect the State's revenue, provisions will ensure parties are not eligible for the increased amount if they replace a contract made prior to 1 July 2016 with a contract made on or after 1 July 2016 for substantially the same, or similar home.

Mr Speaker, I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. CW PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (3.23 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

DUTIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Declared Urgent; Cognate Bill

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (3.23 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That—

1. under the provisions of standing order 137, the Duties and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill to enable the bill to be passed through all remaining stages at this week's sitting; and
2. in accordance with standing order 172 the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill, having already been treated as cognate bills under the provisions of standing order 176, be also treated as cognate with the Duties and Other Legislation Amendment Bill for the second reading debate but with separate questions being put with regard to the second reading of (a) the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill and (b) the Duties and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! In accordance with the motion agreed to, the bill is set down for its second reading to be moved.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.24 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3.24 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, 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, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams