



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 16 June 2016

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THURSDAY, 16 JUNE 2016



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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: 14 June 2016

"A Bill for an Act to amend the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 for particular purposes"

"A Bill for an Act to amend the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to establish a Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council and to amend the Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013 and the Acts mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes"

"A Bill for an Act to amend the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Land Court Act 2000, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, and the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011 for particular purposes"

"A Bill for an Act to amend the Public Health Act 2005 for particular purposes"

"A Bill for an Act to provide for a scheme for the treatment, care and support of persons seriously injured in motor accidents, and to amend this Act, the Civil Liability Act 2003 and the Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994 for particular purposes"

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

14 June 2016

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 14 June 2016, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 14 June 2016 [\[949\]](#).

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Contempt of Parliament by a Member



Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. Following a warning you gave yesterday to the member for Chatsworth regarding his hand movements, footage from question time at 3.29 pm clearly shows the member for Surfers Paradise making unparliamentary and inappropriate hand gestures. My concern is that the member for Surfers Paradise immediately disregarded your ruling and, as such, I believe it is a reflection on the chair. The member for Surfers Paradise should explain to the House his actions and whether indeed they were directed at the Speaker, a government member or his own opposition member. I will be writing to you about this, Mr Speaker.

PETITIONS

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

Go-Card Top-up Machine, Paradise Point Newsagency

Miss Barton, from 289 petitioners, requesting the House to install a Go-Card top-up machine at the Paradise Point Newsagency [\[950\]](#).

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

Sunshine Coast Region, Road Network Upgrade

Mr Bleijie, from 1,135 petitioners, requesting the House to consider upgrading the road network to better connect Caloundra, Kawana, Mooloolaba and Maroochydore, including Kawana Way, to provide for the expected increase in commuters and growth around the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital and the broader Sunshine Coast region [\[951\]](#) [\[952\]](#) [\[953\]](#).

Petitions received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget, Jobs

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.33 am): My government has delivered a responsible and measured budget this week. My government has delivered a budget that aims to grow jobs and boost economic activity across the state. Next week ministers will be travelling across the state to promote key initiatives in our budget to increase jobs. Key among those initiatives are the two-year \$100 million Back to Work regional employment package, the increased First Home Owner's Grant and the expanded Advance Queensland program, now valued at \$405 million. These are programs where my government will work with Queenslanders. These are programs where my government is partnering with Queensland businesses, prospective home owners and innovators.

My government works with Queenslanders. My government knows that Queensland's potential is enormous and that our greatest resource is the people of Queensland—their talents, their expertise and their ideas. My government will be actively promoting these programs to drive uptake and maximise returns to Queenslanders. I thank my ministers for their efforts in working with the Treasurer to frame the budget. I thank them in advance for going back out to Queenslanders next week to promote these programs and get Queenslanders involved in them.

My message to Queenslanders is simple: apply for these programs. Make these programs work for you and your businesses. Help us make these programs work for Queensland. More than 50,000 new jobs have been created since January last year. We can generate more jobs for Queenslanders. We can increase the opportunities for work for Queenslanders.

Budget, Health and Education

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.35 am): I am proud that our budget this week provided record funding for Health and Education. These record budgets will improve front-line services in our hospitals and in our schools. The increase in front-line services over 2015-16 across the Public Service reflects the delivery of our election commitments. The increase in front-line services includes 1,940 extra nurses, 650 extra doctors, almost 480 extra health professionals, 940 extra teachers and teacher aides, 300 extra police, 54 extra paramedics and 44 extra firefighters. This year's budget delivers more new paramedics and additional nurse navigators.

Queenslanders elected my government to restore front-line services and to stop asset sales. The vast majority of the increase in government workers of 8,500 in 2015-16 has been in front-line nurses, teachers and police officers. As the Budget Highlights document states, 86 per cent of the increase in full-time-equivalent positions are in Health and in Education. More staff in Health, including nurses and doctors, improves care in our hospitals for Queensland families. More staff in Education provides for better schooling for Queensland children. I make no apologies for reversing the cuts to front-line services made prior to my government coming to office.

Mr Springborg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, it is not appropriate to just try to speak over the top of the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Now that these services have been mostly restored, my government has introduced a fiscal principle to maintain a sustainable Public Service, so that overall growth in the Public Service does not exceed population growth on average over the forward estimates. This means that we will prioritise front-line services after restoring the cuts of the former Newman-Nicholls government.

Trade and Investment



Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.37 am): The Palaszczuk government is focused on delivering jobs for Queenslanders. With one in five jobs relying on trade, growing our export market will mean more jobs for our state. That is why, as trade and investment minister, I have been working hard to create new opportunities for Queensland businesses.

Our draft International Education and Training Strategy, released last week and backed by \$25 million in this budget, aims to create 6,800 new jobs over the next 10 years. Over the coming months, Trade and Investment Queensland will be finalising a new whole-of-government trade and investment strategy, and we have published for the first time a forward program of ministerial trade missions so that Queensland businesses can have a clearer picture of the missions they can participate in each year. Our work is paying off. The value of Queensland's overseas merchandise exports rose to a four-year high of almost \$50 billion in 2015. That is the best result since 2011 and a 12.6 per cent increase on 2014.

This budget invests significant new resources to grow trade and jobs, with a 14 per cent boost in TIQ's budget. As part of this investment I am pleased to inform the House that we will open two new trade offices this financial year, as the Treasurer has already revealed in the state budget—one in Chengdu in China's Sichuan province and one in Singapore. This will expand TIQ's presence to 15 locations in 12 markets.

China has a population of more than 1.3 billion people and a strong desire for Queensland's quality services and products. We cannot afford to miss this opportunity. The Asian middle class will grow exponentially over the next 25 years and there will be a great deal of economic activity as a result. Demand for our great produce and products will be significant and it is essential that Queensland businesses have the support necessary to access these consumers. Having a trade office in Chengdu will allow us to develop a stronger relationship with its manufacturing and innovation hub. Chengdu produces 20 per cent of the world's computers and is the third largest destination in China for big global companies after Beijing and Shanghai. More than half of the world's top 500 enterprises have set up branches in Chengdu. Our Chengdu office will be our fourth trade office in mainland China and will enable us to continue to work on securing direct flights from Chengdu to Queensland and increase the number of Chinese tourists.

Tourism is also a driving force in our motivation to establish an office in Singapore. This strategically important ASEAN market is already a significant investor in Queensland's tourism infrastructure. In my visit to Singapore in June and November last year I saw firsthand the potential for Queensland to secure additional investment and business outcomes if we had representation in this market. Singapore is considered the Asia-Pacific hub for private banking and is expected to surpass Switzerland in private assets under management within the next few years. Queensland can capture some of that investment, be it in agribusiness, infrastructure or technology. Singapore is also a significant market for food and horticultural exports. However, with a regular schedule of direct flights, the island state could become a South-East Asian hub for the distribution of our fresh produce throughout the region. This budget is focused on innovation, on infrastructure and on investment and these new offices demonstrate our commitment to growing global trade and investment opportunities for Queensland.

Budget, Jobs



Hon. CW PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (9.41 am): The Palaszczuk government's second budget that I handed down this week is advancing Queensland's economy. The budget sets out a clear path to job creation based on three priorities—growing innovation, attracting investment and building infrastructure. This is a budget that supports the jobs people have now—with economic certainty and confidence that comes with job security. This is a budget that supports the jobs that are changing—through expansion and innovation of existing industries such as tourism, agriculture and resources. This is a budget that supports the types of jobs that do not exist yet—the new and emerging industries of the future. Achieving this plan for job creation requires strong fiscal and economic management. It is timely on budget week to update the House on the progress we have made since the former government's last budget. Let us do an apples to apples comparison of the actual economic and fiscal results achieved in 2014-15 and the estimated actuals now confirmed from 2015-16. The difference is in the hard data and it could not be starker.

Actual levels of general government debt have decreased from \$43.1 billion in 2014-15 to the \$35.7 billion actual in the last 12 months—a full \$7.4 billion less debt right now in the estimated actuals than under the previous government's last budget. On the opposition's preferred measure, actual levels

of debt, including GOCs, have decreased from the \$75.2 billion result in 2014-15 to the \$72.7 billion actually achieved today—a full \$2.5 billion less debt, including GOCs, right now in the estimated actuals than under the former government. The economy has shown similar improvement. Actual economic growth has improved from 0.8 per cent achieved in 2014-15 to the 3½ per cent achieved this year. Employment growth has improved from 0.3 per cent in the 2014-15 budget to the 1¾ per cent achieved this year. The unemployment rate has fallen from the 6.5 per cent achieved in 2014-15 to the 6¼ per cent achieved this year.

Today it is timely to remind the House of the positive policy prescriptions that we put forward in our budget reply in our final year of opposition that have led us to this point. In our 2014 budget reply we said that a future Palaszczuk government would grow the economy through Advance Queensland, describing it at the time as ‘a catalyst for nurturing the knowledge based jobs of the future’. We now have \$405 million in this budget for growing the jobs of the future. We said that we would bring back Skilling Queenslanders for Work. This initiative has now assisted 14,000 Queenslanders across 384 projects in its first 12 months. We said that we would deliver a payroll tax rebate on apprentices and trainees. This rebate has now been claimed by around 2,400 Queensland businesses. We said that we would deliver Building Queensland to depoliticise infrastructure. We now have a \$2 billion State Infrastructure Fund to respond to Building Queensland’s pipeline of priorities.

I would encourage Queenslanders to compare the 2016 budget position with the Leader of the Opposition’s 2014 legacy. I would also encourage Queenslanders to compare the vision we offered in opposition with what we will hear from today’s budget reply. I forecast the silence of policy alternatives will be deafening.

Budget, Ambulance Service; Gold Coast Health, Staff Innovation Competition



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.44 am): Our government greatly values the work of the Queensland Ambulance Service. The 2016 state budget supports the men and women of the QAS. Put simply, the state budget provides more ambulances, more ambulance officers and new and renovated ambulance stations for Queensland. The operating budget of the QAS has increased by 6.3 per cent to \$673 million—up by \$40 million from last year. This increase will allow us to employ more people. The budget allows for the employment of up to 110 extra ambulance officers around the state. The capital works budget of the QAS has increased by 31.5 per cent to \$59.7 million, an increase of \$14.3 million over last year. This increase will allow for 170 new and replacement ambulances which will be part of a rolling vehicle replacement program to ensure quality front-line services. The QAS budget also provides \$15.9 million to deliver new and replacement ambulance stations at Collinsville, Rainbow Beach, Yandina, Bundaberg, Birtinya, Kenilworth, Coral Gardens, Wynnum and Thursday Island.

On another matter, I was privileged to recently act as a judge in Gold Coast Health’s staff innovation competition, the Improvers. The Improvers is a wonderful Gold Coast event where staff compete for a share of up to \$280,000 in funding to turn their bright ideas for improving patient care and service delivery into reality. I was also moved to grant a special ministerial award to several finalists to ensure their projects are realised. This included a vision by Gold Coast Health’s community palliative care team to purchase four beach wheelchairs to enable people living with a terminal illness to once again experience the joy of visiting the beach with their loved ones.

I am pleased to say that one of those beach wheelchairs has already arrived on the Gold Coast and today Tony Lambert, whom I met at the Improvers and who has motor neurone disease, will receive his wish of once again feeling the ocean on his skin when he becomes the first palliative care patient to benefit from this great idea. I understand Tony is due in the surf at 11 o’clock and I wish him well and I thank those staff who have made this happen for Tony and for others like him. This is the Queensland health system at its best—staff thinking about how to provide the best possible services to patients. We are a government which strongly supports its staff and the ideas they have to improve health care in Queensland.

Budget, Kindergarten



Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (9.47 am): In this year’s state budget we have delivered \$43 million to keep kindy affordable for Queensland families. We want all children to get the best possible start to their education, and that is why my priority is to ensure all Queensland children have access to kindergarten in the year before they start school. It is also why I am angry that the federal funding under the national partnership agreement has delivered a \$40 million shortfall and failed to provide certainty for early childhood education providers beyond 2017. The federal government’s failure to fund kindy fairly puts at risk subsidies for families of up

to \$1,500 for every child they have in kindy. We will not accept any cuts to kindy services or programs, and that is why I have secured state funds to address the federal shortfall to maintain universal access to kindergarten.

Every Queensland kindy age child will be supported to access a quality kindy program. This funding will also ensure we can focus on increasing kindy participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children through our Deadly Kindies program. We will also support vulnerable and disadvantaged children to access kindy. The number of Queensland children participating in kindy has almost quadrupled since 2008 and federal funding has failed to match this growth. We have delivered additional funding to maintain current kindergarten subsidy levels and reduced out-of-pocket expenses for Queensland families.

Budget, Primary Industries

 **Hon. LE DONALDSON** (Bundaberg—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries) (9.48 am): This week the Palaszczuk government announced an unprecedented funding package to assist primary producers in drought. The \$77.9 million Rural Assistance and Drought package will provide comprehensive help for farmers—from mental health and wellbeing services and rural financial counselling to measures to help them prepare better for extreme weather. This budget commitment includes for the first time a suite of measures aimed at reducing financial stress and improving financial sustainability.

I am proud to be a member of a government that is also doing more than any previous administration to help tackle the scourge of wild dogs. This was an election commitment, fast-tracked by the Premier with \$5 million which, through negotiation with the Commonwealth government, became the \$15 million Feral Pest Initiative. On 1 May in Barcaldine the Premier announced a further \$5 million for cluster fencing projects to breathe new life into the sheep and wool industry in the west of the state. Yesterday, federal Labor pledged to match that \$5 million. We have driven the cluster fencing model in collaboration with local councils, land management groups and industry stakeholders. The fencing projects are a much needed boost to local economies and provide local contractors with welcome orders. They will generate jobs. This week land management groups funded by the Feral Pest Initiative announced 16 new cluster fencing projects to provide wild dog protection to more than two million hectares in South-West Queensland. This could result in the return of 600,000 sheep.

I take the opportunity to update the House on other job initiatives that the Palaszczuk government has introduced in rural Queensland. The Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance and Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network have been enthusiastically received by industry. They arose from consultation with industry on our election commitment for a rural jobs agency. They are what industry wanted and what we have delivered. In step with the QFF, AgForce, Canegrowers, Growcom and other horticulture producer groups, we are investing \$3.08 million in these industry led workforce initiatives between 2015 and 2018. These initiatives are helping producers to find seasonal workers and employees with appropriate skills for modern, sustainable and innovative farms. Growcom chief executive Pat Hannon said that the QAWN 'will ensure that there is a multifaceted, coordinated approach to tackling one of the major challenges facing agriculture: accessing a consistent supply of appropriately skilled workers' and that 'the importance of this industry led initiative cannot be understated'. Not only are we investing record sums to assist our primary producers; we are providing practical solutions to the challenges they face and working in step with industry on innovations to enhance profitability.

Budget, Small Business

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (9.51 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that our state's small businesses embrace digital technologies and the opportunities arising from digital disruption. As our economy resets itself, it is vital that we put in place support to help Queensland's small businesses compete in global markets and remain competitive domestically. That is why the Palaszczuk government has put in place a three-year \$6 million small business digital grants program as part of a suite of new and expanded programs under our Advancing Small Business Queensland strategy. Funding received through the program will be able to be spent on the purchase of hardware, software and services, such as digital coaching. Two million dollars per year over three years has been allocated for the program, which will provide grants of up to \$10,000 to be matched by participants. The digital grants program will be implemented by the new Office of Small Business and will be opened later this year.

This program is important, because research tells us that the adoption of digital technologies by Australian small business is low and seen as a barrier to growth. Many small businesses face global competition through the increase of low capital intensive e-commerce models. Queensland's small

businesses will be in a stronger position to respond to competition, embrace new opportunities and grow into globally competitive businesses through utilising technologies, working smarter and fostering an entrepreneurial culture.

A report prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers in 2015 estimated that the Queensland economy could be enhanced by up to \$11.3 billion over the next 10 years through the greater uptake of digital technologies by businesses. Small businesses have been found to be less likely to use e-commerce than larger businesses. They are also less likely to have an online presence through a dedicated website or social media. The Palaszczuk government wants to help small business embrace digital technologies and make the most of online business opportunities. Our digital grants program also aligns with the Queensland government's accelerated Advance Queensland agenda to help create jobs now and jobs for the future.

Empowering businesses to drive innovation, growth and employment is one of three key focus areas of the Advancing Small Business Queensland strategy. Helping small business to enter the digital economy will form a key action in the strategy to empower small business and support the entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

Budget, Housing

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (9.54 am): We believe that every Queenslander has the right to secure and affordable housing—a place that they can call home. To that end, this government is committed to providing social housing for those people who are most in need. In 2016-17, more than \$209 million will be allocated to building, acquiring and refurbishing government owned social housing—a portfolio that currently stands at 60,000 properties. My department will begin work on an additional 277 new dwellings, complete 368 more and buy 12 existing dwellings for social housing. We will also purchase land on which more than 110 dwellings can be built in the future.

Affordable and low-cost housing is a challenge that this government cannot meet on its own. That is why, in consultation with the community and key stakeholders in the property, construction and housing sectors, we are exploring options to deliver more new social and affordable housing across the state. This consultation is the basis for a new 10-year housing strategy that we will release later this year.

Addressing housing affordability and affordable housing is complex. It requires the government to take a broad approach, to consider the problem holistically, and it requires a real plan. This government is committed to affordable housing that allows people to live with dignity, confidence and security and be able to contribute fully to their communities. Queenslanders expect more than a hit-and-hope housing strategy; they expect a real plan. That is what we will deliver this year.

The Housing spend in the budget forms part of this government's construction pipeline. It means construction jobs, helping to boost the Queensland economy, especially in the regions. The planned capital works are expected to deliver more than 635 full-time-equivalent jobs to workers across the state. This investment from my department will not only put roofs over people's heads but also provide jobs for Queenslanders—for carpenters, plumbers, electricians, concreters and bricklayers. This government does not use its budgets to talk down the economy and talk down to Queenslanders. This government knows that Queenslanders expect us to get on with the job of delivering services that they expect a good government to deliver.

Budget, North Queensland

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (9.56 am): In the budget, delivered on Tuesday, I was delighted to see the good news keep coming for North Queensland, with an unprecedented focus on the regions and the north. I have been advocating strongly for the north to ensure that the region gets its fair share of funding in this budget, and I am pleased to see that these calls were answered.

This budget unashamedly recognises the importance of jobs, innovation, investment and infrastructure in our regions. One of the many highlights is the \$100 million Back to Work package, which is supporting up to 8,000 jobs across regional Queensland. This will make a huge difference across these communities, particularly in areas like Townsville, where the unemployment rate is higher than the state average. I can say that this package was welcomed by Townsville Enterprise, which described our focus on reducing regional Queensland's unemployment rate and boosting areas like tourism and construction as a welcome development for Townsville and North Queensland.

This package acknowledges our strong investment in infrastructure to fund job-generating projects for the regions. For example, in my home town of Townsville we are investing more than \$586 million in infrastructure, including the new Townsville stadium. This overall investment is expected to support up to

1,500 jobs, which is a great boost for the city. In Mackay we are investing more than \$435 million in infrastructure to support another 1,500 jobs. In the Far North our infrastructure investment of more than \$636 million will support around 2,000 jobs.

We are also investing in key projects that will not only create jobs but also have the added benefit of attracting more visitors to the region. Our \$140 million commitment to the Townsville stadium is just one of those examples. We are also investing \$15 million this financial year to revitalise the Yeppoon foreshore following the devastating impacts of Tropical Cyclone Marcia and another \$1 million this financial year to improve tourism and recreational use of the Great Barrier Reef.

We recognise the need to keep communities connected in the regions, allowing Queenslanders to holiday at home and keep trade moving. I know that this is a major challenge in the electorate of Mount Isa, which is why I am pleased that this budget includes millions of dollars in key roads funding for important work on the Hann Highway and the Flinders Highway.

This budget focuses on creating jobs now through projects like these, but it is also looking at creating jobs for the future. Our commitment of more than \$19 million towards the Advance Queensland biofutures road map and action plan will help to diversify our economy and set the path to achieving our vision of a billion dollar industry. This budget signals an exciting time for us in the north as we look to diversify our economy and generate growth. I will continue to work with my ministerial colleagues across all portfolios to deliver positive outcomes for North Queensland.

Budget, Employment

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.59 am): As employment minister, I am proud to add to the statement made by the Premier outlining the government's new two-year \$100 million Back to Work regional employment package. The Palaszczuk government's No. 1 priority is jobs. Since the state election, 52,500 new jobs have been created in Queensland and our trend unemployment rate has fallen from 6.6 per cent to 6.2 per cent. Regional communities are doing it tough. Hit by a resources downturn and ongoing drought, they need support and they need more jobs.

Our Back to Work program specifically targets regional Queensland and delivers support for up to 8,000 jobs in the regions throughout Queensland. It will give employers who hire an eligible unemployed person a \$10,000 support payment, rising to \$15,000 for hiring someone who has been unemployed for 12 months or more. Back to Work officers will help disadvantaged jobseekers to connect with local services and employers to gain and maintain employment. They will also connect jobseekers with training opportunities, including apprentice and trainee pathways.

I have held 13 regional employment forums throughout Queensland where employers made it clear that it was a lack of confidence that was holding them back from hiring new workers. Back to Work gives employers that confidence and support. Employers and community representatives also made it clear at these forums that they found it difficult to connect with existing services and jobseekers. Back to Work officers will make a huge difference to employers and jobseekers, making it easier to find the skills they need and navigate the employment support services.

This package is a win for jobseekers, employers and regional economies. Do not just take my word for it, listen to what the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland and regional Queenslanders are saying. Nick Behrens from the chamber of commerce said Back to Work is a fantastic idea. In today's *Townsville Bulletin*, Great Northern Laundry managing director Mark Bogiatzis said Back to Work was a breath of fresh air and a welcome development for the local economy. In Rockhampton builder Scott Kilpatrick believes any incentive to get people into the workforce is a winner, saying, 'Anything that encourages business to employ more people can only be good for everyone.'

This is a government that listens and acts to support jobs growth. We know how important more jobs are to regional Queensland and that is what Back to Work is all about. I encourage employers and jobseekers to find out more information by calling 13QGOV or visiting the Back to Work website and registering their interest in what Ernst & Young Brisbane said is a positive move for employers.

Budget, State Development

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (10.03 am): In last year's budget the Palaszczuk government committed \$70 million in 2016-17 for Building our Regions grants, with another \$30 million for Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme grants. In addition to this, \$15 million in identified savings from the Royalties to Regions program has been allocated in 2016-17 in this year's budget. This year's budget also provides another \$70 million in grants in 2017-18, as well as another \$30 million in Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme grants.

The Building our Regions program already has 36 of its first 42 projects underway across the state, supporting jobs and generating business opportunities. Construction, design or tendering is already underway in the first \$70 million round of the government's regional infrastructure program.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Dr LYNHAM: Construction is underway on eight projects: an airport infrastructure upgrade at St George; an upgrade of Tambo Sawmill infrastructure; the Donohue Highway emergency landing strip; a new multi-use sports and community centre in Bundaberg; stage 1 of the Rubyanna Wastewater Treatment Plant; an upgrade of the mechanical workshop at Kowanyama; stage 1 of the Bulloo Park redevelopment; and extension of sewerage at Mount Morgan. Together these projects represent investment of more than \$77 million jointly by local and state governments in remote and regional communities and potentially will support about 230 valuable jobs. Another 28 important infrastructure projects are in design or tendering and I table a list.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled '28. Building our Regions projects at design/tender stage' [954].

Officers from my Department of State Development are working with the remaining six councils to reach the point where these councils too are ready to move to the design and tendering phase. I want to ensure honourable members that these funds are being managed responsibly. Any responsible grants program manages public moneys prudently and that means that the bulk of expenditure is paid as milestones are reached.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Dr LYNHAM: Building our Regions projects were only announced in December last year after an independent and transparent assessment process.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Dr LYNHAM: The funding agreements for this program allow for a small portion of the funds, typically 20 per cent, to be paid in advance to assist councils with initial costs.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook, you are warned under standing order 253A for your continuous interjections. They are disorderly. Member for Callide, you will follow suit if you continue.

Dr LYNHAM: Funds are paid when councils reach agreed milestones. The federal National Stronger Regions Fund takes the same approach, as does the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning's Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program. Clearly and simply, most of the \$70 million allocated in 2015-16 to Building our Regions is yet to be distributed because the funds this time are being managed responsibly.

Budget, Community Safety

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.06 am): This government is committed to providing real and practical outcomes for the safety of Queenslanders. Our record since taking office is one of strong action to make Queensland a safer place. We support community safety through tackling alcohol fuelled violence and through a wide range of actions taken to address domestic and family violence. Likewise, this government has demonstrated that it is committed to tackling organised crime in all of its forms.

This budget includes \$3.6 million over four years for crime intelligence hearings into organised crime. These hearings support the Crime and Corruption Commission's intelligence function about criminal organisations or participants in criminal organisations. We have increased funding of \$3.5 million over four years to continue confiscation proceedings in relation to participants in criminal organisations, unexplained wealth orders and the serious drug offender confiscation order scheme. Additional funding of \$20 million over four years has been allocated to the Queensland Police Service to provide additional resources to work alongside the anticipated new legislation. The task force made it clear that a crucial stage in combatting organised crime is to secure convictions of those criminals. The new legislation will empower the Queensland Police Service to tackle organised crime in all its forms, including outlaw motorcycle gangs, complex and highly developed drug trafficking, sophisticated fraud and sexual offending syndicates.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions must be properly resourced to pursue convictions of these serious and organised criminals. The government has approved funding of \$12.136 million over four years for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions which will enable the office to increase its staffing by a further 26 positions, with all the necessary associated costs that go with such an increase.

One of the government's election commitments was the establishment of a crime statistical body. Both the commission of inquiry and the task force recommended the creation of an independent crime statistical body that would prioritise the collection of data on organised crime in Queensland. The government has approved \$8.4 million over three years for the establishment of the crime statistics body to collect data and monitor organised crime, as well as the impacts and trends across all crime types. This builds on the commitments already made by the government upon receiving the report of the commission of inquiry last year. Given the deeply concerning finding of the involvement of organised crime in the child exploitation material market, the government acted immediately to provide the Queensland Police Service as a first-stage response, with \$3.2 million to be shared with the Crime and Corruption Commission to improve front-line investigations into child exploitation.

The Crime and Corruption Commission received funding of \$485,000 to help tackle child sex offending. It will enable the Crime and Corruption Commission to increase paedophilia investigations by its Cerberus team. We have also approved that the Crime and Corruption Commission use retained earnings of \$510,000 for the Cerberus team and the Forensic Computing Unit towards those capital costs, to undertake more criminal investigations. To that end, the government is delivering. All of these funding measures, coupled with our robust legislative reform agenda, are designed to create a safer Queensland for all.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (10.11 am): A key objective of hosting the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games is to strengthen Queensland's position as Australia's premier tourism and event destination. To take full advantage of this once-in-a-generation opportunity, the Palaszczuk government and our games partners have been working collaboratively with stakeholders to enhance Queensland's image around the games for a range of initiatives. Firstly, Tourism and Events Queensland has recently appointed a Commonwealth Games tourism marketing director to focus on coordinating activities across TEQ, Tourism Australia and the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games corporation, Goldoc. I thank my colleague the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events for her ongoing passion and support for the games and their lasting tourism legacy.

TEQ and Goldoc delivered a series of promotional activities and activations during the Australian Tourism Exchange held on the Gold Coast in May. That tremendous event was attended by thousands of interstate and international agents from over 36 countries who can promote the games and sell local accommodation and tourism experiences to visitors. The Commonwealth Games had a strong visible presence at ATE and the games booth and Queen's baton display proved very popular with delegates, as did Borobi. The Gold Coast and Queensland need to be at their absolute best so that visitors can experience all Queensland offers and leave happy, inspired and keen to return.

To that end, the Be My Guest initiative is a really practical games legacy program designed to build industry capacity and help tourism operators get games ready. The initiative is the product of a collaboration between all three levels of government and the tourism and hospitality industry to ensure visitors have a great time while holidaying in Queensland. Over the past few months, Gold Coast tourism providers have been polishing their skills at Be My Guest workshops that combine the best of customer service training courses with a strong emphasis on cultural awareness. The 2016 phase of the program is targeted at theme park operators, accommodation providers, restaurants and cafes, as well as front-line tourism service industry personnel such as taxidivers and bus drivers. This has been a key initiative of the 2018 Commonwealth Games Legacy Committee, which was until recently known as the Embracing 2018 Committee, chaired by the Hon. Rob Borbidge AO. I thank Mr Borbidge and his committee for their ongoing work.

The Be My Guest initiative is a great example of the tangible benefits that the games are delivering to the local economy. It will go a long way towards enhancing perceptions of the Gold Coast and our Queensland brand, and will ensure that Queensland leverages the benefits of the games and other major events into the future. I encourage all Gold Coast city tourism providers to get involved and build better tourism experiences for those coming to the Commonwealth Games and beyond. These initiatives are backed by the government's investments in transport infrastructure on the Gold Coast, especially light rail, as well as our Connecting with Asia tourism package announced in the budget, which is designed to make Queensland the No. 1 destination for Asian visitors.

All of this is helping to drive economic activity and jobs and will shore up confidence on the Gold Coast, as revealed by the latest Griffith University *Gold Coast Bulletin* business confidence poll. This shows increasing optimism off the back of the Commonwealth Games and strong growth in the Asian tourism market, which is driving private sector investment such as the Star Entertainment Group's

planned multibillion dollar Jupiters expansion. As members can see, the Palaszczuk government is committed to maximising the tourism legacy of the Commonwealth Games and advancing Queensland's future.

MOTION

Amendment to Standing Orders

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

That Schedule 7 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly be amended in accordance with the amendment circulated in my name.

1. Schedule—7 (CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS)—

Omit, Insert—

'2016—SCHEDULE 7—CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

In accordance with Standing Order 181(c), the following table lists entities to which direct questioning of Chief Executives at Estimates is to apply.

Entities to which direct questioning of Chief Executives at Estimates is to apply

Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland	QIC Limited
Building Queensland	QRAA
Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges
Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Art Gallery
Central West Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Audit Office
Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Building and Construction Commission
Coordinator-General	Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority (Seqwater)
Crime and Corruption Commission	Queensland Competition Authority
CS Energy Limited	Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority
Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited (Powerlink)
Electoral Commission of Queensland	Queensland Family and Child Commission
Energy and Water Ombudsman	Queensland Institute of Medical Research
Energy Queensland Limited	Queensland Mental Health Commission
Family Responsibilities Commission	Queensland Museum
Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited (Ports North)	Queensland Performing Arts Centre / Queensland Performing Arts Trust
GasFields Commission	Queensland Productivity Commission
Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited	Queensland Racing Integrity Commission
Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation	Queensland Rail
Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Gold Coast Waterways Authority	Queensland Theatre Company
Legal Aid Queensland	Queensland Treasury Corporation
Mackay Hospital and Health Service	Racing Queensland Board
Metro North Hospital and Health Service	Residential Tenancies Authority
Metro South Hospital and Health Service	Screen Queensland Pty Ltd
Motor Accident Insurance Commission	South Bank Corporation
National Injury Insurance Agency, Queensland	South West Hospital and Health Service
Nominal Defendant	Stadiums Queensland
North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Limited	Stanwell Corporation Limited
North West Hospital and Health Service	State Library of Queensland / Library Board of Queensland
Office of Inspector General Emergency Management	Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service
Office of the Governor	SunWater Limited
Office of the Health Ombudsman	TAFE Queensland
Office of the Information Commissioner	The Public Trustee of Queensland
Office of the Integrity Commissioner	Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service
Office of the Queensland Ombudsman	Tourism and Events Queensland
Port of Townsville Limited	Townsville Hospital and Health Service
Prostitution Licensing Authority	Trade and Investment Queensland
Public Safety Business Agency	West Moreton Hospital and Health Service
Public Service Commission	Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service'

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (10.14 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 24 of the Finance and Administration Committee titled *Portfolio subordinate legislation tabled on 19 April 2016*. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 24—Portfolio subordinate legislation tabled on 19 April 2016 [955].

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Correctional Facilities, Overcrowding

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (10.15 am): This week's budget revealed some very disturbing figures about our prison population—figures that show that this government and this minister are asleep at the wheel. Over the past 12 months under this Labor government's reign, overcrowding has increased in all of our correctional centres by eight per cent. They are at a utilisation rate of 111 per cent. It is even more disturbing that in our higher security prisons, where our most hardened criminals are, we now have a utilisation rate of 115 per cent, which is an increase of nine per cent. We have overcrowded prisons. Prisoners are sleeping on mattresses on the floor or in trundle beds. This is a powder keg waiting to explode. What has been the government's response in the past 17 months? A few weeks ago, we were told that resources are being prioritised towards diversion, community supervision and re-entry services. This is gobbledygook for letting out prisoners early or not putting them into prison in the first place, even though they deserve to be put there. It is a typical reaction from a government that is soft on crime. Criminals should not be rewarded for this government's incompetence.

In contrast, when this side of the House was in government we had a plan. That is something that is totally foreign to the Labor government. We set aside \$61 million for an extra 650 beds, which included 492 beds at the recommissioned Borallon prison that would have been operational 12 months ago. This government stopped that plan. I have little sympathy for prisoners, but my concern is that that is going to increase the risk of assault on our correctional officers, which is a serious issue. I quote a member of this House over 18 months ago—

The Corrective Services Minister needs to be held personally responsible for any incidents as a result of prison overcrowding.

Mr Bleijie: Who said that?

Mr MANDER: The current Minister for Corrective Services said that! When in opposition he puffs out his chest, but when the rubber hits the road he will not take responsibility. Do not hide behind your public servants this time; take responsibility. You will be held by the standards that you yourself set.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Deputy Premier, I remind members of the importance of not referring to other members as 'you'. I urge members to speak through the chair.

Budget

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.18 am): Very soon in this House the Leader of the Opposition will rise to make his contribution to the state budget on behalf of the opposition. This will be the Leader of the Opposition and member for Clayfield's first significant contribution to a debate on the state's finances and our state economy for some time, in fact, since he sat on this side of the chamber as Campbell Newman's Treasurer.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I am trying to hear the Deputy Premier.

Ms TRAD: For those who were not here in that parliament, most of the people on this side of the House, and for those who were but would prefer to forget, most of those on that side of the House, can I just remind the House of the disastrous, appalling legacy left by the Leader of the Opposition when he was treasurer under Campbell Newman. Let me remind the House.

Let us start with the shiny baubles of promises—the promise that no public servant had anything to fear. Did that not prove to be hollow? We heard that cost of living would be addressed. What did we see? We saw the worst spike in electricity prices under the former treasurer, the Leader of the

Opposition. We saw a commitment from the member for Clayfield, the Leader of the Opposition, that no assets would be sold without a mandate. Some \$10 billion worth of assets later and debt increasing to \$14 billion, how did he do it?

Most of all, they promised to be competent economic managers. Let us have a look at that record. When they came into government economic growth sat at 5.8 per cent. Under the Leader of the Opposition it plummeted to 0.8 per cent in 2014-15. Thousands of people were sacked. Employment programs were cut. Today we will hear that they are concerned about the unemployed.

Let us have a look at the legacy. State final demand—the health of the economy—sat at 7.5 per cent in the year to March 2012. When they left office it was negative 1.7 per cent. How can they contract an economy that much? Quite clearly, the Leader of the Opposition has an opportunity to distinguish himself from his legacy today.

Budget, Health

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (10.22 am): As we have just heard, the budget on Tuesday had lots of fancy words and lots of fancy figures but not so fancy results, whether in Police and Corrective Services or Health. Adam Davies, a journalist from the *Queensland Times*, belled the cat on Tuesday in his article entitled 'Don't let the fancy words fool you'. Here is what he said is Labor's economic plan. He stated—

Firstly, announce infrastructure projects with no business plan and then try to blackmail the federal government to coming to the party.

What does that sound like? It sounds like the Townsville stadium and Cross River Rail. He continued—

Secondly, use the fact it is an election year to scare Queenslanders into thinking the federal government has neglected the state.

Who does that sound like? It sounds like the health minister. Since May last year this health minister has 33 times mentioned the supposed cuts of \$11.8 billion; the funding that this state was not getting—not getting because of the second Abbott budget that supposedly took \$11.8 billion. Bill Shorten only restored \$2 billion last week. The health minister said this in two ministerial statements, one private member's statement, seven answers to questions without notice, three estimates hearing answers and one second reading speech. What have we heard from him last week since Bill Shorten welshed in his second budget reply? We heard absolutely nothing about only \$2 billion coming to Queensland. Adam Davies continued—

Thirdly, scream bloody murder at the fact the federal government will not hand over money from its Asset Recycling Initiative ...

We certainly heard a lot about that. He continued further—

Lastly, if the first three fall, which to date they have, use other people's money to spruik your economic plan.

That is what we have seen from this government. Last year it was long service leave. This year it is Queenslanders' superannuation that the State Actuary did not even recommend. They are raiding it.

Then we also have fancy figures and fancy numbers—the performance measures. We have specialist outpatient figures known as the waiting list for the waiting list. It is now expected to grow to nearly 250,000. The budget papers reveal that over the past year category 1, 2 and 3 patients waited 39 per cent, 50 per cent and 26 per cent longer than the clinically recommended time. Elective surgery statistics show little or no improvement. Emergency department statistics show little or no improvement. Queenslanders are paying more and getting less.

In the local hospital and health services 10 of them are running deficits totalling \$100 million when they were budgeted to be \$14 million. Once again, centralised control at Charlotte Street is affecting our front-line services in the hospital and health services.

This Labor government, with fancy words and fancy numbers and not so fancy results, is like a drug addict. They beg, borrow and steal. They beg from the federal government, they steal from our savings, they borrow from hardworking public servants' superannuation. Only the LNP will deliver more in Health.

Liberal National Party, Budget Reply

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (10.25 am): We have heard a lot of criticism this week from the LNP about our plan for advancing Queensland's economy. Today is the day of reckoning.

Queenslanders must be told what the LNP's alternative plan is. They must be told where the LNP stands on asset sales. The opposition leader said he would reveal his position in due course, perhaps after a succinct and clearer campaign.

As treasurer he told us that there were only three options: to massively raise taxes; to cut jobs and services; or to sell assets. Which one will he choose? Any job creation programs should have been laid out last term when he was the treasurer because his asset sales were his answer for everything. After today, we will still have no idea what those opposite would do if they were on this side of the House and in charge again.

Let us tally up the member for Clayfield's spendometer so far. So far under his leadership, the opposition have: criticised our agency reprioritisations, but ours do not involve sacking everyone like theirs did; promised more money for infrastructure; ruled out the contribution holiday for the defined benefits superannuation scheme, that is \$2 billion that they need to find in their costings; ruled out utilising the defined benefits scheme, that is another \$4 billion that they need to find elsewhere; foregone interest savings of \$800 million from those measures; and promoted a car registration freeze which would cost the budget \$345 million over the forward estimates.

Whatever their economic plan turns out to be today, it will start at least at a \$7 billion black hole. That is over \$7 billion less to spend on infrastructure and services. Will the opposition leader identify \$7 billion worth of projects that he would cut from the budget to pay for it? If he does not in his budget reply then debt will rise and the surplus will become a deficit under the LNP. It is as simple as that.

The member for Indooroopilly has attacked the indexation policy which was his now leader's policy when he was the treasurer. Just three months after coming to government he changed the indexation policy to 3.5 per cent. That assumption was bolted onto the budget right across the forward estimates. Without that indexation, guess what? It adds to their black hole. Their black hole is getting bigger. He must address this today. We have not heard the member for Indooroopilly attack the Brisbane City Council's five per cent fee rises. It will be interesting to see where he lines up on that.

The LNP have failed to identify one single initiative that will reduce spending or will bring in more revenue. The member for Clayfield used to be 'Mr Strong Choices'. He said that we only had three choices. Now he is going to be 'Mr No Choices'. That is what we are going to hear from him—deafening silence because they have no other plan except asset sales.

Budget

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.28 am): Another day and another round of disappointing results for those on that side, another day where the budget refuses to fly, and, in fact, another day when the budget delivered by this Treasurer is dead. The only problem is that they cannot bury it. They know it is dead, but those on that side cannot bury it.

Again we find out this government's reckless fiscal plan is going to sap confidence in one of the sectors that the Treasurer is actually relying on to prop up his heroic budget forecasts. What do we understand now about the promise of the Treasurer and the Labor government not to increase taxes? Remember that they were not going to increase taxes. Last May he stood side by side with the Property Council and others and said, 'We will not be imposing a tax on investors in Queensland.'

What has the Treasurer done? A 180 degree about-face. It is another broken promise from a Treasurer who cannot keep his word and from a Premier who will not keep her Treasurer to his word. What does the Property Council say about that today? We have heard a lot about press releases. They have been talking about the press releases, faint as they are. We have heard about sponsors' lunches that do not go exactly as one might think. As an economic policy it does not make any sense but, nonetheless, they might not get back Ernst & Young to sponsor them.

What does the Property Council say? It says that new legislation introduced into parliament yesterday to enact the Queensland government's new foreign investment tax has revealed that the tax will be far broader in scope than in Victoria. It will have a greater impact on Queensland home buyers. I quote—

The Victorian tax, while draconian, at least offers an exemption for foreign-owned Australian businesses that contribute to housing. The Queensland government is claiming their tax won't be paid by Queenslanders but in fact they are simply adding a new tax to home buyers. The government's new tax will dramatically move Queensland from the most competitive Australian destination for foreign investment to the least competitive.

It has taken 48 hours for the ministry to jump up to defend this. I understand why they do not want to. They have had to be dragged along kicking and screaming, because there is a stench emanating from this budget—a stench of failure, a stench of desperation, a stench of disaster. This Treasurer cannot bury this budget fast enough to run away from it.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Budget

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (10.31 am): I refer to the unprecedented criticism of the budget by the sponsor of Labor's fundraising lunch yesterday, and I ask: is the Premier sick and tired of defending her government's failed budget to her sponsors and supporters?

Ms PALASZCZUK: First of all, let me thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I say from the outset that yesterday's Labor budget lunch was a sold-out affair. There were more attendees than last year. Why? Because business wants to work with my government. Business wants to advance Queensland with my government. That is what they want. Unlike those opposite, we encourage free speech in this state. Anyone who dared criticise the former LNP government was shouted down. That is the way they dealt with—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I am having difficulty hearing the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will back my government's budget against the former treasurer's budget any time and any day of the week. Why? Because those opposite sack Queenslanders and we back Queenslanders. In about an hour we will hear the former treasurer, the former right-hand man to Campbell Newman, who sacked 14,000 public servants in this state, outline his bold vision for Queensland. What will it entail? More sackings and more cuts to services? We are waiting with anticipation to hear.

Mr Pitt interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. Where does the Leader of the Opposition stand on asset sales? Today is the day. This is the man who went to an election with Campbell Newman and said that selling assets was the only way. My government said there was a better way, and we are delivering in fairness. We are restoring front-line services. We are paying down debt and we are advancing Queensland, because that is what Queenslanders expected us to do. In a few hours, we will hear the bold vision. Are asset sales back on the agenda with the LNP? Today is the day. Will the Leader of the Opposition apologise to the 14,000 people who lost their jobs under his leadership?

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Leader of the Opposition for his second question, I can certainly see the member for Albert now and I give him notice that he needs to be a little bit careful

Budget

Mr NICHOLLS: My second question is to the Premier. I refer to the litany of errors the Treasurer has made in presenting the government's second budget, including a 3,000 per cent error in a tax increase. How many more errors is the Premier prepared to forgive, and is she sick and tired of defending the Treasurer's incompetence?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. My government is proud of the budget that we have delivered. The Treasurer delivered a strong economic plan for Queensland, delivering for Queenslanders right across the state. I am glad the Leader of the Opposition asked me yet another question, because it gives me an opportunity to talk about his legacy. What came out of the budget that he handed down for the LNP? It gives me an opportunity to talk about the job cuts. Before they were elected, they went to the electorate saying that public servants had nothing to fear. In the first budget 14,000 people lost their jobs in this state. This man is solely responsible for the downturn in the Queensland regional economy. He was the mastermind of it. The backbench is asking—

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, they are talking. The backbenchers are asking why the measures we introduced were not presented to them? Why did he hide it from them? When the member could not do the job as treasurer, he had to get in Peter Costello, a former treasurer, to help him with his job

Mr Pitt: He outsourced his first budget.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, he outsourced his first budget. Let us go through some aspects of the first budget of the former treasurer, Campbell Newman's right-hand man.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, he does not like it. Job cuts—4,140 health staff in the first budget including 1,800 nurses and mid-wives. The member for Clayfield scrapped Q-Build, part of our first responders after the 2011 floods. He took an axe to Road Tech staff who also helped to get our roads reopened after the 2011 floods. In the Department of Communities, grants were cut by \$368 million.

Mr SEENEY: I rise on a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition's question was about confidence in the Treasurer. The Premier has spoken for 2.5 minutes and has not mentioned the Treasurer at all. Are we to assume she has no confidence at all in the Treasurer?

Honourable members interjected.

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition's question asked some very general things in relation to the budget.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I will hear this point of order.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: The question asked some very general things around the budget in relation to the Premier's attitude and feelings on certain issues. The Premier in her answer has responded specifically to those matters and placed them in context, which I think needs to be understood. I think it is very important that ministers, in answering questions, are able to place it in context.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! It is budget week. I will allow a degree of tolerance. It is the only time in the year we have it. Premier, is there anything further you would like to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We are enjoying budget week. It is a great thing for Queenslanders because we are getting Queenslanders back to work. There is \$100 million to get regional Queenslanders back to work. I will stand with my Treasurer and my government in this budget every day of the week, unlike those opposite. The former legacy of the man opposite—

(Time expired)

Health, Services

Mr BROWN: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier outline the government's record-boosting front-line services, particularly in the area of health?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Capalaba for the question. My government has delivered record funding in this year's budget for health, because Queenslanders expect nothing less from their government than to make sure they have adequate health services right across the state no matter where they live. I thank the Minister for Health for pushing a really sound budget that ensures Queenslanders get access to good quality health care. A 4.3 per cent increase over the year has been provided to the Health budget. We know the importance of health and hospital care for Queensland families. This is an increased investment in health care for all Queenslanders across our state. We also realised that an increased investment in health and ambulance services has meant increased nurses, increased doctors and an increase in paramedics. We know that these jobs are absolutely critical for our health system across this state. All of Queensland was surprised when the Leader of the Opposition handed down his first budget as the then treasurer and there was a massive gutting of the health system in our state. Front-line services were gutted.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, I do not know that that is an appropriate word.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Smashed. It had long-term impacts on communities. I can still remember to this day travelling out west and speaking to families where the only nurse available in some of those small communities was taken away from those communities. In meeting with the families, mothers worried about their children and where they would get the help they needed if an accident occurred on their regional and rural property. It made them think seriously about whether or not they had to leave town and move closer to an area that could deliver health services. That was the legacy of the former government. I do not make any apology for restoring nurses and for making sure that there are doctors in our hospitals. As I have said before in this House, we are an incredibly decentralised state, with over 169 hospitals across our state.

The other issue we have to face is that our health system has had a massive cut by the federal LNP government. They have cut funding that is being felt not just in Queensland but right across the nation. It is about time everyone was very serious about it. In closing, can I say that the budget also includes—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Before I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I inform members that we have recently had students from the Labrador State School in the electorate of Broadwater in our gallery observing our proceedings.

Jobs Queensland

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to the government's \$40 million Jobs Queensland program which is all words and no jobs, and I ask: is the Premier sick and tired of defending the Attorney-General's failure to make this program a reality?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. First of all, in relation to training and job measures, the Attorney-General and Minister for Training is delivering for Queensland. There is nothing more clear when it comes to training young people in this state, because it reminds me of my government's key commitment about restoring Skilling Queenslanders for Work across this state—a huge boost across all of Queensland to ensure young people and the long-term employed get back into work. In the former government's first budget the Leader of the Opposition, who was the then treasurer, axed the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. They should be ashamed of that because Deloitte Access Economics recommended that the program continue. They had evidence based research which was telling them to keep it and they scrapped it.

In relation to Jobs Queensland, the Attorney, in her capacity as Minister for Training, and I have had discussions about locating Jobs Queensland in a regional town. Jobs Queensland already has staff located in Ipswich. Let us try to get some of our Public Service out into the community—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, your interjections are verging on the edge of disorderly. If you persist, you will be warned. Before I call the Premier, I inform the member for Gaven that you are now warned under standing order 253A for your interjections this morning which are also disorderly.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Our budget allocation for Jobs Queensland is \$40 million over four years. The funding will be used prudently pending the appointment of the finalisation of the final board—

Mrs Frecklington: How long does it take to appoint a board?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Because we are getting it right; that is why. We are taking our time to get it right. There is no clearer contrast between this side of the House and that side of the House when it comes to jobs and making sure that young people and the long-term unemployed get back into work. That is why we have the \$100 million Back to Work program. I will be interested to hear today when the Leader of the Opposition stands up whether he supports our \$100 million program of getting Queenslanders back to work. That is what I want to hear today. Does he back regional Queensland? Does he back our jobs program? My government will always stand up for jobs in this state, unlike those opposite. I will put my record against the Leader of the Opposition's record any single day of the week.

Infrastructure

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on some of the innovative funding opportunities for the delivery of infrastructure in Queensland?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for her question. The member would know because we handed down such a fantastic budget on Tuesday that there is a record spend on infrastructure in Queensland—\$40.8 billion over the next four years. This year alone we will invest \$10.7 billion in our capital program, supporting more than 31,000 jobs across Queensland. That \$10.7 includes PPPs for the first time, which is really important in terms of accounting for all of the capital spend right across the portfolios.

Through our innovative funding and financing, we continue to drive more infrastructure for our state. We are encouraging the private sector through our market led proposals, and that has been a significant success to date. A total of four have already been announced. There was not one from that side; we have had four in less time than those opposite had. We are working cooperatively with

South-East Queensland mayors on the concept of a city deal, and with the Property Council as well. In part because Malcolm Turnbull has been talking so much about value sharing and tying Commonwealth grants to work on value sharing, we are also looking at new value-sharing models. It is also why we are delivering the Cross River Rail authority. It is to look at innovative ways to fund and deliver this project.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms TRAD: Those opposite will laugh because their legacy, when it comes to infrastructure and the delivery of infrastructure, is appalling. The only project committed to by those opposite was No. 1 William Street—a new tower for themselves.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not want a shouting match.

Ms TRAD: To be clear, it is best practice—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms TRAD: I will remind the newly minted Deputy Leader of the Opposition—who does not understand the difference between Cross River Rail and a cross river road, which incidentally is a bridge—and those people opposite that it is actually world best practice to establish delivery authorities, or special purpose vehicles, for the delivery of significant infrastructure projects like Cross River Rail. It has been roundly supported and anticipated by the construction industry—the same people those opposite let down through their lack of an infrastructure plan and their lack of infrastructure spending. It will be Labor, with whoever is elected at the next federal election, that will deliver Cross River Rail with the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I would urge you not to push your luck too far. You have had a pretty good go all morning.

Budget, Superannuation

Mr EMERSON: My question is directed to the Premier. I refer to the building chorus of criticism and concern about the state budget and particularly the withdrawal of \$4 billion of superannuation funds. Is the Premier sick and tired of defending this unprecedented raid on the superannuation funds of public servants?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank once again the shadow Treasurer for his question. We have explained this issue at length. The government had to make a choice about getting Queenslanders back to work, and that is why \$2 billion of the repatriated funds is going towards infrastructure in this state. Why is it going to infrastructure in this state? To get people back to work, to get them into jobs. As I said previously, the biggest questions for the Leader of the Opposition today are as follows. Was he presented with this idea when he was Treasurer? Did he tell his backbench? Was he told that this was an alternative way to selling assets? Why didn't he, if he did? They are the questions.

Numerous stakeholders have come out in support of my government's budget. The Treasurer has delivered a measured and responsible budget for this state. There is nothing more important, with the downturn in the mining and commodity prices, to transition us and diversify our Queensland economy into the new economy. That is exactly what my government is doing.

We had a presentation yesterday from Westpac that said the government is going in the right direction. We are setting in place the levers to transition from the post-mining boom into the new economy. That is what we are doing. How are we doing it? We are doing it through innovation, we are doing it through investment and we are doing it through infrastructure. Each of these three elements means one thing for Queenslanders—that is, jobs. My government stands for jobs. There is no clearer contrast than the legacy of the man who is about to hand down the budget reply—the legacy of job cuts in this state. Over 50,000 jobs have been created in this state and we are determined to create more.

As I said this morning, that is why next week my ministers and I will be travelling across the length and breadth of Queensland to talk about our jobs plans for Queenslanders, to promote our budget right across regional Queensland. I do not know how the Leader of the Opposition can hold his head up in regional Queensland. This man was responsible for the downturn in the regional economies right across Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: I just heard a member of the opposition during that response from the Premier use words along the lines of 'The government backbench has gone to sleep and they are quiet.' I expect the backbench to be respectful and listen to the person who has been asked the question give their answer. I do not expect people to be disorderly and rowdy.

Budget, Economic Strategy

Mr STEWART: My question is directed to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer outline the economic strategy underpinning the budget and whether there are any alternative approaches?

Mr PITT: I thank the member for Townsville for his question. Before I get started, I should mention that the Leader of the Opposition has said that he did not think we were spending enough on the Townsville stadium. He said that \$140 million was not enough and it has to be \$150 million. What was that predicated on? Asset sales. He has not changed at all.

Like Paul Keating's infamous recession we had to have, Tim Nicholls is the LNP leader we had to have. The member for Southern Downs gave it another run. He thought his timing was right but it did not work. Then the other Tim thought he could take the LNP further to the right. Of course those opposite got confused and they were not sure which Tim they were voting for. Here we are, back to the future, and we have the bloke who was actually in charge under Campbell Newman last term now in charge of the LNP.

Let us look at the legacy of the Leader of the Opposition. What was his legacy? It was a legacy of waste, sackings, high unemployment and negativity. It was a stellar underperformance right across the economy under the member for Clayfield. The relentless exaggeration and spin that he performed as Treasurer was actually astounding. Asset sales was the only choice apparently under this man.

At the time the opposition leader was consistently preaching restraint and listening to Peter Costello, he was paying Peter Costello for a Commission of Audit so he could outsource his first budget. We know the Commission of Audit was all about delivering doom and gloom. Then he proceeded to waste around \$100 million on his Strong Choices program. At the very time he was telling Queenslanders to tighten their belts, he was spending \$20 million on the Strong Choices propaganda.

He made a virtue of telling Queenslanders that asset sales were good, when in 2012 they went to the election saying they were bad. Then they hatched a secret plan. They got permission, Governor in Council approval, to spend up to \$250 million on asset sales and asset sales preparatory works. Why? Because they thought they were going to win the last election hands down and they thought they would just get in early, even though they said they were seeking a mandate from the people. What an absolute deception. The member for Clayfield has a hide to come in here and preach about anything.

Let us not forget that we are still cleaning up their mess. We are cleaning up the 1 William Street debacle, which will cost Queensland taxpayers \$2.6 billion over the next 15 years collectively. Shame on the member for Clayfield. Those in his cabinet at the time supported him. The current shadow Treasurer, the member for Indooroopilly, was very keen about 1 William Street. He was already figuring out what the floorplan looked like and where his office was going to be. He was probably looking for a corner office, except the building is round, so that was going to be a bit of a problem. When it comes down to it, the member for Clayfield is going to stand up in this House today and tell us his alternative plan, but he has to address one very important thing: they are already \$7 billion in the hole before they get started because they do not agree with our plan, which is essential policy for Queensland.

(Time expired)

Regional Employment Strategy

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. I table a copy of a screenshot of the Department of State Development's website relating to regional jobs in Queensland, and I ask—

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, you can table it now and then you can put it down.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you.

Tabled paper: Extract from the Department of State Development web page titled 'Regional jobs' [956].

I ask the Premier: why is a Queensland government website that is advertising jobs in New Zealand part of Labor's regional employment strategy?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am more than happy to have a look at what the member has tabled. Our Back to Work program is live on the department of employment website.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members!

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am advised it is a connection through the SEEK website. How trivial! These are the big issues today!

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you have asked a question. You are now interjecting on the Premier, trying to speak over the top of her. That is disorderly conduct.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We would not expect anything less from the member for Kawana.

Mr SPEAKER: Do not debate, please, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is no wonder they are all sitting over there because that is the man who is partly responsible for them sitting over there. People are still talking about the way the member for Kawana treated the legal fraternity in this state.

As I have said very clearly, the Back to Work program is advertised through the department of employment. It is up; it is live. Once again, I encourage businesses that want to work with government to employ people to register on the website as soon as possible.

Mental Health

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on how the government is working to improve the mental health and wellbeing of Queenslanders?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Greenslopes for his question. I am delighted to say that in our budget we have made a very strong commitment—something that the member for Greenslopes is very interested in—to improving the mental health and wellbeing of Queenslanders through a number of initiatives. Firstly, we are going to deliver three new step-up step-down facilities in regional Queensland: Mackay, Gladstone and Bundaberg. We are also going to be delivering an additional step-up step-down unit in Nundah in the electorate of Nudgee, and I know that is something that the member for Nudgee will champion for her community. These provide 24/7 clinical care for individuals, as I have said in the House previously, to help transition people out of care and back into the community. They are great facilities that we have delivered across Queensland. In Gladstone this will be the first time a facility with this sort of inpatient bed access has ever been delivered. This is the first time this sort of facility has been delivered in a place like Gladstone.

We are also delivering a \$9.6 million program to improve suicide prevention. This is the biggest single budget investment in suicide prevention ever made by a Queensland government. Of course that is a scourge on our society. The target of our government under our Advancing Health 2026 plan is to reduce the rate of suicide by 50 per cent, and I know all members in the House will support that. We have invested \$855,000—almost \$1 million—into the NRL's State of Mind campaign to help the grassroots campaign—

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the Minister for Sport; it is a great campaign—to improve the mental health and wellbeing of people playing sport in Queensland. Central to the question asked by the member for Greenslopes is why do we need to improve the services? We know the Leader of the Opposition attacked nurses and midwives and he forced doctors onto contracts when he was the treasurer. When they were in government and he was the treasurer, Queensland's spending on mental health fell to the lowest amount in Australia on a per capita basis. He attacked me yesterday for saying sorry. I will tell him what a real leader does. A real leader is willing to say sorry. That is what a real leader is willing to do.

In 30 minutes the Leader of the Opposition has the opportunity to say sorry in front of the 14 members of his party room who voted for him and in front of the people of Queensland for what he did to our state and what he did to front-line services. It is now time for the Leader of the Opposition to stand up to apologise for damaging front-line services and Health, and for reducing spending on mental health—the first government in Queensland to ever reduce investment in mental health. We are rebuilding the front line in Queensland for exactly the reason the Premier said. We are rebuilding the front line and supporting front-line services and rebuilding health services.

Geiger Group

Mr WATTS: My question without notice is to the Premier. Given government ministers have held over 21 meetings with the ETU, why has the Minister for Energy not met with the Geiger Group, an electrical contractor based in Toowoomba, despite their urgent request for a meeting to discuss the future of 150 Queensland jobs, and I table those requests.

Tabled paper: Emails, various dates, between staff of the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Hon. Mark Bailey, and employees of the Geiger Group regarding a meeting request [\[957\]](#).

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member very much for the question. As Premier and ministers in the cabinet, we get asked on numerous occasions for meetings. That is a decision for the minister. I am quite sure that the minister would at least provide a response to the organisation, but the decision rests with the minister about a meeting. I will leave that discretion to my cabinet ministers.

Budget, Education

Mr POWER: My question is for the Minister for Education. Will the minister outline how the Palaszczuk government's budget is delivering outcomes for schools in Logan and on the Gold Coast?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I know how passionate he is about advocating for his local community and ensuring that in our second budget, which contains record investment in Education, we are delivering for his community. That is why I am very proud, because of his representations, that there is an additional \$3.1 million in this year's budget for the Logan Village State School. We know—and the member made representations to me—about the growth in his area. As the honourable member also knows, we will be injecting an extra \$50 million to build the Yarrabilba state school in one of the fastest growing parts of Queensland.

We are not only delivering in the electorate of the honourable member for Logan; but also right across the Gold Coast region of Education Queensland more than \$155 million in capital works will be spent. Honourable members do not have to take my word for how good it is; they can take the words of the hardworking member for Burleigh. In his press release yesterday entitled 'Hart Working Hard for Burleigh', he said, 'I have been working with the principal and the regional department of education since 2013 to try to get funding for the Caningeraba school and I've delivered it for you.' It is a privilege to know that, despite him lobbying his own colleagues since 2013, it took the honourable member for Ashgrove to deliver it for him, because the previous member for Ashgrove never gave him a cent. I am very pleased that the member for Burleigh—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, you will have an opportunity shortly to put a question if you want to.

Ms JONES: It took a Labor government to deliver for the member for Burleigh. I am proud that it was my budget, the budget of the Palaszczuk government, that is delivering for the member for Burleigh despite him never making representations, I am advised, to me about this. I am glad I have been able to do it for the member for Burleigh.

It is a very exciting day, one that all of us have been waiting for. When we look at the clock we see that we are 21 minutes away from hearing from the member for Clayfield about what he will do with the budget. We know that there have been 41 days since he stabbed his mate in the back to take the leadership position, and now we will see why. We will get the answers from the member for Clayfield in 21 minutes when he will explain to the people of Queensland what he would do. He has ruled out the sale of assets. He has ruled out the measures we have taken in the budget. The people of Queensland and the backbench, only half of whom voted for him, do not know—and hopefully we will know in 21 minutes—what his answers are.

The member for Clayfield likes to whinge and complain, but when it comes to an alternative plan, there is zero, zilch, zip. As I said, 41 days ago the member for Clayfield stabbed the member for Southern Downs in the back to take the leadership position and the people of Queensland still do not know what he stands for. He says that he does not believe in the sale of assets. We know that is exactly what he did when he was in government. He cut funding for Tourism and for Education; he cut public servants and he cut teachers. In 20 minutes we will know what the member for Clayfield stands for.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Burleigh, I am informed that we have students from the Labrador State School in the electorate of Broadwater in our gallery observing our proceedings. I now call the member for Burleigh for your question.

Geiger Electrical

Mr HART: My question is to the Minister for Energy. Minister, I table an email to the staff at Geiger Electrical which was sent this morning advising the company is no longer able to sustain many employees' positions.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 16 June 2016, from the Geiger Group Management Team to Geiger Electrical staff regarding the loss of staffing positions [\[958\]](#).

The email states—

... we reached out to the current state government (including Minister Bailey) and also to the ETU with no immediate avail.

I ask: will the minister accept responsibility for these job losses due to the minister's inaction on Geiger Electrical's request?

Hon. MC BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for his question. Like many ministers in this place, I receive a lot of requests for meetings from all kinds of groups every single day. It is not possible to meet every person who wants to meet a minister on every issue, and the honourable member would know that. That said, I can give the honourable member an assurance that I am happy to look into the detail of this matter directly.

Biosecurity Capability Review

Mr PEARCE: My question is of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries. Will the minister update the House on the steps the Palaszczuk government is taking to implement the recommendations of the Biosecurity Capability Review?

Ms DONALDSON: I would like to thank the member for Mirani for his question. He is a long-term advocate for regional Queensland.

I can confirm that \$10.8 million in new funding over four years is allocated in the state budget to address the recommendations of the Biosecurity Capability Review. This will enable the Palaszczuk government to work in step with stakeholders on long-term solutions for biosecurity in Queensland. This is additional funding, and it brings to \$30.2 million the amount that we have already committed to fixing the problems that were left by the former Newman-Nicholls government.

While in opposition we warned that the reckless cuts to biosecurity they announced would have severe repercussions. It is a sad indictment on those opposite that they closed facilities, they shut down programs and they dismissed 26 per cent of Biosecurity Queensland staff. At the election in 2015 we pledged to conduct an independent review, and we have kept that promise. This review, which was conducted by a panel of experts, drew challenging conclusions and made 32 recommendations. Now we have announced funding to implement a comprehensive response to those recommendations.

Instead of cutting budgets and denuding Queensland's ability to deal with biosecurity threats, we are building systems to protect our primary producers and our unique Queensland environment from diseases, invasive weeds and feral animals. We are rebuilding. Meetings have been held with industry groups and interested stakeholders on priorities for implementing the panel's recommendations. Priority initiatives include establishing a biosecurity preparedness and response unit to help manage new and emerging threats. Instead of sacking staff we are investing in biosecurity to meet the biosecurity threats that Queensland faces. We have consulted extensively with stakeholders and we will continue to do so. We are working with industry at every step of the way to ensure that our response capability is as strong as it can possibly be.

There is acceptance across industry that biosecurity is everyone's responsibility, and I am pleased to say that there is broad agreement that a joint effort is required. The Palaszczuk government will lead that effort, and the money announced by the Treasurer makes that crystal clear. What I would also like to make crystal clear is that the Biosecurity Capability Review was instigated by the Palaszczuk government and was announced last year by Minister Byrne when he was the minister for agriculture. I say that because yesterday listeners to the ABC *Country Hour* would have heard the Deputy Leader of the Opposition make the ridiculous claim that the review was an LNP initiative. The member for Nanango said, 'We have seen the Biosecurity Capability Review'—

(Time expired)

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I take this opportunity to warn the Deputy Leader of the Opposition under standing order 253A. Minister for Police, if you persist you will be warned as well.

Regional Express Airlines

Mr KATTER: My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games. Minister, given the substantial volume of negative media and numerous community complaints directed to my office about the government contracted airline operator Rex airlines, and having regard to the most recent change of timetable which took place without notification to the community, can the

minister confirm the standards of service that are expected to be provided and what mechanisms are in place to monitor the performance of the current tenderer? Will the minister note the strong community dissatisfaction with this service compared to the previous provider?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Mount Isa for his question. This is a matter that he has made a number of representations to me about over time and he has certainly asked questions through different fora in this House as recently as a question on notice in May of this year. Through the representations of the honourable member I do note and appreciate that some concerns have been raised around the delivery of the contract that has been extended to Regional Express—or Rex, as it is better known.

I want to make sure the House appreciates that this contract has been awarded in the context of an extensive competitive open tender process that was conducted by the previous government throughout 2014. Through that process TMR awarded the service contracts to Rex and Qantas to operate regulated routes within Queensland commencing 1 January 2015. Both Qantas and Rex were existing operators for TMR, and they had been awarded the contracts during the previous contract rounds in 2008 and 2010 respectively.

This tender process was conducted in accordance with the Queensland government procurement process. The tender evaluation scoring included a number of key elements which included the operators meeting mandatory requirements, qualitative components and commercial price components. Weightings were also applied for the qualitative and commercial components of the process, and the contracts were awarded based upon meeting those requirements in each component. Rigour around financial transparency due to the high risk of failure in the industry, particularly in this sector, was a key factor. Previous Queensland government contract providers have failed, including MacAir, Flight West and subsequently Skytrans. The service contracts in place are new generation performance management contracts that certainly contain significantly improved performance reporting and management controls.

I appreciate the concerns that the member for Mount Isa has about the way in which these performance measurements are being recorded and evaluated. I am advised that the following operating statistics have been provided to me: in the 2015 calendar year some 222,037 passengers travelled on TMR regulated air services, 33,494 of whom travelled on Rex services. Rex's on-time performance in their first contracted year exceeded the on-time performance of the previous operator. Rex's on-time performance in 2016 so far is 91 per cent, which well exceeds the contract target of 85 per cent.

I acknowledge the concerns that the member for Mount Isa has about the accuracy of these figures. I will certainly do more to cross-examine them with my department and report back to the member for Mount Isa.

Regional Infrastructure Program

Mr BUTCHER: My question is of the Minister for State Development. Will the minister advise the House how the Palaszczuk government's regional infrastructure program differs from the previous LNP government's Royalties for the Regions program?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for his question. First let me explain how these two schemes are similar. It will not take very long at all. In most grant programs, funds are not paid up-front. When their Royalties for the Regions program kicked off, it rolled out like most grant programs. In fact, at the end of the 2012-13 financial year not one dollar of their \$60 million program was rolled out. Did it get better in the following year? A bit. In 2013-14 only \$2.4 million rolled out, out of \$61 million—hardly anything at all.

It is a bit rich for those opposite to start asking questions about getting funds out the door. The Auditor-General had a few things to say about just how the member for Callide got those funds out the door. You did not even have to apply to get a couple of lazy mill. out of the Newman-Nicholls-Seeney Royalties for the Regions program! I remind honourable members that the Auditor-General noted that the member for Callide approved \$17.4 million for seven projects without councils even submitting an application. That is the ultimate red-tape reduction!

Woe betide anyone unlucky enough to reside in a non-government electorate. The member for Gladstone's home town was lucky: out of 22 applications, two were approved. If Gladstone was out in the cold, Rockhampton was in the Arctic. The Fitzroy was frozen over. Rocky had the lowest approval rate, with one application approved out of 28. What is a good infrastructure scheme without a regional airstrip—or two or three in the case of the North Burnett? Biggles would have been proud.

I return to the question and count the ways the Palaszczuk government's Building our Regions is different. We only fund programs that are eligible. All of the projects we fund have applications and supporting documentation. All of the projects we fund are independently assessed by my department and in the final round by an independent panel of directors-general. Our Building our Regions program is run with transparency, integrity and accountability. That is the really big difference between us and those over there.

Queensland Health

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier advise when she was first told Queensland Health would be operating a \$99 million deficit this financial year and what action the Premier took to ensure health services were delivered within budget?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member very much for the question. As I have said very clearly in the House, this year we are delivering a record Health budget in Queensland. There is nothing more important than families across the state being able to access good-quality health services. I will outline some more facts. Earlier I mentioned increases in front-line services. We have put on 1,940 extra nurses, 650 extra doctors and 480 extra health professionals. Why are we doing it? We are doing it because we said that we would restore front-line services in this state.

In a few moments we will hear from the Leader of the Opposition. I want to know whether the Leader of the Opposition would cut these front-line services. That is the track record of those opposite. In a few moments we will hear the LNP's position on asset sales. We went to the election very clearly saying that we knew Queenslanders did not want their assets sold. What is the LNP's position when it comes to asset sales? Will the Leader of the Opposition stand up in this House in a few minutes and apologise to the 14,000 people who lost their jobs? In the next few minutes we will hear whether the Leader of the Opposition values and cares for people in this state. I do not know if he does. I do not know if the Leader of the Opposition has a heart.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. My question was about this financial year's \$99 million deficit in Health. The Premier has not addressed that at all.

Mr SPEAKER: I made an earlier ruling that I will allow a degree of relaxation in relation to issues involving—

A government member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Who is speaking over the top of me? You are now warned under standing order 253, member for Logan. That is your first warning. Premier, do you have anything further to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: No.

Public Transport, Fares

Mr MADDEN: My question is of the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please advise the House about the benefits of the Palaszczuk government's Fairer Fares package, particularly for my electorate of Ipswich West?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Ipswich West for his question. I know that the member, as a proud representative of the Ipswich and Somerset regions, is passionate about the rail history of his local community. The government's Fairer Fares package delivers for the home of Queensland Rail. Under the Palaszczuk government's Fairer Fares package, public transport commuters in South-East Queensland can travel further for less. On Tuesday I was able to inform the House of the huge savings we are delivering for Brisbane's north and the Moreton Bay region. Yesterday I advised the House of the hundreds of dollars of annual savings for southsiders in Brisbane. Today I can let the House know that the residents in Ipswich also benefit greatly from Fairer Fares.

As the member for Ipswich West knows, his electorate currently contains zones 5 through 10. Under our package, those zones are consolidated to just three. That move alone means that a resident can make annual savings of up to \$328 travelling from Rosewood to Ipswich each day—just that local journey. Residents in North Ipswich can make annual savings of up to \$250 in their daily commute to the CBD of Brisbane.

I have been talking up the great benefits of the Palaszczuk government's Fairer Fares package since Sunday, and I am pleased to advise the House of the repeated support the government has received for Fairer Fares. Since the launch of Fairer Fares on Sunday, members on this side of the

House have been getting the message out. For the benefit of the House I will table a few examples of the strong advocacy of the Palaszczuk government in promoting Fairer Fares—members like the member for Bulimba.

I table an article from the *South-East Advertiser* titled 'Southeast: Fares to be slashed'. The member for Lytton has been backing the policy in her local community. I table an article from the *Wynnum Herald* titled 'Bayside: Fares to be slashed'. I can also advise that local champions such as the member for Stretton have been out there backing Fairer Fares for their communities. I table an article from the *Southern Star* titled 'Commuter fares slashed'. I table an article from the *Caboolture Shire Herald* titled 'Peak travel fares to drop'. I table an article from the *South-West News*, in the Premier's electorate, titled 'Cheaper transport fares bid to woo commuters'. I table an article from *Westside News* in Paddington titled 'Fares to drop for commuters'. I table an article from the *South-West News* titled 'Transport fares sliced in a bid to woo commuters'. I table from the *Northside Chronicle*, a great newspaper in my local area, an article titled 'New fares bid to draw commuters'. I table from the North West News an article titled 'Carrot for commuters'. Finally, I table for the benefit of the House, and particularly for the Gold Coast delegation we have here, an article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* titled 'Fares slashed to free up M1'.

Tabled paper: Bundle of newspaper articles, various dates, regarding public transport fare reductions [959].

I am so pleased that we have been able to deliver this great news for South-East Queensland. There is more news to come as part of this great budget.

(Time expired)

Queensland Health, Payroll System

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. I note the budget Service Delivery Statements state that additional staff are set to be employed by Queensland Health this year to fix Labor's infamous Health payroll bungle, and I ask: how many of these 86 additional staff are dedicated towards cleaning up Labor's payroll bungle?

Mr DICK: The payroll system that operates in Queensland Health is exactly the same payroll system that we inherited from those members opposite. That is the reality. Those opposite ran the system for three years. It is exactly the same system. They did nothing to improve it. It is exactly the same system. That is the system that we operate under and I made our intention clear to try and improve the operation of that system, including improving the cost of each pay run. The system is stable and, notwithstanding the allegations of those members opposite, including emails they tabled in the House that had nothing to do with the stability of the system—the Deputy Leader of the Opposition did that; it had nothing to do with the payroll system when she came into the House that day and asked that question—it is exactly the same system. We will continue to fund it so it operates effectively so it delivers for staff and it pays them on time. We will continue to do that. If that is the best the opposition can do about a record Health system, it speaks so strongly about how effective our budget is going to be this year. This is the first question I have had this week about a record Health budget—more into the front line and more services delivered across Queensland, making Queensland a healthier place. I am delighted to deliver that for Queensland.

Tenant Advisory Service

Ms PEASE: My question is directed to the Minister for Housing and Public Works. Would the minister please update the House on the progress being made to reinstate a statewide tenant advisory service?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One minute, Minister.

Mr deBRENNI: I thank the member for the question. This is a government that believes in fairness and in treating people with dignity, and that includes the half a million renters in Queensland. We believe that people should have support and advice when they need it. What did those opposite do and what did they think of renters when they were in government? They got rid of the tenant advisory service. That was just another one of their nasty ideological cuts. I want to pay tribute to my predecessor Minister Enoch for the reintroduction of QSTARS and the services it provides.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, one moment. Member for Everton and Minister for Education, you are both warned under standing order 253A.

Mr de BRENNI: Queenslanders were left out in the cold by the former LNP government. In fact, in 2014 some 95,000 calls were made to the tenant advisory line but committed volunteers were only able to pick up 2,500 of those. Those opposite left Queenslanders out in the cold. This government took a commitment to the last election to reinstate an independent advisory service for renters and we are continuing to make good on that commitment. There are 12 Queensland Statewide Tenant Advice and Referral—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Question time has finished.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

DUTIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill resumed from 14 June (see p. 2267), Appropriation Bill resumed from 14 June (see p. 2277) and Duties and Other Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 14 June (see p. 2279).

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (11.32 am): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.32 am): The 2016-17 budget is a budget based on hope—hope that the government's heroic predictions will come true, hope that domestic and international economic conditions will not deteriorate but significantly improve, and hope that the people of Queensland will not see through Labor's cheap trickery. It offers the people of Queensland Labor's traditional magic pudding economics—the belief that the more money government spends the more it will have left over. Labor has again sought to perpetrate a fraud on the people of Queensland. Just 12 months ago the government promised a return to growth, a return to optimism, the paying down of debt and the creation of jobs. The rhetoric has failed to meet the reality. On that occasion the Treasurer announced unashamedly that he likes people. If that is so, why has the Treasurer dashed the hopes of so many Queenslanders? Why has this Treasurer tried to pull the wool over the eyes of Queenslanders and conceal the true extent of the state's financial plight? Why has this Treasurer failed to follow through on his solemn promise concerning debt reduction and job creation? If this Treasurer likes people, he has a peculiar way of demonstrating his deep feelings for them.

Only last week the Treasurer, in discussing the prospect of increased taxes beyond 2018, said, 'We obviously are going to have the conversation about how this is going to work in the future.' When Labor Treasurers have discussions with the people about possible tax increases, these discussions end in only one way: with the dead hand of government deftly trousering the hard-earned money of taxpayers. Queenslanders are entitled to be fearful of what this government is contemplating but lacks the courage to tell them. Labor tax increases are on the horizon if those opposite get re-elected. At the same time, people are entitled to ask the government just what is being planned to dig the state out of the financial depths to which it has descended under Labor.

As a blueprint for the future, this budget is a miserable failure. The true test of this budget is whether or not it secures our future or puts our future at risk. Has this budget given Queenslanders hope that there is still a bright future ahead of us after the downturn following the mining boom? Do we have a clear pathway to reduce the unsustainable debt built up under premier Bligh and treasurer Fraser when spending was out of control—a government that included five of the current ministry? Is this budget even an honest account of where we stand as a state four years after the end of the largest resources boom in our history? This budget does not provide that pathway. It does not point to an optimistic future and it seeks to conceal and disguise the true state of Queensland's finances. This budget once again puts our future at risk with unsustainable spending increases, reckless raids on the Public Service superannuation scheme, a collapse in infrastructure investment, a misguided jobs policy that favours certain industries over others and predicts increases in unemployment, and puts our credit rating at risk of a further downgrade with the key measure of credit worthiness deteriorating instead of improving.

This budget is already dead in the water, discredited in record time. Why is this budget dead? The budget was meant to be about jobs, jobs and jobs, but unemployment is forecast to go up in 2016-17 and does not fall below six per cent over the forward estimates. Moreover, on the Treasurer's own economic forecasts, employment growth will be weaker next year than it has been this year. If he hopes that economic growth will save him, then he is delusional. Last year, the Treasurer forecast economic growth would reach a bullish 4.5 per cent. Now, he admits it will only reach 3.5 per cent, a miscalculation of about one quarter. Does anyone really believe his similarly bullish forecast of four per cent growth for 2016-17? The Queensland domestic economy is in recession and only exports are supporting our economic growth. What is the Treasurer doing about it? Business investment—the engine room of our business and industry—is expected to have declined by a whopping 23 per cent this year and will decline again by a further 10 per cent next year. How is that going to generate the new jobs that Queenslanders want?

This budget was meant to be about infrastructure, but infrastructure investment is down to record lows as a percentage of gross state product. This budget was meant to be about growth, but the growth rate has been cut by almost one quarter. This budget was meant to be about debt reduction, but no matter which way you cut it debt goes up. In fact, net debt, which sees through Labor's accounting trickery, increases five times. On any examination this budget fails the test. Despite the rhetoric, this budget fails to address the critical question of this state's ballooning debt. It fails to put in place policies that will protect the state's critical credit rating and it fails to put in place policies that will quarantine taxpayers' hard-earned dollars from the government's tax collectors.

Despite the election commitment to pay down debt, debt will continue to increase towards \$80 billion over the forward years. While the Treasurer says the deficit is under control, the fiscal balance—that is, the amount of money the government needs to borrow to continue to perform its functions—is forecast to blow out from a deficit of \$940 million in 2015-16 to over \$2 billion in 2016-17. This is a budget which promises surpluses but delivers fiscal deficits totalling \$7.3 billion over the next four years. Under Labor, Queensland will be borrowing more and this will mean Queenslanders will be paying more. Net debt, which this government promised to pay off entirely—promised to pay off entirely—will increase from \$1.6 billion to \$8.6 billion. The ability of the state to repay its debts is weakening, again meaning Queenslanders will have to foot the bill for Labor's recklessness.

The Treasurer has delivered a wafer-thin operating surplus in 2015-16 following on from the two operating surpluses delivered by the former LNP government. Again, the Treasurer got his calculations horribly wrong last year. He forecast an operating surplus of \$1.2 billion and now it has almost disappeared. He has got his numbers wrong by over \$1 billion. Moreover, the operating surpluses between 2015-16 and 2017-18 are now expected to be \$7 billion lower than were previously forecast under the LNP. These operating surpluses by this Treasurer are illusory anyway, because debt is still rising. The real measure of budget responsibility is the fiscal balance and this is in deficit as far as the eye can see, meaning that debt will continue to mount, representing an ever-increasing burden for Queenslanders now, for their children and their grandchildren. Today's debt is simply tomorrow's taxes.

What solutions does this Treasurer offer to overcome this sorry state of affairs? What has he done to fix the problem? Having shifted \$4 billion worth of debt on to government owned corporations last year in his pea-and-thimble trick, this Treasurer cast his net wide again this year in search of another mesmerising policy masterstroke that he never told the people of Queensland about. What did he come up with? Nothing more than a \$4 billion cash-and-grab raid on public servants' superannuation. What are the risks behind this move? The Treasurer and the Premier would have you believe that there is absolutely no risk at all and that this so-called solution is the single initiative—the single initiative—that will restore the state's finances. On Tuesday, the Treasurer said—

We remain steadfast in our commitment to upholding the quality of our credit.

It is hard to imagine a more delusional statement from a Treasurer in delivering a budget that contains a \$4 billion raid on superannuation. In raiding the superannuation fund of public servants, this government has downplayed the advice of the State Actuary, delivered in a letter of 26 April this year, of a fifty-fifty probability of the scheme falling into deficit by 2020 based on the \$4 billion raid. Perhaps this Treasurer should have asked the fund members first how they felt about his raid on their superannuation fund. These are not the risks that a responsible Treasurer should be taking—or perhaps he is becoming the 'Minister for Risky Business' as well.

Indeed, when the State Actuary did not endorse the government's plan to a sufficient extent, what did the government do? It does what Labor always does: it moved the goalposts to ensure that its plans would be approved. Rather than reaching the high standard, it lowered the standard. However, the Actuary in his further advice of 20 May 2016, even after Labor changed the goalposts, highlighted the dangers in the government's proposals. He said—

In my view, this risk is greater than it appears on face value as the circumstances in which a deficit arises (i.e. adverse investment markets, subdued economy etc) are likely to be ones where the Government is unlikely to have easy access to cash to repair the deficit, either through receipts or borrowings ... In order to ensure the ongoing funding of the Scheme, it is critical that the Government recognises this issue and stands ready to contribute additional funds should adverse experience occur in future.

Why is that good advice? Because it has happened before. It happened under Andrew Fraser and Anna Bligh and the ministers who are sitting over there from that government. We all remember in 2009 when, under Labor, the credit rating was lost and credit markets closed up. The state government under Labor could not borrow. It had to go cap in hand to the federal government to get a guarantee in order to be able to access the funds that it needed to run the state. This is not something that is in the never-never—this is not something that has not happened ever before; this is something that has happened in recent memory in this parliament. What does this Treasurer do? He ignores the recommendations of the State Actuary. He places the funds at risk on a fifty-fifty basis. Let the government be warned: the alarm bells have been rung. The dangers of this policy choice have been pointed out and the government has chosen to ignore them. What does the principal sponsor of the government's own post budget-business lunch say? What did he say?

An opposition member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take that interjection—'Give me my money back.' I suspect that is what 50,000 public servants are probably saying as well. What does the principal sponsor of the government's post-budget business lunch say? He said, 'So we're actually going backwards.' Then, not at the lunch—so it is not taken out of context—but when he was directly asked about it in an interview he said, 'The economics of it don't make sense to me.' Not only is the government being warned by the State Actuary of the foolishness of the raid, not only does this Treasurer and this Premier change the rules for the raid but also they ignore the economics of the raid, and that is, that it does not make sense.

Over and above their reckless attitude towards the superannuation fund of public servants, this government has also adopted a carefree approach to the role of government owned corporations. When it comes to debt, under this Treasurer GOCs are ignored—'That's not government debt.' Labor does not consider them to be part of the state's finances. They might be owned by the state but, under this Treasurer, the state is not responsible for them or, seemingly, their debt. However, when the cash reserves of the GOCs are considered the government sees nothing inconsistent with pillaging those reserves for its own ends. It does not want to know about the debt, but it certainly wants to grab the cash. That is the attitude of this government.

Just as last year's pea-and-thimble trick sought to load up GOCs with government debt, the Treasurer has now announced that those GOCs will be required to make any surplus cash available through a modified offset banking arrangement. A quarter of a century after the corporatisation reforms, driven by Queensland Treasury, that established the GOCs, that said that they should be run independently, that they should have their own boards, that they should manage their own affairs, Labor is back to stripping cash out of the GOCs as if our most important utilities are nothing more than a giant ATM. The government looks upon GOCs like the barbarian hordes looked upon Rome—as a source of plunder. In dealing with GOCs, this government has exhibited about the same subtlety and finesse as those barbarians. In such a contest, there will be only one winner.

For this government's debt reduction strategy to be effective, it has to confront both elements of the question. Not only must Labor tackle the historically high levels of debt generated by its Beattie and Bligh predecessors but also it must confront its own manic desire to spend its way out of a crisis of its own making. The only brake on spending by a Labor government arises when someone else's money runs out. It is part of Labor's DNA that it sees public expenditure—in reality the spending of taxpayers' hard earned money—as the solution to all and every economic and social crisis. In Labor's eyes, there is no problem that cannot be solved by throwing money at it. This budget is proof that, even after more than 100 years of the Labor social experiment, spending money is still regarded as the solution to every problem.

On Tuesday, the Treasurer announced that expenditure is under control and is expected to grow by 2.9 per cent per annum over the forward estimates. However, that disguises the stark reality that the government's own employee expenses grew by 7.3 per cent in 2015-16 and are expected to grow by almost five per cent in 2016-17. Again, we have been here before, because these are the highest rates

of growth since the period of the Bligh government when, between 2008-09 and 2011-12, employee expenses grew in each of the four years by between 8.1 per cent and 8.8 per cent per annum—each year for four years. It is interesting to observe that the Premier, the Treasurer, the Minister for Health, the Minister for Education and the Minister for Transport—almost one quarter of this ministry—all served as ministers during the period when expenses grew under the Bligh-Fraser government.

One would have to say that it is pretty obvious where they acquired their economic skills: from one of the most economically reckless governments in Queensland history, a government that lost the AAA credit rating, a government that started racking up \$85 billion worth of debt and a government that left us with fiscal deficits for as long as the eye could see. Regrettably, it is these lessons that they are now putting into effect through this budget as they fail to rein in the record levels of expenditure.

Much was made in the budget speech of the new fiscal principle: ensuring that growth in Public Service employee numbers does not exceed population growth—on average—over the forward estimates. Unfortunately, the Treasurer failed his brand-new fiscal principle in record time. It was broken the moment he announced it. The promise did not even last one afternoon. One would have to say that is a record even for the Labor Party. In 2016-17 the growth in Public Service numbers will be almost double the population growth rate. While the population is estimated to grow by one and a half per cent in the coming financial year, the number of public servants will grow by over 2.4 per cent. We have heard the Treasurer excuse this failing by saying the promise applies only over the forward estimates. This defence is as credible as Bill Shorten's 10-year commitments on expenditure: they do not stand up to scrutiny and they bear little relationship to reality or recent Labor history. It is also straight out of Wayne Swan's discredited playbook. We all remember Wayne Swan. Every year from 2008 onwards until 2013 he promised the budget would be back in surplus—every year!

Mr Minnikin: How did that go?

Mr NICHOLLS: \$190 billion in accumulated deficits after promising a surplus more than 500 times. It is straight out of Wayne Swan's discredited playbook: defer all the tricks to the out-years. No-one is fooled by that trick anymore. This budget is riddled with inconsistencies and contradictions. It claims to look to the future but is based on rear-vision mirror thinking that owes little to the demands and challenges of the 21st century.

As Talleyrand is reputed to have said of the Bourbons upon their return to the throne in France, Labor has learned nothing and they have forgotten nothing. If there is one thing that the latter part of the 20th century should have taught us it is that changing circumstances demand new responses. Economies do not stand still and if Queensland is to remain competitive in the face of both domestic and overseas challenges we need to adopt new approaches. Doing things exactly as they have been done in the past will solve nothing; it will simply relegate us to a second-rate future.

Not only is this budget redolent with inconsistencies and half-truths, it appears based on policy incoherence and backward thinking driven by a desperation to spend other people's money. The budget introduces a \$40 million cash cow called the Industry Attraction Fund that is optimistically charged with aggressively targeting interstate and international businesses to move their operations to Queensland. This industry welfare policy is the last desperate gasp of the economically irrational who seek salvation in bribing others to come to Queensland because they are bereft of ideas themselves. Is Labor so incompetent or so clueless that bribery has become the first refuge of the modern Labor thinker? This government appears to have lost confidence in Queensland and in its own capacity to devise good policy. The Treasurer, the Premier, this government, have run out of ideas.

In 2002 Gary Banks, the former chairman of the Productivity Commission, hit the nail on the head in his criticism of this sort of economic foolishness. In a speech to CEDA right here in Brisbane he said—

If governments can agree to a truce on interstate bidding wars and other selective corporate support, they can then concentrate their forces on a much more worthy and productive battle: improving further their economic governance, tax regimes, infrastructure and other service delivery. These are the real mainstays of the contribution of state and territory governments to economic performance in the long term.

Almost 15 years after Gary Banks' warning and over a century since Federation, one of the principal aims of which was to get rid of the barriers between interstate trade and commerce, what do our Premier and Treasurer want to do? Rather than looking to Asia and the Pacific and capitalising on the federal coalition's free trade agreements, the Premier and the Treasurer choose to look jealously south, salivating at the mouth at the prospect of nabbing some New South Wales or Victorian business and bribing it to move north—as is said in the Bible, coveting thy neighbour's wife. This policy does nothing for existing Queensland businesses, those who own them and those who work in them. In fact,

it blatantly discriminates against those Queensland businesses. This is a State of Origin battle in which the Palaszczuk government is backing New South Wales businesses against Queensland businesses. How crazy is that? It is not only an act of desperation, it is simply bad policy.

As Queensland speeds rapidly back to the past in pursuit of policies that are discredited, outdated and irrelevant, the Labor government, with the Treasurer in charge, shovels more coal into the old steam engine it calls progress and disappears into economic irrelevance. But the story gets even worse. There is now a new government energy services business which will compete with our very own mum-and-dad small business sparkies struggling to earn a decent living; a government business with a minister who would rather meet with his union mates than with hardworking local businesses employing Queenslanders. What is next? Will we see this Palaszczuk government returning to the practice of running butcher shops as it did back in the 1920s and 1930s? The tragic fact is that Queenslanders have been conscripted as passengers on this government's steam train ride into the past and they have no chance of getting off.

The shortcomings of the budget are many and obvious. However, there are three critical areas in which the people of Queensland are being deceived and in which the government's rhetoric is well short of reality. If there is one area in which this budget has clearly failed the people of Queensland it is in infrastructure investment: one of the key drivers of economic growth and a vital element in ensuring jobs for Queenslanders into the future. The Premier and Treasurer have been telling us day in and day out that infrastructure will save us, that infrastructure investment will create jobs now and jobs in the future. But what exactly has happened? Infrastructure investment has collapsed. In fact, the budget tells us that as a percentage of gross state product infrastructure investment in the next five years will be half the average what it has been in the past decade. The word 'infrastructure' is mentioned no fewer than 35 times in the Treasurer's budget speech. However, not once does he admit that infrastructure spending has declined significantly on his watch. Not once does he admit, even with the \$2 billion ripped out of superannuation accounts and apparently put into infrastructure, that infrastructure spending is still going to decline to its lowest ever level as a percentage of gross state product and stay at that level over the forward estimates.

Last year the Palaszczuk Labor government bragged that its \$10.1 billion infrastructure program would support 27,000 jobs. But the government then failed to spend \$2 billion of its infrastructure allocation last year. That is a massive underspend of almost 20 per cent. How many jobs went begging? This year's infrastructure allocation of \$10.7 billion is \$800 million less than the LNP budgeted on infrastructure in the 2014-15 state budget. Capital purchases over the next four years have been cut by \$2.3 billion compared to the LNP's capital program.

For a government that promised to focus on regional Queensland, they have once again short-changed our major regional centres in this year's budget. The infrastructure spend in Wide Bay has been slashed by more than \$400 million when compared to the LNP's 2014-15 budget. Infrastructure spending in Toowoomba is down more than \$220 million over the same period. In Mackay, infrastructure spending has had an almost \$80 million cut. Cairns has had its infrastructure spend slashed by \$120 million and Townsville has seen its infrastructure spend slashed by \$180 million. If a state government cannot get its act together, cannot manage its forward capital program, it is time to hand back the security pass to 100 George Street and give someone else a go.

Infrastructure investment only creates jobs in the long term and raises income if it is productive investment. Infrastructure investment must be affordable and sensible. Bad infrastructure investments or badly timed investments will lower productivity and incomes and not create any new jobs. Making smart, sensible infrastructure investments on behalf of Queensland taxpayers requires a lot more than setting up the next hard-hat PR stunt. It requires careful evaluation and proper governance processes and this government is failing at both. These are big multibillion dollar decisions; the biggest decisions that governments can make in many cases. Big decisions require careful scrutiny and proper process to ensure good financial management and that taxpayers receive value for money. Labor simply cannot be trusted to deliver infrastructure.

The second key area where this government fails is the one probably closest to the hearts of all Queenslanders and that is the issue of jobs. This is a budget that promises more jobs, but delivers fewer jobs. Unemployment is forecast to remain at or above six per cent over the coming years. Last year, the Premier and the Treasurer promised Queenslanders jobs now and jobs for the future. This promise has proven to be nothing more than a cruel hoax. Since delivering that budget in July last year, more than 20,000 full-time jobs have been lost here in Queensland at a rate of more than 1,000 full-time jobs a month. The number of Queenslanders on the unemployment queue has grown by 11,500 people. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has increased by almost half a per cent. The participation

rate has fallen, meaning people have given up looking for work and the youth unemployment rate in Queensland has increased from 13.2 per cent to 15 per cent. By those measures—by their own measures—the last Labor budget has been an abject failure.

In her budget reply speech in 2014, the Premier stood where I stand today and made a solemn promise. The Premier announced that she would establish Jobs Queensland as an independent statutory authority. In the words of the Premier, Jobs Queensland was ‘all about getting government refocused on jobs and job creation’. Jobs Queensland was going to ‘ensure that we create and keep in Queensland the jobs of the future’. Queenslanders are still waiting. Despite Jobs Queensland now having a \$40 million budget allocation, despite the necessary legislation passing through the parliament last October and despite it being one of Labor’s key election promises, Jobs Queensland has no board and no direction. It has not helped create one job for Queenslanders. Apparently, it does not even have a home. It is another unfulfilled promise.

The Rural Job Agency, which was referred to in last year’s government employment plan, is just a mirage. It is another broken Labor promise. It has been reported that Queensland Treasury has not figured out how to stop the rotting of the government’s regional jobs plan announced as part of the budget. Labor cannot even deliver a program that has been designed with the assistance of the Public Service.

Young Queenslanders are not getting the training and skills they need to get a job, while skills shortages in the labour market are not being met. If this is all Labor can do to refocus on jobs and job creation, Queenslanders looking to their futures have much to fear. We should be striving for productivity growth, which is the cornerstone of high income growth, high living standards, low unemployment and enduring prosperity. Productivity should be the focus of every government. Without productivity growth, wages do not grow, spending slows and the economy stagnates. We cannot rely just on population growth to drive the Queensland economy, as we have done in previous resources booms. The next boom could be a long way off, so we need to grow our economy by focusing on being more productive, more flexible and more responsive to opportunities, especially in the growing markets to our north.

Productivity growth is driven by businesses, large and small, in the private sector. The LNP believes the focus should be on reducing the regulatory burden on business. We certainly will not be jacking up taxes on business, which destroys incentives, investment and jobs. We still believe small business and private enterprise are the engine rooms of this productivity growth and the real key to productivity is enabling the private sector to innovate in ways that are best for each individual business, not subject to the dictates of George Street. That is why we must continue to reform our economy, making it more dynamic, enabling more people, more business and more regions to compete and to innovate.

We have our plan to get Queensland working. Unlike the employment minister, who thinks youth unemployment is not new and that there is not much you can change about it, we think there are things you can do to help young Queenslanders get ahead and get a job. On occasions, business needs a helping hand and so do those who want to work. That is why today I am announcing our plan to get Queensland working and to create 20,000 jobs and opportunities for young Queenslanders.

If elected, an LNP government will implement our plan to get Queensland working with targeted support for small businesses and workers that leads to jobs and opportunities for young Queenslanders throughout the state. We are doing this to arrest the decline in apprentice commencements and completions. In the first 12 months of this Palaszczuk Labor government, 2,600 fewer Queenslanders started training and 7,100 fewer Queenslanders completed training. We do not think that is good enough. We are doing this because we also want to help young Queenslanders who are not in training or currently studying to get their foot in the employment door as well. We are doing this to ensure that young Queenslanders have the tools and the equipment they need to stay in work.

Our plan includes a Queensland apprenticeship boost at a cost of \$50 million over four years. We will be providing \$5,000 incentives to businesses that take on an additional apprentice who then completes that apprenticeship. The boost will provide up to 10,000 new apprenticeships over four years and is part of our plan to arrest the decline in apprenticeship completions.

Mr Crandon: That is for every business and not just the top end.

Mr NICHOLLS: I take that interjection.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, all members. We will listen—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you have had a good go. We will listen to the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr NICHOLLS: Our plan includes a tools for tradies program, at a cost of \$10 million over four years. We want to help apprentices who have worked hard and completed their apprenticeship to get the tools they need to get a working start and help them get ahead as they commence their new career. That is why over four years we will provide \$500 vouchers for 20,000 apprentices who complete their trade. They can use those vouchers to help them buy or renew the tools of their trade when they most need it, at the end of their apprenticeship. That is practical help to get Queensland working.

We will also be introducing a job-start incentive, at a cost of \$40 million over four years. We know that small businesses face hurdles in getting and taking on staff. Recruitment and start-up costs can often be a barrier for businesses looking to employ and can act as a disincentive to take a risk and put on a new worker, particularly for a smaller business such as a typical mum-and-dad business in Queensland. Under our job-start incentive, we will help with those costs by providing \$4,000 grants paid in instalments over 12 months to businesses taking on young Queenslanders who are unemployed and not enrolled in full-time education or training. That grant will be available to businesses with a turnover of up to \$2 million and we believe the initiative will provide up to 10,000 jobs for young Queenslanders over four years. Importantly, it will be paid on a pro rata basis to encourage maximum completion and to ensure strong program governance.

Finally, our plan includes an employment bonus at a cost of \$8.2 million over four years. Businesses that employ eligible young Queenslanders under the apprenticeship boost or job-start incentive will be encouraged to train and retain young Queenslanders. After 12 months of continuous employment of each eligible worker, employers will have that worker's wages excluded as part of the next year's premium calculation for workers compensation. Importantly, if any worker is injured at work, they are still fully covered.

We believe our plan will provide 20,000 jobs for young Queenslanders—double that proposed by Labor—reduce the cost of working for young apprentices and incentivise businesses to train and, importantly, retain young Queenslanders, especially the low skilled, who can find it almost impossible to land their first job. Our plan will be supported by reallocating funding provided for the Back to Work package and unnecessary bureaucracies that waste time and money and do not actually create a job.

This is a sensible and realistic plan to get up to 20,000 young Queenslanders working and will be rolled out with the expert advice of a re-established ministerial industry commission. As I said, it will be across the whole state. This is evidence of our positive plan to get Queensland moving and to deliver real outcomes. Where the Labor government is focused on splashing money around, our programs will be targeted at achieving maximum results.

The third area in which Labor has failed abysmally is in relation to taxation. Again, the distance between what Labor promised and what they are delivering is massive. It represents a chasm which not even the most skilled and adept mountaineer could cross. The budget promises lower taxes, but slugs motorists with car registration fees that increase at twice the inflation rate. Taxes per person have increased by \$59 since the election of the Palaszczuk government. Again, at the last election the Premier and the Treasurer gave a firm commitment that they would not increase or introduce any new taxes for this term of government.

Despite ruling the tax out in May last year, the Treasurer has decided to slug a great big new property tax on foreign investors. Some people may be asking: why should we be worrying about a new tax on foreign investors? The answer is simple. It was pointed out today by the Property Council of Australia. It affects home ownership for Queenslanders. The other issue is that capital is nimble: it moves and moves quickly.

In terms of the overall tax take Labor can only take solace in the fact that taxes on the mining industry are returning fewer dollars than they have in the recent past. This is the only thing that makes the average taxation per head of population look good in the Treasurer's budget. It certainly does little to fund Labor's insatiable urge for tax dollars. Knowing this makes Queenslanders doubly wary of the Treasurer and his conversation on taxes. Here is what he said in his famous Mythbusters fact sheet—
MYTH: All the Government had to do was increase taxes across the board because Queensland is a low tax state anyhow.
FACT: In the last three Budgets, the government has taken significant steps across the board to fund new services.

Already we have:

- raised land tax and stamp duty at the top end
- increased taxes on casinos and introduced new liquor licensing fees—to help meet the costs of alcohol abuse
- increased coal royalties
- increased motor vehicle stamp duty and we have recently introduced a rise to car registration.

The best predictor of future action is this Treasurer's past actions. This is further proof of what everyone knows—that Labor has only one way of paying for its promises; reaching into the pocket of each and every Queenslanders and coming out with a fistful of dollars.

The broad strategies behind this budget are fatally flawed. At the same time, however, individual portfolio areas are not free from the same toxic maladministration which characterises the overall budget—and if one could call it that—strategy. Again, Labor has demonstrated its complete contempt for the people of Queensland as it dishes up the same discredited fare that symbolised the dying days of the Bligh government as it desperately tried to hang onto office. What failed then will fail now as the people of Queensland see through Labor's shabby attempts to conceal their own twisted priorities and poor administration. The divide between rhetoric and reality remains wide and this will become even more glaringly obvious as the year progresses.

In so many key service delivery areas this government is failing Queenslanders. The regional roads budget has been slashed. Important Bruce Highway improvement projects up and down the coast have had their funding delayed and we have seen the deferral of funding for important safety upgrades along the Warrego and New England highways.

Over the last 12 months Labor has blown its Health budget by almost \$100 million, signalling a return to the bad old days of cost overruns under the previous Labor government. Despite the minister's promises to reduce waiting lists, Labor's own budget papers show that over the past year thousands of patients on the waiting list for the waiting list for categories 1, 2 and 3 specialist appointments have had to wait longer than clinically recommended.

Under the LNP and the member for Southern Downs we were able to achieve a transformational turnaround when it came to waiting list figures. It was only the LNP that was able to introduce a national first—a wait-time guarantee—which ensured every Queensland patient ready for care was to be seen in the clinically recommended time frame. This approach was about achieving real outcomes for Queenslanders and improving the health system. We were able to achieve those real results.

In education we introduced independent public schools, empowering principals, delivering quality teaching and giving local communities the ability to respond to the needs in their schools and their communities. This approach led to a trend of enrolments back to state schools in our time in office. We also delivered 11 new schools in record time—schools the current education minister is taking great delight in opening. Now, under Labor, just six new schools are to be built over five years. This is further proof that this Labor government is not focused on the future growth of our state. The identified \$191 million in cuts to the Education budget is not going to produce quality outcomes for Queensland students.

Labor is rolling back our strong law and order reforms, particularly on youth justice and the scourge of criminal bikie gangs and going back to the failed policies of the past. Their only solution to prison overcrowding is to let the offenders out faster. There are many other examples across all portfolios that illustrate this government's failings, which the shadow ministers will explore in further detail in their contributions.

I will deal briefly with the shadow portfolios of arts and major events. Many Queenslanders enjoy arts for the memorable experiences they provide, not just here in the city, but out in the regions as well. The LNP has always been particularly supportive of efforts to get arts on the road and to take different exhibits or productions to communities throughout the state. I pay particular tribute to the member for Mansfield for his efforts in government in ensuring that occurred. That is why the Playing Queensland Fund is an important part of this. That is why I want to record my support for the increases in the Boost to Touring aspect of that fund. I also note the other necessary investments made in the replacement of assets at the Queensland Art Gallery and the additional funding to maintain the state's collections and address critical maintenance and safety issues at the Queensland Museum regional campuses and the storage facility at Hendra.

Unfortunately, this government has taken its eye off major events. The contract for the V8 Supercars races on the Gold Coast, Ipswich and Townsville expires at the end of this year, but this government has apparently stalled in finalising new contracts. Importantly, there is not one reference to these important events in Tourism and Events Queensland's performance statement.

Queensland's best years lie ahead of us. We are a large, diverse state with enormous opportunity. We are now entrenched as one of Australia's leading states, and our voice in national affairs must be heard. The opportunity that lies ahead of us is for the whole community to grasp—for every family and region, not for the government to micromanage, to try to pick the next technology revolution and then ultimately squander.

Under the last Labor government, spending was out of control, running at growth rates almost 10 per cent per year over the decade-long mining boom. The dark clouds of debt that were accumulating above us were ignored. Labor chose to keep borrowing and keep employing more public servants on borrowed money. This government cannot ignore that problem. Indeed, it seems to be following it. It has resorted to trickery rather than make a genuine attempt to control spending by focusing on the efficient delivery of core services.

This is a government that does not have a plan for taking Queensland forward. It does not have a vision for confronting the many challenges our great state faces. It does not have a plan to provide Queenslanders with the jobs and certainty they so desperately need. It is a government that has put short-term political expediency ahead of the best long-term interests of Queenslanders. It is a government that has consistently and shamelessly ignored the promises it made to the people of Queensland a scant 18 months ago.

This government has clear responsibilities. The job is pretty simple: deliver public services efficiently and fairly, use taxpayer funds wisely, do not borrow money unless you are very sure there will be a return to the Queensland taxpayer from the investment, stay out of the way of the private sector in generating jobs and wealth and rising living standards, and lower business costs to promote international competitiveness so those businesses can employ more people.

This budget has no coherent policy foundation. It lacks vision and it lacks direction. It is a budget that promises more jobs but delivers fewer. It is a budget which promises to pay down debt but which sees debt continuing to rise. It is a budget that promises more infrastructure but delivers a record low in infrastructure spending. This is a budget of raids, rip-offs and write-downs that is reckless with other people's money. This is a failed budget that has failed the people of Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Barron River, I am informed that we had students from Earnshaw State College in the electorate of Nudgee in our gallery during the Leader of the Opposition's speech.

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (12.22 pm): The member for Clayfield's budget reply speech was bereft of any compassion for Queensland, particularly regional Queensland. We heard of the member's plan for expenditure but not for generating income. No matter how much the member for Clayfield tries, he cannot distance himself from his recipe for Queensland. As treasurer, the member for Clayfield's recipe was, according to Stronger Choices, significantly increasing taxes, reducing services or selling and leasing some assets. His reply speech and the plan he just described did not address his position on asset sales or asset leasing.

The member for Clayfield's cuts had an impact in the Far North when he was treasurer. For example, in relation to his first budget, in March 2013, some 12 months into the term of the former government, the *Cairns Post* reported that the number of health jobs to be cut in the Far North had almost reached 300 with the announcement that the Cape York service would be restructured. An article states—

More than 27 full-time equivalent positions in the district, which covers a 156,000sq km area including Cooktown and Weipa, are to be made redundant under the \$2.5 million cost-cutting project. The position of three nursing directors, a women's health nurse and a mental health nurse are among the jobs that will be axed. The remainder will be administrative or operational positions.

Then the *Port Douglas & Mossman Gazette* reported in March 2013 that at least four administration jobs at Mossman Hospital had been made redundant due to the state government cuts to the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service.

Then in his second budget the former treasurer increased taxes. There was a massive increase to cost of living for families, with increased duty on car, home and contents insurance and the introduction of an emergency services levy. The member oversaw an increase in electricity charges of a massive 22.6 per cent, or \$268 a year, and it was even worse for elderly people living alone, with bills rising by a whopping 27.9 per cent. There were massive increases in taxes per person. Within 18 months of the LNP's election, the average family of four paid more than \$1,000 a year in extra taxes. I congratulate our Treasurer on a great budget—a great Labor budget, one well received in my region of tropical North Queensland and Barron River.

My electorate is a tourism engine room for Queensland, be it the international airport at Cairns, the area of Palm Cove, the Kuranda railway or the Skyrail. The electorate welcomes the government's statewide \$33.5 million package over four years to increase visitation from Asia and to drive tourism. Tourism and Events Queensland and the aviation attraction fund are vital to Cairns. For the first time ever in any 12-month period, last week our airport saw five million passengers. Our proximity to Asia and the booming tourism market are exciting. This budget will allow growth, will allow tourism employers

in tropical North Queensland to increase numbers and will increase infrastructure and confidently employ new staff. Last weekend, Cairns hosted the Cairns Ironman for the sixth consecutive year. There was a complete sell-out, with 3,500 worldwide competitors and their families in three days injecting over \$10 million into the Cairns economy. It is through the government's Tourism and Events Queensland that Cairns continues to attract worldwide sports events.

A key challenge for my electorate is roads. There are many growth issues in Barron River, and I recognise the Minister for Main Roads for his assistance in implementing our plan to tackle those issues. After winning the 2015 election, I set my sights on a 500-metre section of the Cairns Western Arterial Road called the Bill Fulton Bridge—a bottleneck which resulted in frustrated motorists, traffic jams and road rage. It had to be fixed. In office the LNP had three years to address the matter and they failed. In the 2015-16 budget I reported on receiving the planning money to get the project moving. Like thousands of my constituents, I am delighted, through the \$180 million Significant Regional Infrastructure Plan, led by the Deputy Premier with the strong support of the Minister for Main Roads, the Treasurer and the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland—they all accepted my requests to visit the site and experience the delays—to see that this bridge will now be constructed, at a cost of \$34.2 million. I thank the Premier for listening to my pleas in the working cabinet subcommittee.

This is what Labor does. Labor builds bridges, fire stations, hospitals and schools. This bridge could not be delivered or even planned by the LNP in its three years in government from 2012 to 2015. In fact, on 13 January 2015, two weeks before the 2015 state election, the *Cairns Post* ran an article titled 'Upgrade of Redlynch's Bill Fulton Bridge on the cards with an LNP vote'. The article shows the member for Clayfield on the site and describes how a re-elected LNP government would commit to planning the bridge by possibly using the government's Strong Choices Fund. Holding the public to ransom by selling assets so that in return they can get a picture of a bridge is not right. There was no construction, just a picture and, of course, this relates to asset sales. By the next election, the Bill Fulton Bridge should be well underway, if not completed. This is what Queenslanders want to see: construction and jobs—no hollow promises, no threats of asset sales. The public wants a bridge, and it is Labor that will deliver it in its completeness.

The Smithfield Fire Station in my electorate is being rebuilt. It is a vital infrastructure project servicing over 50,000 residents on the northern beaches. Currently operating out of an old station which they have outgrown, a new site already in the possession of QFES beckoned but, again, three years of LNP rule failed to deliver or even to promise it. Our fires were ignored, cast aside and forgotten. Labor is building the \$3.8 million Smithfield Fire Station. Labor values our firefighters, our hardworking public servants, and does not turn its back on emergency services staff.

The Cairns region wins from this budget, through tourism funding, construction funding, social service funding, domestic violence funding, Great Barrier Reef funding, incentives to help business recruit new staff, funding for education, funding for health—and I could go on all day. This is a good Labor budget about which I am proud to walk the streets and talk to my constituents.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): I acknowledge a second group of students from Earnshaw State College in the electorate of Nudgee.

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (12.29 pm): I also acknowledge the schoolchildren in the gallery today. Today we saw an extraordinary situation in question time when the Premier was given the opportunity to acknowledge her Treasurer and to praise his budget. What did she do? The Treasurer became the Voldermort of the Queensland parliament. The Premier dared not speak his name because of what a failed budget this is. He has become the Voldemort Treasurer of Queensland politics. We can understand why that would be the case, because, as the Leader of the Opposition said before, this has become a budget of raids, rip-offs and writedowns. As every commentator has said, it is a budget of reckless behaviour and broken election promises.

Sadly, we have seen further evidence of that today. The latest unemployment figures for Queensland have been released and they are sad news for Queenslanders out there looking for work. What we have seen last month is 5,800 full-time jobs lost under the stewardship of the Palaszczuk-Pitt government. The trend rate unemployment is up to 6.4 per cent. We are the only state to see an increase last month in trend unemployment. I make the point that trend is the figure that the Treasurer wants to focus on. He says that is the only one that counts. It went up, sadly, last month from a revised figure of 6.3 per cent to 6.4 per cent. We are the only state to see an increase across Australia.

What that means is that we are more than one per cent worse off in terms of unemployment compared to New South Wales. While we win on the playing field we are losing the economic State of Origin to New South Wales under this Treasurer. I make the point that their jobs budget—the jobs

budget that forecast increased unemployment—is already wrong because the forecast unemployment in the budget on trend is 6.25 per cent. These figures today show that it is now 6.4 per cent—point 1½ per cent more than was forecast in the budget. They did get one thing right in their budget: they forecast in their jobs budget that unemployment would rise, but it is already out of date because it is above the figure they mentioned in their budget of 6.4 per cent. That is bad news for Queensland. It raises the question: how much more damage will this government do to Queensland over the next 18 months until the next election? How much more damage will the Palaszczuk-Pitt government do to this great state of Queensland?

Let me turn to small business. When we look at unemployment figures, we know that means that small business is also suffering under this government. Small business is laying off people because of this government's record, performance and policies.

Let me turn now to infrastructure. While it was also claimed by the government to be a jobs budget—a jobs budget that saw unemployment going up—it was also claimed to be an infrastructure budget that saw infrastructure spending go down. There is \$2 billion less over the next four years compared to what was budgeted under the LNP's MYEFO. Some \$2 billion of infrastructure spending was left on the shelf, underspent by this government. Twenty per cent of their program was not spent. How many Queenslanders could have got work? How many jobs would have been created if that \$2 billion had been spent? Instead, this lazy, incompetent government and this incompetent and confused Treasurer left the money on the table. Six thousand extra jobs could have been created if that money had been spent in that year, but instead this government left it on the table.

To show the failure of this government on infrastructure, have a look at the spending over the next five years on infrastructure—capital purchases as a percentage of gross state product. It is now at a record low in their budget. We have record low infrastructure as a percentage of gross state product. That is the triumph of this infrastructure budget that sees cuts to infrastructure. It is a jobs budget that sees unemployment going up and an infrastructure budget that sees infrastructure falling.

This is also the debt budget that sees debt going up from \$73 billion to almost \$79 billion. This is the record of this government: a debt budget with debt going up; a jobs budget with unemployment going up; and an infrastructure budget with infrastructure going down. What an incompetent, neglectful budget this is and a failed Treasurer. It is no wonder the Premier refused to mention his name in question time today.

When we hear the Treasurer talking about the level of debt, what does he talk about? He talks about those fiddles he has done where they are stopping contributions to super funds and ripping money out from super funds, ripping money away from long service leave and grabbing cash surpluses off GOCs. These are all part of his plan but still, even with all those fiddles, debt keeps going up and is forecast to go up from \$73 billion to \$79 billion.

Let me turn to Public Service expenses. The great fiscal principle which the Treasurer announced in his budget on Tuesday he broke on day one. The budget shows that this year Public Service expenses are going up almost six times the population rate. In bringing down this budget he says, 'We have this great new fiscal principle. We will keep it to the population rate.' But what does he show? In the year ahead Public Service numbers are going up twice the population rate. This is the great fiscal principle by this great fiscal failure of a Treasurer. He broke it on day one.

On taxation, he broke their election promise. We all remember what Labor clearly said: no new taxes or charges. We all heard him say that except for one person. Clearly the voice is speaking in the Treasurer's mind. He heard himself saying something different. Now he claims that he said no Queenslanders will pay new taxes or charges. Everyone else in Queensland heard him say 'no new taxes or charges'. We have asked him to show us where he said just 'Queenslanders'. He has not produced that evidence yet. We all know very clearly what the election promise was and he has broken it.

We saw the transfer duty surcharge that he brought in—a great new whopping tax that has been condemned by the property sector. As the Leader of the Opposition indicated earlier, it is a tax that will have a clear impact on the affordability of homes in Queensland. That is what the experts in the field say. That is what the experts in the property sector are saying. It will be detrimental to people's ability to buy a home. More importantly, it is very clearly a broken election promise. It is not just a new tax—the broken election promise tax—we also see fees and charges going up 3½ per cent across-the-board, which is twice the inflation rate. The inflation rate in Brisbane at the moment is about 1.7 per cent. Last quarter it was zero, but this government is increasing fees and charges by twice the inflation rate, including car registration.

For those people in Brisbane but also regional members who do not have access to alternatives—they rely on their vehicles to get around—they will face an increase of 3½ per cent. This is not the first budget the government did it in. They did it last year as well. They increased car registration by twice the inflation rate. It is no wonder the RACQ has declared this the most expensive state to own and run a motor vehicle. Let us not forget the bad of days of Labor. When they were in last time, car registration went up 30 per cent in just four years and those bad old days are back. We are seeing registration go up 3½ per cent—twice the inflation rate—and every tax and charge going up twice the inflation rate. They are ripping off motorists.

Last night every ALP member here had the opportunity and the chance to stop that increase. They had the chance to vote and say, 'No, Curtis Pitt. No, Voldemort. I will not listen to your ways. I will not do that. I will stop that 3½ per cent increase, twice the inflation rate.' Every ALP member here will have to go back to their electorates and their constituents and explain why they put up registration at twice the inflation rate. It was only the LNP members in here who said no, because we have a very clear policy. We have announced our election promise—that is, that registration will not go up for family cars more than the inflation rate. We will keep it at the inflation rate. Labor is intent on increasing it—not just this budget, but as they did with the last budget, at twice the inflation rate.

Labor could have stopped that last night. Every Labor member here could have stopped it, but they did not. They will be going back at the weekend after this session and saying to every constituent they meet, 'I put up registration at twice the inflation rate. I want you to pay more. I delivered that for you.' That was Labor's delivery of this week. That is what they wanted. We have seen as well the blunders by Curtis Pitt over the last week and a half—by the member for Mulgrave, the Treasurer.

Mr POWER: I rise to a point of order. I believe the practice is to use correct titles to refer to the Treasurer.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): I heard the member correct himself. Continue.

Mr EMERSON: I stand corrected. I did call him the member for Mulgrave. At least I have mentioned his name. I was willing to mention his name, but the Premier would not mention his name. She dared not speak his name. She had the chance today to praise the Treasurer and say she had confidence in the Treasurer. Remember that she said she had confidence in Jo-Ann Miller, but she would not say she had confidence in the member for Mulgrave. She would not say that about the Voldemort Treasurer of this state—she dared not speak his name.

Mr POWER: I rise to a point of order. Can he use the correct title for members in this House and not give them nicknames?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Indooroopilly, I did hear you refer to the member for Bundamba by her name before. I remind you that members are to be referred to by their correct titles.

Mr EMERSON: I make the point again that the Premier was willing to refer to the member for Bundamba by saying that she had confidence in her ability, but she squibbed it today in terms of the Treasurer, the member for Mulgrave. She would not even mention his name. I make that point to the member for Logan. He would not even mention it in the point he made.

Let us get to the blunders. I notice that the member did not object to me saying that the member for Mulgrave, the Treasurer, had made some blunders, because we saw so many of them. We had the first strike when he got the Queensland levels of taxation wrong compared to the rest of Australia. We had the second strike when he could not explain the confusion between the Premier and the Treasurer on the tax incentive scheme for the Industry Attraction Fund. It was back and forward: 'Yes.' 'No.' 'No, it's not going to have payroll tax incentives.' 'Yes, it is.' Did he not explain it to the Premier correctly or was he just setting her up? That was strike 2.

Strike 3 was the massive 3,000 per cent mistake on the transfer duty surcharge. He was 300 times wrong on the centrepiece at the media luncheon. He said, 'No foreign investor is going to be frightened, because on a \$366,000 home it is only going to be \$336.' He was out by 30 times, out by 3,000 per cent. People should be frightened of this Treasurer if he can get a 3,000 per cent mistake wrong on the centrepiece of his announcement on that day. That was strike 3.

He should have been out on strike 3—it is three strikes and you are out—but he stayed at the plate and he is up to strike 4. Strike 4 was the disgraceful, neglectful, reckless performance regarding ignoring the advice of the State Actuary. The State Actuary clearly recommended, 'Don't take more than \$2 billion from the Public Service superannuation fund,' but he ignored that advice. They went back and demanded: 'Think about it again and let's change the rules. Let's take a riskier approach.' No wonder he has been branded 'Captain Risky'. He has been branded Captain Risky because he told the State Actuary, 'Take a risky approach.' What happened then?

Mr WHITING: I rise to a point of order. Once again he is not referring to the correct title.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Murrumba, I did not hear him refer to that. Can you refer me to what he has allegedly said?

Mr WHITING: I draw your attention to the use of the correct title for when he is talking about other members.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not aware of which member he was talking about.

Mr WHITING: The member for Mulgrave.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr EMERSON: Again, he does not want to mention his name, either. He just whispered it; he does not want to mention it. He is copying the Premier. He does not want to even mention the Treasurer's name. I am happy to mention the Treasurer's name. All Queenslanders are talking about the Treasurer's name because of that neglectful, reckless raid on public servants' superannuation. That is why they are talking about him. The Treasurer ignored the clear warning of the State Actuary—'Don't take more than \$2 billion.' They then changed the rules and said, 'What about taking a riskier approach? What if you take \$4 billion? What if you take \$5 billion? What if you take \$6 billion?' The State Actuary said, 'If you take \$4 billion, there is a fifty-fifty chance that fund will go into deficit.' It is a toss of the coin—a fifty-fifty chance. What did they do? They took it anyhow.

We have seen an extraordinary situation here. We saw the incredibly embarrassing performance yesterday when the sponsor for the fundraiser said, 'We don't understand what is happening here. It doesn't make sense to me what you're doing.' Their own sponsor of their fundraiser said, 'It doesn't make sense to me.' I think a lot of Queenslanders are saying the same thing: it does not make sense.

This is a reckless performance by a reckless government and a reckless Treasurer. That is what we have seen. We also saw him say yesterday that if it went into deficit he would not even commit to bailing it out. That is the extraordinary thing that we saw. He would not even commit to bailing it out if he got into deficit. Every public servant out there in that fund should be concerned. In summary—

Mrs Frecklington: You've got four minutes.

Mr EMERSON: I do have four minutes and it will take a while to summarise all of these blunders and mistakes. What we have is a Premier today and yesterday talking about being sick and tired of the criticisms of the budget. We have a Treasurer telling everyone to settle down about their criticism. When the TV news at night has the Premier and the Treasurer attacking the media and telling them to settle down and we see them saying, 'I am sick and tired,' we know what every other Queenslander is saying about their budget as well. That is what we have seen.

Let us not forget what the Auditor-General said when he looked at last year's budget. He said, 'These are short-term measures. Haven't you got a long-term plan?' We saw the budget this year. They do not have a long-term plan. They did not listen to the Auditor-General. They came back with the same short-term measures. Again, I point out that Paul Laxon said, 'It doesn't make sense to me.' The guy from Ernst & Young, who was sponsoring their own luncheon, said, 'It doesn't make sense to me.' What a condemnation.

Mrs Frecklington: Have you mentioned Jobs Queensland?

Mr EMERSON: I take the interjection from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I am sure she will be speaking more about that because what has the government done? They have set up Jobs Queensland, but what jobs did they create? No jobs, just bureaucracy. That is what we got. We saw the laughable state today where government members were talking about Cross River Rail and saying, 'We've achieved it all because we set up the Cross River Rail authority. We set up an authority.' What a wonderful infrastructure achievement! 'We have employed some bureaucrats.'

In summary, what we are seeing here again is a budget of raids, rip-offs and writedowns and, more importantly now, of reckless behaviour. The government has no plan, no idea and a disgraceful budget, a failed budget. We know that is the case because when we look again at the Labor backbench today, what do we see for the third day in a row? We see their heads are down; they are forlorn; they are quiet. They know. They do not have any faith in the Treasurer. His own cabinet colleagues do not have any faith in the Treasurer. What this budget has confirmed is that Queenslanders have no faith in this Palaszczuk-Pitt Labor government.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (12.49 pm): The LNP clearly has no policies to drive the industries and jobs of the future or manage the state's valuable natural resources. The member for Clayfield has today not

revealed a single policy initiative to fire up growth sectors or regional economies. In contrast, the Palaszczuk government's 2016-17 budget delivers for the two important portfolios of State Development and Natural Resources and Mines. It delivers the opportunity to grow the economy in jobs through innovation, investment and infrastructure.

In 2016-17 and beyond this government, through the Department of State Development, will lead the delivery of economic outcomes for Queensland by facilitating a major projects pipeline, strengthening Queensland's regions, driving new and emerging industries and supporting enterprise and job creation. We will stimulate jobs and business opportunities in 21st century industries, including biofutures, biomedical and life sciences, mining equipment technology and services, aerospace and advanced manufacturing, and pump prime the state's regional economies. With its \$478 million budget allocation, the Department of State Development's headline items will manage a bold new \$40 million Industry Attraction Fund that will complement Queensland's existing advantages of lower average taxation and developed research capability.

This government is investing \$375 million over five years into our hallmark regional infrastructure program, building our regions and generating jobs and business opportunities where our state really needs them. We will invest almost \$20 million over three years to turn the state's emerging biofutures industry into a \$1 billion export sector via a 10-year road map and action plan. We are putting \$8.5 million over two years towards enabling new projects including new economic future plans for regional Queensland. An additional \$40 million has been committed to build a new North Queensland stadium, lifting the state government's contribution to this North Queensland priority project to \$140 million.

Queensland's regions were responsible for about \$100 billion of economic activity, contributing about a third of state GSP. Building our Regions is a key component of this government's plan to ensure the regions continue to be economically relevant. Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated into *Hansard*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Minister, have you sought permission from the Deputy Speaker to incorporate?

Dr LYNHAM: I have.

Leave granted.

Following Round 1 of Building our Regions

- 42 projects that will support almost 700 jobs are already underway
- Eight projects are under construction
- 13 agreements are yet to be executed and are being actively managed by the Department of State Development.

Savings from previous Governments Royalties for Regions programs of \$15 million will be re-injected into Building our Regions to further boost regional economic activity.

A two-year \$8.5 million injection will prime priority economy building projects, some to be delivered over the next 12 months, and others identified in 10 regional economic future plans.

Delivering on this commitment will include investigations into potential locations for new industries and water supply investigations to support key regional industries and build diversity in our regional economies.

Mr Speaker, finding the jobs for the future for ourselves and our children is a responsibility this Government will not shirk.

That is why more than \$19 million over three years, starting with \$7.68 million in 2016—17, will underpin the Government's vision for an export-oriented industrial biotechnology and bio-products sector.

These funds will drive home our Biofutures 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan that will lead the way to new industry opportunities for regional Queensland.

Over the next three years the funding will cover \$5 million Biofutures Industry Development Fund, \$4 million Queensland Biofutures Acceleration Program, \$5 million Queensland Biofutures Commercialisation Program, and more than \$5 million to establish Biofutures Queensland, a program of works led by the Department of State Development which will include the appointment of a preeminent Biofutures Industry Envoy and a Research Chair for Advanced Biofuels to enhance international research capacity in Queensland.

The additional State Government funding for the North Queensland Stadium in Townsville is much more than a commitment to a great football team and its supporters. As such, the Prime Minister's announcement this week that the Federal Government will finally also provide \$100 million for the project is welcomed.

The collapse of Queensland Nickel and the loss of more than 800 jobs together with other jobs losses in the Townsville region have bitten hard.

This Government believes the North Queensland Stadium in Townsville will be an economic trigger for this key regional centre.

My Department, with the support of Federal and other state agencies, has been leading and coordinating the State assistance response for workers impacted by the collapse of Queensland Nickel.

The new stadium will offer not only direct jobs during the construction phase, but will provide a range of other economic spin-offs as we aim to have it ready for the 2020 National Rugby League season.

The reintroduction of \$40 million Industry Attraction Fund is about attracting new investment in Queensland industries. As the Premier said when she released the fund's details, we want to grow our major existing industries and to foster new industries. I would add that this will be vital to the future prosperity of our regional economies.

Mr Speaker, this government is investing in driving innovation and the development of industries of the future.

My department is working hard through its initiatives to boost industry confidence in Queensland's economy and to support jobs growth, including knowledge-based jobs of the future, to provide a more stable long term outlook for job growth and employment for all Queenslanders.

With regard to my Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Queensland's 2016-17 budget delivers almost half-a-billion dollars towards making sure we make the best possible use of the State's natural resources and mines.

This important package will see the Palaszczuk Government invest \$456.7 million in 2016-17 to deliver strong and sustainable natural resource management and support for drought-affected landholders.

We know that our rural and regional communities are vital to our economy and our prosperity, and we also know that about 80 per cent of Queensland is currently drought-declared with our landholders, local businesses and communities continuing to experience financial hardship.

That's is why I am proud that DNRM is delivering \$4.2 million of the \$41.9 million whole-of-government drought assistance package.

It provides an 11.5 per cent rent rebate to all Category 11 tenures in drought-declared areas; returning an estimated total \$3.2 million in rent collectively to more than 4530 eligible leaseholders.

It also waives the annual water licence fee for drought-declared properties in 2016-17; saving about 12,820 water licence holders a collective \$1 million in fees, and it defers all rural rent payments for more than 8000 Category 11 primary production and grazing leases, with no penalty interest accrued, in drought-declared areas until 30 June 2017.

Mr Speaker the Palaszczuk Government's 2016-17 budget also waives the water licence application fee for new applications seeking licences to take water for stock and domestic purposes in drought-affected areas until 30 June 2017.

Further assisting our land holders, the Government is also investing \$7.8 million over four years to give Queensland's rural industries one of the most comprehensive imagery datasets in the world.

This high-resolution satellite imagery will now cover the entire state every year instead of every three years, and will be implemented as a joint initiative with the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation.

The successfully-trialed Early Detection System uses available high-resolution satellite imagery.

By using this latest and very best satellite imagery means we will have more timely and conclusive before and after mapping to identify unexplained vegetation changes.

It will also assist other government agencies for purposes including monitoring Great Barrier Reef health, agriculture, emergency services, resource sector exploration, main roads and natural disaster recovery, and this satellite imagery will also be made available on the Queensland Globe for the public and industry to use.

Importantly, fresh satellite imagery of the Great Barrier Reef catchments which cover one-third of Queensland will be acquired up to three times a year.

What happens in these catchments is of paramount importance to the health of the reef and the new imagery will be a significant adjunct to our existing monitoring and compliance programs.

Emergency services are often deployed to remote and inaccessible areas of the state and will now benefit from having very detailed and up-to-date satellite imagery for their operations, including fire-fighting and search and rescue.

Mr Speaker, satellite imagery is the most cost-effective means of obtaining imagery in rural and remote areas of Queensland not covered by aerial photography, and until now, Queensland has generally acquired new high-resolution satellite imagery of the entire State once every three years; meaning data may be several years old when it is used.

Using the latest and very best statewide digital imagery captured on an annual basis will provide a more up-to-date and accurate picture of what is happening on the ground.

Another key initiative in the 2016-17 budget to support the responsible use of our land, water, mineral and energy resources include \$33.6 million over four years including \$8.3 million in 2016-17 for abandoned mine land management; including ongoing remediation projects at historic mine sites on state land and mine shaft repair activities in Gympie, Charters Towers and other Queensland communities.

And as we continue to supporting Queensland's strong regulatory and compliance regime for the coal seam gas industry, this budget also provides \$7.3 million over two years.

We know the CSG-LNG industry makes a significant contribution to the Queensland economy through the jobs and royalties, regional growth and economic benefits it delivers for our communities, and we also know that this industry must operate sustainably within a strict regime of environmental, land access, safety and health and water monitoring requirements.

The Coal Seam Gas Compliance Unit within the Department of Natural Resources and Mines plays a key role in the Government's overall strategy for the responsible management of the industry.

It is a one-stop shop for community and landholder enquiries, concerns and assistance relating to CSG issues.

This unit comprises of groundwater experts and field staff skilled in environment and land access issues and currently has 25 fulltime positions based in Toowoomba, Roma and Brisbane.

It also works with other agencies including the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, DNRM petroleum and gas inspectors and the Queensland Gasfields Commission on CSG engagement and regulatory matters.

Mr Speaker, responsible use of our land, water, mineral and energy resources is vital to our communities, our industries, and our economy.

The 2016-17 budget is a right step towards preserving, building, and making the most of these important natural assets.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.53 pm): The Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered a budget for 2016-17 which, like last year, is fundamentally flawed. This year's budget is one of raids, rip-offs and writedowns. Last year the Treasurer announced a plan to shift general government debt to our government owned corporations whilst also suspending government contributions to the defined benefit scheme. Last year's budget included inappropriately accessing \$3.4 billion of the long service leave funding reserve pool, increasing debt at government owned corporations by \$4 billion and putting a freeze on over \$2 billion of government contributions for public servants. This year, we are seeing a further risk to our state's credit rating via Labor's plan to raid the defined benefit scheme of QSuper, threatening its viability and, in doing so, the entitlements of Queensland's public servants. Labor's \$4 billion raid on Public Service superannuation is twice the amount recommended by Queensland's State Actuary when he was asked for advice.

Given uncertain global financial circumstances, this must be seen as a folie à deux or lasègue-falret syndrome by those Labor members opposite. Because of Labor's raid, in future years the fund may not have enough assets to pay the superannuation entitlements of everyday Queenslanders, including many of my constituents in Moggill. By Labor doing so, local residents in my electorate could be called upon as taxpayers to bail out the defined benefit fund. There is not a long service leave entitlement or superannuation entitlement of public servants that the Premier and the Treasurer have not seen and then wanted to raid and take for their government's flawed budget debt strategy.

There is no doubt that Queensland's economy is falling behind that of other state jurisdictions. We have a Treasurer who is frozen and paralysed with fear, continuing as a member of an asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government. We know seasonally adjusted unemployment is up. In parts of regional Queensland youth unemployment is in excess of 15 per cent with further forecasted increases in unemployment. The Palaszczuk Labor government's employment minister, Grace Grace MP, has no plans to address youth unemployment, thereby letting down her union members and union bosses. In January of 2016 in the *Courier-Mail* the minister said—

I don't know that there's much you can change ... "There's always an issue with youth unemployment. It's not new, it's been around a long time."

Ms GRACE: I rise to a point of order. I have addressed this issue before. I take offence to the statement. It is quoted out of context. The member is misleading the House and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Moggill, the minister has asked you to withdraw.

Dr ROWAN: I withdraw. Participation rates have fallen and economic growth in Queensland is declining because of plummeting business confidence, unfavourable business conditions and a legislative agenda by this Labor government that is stifling investment and causing fear within some of our key industries as well as Queensland's very important resources sector. Queensland's domestic economy has contracted every single quarter whilst the Palaszczuk Labor government has been in power. Unfortunately, Labor has no realistic plan to grow jobs, let alone supercharge the economy. Car registration fee increases should never be nearly double the inflation rate. Labor should be focused on providing financial relief, not higher fees and charges for my constituents in Moggill. Taxes will increase by \$59 per person this year under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

The Treasurer has walked away from a number of election commitments. With this year's state budget, we have a raid by Labor on the superannuation of public servants, an increase in fees and charges twice the inflation rate and the Labor government also slapping a three per cent surcharge tax on foreign property investment. Infrastructure spending is down by 4.7 per cent and there has been an extra 4,000 public servants hired in the last year, which was originally budgeted for in 2015-16. In essence, this is an unsustainable spending spree on public servant expenses, with such expenses

increasing six times the population rate. This is all occurring at the same time that the Labor government is delivering a legislative agenda that is harming our agriculture and resource sectors in Queensland. The Treasurer has also revealed a projected revenue writedown of \$4.7 billion compared to the 2015-16 budget, which is cause for great concern given the Treasurer's previous commitment to sustainable operating surpluses.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has now passed legislation to merge Ergon and Energex that will allow a new state entity to compete unfairly against mum-and-dad electrical contractors. What this decision really reveals is the contempt this government has for small business and how beholden it is to union bosses including those of the Electrical Trades Union. By embarking on this strategy, the Treasurer is showing that he is prepared to sell out Queensland's 10,000 privately owned electrical contractors for union bosses at the Electrical Trades Union who are, in fact, the de facto government of Queensland. This is absolutely a government of the unions by the unions and for the unions, a government beholden to unions such as the CFMEU, ETU and the Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation with the Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption uncovering serious criminal activity at the highest levels within Queensland's trade unions.

As part of my budget reply speech, I now want to take this opportunity to address my shadow portfolio areas with respect to both the budget and also from a public policy perspective. Environmental and heritage protection is vital for Queensland. It is always a core consideration for me and all my LNP colleagues in all public policy endeavours, debates and subsequent legislative changes. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection was established in April 2012 as a part of a series of evidence based changes to the machinery of government after the Liberal National Party assumed office. This occurred following the 2012 state election. Queensland's diverse heritage contributes to our sense of place, reinforces our identity and helps define what it means to be a Queenslanders. Our places of heritage have been shaped by Queensland's history, environment, resources and people. They comprise places of cultural and natural significance that we want to keep, respect and pass on to future generations of Queenslanders.

Debate, on motion of Dr Rowan, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Further Answer to Question; Queensland Health, Payroll System

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.30 pm): I rise to make a ministerial statement. I was asked a question during question time this morning by the member for Mudgeeraba in relation to additional staff members in Health Support Queensland. Health Support Queensland is a service delivery unit within the Department of Health which delivers services directly to hospital and health services such as pathology, procurement and payroll. I refer members of this House to page 31 of the Service Delivery Statements for the Department of Health, in particular note 5, which states that in part the reason for additional staffing includes—

... the new front end Payroll rostering system ...

The Department of Health advises me that the additional staff are to expand the project established by the previous Newman LNP government, of which the member for Mudgeeraba was a member, to put rostering in the hands of front-line roster managers.

REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (2.32 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the City of Brisbane Act 2010, the Duties Act 2001, the Land Tax Act 2010, the Local Government Act 2009, the Queensland Plan Act 2014, the Right to Information Act 2009, the Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990, the Taxation Administration Act 2001, the Taxation Administration Regulation 2012, and the acts mentioned in schedule 1, for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Finance and Administration Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 [[960](#)].

Tabled paper: Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes [[961](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. The bill includes amendments to Queensland's revenue legislation to protect the state's revenue, give legislative effect to taxpayer beneficial administrative arrangements, maintain the currency of the legislation and ensure its continued proper operation and administration.

Amendments to the transfer duty home concession provisions in the Duties Act 2001—Duties Act—will reinstate the previous interpretation and practice in relation to an acquirer's disposal of a property prior to occupation. The amendments will clarify that an acquirer will dispose of the land if it is acquired subject to a lease granted before the transfer date to ensure that the intended policy of the home concessions—supporting home ownership rather than investment—is maintained. The amendment is necessary as a result of a decision by the Queensland Court of Appeal in *Commissioner of State Revenue v Di Sipio & Anor* [2015] QCA 198, where the Court held that a disposal by the acquirer does not occur merely because land is purchased subject to a pre-existing lease.

The bill also amends the Duties Act to give legislative effect to an administrative arrangement which extends the insurance duty exemption for private health insurance contracts to overseas student health cover and temporary visa holder health cover. The exemption was inadvertently removed as a result of previous consequential amendments to the Duties Act to reflect changes in the Commonwealth's health insurance legislation. The proposed amendment restores the intended exempt status of these types of insurance contracts.

Amendments to the Duties Act also give effect to another administrative arrangement which extends the corporate reconstruction exemptions from transfer duty and landholder duty to dutiable transactions which are statutory vestings. This will provide consistent treatment with court ordered vestings to which the corporate reconstruction exemptions currently apply.

The Land Tax Act 2010—Land Tax Act—will be amended to give legislative effect to an administrative arrangement which removes a condition in the land tax discount for subdividers requiring parcels of land to have been subdivided from the one larger parcel. The condition that the parcels be subdivided from the one larger parcel was inadvertently inserted when the former Land Tax Act 1915 was repealed by the current Land Tax Act and resulted in an unintended change in policy. The proposed amendment restores the intended operation of the land tax subdivider discount. Minor amendments are also made to the land tax exemption where a person transitions from their old home to a new home to clarify that the new home must be an established home.

The Taxation Administration Act 2001—Taxation Administration Act—will be amended to clarify the operation of provisions which specify the time at which a document is taken to be given to, and when a payment is taken to be received by, the Commissioner of State Revenue—Commissioner—and to support electronic lodgements of documents and electronic payments. To support these amendments, the Taxation Administration Regulation 2012 will be amended to prescribe the time in which an electronic payment is taken to be received by the Commissioner. Further amendments to the Taxation Administration Act clarify that costs ordered by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal—QCAT—are included in a person's tax law liability to reflect the fact that QCAT may order costs against a party to a proceeding and to provide consistent treatment with court ordered costs.

The bill will also make minor amendments to the Duties Act, the Land Tax Act and Taxation Administration Act to remove redundant provisions, clarify provisions and correct drafting errors. The bill also includes amendments to allow Queensland's public sector employees, both at state and local government levels, to choose the superannuation fund into which their superannuation is paid. This is in line with the arrangements that apply in most other states and the Commonwealth. Choice of fund will apply from 30 June 2017 or an earlier date, depending on the completion of administrative changes that will be required. QSuper and LGIASuper will remain the default funds for state and local government public sector employees respectively, and the current contribution rates will remain unchanged irrespective of an employee exercising choice. The bill will also allow QSuper and LGIASuper to open their membership to the general public and makes some technical amendments to support these changes. Additionally, it is proposed to remove the QSuper Board's functions from the operation of the Right to Information Act. However, members will still be able to access their own personal records. The bill will introduce changes to protect the QSuper defined benefit scheme against salary increases that lead to windfall gains in members' benefits that have not been paid for.

The bill also includes amendments to the Queensland Plan Act 2014. The intent of the Queensland Plan Act is beneficial. In particular it requires consultation with the community, business and industry to develop a plan that can exist beyond electoral cycles. The changes simplify and streamline the act by replacing the requirement to develop and implement a government response with

a requirement for the state government to consider the plan in developing its statement of government objectives for the community made under the Financial Accountability Act 2009. The bill also repeals state and local government reporting obligations to remove the additional layer of reporting created by the Queensland Plan Act.

We value the contribution of the Ambassadors Council, which was established under the Queensland Plan Act, so its role is unchanged. The requirement for the Premier to provide an annual report on implementation progress is also retained. 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) (2.38 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.

HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.38 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Code, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Public Health Act 2005 and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 [\[962\]](#).

Tabled paper: Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes [\[963\]](#).

The Palaszczuk government is committed to removing discrimination and improving sexual health outcomes for Queenslanders. Last month I released for public comment the draft Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016-2021. This strategy, the first of its kind in Australia, aims to support healthy and safe sexual experiences and provide Queenslanders with the knowledge required to maintain optimal sexual and reproductive health.

This bill will support the sexual health strategy by removing a longstanding source of discrimination. Queensland's Criminal Code sets a minimum age of 16 years for consent to all sexual activity except anal intercourse, which has a minimum age of 18 years. This measure has a particularly long history, with homosexuality being made illegal throughout most of the 20th century. This criminalisation of homosexuality started life at a time before the federation of Australian states when Queen Victoria was literally Queensland's monarch.

Through the 1970s and 1980s, other states began to liberalise laws governing homosexuality, but Queensland, particularly under then premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, refused to change its laws. Throughout the 1980s, which I remember well, homosexuality was still illegal in Queensland, and in 1989, in the dying days of the then National Party government, five men from Roma were charged with a variety of antihomosexual offences. It should also be noted that during the 1989 election the National Party premier of the time, Russell Cooper, said that the Australian Labor Party's policy of decriminalisation of homosexuality would, as he put it, 'send a flood of gays crossing the border from the southern states'. The Goss Labor government in 1990 decriminalised homosexuality, but that government introduced an anal intercourse law. The age of consent for consensual anal intercourse was set at 18 years.

The expert panel of health experts asked to consider the implications of the current law advised me that the disparity in the age of consent for different sexual activity has adverse impacts on young people and recommended adopting a consistent age of consent. Queensland cannot continue to

discriminate between forms of sexual intercourse, particularly when we know that young people feel compelled to withhold information about their sexual history from health practitioners for fear of possible legal consequences, whether for themselves or their partner. This can have serious implications for their medical treatment, particularly as unprotected anal intercourse is the highest risk behaviour for transmission of HIV. It also has the effect of stigmatising same-sex relationships which in itself can be harmful for an individual's wellbeing.

This bill will standardise the age of consent for all lawful sexual intercourse to 16 years, reflecting the position in other Australian states and territories, where the age of consent for anal intercourse and all other forms of sexual activity is consistent. The bill achieves this by amending the Criminal Code to omit the offence of sodomy and making further consequential amendments to ensure that the concept of carnal knowledge used in the code is extended to include anal intercourse. The expert panel also advised they consider using terms such as 'sodomy' in the Criminal Code may stigmatise this form of sexual activity and homosexual relationships in particular. The government has acted on this recommendation, removing archaic references to sodomy.

For too long, debate about sexual practice has focused on criminal and moral considerations. By including this important amendment in a health bill, the Palaszczuk Labor government is sending an important message: public policy debate about lawful sexual practices should be focused, first and foremost, on improving the sexual health and wellbeing of Queenslanders.

The bill also amends a number of Health portfolio acts to support the implementation of policy initiatives to protect and improve the health of Queenslanders and to improve the operation of the acts. Amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 will facilitate general practitioners having access to the Queensland Health database, the Viewer. Queensland Health's 10-year vision and strategic framework for health in Queensland, *My health, Queensland's future: advancing health 2026*, identified the importance of the entire health system working together with a shared vision for the future health care of Queenslanders. The vision includes a focus on improving collaboration between parts of the health system and continuity of care for patients. Allowing general practitioners to view components of their patients' public hospital medical records through the Viewer will help ensure patients receive consistent, timely and better coordinated care, supporting our vision for health care in Queensland.

Appropriate safeguards will be in place to ensure the privacy of patient information. It is intended the system will require the health practitioner to search by a unique identifier such as the patient's Medicare number. The system will involve regular monitoring and audits. Misuse of confidential information will be subject to criminal sanction. A communication plan will also be developed to support implementation, including communication with patients both at hospitals and at GP practices. This is an important initiative which will help improve the coordination and integration of health care in Queensland.

The bill also amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act to streamline an existing process relating to disclosure of confidential patient information for research purposes where the adult patient is unable to consent to the disclosure of the information. Information will only be disclosed where the patient's substituted decision-maker has consented to the patient's participation in the research. This amendment delivers on a commitment to the Australian Medical Association Queensland. To support this amendment, the bill makes a minor amendment to the Public Health Act 2005 to clarify that health information relating to deceased patients can be disclosed for research purposes.

Further amendments to the Public Health Act will support the delivery of the School Immunisation Program and school dental program by enabling school principals to share student information with school immunisation and oral health service providers. To be vaccinated as part of the School Immunisation Program or to receive oral health services through the school dental program, students must return a signed parental consent form to the school. Despite the best efforts of the schools and the immunisation and oral health providers, a substantial number of consent forms are not being returned. The amendments will allow providers to follow up with the parents of students who have not returned their consent form, improving the uptake of the programs and the health of Queensland children. To protect student information, approved providers will be bound to comply with the privacy principles under the Information Privacy Act 2009.

Finally, an amendment to the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945 will allow the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Council to approve the payment of bonuses to successful discoverers or inventors up to an aggregate annual limit of \$10 million. This amendment will give the QIMR Berghofer greater flexibility in making payments to successful discoverers and inventors, enabling them to enter into more attractive commercial arrangements, attract high-quality researchers and boost the profile of the institute.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to improving sexual health outcomes for all Queenslanders regardless of their sexual orientation or preferences. The bill demonstrates this by standardising the age of consent for all forms of sexual intercourse, reflecting community expectations and removing a source of discrimination against young people on the basis of their sexual orientation. The bill also supports the protection and improvement of health care for Queenslanders and enhances the operation of a number of health portfolio acts. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.47 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

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

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

DUTIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 2417, on motion of Pitt—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.47 pm), continuing: Such places with heritage value include buildings, structures, cemeteries, archaeological sites, gardens, urban precincts and natural landscape features. It is important to note that heritage conservation does not require that places of heritage and value remain frozen in time and are never altered. The very best way to protect places of heritage is to ensure they continue to be actively used so that they are valued by the community. This can be equally applied to many of our national parks as a part of a balanced framework with respect to individualised active park management plans. The Liberal National Party will always empower and support governance structures with appropriate resourcing to achieve this outcome.

Whilst the budget this year for the environment appears to have a sugar hit, in fact budget funding out over four years shows a cut of \$2.7 million. Labor's funding commitments for the environment in this year's state budget are a serious disappointment. The community service grants program is really a reincarnation of an LNP initiative, and Labor's announced \$3.5 million koala program funding for 2016-17 was roundly slammed by key stakeholders when it was announced. Labor's budget for this year is a bit of a non-event in terms of genuine improvements for the environment. The announced \$2.7 million over three years for flying fox management strategies has limited detail on projected outcomes.

In Queensland heritage is protected and conserved using a framework which includes legislation, policies, procedures and guidelines. The Queensland Heritage Register is our public commitment to protecting our state's places of heritage significance. This register now contains more than 1,700 places of heritage significance in Queensland. There are also many more local places of heritage that have been recognised by local governments. Places of heritage trace the history of Queensland's growth and help us to generate important stories about our state's development and signify and recognise some of the most important lives and experiences of those Queenslanders who came before us. These places are now conserved by appropriate heritage legislation for generations to come.

This brings us to environmental protection, which is the very important public policy practice of ensuring our natural environment at all three levels—the individual, organisational and government levels—is not only maintained but also enhanced, if at all possible. Without strong environmental protections with respect to conservation and sustainability, we would run the real risk of damaging the health of Queensland's natural environment. Unfortunately, Labor's budget has failed to adequately address environmental protection strategies. We cannot talk about the importance of environmental protection without citing our Great Barrier Reef. Whilst it may not be the largest World Heritage area on earth, the Great Barrier Reef is certainly one of the better known. Our Great Barrier Reef covers 348,000 square kilometres and, to put this into perspective, it is bigger than the United Kingdom, Holland and Switzerland combined. The Great Barrier Reef was declared a World Heritage area in 1981 because of its outstanding universal value.

We are all only too aware today of the serious issue that coral bleaching is having on the Great Barrier Reef. When corals are stressed by changes in conditions such as temperature, light or nutrients, they expel the symbiotic algae living in their tissues, causing them to turn completely white. A healthy, resilient reef can either resist a stressful event like bleaching or die or recover from it. When coral bleaches, it is not dead. Corals can survive if water temperatures return to normal in the short term. The federal coalition government has already allocated \$460 million for reef and catchment projects in the past 2½ years. The Turnbull coalition government is also establishing a \$1 billion fund to protect the Great Barrier Reef from climate change and declining water quality, with funding coming from the Clean Energy Finance Corporation.

We also know that the Queensland Liberal National Party did more in three years to protect the Great Barrier Reef than Labor did in 20 years in government. The Palaszczuk Labor government is all about reviewing and not doing, and we certainly know that Labor wants a carbon tax. It will certainly be interesting to see whether the Palaszczuk Labor government uses its allocated \$1.8 million or \$6.8 million over four years for climate change strategies to further develop or scope a carbon tax for Queensland. Whilst additional public expenditure has been allocated and will be required for the Great Barrier Reef, this funding must be evidence based as a result of peer published scientific research and open dialogue with all concerned. Addressing climate change in an evidence based manner and achieving the correct balance with respect to our environment—protecting the Great Barrier Reef, conserving our nature and unique flora and fauna and ensuring the sustainable management of our natural resources by enabling responsible access and development—as well as holding the Palaszczuk Labor government to account will be my priority goals as the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for the environment and heritage protection and shadow minister for national parks and the Great Barrier Reef.

It is also worth mentioning and acknowledging at this point that the world's best research in managing coral reefs happens right here in Queensland at the James Cook University in Townsville via the Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies in collaboration with the Australian Institute of Marine Science. At this facility the world's largest concentration of coral reef scientists work with other leading institutions internationally, including scientists from the United States, Europe and Asia. It has been successive federal and state coalition governments that have delivered for the environment, including by prohibiting oil and gas exploration in the Great Barrier Reef, by banning both whaling and sandmining on Fraser Island, by creating the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, by establishing the world's first Oceans Policy and by committing to the Paris climate change agreement in 2015. This has recently been acknowledged by the Save Our Marine Life, an alliance of leading conservation organisations working to protect Australia's marine life.

The Liberal National Party is the party for the environment. A future Nicholls LNP government will deliver for the environment, which is why we have recently announced our support for a container deposit scheme for Queensland as well as eliminating the environmental harms of plastic bags. Our catchments, waterways and complex ecosystems need to be cherished and protected, and the LNP's announcement on a container deposit scheme as well as our support for eliminating the harms of plastic bags has been warmly welcomed by the Boomerang Alliance, SEQ Catchments, Healthy Waterways and Keep Queensland Beautiful. Much has been done. However, there is more to be done and more environmental policies to be announced by the LNP, with the expectation that Queensland should have the best balance of environmental standards, protection and economic development. The delivery of clean and green energy solutions, including renewable fuels, requires technological innovation and the development of sustainable public-private financing models whilst at the same time also recognising and valuing the importance of existing energy sources and industries to our current economy.

I note that in my electorate of Moggill I am very fortunate to have a number of community organisations with significant environmental knowledge, skills and expertise. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Rural Environmental Planning Association, REPA, The Hut Environmental & Community Association, THECA, and the Cubberla-Witton, the Pullen Pullen and the Moggill Creek catchment groups for the work they do in my local area. Whether it be Trevor Dixon, Lloyd Brown or Brian Farrow of the Kenmore-Moggill RSL subbranch, Pam Scherman Carr and Robert Carr of Fairview, or Bishop Rob Nolan of the Anglican parish of Moggill and Mount Crosby, there are many people who are contributing to a vibrant, socially cohesive community in my local area.

I now intend to address my local electorate as a component of my budget reply speech and its needs that, once again, have not been addressed in a comprehensive and coordinated way in this year's budget despite significant correspondence to various ministers and departments and questions and speeches in this place, the Queensland parliament, about specific urgent local needs and required local public infrastructure investment. Again I make the point that many of the local infrastructure needs I have highlighted, and continue to do so, for the Moggill electorate were given bipartisan support by Labor's local candidate at the 2015 state election. The Moggill electorate has long been neglected by successive Labor governments with respect to the provision of public transport infrastructure and associated services. This year's Labor budget was no exception. Labor has been in charge of our Queensland government for 23 years of the past 27 years and Labor has consistently failed to deliver for the western suburbs of Brisbane.

The suburbs of Karana Downs, Anstead and Mount Crosby are in particular need of public transport services, given that the only accessible bus service to this area runs between the city and the suburbs of Bellbowrie and Moggill. Local residents of this area west of Bellbowrie have no bus service at all and need to travel to Moggill Road to connect with the 444 Moggill to the city service. An additional local high school is also a requirement given an increasing local population, changing demographics and capacity issues at Kenmore State High School. I have previously publicly called for a footbridge to be constructed at Colleges Crossing so as to allow for safe and improved access to the park on the other side.

Easing traffic congestion on Moggill Road requires a large, comprehensive, coordinated and methodical transport infrastructure strategy for Brisbane's western suburbs, including my electorate of Moggill. The Kenmore roundabout remains problematic and unaddressed. There is no doubt that public transport use must also be incentivised via a passenger fare system which is low in cost and which has a realistic zone travel classification at its core. Despite announcements for children under 14 that they will be provided free weekend public transport fares in South-East Queensland and Labor's other announcements with respect to the public transport zone system and fares, unfortunately for families, under this Labor government electricity costs have soared, car registration costs are now out of control, stamp duty has risen and cost-of-living pressures have become more profound. However, I am pleased that through my advocacy problematic black spot sections along Moggill Road are being addressed and in particular that the entry and exit to the Brisbane Independent School will finally be fixed over the next few months. I also note that in this year's budget there has been some allocation of funding to the Moggill Koala Hospital for koala conservation work.

Queenslanders and my constituents in Moggill deserve a government that has a credible and fair dinkum economic plan. We certainly do not need the continued economic vandalism of those opposite who are not delivering a truthful plan to deal with government debt and deficit and the fiscal challenges that are ahead for future generations. My constituents in Moggill urgently need a government that fosters a business environment for real job creation, enhances economic growth, invests in infrastructure, delivers cost-of-living relief for all and assists and supports small business. The Liberal National Party has pledged to keep car registration increases to the inflation rate for its first term of a future government. The LNP will recommit to red-tape reduction for small business and we have committed to real job creation via our Get Queensland Working jobs package. Unfortunately, this year's budget is about debt, deficit, higher unemployment, raids, rip-offs and writedowns. Only the LNP has the experience, the energy, the enthusiasm, the plans and the team to get Queensland moving.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.58 pm): Our economy is one of the fastest growing in the country and it is undergoing a major transition from the resources and construction sector into the innovative industries of the future. This Labor budget is about growing innovation, attracting investment and building infrastructure. At the heart of any Labor budget is jobs. We have restored our essential front-line services, with 1,959 nurses, 651 doctors, 475 health practitioners, 940 extra teachers, 300 police officers, 54 paramedics and 44 firefighters and we remain committed to creating jobs now and jobs for the future.

We need to be a government that invests in future industry and future infrastructure. It is essential that the people of my community are able to get around in a timely manner and are able to spend more time with their loved ones. That is why the \$50 million down payment on Cross River Rail is so important for my community. Also, the Fairer Fares initiative will directly decrease the cost-of-living pressures of public transport.

The Gateway Motorway North is a major artery for many people in my community and around 83,000 vehicles use it each day. This budget delivers \$1.143 billion to provide six lanes between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge. Construction has already commenced, providing over 1,000 jobs, and is expected to be completed by late 2018. This budget also delivers the \$4.1 million that is needed for the construction of the new third track on the existing network between Lawnton to Petrie stations at a total cost of \$175.2 million.

This budget accelerates Advance Queensland with industry accelerators, regional innovation hubs and platform technology investment to lead industry and innovation into the future. Labor in government has a good story to tell with unemployment reduction and debt reduction. Since we were elected, we have seen 52,500 jobs created, which is an average of 3,500 jobs a month. Unemployment has lowered from 6.6 per cent in January 2015 to 6.2 per cent in March 2016 and we have seen a 2015 budget surplus and lower debt.

Labor is committed to seeing Queenslanders realise their dream of owning their first home. There is an increase in the Queensland First Home Owners Grant to \$20,000 for 12 months—between 1 July 2016 and 1 July 2017. For our local environment, an allocation of \$12.1 million for koala conservation will assist our koala population, which has decreased by 58 per cent over the past 20 years in Pine Rivers. Two new urban refuges are good news and I am lobbying the minister to have one of these in my community.

Housing and homelessness in my community will receive \$372,000 for the Homelessness Base initiative to deliver homelessness services. The Crisis Accommodation Program will receive \$29,000 for registered housing providers. For flood mitigation, \$161,560 is part of a \$230,800 commitment to be spent in 2016-17 for the Coulthards Creek drainage channel upgrade.

A couple of weeks ago I cut the ribbon on the ALF field at the South Pine Sports Complex in Brendale with Councillor Mike Charlton. This budget delivers the remaining \$400,000 that is required to complete the construction of AFL field and facilities. This is a project that has a \$1 million price tag. I look forward to the completion and the official opening of these facilities.

The Dayboro Trail Riders Club will receive \$50,000 from this budget to commence the construction of an amenities block to support horseriding at Dayboro, which is worth \$100,000. This amenities upgrade will benefit all community groups that utilise the Dayboro Showgrounds precinct.

An investment will also be made in my community for safe, secure and highly reliable, cost-effective electricity delivery to consumers. There is an allocation of \$1.7 million to upgrade the Lawnton substation to improve network performance. This upgrade is part of an upgrade project of \$3 million value.

I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Leave is granted. It has been approved by me as Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

Our investment in the water in my community include 15 projects. These include \$7.85M which has been allocated in 2016-17 to continue the project to provide a new water supply to Petrie. The project is currently in the detailed design phase, and will shortly go to tendering for construction. This project will connect the Petrie Water Supply Zone to an alternative bulk water supply point by building a new pipeline. At that time, the existing Petrie Water Treatment Plant will be decommissioned. A partnership with Unitywater, this project will benefit the customers of the Petrie zone by providing a reliable and efficient long term bulk water supply.

\$2M has been allocated to complete the North Pine WTP Filter Refurbishment project. The project is currently in the delivery phase, with filter refurbishment works and the new air blower undergoing integrated commissioning. The filter refurbishments will improve the resilience of the treatment process including to a wider range of raw water quality conditions, improving the overall reliability of treated water supply into the region.

The North Pine WTP Pump Station Refurbishment program is a rolling program. The refurbishment of one pump is underway in 2015-16. There is \$345,000 planned in 2016-17 for the refurbishment of a second pump. These refurbishments will ensure a reliable distribution of Treated Water to the network.

The North Pine WTP Sludge Handling Upgrade will also begin construction in October 2016, with an allocation of \$3.6M for delivery 2016-17. This is a three year project, currently in the delivery phase, and the contract has been recently awarded. This project will increase the dewatering capability to process higher solids loads under adverse operating conditions. It will also support increased production from North Pine WTP in the future to meet growing demands.

The North Pine Dam spillway project has been deferred, due to re-evaluation of risks and priorities and necessary improvements in the Dam Improvement Program.

The North Pine Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Monitoring and Control Systems improvement project has \$332,000 of capital expenditure planned for 2016-17 from a total planned budget of \$2M. Work is currently in the delivery phase. These projects will renew ageing equipment and contribute to an integrated control system for Seqwater.

The North Pine WTP Chemical Dosing (pH Correction) project will be completed in 2016-17, with total expected costs of \$1.2M with \$100,000 capital expenditure in 2016-17. The project is currently in the delivery phase. The project will improve the water treatment plant's flood production capacity by enabling the plant to treat poorer raw quality.

Our Schools will see considerable maintenance spend with the Bray Park State High School receiving \$110,000 of \$250,000 to continue the refurbishment of the Home Economics Learning spaces. Bray Park State School will receive \$300,000 to refurbish D and E Block. Dayboro State School will get \$200,000 to refurbish D, G and H Block. Lawnton State School will receive \$300,000 to refurbish A and C Block. In addition Lawnton will receive \$100,000 of \$200,000 to complete refurbishment of Prep buildings. Pine Rivers State High School will receive \$50,000 of \$180,000 to complete the repurposing of Block 9 from current usage back to classroom, as well as \$100,000 of \$240,000 to complete the refurbishment of the Home Economics Kitchen. Strathpine West State School will receive \$250,000 for refurbishment of Block 16. Pine Rivers Special School will receive \$687,000 for additional classrooms.

In the arena of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services my community will see a significant investment. \$961,000 to ensure children in need of protection have a safe place to stay in Pine Rivers including funding for residential care services provided by Integrated Family and Youth Services in Strathpine.

Bravehearts Foundation Limited in Strathpine and Relationships Australia in Strathpine will receive \$190,000 to support families to safely care for their children.

\$1.619 million will be invested in Moreton Bay to establish new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services as part of the Palaszczuk's action plan to reduce overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the Queensland child protection system.

\$976,000 to assist community members under 65 or an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person aged under 50, with a disability or condition that restricts their day-to-day living, to stay living at home in Pine Rivers, including funding for local service providers like Blue Care: Head Office in Strathpine and Queensland Meals on Wheels Services Association Incorporated in Brendale.

There is a significant expenditure in assisting those with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need in Pine Rivers, including funding for local service providers like:

- Ablecare Pty Ltd in Lawnton and Strathpine
- Beacon Support Pty Ltd in Strathpine
- Brain Injury Association of Queensland Inc. in Lawnton
- Carers Link Pty Ltd in Cashmere
- Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland in Bray Park, Brendale and Strathpine
- Community Access Respite Services Inc. in Bray Park
- Endeavour Foundation in Lawnton
- FSG Australia in Bray Park
- Funding to Individuals in Warner
- Hypar Pty Ltd ATF The Hypar Trust in Lawnton
- Inclusive Support Service Pty Ltd in Lawnton
- S.C.O.P.E. Inc. in Lawnton and Strathpine
- Southern Cross Care Services Pty Limited in Bray Park
- The Corporation of the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane in Bray Park, Lawnton and Strathpine
- The Spectrum Organisation Association Inc. in Lawnton
- TLB Assistance Pty Ltd in Bray Park
- UnitingCare Community in Bray Park and Lawnton

This is an investment of \$15.633 million. An essential investment for those in need in my community leading into the 1 July 2016 NDIS implementation commencement for more than 90,000 Queenslanders with a disability.

As the member for Kallangur will update the House \$1 million to complete the replacement Petrie fire and rescue station, following an initial \$1.9 million allocation in the 2015-16 Budget. This increased investment will greatly improve the emergency service capacity in my community.

Domestic and Family Violence will receive \$389,000 funding for counselling services and court based services provided by Caboolture Regional Domestic Violence Service in Lawnton. In addition Encircle Ltd will receive \$112,000 to provide community support at the Pine Rivers Neighbourhood Centre.

Ours is a Government of job creation, a Government of fairness and a Government with people at the heart of it. These measures are positive measures for my electorate and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.03 pm): I rise to speak in this budget reply. Firstly, I acknowledge my daughter Lucy in the chamber. She has finished her exams this week and has decided to spend her afternoon listening to the budget in reply debate—and, no, she is not in trouble.

After nearly 18 months of the Palaszczuk Labor government and two budgets, it is clear that this government does not have a plan. The budget, which was handed down two days ago by a mistake-prone Treasurer—the likes of whom we have never seen before in Queensland—is a budget that is big on rhetoric and hollow on substance. It is interesting to note that this budget is meant to be an infrastructure budget. This infrastructure budget spends \$2 billion less on infrastructure than what the LNP's last budget spent on infrastructure. In this budget, infrastructure spending has fallen—from almost \$10 billion in our last budget in 2014-16 to \$6.9 billion in this budget. That is a decline of almost \$2.8 billion, or almost 30 per cent. In real terms, infrastructure spending has fallen by almost a third. How has Labor gone with the infrastructure promises that it made last year? As has been said numerous times this week in this House, Labor did not even bother to spend that money. Labor underspent it by almost 20 per cent. We now see that funding included in this figure. Based on this government's own job estimates in last year's budget, this underspend has cost Queensland around 6,000 jobs and meant delays to important transport, health and energy infrastructure. In the general government sector, which funds our roads, schools and hospitals, the Palaszczuk government has underspent by 22 per cent, or around \$1.2 billion.

This budget simply has no credibility. As has been said, the best predictor of future behaviour is past behaviour. If Labor cannot get these important projects rolling out the door, it certainly cannot be allowed to be responsible for our \$300 billion economy and our just over \$50 billion state budget. It is incredible to note that, under this Palaszczuk Labor government, infrastructure investment in the general government sector has also fallen to 2.2 per cent of gross state product—roughly half the percentage of infrastructure investment in the previous five years and, importantly, the lowest in living memory.

Where has the \$4 billion gone from Labor's raid on the defined benefit superannuation fund? This Treasurer tells us that, apparently, \$2 billion went into debt reduction and \$2 billion will go into infrastructure. We note in the figures that net debt in the general government sector rises fivefold—by more than \$7 billion. This supposed infrastructure budget is simply not there. The Treasurer has been caught red-handed with his decision to raid public servants' superannuation. After 18 months of this asleep-at-the-wheel Palaszczuk Labor government, business confidence is evaporating and the situation is even worse in the regions.

The headline numbers are not pretty. The budget has a fiscal deficit as far as the eye can see. Despite the government's reckless act of raiding the superannuation fund, debt is rising to nearly \$80 billion, leaving a fifty-fifty chance that the fund will go into deficit, meaning that it will not be able to pay members their entitlements. That means that taxpayers will have to bail out the fund. The only intergenerational legacy of this budget will be debt—just like the legacy of the Beattie and Bligh years.

As I said, in this budget this government is spending \$2 billion less on infrastructure. There is no way to dress it up, or say that there is a big infrastructure boost, when the budget papers simply do not reflect those statements. There has been some mention in the budget of the often talked about big infrastructure projects. Cross River Rail, Labor's supposedly No. 1 infrastructure priority, received only \$50 million to cover the cost of building up a bureaucracy. The long-awaited business case for Cross River Rail is yet to be delivered, making it impossible for the federal government to reasonably consider any funding request.

It is interesting to note the comments this week of the Treasurer, which seemed to contradict those of the Minister for Infrastructure and the Premier. This week, the Treasurer was reported in the media as saying that Labor may delay Cross River Rail. That only serves to create further uncertainty about Labor's commitment to that project.

Labor's Building Queensland is yet to release a pipeline of projects. The \$2 billion put aside in the infrastructure fund is yet to create any jobs for Queenslanders or boost productivity. We have heard many times this week how regional Queenslanders have simply been forgotten about, with significant cuts to the infrastructure spend compared to the LNP budget. In Wide Bay the infrastructure spend has been slashed by more than \$400 million. The infrastructure spend in Toowoomba is down by more than \$220 million. Incredibly, in Mackay—where we were only a week or two ago—it has again this year been slashed by another \$80 million.

Since January 2015 we have seen Labor putting politics before the people of Queensland. Labor has refused to work with the federal government and fund projects. I acknowledge Michelle Landry, the hardworking candidate for Capricornia. She has announced much needed funding for the Rookwood Weir, a project that is expected to increase agricultural production by \$1 billion a year and create 2,100 local jobs. Where is the Palaszczuk government on this vital piece of infrastructure for Queensland? It is completely silent within this budget.

Interestingly, not listed in this year's budget papers is the Townsville port access corridor. It was in last year's budget but it has been completely taken off. This is a project that would boost the port's already \$8 billion worth of trade that flows through that vital port through direct access for freight trains of up to 1,400 metres, increasing capacity, efficiency and safety of existing rail operations. This vital piece of infrastructure for Townsville is not even mentioned. It was completely taken out of the budget papers.

The sad reality of Labor's political games is that Queenslanders simply miss out on a share of federal funding. Other states are prepared to work with the federal government. I am proud of the LNP's working record with the federal government to secure infrastructure for Queensland. The LNP worked with the federal government to secure funding for the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, creating up to 1,800 full-time construction jobs and improving road freight, especially for the resources and agricultural sector. We see that work commencing now. We also worked with the federal government to provide a \$6.8 billion rescue program for the Bruce Highway, a program that will have over 200 individual projects for the state's main road artery. Those projects are actually happening right now. That road is important to millions of Queenslanders. Whether you are a banana grower in Ingham or a tourism operator on the Sunshine Coast, you really do need the Bruce Highway work.

Looking at this budget we see not only the infrastructure that Labor has not funded but also projects it has failed to deliver. In relation to state development it is easy to see the difference between an LNP government and the now failing Labor Palaszczuk government. It is evident in my travels as I go across the state. It is fair to say that regional communities are hurting. One-third of the young people in outback Queensland are unemployed. In Cairns almost one in four young people cannot find a job and in the Wide Bay almost one in five people are unfortunately in the unemployment queue. What is missing in this budget for these people in the regions and across the state is a vision for building these communities and facilitating state economic growth.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's Building our Regions fund had a budget allocation in last year's budget, the 2015-16 budget, of \$70 million. Those opposite sat in this chamber and talked about how that was going to be the saviour of the regions. The embarrassing fact for this lazy Palaszczuk government is that less than half a million—in actual fact, \$406,000—of that \$70 million was actually expended last year. Regional communities have been missing out on the vital investment they need and the jobs that would flow from that investment because of this government's inaction. This week in the House when asked about it the Premier's first thought was to blame hardworking regional councils across the state. This comes at a time when we have heard the claims of a Labor government that it is accelerating these projects in the regions. Honestly, it is incredible. I do not think time could go any slower. We are screaming out for these projects in the regions and nothing is happening.

I am proud of the LNP's Royalties for the Regions program which was scrapped by Labor. Even though it was scrapped, it still delivered more in this financial year than the Labor Party's Building our Regions fund. It is just incredible. Unlike those opposite we had a plan to build infrastructure projects in regional Queensland. Where this government is winding back infrastructure in Queensland in regional communities, we have put \$495 million on the table through our Royalties for Regions program, unlocking the economic potential of regional Queensland to improve our communities and, vitally important for our regional communities, to create jobs. When the Labor Party is talking about the jobs that they are trying to grow in regional Queensland—or anywhere in Queensland—they need to look at why this infrastructure spending is not happening, why it is not rolling out the door.

The Treasurer in his budget speech spoke about the importance of the Queensland resources industry, yet we have major companies and peak resources industry groups stating Labor is doing its best to hump them out of Queensland with regulations, red tape and project approval hold ups. The Carmichael Mine is a prime example. We are seeing no jobs. Regional Queensland—the heartland of Queensland—is hurting the most through a lack of jobs because this government is holding up Queensland from being the economic powerhouse that we really are.

In relation to trade, the free trade agreements that the federal government have put in place are good for the Queensland economy. If only we had a government that was serious about capturing the advantages of those agreements. The Palaszczuk government does not have a sustainable plan when

it comes to trade. One day we see the surprise announcement of two new trade offices in Chengdu and Singapore to boost international investment and then two days afterwards—I doubt the Treasurer had spoken to the trade minister about this—we see a new tax on foreign investment. It is hard to imagine a more blatant breach of Labor's election promise of no new or increased taxes than a great big new tax on foreign investment.

Maybe the Treasurer did not understand how big this tax was. We have heard many times how embarrassing his 3,000 per cent error was. While the Treasurer was talking about opening trade offices in international places to encourage trade and investment here in Queensland, it is incredible to say the least that two days afterwards there is the announcement of a big new hairy tax. Admittedly he did not know how big it was until he was corrected by one of his staff. It is worrying that the Treasurer comes into this House and says, 'Don't worry about it. It is all fine. We have it under control. Other states also have a tax on foreign investment. It is okay because someone else is doing it. Do not worry about Queensland.' Queensland's executive director of the Property Council of Australia, Chris Mountford, has now labelled this tax a high-risk move for Queensland's fragile economy. It is again another reckless move made by a Treasurer who says one thing—'there will not be any more taxes'—and then does another. In May of last year, he categorically ruled out this new tax on foreign investors. Not only will this broken promise destroy jobs in Queensland but, unfortunately, it will also erode investor confidence at a time when we need it most.

I am really pleased to touch very briefly on the LNP's employment plan, which will create 20,000 jobs for young Queenslanders as part of our plan to get Queensland working. Our plan will reduce the cost of working for young apprentices and incentivise businesses to train and retrain young Queenslanders, not only in the regions but also across the length and breadth of this state. Under Labor youth unemployment has increased and our figures are the second worst in the nation, just ahead of Tasmania. We will provide a \$5,000 incentive for Queensland businesses that take on an apprentice who then completes that apprenticeship. That will provide for 10,000 new apprentices over four years. Under the Palaszczuk government, apprenticeship numbers have fallen in terms of both completion and take-up rates.

Our scheme is not just for employers; of course, it is for the apprentices themselves. It will help increase the opportunities for young Queenslanders, helping tradies, sparkies, plumbers and hairdressers to get working with a \$500 tool voucher available upon completion of their apprenticeship. It will provide small businesses with incentives to help train and retrain young Queenslanders who simply want a job. For those Queenslanders who do not necessarily want to complete an apprenticeship but want the dignity of work and for small businesses that may otherwise struggle to put on employees, we will offer \$4,000 grants to assist with recruitment and start-up costs for eligible young Queenslanders who are unemployed and not enrolled in full-time education or training. We will provide incentives for businesses to employ Queenslanders, unlike this Palaszczuk government.

The employment bonus is there to encourage businesses to employ eligible participants under the apprenticeship boost or job-start incentives to train and retrain young Queenslanders. After 12 months of continuous employment for each eligible participant, employers will have workers' wages excluded as part of the next year's workers compensation premium. As Deputy Leader of the LNP, I could not be prouder of the employment plan that we are launching. It is a real policy and a real alternative for Queenslanders. Let us compare that with Labor, which has no plan. Only the LNP has the energy and the experience to get Queensland moving.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.22 pm): It gives me much pleasure to rise to speak in support of another great Labor budget that continues the great work of last year. I congratulate the Treasurer, the Premier and all the ministers on doing the hard yards of delivering on our election commitments in an economically responsible way during challenging economic times. This budget will create jobs through a focus on innovation, attracting investment and infrastructure.

The budget's continued focus on innovation is crucial. The small business owners who attended the small business forum that I ran with Minister Enoch just last week will welcome the \$22.7 million Advancing Small Business strategy, particularly the digital capability grants. At our forum we discussed the fact that up to 50 per cent of small businesses do not have an online presence or strategy. The initiative will help to connect our local businesses to a global market.

The many people in my electorate who work in the field of genomics will welcome Accelerating Advance Queensland. I had the opportunity of touring the Transitional Research Institute, which is an amazing facility. I was absolutely blown away by the work being done in the area of genomics. That work will revolutionise the way that we will treat and cure cancer and infectious diseases.

Public transport is a key issue in my electorate. Whether I am at a public transport stop talking to people on their way to school, at a school fete or volunteering at the Holland Park Meals on Wheels, people tell me that public transport is crucial for our community, with its rapidly increasing population density. The \$50 million to kickstart the Cross River Rail project will be applauded in my electorate. The Fairer Fares for South-East Queensland initiative will make an incredible difference to everybody in my community, including families, students, pensioners and workers. I am particularly pleased that we will be supporting jobseekers through the establishment of the concessional fare. Off-peak extensions are a big win for workers who start early. From personal experience, I know that sitting on a bus platform at 5 am in the middle of winter never really feels like rush hour. Families will welcome the free travel on weekends for kids. I know many families will now take a bus on family outings, instead of the car.

Perhaps that family outing will be to a blockbuster exhibition at GoMA. It is great to see funding restored to this important initiative, as GoMA attracts tourists from around the world while enriching our state's cultural life. Local arts organisations will also benefit from this budget. I am pleased that the budget includes funding to support the great work that 4MBS does in our community and in the entire state.

On Tuesday night it was pleasing to be able to visit the P&C meeting at the Nursery Road Special School to talk to parents about the \$600,000 that has been set aside to build an oval so that students with special needs can participate in sport. Every student deserves the right to have the opportunity to be physically active. That is why I am also pleased that over \$90,000 has been allocated to the Seville Road State School to create a collaborative outdoor learning area. All the schools in my electorate certainly will benefit from the Schools of the Future initiative.

Last year, on the May Day weekend, several houses in my electorate were flooded during a severe weather event. The \$1.3 million being spent on flood mitigation will give great comfort to the young couple I helped clean up after the flood, as it will help to prevent future floods in this area. As well, it will create more green space for our local community. That is important. We have viable koala populations in the Whites Hill and Mount Gravatt reserves. The members of the Mount Gravatt Environment Group and the Coorparoo State School environment club will welcome the \$12 million allocated to koala conservation. All of my constituents will welcome the next instalment of \$22 million in funding to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

Recently I organised a second round table of community leaders to discuss our response to domestic violence. Building on the first round table, we reached out to community organisations such as the Holland Park Hawks, the Holland Park Lions Club and the Coorparoo Uniting Church. Like me, those groups will welcome the fact that the government has backed the implementation of the *Not now, not ever* report recommendations with significant funding.

This is not just a great budget; it is another step in what has been ongoing responsible economic management by the Treasurer, the Premier and the entire ministerial team: unemployment down, debt down, business confidence up, more nurses, more teachers, more doctors, more police, more paramedics, more action on saving the reef, more action on domestic violence, more innovation, more investment and more infrastructure. This is economic management and leadership that is transforming our economy and transforming our community, all done with a surplus and without having to sell assets. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.27 pm): This budget is a bad budget for Queensland. It is a typical Labor budget based on broken promises, more debt and deficit, and no plan for the future. I am particularly pleased to speak on this budget today as the new shadow minister for employment, industrial relations, skills and training and the shadow minister for fair trading, because today we announced a great policy for young Queenslanders and a great policy for small businesses. Our plan will create 20,000 jobs over four years, as opposed to Labor's plan for 8,000 jobs. I will get to that a little later and I will talk about some of the issues impacting the area of Kawana, which I represent, and how bad the budget is for the Sunshine Coast. I have to say that it will come as no surprise to the Sunshine Coast community, as there has been a lack of investment in the area under the Labor government.

I turn to the jobs plan that the Labor Party has been spruiking for the past 12 months. They have talked jobs, training, skills, apprenticeships. They have talked the talk, but they have not delivered. We have high unemployment rates in the state. The member who just spoke talked about lower unemployment, but perhaps he should look at the figures released today. In Queensland, the seasonally adjusted figures for unemployment went up. We are not talking about lower rates of unemployment; we are talking about higher rates of unemployment, according to the figures released today. If we look at

the past 12 months of the Labor government, one would think that as they have been spruiking about lower unemployment the figures would back them up, but they do not. The youth unemployment figures do not back them up. However, as I have said many times in this place, what would one expect when the minister, the member for Brisbane Central and a former union official, says that nothing can be done about youth unemployment and that it has always been an issue.

Ms GRACE: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms GRACE: I am going to challenge you every time. I find the comments offensive. They are taken out of context. They are misleading the House. I have put the record straight on numerous occasions. I ask that the member withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Mr WATTS: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I am just wondering if all comments that are taken to be offensive need to be withdrawn or only those that are personally offensive.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think you can leave it up to the chair to make that judgement.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will table very shortly an article that appeared in the press in Queensland in which the minister is directly quoted. The only context around that will be the quote marks at the start and the end of the minister's quote. I will get to that.

Let us look at the Labor Party and jobs in this state. They have the big initiative Jobs Queensland. As I said yesterday, Jobs Queensland was a major government initiative. 'Jobs now, jobs for the future', they said—\$40 million in expenditure over four years. Interestingly, in this budget it says 'implementing Jobs Queensland'. Guess what? The budget they released a year ago said 'implementing Jobs Queensland'. It also had \$10 million allocated to it.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. It takes a while. It takes a long time, but we are dealing with the Labor Party.

If we look at the \$10 million investment in the last 12 months under Jobs Queensland, what jobs have been created because of that organisation? None, because the organisation does not exist yet. There is no documentation. There is no website. There is no ministerial statement or anything anywhere that says that Jobs Queensland exists. The centrepiece of their employment policy was to have \$40 million expended on Jobs Queensland.

We have already had \$10 million expended, but we do not know where the money has gone or what they have done, but it does not exist. We look forward to responses from the Treasurer, the Minister for Training and Skills and the Minister for Employment with respect to where the \$10 million has been spent and when they envisage a board will be established. If they are getting expert advice, which they were meant to be getting under Jobs Queensland, if it has not been established in 12 months who have they been getting advice from?

We know that they have been having lots of meetings with union officials. We know that they are getting advice from them. We know that if someone is a union official in Queensland they roll out the red carpet. We know from the member for Burleigh's questioning this morning in relation to a particular electrical trade business that they could not get a meeting with this government.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: And the member for Toowoomba North. We know that a businessperson in this state cannot get a meeting with this government. If a person shows a union ticket or a union card—a CFMEU or ETU one particularly—then they roll out the red carpet. Not only does the door get opened for them but the people at the bottom will have an express elevator to the ministers' offices.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member over there. That is exactly right—ETU, CFMEU; all those other union thugs. Straight up to the top to the ministerial level—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. He just called me a paedophile. I take offence at that.

Mr Rickuss: I didn't call you a paedophile.

Mr SAUNDERS: You called me a paedophile. I take offence. I want an apology.

Mr BLEIJIE: I did not say anything.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seats.

Mr RICKUSS: I ask him to withdraw that accusation because it is false.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not hear—

Mr Saunders: He is now accusing me of being a liar.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members should wait until they are called by the chair. I did not hear that interaction. I am going to seek the advice of the Clerk and then I will address the issue. I ask members to hold for a moment, please. Neither the Clerk nor I heard the interaction. We will look at the transcript and then follow it up with both members.

Mr BLEIJIE: As I was saying, if a person is a union official in this state—

Mr RICKUSS: I rise to a point of order, Madam Speaker. He accused me of something that I did not do. I ask him to withdraw

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lockyer, you are not on your feet at the moment as the member addressing the chamber. You are not addressing the chamber at the moment. It is the member for Kawana who has the call. You are referring to interactions between two people who are interjecting. What I have actually advised the chamber is that we will listen to the audio and clarify exactly what has happened then we will get back to both members. We will address those issues. Neither the Clerk nor I heard what was going on there. It is the member for Kawana who actually has the call at the moment. That is the member I am asking to rise to their feet.

Mr BLEIJIE: As I was saying, if someone is a businessperson in this state they cannot get access to ministers or the Premier, but if they are a union official they can get direct access. If one has a look at the diary entries of the ministers, particularly the member for—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Brisbane Central. She is interjecting a lot. I have read the diary of the Minister for Employment. I have read about the unions. I have seen the unions that she has met with. I have seen that she has met with Michael Ravbar and CFMEU officials. I saw in the diary after they met with Michael Ravbar that it is then just an official of the CFMEU. Through the diary I know who the employment minister meets. I can clearly see that.

If a person is a union official in this state and they have a direct interest or conflict then there are no worries they get to meet with Labor ministers and the Premier. This is despite the Premier saying many months ago that her government was going to have an open door policy and access for businesses and any Queenslanders. As we heard this morning from the questioning of the member for Toowoomba North and the member for Burleigh, that is not the case. Unless a person has a union ticket or a membership card they are not allowed to see the ministers. That is the reality.

We have heard the Minister for Employment, the member for Brisbane Central, talk a lot about jobs and training. The reality is that there is high unemployment and high youth unemployment under her reign. She has no plans. She has not explained to Queenslanders how she is going to rein in youth unemployment. She has no policies in place to rein in youth unemployment.

We had a big debate about this in the parliament yesterday. All those on that side of the House voted to support higher unemployment rates in this state by virtue of the fact that they voted against a motion of fact—that is, that apprenticeships have declined. I talked about apprenticeships declining. There are 5,500 fewer apprentices in the Labor Party's first term in government as opposed to in ours. I take members to a document which I referred to yesterday but is updated as of today. This is fresh off the press—'Apprentices and trainees 2015, December quarter'. I said they had 5,000 fewer apprentices under their regime in the first year of government. It gets worse. It is actually 7,000 now. Overnight the figures have gone from 5,000 to 7,000 fewer apprentices. Apprenticeship numbers are getting worse in this state.

The Premier and the Minister for Training and Skills have got to stop blaming everybody else. They have to acknowledge the fact that they have been the government for over 12 months and it is their responsibility. No-one else is to blame, but those members themselves.

I refer to a comment I made before about the employment minister. The employment minister rose to object and say that she took personal offence to a statement I made and said that I took her comments out of context. I draw the attention of honourable members to an article—thank you, member

for Burleigh, for getting this document for me—with the headline ‘Employment minister says youth unemployment “not new” and “not much you can change”’. That article is dated 15 January 2016 at 2.41 pm and written by John McCarthy, Tom Snowdon and Trent Akers of the *Courier-Mail*.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. She said at the press conference that she was taken out of context. Let us see what the direct quote was. The direct quote from the employment minister was—

“Youth unemployment is always difficult to address. I don’t know that there’s much you can change structurally,” she said. “There’s always an issue with youth unemployment. It’s not new, it’s been around a long time.”

If the Minister for Health wants to defend the employment minister about what she said, well, that is what she said. The Minister for Health is blaming the media. ‘It is the feds’ fault. It is the LNP’s fault.’ Now it is ‘the media’s fault’. Not 30 seconds ago the health minister said to me, ‘Look at what she said at the press conference.’ The minister may not know that I have the story printed from the press conference. The health minister should note, in italics, a direct quote—

Youth unemployment is always difficult to address. I don’t know there is much you can change structurally. There is always an issue with youth unemployment. It’s not new, it’s been around for a long time.

I table a copy of that for the employment minister, and perhaps the attendants could take a copy to the health minister so he can see what his colleagues said in January about youth unemployment, because she said exactly what I quoted from the press conference.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 15 January 2016, titled ‘Employment Minister says youth unemployment “not new” and “not much you can change”’ [964].

In terms of jobs around the state, it is clear that the Labor Party has no clue. We need a change of policy and a change of direction. On that note, we need a policy to get Queensland working and moving. That is what the LNP leader announced today—a real plan to get Queenslanders into jobs, to address unemployment rates, to ensure that, no matter where in the state one resides, if one is unemployed there will be an opportunity. Our plan to get Queensland working will attract 20,000 new jobs over four years. A Queensland apprenticeship boost will provide a \$5,000 incentive for Queensland businesses that take on a new apprentice from beginning to end. This boost will provide up to 10,000 new apprentices over four years. Then there is the tool for tradies—\$500 vouchers for tradies who complete their apprenticeship to get the tools they need to get working. Over four years this will provide tools for 20,000 tradies to get ahead in their job.

I thank Andy and Cat who joined the Leader of the Opposition at a press conference today. Cat is from Tradex, and her boss, Helen, was there. There was Chris from Tradesmen on Time and his apprentice, Andy. In front of the cameras Andy and Cat said what a great opportunity the \$500 voucher will provide at the end of their apprenticeship. We heard Chris and Helen from Tradex say that that the \$5,000 boost will incentivise them to take on another apprentice. Helen said that, with the cost and difficulties of putting on another apprentice, the \$5,000 means she can hire a new female plumbing apprentice in their business, and that is good news for Queenslanders.

There is also the Job Start incentive—\$4,000 grants over 12 months to assist small businesses with recruitment and start-up costs for eligible businesses. This concerns 15- to 24-year-olds who are unemployed and not enrolled in full-time education and training, because we know that a lot of people just want a job. They do not want to go to training or to university or to finish high school: they just want a job. This will incentivise small business to take on those people. If mum-and-dad businesses take on the apprenticeship boost and the Job Start incentive, they also will be applicable for our WorkCover Queensland rebate and employment boost. For each 12 months of continuous employment of each eligible participant, employers will have that worker’s wages excluded as part of the next premium calculation.

When this morning the Leader of the Opposition announced this policy of tools for tradies, I saw the look on the faces of the Minister for Employment and the Minister for Skills and Training. They were thinking, ‘If only we had of thought of that.’ The government’s \$100 million plan creates only 8,000 jobs. Our just over \$100 million plan creates 20,000 jobs, deals with apprentices and deals with small mum-and-dad business operators; real jobs that this economy needs.

I refer to issues in my electorate. As I said at the outset, and as is always the case, the Sunshine Coast has been absolutely neglected by the Labor government. When in government, we brought forward by six months construction of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. We signed the contract, got the deal done, got the hospital built. Of course we see the Labor Party delay it again until April next year. We see roads cut from projects that were already planned. We saw the plans years ago, but now they are back in the planning stages under the new Minister for Main Roads.

I refer to the \$440 million plan to build the Mooloolah River interchange. Under Labor, it will never happen. Not one dollar was put aside for the Mooloolah River interchange. The minister must know that, when the Sunshine Coast University Hospital opens next year, there will be major traffic congestion and gridlock which will put ambulances at risk—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the minister. There is no use in a hospital if the ambulance cannot get to it. There is no use being a patient in the back of an ambulance if one cannot get to a hospital. Does the minister think a monorail traverses the roads and gridlock to drop people at the hospital? There is no monorail. We need cars to get to the hospital. Unless we build the roads and infrastructure for the buses, ambulances and vehicles to get there, there is no point in having a hospital. As occurred when the water tanks exploded on Kawana Way, people will be cut off from that hospital, and that is what I am trying to avoid. That is why the Labor Party should have invested in the Mooloolah River interchange, but it has not. The Minister for Health will be held responsible next year when the hospital eventually opens and when ambulances cannot get to it, because this minister and this Labor government delayed its opening by five months.

As the health minister seems to have a lot to say today, I table for his benefit about 800 nonconforming petitions with respect to 'Road Delay—No Way.' The minister says this is not an issue on the Sunshine Coast, but this morning the Clerk tabled thousands of petitions from Sunshine Coast residents. I now table about 800 nonconforming petitions with respect to 'Road Delay—No Way' and in respect of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding road delays [965].

When the health minister squeaks, squawks and interjects as though nothing is an issue, he should listen to the thousands of Sunshine Coast residents who say that this is an issue. This will be an issue.

As a minister in the Bligh government, the minister put on a blindfold saying, 'Nothing to see here; it is never my fault.' 'Not my fault,' he said when SPER debt skyrocketed. 'Someone else's,' he said. And then we know that he tried to fiddle with the figures. If we refer to the Ethics Committee investigations, let us consider the one carried out on the former attorney-general, who is now the health minister, with respect to the fudging of the numbers and the SPER debt. We know what the minister did, we know what happened when that SPER debt was there—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! We all appreciate some spirited debate, member for Kawana and Minister for Health, but can we return to the budget?

Mr BLEIJIE: As I was saying, the Mooloolah River interchange is vitally important for the Sunshine Coast community. It will be no good opening a hospital next year if people cannot get to it because the roads are insufficient. The Minister for Main Roads has already acknowledged the gridlock at the moment on those roads. The minister thinks a bandaid solution of \$22 million to upgrade a few roundabouts will solve all the issues. The LNP investment of \$440 million has been put on the backburner by the Labor government in terms of its \$22 million investment. I suspect and suggest that a \$440 million road around the hospital would ease congestion more than \$22 million being spent to duplicate a couple of roundabouts. Residents of the Sunshine Coast community, particularly in my electorate, have spoken with their signatures and with those petitions tabled today. Thousands of people have signed those petitions in this respect.

I dare the health minister to hold a public forum when the hospital opens to explain to the Sunshine Coast community around Kawana that the roads will be fine, that the roads will be okay, and there will be no gridlock. I dare him to come to a public meeting and to say to my constituents that it is alright, that everything is under control and that the roads will be okay to get to the hospital. I dare the health minister to do that, but he will not. He will not because it will be 'the board's fault'; it will be someone else's fault. It will be the fault of someone in Tuvalu—where the minister used to serve as attorney-general—that the roads have not been built on the Sunshine Coast. That is what will happen.

This minister should be ashamed, because the last time the Labor Party was in power the Sunshine Coast University Hospital was delayed. Of course, the first thing the new Labor health minister did was delay the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. Then in parliament the minister refuses in answers to questions on notice to explain why the government has delayed its opening. The minister refuses to produce the independent report about the delay and says, 'No, that is confidential; but put in an RTI application if the Sunshine Coast community wants to know why it is delayed.'

Only the LNP has the confidence, the expertise and the experience to get Queensland moving. As part of our plan to get Queensland working, 20,000 jobs will be created. That is good for Queensland and good for young people. Unfortunately, they are not going to see it under the Labor Party.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (3.50 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2016. The key thing I have taken away from the Labor Palaszczuk government's second budget is that this is a budget which puts people first above all else. It builds on our commitments from last year's budget and recognises the unique challenges faced by some members of our community. This includes people living in regional and rural areas, people with disability, their families and carers, and older Queenslanders. It was incredibly disappointing the opposition leader did not mention disabilities or seniors once in his budget reply speech. The contrast could not be clearer, and that is why this is a Labor budget I am proud to support.

Once again we have shown our absolute commitment to supporting people with disability to live their life like everyone else. As a result, we have increased funding for disability services by 10 per cent this financial year, with more than \$1.7 billion announced in the state budget. A key part of our budget is transitioning to the NDIS. A full rollout across Queensland will begin in just two weeks. The NDIS is the greatest Labor initiative and is the biggest social reform since the Gough Labor government introduced Medicare more than 40 years ago.

This budget includes \$5 million for readiness initiatives to help Queenslanders prepare for this massive change—change that will give these people choice and control over their lives, allowing them to set a plan and work towards achieving the goals they have set for themselves. The NDIS will not only create opportunities for people with disability but also benefit the broader community. The NDIA estimates that the scheme will support demand for up to 19,400 new jobs in Queensland's disability sector alone, with many of these jobs in rural and remote areas. Once the three-year rollout of the NDIS is complete, the state government will contribute more than \$2 billion every year for the scheme. This will be the biggest ever investment for people with disability in Queensland. This budget also recognises that people with disability deserve to live close to their families, friends, support services and employment opportunities—just like everyone else. We have allocated \$15.8 million for a range of housing solutions for people with disability and a further \$5.6 million to assist young people with disability leaving school to explore options for their future.

This budget also recognises the important role older Queenslanders play in communities across our state and everything they have to offer. We have a bold vision for the future: to create an age-friendly state where all Queenslanders, regardless of their age, can be active, connected and contribute to their community. To achieve this vision, we are investing \$8.3 million for seniors over four years to deliver our new strategy—Queensland: an age-friendly community. One aspect I am particularly excited about is the new seniors grant program, which will seed fund in innovative age-friendly projects. We are also boosting funding to implement recommendations from the parliamentary inquiry into financial protections for seniors and to help prevent elder abuse.

I am pleased there has been an increase from last year's budget of \$13 million going towards concessions—a total of \$254.2 million. This includes the electricity rebate scheme, which provides up to \$300 per annum for holders of a pensioner concession card, Queensland Seniors Card and the Department of Veterans' Affairs gold card to assist with domestic electricity supply.

Another important concession for seniors delivered in this budget is the Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme, which provides a 20 per cent subsidy of up to \$200 to help pensioners pay their local council rates and stay in their own homes. After the LNP tried to cut concessions and slashed the office for seniors, Labor's positive and proactive initiatives have been applauded by the sector, with Community Legal Centres Queensland describing our boost to Seniors Legal and Support Service as really great news and Council on the Ageing Queensland welcoming our innovation grant funding and age-friendly initiatives.

I am delighted that this budget has also been welcomed by regional Queenslanders, particularly those in the north. My local paper, the *Townsville Bulletin*, welcomed the budget on Tuesday saying that Queenslanders living in regional and rural areas are the real winners in the Palaszczuk government's second budget. The paper went on to say that the government has heeded calls for a fair go from those living outside the south-east and Townsville has emerged a real winner. This comes as no surprise to me because it is a budget that really does focus on the regions. Through our \$100 million

Back to Work package, we are recognising that many people in the regions are doing it tough. We are giving the incentives local employers need to kickstart growth and support 8,000 jobs across regional Queensland.

We have committed more than \$19 million towards our Advance Queensland biofutures road map and action plan, and this will play a key part in diversifying our economy in the north, supporting our transition from the mining boom and setting us up to achieve our vision for a billion dollar biofutures sector.

We have committed an extra \$40 million to the North Queensland stadium, taking our total investment to \$140 million. I have been fighting hard to ensure that this project becomes a reality, and I am happy to see that Malcolm Turnbull has finally come to the table. As a result of our continued lobbying, the stadium will be delivered, creating up to 700 jobs during construction and completely revitalising our city. While the LNP wants to talk down Townsville, talk down the north and talk down the regions, we are investing in the future and delivering a range of projects and initiatives to kickstart growth.

As a North Queenslander, I am pleased my electorate of Mundingburra has shared in the good news for the region. From speaking with local families, I know some of the key areas that matter to them are health care and education. I have been pushing to ensure that my home town of Townsville gets its fair share of funding in these areas after the Turnbull government's cruel \$18 billion cuts to health and education. I am thrilled that we will be investing \$6.6 million to expand the children's ward at the Townsville Hospital. This will significantly improve the quality of care and comfort for sick children and their families, and will also provide up to 25 extra jobs for our region.

We are also delivering \$11.8 million over four years for mental health facilities for young North Queenslanders, which is something I am extremely passionate about. I have been advocating for our local schools in my electorate to be upgraded, and I am pleased that the Townsville Community Learning Centre, Heatley Secondary College and Vincent State School will benefit from \$2.8 million in capital works and school infrastructure enhancement.

I said earlier that this is a budget about people, and I am proud that we are also providing funding to support some of Mundingburra's most vulnerable, delivering \$14.5 million to assist people with disability and their families, and \$9.9 million to child safety in the Mundingburra electorate. Labor's second budget has continued to show the values that our party is about. It is about putting people first, and it is for these reasons that I commend the budget to the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.57 pm): I rise to speak to the Palaszczuk government's Appropriation Bill 2016 on behalf of the people of my Mermaid Beach electorate. I am sad to say that the Queensland budget has emerged as another classic example of a short-sighted, fiscally irresponsible Labor government's economically incompetent Treasurer. In his introductory speech on this bill, the Treasurer declared this budget as one with a clear intent to drive economic growth across all parts of Queensland, yet all we see is a clear intent to engage in the Treasurer's magic trick before further decreasing Queenslanders' financial security, employment opportunities and investment hopes. It is an illusion that is attempting to hide the Palaszczuk Labor government's return to bloated ineffectual bureaucracy with a Public Service wage bill which will continue growing in addition to the extra 10,281 staff already hired, giving us a record 210,000 public servants, despite the debt increasing to \$79.7 billion over the forward estimates. Adding 16,000 public servants to the Queensland government bureaucracy is not the answer to providing jobs for regional Queensland. With general government debt increasing towards \$41 billion, it is clear that the Palaszczuk Labor government's election promise to pay down debt is set to be not only broken but also buried in the bottomless pit spending style of our Treasurer.

It is a style that includes: hollow log raids of \$3.4 billion from the long service leave fund; shifting \$4 billion of debt to government owned corporations with increased dividend payouts to 100 per cent—bleeding the businesses dry; not to mention stopping the contributions to the defined benefit fund and the \$4 billion raid on public servants' super. As the senior partner of Ernst & Young said at the Labor Party knees-up through the week celebrating what a wonderful budget it was and sponsoring the budget—I am amazed he did not ask for his money back—'Why would you take \$2 billion to write down debt from the QIC, which is probably earning six per cent at least on the money, where borrowings would be at two or three per cent in the current market?' It makes no economic sense whatsoever and is consistent with the absolute ridiculous financial answers that this Treasurer keeps stumbling over from day to day.

That raid has been condemned by the independent State Actuary as putting the fund at a fifty-fifty risk of going into deficit. I go to the casino on occasions and there is red and black and that is fifty-fifty. I can tell the House that I have come out of it a loser a lot of times, so I do not like the Treasurer's odds of the fifty-fifty being a great bet. The casino cleans up every time.

I am sorry that, again, the Queensland public will have more debt coming on because, as previously happened, the taxpayers will have to fund that money back into that fund again. It is a guaranteed fund so we will be scratching for money. I do not know where that will come from if this Labor government stays in power.

This unimpressive Palaszczuk government was elected with the mantra of jobs, jobs, jobs. The budget introductory speech delivered by the Treasurer makes mention of this, with job-creating innovation, investment and infrastructure, yet the Queensland public has received a forecasted unemployment rate going up from 6.2 per cent to 6.5 per cent and remaining above six per cent over the forward estimates. Labor's poor track record towards youth and regional employment is again being demonstrated by the Palaszczuk Labor government, with Queensland youth unemployment levels now the second worst in Australia at 15 per cent and trending upwards.

This time last year the Palaszczuk Labor government launched Jobs Now, Jobs for the Future. It is all about the mantra, all about the sales pitch, all about the slick little sell for Labor. They are all about jobs, but when it comes down to the financial realities, they have no idea and no clue other than to employ a few more union mates to top up the union crew and get their union cards going so they can get a few helpers at the next election. We have certainly not seen those jobs being portrayed in the figures. With key action items from their employment plan either scrapped or forgotten, it is clear that the Queensland public should not trust the Treasurer or the Palaszczuk Labor government with their futures or their aspirations.

I do note one thing. I congratulate the health minister on upping the budget to around \$15 billion, as I understand it. That is a serious increase in money, but the big problem with that is that throwing more money at the health budget, as they always do, is just money thrown up against the wall. Unfortunately, with this you-beaut legislation and union backed legislation to put more designated numbers of nurses in there, a big chunk of this money will go down to top up the Labor members of the Nurses' Union. This good taxpayers' money will go to the lovely Ms Beth Mohle and her crew so they will have a better presence out there at the next election, whereas it should be spent on reducing the waiting list, stopping the ramping, which is creeping back in, and paying all the nurses properly. We have seen in the past that that has been a major deficiency for this Labor government and it is stopping the system from getting back on track. They should ask Laurie Springborg for some great advice on how to fix health.

It is aspirations, through training and apprenticeships, that under the guidance of the Palaszczuk Labor government team are failing the Queensland public. Last year we saw 5,500 fewer trainee and apprenticeships completed, which has only increased the gap in skill shortages in the market. Labor have no-one else but themselves to blame for that fall. They should be very, very embarrassed about those figures.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is a government that loves to give predictions. Last year the Treasurer—the magical wizard, the Mandrake of Treasury figures—predicted employee expenses would grow at a modest 5.3 per cent. Whoops, I am sure he really meant to say the real figure would be 7.3 per cent—'It's only a two per cent difference after all,' he would say. However, the budget papers announced—

A general 1 per cent increase in wages outcomes in a particular year would increase expenses by around \$200m in that year.

They have just dumped an extra \$400 million of expense over that previous budget. But wait, let us look at some other predictions from the Treasurer. What about the operating surplus of \$1.2 billion? That is another whoops, with the surplus now of just over \$150 million, which is a sad comparison because the LNP planned budget consistently forecast operating surpluses of \$3 billion. We could be tempted to ask where the \$1 billion has disappeared to, but with the Labor government's fiscal metrics from last year simply not stacking up—no matter which measure you look at—how could we rely on any logical, fiscally responsible response?

The Treasurer has just detailed that infrastructure is one of three priorities, but last year's promise of an infrastructure spend of \$10.1 billion—which was on mostly previously announced LNP projects—was not delivered, with only \$8.1 billion of it being spent. Yes, this untrustworthy Treasurer and the Palaszczuk Labor government have done exactly that. This so-called infrastructure budget will deliver the lowest infrastructure spend in Queensland's history. It is regional Queenslanders who will suffer the

most, with spending being slashed in key regional areas such as Wide Bay, Toowoomba, Mackay, Cairns and even Townsville—the numbers must be bad in Townsville on that polling. This is a tragedy when compared with the last LNP budget, with the annual infrastructure spending down by almost \$800 million.

This only compounds the job shortages in those regions, with 8,000 jobs lost in Townsville, 9,000 lost in Mackay, 100 lost in Cairns and 12,000 lost in the Queensland outback so far. How many can we expect in the upcoming financial year, with ever-increasing unemployment figures under this short-sighted government? Too many.

I am sure many on the other side of the chamber will protest and are protesting that they have a Back to Work jobs package. This package will no doubt go the way of their employment plan of last year—scrapped and forgotten as soon as they deem it appropriate. They announce these things with a big hoorah, but the follow-up is absolutely zilch. They are letting down our regional Queenslanders once again. It is a further contradictory and illusion building idea for the Treasurer to list investment as a priority within the Queensland state budget. Last year he stated they would rule out any stamp duty surcharges for foreign investors who purchase a house in Queensland—hello, we have a new year and a new promise.

This year they are set to introduce a foreign investment tax on property purchases at a three per cent charge on dutiable value. This is another clearly broken promise of not introducing new taxes or increasing any taxes. This Treasurer keeps backflipping and conjuring. When he announced the measure earlier, he said that Mike Baird in New South Wales was going to do that. Mike Baird has had a massive Chinese and Asian investment in real estate that has sent the property market through the roof, particularly in Sydney and also in Melbourne. There has been a fall in the median price most commonly occurring of 2.3 per cent in Queensland. The property market has fallen. If they put another tax on prospective purchases in that market—albeit this government may say, 'They are foreigners and we don't care about pinching money off them'—it would still affect the outcome in the property industry. It takes another section out of the property purchases.

Heaven forbid if Bill Shorten got in with his negative gearing policy because that would really kill off the property industry. I am not sure who on the other side of the House use negative gearing, but I can assure the House that there would be a major slump in the real estate industry should that stupid federal Labor Party policy go ahead, along with this state Labor Party policy of taxing those overseas investors. The hardworking Queensland public is unquestionably going to see their concerns in dealing with the Palaszczuk Labor government's fiscally reckless bad budget come to light as the Treasurer has already mentioned his plans to have a conversation about future revenue settings—likely to be an attempt to beguile future tax hikes on the greater Queensland public as something less sinister.

As the state member for Mermaid Beach, which is located on the beautiful Gold Coast, I was momentarily relieved to hear of plans for infrastructure in my region. However, this quickly turned to horror as I realised yet again that congestion on the M1, a daily traffic snarl, would not be addressed. We have seen consistently money pinched. The federal government provided money for the upgrade of the M1. I live in Australia's sixth largest city and the M1 between Tugun and Coolangatta—to the border—has been waiting to be upgraded for many, many years. Federal government money was put on the table and that was swiped by the Bligh Labor government and sent off to another area to fix another problem. We need that money spent on the rapidly growing Gold Coast where many taxes from which this government earns its money are generated. That has not stopped. In the mornings travelling from the Gold Coast to Brisbane on the M1 is just a disaster. Honourable members can ask anybody who utilises it on a regular basis. Many constituents now call me from Beenleigh State High School complaining about the capacity and the traffic jams on the M1.

There is nothing in this budget in terms of forward planning for the Gold Coast. I rose in this House on 26 May to comment on the need for additional measures—even the planning for it. We heard of \$50 million for planning for Cross River Rail but there was no indication of where the funding is going to come from. Hoping that Bill Shorten will get in to provide it is just dreamtime. It is worse than imagining the rainbow serpent will be in here. The fact of the matter is that they put \$50 million aside for that but cannot find any money at all for planning for the Gold Coast, which is the sixth largest city and connects the third largest city, Brisbane. There is no planning for alleviating the traffic congestion which everybody can see is there today. The Borbidge government put in \$1 billion worth of infrastructure to take capacity to 2018, which it will do, but nothing has been seen from this crowd on the other side for the future growth of the Gold Coast.

This is a budget that positions itself as a Labor promise to Queenslanders of job-creating innovation, investment and infrastructure, yet the long-suffering Queensland public who have yet to recover from the Beattie-Bligh era of 'spend until it is gone'—and they would spend until all the money was gone—'and then spend some more on the credit card' are set to receive only broken promises and a net debt increase of \$7 billion with short-sighted cash raids that do nothing to address the state's financial concerns while damaging our GOCs and public servants' super funds. There is a broken promise of lower unemployment with increasing unemployment both regionally and with youth unemployment levels the second highest in Australia, combining with an increase in skills shortages. There is a broken promise in investment promotion, with new investment inhibiting taxes and earmarking the Queensland public for further increased taxes with a need for a conversation about future revenue settings. They have a broken promise on increased infrastructure with the lowest ever spend on infrastructure projects, many of which were proposed under the previous LNP government. They are still handing in the LNP's homework.

Queenslanders deserve better than a Treasurer whom they are unable to trust—and I think the Labor Party itself deserves a Treasurer in whom they can put a little bit more trust—with their hard-earned fiscal security rather than having all these areas such as public servants' long-term financial security being gambled on the whim of a magic inclined Treasurer, a Treasurer of a Labor government that is unable to plan or develop our great state's economic growth. Queenslanders do not want magic tricks, illusionary financial goals or a Treasurer with 'now you see it, now you don't' fiduciary fudging figures. This is not a budget that delivers job-creating innovation, investment and infrastructure for the Queensland public; it is a budget that delivers more debt, more deficit and a decline in infrastructure.

This is a budget that fails the Mermaid Beach electorate, fails the Gold Coast, fails the Queensland public and shows the Palaszczuk Labor government is clueless and unable to financially manage the state. One thing that they could have put into this budget for the Gold Coast that would have made an enormous difference to the future for tourism on the Gold Coast is support for Mayor Tate's proposal to investigate the building of a cruise ship terminal on the ocean side of the seaway at The Spit. The mayor has come forward with a very doable, cost-effective proposal. We in the LNP were made aware of his proposal. We support it. In my view the previous proposal was always going to be difficult—putting big ships into a little pond on the internal side. The mayor has come up with a very workable solution. This government and Minister Lynham should get behind the proposal to make the Gold Coast a cruise ship destination. It is very popular around the world. It is a major earner for many cities throughout the world. I know what most people would rather do, no offence to my Brisbane associates; they would rather call into a cruise ship terminal on the Gold Coast than go into the other side of Brisbane—Luggage Point or wherever they go or the proposed one there. That is a proposal that is well worth supporting. Rather than nay-saying Mayor Tate's visionary project, Minister Lynham should be down there saying, 'Let's see how we can assist this fabulous new cruise ship proposal and infrastructure for the Gold Coast.'

Their failure to facilitate private enterprise to create jobs—and I am not going there on a personal basis, I can assure you—is a sad indictment of a Labor government built on debt and deficit. The Treasurer should be ashamed of this budget.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (4.16 pm): I rise to make a positive contribution to the Appropriation Bill 2016.

A government member: Well, someone needs to!

Mr HARPER: Absolutely. The 2016-17 state budget was delivered by our great Queensland Treasurer, Curtis Pitt, who just days ago stood here in this place to deliver his second budget for our fantastic state of Queensland. I commend the Treasurer for delivering a budget that has prioritised the regions including my home city of Townsville.

What does this budget mean for the people of Thuringowa? This is a budget that puts a focus on our regions, like Townsville, which in infrastructure alone saw an increase of some \$44 million compared to this time last year. Broadly speaking, this budget has a focus on innovation, investment and infrastructure. Through the Regional Action Plan, the entire Townsville area is benefitting from \$586 million being invested into our city through infrastructure alone, like the new Townsville stadium. Thanks to this budget, that now has a total of \$140 million committed for the people of Townsville who want, and now will see, this major infrastructure project and other projects like the stadium built and jobs delivered by our Palaszczuk government. These infrastructure projects in Townsville are estimated to support up to 1,500 jobs.

Another major focus of this budget is on health and education. In the health sector alone, Townsville will see the investment of \$864 million, up \$56 million from the 2015 budget, for the Townsville Hospital and Health Service. After several interactions with the health minister throughout 2015—and I thank and acknowledge the health minister and the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland for ensuring the people of Townsville have a tertiary hospital and health service that we know is providing a quality and well-resourced level of service in health care in Townsville.

I know that the 56,000 residents of Thuringowa will actually benefit from this year's state budget. This is a budget that will grow jobs and provide a massive boost of confidence to our local economy. It comes as no secret that our city has done it tough. I have spoken in this House before about the hardships faced by those employed in the once booming mining sector and other industries who have faced significant employment challenges during the mining and minerals downturn.

I have also said in this House previously that when we came into government we were all still suffering from the Newman-Nicholls LNP hangover, and no amount of medication could take away that headache. We had seen thousands sacked across the public sector. This also had negative effects in the private business sector. Whether in hospitality, real estate or other industries, people were also seeing and feeling those negative effects of that failed Newman-Nicholls LNP government that literally depressed our economy and drove business confidence down. After mass sackings, people simply stopped spending at their local restaurants and clothing outlets. Under the LNP, as we know, the cost of living and things like electricity costs skyrocketed.

As a result of those previously mentioned events, Townsville is unique in having experienced the perfect storm in terms of our fine city experiencing high unemployment. I congratulate our Premier, Deputy Premier and Treasurer for not only listening to the three local state members—and I include my neighbouring electorates of Mundingburra and Townsville because we stand together in Townsville—but our senior leadership has delivered the most significant, much needed economic and confidence boost that Townsville has seen in years. I will speak later about the significant Palaszczuk funding of up to \$140 million for the new stadium, but we know that it is more than a stadium: it is about delivering 700 jobs and apprenticeships.

I want to talk about apprenticeships, because I heard the member for Clayfield this morning in his budget reply speech announce a \$500 bonus voucher for 20,000 apprenticeships. It is a tokenistic approach which comes all too late at the end of their apprenticeship if completed. I do not know the last time those opposite spoke to apprentices, but they need the money up-front to do their training. I do not know the last time they bought the tools which are required for the trades, but they are seriously out of touch. They can join their federal LNP counterparts because they cut the tools allowance. I have spoken to tradies and apprentices in Thuringowa and they will not forget that.

Both state and federal Labor have a good, sound policy of 10 per cent apprenticeships and trainees under the Building and Construction Authority and our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. I welcome the Treasurer's \$100 million Back to Work fund because regional employers who hire an eligible unemployed person will receive a \$10,000 payment and up to \$15,000 for a longer term unemployed person who has been without employment for over 12 months. The \$100 million package is broken down into \$80 million in support payments for regional jobseekers; \$10 million for the Certificate 3 Guarantee Boost program; and \$10 million for the necessary infrastructure behind that. We need officers who will connect local employers with jobseekers. Bill Shorten, should he get in, and federal Labor get it as well, will commit \$285 million for start-up apprentices. If they get in, from 1 July 2017 there would be \$3,000 up-front payments for 10,000 apprenticeships from start to finish. Only Labor backs apprenticeships and vocational training because we believe that every Australian should have a chance to gain real skills and get a good job.

The momentum of that announcement for the Townsville stadium and those jobs has created further investment for local government, the North Queensland Cowboys and the federal government, which all together have resulted in something that is difficult to articulate. People are talking positively about this everywhere throughout our city. From pubs and clubs to workplaces, we now have a positive view and a new shared vision that our great city can now address our unemployment challenges and deliver this major infrastructure project, which we know will be a catalyst for urban renewal, investment and innovation throughout the years to come. Mums and dads in Thuringowa can rest assured that their children will have an opportunity to learn a trade or gain an apprenticeship in the important areas of hospitality and tourism, just to name a few.

Let us look at some of the core announcements for Thuringowa. I must start by thanking the Deputy Premier and main roads minister for the state infrastructure program. I can now see a line in my budget breakdown with a real funding amount of \$30 million for stage 1 of the duplication of

Riverway Drive. It is real money, and I did not have to sell assets to deliver it. I worked extremely hard to get this funding, and I will work harder over my time as the member for Thuringowa to see the entire project delivered. Yes, I will see it delivered and I will continue to fight for funding for stage 2 safe in the knowledge I am delivering the single biggest infrastructure spend for the duplication of Riverway Drive that the electorate of Thuringowa has seen in many years. It joins the well and truly advanced and underway \$6.3 million funding—through the delivery of the accelerated capital works program—for the widening and wide centre line treatment and resurfacing of Herveys Range Road.

I have worked hard and made numerous representations to the relevant ministers in the areas of health, ambulance, fire, education and community services in my electorate, and I am very proud of the following achievements as announced in the 2016-17 budget. I have worked hard in the last 12 months to develop good working relationships with all Thuringowa school principals, P&Cs and P&Fs who each provided me with a list of priorities of their wants and needs which I presented to the education minister and discussed on numerous occasions throughout the last year. I must thank the education minister for helping me deliver over \$3 million in funding for local Thuringowa schools like the Kirwan State High School, which received \$2 million in funding for shade structures and synthetic flooring for a quadrangle to provide a place for students to meet and reduce the effects of our harsh North Queensland environment. I remain committed to working with the dedicated P&C, the school executive and the broader Kirwan State High community to deliver a school hall for the second-largest high school in the state. I am determined to deliver this whilst I maintain a pulse. They will also get a refurbished \$600,000 art building thanks to the budget.

I must put on record that I only recently had the honour of naming the year 7 building at Kirwan State High School in the memory of John Livingston, the executive principal of Kirwan State High School, who gave 110 per cent during his 27 years of service to students and his school community. I had the pleasure of meeting 'Mr 110 per cent', as he was fondly called, on a number of occasions in 2015 during his battle with a brain tumour. As I stated in my speech during the naming ceremony, Mr Livingston told me in no uncertain terms that as the new MP I must look after his school and give 110 per cent. In his memory I have certainly done that, and I hope the announcements in this year's budget will stand as testament to my determination to deliver for all schools in Thuringowa. I hold the Kirwan State High School, a school of excellence, high in my list of priorities and I hope that I am doing Mr Livingston proud.

I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my speech into *Hansard*. It has been checked with the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

Rasmussen State School, also holds a special place to me. The ever energetic Principal Claudine Moncur was over the moon when I rang and informed her that her great school (also nominated as a State School achieving massive results in Thuringowa) was speechless when I informed her of \$450,000 in funding for General learning Areas and 2 spaces in Prep at J Block, Rasmussen State School.

Kirwan State School: \$265,000 in funding for refurbishment of 4 General learning areas at C block, Kirwan State School.

Weir State School: \$ 225,000 in funding for refurbishment of Junior and senior female Amenities for this great local school.

Thanks to the Minister representing the Premier in North Qld, and Member for Mundingburra, the families in Thuringowa will share in the spoils of 6.6M funding for the Townsville Hospital Paediatric Unit.

Mr Speaker, it gets even better having this dedicated Minister for Disabilities & Seniors based in Townsville, who not only delivered forward funding for people with a disability transitioning to NDIS, we also benefit in 6.7 M in funding to assist people with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need in Thuringowa, including service provided like:

Choice, Passion Life (formally Cerebral Palsy League) in Kirwan, or Endeavour Foundation in Condon, and the great Coothingara Society who provides services in Kirwan and Rasmussen.

As the local State Member, I have had numerous interactions with these organisations and they are true community champions who work so hard with families in the disability sector and I commend all organisations for the work they are doing, all very busy in the lead up of course to the NDIS space.

Public Housing Mr Speaker, is important in Thuringowa and through my interactions with Minister for Public Works Mick De-Brenni MP and I thank the Minister for his support in this Public housing Space.

I am pleased to see the announcement of \$8.3M in funding for 2 major Public housing projects in Kirwan and Condon. One is a 16 x 2 bedroom room 5 Storey Apartment style Units, and the other is a 3 Storey 12 x 1 bedroom apartments, importantly both projects will incorporate accommodation for disability access.

These projects will also allow for local contractors and Sub contractors to employ more people and through good Labor Policy will ensure apprenticeships and training opportunities for our youth are also part of this investment in Thuringowa, because Mr Speaker, we need to ensure we are creating jobs in these projects.

Mr Speaker, I have had many interactions with senior Police in Townsville and Thuringowa and made representations to the Minister for Police to ensure Townsville, with its RAP located in Thuringowa is well resourced in the future in terms of Police Officers and they have the resources required to continue the great work the Police do in terms of protecting the public and ensuring a Safe Community.

I have also made representations to our Attorney General to ensure community projects like Project Booyah receive the funding they deserve to continue the fantastic results they have achieved to turning around the young lives of people who may have otherwise ended up on a path of crime.

I can say the same for Paramedics Mr Speaker, our Paramedics in the Qld Ambulance Service do a great job in our Community, and I have made representations the Health Minister to ensure Townsville has a focus on more paramedics in the Townsville Local Area Service Network, after many interactions with local QAS staff, I know they are working hard in a busy service which just seems to get busier with a growing and ageing population.

Mr Speaker, I am pleased to see an Organisation, the RSPCA has also benefited from this Budget. \$1.5M will go to this great organisation located at the Bohle, they have been around for a number of years, and we know they have struggled cater for the amount of animals that are poorly mistreated and end up at the centre.

The Townsville RSPCA are committed to saving animal lives and have a great adoption programme to re home these pets who just need a new home and loving family.

I know they welcome this funding and I again thank the Minister O'Rourke for her assistance in ensuring we deliver for the Townsville RSPCA.

Mr Speaker, I will continue to work hard and deliver for the constituents of Thuringowa, I am determined to see a range of other projects delivered in my time as the Member for Thuringowa.

Mr Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.



Mr BOOTHMAN (Albert—LNP) (4.28 pm): I rise here today to make a contribution to the debate on the Palaszczuk government's second Appropriation Bill. From the outset when I was contemplating my speech I tried to be positive, but in the words of the *Gold Coast Bulletin* this budget was 'Zombie-like', a picture of misery that splashed cash and cranked up debt. Again quoting from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*—

IN case you yawned and missed it, the State Government yesterday handed down its annual budget.

Looking more like the lead characters in a Tim Burton-inspired Gothic animated movie ...

This was certainly further highlighted by the complete lack of enthusiasm which was displayed in the chamber on Tuesday. Unfortunately, I suppose I will stay with the 'lack of enthusiasm' theme, as a lot of Queenslanders have that in their thoughts about this budget.

What does this budget mean for the beautiful electorate of Albert on the northern Gold Coast? Apart from multiple projects we fought very hard for and others which were already announced and under construction or completed, I must say that this budget does highlight one very, very important need, and that is for new classrooms for the Highland Reserve State School. The local school community and I have been passionate about this, but this budget makes no mention of additional permanent classrooms at other schools, including the Coomera Springs State School, to cater for continually increasing student numbers.

As highlighted in a *Gold Coast Bulletin* article on 13 June 2016 titled 'Labor ditches LNP future plan for building new campuses sparking crisis fear in Gold Coast's north', apart from a new school at Coomera that was already in the pipeline, this budget gives no confidence at all in this government's ability to manage the massive population growth on the northern Gold Coast. The latest research shows that Pimpama has the highest growth rate in Queensland, at 20 per cent. This unprecedented growth on the northern Gold Coast places an enormous amount of pressure on our local infrastructure. Whilst I have already mentioned some of the needs of our education facilities, there are other pressing issues facing the Albert community.

In recent times my colleagues on the northern Gold Coast, the members for Coomera and Gaven, have fought hard for additional police resources for the Coomera region. On numerous occasions we have written to the Minister for Police seeking urgent intervention for additional officers to lessen the workload and give better response times for our communities. Our priority is for a safer community for our residents and for an end to the bureaucratic nonsense we were subjected to by the minister. This is a matter we will never give up on. I am pleased to see that there was some action on this matter, but it was far from the 50 officers we asked for. I will continue to campaign—I am sure my colleagues will also—for these additional officers. The Minister for Police can look forward to many more communications on this matter.

The road infrastructure needs on the northern Gold Coast are as pressing as ever. My residents welcome the funding from the federal government of just under \$600,000 for works at M1 motorway exits 38 and 41. The member for Coomera and I have continually highlighted the precarious situation facing motorists at multiple motorway exits along this critical arterial link. Whilst funding for design works is certainly most welcome, we require action now. Extensive traffic queueing on the M1 motorway at exits 41, 45, 49 and 57 is creating dangerous situations. Vehicles sitting motionless, desperately trying to exit the motorway at these exits, are subjected to vehicles continuing their travels along the M1 at 110 kilometres an hour. This is a recipe for disaster and places lives at risk.

Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road between Stanmore Road and Shaws Pocket Road has been classed as one of the most perilous roads in South-East Queensland. Police have reported to me that between 1 January 2011 and 9 March 2013—just over five years—the following matters were reported to the Queensland Police Service: two fatal collisions, with three deaths; 26 injury collisions, with 39 injured individuals; and 17 non-injury collisions. Whilst I welcome some Safer Roads Sooner funding that installs guardrails and undertakes vegetation management, this is far from what is required to make this road safe. This road has little or no room for error. It is windy and hilly, with poor shoulders. We need action to reduce the severity of certain bends, especially the bends 800 metres south of Dunns Road and the bend near Shaws Pocket Road. Again, nothing has been done to fix these areas.

As highlighted in an article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* on Wednesday, 15 June—I spoke about this last night—titled 'Deadweight', taxpayers are forking out for 32 extra fat-cat bureaucrats to shuffle government papers ahead of the 2018 Commonwealth Games. To make matters worse, 31 of them are based in Brisbane, with only one temporary Gold Coast hiring.

A \$46 million black hole this financial year for the Department of Small Business, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games was announced. To residents of the wonderful Albert electorate, \$46 million would go a long way towards funding major upgrades along the M1 at exits 41, 45 and 49 and would well and truly rectify the issues along Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road south of Wolffdene. The \$40 million that was spent on Jobs Queensland—I spoke about this because I was on the committee all that time ago—would have delivered a far better cost-benefit ratio if it had been used to fix up exit 41. Exit 41 is the gateway to the industrial estates around Yatala. That is an area in which we could create an enormous amount of employment. Traffic is getting stuck at those interchanges at Yatala. They cannot get the trucks and the goods in or out.

This budget contains a few token gestures that deal with very few of the underlying issues facing the residents of the northern Gold Coast. It does little to create confidence in the Queensland economy. As outlined in the *Australian* dated 15 June, titled 'Spending from a bottomless Pitt', Queensland Labor's budget strategy is risking further debt. The article goes on to say that raiding the state's super funds runs the risk of plunging the fund into deficit within four years. An article in today's *Courier-Mail*, which I found very interesting, titled 'Sponsor launches friendly fire at raid', states—

The Palaszczuk Government has been left red-faced after the sponsor of Labor's post-Budget lunch questioned the logic of raiding public service superannuation.

Ernst & Young partner Paul Laxon yesterday insisted the state's finances were "going backwards" under Labor's plan to siphon \$2 billion from the defined benefit to pay down Government debt.

He is quoted as saying—

I don't understand the logic in that because you are taking money from an investment by the defined benefit fund with a professional fund manager in QIC deriving effectively an equity return, an investment return.

It goes on—

So we are actually going backwards.

Furthermore, flooding the market with the defined benefit assets for sale will only bring down the prices of these assets, potentially reducing their value. You certainly do not need to take my word for it: Labor's own backers are pulling this budget apart.

Overall, whilst I tried to be positive in certain aspects of my speech, this budget has failed to curb Labor's spiralling debt, increasing unemployment and future higher taxes. That is certainly nothing to write home about.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (4.37 pm): I am very pleased to speak in support of this very strong budget. Last budget—our government's first—established a clear fiscal framework and a clear change of direction from the previous budget delivered by the member for Clayfield, now the opposition leader.

The last Nicholls budget, in 2014, was all about his values. It was about privatisation. It was about job cuts. It was about constructing every possible argument for—you guessed it—privatisation and job cuts. It certainly was not about the environment. He had already slashed environment programs to the bone. There were 20 per cent fewer jobs to protect the environment. That is 20 per cent less capacity to make sure we have a clean environment, on which our health and that of our agricultural and other industries rely. The Great Barrier Reef was left unprotected. Thirty-nine reef protection officers were sacked under then treasurer Nicholls' reign. In national parks he delivered 60 fewer rangers to manage our internationally renowned and iconic protected area estate—a key source of tourism income. On top of that, a 35 per cent reduction in the non-ranger workforce reduced the capacity of rangers to manage our parks even further.

Mr Nicholls' last budget planned to put the final nail in the environment's coffin. He scheduled the end of programs for crocodile management, reef protection, koala conservation, tenure resolution on the cape, NatureAssist and legal and illegal dumping programs, all of which would have led to further job losses and further reductions in the effort spent protecting and maintaining our environment for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Mr Nicholls is no friend of the environment or of Queensland workers.

By contrast, the Palaszczuk government's first budget stopped the final round of cuts and delivered our cornerstone election commitments, and this year we begin to rebuild environment programs in Queensland. This is not just a good budget for Queensland's environment; it is a great budget for our environment and a great budget for heritage protection, national parks and the Great Barrier Reef. I am proud to be a member of a government that prioritises real action on protecting the environment, which is needed now more than ever after the years of neglect under the LNP. The operating budget for the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection will increase \$23.5 million to enhance and protect our environment. Queenslanders know that we cannot take our incredible natural environment for granted. We are fortunate to be very environmentally blessed in this state. Our national parks are some of the best in the world—from the sandy beaches of North Stradbroke Island to the tropical rainforests around Cairns.

Our environment supports internationally recognised wildlife—little, and sometimes big, creatures that are ambassadors for Queensland like the koala and the cassowary. The koala is an icon for our south-east corner, but unfortunately we know it is not doing so well. A report by UniQuest found that, despite our best efforts, numbers continue to decline. We have responded in the budget by delivering an additional \$12.1 million over four years and ongoing funding of \$2.6 million per annum for koala conservation and protection measures. Last year the Palaszczuk government accepted a recommendation by an independent scientific panel to list the koala as vulnerable across Queensland. We had to do that because the LNP would not. It was afraid it would look bad after it axed the jobs of koala specialists employed by EHP. We are also committing \$15.2 million over four years for wildlife management and protecting threatened species as well as \$5.8 million over three years for crocodile management, and we have provided \$2.7 million over three years for flying fox management and research. I will go into more detail about those commitments shortly.

Of course, our best known ecosystem is the Great Barrier Reef. Millions of people from around the world flock to see this treasure every year and even the handful of people who have visited outer space have said that the reef is one of the most incredible sights on the planet. Astronaut Kjell Lindgren tweeted photos of the reef from space recently, describing it as 'gorgeous'. In fact, I have invited him to come visit the reef when he gets back from his space travel because, believe me, it is even better up close. Having said that, there are threats to our precious reef and rapid action is required if we are going to protect it. Improvement towards water quality stalled under the previous government and rather than spending the money needed to address the issue those opposite wasted it on glossy ad campaigns to convince Queenslanders there was nothing to worry about.

The Palaszczuk government, however, is guided by the science. The reef is 2,300 kilometres long and different issues affect different parts of its expansive ecosystem. There has certainly been damage to the northern most parts of the reef recently due to the warmer oceans and the corresponding coral bleaching event, but we are starting to see some recovery and, fortunately, the tourist hotspots further south escaped the worst of the bleaching event. We are using the recommendations from the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce to deliver on our \$100 million commitment for cleaner water for a healthy reef. This budget delivers a record commitment from the Queensland government for the reef. This coming financial year we will spend \$57 million on reef water quality. At the same time, the federal government—the federal Liberal government—is cutting its share of reef funding to a record low and its election policy is a sad, sad con. After Ellen intervened to defend Dory, its polling obviously said it needed to do something for the reef. Instead of funding, it announced a loan. The reef does not

need a mortgage; it needs a government willing to do what is required to save it. The Palaszczuk government has proven in this budget it is such a government. Sadly, the Turnbull government is not. It is just one front where the new Malcolm is very disappointing.

With regard to climate change, the biggest long-term threat to the reef is climate change and I am very pleased to say that the Palaszczuk government has put climate change back on the agenda and provided an additional \$6.8 million over four years to develop a new Queensland climate change agenda. The Treasurer's speech very well outlined how important it was that we act on climate change. That contrasts with the budget speeches—every budget speech—delivered by the opposition leader. He delivered three budgets and there was not one mention of climate change, not one mention of the biggest long-term threat to our reef. There was not one mention of the economic transition coming for Queensland and no plan for making sure Queensland gets its fair share of the clean energy jobs of the future, and nothing has changed today—not one mention of the reef, climate change, koalas. Nothing about the environment made it into the opposition leader's speech.

Outside of this place, away from the head-in-the-sand denialists of those opposite—out there in the real world—there is no debate: the climate is changing and it is due to human activities. Queensland, like almost 200 countries and many cities and regions around the globe, is committed to stepping up and harnessing the opportunity of global economic and environmental change. This new funding will support work to understand how we can change, adapt and transition to a low carbon future. This funding also repairs the gaping hole and huge exposure that the LNP left us with. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

I'm pleased that we have extra funding for wildlife in our state.

As I said earlier we know the koala needs our help.

A panel of experts will advise us on the most effective ways to utilize the \$12.1 million boost including on best practice refuges and hospitals for this iconic and at risk species.

We will be guided by the science as we always have.

We will support wildlife management and conservation activities for a range of other species as well. And we have increased funding of \$15.2 million over four years for this purpose.

This will include on the ground operations, wildlife licensing and inspections, and the continued development of wildlife management regulations.

There is increased funding of \$5.8 million over three years for crocodile management, that will also safeguard the jobs of the ten staff based in regional Queensland.

This money will also be used to improve our knowledge of crocodile populations and engage with local communities on how to manage crocodiles in their local areas—as guided by the science.

For example, we will conduct the most comprehensive crocodile population survey ever in Queensland and the data will be compared to figures going back as far as 1979.

We will also act on improving how we manage interactions between people and flying foxes. With \$2.7 million over the next four years we will investigate best practice in roost management and identify ways that we can assist flying foxes and people to coexist in the landscape.

Waste management is another area with a renewed focus, with the Budget providing an additional \$1.9 million for improved waste management and resource recovery initiatives.

Enhanced recycling and waste diversion will reduce landfill and reuse of materials, while creating jobs.

And this supports the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to innovation, particularly the biofutures agenda which allow us to turn waste streams into resources.

This Budget also supports local innovation by providing \$12 million over four years for a Community Sustainability Action Grants program, targeted at community groups.

The grants will support volunteer and community groups to develop new ideas to improve wildlife protection and environmental rehabilitation.

It also will give community organisations access to funding for heritage maintenance.

Maintaining heritage sites can be costly, and the Members for Ipswich West, Maryborough, Dalrymple and others have impressed upon me how important it is that government step in and help.

Our work to protect pristine rivers is also being supported with \$1.5 million over the next two years. We are custodians of some of the last remaining untouched rivers in the world and we should protect them.

There is also a further \$5.1 million in the budget to investigate the contamination and serious environmental harm associated with underground coal gasification.

The National Parks budget will see an additional \$35 million investment to deliver better outcomes for our protected area estate.

It will support up to 31 new park rangers over the next four years across Queensland for the ongoing management of current parks and new areas.

The State's protected area estate has undergone significant growth under this government with three new national parks and six regional parks.

Queensland's protected area estate has now grown from 7.7% to 7.9% and there are plans to grow it even further with \$5 million in the budget for new acquisitions.

Excitingly, the Government is investing \$29.6 million in the Cape York Tenure Resolution Program with \$11.5 million of that being used to support an implementation team of up to 10 officers that will be recruited by 2020 to support the transition of national parks on Cape York Peninsula to jointly managed parks with traditional owners.

A number of parks are also in the process of being transferred to joint management arrangements, requiring increased investment in partnership with traditional owners.

New funding will create additional ranger and technical support positions and support new and improved infrastructure in national and regional parks such as camping grounds, amenities and parking.

We will also build Fences, roads and ranger accommodation creating regional jobs and contributing to local economic growth.

With 700,000 hectares of land being added to the protected areas estate and further national park dedications in the planning phase across Cape York Peninsula, the Budget ensures these parks can be appropriately established and managed.

In order to attract visitors to the State's network of protected areas, rangers keep these natural areas safe and accessible, while educating visitors about conservation values.

North West Queensland in particular is undergoing important growth of protected area.

The creation of the new Rungella and Littleton national parks represent an increase of close to 200,000 hectares of important habitat for threatened and endangered species.

We are committed to preserving natural conditions and protecting cultural resources and values to the greatest possible extent and, through legislative changes, we have reinstated nature conservation as the cardinal principle of national park management.

We will continue to fund initiatives that maintain our healthy habitats and increase their resilience to climate change.

Mr Speaker, although outside my portfolio, another very important initiative in this budget will help the environment, and will be very welcome by the people I represent in the seat of Mount Coot-tha.

Lots of people have told me public transport is too expensive—

I'm very pleased to be part of a government slashing fares.

This will save people money, and get more people on to buses and trains (which is good for the planet too).

The Budget has cut fares for people who travel from Paddington, Toowong, Bardon or anywhere in between and the City.

Right now it costs \$3.93 for an adult to travel each way at peak hour with a goCard.

From January it will drop 72 cents each way to \$3.20.

It adds up to an annual saving of more than \$370 for regular commuters.

And there are many other Budget initiatives in my electorate to be proud of.

I'm passionate about making sure our kids have access to quality education and \$350,000 to refurbish the Bardon State School classrooms will ensure the students there are learning in the best environment with the best resources.

We have also affirmed our commitment to providing vital services for people living with a disability or who find themselves in need of extra help.

My electorate will benefit from \$19.979 million in funding for local support services.

\$1.173 million will ensure children in need of protection have a safe place to stay, including funding for residential care services.

And a further \$1.916 million will go to local organisations that support families to safely care for their children, including funding for residential care services provided by UnitingCare Community in Bardon.

Excellent groups such as Act for Kids, Pregnancy Counselling and Education Services in Red Hill, Yourtown in Milton and The Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane in Toowong.

\$248,000 will go to Community Queensland in Bardon, an organisation I've had the great pleasure of working with them and this money will allow them to deliver local social services, such as the free food Pantry and a range of practical lifestyle activities.

I'm proud of what this budget delivers for Mt Coot-tha and I'm proud of what it delivers for our environment.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (4.45 pm): The government would have us believe that it has delivered the world's greatest budget—one that is going to solve all Queensland's problems. Those opposite really believe that this budget is going to solve all the ills in Queensland as though they have the magic pudding to make all things right. Let us look at some of the commentary that has been made on this budget. I turn to the *Australian* of yesterday that ran a number of articles that discussed the budget. An article by Natasha Bita titled 'Jobs free-for-all adding \$1bn a year to wages bill' states—

Government departments overshot employment targets by 4104 workers during 2015-16—on top of the 6177 additional staff they were supposed to hire. Full-time-equivalent staff numbers soared by 10,281 to a record 210,000 public servants.

The Treasurer has said staffing growth 'on average' should not exceed population growth, which is forecast to be 1.5 per cent over the next four years. The article by Bita made this comment—

But the 2016-17 budget papers, published yesterday, reveal the public service wages bill will outpace population growth every year.

As said by the opposition leader, before the words were out of the mouth of the Treasurer it was already dead and buried as a statement of fact. The second article by Sarah Elks is titled 'Labor props up budget with super fund raids'. The article stated that the Treasurer—

... has ordered sweeping raids to prop up the cash-strapped state's ailing budget, plundering \$4 billion from the surplus of a superannuation fund for public servants and skimming \$750 million from struggling state-owned businesses.

The report also refers to the fact that the State Actuary warned that—

... grabbing \$4bn of the \$10bn ... surplus ... increased the risk the fund would plunge into deficit by 2020.

Today I recall the Premier made the comment that those funds were being repatriated—bringing home the funds.

Mr Costigan: The Army's involved!

Mr McARDLE: The Army is involved; I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. They are being repatriated—brought back home. What a joke! What an absolute joke! That comment would not pass the Australian pub test in a million years. It is a grab for cash. It is a money-grabbing hand taking money from an employee superannuation fund. It is an absolute joke. The third article by Judith Sloan is titled 'Pitt's day of reckoning will come, and it's not far off'. It states—

In 2015-16, employee expenses grew a massive 7.3 per cent. In the next financial year, employee numbers will increase 2.4 per cent or just over 5000 and the wage bill will increase 4.8 per cent. But expect another blowout in employee expenses like this year.

Judith Sloan states further—

The bottom line is this: resorting to fancy financial accounting, raiding the super fund and getting government-owned corporations to load up on debt (last year's trick) won't resolve the massive financial black hole that is the key feature of Queensland's public finances.

Finally, our old friend Michael McKenna wrote an article titled 'Queensland budget 2016: billions raided but no progress' in which he states—

After announcing a \$4bn raid on public servant's superannuation scheme, Treasurer Curtis Pitt's second budget yesterday revealed the strategy had barely made a dent in the state's ballooning debt.

The latest budget reveals that total government debt is set to rise to \$76.939bn at the end of the 2017-18 financial year.

Queensland has seen a massive growth in employee expenses—in excess of any prediction of the Treasurer. Wages are going up by \$3.1 billion between 2015-16 to 2019-20. We are looking at increasing debt. At the same time a raid or grab on the super fund risks a deficit in the fund by 2020. On the question of debt, it is continuing to climb towards \$80 billion, yet there is no plan in the budget to fix or tackle it. Last year, the Treasurer predicted an operating surplus of \$1.2 billion, but now the prediction is a surplus of just \$150 million.

Finally, the infrastructure spend was to be \$10.1 billion, but in reality it was only \$8.1 billion and, as usual, the excuse is the federal government—it is somebody else's problem, it is somebody's else fault. The ALP cannot take the carriage of a matter, or a fact, or a program without blaming somebody if it goes wrong. Labor takes all the accolades but, when it goes wrong, it is somebody else's problem and somebody else's fault.

Sadly, this government is tying this state to debt, more deficit and a decline in infrastructure. Sadly, it is the people of this state—the mums and dads and small business operators—who will suffer. That has been shown as recently as last night, when the government hiked the registration cost of motor vehicles. All the omens are lining up. Queensland and Queenslanders are heading back to the days of Beattie and Bligh—back to increased debt and deficit. One wonders which fund the government will raid next in an attempt to prop up its sad financial reality.

The government has failed to lay down a real plan to tackle debt or deficit. We await the attack on, or plea to, the federal government to bail it out of its financial mess. It is only an LNP government that has a plan to grow our economy, to work with Queenslanders, to provide for their children and develop long-term strategies for the mining, resources, tourism, development and innovation sectors to name but a few.

I turn now to my electorate of Caloundra. It is a sad reality that Labor has neglected its people. All we need to do is look at the delay in the opening of the new public hospital in Kawana. When the LNP left government in January 2015, that hospital build was on time and savings had been made on the capital cost. This government has an appalling history on this hospital going back many years, including delaying the build of the hospital by up to two years.

We now know that there will also be a delay to the upgrade of the Caloundra Road-Bruce Highway interchange on to Sippy Downs via the Bruce Highway. To be perfectly clear, when it comes to infrastructure, this Labor government has continued its history of incompetence. This incompetence has a flow-on impact. The delay in the opening of the hospital at Kawana means that people will still travel to Brisbane for treatment and local businesses directly or indirectly linked to the hospital will suffer financially.

The delay in the upgrade to the Caloundra Road interchange raises real questions about Caloundra Road itself. This road runs from the Bruce Highway and bisects two large roundabouts, including one where it joins Nicklin Way. Caloundra Road continues on to Bowman Road and goes into Caloundra's CBA. It is one of the two major roads into Caloundra. This road is set to experience a major increase in traffic over the next 15 years. It will service traffic coming from the growth areas of Pelican Waters, Palmwoods, Caloundra South and Bells Reach. Over time, Caloundra South will be home to 50,000 residents, who will need to drive on to Caloundra Road. Between now and 2031, sections of this road will see thousands of extra vehicles travelling on it, with traffic on one section soaring by 23,000 vehicles. Sadly, that is the section of Caloundra Road that funnels directly into Caloundra's CBA.

That is why Ron Strong and I launched a petition recently covering two issues: firstly, fast-tracking the completion of the Bells Creek arterial road; secondly, installing traffic light slip lanes at the Caloundra Road-Nicklin Way roundabout. These are only two of a number of matters that need to be addressed along with others, including the duplication of the rail line between Beerburrum and Nambour and the provision of off and on ramps to and from Nicklin Way before the Caloundra Road-Nicklin Way intersection. Unless the congestion on Caloundra Road is tackled in the near future, Caloundra Road will become the longest car park on the Sunshine Coast.

People tend to think of Caloundra as a lifestyle destination only but, in my opinion, it needs to rebrand itself as a lifestyle and business destination. In part, that is why the congestion on Caloundra Road needs to be tackled. Caloundra Road not only brings in and out tourists but also is an economic link to and from the Bruce Highway. As I said, Caloundra has not been properly addressed in the budget and what money that has been allocated is such that it will have no immediate impact. That money is either for existing projects or it has been mixed in with projects for a number of other regions across the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay areas and is impossible to break down.

An issue of importance in the Mooloolah area is the Mooloolah Valley Community Centre. Those who run it are seeking either a long-term lease or a donation of the land on which it operates. The centre auspiced a petition, which I tabled in the House this week, which was signed by almost 2,000 people. The centre provides support for many in the region who are doing it tough. The services provided by the centre include counselling, urgent relief, justice of the peace services, a monthly community barbecue, a mini market, a community garden, room hire and, the centre claims, the best op shop in the world. The centre is staffed by volunteers who are dedicated to the region and the people who live there. The Mooloolah Valley Community Centre is a prime example of a community looking after itself and of people caring for each other. The centre is eagerly awaiting a response from the minister in the 30-day time period.

This budget fails to address the major issues that are facing the people of Caloundra and the Sunshine Coast. However, the budget reply provided today by the member for Clayfield contains a true plan to provide jobs for young Queenslanders across the entire state—not just in the regions, as is the government's plan. The government's plan excludes young people in Caloundra. The LNP's plan will focus on getting 20,000 young Queenslanders into employment over four years. It includes employer incentives, tools for tradies, job start incentives and workers compensation relief. As I said, the plan

covers all of Queensland, not just regional Queensland. Why should young people in Queensland not be included in a scheme that is set up to get young people into a job? Why should those young people be discriminated against? Do they not have the same rights and aspirations of other Queenslanders?

The LNP is a party that understands business and understands that small business is the backbone of Queensland's economy. The LNP will provide effective leadership. The LNP will work with all Queenslanders to provide a secure future for themselves, their children and their grandchildren.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (4.57 pm): The Palaszczuk government is building an agile, modern economy that is creating increased opportunities for the residents of my electorate of Brisbane Central and throughout Queensland. I welcome the latest state budget by Treasurer and member for Mulgrave, Curtis Pitt, which provides an economically responsible plan to drive economic investment growth, create the innovation jobs of the future, and invest in infrastructure.

This budget is unashamedly about jobs, especially in regional Queensland, which is doing it tough owing to a downturn in the resources sector and a crippling drought in many areas. This budget is also a budget for the environment and one that restores front-line services while properly funding the community sector. In short, this budget is a budget for all of those who were forced to do it tough under the previous government's negative policies, many of whom lived and worked in my electorate—nurses, teachers, doctors and lawyers.

This budget is very clearly a budget that invests in schools, colleges, hospitals and health services in the electorate of Brisbane Central. It is a budget that invests in public transport, bikeways, law and order as well as important community services. The budget includes: \$7.1 million of \$7.8 million to complete construction of additional classrooms at Kelvin Grove State College, plus \$700,000 for capital works at Kelvin Grove State College as part of the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program—more than \$8 million in total for one of Queensland's leading places of learning; \$735,000 out of more than \$3.7 million to continue construction of additional classrooms at New Farm State School; and there is \$3.1 million in 2016-17 out of a total of \$13.2 million to reinvigorate the Biala Sexual Health Clinic in Roma Street callously closed by those opposite. This is in addition to \$3 million for urgent repairs and upgrade work on the Old Museum Building in Bowen Hills. These works, due to commence next month, will ensure this much-loved and historic building meets its workplace health and safety and building code compliance. This is a government that proudly protects Queensland's heritage and we will continue to do so. There is \$3.6 million in 2016-17 to continue construction of the North Brisbane Bikeway, Bowen Hills to Wooloowin, at a total cost of \$14 million. We believe in a cleaner, greener Queensland and that is exactly what projects like this deliver.

Jobs are front and centre of this budget, and it gives me great pleasure to say this as the state's employment minister who will be overseeing the new Back to Work regional jobs package. Unfortunately this morning we saw the Leader of the Opposition peddling a half-baked jobs plan that will not work. It is underfunded, has poorly-thought-out financial incentives and would be hampered by a lack of on-the-ground support and coordination. To make matters worse, the LNP's plan lacks a dedicated focus on regional Queensland, where the biggest employment challenges lie. Those opposite have snubbed regional Queensland yet again, especially when the money dries up because it is all used in the south-east corner, which makes it even more astonishing that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is blindly supporting the LNP's so-called jobs policy which has no dedicated focus on the regions, but not our Back to Work program, which is 100 per cent dedicated to regional Queensland.

Since the Palaszczuk government took office, 43,700 new jobs have been created in Queensland. We know that regional Queensland is doing it tough and that they need more jobs. That is why Back to Work is focused exclusively on areas outside South-East Queensland. This is a two-year \$100 million package which aims to support up to 8,000 jobs in regional Queensland, the areas hardest hit by the LNP's cuts. I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my speech into *Hansard*. I have received approval from the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

It includes:

- \$80 million for support payments for employers to take on regional jobseekers, including those disadvantaged in the labour market—such as the long-term unemployed, young people, mature aged jobseekers, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders;
- \$10 million for the Certificate 3 Guarantee Boost Program that will see more Queenslanders able to access subsidised courses to obtain jobs; and

- \$10 million for Back to Work officers who know the local economy and local employers, and can connect employers and jobseekers to opportunities and support, including through Regional Employment Networks.

Regional employers who hire an eligible unemployed person will get a \$10,000 payment under this initiative, rising to \$15,000 for the long-term unemployed who have been out of work for 12 months or more.

Apprentices and trainees are also counted as eligible employees under the scheme, provided their employer is not eligible for the Government's payroll tax rebate.

Since becoming Employment Minister, I've held a series of regional employment forums throughout Queensland—and seen first-hand the challenges faced by employers and jobseekers.

We've incorporated feedback gained at these forums from employers, jobseekers and service providers into our Back To Work package. We heard loud and clear that employers found it difficult to connect with local services and jobseekers.

That's why the scheme includes Back to Work Officers, who will help disadvantaged jobseekers connect with local employers to gain and maintain employment. They'll also connect jobseekers with training opportunities, including apprentice and trainee pathways.

It's a great outcome for regional Queensland, and I look forward to visiting those communities again soon and working with them to create more jobs and employment opportunities for local residents.

There's also great news for Brisbane Central community groups in this State Budget, Mr Speaker. Unlike those opposite, who ripped funding from community groups the length and breadth of Queensland, we value the community sector. And none more so than in Brisbane Central, with our 2016-17 funding package including:

- \$3.1 million to ensure children in the need of protection have a safe place to stay, including funding for foster and kinship care services provided by Life Without Barriers in Fortitude Valley;
- \$2 million to support the needs of children in out of home care, including funding to Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service in Spring Hill;
- \$421,000 for domestic and family violence counselling services, court-based services and perpetrator intervention programs—including funding for Legal Aid Queensland in Brisbane City and Relationships Australia Qld in Spring Hill;
- \$130,000 for Community Queensland Ltd in New Farm to help support vulnerable Queenslanders;
- \$1.35 million for women's support and counselling services, including the Children by Choice Association in Windsor and Women's Health Queensland Wide in Spring Hill; and
- \$552,000 for Brisbane Youth Service in Fortitude Valley to support young people and the community in Brisbane Central.

These organisations are reaching out into the heart of the community which I'm proud to represent, delivering important care and support to those who need it most. I'll always stand up for these organisations and the vital work they do to make Brisbane Central and Queensland a fairer place.

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government is also committed to greater fairness when it comes to public transport fares. On Sunday I was pleased to join the Premier and the Minister for Transport at New Farm Park, in my electorate, for the announcement of the government's Fairer Public Transport Fares policy, which is also outlined in the State Budget.

This represents a major overhaul of public transport fares and it's very welcome development for the thousands of people who use public transport in Brisbane Central. It means cheaper fares for 93 per cent of public transport users in Southeast Queensland from 1 January 2017, which is a great outcome.

I'm particularly pleased as Queensland's Multicultural Affairs Minister that the Fairer Fares policy also includes an additional \$19.1 million over the forward estimates, to extend public transport fare concessions to Queensland jobseekers and asylum seekers.

This follows a recommendation from the independent Fare Review Taskforce will be implemented in early 2017, pending discussions with federal agencies.

Public transport plays an important role in connecting jobseekers with education, employment services and job interviews, including in Brisbane Central. Our new Fairer Fares initiative is yet another reflection of the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to support more Queenslanders back to work.

Mr Speaker, I also welcome the Palaszczuk Government's even stronger commitment to the knowledge economy and jobs of the future, outlined in this State Budget. It's a budget that more than doubles funding for our Advance Qld initiative, to \$405 million.

Advance Qld is a whole of government innovation agenda to create the jobs of the future, and to encourage innovation in our business sector. It includes \$22.7 million for an Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy, and \$10 million for a Platform Technology Program.

It will harness Queensland's existing strengths, while fostering emerging opportunities in biofutures, in the new agricultural economy and through a \$33.5 million Connecting with Asia package to promote tourism jobs in the regions something I wholeheartedly support.

Just as I support the creation, through Advance Queensland, of Queensland's largest innovation hub in Fortitude Valley in the heart of my electorate. This is a \$4 million investment to encourage and promote entrepreneurs to grow and flourish, and I'm proud that it's happening in Brisbane Central.

I've visited the site of this new innovation hub at the former TC Beirne Building, and I'm impressed by the progress that's being made to transform what was once a retail space into a high-tech, digital hub of the future. This will benefit the whole Queensland economy, as just as importantly, it will deliver a boost to the Valley's day economy and that's a great thing for local businesses.

Mr Speaker, this is a Budget that delivers for Brisbane Central and for all of Queensland. I commend it to the House.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (5.02 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to give my contribution to the debate on the budget. It is always good to follow the member for Brisbane Central, our Minister for Employment, especially when she talks about jobs in the regions. In her contribution—short though it was—she mentioned jobs two or three times but did not tell us where those jobs were being generated or how many had been generated. She did not mention how effective any of their plans had been, but was strong on criticism of the wonderful plan that our leader has put forward today.

The minister did suggest that there was not enough on-the-ground coordination and organisation. She is suggesting there is not enough bureaucracy in our plan; not enough public servants to run the whole show. The plan that those opposite have for building jobs in Queensland is to build the Public Service. One needs to look no further than at their own budget papers. I have read them. It would be interesting to see whether the lemmings across the chamber have bothered to read it. I am sure they would have a lot of trouble reading balance sheets and understanding budgets. As I have said many times in this place, most of the members on this side of the House have actually run businesses.

Mr Elmes: That would be something new!

Mr HART: I take that interjection from the member for Noosa, that would be something new for those opposite: running businesses. Looking at budgets, looking at balance sheets, working out where that next amount of money needs to come from to pay for the payroll that you have to face in the next week or so, they are the tough decisions that people in business need to make. They are the tough decisions that the majority of the people on this side of the House have made before.

On the subject of jobs, it was interesting to see that the Treasurer has put out a new fiscal policy which basically says that the growth of the Public Service will be in line with the growth of the population in Queensland. When one looks at Budget Paper No. 2, page 107, there is a lovely graph that shows what the Public Service was in 2011-12 when we came to government. It was just above the 200,000 mark. After we had been there a little while we got it under control. It came down. But look here! It is back above when we came into government. The prediction shows the growth in population and it shows also the expected growth in full-time employees in the Public Service. Surprisingly enough, the full-time employees in the Public Service is above the population growth all the way along. That goes to 2019-20.

The Treasurer has failed at the first hurdle. He has put out a number of key points in his fiscal policy, but he has, in fact, failed straightaway. This budget is all smoke and mirrors. This government is saying, 'Look over there,' while they have their hands in the pocket that you are not watching at that particular time. Last year we saw the local magician in the House, 'Captain Risky'—who unfortunately is not here tonight—pull a coin out from behind the ear of the Leader of the House. I have dropped my speech and it has gone all over the place. I will have to discard it. I am sure I can survive without it.

Mr WILLIAMS: I rise to a point of order: referring to members by their correct title.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Could you please refer to members by their correct title.

Mr HART: My apologies. Captain Risky is actually the Treasurer. I think we all know that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, please.

Mr HART: The Treasurer. Those opposite are a bit precious tonight—a bit touchy, one might say. Last year we saw the Treasurer pull a coin out from behind the ear of the Leader of the House and that was his magic trick. What is his magic trick this year? His magic trick this year is to rob \$4 billion from the defined benefit superannuation scheme of Queensland's Public Service. That is a lot of coin from behind the ear. He will be busy for quite a while pulling those coins out.

We have heard from a number of members on this side of the House and I am sure we will hear from many more about how risky that strategy is. However, tonight I flag that what we have not heard from any members opposite is that the money sitting in the Queensland Public Service defined benefit superannuation scheme is held by the Queensland Investment Corporation on behalf of the Queensland government and it is getting a return. One would think that that money would be invested and invested very well. It is not a lazy \$4 billion in cash that is just sitting around, waiting for someone to plunder it. It is not sitting in a hollow log, waiting for a hand to reach in, drag out \$4 billion and throw it up against the wall, as I think the member for Mermaid Beach said. It is not just sitting there. It is tied up in assets. I ask the lemmings across the chamber how they will feel about that? What will the rhetoric be?

We constantly hear from those opposite about asset sales. Tonight everyone who has spoken already has mentioned it. I can assure the House that every member of the Labor Party who is yet to speak will mention exactly the same thing, that is, asset sales. How will they react to the Queensland Investment Corporation selling some assets—\$4 billion worth of assets—in order for the Treasurer's hand to reach into the hollow log and pull out—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr HART: The Minister for Employment thinks that the QIC has \$4 billion in cash sitting in a bank account somewhere. That is how naive are some of the members across the chamber.

Ms GRACE: I rise to a point of order. I take offence. He is completely misconstruing what I have just said and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The minister has asked you to withdraw. Will you withdraw, please.

Mr HART: I withdraw. That does not pull back from the fact—and I will not mention the member, again—that the QIC does not have a lazy \$4 billion sitting around. I would be staggered if I am wrong, but I suggest that they do not have a lazy \$4 billion sitting somewhere in an account that someone can reach into, as if it were a hollow log, pull out that \$4 billion and then throw it up against the wall. That is exactly what those opposite will do: they will throw it up against the wall. They will have to sell some assets. Then what will we hear from those opposite? How will they react to the selling of those assets? The QIC owns a number of assets, for instance, shopping centres and buildings. If a shopping centre or a building is sold so that they can come up with \$4 billion, will they worry about that as an asset sale? I suggest they will not, because they are hypocrites when it comes to these sorts of things. It is okay to abuse us and get stuck into us about asset sales, but when they do it, it just does not count.

A couple of weeks ago, it was my pleasure to be appointed the shadow minister for energy, biofuels and water supply. In the past 18 months, the Palaszczuk Labor government has completely failed Queenslanders, whether it is managing the state's finances, growing the economy or with its energy and water policy.

Mr Butcher: You lost your speech, remember?

Mr HART: I have lost my speech. I will not go back to it. I will move on.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr HART: I do not need it. It is okay. I can get on without it. Let us look at the SDS for power and water. I know that the minister has been very busy preparing this document. There is nothing in it. It is blank. It surprises me that in the past three weeks he did not have time to meet the owners of the Geiger Group in Toowoomba. For the minister's information, I am told that today that company may have laid off 40 staff.

Mr Bailey: There's more to it. You were only told half the story.

Mr HART: I would be interested to hear the other half of the story from the minister. The point is that the minister did not have time to meet with that company in Toowoomba. This afternoon they have laid off 40 staff. I am not sure how that fits into the jobs mantra that the government keeps spruiking. They say that they are all for regional jobs, but they have let down those 40 people pretty badly.

What is in the SDS for energy and water? Usually, you get a pretty good idea of what is going on in a department when you look at the 'Discontinued measures' within an SDS. There are a couple of items under 'Discontinued measures', including PowerQ. That was the 30-year electricity plan that former minister McArdle put in place for the state going forward. We are yet to hear about any plan that those opposite may have. They do not have a plan at all. In fact, their plan was to task the newly formed Queensland Productivity Commission with looking at electricity prices in Queensland. It has done that and has produced a draft plan. However, the government has thrown out all of its ideas. They did not like any of those ideas, so now it has no plans.

The final determination has now been handed to the minister, but the minister is keeping it a secret. Maybe he is sharing it with his ministerial colleagues, but certainly he is not sharing it with the people of Queensland. The people of Queensland are the ones who have to pay their electricity bills, but they are not to find out what the suggestions might be to decrease those electricity bills. It would be fantastic if the minister had that conversation with the people of Queensland and gave them the

opportunity to see what great plans he may have, apart from his 50 per cent renewable energy policy. We have not yet found out how that will be paid for. It is not in the budget. There is no money in the budget for the 50 per cent renewable energy plan that they are coming up with. The last costing I saw on it was about \$10.5 billion or \$11 billion, but there is no money in the budget—

A government member: Which figure is it, Michael? Tell us.

Mr HART: Let us make it \$10.6 billion. Is that an accurate figure? The minister will remember that I do not have my speech anymore, because I dropped it. Let us say \$10.6 billion, but there is no money in the budget for it. Luckily, there is also no mention of a carbon tax, although we have heard a bit about that in the chamber in the past few weeks. We were lucky that the Premier stood here and told us that there would be no carbon tax under a government that she leads. We have heard that story before, have we not? Do members remember that story? A prime minister said that, but a short time later it was exactly what we saw. Therefore, it is a worry when the Premier of this state says the same thing. Are we likely to see it in the future? That is what worries me.

A government member: You are a worrier, Michael.

Mr HART: I take that interjection. While we have an incompetent Labor government that has no idea how to form a budget and an incompetent minister for energy and water who cannot meet with constituents or help with job numbers, of course I worry. I worry about the future that my children may have. I worry about whether they will have the opportunity to buy a house like I did quite a few years ago. They are now reaching an age when they will need to buy houses. It is getting more and more difficult for them. The Labor government can waffle on all they like about first home buyers grants, but they are the ones with the history of axing those sorts of programs. We brought it back in. Yes, they have boosted it in this budget, but they have boosted it for only 12 months.

On the other hand they have introduced a big tax on foreigners. Apparently foreigners are New Zealanders who live on the Gold Coast. As members would know we have quite a few New Zealanders—foreigners, apparently—who are buying properties on the Gold Coast. They will be subjected to that \$10,000 impost on a \$300,000 unit or a \$300,000 house that they buy.

My understanding from the Treasurer's speech and from what has been stated in this House is that that plan does not last for 12 months but goes on and on. Whilst the first home buyers grant boost lasts for 12 months that tax continues—that broken promise of the Labor Party that there will be no new taxes on anybody in Queensland, that technicality that we are not taxing Queenslanders but we are taxing everybody else into this state.

That tax on New Zealanders on the Gold Coast is going to have a detrimental effect on real estate on the Gold Coast. I am already hearing from real estate agents from my patch on the Gold Coast—I have quite a few real estate agents in my electorate—that they are worried about what is going to happen in the future.

In my speech on the budget last year I talked about the amount of money that was shifted to our GOCs. I think it was about \$4 billion. In 2017-18 the LNP had forecast total debt to reach something like \$79.9 billion. Those opposite have taken \$4 billion and shifted it to GOCs. They took a holiday on making superannuation payments in the last budget. They are now robbing \$4 billion from the defined benefits superannuation scheme. Some \$2 billion of that is to be used to write down debt. Debt is still forecast to be only \$2 billion less in 2017-18.

Approximately \$4½ billion to \$5 billion has vanished off the face of the earth. It has disappeared. It is another magic trick from the Treasurer. It is one of his best, but it will be to the detriment of all people in Queensland. The people of Queensland will remember this, do not worry about that.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (5.23 pm): I am delighted to have the opportunity to rise this evening to congratulate the Treasurer, Curtis Pitt, on delivering a budget that continues to steer a path for ongoing economic and social growth in Queensland. Queensland is still recovering from the aftermath of three years of arrogant economic mismanagement by the Newman-Nicholls government that tore at the social and economic fabric of Queensland.

This budget delivers on jobs, services and infrastructure across the length and breadth of Queensland, and my electorate of Ipswich West is no exception. Before I outline how the budget delivers for Ipswich West, I would like to thank the Treasurer as well as ministers Mark Bailey, Kate Jones, Bill Byrne and Steven Miles for finding the time to meet with me and hear me out prior to the formulation of the budget.

One of my key election commitments when I was elected to state parliament in January 2015 was to address the crippling unemployment levels in Ipswich West. I am pleased that the 2016 budget delivers on jobs for my electorate in many ways, and among them is the continuing development of the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre. The 2015 budget made provision for \$28.8 million for the refurbishment of the prison that had been mothballed since 2012. That provided much needed work for local tradies and businesses. In total, \$145.3 million will be provided over four years for recommissioning and operating expenses delivering over 200 long-term jobs for Ipswich West.

The 2016 budget provides for a further \$45.6 million out of a total spend of \$88.5 million to remove hanging points in the older style cells and other improvements. As well there is \$5.6 million in 2016-17 out of a total spend of \$20.2 million to commission and operate health and medical services at the centre.

Another job creation project for Ipswich West is the new-generation rolling stock facilities at Wulkaraka. That receives \$1.4 million out of a total spend of \$80 million. It is due for completion in August 2016 and will bring about 150 new jobs for Ipswich West.

I am pleased to see that the budget will also deliver \$9.1 billion to improve education in Queensland. The budget delivers for schools in Ipswich West with \$100,000 for an outdoor learning centre at Brassall State School and \$470,000 for refurbishment of special education learning spaces at Leichhardt State School, Rosewood State School and Rosewood State High School.

This is a budget that also delivers on state roads infrastructure in Ipswich West. The longstanding issues concerning the intersection of Pine and Delacy streets at North Ipswich will be coming to an end thanks to a \$2.8 million upgrade to improve safety and traffic flow. That fulfils an election commitment made by me. The budget also delivers \$1 million in 2016 for improvements on the Warrego Highway between Ipswich and Toowoomba at the Tallegalla Road and the Lowood-Minden Road intersection at Minden at a total cost of \$10 million.

This budget also delivers on other badly needed infrastructure projects in Ipswich West, including: \$4.6 million to continue replacement of aged secondary iPASS systems at the Blackwall electricity substation worth \$33.1 million; \$4.8 million to continue the Lowood water treatment plant stage 1A upgrade worth \$17.4 million; and \$7,000, as part of a \$10,000 commitment, to spend in 2016-17 for the Lowood LED community and emergency signage project.

Sporting groups also benefit from the budget, with the Marburg-Mount Crosby Thunder Cricket Club receiving \$50,000 to complete construction of the practice nets and floodlights at the Tivoli playing fields worth \$100,000. To increase participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in structured sport and active recreation activities, the budget provides funding of \$66,274.

Somerset Regional Council will receive \$438,315 for the completion of the Fernvale sports fields for a total \$800,000 under the Get Playing Plus program. As well, the council will receive an extra \$41,339 as part of a \$59,055 commitment to light the four netball courts at the centre, concluding a project that will allow the Fernvale Amazons to train and play at night.

It is estimated that the Somerset Regional Council will also receive \$3.1 million in 2016 for recovery and reconstruction projects in partnership with the Australian government. It is also estimated that \$1.6 million will be provided in 2016 to local government authorities fully or partly within the electorate of Ipswich West to undertake betterment and other NDRRA category D projects in partnership with the Australian government.

The budget also provides for improvements to community services in Ipswich West. Local neighbourhood centres will receive extra funding of \$220,000 and, to ensure that children in need of protection have a safe place to stay in Ipswich West, the budget provides \$1.986 million. A total of \$251,000 has also been provided to assist persons under 65 or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged under 50 with a disability or conditions that restrict their day-to-day living to allow them to stay at home. This budget is good news for the people of the electorate of Ipswich West, and I commend the appropriation bills to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (5.30 pm): I rise today to make my contribution to the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2016, presented to this House by the Treasurer, the member for Mulgrave, the Hon. Curtis Pitt, on Tuesday, 14 June 2016. This is another Labor budget that has relied on a raid of the savings of Queenslanders—families who are working hard to ensure they provide a future for their families and a nest egg for their retirement. Last year we saw the Treasurer launch an attack on the long service leave funds of everyday Queenslanders and move government debt onto government owned corporations.

In 2016 the Treasurer has found yet another hollow log to invade in the form of the public sector superannuation fund. Despite the advice received from the State Actuary that it would be unwise to withdraw in excess of \$2 billion from the fund, the Treasurer has raided the fund to the tune of \$4 billion. If this money were to be spent wisely growing the economy and reducing the spiralling government debt, we could perhaps draw some comfort from that knowledge, but the record of the Palaszczuk government, as with previous Labor governments before them, would seem to prove otherwise.

They are renowned for their failure to provide a sound economic plan for our state. After all the great work done by the previous LNP government and then treasurer and now Leader of the Opposition, Tim Nicholls, in halting the debt spiral and producing an actual surplus, this is in stark contrast to what we see from the current Treasurer. The Palaszczuk government talks loudly and at length about the magical surpluses that are going to appear, but it always seems to be next year or maybe the year after that or some time in the far and distant future.

There is no greater comparison of the results that can be achieved with prudent management and skilful, effective and efficient use of funding than the outcomes realised by the previous LNP health minister, Lawrence Springborg. The achievements in the Health portfolio by the previous minister should be acknowledged. The LNP government responsibly managed the money available and the results were astonishing. In the space of one term, Queensland Health went from a dysfunctional basket case to being the envy of all other states. Under this Palaszczuk government, we have seen waiting times increase again and the Health budget blow out by \$100 million over the last 12 months. This health minister, like previous Labor ministers before him, believes the only way to improve services is to throw money at it. The LNP, in contrast, believes in service delivery and results, not spin.

This budget will see money thrown at government departments and the establishment of a number of new boards, one of which is the new Office of Rural Affairs within the agriculture department. I am curious as to the role of this new board. We have a stand-alone agriculture department thanks to the previous LNP minister, John McVeigh, and the establishment of this board would appear to be adding another layer of unnecessary bureaucracy. The primary producers in Condamine need fewer levels of bureaucracy, not more. I also note the allocation of \$7.8 million to secure high-resolution satellite imagery coverage of Queensland. With the proposed government changes to the vegetation management laws, one can safely assume this to be the primary purpose for this investment of taxpayers' funds. The tree police are back, Big Brother is watching, and the bad old days are upon us again.

When I perused the budget announcements for the seat of Condamine, it was like back to the future. What I found was the pronouncement of projects that were announced by the previous LNP government. The widening of the Warrego Highway to four lanes between Charlton and Kingsthorpe was previously announced. The turn-off and overtaking lanes between Oakey and Dalby were also previously announced. Work has already started on these projects, and I have had numerous meetings and updates with the department of main roads over the past two years on the progress and completion time line for these roadworks.

The widening of the Cecil Plains to Toowoomba Road from the Wellcamp Airport to Toowoomba was announced by the LNP government under the Royalties for the Regions scheme. Of course, we all know that the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing was announced by the LNP when in government. Perhaps the minister would like to have another sod-turning ceremony to celebrate this announcement. We will only need another one or two sod turnings and the cutting will be dug. There are some state roads in the seat of Condamine that would benefit from funding. I speak of the road between Dalby and Cecil Plains and the Bowenville Norwin Road. There is a lot of heavy transport in the form of B-doubles and road trains that use these routes, and these roads could now only be termed as dangerous.

There is nothing in this budget that will inspire confidence in the business sector within the Condamine electorate to expand, develop and create more jobs that has not already been announced by the previous LNP government. This is not exclusive to the Condamine electorate but across all of Queensland. The only area that is expanding under this Palaszczuk government is the Public Service. Despite the continued reckless spending, there is nothing in this budget that will deliver a legacy other than spiralling and excessive debt. The Treasurer reminds me of a kid at the show. He goes off with a pocketful of money and comes home with nothing to show for it and no idea where the money went. This is another bad Labor budget and Queenslanders deserve better.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (5.36 pm): The second budget of the Palaszczuk government delivers for Queensland in the areas that most matter. It allows the government to continue working with

Queenslanders to get the training they need for jobs now and to build careers for the future. We know that investment in training and skills can help deliver the high-skilled workforce Queensland needs for economic growth, industry development and jobs growth.

This budget ensures that crucial programs continue to be funded—initiatives like Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which is providing skills, opportunity and career paths right across this state. This is a program that those opposite cut, denying a path to a job to those who most needed the assistance. The ongoing work to remedy that damage continues. In that regard, I would like to thank our partners in these efforts, training providers, NGOs, local government business and employee representatives right across our regions.

What would the LNP do to address the important issue of helping Queenslanders find jobs? It would re-establish its Ministerial Industry Commission across the whole state as an alternative to an independent expertise based body like Jobs Queensland. The LNP's body was run by an assistant minister—an entirely political approach to addressing one of this state's most significant challenges. We have established through legislation an independent authority. It will be comprised of representatives from a broad range of industries who possess the expertise needed for the critical functions of Jobs Queensland. Jobs Queensland has already been established in its Ipswich home with high-level staff already working hard to support their interim reference group.

The opposition leader talks in vague but disturbing tones about cutting unnecessary bureaucracy. Exactly what does he believe is unnecessary? Does he mean Queensland's Training Ombudsman, who is ensuring that people who are paying for training have access to the highest quality programs that maximise their chances of improving their jobs skills and finding employment in their chosen field—the body that supports students, business, training providers and families navigate the training sector; or does he mean Jobs Queensland, the independent expertise based body working from its offices to develop future skills priorities and a strategic outlook for future workforce planning?

The LNP says it would pay for its apprenticeship scheme by cutting funding from Back to Work. Such a decision would destroy the key focus of Labor's plan announced earlier this week by the Treasurer. That focus is to deliver jobs for regional Queensland which, as everyone in this House is aware, is suffering far more than the south-east corner from the transition out of the mining boom.

The Leader of the Opposition says the LNP wants to address the decline in apprenticeships. That is one area where he does have some expert knowledge. When the LNP came to power, there were 96,300 apprentices in training in Queensland. By the time they left, less than three years later, that number had fallen to 68,600. That is 28,000 fewer apprentices in training than when they started.

In contrast, this government has acted to attract apprentices. The Queensland Government Building and Construction Training Policy requires contractors to employ apprentices and trainees, and undertake other workforce training, as a mandated component of being awarded work on eligible Queensland government projects. What this means for apprentices is that a minimum of 10 per cent of the total labour hours on eligible projects be undertaken by apprentices and/or trainees and through other workforce training.

The Palaszczuk government introduced a new payroll tax rebate from 1 July 2015 to make it more affordable for employers to hire an apprentice or trainee. This incentive will deliver up to \$45 million in payroll tax rebates for employers of apprentices and trainees. If we make it easier for business to be able to take on an apprentice or trainee, then the business will be able to make a go at it, and this boost, especially in regional Queensland, is vital to give confidence.

Apprentices will be eligible under the government's Back to Work program. That means smaller businesses, which might not benefit from the payroll tax rebate, will receive \$10,000 to put on an unemployed Queenslanders, including as an apprentice to get their qualification. This could increase to \$15,000 for a business to employ a long-term unemployed person. This Labor policy is more effective than the LNP's ill-conceived proposal, as it directly targets the long-term unemployed and in the regions. I know the Minister for Employment will expand further on the opportunities provided under Back to Work. This budget ensures Queenslanders have access to an effective, responsive and efficient justice system. We are committed to providing accessible and effective justice, providing the support and courts system Queenslanders deserve. We are committed to working with the profession to achieve these aims.

Increasing demands on the justice system across Queensland will be addressed through the provision of an additional \$20 million over two years. This government knows that the staff in court registries right across the state are dealing with an ever-increasing workload of complex matters. This

funding package represents the greatest injection of support to court services in more than a decade and will be used in part to respond to increased domestic and family violence proceedings, Land Court referrals and criminal law proceedings.

Also \$20 million over two years has been allocated to ensure that Queensland courts and tribunals have the resources they need to effectively deal with budget and workload issues. It is expected that these measures will increase accessibility to justice for Queenslanders and assist in effective and timely outcomes for practitioners and clients alike. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated into *Hansard*.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Attorney, have you had a chance to show your speech to either the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker?

Mrs D'ATH: I have provided it to the Deputy Speaker and I have received approval to incorporate it.

Leave granted.

Access to justice

Any commitment to improving access to justice has to translate to a long term, sustainable funding model for legal assistance services. We are providing funding certainty for those services, and the vulnerable Queenslanders who rely upon them. Until now, funds from the Legal Practitioner Interest on Trust Accounts Fund (LPITAF) and Queensland Government Consolidated Fund have been used for the delivery of these services.

But while the need for those services grows, the revenue from LPITAF has been reducing, and can no longer meet these funding commitments.

As announced by the Treasurer, on 1 July 2016, we will commence implementing a long term funding model. Funding of \$166.2 million over five years will be provided with ongoing funding of \$40.6 million per annum.

In doing so, this Government has moved to provide certainty and sustainability for these important services.

We have delivered on our election commitment to review the available funding sources for Legal Aid Queensland with a view to increasing, over time, the funding provided for state-funded legal assistance services to the national average.

LAQ has been provided with increased funding of \$32.4 million over four years, with an ongoing funding increase of \$13 million per annum.

This funding will enable LAQ to deliver vital domestic and family violence and child protection services and other legal assistance services including to those farmers across our state who continue to experience significant financial hardship.

Domestic and family violence measures

As part of the Government's almost \$200 million investment package to boost crucial domestic and family violence (DFV) services the department has also received funding:

- for the continuation of the Southport pilot specialist DFV court and independent evaluation until 30 June 2017;
- subject to the Southport DFV court evaluation, \$13.6 million over four years commencing 2017-18 to roll-out specialist DFV courts to a number of other locations;
- \$11 million over the next four years to build the capacity of Community Justice Groups in 18 discrete Indigenous locations;
- \$0.3 million over three years to maintain funding to the Women's Legal Services Helpline; and
- \$0.7 million over the next four years for the professional development of magistrates in DFV matters.

These initiatives have been warmly welcomed by the Community Legal sector, the Domestic Violence sector, the Queensland Law Society, and Legal Aid Queensland.

These measures are proof of this government's leadership in this field and our commitment to provide a fair, accessible, effective justice system for the Queensland community.

Crime Statistics Body

Another of the Government's election commitments was the establishment of a crime statistics body. Both the Commission of Inquiry on Organised Crime and the Taskforce on the Organised Crime Legislation recommended the creation of an independent crime statistical body that would prioritise the collection of data on organised crime in Queensland.

The Government has approved \$8.4 million over three years for the establishment of the Crime Statistics Body to collect data and monitor organised crime, as well as impacts and trends across all crime types.

This builds on the commitments already made by the Government upon receiving the report of the Commission of Inquiry last year.

Given the deeply concerning finding of the involvement of organised crime in the child exploitation material market, the Government acted immediately to provide the Queensland Police Service, as a first stage response, with \$3.2 million, to be shared with the Crime and Corruption Commission, to improve front line investigations into child exploitation.

The Crime and Corruption Commission received funding of \$485,000 to help tackle child sex offending.

We also approved that the Crime and Corruption Commission use retained earnings of \$510,000 for the Cerberus team and the Forensic Computing Unit towards those capital costs to undertake more criminal investigations.

As part of our commitment to tackling organised crime in all its forms, this budget includes:

- \$3.6 million over four years for crime intelligence hearings into organised crime.
- increased funding of \$3.5 million over four years to continue confiscation proceedings in relation to participants in criminal organisations, unexplained wealth orders and the serious drug offender confiscation order scheme.

It is imperative that the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions must be properly resourced to pursue convictions of serious and organised criminals.

Accordingly the Government has approved funding of \$12.136 million over four years for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. This funding will enable the Office to increase its staffing by a further 26 positions, significantly boosting its efficiency and addressing workload issues.

All of these funding measures, coupled with our robust legislative reform agenda, are designed to create a safer, more just Queensland for all.

Redcliffe:

I am also proud to stand in this Chamber in the capacity as the Member for Redcliffe.

There are a range of initiatives that will be a fantastic result for the Redcliffe peninsula.

Key initiatives include:

- \$100,00 to replace the roof of the hall at Clontarf Beach State High School
- \$20,000 to complete the outdoor landscaped learning area at Clontarf Beach State High School.
- \$60,000 to refurbish the outdoor learning area and replace playground equipment at Clontarf Beach State School.
- \$200,000 to refurbish the amenities of Block 6 at Humpybong State School.
- \$3.5 million (over next two years) for the replacement of the Hall at Redcliffe State High School.
- \$5 million (over next two years) for the construction of additional classrooms at Redcliffe Special School.

I am also pleased that the Palaszczuk government is delivering \$7.1 million in 2016/17 to increase inpatient capacity by relocating cancer care and renal services to the Moreton Bay Integrated Care Centre.

Beyond the boundaries of the electorate, but just as important to my constituents, is the funding to address the Rothwell Roundabout.

Just as I had to stand up for my constituents when money was taken out of the Redcliffe Rail project, I have been fighting for years for a solution to the Rothwell roundabout. I also know the Member for Murrumba has been advocating strongly for this.

I am so pleased that this government is delivering once again.

We delivered the rail line, we are delivering the roundabout upgrade, and we are delivering improvements to the Redcliffe hospital and to local schools.

I urge the Parliament's support for these initiatives.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.43 pm): The Treasurer promised that the budget would be all about creating jobs for regional Queensland, but one can only say that it is a complete disappointment with a lack of job initiatives for Central and Western Queensland while taxes and charges are forecast to increase at twice the rate of inflation. Transport links create jobs. Increased delivery services create jobs. Infrastructure creates jobs. This budget will deliver the lowest infrastructure spend in Queensland's history. It actually slashes infrastructure spending by \$2.3 billion when compared to the LNP, and all Gregory gets is a bit of a crumb. Take road spending, for example. We are getting an extra passing lane on the Capricorn Highway near Duaranga, and we are getting a bit of funding for the Gregory Highway and the Landsborough Highway.

The seat of Gregory is a wealth-creating region. In the central highlands, we have mining, beef, cotton, grain, horticulture—the list goes on. In the west, we have beef and wool production and outback tourism. All these industries pay their fair share in taxes and charges which ends up in the state government's revenue column. Both the Isaac and the Central Highlands shires cover the Bowen Basin mining industry. The bulk of the state's mining royalties come from that region, yet the Treasurer has largely ignored the region. The region punches well above its weight, yet the Treasurer and the Labor government have ignored it yet again.

The central and south-west, despite years of drought, continue to provide wealth for the state's coffers. Yes, I welcome the drought funding, but this funding was started under the LNP government. In fact, over \$100 million in drought funding was allocated when the member for Clayfield, Tim Nicholls, was Treasurer. He did not blink an eye when we needed that funding for the drought. It was the former agricultural minister, John McVeigh, the member for Clayfield and now opposition leader, and also the member for Callide, the former deputy premier, who did not blink an eye when it came time to give that money out. They were happy to do that constantly.

We have had some rain out west, but I can assure the House that the drought is far from over. If someone asks members in the House whether the drought is over, I would like everyone in the House to please say that it is not over. The rain will help some through the winter, but members have to remember that this is winter and the heat units and the pasture growth will be limited. All we have is an opportunity for a bit of herbage growth out there, and we have filled some dams and creeks with water. It has been very welcome, but we still have properties out in the west that have missed out. If members are talking to people, especially here in the south-east, please tell them that the drought is not over.

Agriculture is the unsung hero, as we experience a massive mining downturn in regional Queensland, so it is imperative that the state government invest in it. The LNP valued agriculture as a pillar of our economy. We invested in infrastructure and research and development but, most importantly, we re-established a department focused on agriculture. We actually established a department of agriculture for agriculture. Who would have thought that! We have a department for agriculture.

I am a little amused that one of the big announcements from the budget for agriculture is that they are now going to set up an Office of Rural Affairs in the department of agriculture. We are going to have an Office of Rural Affairs in the department of agriculture. What will that tell us—that it is rural? We know that agriculture is rural. We will have another office in an office of agriculture talking about rural affairs. That is fantastic! Why do we need an Office of Rural Affairs in a department of agriculture? Agriculture is rural. News flash—agriculture is rural, people. We will have more bureaucracy in Ann Street, Brisbane. That is what we want! More bureaucracy in Ann Street. More money will be wasted on city based positions for agriculture. What about employing agronomists, entomologists or stock inspectors in the region? Why don't we do that? Let us employ some people in agriculture in agriculture, not in Brisbane based positions. Now we have \$7 million going towards the tree police. We have more obstacles in front of agriculture. That is not how we need to invest in agriculture.

I will now move to something that I am very passionate about and that I talk about a lot in this House—that is, road funding. It is very important to the seat of Gregory and it is seriously lacking in the seat of Gregory. We need the sealing of the major north-south links of the Springsure-Tambo road. We also need the sealing of the Clermont-Alpha-Tambo road. That would improve the competitiveness of freight and agricultural products using the road. It would expand the region's drive tourism product, helping the economies in these towns. It would also improve Queensland's wet weather resilience. With construction work for two council road crews, it would truly deliver jobs for the region.

I am bitterly disappointed—very bitterly disappointed—that no money was committed to the construction of Rookwood Weir in Central Queensland just in the seat of Gregory near Gogango. Water is prosperity. We needed the Palaszczuk Labor government to commit to matching the federal funding of \$130 million for this to proceed. It would create 2,100 new permanent jobs and \$1 billion in new agricultural product for Central Queensland. That is how to create jobs. With an economic multiplier of three for services and transport and logistics, it would lift Central Queensland into the category of an agricultural powerhouse at a time when we have never had better access to foreign markets.

The effect would be felt right across Central Queensland and right out to the west, but it seems the Labor government forgot Central Queensland. They jump on a plane in Brisbane and fly straight over Central Queensland. They fly straight over the top of us and head to Townsville—maybe they give us a wave on the way through. We have lost 20,000 jobs since the mining downturn and we have lost 6,000 jobs in the outback, but all we get are some crumbs here and there.

One of the other passions I have is small business in regional Queensland, and it has been shabbily treated. There are shameful rates of unemployment in regional Queensland. Collectively, small business is a major employer right across the regions and right across the seat of Gregory. Small business is struggling with government and other charges such as payroll tax, vehicle registration, inflated fuel charges and electricity bills which are really starting to hurt small business in regional Queensland. It is the state government imposed burdens that are killing small business from the Central Highlands to the west. This budget has state government taxes and charges rising at twice the rate of inflation. The burden on small business will get worse, not better.

Small business in the west has suffered four years of drought. Towns in Western Queensland could become virtual ghost towns if the plight of drought-affected small businesses continues to be ignored. Drought-affected primary producers receive state government assistance, including access to loans, freight and electricity subsidies from the Queensland government, which needs to continue; I fully support that. We need to continue that. By contrast, small businesses in Western Queensland that are suffering in those drought-affected areas receive absolutely nothing. Their incomes dried up when

their customers' incomes disappeared due to the drought, yet somehow they are expected just to get through by themselves. I can tell honourable members that this is impossible in a drought of this length—four years and probably going into our fifth year without a wet season. Small businesses are closing right across the bush. The situation is dire as we end our fifth 'wet' season with virtually no rain in that wet season.

The plight of small business has a major knock-on effect for the people of Western Queensland. I believe it has directly contributed to the shameful rate of youth unemployment in outback Queensland, which is currently sitting at 33 per cent, as the shops and services have to let their staff go. The number increased by 13,000 last year alone. We urgently need to extend the Queensland government drought assistance on a regional basis rather than just on an industry-specific basis. We need to extend these drought assistance programs to small business. This would allow small business in drought-declared regions to access the same assistance as primary producers in terms of concessional loans, freight and electricity subsidies.

I am talking about small businesses that are not going through their first or second year of drought; they are going through their fourth year of drought. What do they do when they go through drought? They carry credit for drought-affected primary producers across this state. They carry a whole lot of credit. Underwriting their survival also underwrites continuing employment and quality of life during the drought and the social capacity to recover when the drought breaks. Our small businesses are the heart and soul of the district. They are generous sponsors of local causes and they were the first to extend credit to their drought-affected customers when the drought began to bite. After being drought declared for four years, their need is desperate now more than ever and we need to help them.

This budget is lacking infrastructure and spending in the regions that creates the money to create the jobs. Yet it has been made worse by taking money from the Public Service super funds and the GOC dividends as we head down a track of more debt and no sign of our credit rating improving.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (5.52 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill before the House. From the outset I would like to congratulate the Treasurer on this, his second budget. I would also like to acknowledge and thank his office and departmental staff who have worked tirelessly to pull together such an important suite of measures. The second budget of the Palaszczuk government is a budget that continues to deliver on the commitment we gave Queenslanders at the last election to focus on jobs and restoring front-line services, and sets out a clear economic plan for Queensland's future focused on three priorities: job-creating innovation, investment and infrastructure. It is a budget that addresses both the challenges and opportunities currently facing our state.

The budget maintains a clear focus on job creation. We have already seen 52,500 new jobs created in Queensland since the election of the Palaszczuk government, but we know we need to deliver more jobs for Queenslanders, particularly in regional Queensland. Measures such as the two-year, \$100 million package to give employers the confidence to take on new staff in regional Queensland via employer support payments is part of delivering on that commitment. So, too, is maintaining and building business confidence, which has consistently been the highest of mainland states over the past 12 months. Queensland is forecast to record the strongest economic growth of all states over the next few years.

While global and domestic conditions are challenging, we are optimistic about the opportunities ahead for our state and for all Queenslanders. I recall saying in my budget speech last year that as a government we must not only govern for the welfare and good government of Queensland today, but we must also have a vision for where Queensland is going tomorrow. This budget will accelerate our Advance Queensland plan with an additional investment of \$225 million on top of the existing \$180 million and look to capture opportunities in industries such as genomics, robotics and biofuels. The Advance Queensland package builds on and advances many forward-thinking initiatives and policies of successive Labor governments and will create a new era of opportunity for Queensland.

I was very pleased to see the \$22.7 million Advancing Small Business strategy contained in the budget to help create jobs, drive business growth, harness innovation and build digital capacity. Digital capability grants of up to \$10,000, matching dollar-for-dollar contributions by small businesses, will help to build their digital capability through website development, training and/or adopting new online tools and technologies. There are over 4,000 small to medium sized business enterprises across the Nudgee electorate and I look forward to talking about this strategy with local business, about how it may help them to grow and harness new opportunities.

I am delighted to see public transport take centre stage in this budget with the announcement of a public transport fare reduction across all South-East Queensland zones. My electorate is highly serviced by public transport with 12 train stations and 394 active bus stops. The simplification of the

zoning system will result in savings to constituents in my electorate in the order of \$315 per passenger per annum from Toombul station to the city and up to \$578 per passenger per annum from North Boondall station or bus stop to the city. I thank the Minister for Transport and member for Sandgate for delivering for public transport patrons in South-East Queensland who will travel further for less.

I also take this opportunity to mention my ongoing priorities in regard to finding innovative solutions to commuter parking issues at stations across my electorate, but particularly at Nundah station, to planning for significant commuter growth around Nudgee station, and to looking at innovative solutions to road and pedestrian issues at the Banyo railway crossing. These are issues of concern to constituents in my electorate and I will continue to raise them with the minister, who I acknowledge has always given me a good hearing on these issues. Cross River Rail is the highest priority infrastructure project for our government and is key to managing congestion on the network which, as I have outlined earlier, with 12 train stations, is key to my electorate. The budget allocates \$50 million towards early stage planning and approvals of this significant infrastructure project.

As some of my northside colleagues have already spoken about, \$250 million has been allocated in the budget to continue the vital widening of the Gateway Motorway upgrade between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge. When complete, this joint \$1.1 billion Commonwealth-state project will make an appreciable difference to the journey time of local residents of the Nudgee and neighbouring electorates, with an estimated 80,000 motorists using this stretch of road daily.

The budget also contains welcome improvements for my local schools with funding to upgrade the middle years playground and refurbish a teaching block at Geebung Special School, funding to complete outdoor learning areas at Northgate State School and Wavell Heights State School. I have seen the work that Education Queensland is doing in repurposing these outdoor learning areas and it is impressive. When I was at Earnshaw State College recently I saw firsthand the significant improvement the Infrastructure Enhancement Program is making—aesthetically yes, but more importantly, how interactive and useable the space was made by the modern design concepts used by the department under the program. As all members in this House know, it is not always the big items that mean the most. I was tremendously grateful to see that \$60,000 has been provided for in the budget to install large industrial fans in the multipurpose hall at Earnshaw State College. The heat in the hall for students, particularly during the heat of summer, the absence of any assisted cooling and the challenge for the P&C in funding such improvements was raised with me by Principal Dave Bosworth early last year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Treasurer and his staff, the education minister and her wonderful senior advisor for taking my written and verbal requests seriously and for facilitating this improvement for my local school. I know the students will be very grateful.

I was disappointed to see Wavell State High School miss out on capital funding for a new performing arts centre. The school principal, P&C, teachers and parents are desperate to see a new centre built at the school to support the growing performing arts programs there which I can attest to as being of the highest calibre. I know that the Minister for Education is very aware of this issue and my strong support for it—

Ms Jones: Very aware.

Ms LINARD: Thank you. I take that interjection.

Ms Jones interjected.

Ms LINARD: I take that interjection, too. Thank you, Minister.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! I will remind the Minister for Education that if she wishes to interject she should be doing so from her own seat.

Ms LINARD: Not only is the minister aware of this because of my repeated approaches on the issue; she also made the time to come and see the need for herself. I thank her for that. I will continue to raise this issue as a priority for my electorate.

During question time this morning the Minister for Health spoke about funding in the budget for a Step Up Step Down facility at Nundah. This model of care reflects community need and the preference for innovative mental health services that offer flexible, recovery focused care closer to home and to family and friends who can offer support—an important alternative to hospital admission. I thank the minister for this investment in mental health services. I know that this facility will be another resource to support the vital work currently undertaken by the Nundah Neighbourhood Centre and Community Legal Service, Nundah Activity Centre and community service providers supporting vulnerable Queenslanders and building resilience and capacity in my local community.

Similarly, \$6.9 million has been allocated to local organisations to support families to safely care for their children, including funding for community based intake and referral services at Kurbingui Youth Development in Zillmere and Mercy Community Services in Nudgee and Zillmere. It was wonderful to have Minister Fentiman and the Treasurer come out and view these services recently. \$1.9 million has also been allocated to ensure that children in need of protection have a safe place to stay, including funding for foster and kinship care, residential care and supported independent living services provided by Mercy Community Services in Zillmere and Virginia. They do a wonderful job. Vivality, \$112,000 and \$129,000 for different projects offered by the Zillmere Community Centre continue to build capacity in this vulnerable suburb within my community.

Six million dollars has also been allocated to assist people with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need across my electorate, and I make mention of the Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland, Help Enterprises, Micah Projects, Multicap, Open Minds, the Burnie Brae Centre, Geebung Meals on Wheels, Nundah Activity Centre, Ozcare and Technical Aid to the Disabled, which are all wonderful groups within my electorate.

This budget sets out a clear economic plan for Queensland's future and is focused on three priorities: job-creating innovation, investment and infrastructure. It is a budget that addresses both the challenges and opportunities currently facing our state. I commend the Treasurer on his second budget.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (6.02 pm): I rise to speak to the 2016-17 budget. I was elected in 2004 and I was not here beforehand, but I think that this is probably the best budget I have seen since that time, particularly for rural and regional Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr KNUTH: They may think it is an illusion, but obviously this is a good budget. With regard to education, a lot of schools have received funding support. The Ravenshoe State School lobbied for a shade cloth for the prep playground facility, and they received it. They are over the moon about it. It might not be a lot, but it is a good thing for them. The Yungaburra P&C lobbied us at least four weeks beforehand hoping to secure a shade cloth, and to them it is everything. The Moranbah State High School is still rapt because they received an upgrade to their air-conditioning in the last budget, and I thank the Minister for Education for her support. They have received another \$300,000 to refurbish and upgrade their classrooms. For the Malanda State High School there is \$323,000 to replace benches—and I have seen them—which should have been done many, many years ago.

Under the Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program the Ravenshoe State School received \$3.65 million to replace the dairy for the trade training program. Members may recall that the LNP spread horrible rumours they were going to close the ag science program, but this budget has provided \$3.65 million to keep the training programs going. They are absolutely rapt at Ravenshoe at this time, particularly as they have been going through a lot and I feel that they deserve this wholeheartedly. For the Atherton State High School there is \$1 million to refurbish the ceilings at C Block, and they are also very appreciative of the \$2.2 million for the special education unit which has more or less developed into a state-of-the-art facility. The Dimbulah State School received \$140,000 for refurbishment work.

I also acknowledge the \$10,000 for businesses that employ people who have been unemployed for quite some time in rural and regional Queensland. I believe the grant goes up to \$15,000, and that will be good for rural and regional Queensland.

The Herberton State School secondary campus received \$150,000 for the replacement of science benches and other internal refurbishments, and the Mount Garnet State School received \$150,000 for internal and external painting.

There is one other very important issue on which we have been lobbying for quite some time. I do recall that about eight years ago Craig Wallace, the former member for Thuringowa and minister for main roads, worked with Anthony Albanese to provide \$150 million over five years to upgrade the Gregory Development Road. We have not received much funding for that road, and there are at least 40 kilometres remaining. The good news is that we have received over \$42 million over three years to help fund or upgrade the last remaining sections. These are definitely big dollars well spent, because this will create an inland highway. A lot of people go to Townsville and Charters Towers but will not travel up the Lind Highway and back to Herveys Range because of that narrow strip, which is a dangerous section, and this funding will resolve that issue.

Added to that is the \$34 million to upgrade the Cape River Bridge, and this is big stuff. The minister came out and had a look at the bridge and also travelled the road, and as a result of communication and dialogue with the community and the Chamber of Commerce—probably more so

the previous local council—and with the lobbying we have done, it is just great to see this come to fruition because it will create an inland highway from Rocky. This will allow trucks and vehicles—and even tourists—coming from the Mackay-Rocky area to travel through Clermont up the Gregory Development Road and through to Charters Towers. They can stay in Charters Towers and head up towards Mount Garnet, the Atherton Tablelands and down to Cairns. This funding will help secure that inland highway. The Cape River Bridge is a low-level bridge and it has been a deathtrap for a number of years with hundreds of near misses. That bridge goes over with just a drop of rain, and a lot of travellers will not use that road because of the bridge. This is very much appreciated, and Charters Towers is over the moon at this time with funding for the Gregory Development Road and the Cape River Bridge.

There is a \$2.7 million statewide commitment over three years for flying fox management.

I also want to mention the Dimbulah Primary Healthcare Clinic. I commend the Minister for Health and the Treasurer, who came out to visit the community at Dimbulah. We had the opportunity to table over 750 signatures from that community calling for an upgrade of what was the Dimbulah Hospital. This is a big win for them. There was a public meeting, and we had the support of the Cairns and Hinterland Health Service. There were at least 100 letters of support from the community as well. This was nothing to do with lobbying the government: this was about the whole community banding together to get an outcome because it is full of asbestos. People had to wait outside under the mango tree, people with wheelchairs could not get in and the officers who did the paperwork with patients had to walk past them to get in there. This is big dollars, it is good stuff and the community is quite rapt about this.

Very importantly, we had the Ravenshoe blast. There are still issues with regard to the hurts and the effects it has had on the community. I thank the member for Barron River for attending the memorial service for the one-year anniversary. At the time of the blast it was acknowledged that the emergency ward and operating theatres of Atherton Hospital could not take in all the patients. It is very pleasing to know that the minister has committed funding out of the \$230 million statewide funding pool to upgrade and refurbish the emergency department and the operating theatres. This is big for the Tablelands. We have been pushing for a new hospital or an upgraded facility. I believe that the air-conditioners are now going up the top of the medical ward, where the flies would get in, and there are screens. We have been pushing for this for a long time. The minister and the Treasurer visited and listened to the community. The community has had a big win on this. This is not a win for Shane Knuth; this is a win for rural and regional Queensland, for the Atherton Tablelands and for the sick, the frail and the elderly. There is no doubt that this will benefit our region.

The Dimbulah Fire Station will receive the extension that the community has been fighting for for some time. It was unworkable and made things very difficult. There is \$700,000 for that. Herberton finally got \$1.2 million to replace their fire station. That is big news for Herberton, which does not get much. The people of Herberton are great, salt-of-the-earth people.

Another measure that is very important for the Atherton Tablelands is the provision to CST Atherton of \$250,000 for a feasibility study through the Neighbourhood Centre Investment Strategy. The Minister for Communities came to the Atherton Tablelands—

Ms Fentiman: A pleasure.

Mr KNUTH: Yes, and it is great to see this \$250,000 go to CST. It is good dollars well spent.

I acknowledge the \$78 million for the Rural Assistance and Drought Package. This includes \$42 million for extending the existing drought relief arrangements. The Rural Assistance and Drought Package includes mental health support as well as education support for children in drought-affected areas.

I mention the transitional package, relating to transitioning property from parents to their children. There will be 100 per cent stamp duty relief. That is a good thing because at present it costs \$200,000 to \$300,000 to give your property to your children. Now it will be completely tax exempt.

The neighbourhood centre in Charters Towers have been pushing for years to get a domestic violence shelter. They have lobbied previous governments and this government. They have made a number of representations here in Brisbane and have had meetings with the Minister for Communities and the Minister for Disabilities on the need for a domestic violence shelter in Charters Towers. It is great news that we were able to secure up to \$2 million to facilitate two dwellings to help support those suffering from domestic violence. I believe that the minister is coming up maybe this week, I hope—

Ms Fentiman: Next Wednesday.

Mr KNUTH: Next Wednesday to extend that announcement. Overall, I believe this is a good budget. People may say that I am deluded, but what I have delivered is a good win.

One of the members mentioned the motorsports association and asked what we got. I believe that a funding announcement will be made in two weeks time regarding Millchester Motorsport. The member for Whitsunday was very critical that we did not receive funding for motorsports. He should just wait for two weeks, because we are just waiting for the grant announcement.

This is a good budget. I thank all of the people who live in rural and regional Queensland, and those in my electorate, for their hard work in lobbying and working with the government to get these outcomes. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr PEARCE** (Mirani—ALP) (6.15 pm): It is a pleasure to rise in this place to make my response to the Appropriation Bill 2016. Queensland: beautiful one day, perfect the next—and getting better every week under the Palaszczuk government.

Queensland's future economic and social prosperity depends on a government determined to drive job growth right across the state. I have, as a union man and as a member of parliament, stood for what are the simple principles of a fair go. I know from my own experiences in life that the standard of living enjoyed by individuals and families in Queensland can only be guaranteed by job opportunity and, more particularly, job security. Every member in this place knows that job opportunity and security drive confidence in our communities and throughout the state. My experience in representing a large rural electorate is that people do work hard, that workers only ask for a fair go. Men and women who work or live in the Mirani electorate need the certainty of knowing that there is a job for them if they are willing to work hard. They know that their job and job security have their best chance by electing a government that puts in place a plan that is focused on reducing unemployment for all who want to have a go.

This Labor government budget is a budget that in Mackay, Mirani and Whitsunday will support 1,500 jobs locally through a \$435 million infrastructure spend—a spend that will see commenced work continue, adding security of work to those who are now on the job building roads, new businesses and housing and government buildings.

New money for Mirani delivers important new buildings or refurbishment to a number of schools across the electorate. Glenden State School will be cheering about the funding of \$80,000 allocated for the upgrade of a tuckshop.

Mr Butcher: A great school.

Mr PEARCE: It is a great school. The school's parents and citizens association should be congratulated for its hard work and dedication, because they provided some \$34,500 to the project. Marian State School and the Finch Hatton State School in the beautiful Pioneer Valley have been granted \$1 million and \$100,000 respectively. Marian State School will see an extension of an admin block—around a million dollars—while the Finch Hatton State School will have classroom refurbishments to improve the classroom learning environment.

The Pioneer Valley is one of the jewels in the crown of tourism destinations in Queensland. Julieanne Gilbert, the head-down-bottom-up hardworking member for Mackay, and I are soon to kick off a series of meetings—meetings that will be focused on a plan of consultation and discussions on building on the strengths of tourism opportunities in the Mackay area and particularly the Pioneer Valley.

Getting back to school funding, Mirani State School is using \$800,000 to complete the refurbishment of classrooms. Mount Morgan State High School, the first state high school in Queensland, will receive \$600,000 for the refurbishment of classrooms. The great little Walkerston State School—I live at Walkerston—gets top prize with \$2 million for the refurbishment of classrooms. Recently I went out to Oakenden State School. It is a lovely little school with great kids. Those who know these little schools understand that the students at those schools just have a beam about them. There is a lot of excitement when well-known people like me attend their school!

Dysart State School—my old town—will get \$747,000 to complete the modernisation and refurbishment of the economics and learning spaces and St Lawrence Primary School is not actually having any work done to the school itself but \$85,000 has been provided to remove an old house which has asbestos in it, so we need to get rid of that. I thank the Minister for Education for her support for the many schools across Central Queensland. The money provided in the 2016-17 budget for schools shows that we care. We care about people and we care about quality for students. As part of an annual maintenance program, in 2016-17 Stanwell Power Station will get \$50.5 million for overhauls, replacements, refurbishment and upgrades of its assets.

Mr Butcher: Huge number of workers in that, Jimmy.

Mr PEARCE: I take the interjection, because it is about workers. If you pour the money in you help them continue in their work and, most importantly, you keep the families in the towns and also all the important infrastructure is kept new and working accordingly. Funding for the Bruce Highway is always welcome. Some \$14.4 million will be used for the ongoing widening of the Bajool section of the highway and \$14.4 million for the continuing construction of new lanes in the Midgee area. Other road funding will go to the Capricorn Highway to increase the frequency of overtaking lanes. When you drive these roads quite often, those overtaking lanes are required to keep the traffic under control. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I have spoken to the deputy whip and she has had a quick look through it and has okayed it, except for one word.

Leave granted.

The Mount Morgan Mine will get funding for just over \$4 million dollars for water management and general mine management. Around half, or a bit more, of these monies will go to the ongoing treatment of polluted waters for transfer into the nearby Dee River.

The people of Mount Morgan will be pleased to hear that funds have been provided to assist with the further development of tourism a Feasibility Study on the risks and costs of rectification and sustainability of the mine caverns.

When we talk about the future I see the region's cane-growers being the pioneers of future economic development, job creation, and job security. I am very excited about cane and how we can be part of the new industry.

While we are in the early days of a new additional life for our sugar cane, the Government has demonstrated its belief in the future of the bio-fuels industry by putting in place a \$478 million dollar funding package with a focus on the future of bio-fuels.

Funds will be targeted for the introduction of a ten-year road map and action plan building on what we already know education of industry players and working with these big companies who are looking to the future; looking at Central Queensland its climate and its ability to produce the product in both the short and long term.

Even more in talking to budget commitments, many of the announcements made are new there are also announcements about ongoing projects:

- \$500,000 to commence construction of a replacement Mackay Tourism Visitor Information Centre, total cost \$1.3 million.
- \$1.9 million in 2016-17 budget to replace aged transformers at the Nebo Substation, the total estimated cost of the project is \$20.5 million.
- \$1.1 million in 2016-17 budget to replace aged assets at the Nebo Substation, the total estimated cost of the project is \$22.5 million.
- \$767,000 Feasibility Study for Eden Bann Raising and Rockwood Crossing Weir construction.
- \$534,000 for refurbishment and enhancement in Eton water supply.
- \$498,000 for refurbishment and enhancement in Eton irrigation.
- \$4.354 million is allocated in 2016-17 for the management of the Mount Morgan abandoned mine site which includes water treatment.
- Priority water management activities at Mount Morgan include water removal from the mine pit and operating a seepage interception system to minimise contaminated groundwater leaving the site.
- \$1 million as part of a \$215.4 million commitment over 2 years funding the Building our Regions Program, this project is towards expanding the existing sewerage network in Mount Morgan.
- It is estimated \$14.8 million in 2016/17 will be provided to Local Government Authorities fully or partly within Mirani Electorate for recovery and reconstruction projects in partnership with the Australian Government.
- \$50,000 to complete the construction of a BMX track and multipurpose playing field at Glenlee, worth \$100,000.
- Mackay Cycling Club, located at Walkerston: \$85,262 to commence the upgrade of track surface and replace rail fence to support cycling at Mackay, worth \$85,262.
- Sarina & District BMX Club Inc.: \$50,000 to complete the upgrade to lighting to support MBX at Sarina, worth \$100,000.

Initiatives for communities, child safety, and disability services

- \$1.893 million to ensure children in need of protection have a safe place to stay in Mirani including funding for residential care services provided by IFYS Limited in Glendale and Hay Point.
- \$330,000 for local neighbourhood centres, including:
 - Dysart Community Support Group
 - Sarina Neighbourhood Centre
 - Coastal Community Development Service Neighbourhood Centre at St Lawrence
- \$41,000 for services to support young people and the community in Mirani including funding for information advice and referral and support and case management services provided by Mackay Regional Council in Sarina.
- Funding for local services providers such as:
 - Broadsound Coastal Community Development Association Inc. in Carmila
 - Hinterland Community Care Inc. in Dysart
 - Mudth-Niyleta A&TSI Corporation in Sarina
 - Sarina Branch Meals on Wheels Inc. in Sarina.

- \$0.268 million to assist people with a disability and their families including:
 - Funding to Individuals in Devereux Creek, Mia Mia, and Pinnacle
 - Hinterland Community Care Inc. in Dysart
 - Home Support Association Inc. in Mount Morgan.

The economic future of the regions does require security of water.

I recognise the value and potential for areas across Central Queensland where access to secure water is essential.

Being able to irrigate lands for food production will be a reality demand over the next few decades.

I am pleased that the budget includes funds for the Lower Fitzroy River Infrastructure Project.

While this feasibility study has been announced, the dollars required to undertake the study have not been made available until this budget.

\$1 million for a feasibility study of the proposed construction of weirs on the Fitzroy River to help meet future water demand from urban populations, industry and agriculture in Rockhampton, Gladstone, and the Capricorn Coast.

The money is there the feasibility study will determine how the proposed weirs will stack up against environmental and identified water demands.

Mr Speaker, I owe it to the people of Walkerston and the members of the Road Action Group to set the record straight on funding for the long awaited and much talked about Bowen Basin Link Road also known as the Walkerston By-pass, in a desperate move to grab votes in the lead up to the July 2nd Federal Government Election.

Monday this week, the Member for Dawson, George Christensen and the Member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry, came up with a \$75 million dollar promise toward the development of the Bowen Basin Service Link Road.

This announcement is nothing more than a hoax in a desperate bid to win votes "if the LNP wins Government" was the call. It was designed to embarrass the State Government and nothing more than a low rate con on the people who have rallied for over two decades to get the project up.

There are a couple of standout points of concern:

1. There has been no discussion between the Federal and State Governments.
2. The commitment was made while the Federal Government was in caretaker mode.
3. There was no reference to the funding of this project in the Federal Budget brought down only a month ago.
4. Both Federal Members have a history of over stating the facts in their own interest.
5. We know from the comments made that Federal dollars will become available if they win Government and when the State makes the same commitment.

There has been no discussion no verbal or written commitment between the State Government and the Federal Government.

I want to say that the State has included the Bowen Basin Development Link in its future development plan. The State has committed \$10 million dollars to undertake project planning. Estimated expenditure to-date is \$6.5 million with a further \$2.759 million approved for 2016-17.

While I am disappointed that the Member for Dawson and the Member for Capricornia have gone out of their way to create a con job, I will as the State Member keep the pressure on keep things moving without attempting to create a false sense of hope.

We need to be sensible. Think about what it means what the consequences are when community has to live with false hopes.

Nothing has happened here for over two decades except talk. We have a solid financial commitment by the State for the planning of the project.

While George Christensen and Michelle Landry are throwing out distress signals, pleading for votes on a false promise, I will keep knocking on the doors of the Palaszczuk Government; to be remembered as a "quiet achiever". Always conscious of the fact that as the local Member, I am the link between community and Government.

Debate, on motion of Mr Pearce, adjourned.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Member for Lockyer

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, earlier this afternoon there was an incident in the chamber where the member for Maryborough took offence to an interjection from the member for Lockyer. The Deputy Speaker undertook to listen to the *Hansard* recordings and report back to the House. I have listened to those recordings and the results are inconclusive. The member for Lockyer clarified that he was not referring to the member for Maryborough but has apologised to him for any offence caused. That is the end of the matter.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**Referral of Auditor-General's Report; Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.22 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 194B that the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 19 2015-16, *Early childhood education*, be referred to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee. The committee has also resolved pursuant to standing order 136 to vary the committee responsible for the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (National Injury Insurance Scheme) Amendment Bill 2016 from the Finance and Administration Committee to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee, to report by 19 August 2016; the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 from the Finance and Administration Committee to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee, to report by 19 August 2016; and the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 from the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, to report by 6 September 2016.

Sitting suspended from 6.25 pm to 7.30 pm.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**APPROPRIATION BILL****DUTIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL****Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Resumed from p. 2465, on motion of Mr Pitt—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.30 pm): It is great to have an opportunity to rise to speak to this 2016-17 budget—a budget that has been aptly described by many on our side, but starting with the Leader of the Opposition and shadow Treasurer, as a budget of raids, rip-offs and write-downs. I do not particularly want to spend my contribution going into the detail of how bad the budget is and what it means for the state of Queensland, because I will be directing my constituents in the seat of Glass House to the contributions made by the Leader of the Opposition, the honourable Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield, and the shadow Treasurer, the honourable Scott Emerson, the member for Indooroopilly.

Earlier this morning, when addressing the announcement by the Treasurer of an Industry Attraction Fund, the Leader of the Opposition referred to a comment made by a former chairman of the Productivity Commission, Mr Gary Banks, back in 2002. Although the Leader of the Opposition referred to that comment by Gary Banks in the context of the Industry Attraction Fund and the sort of economic foolishness that it is considered to be, I think a lot of what Gary Banks had to say is pertinent to the budget more widely. In a speech to CEDA in Brisbane, Gary Banks said the following—

If governments can agree to a truce on inter-State bidding wars and other selective corporate support—

a la the Industry Attraction Fund—

they can then concentrate their forces on a much more worthy and productive battle: improving further their economic governance, tax regimes, infrastructure and other service delivery. These are the real mainstays of the contribution of State and Territory Governments to economic performance in the long term.

If we set aside the fact that the Industry Attraction Fund is a form of interstate bidding, or selective corporate support, the other elements that Gary Banks raised are also pertinent to the budget. His suggestion was that a state government should focus on improving economic governance. Has the Treasurer and the Palaszczuk Labor government achieved that? No, definitely not. They have raided the defined benefit superannuation scheme. They have not only loaded the government owned corporations with debt and raided their dividends but also raided their cash reserves—and we all know where that is going to lead. In short, have the Treasurer and the Palaszczuk Labor government improved economic governance? Definitely not.

The next element referred to by Gary Banks was states improving their tax regimes. For many years Queensland has been a low tax state. That has attracted businesses and individuals to this fantastic state. Despite election promises to the contrary, in this budget we have seen an increase in taxes. One in particular, the foreign ownership transfer duty, is going to have a profound impact on not only foreign ownership of property but also the price of a house and land for mum-and-dad purchasers and investors in this state. Earlier today, the Property Council was able to demonstrate that.

The next element that Mr Banks raised was improving infrastructure. The government gets a big fat zero for that, too. I will come back to that shortly. Suffice to say less is being spent on infrastructure in this budget than there was in the final year of the LNP government. Less is being spent than even the Palaszczuk Labor government forecast itself.

The final aspect of the mainstays that a state government should be focusing on, according to Mr Banks, is improving service delivery. One would think that, if, as we have seen in this budget, the government continues to astronomically grow the Public Service, we may at least see improvements in service delivery. However, as was demonstrated by the shadow minister for police and corrective services this morning in his questioning of the minister about the situation in our correctional centres throughout the state, that is certainly not the case. As well, as we heard this morning from the questions asked by a number of members of the Minister for Health, our performance in Health is going backwards. In short, in what this government should be focusing on, it is failing on all accounts. The people of the Glass House electorate, the people of Queensland, need to understand that and need to understand that it will have dire consequences for not only this coming financial year but also many financial years into the future.

I turn to the portfolio areas of Transport and Main Roads and Local Government, particularly focusing on infrastructure, transport and main roads. Despite what the Palaszczuk Labor government has claimed over the past couple of days, this budget has certainly not thawed Labor's 18-month infrastructure freeze. The Palaszczuk Labor government continues to be a do-nothing government, asleep at the wheel. All we have seen in the Palaszczuk government's second disappointing budget is road upgrade projects across Queensland being deferred as it scrambles to fill its budget black hole. Important Bruce Highway upgrade projects up and down the coast have had funding delayed, including the Caloundra Road to Sunshine Coast Motorway upgrade—and I will talk about that a bit later—the Cooroy to Curra upgrade, the St Lawrence to Mackay upgrade and the Proserpine to Bowen upgrade. We have also seen a deferral and a shifting of funding for important safety upgrades along the Warrego Highway between Toowoomba and Dalby and the New England Highway between Warwick and Wallangarra. It is important to note that all of these projects started and were funded under the former LNP government. Labor continues to hand in our homework, albeit now extremely late, with nothing to show for itself.

In this budget, we have also seen capital spending cuts to Transport and Main Roads district budgets across the state, including \$7.3 million in Far North Queensland, \$40.5 million in the Fitzroy district—Mr Deputy Speaker, I know that is something near and dear to your heart—\$172,000 in the south-west district, and, whilst that might not sound a lot, we all know that that money can go a long way on roads in the south-west—and \$78 million from the north coast district budget, including the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay local government areas. That is simply not good enough. Regional Queenslanders deserve that investment. They deserve safer roads.

It is not just motorists who should be concerned. Of the more than \$10.5 million that was meant to be spent on cycling grants across the state in 2016-17, that amount has now been slashed by \$9 million. There are cycling grants that will not be going out in this coming financial year. In terms of boating infrastructure—and our coastal towns rely on upgrades to our infrastructure so that we can enjoy, both commercially and recreationally, our wonderful waterways—again, Labor, is spending \$3.5 million less in this budget.

If we look at some of the bigger ticket items, the biggest of all—although there is some confusion among the government members as to whether it is a priority—is Cross River Rail. The Palaszczuk Labor government has gone back to the drawing board. Commuters are right to be cross about Cross River Rail. Commuters would have to question whether Labor even wants to build Cross River Rail while it continues to push it into the never-never. Although the government has crowed about a \$50 million investment in setting up a new bureaucracy for the project, nothing will be built. The government has not even completed its business case. As a fan of the program *Utopia*, I can say that it is starting to sound increasingly like an episode of *Utopia*. I hope that, as this bureaucracy is set up, the government has someone representing Alpine and that someone makes sure they order the muffins. Otherwise, we could really be in trouble. Like an episode of *Utopia*, the Palaszczuk government

is great at reviewing, delaying and setting up layers. They may even change a logo or two just to make sure they can buy themselves a bit more time. They love setting up layers of bureaucracy, but they fail when it comes to actually delivering.

What is even worse is that the Premier, her deputy and the Treasurer all seem to be at odds over Cross River Rail. On budget night the comments of the Treasurer Curtis Pitt were extremely disappointing because he was hopeful that Labor could continue to keep pushing the project out—delaying, deferring and dithering. Referring to the European signalling system he said, 'That is the system we hope is going to potentially push back the delivery of Cross River Rail.' The Premier says Cross River Rail remains her No. 1 priority, but it sounds like the Treasurer is not altogether sure.

If we turn to another issue within the budget of the Department of Transport and Main Roads, last night Labor again refused to back down from its unfair rego hike on the family car. Labor's slug, as I said last night in the debate, would see Queensland families' rego go up by another 3½ per cent for the second year in a row. That is double the inflation rate for two years running. Labor is sticking with its only plan: to treat motorists as cash cows. On Wednesday the member for Murrumba admitted we would probably be back here next year while they defended their 3½ per cent increase for the 2017-18 budget. That would be a third 3½ per cent increase in a row.

Quite frankly, Queensland motorists are sick and tired of Labor using them to plug their budget black holes year after year after year. Families with a four-cylinder car will now pay over \$400 to register it—and that is before you add CTP and the transport levy. Queenslanders certainly deserve better. It is sounding very similar to the last four years of the Bligh Labor government, when car rego increased by 30 per cent. It really is only the LNP that has the track record of keeping costs low for Queensland families. We froze rego for the term of our office and, because we know running the family car is expensive, we have committed to keeping rego increases for the family vehicle to the inflation rate for our term in government so that Queenslanders get a fair go.

Turning to public transport, it is great to know finally that the transport minister agrees with me on how bad the Premier's legacy was when she was a minister. I feel obliged to educate some of the more naive Labor members. The then transport minister Anastacia Palaszczuk slugged commuters with endless 15 per cent public transport fare increases. Under her watch we saw patronage plummet as fares skyrocketed and trains did not even run on time. Labor are tricky and sneaky and so it is therefore unsurprising that Queenslanders are wary of the Palaszczuk government's fare changes. Make no mistake, the LNP supports lower fares for commuters, but it must be costed, it must be funded and it must be affordable.

The LNP has a strong record in making transport affordable. We were the ones who ended Anastacia Palaszczuk's 15 per cent increases and we also made the first ever five per cent fare decrease in the history of public transport fares in this state. Labor, on the other hand, is great at giving with one hand and taking with the other. This budget shows that the Palaszczuk government still has no way to fund its \$230 million public transport fare changes. It is a huge black hole in the middle of its budget. No money has been allocated towards this program. Ministers Hinchliffe and Bailey have been told to find \$102.8 million in savings from the department. They have not identified what programs or projects will be cut to meet that, but even when they find that money they will still have a shortfall of nearly \$130 million. Labor must immediately tell Queenslanders how the fare changes will be funded and be up-front about what services will be cut.

In the time remaining I would like to turn to the region of the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay and to the electorate of Glass House. We on the Sunshine Coast all know what our key infrastructure projects are. It is what I and my team of Sunshine Coast LNP colleagues have been working on now for more than six years and in some cases a lot longer than that. I welcome the news that the Sunshine Coast Airport has been given environmental approval. That was made possible because of the efforts of the LNP government to gift the land to the Sunshine Coast Regional Council to make one contiguous block and allow the upgrade to proceed. It was an LNP government that funded the Kawana hospital, bringing forward funding that Labor had punted into the never-never. True to form, in this budget the opening has been delayed yet again. Sunshine Coast residents and, might I add, Moreton Bay residents, who have had to rely on an overcrowded Caboolture Hospital, are sick and tired of waiting for the Sunshine Coast University Hospital to be opened. We are now having to wait until April next year.

Whilst there was a promise of \$22 million for roundabouts around the hospital—they will not relieve the congestion, by the way—we have heard that they will not be in place for that opening in April. We will have a hospital but no-one will be able to get to it because of the congestion around it.

What is more, there is no mention whatsoever about the very important Mooloolah River interchange, an interchange we committed to funding to the tune of \$400 million back in January 2015, one that we see no money allocated for in this financial year or any future financial year.

I mentioned the deferral of projects. One of those is the upgrade of the Bruce Highway between Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Coast Motorway. Whereas last year's QTRIP said that \$182 million would be spent in this coming financial year, this year's QTRIP shows that only \$47 million will be spent. That is a \$135 million miscalculation. That can only mean that the project is behind schedule and people on the Sunshine Coast will not be seeing those extra lanes soon. As for the north coast rail, something very near and dear to my heart, we have \$2.3 million for another business case. I cannot tell you how well that is going down with my constituents! They are sick and tired of having information sessions on a business case. They do not want any more information sessions. They want to see the duplication rolling down that line. Back in January 2015 the LNP gave a commitment of \$530 million to this project. This government gives no allowance for it in this budget. The Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay region need more lanes, they need more trains, and this budget delivers neither. What is worse, even the lanes that were budgeted are now being delayed. It is simply not good enough.

In Glass House we had the wonderful announcement of the Maleny Police Station. It gives me a great opportunity to point out that it was not until 8 June that we finally got a media release out of the police minister about the Maleny Police Station. My media release went out on 22 April. That was picked up by the *Range News* on Thursday, 28 April and the *Glass House Country and Maleny News* on 27 April. In fact, before I put out my media release I was able to go and stand beside the Maleny Police Station and take a photo of the construction work that is underway. It is wonderful that the government has finally caught up with that great piece of infrastructure that only came about because of our good friend who is down in the Premier's and Speaker's Hall tonight, Mayor Jack Dempsey now, then police minister, who worked with me to bring forward that vital piece of infrastructure.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Mr POWELL: I take those interjections from my colleagues. He is a truly great former member for Bundaberg who will be a fantastic mayor for Bundaberg. They are very lucky to have him. Certainly people in Maleny and the surrounding districts are very pleased with his contribution to our public safety through that new facility being constructed.

In the QTRIP we see ongoing funding for the installation of lights at the Reed Street intersection with Steve Irwin Way. They are nearly completed. I am pleased to see the contractors will be paid for their work. We also saw funding for the Bowen Road-Steve Irwin Way intersection upgrade that will see traffic lights installed there. Again it is a project that is already underway but it is fantastic that it is continuing to be funded. Another project in the south of the electorate is the upgrade of the D'Aguilar Highway, a project fully funded by the federal government because a Labor government under a former Labor member for Glass House could not find the funding. I thank Wyatt Roy for that money and I thank the hard workers within the Department of Transport and Main Roads who are seeing that upgrade come about.

I will speak briefly about the Caboolture Hospital car park. After waiting nearly 18 months for this Labor government to come up with an announcement, it took the federal member for Longman, Wyatt Roy, to announce the \$2 million contribution of the federal government before the state government stumped up with a further \$4 million. It is great news for Caboolture: \$6 million will be spent on the hospital car park. That is a fantastic outcome. I look forward to those 300 car park spaces being built as soon as possible. That is long overdue, but it should not have been as the money was in the budget when we left government. We could have had that car park 18 months ago, but it has taken this budget to bring it about.

In the short time I have remaining I acknowledge the wonderful initiative announced by the Leader of the Opposition today, which is our plan to get Queensland working, with a particular focus on jobs for young Queenslanders. He announced that, if elected, an LNP government will implement our get Queensland working plan, along with our Queensland apprenticeship boost, tools for tradies—which is already going well on my social media this evening—our job-start incentive and unemployment bonus. I return to where I start: what state governments should and must do is improve economic governance, improve their tax regimes, improve infrastructure and improve service delivery. There is only one party in this House that has a track record of achieving that and that promises to do it again, and that is the LNP. I do not support this lousy Labor budget.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (7.51 pm): Today I rise to speak in support of the budget delivered by the honourable the Treasurer, Curtis Pitt. I congratulate the Treasurer, the Premier and all the ministers responsible for this sensible and responsible budget. It is a great budget for Queensland and for my

electorate of Lytton. This great Labor budget is responding to the needs of Queenslanders, setting out a clear economic plan, growing innovation, attracting investment and building infrastructure. It responds to the needs of all Queenslanders and all baysiders, from the young through to the elderly, as well as the unemployed, the disadvantaged, business and industry.

The great news for Lytton baysiders is that this budget makes a \$12.7 million commitment to our health needs. In the 2015 election, baysiders made it very clear that they wanted a state-of-the-art modern health facility. I am delighted that the budget will ensure that the new community health centre will deliver essential and, might I add, public health services to the bayside. The new facility will expand existing services and include specialist outpatient services, an expanded oral health service and chronic disease clinic, a mental health service and a rehabilitation gym. It will double the hours of BreastScreen Queensland and will see the introduction of telehealth services. It will also see the reinstatement of a 24-hour acute primary care service and maintain all the palliative care and rehabilitation services.

This budget ensures that important public health services will remain in the bayside. Our government is unlike the previous LNP government, which ripped out front-line services not only in the bayside but also across the state. The budget allocates funding for planning the relocation of the Wynnum Ambulance Station so that it can share those new facilities. These are truly outstanding outcomes for the bayside and I am looking forward to the sod turning and getting the ball rolling. Importantly, I am looking forward to the return to the bayside of 24-hour primary care, as well as improved and returned services, in a purpose-built centre that will grow with our community, delivering on important election commitments.

Under this budget our local schools will also benefit, with funding allocated to Brisbane Bayside State School for an upgrade to the current dining room and general learning area, turning the area into a restaurant to facilitate the expansion of the certificate III hospitality course, allowing the college to give students a real-life experience. This will improve training and prepare students for the workforce, delivering real, current and useable skills. I am looking forward to enjoying the new restaurant. I know how much the school and the students will benefit from that upgrade. A further budget commitment of \$250,000 will allow the refurbishment of classrooms at the lovely Darling Point Special School, providing improved facilities for this important and much-loved local school. That will be of huge benefit to students, teachers and families. The wonderful historical icon that is the Fort Lytton National Park will see an investment of over \$200,000 towards upgrades to the site, which will ensure that this important national park is preserved, maintained and accessible now and into the future.

From next year, public transport fares will be slashed, making it more affordable for Lytton locals to travel on buses, trains and ferries. This major overhaul of public transport costs across South-East Queensland is outstanding and welcome news for the bayside. Baysiders will save money under the new Fairer Fares package, which will deliver real cost-of-living relief to all public transport users in our community. Wynnum, Manly, Lota, Hemmant and parts of Tingalpa are now all in zone 2. That means that passengers can travel on the train from Lota to Hemmant for the cost of travel within one zone. Importantly, it also means that there is a disincentive to drive to Lindum or Hemmant stations for a cheaper fare, which will result in a reduction of parking congestion at those stations and surrounding streets. Pending federal government agency discussions, Queenslanders on the Newstart and Youth Allowance and asylum seekers will be able to access concession fares from early 2017.

This is a budget that helps all Queenslanders and all baysiders. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (7.55 pm): This budget shows the government up for what they are: short of economic ability, devoid of any vision—

Government members interjected.

Mr ELMES: Members opposite need to listen to this.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Order! Members, I would like to hear the member, please.

Mr ELMES: They are lacking in any courage to take the necessary decisions to make Queensland a better state. The Treasurer portrays the budget as building on the success of the past 17 months. That is not setting a very high bar, because very little has happened in the past 17 months. Certainly there has been no building on what little success the government might try to claim. The Treasurer also claims that the budget is pragmatic about the challenges that lie ahead, but being pragmatic implies actually doing something practical to address the issue.

This budget tries to ignore and skirt around the challenges facing Queensland and Queenslanders. As with last year's budget, the central thrust of this budget is to move money around in areas of government revenue, to use slippery language and to claim the state is somehow better off.

There is no new money, just shoddy and slippery accounting techniques dressed up as legitimate budgeting. The Treasurer might think it is clever, but it is the people of Queensland who will bear the brunt of his arrogance. The classic example of that is the \$4 billion raid on the public servants defined benefit superannuation fund. That is an ill-considered short-term response to a much longer-term issue of economic sustainability which this government refuses to acknowledge. Now that they have taken almost everything they can from public servants superannuation and they have loaded up the government owned corporations with a huge debt, there is not an awful lot to fall back on. I suppose the Treasurer and the Premier are praying for some economic miracle during the next 12 months to make up for the ineptness of this budget. Next year they will be left to their own devices, because there will be no more pockets of state government money that they will be able to raid to make up for their shortcomings.

How can anyone believe what is in this budget, when twice the Treasurer himself was caught out promoting errors that he had to correct on the record? He could not even do the simple task of calculating three per cent of \$365,400 when talking about the increased stamp duty for foreign house buyers. Any grade 6 pupil, with or without a calculator, would be able to come up with the correct answer of \$10,962, but not this Treasurer. This Treasurer thought the answer was \$336. That came up a few days after he had used the incorrect figures when comparing the average tax paid by Queenslanders with the national average. In that case, Mr Pitt's office said that it was not the Treasurer's mistake; someone in his staff had made the error. The maths involved in putting together a \$53 billion budget is much more complicated than those simple calculations. Therefore, it is very hard to have any confidence that the Treasurer knows what he is talking about.

Even without the tax error the Treasurer tries to make a virtue out of a vice in attempting to cover up state tax increases. He tries to hide the fact that this budget includes a broken election promise that Queensland tax rates will not rise. The budget papers make it clear that Queenslanders will pay more tax, but the Treasurer tries to justify it by saying that at least we are not paying as much as some other states or territories. Comparisons do not negate a tax increase and they certainly do not count when measuring this government against its promises and, more importantly, its fiscal record.

One of the biggest casualties in this budget is infrastructure funding which has been slashed. The Treasurer and the Deputy Premier trumpet that the budget includes \$10.7 billion for infrastructure. The trouble is that that includes the \$2 billion that they pinched out of the superannuation fund. Over the last eight years the state has been spending on average about \$12 billion on infrastructure annually.

Even with the public servants' superannuation contribution the amount is going backwards at a time when the state needs more infrastructure to cope with increasing population demands. At a time when he is raiding public servants' superannuation, the Treasurer admits to hiring thousands more public servants. The \$4 billion taken from the pension fund will almost be entirely eaten up by the \$3.1 billion in employee expenses.

The size of the Public Service is set to balloon by almost 10,000 people using the 2015-16 budget estimate as a baseline. The news will not get any better for this Labor government because their mates in the Teachers' Union have foreshadowed a 4.5 per cent increase in pay and the Police Union wants an additional 3.5 per cent increase in pay. That can only add to the \$3.1 billion Public Service expenses bill.

If the people of Noosa were waiting for budget good news, well then they are going to have to wait for another 12 months or probably even longer. This budget provides almost nothing for Noosa. I have listened tonight to members of the government and the member for Dalrymple talk about the great benefits to their seats from this budget.

I know members are going to be gobsmacked, but in Noosa we have been very fortunate. In terms of new infrastructure spending a total of \$40,000 has been allocated to repair a damaged walkway in the Noosa National Park. I say to members opposite that if they ever want a safe walk through the Noosa National Park they will be able to do that knowing that the wooden walkway has been repaired. It has cost \$40,000. I would be more than happy to engrave the names of every member of the Australian Labor Party into one of the little wooden planks as a memorial to this state budget.

Surely with the money available to it—the \$53 billion available to it—the Palaszczuk government could have found something significant for Noosa if they cared about it. They do not care so they did not. The few other mentions of Noosa in other budget papers are for programs that have already been announced or are already in the pipeline.

There is effectively nothing for the residents of Noosa. There is no mention of needed roadworks in the electorate. I refer specifically to the duplication of Beckman's Road. There is no mention of job creation initiatives. There is no mention of public transport upgrades. There is no mention of support for struggling small businesses.

The Treasurer, in one of his prebudget media releases, trying to milk this poor attempt at financial management for all he could, said it would 'generate economic growth and create jobs now and for the future'. In the words of the infamous British prostitute Mandy Rice Davies, 'He would say that, wouldn't he?'

This struggling Treasurer has to defend and promote his budget with words because there are very few actions there to recommend it. The Treasurer was not the only person spruiking the budget before it was delivered. Brendon Lyon, the CEO of Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, said that Queensland 'will need much more than clever accounting tricks or raids on the pension fund if it is to grow and prosper'. I think Mr Lyon is much closer to the truth than this Treasurer who is clearly out of his depth.

In his speech the Treasurer talked about this budget in terms of innovation, investment and infrastructure. A more appropriate trio of 'i' words would be inadequate, incompetent and ineffective. This is a budget of missed opportunities, misguided priorities and misdirected loyalties. It is not what Queensland needs. Queensland needs a significant plan to guide it into the future.

This morning at 11.30 when the member for Clayfield rose to his feet as the Leader of the Opposition he presented that plan. He presented a plan that would get young people in particular back to work in terms of apprenticeships. I support him wholeheartedly in what he said. I am afraid I find very little with which to support this budget.

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (8.05 pm): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill 2016. I wholeheartedly congratulate the Treasurer on a great piece of work—a great budget indeed. I waited today with some anticipation to hear the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply. After all, he represents the most experienced opposition in Queensland's history. Having been in opposition for 17 of the last 20 years I suppose they would have something to offer. What a dark comedy it turned out to be. That was 50-odd minutes that I will never get back. I will say one thing: at least the opposition is consistent. The Leader of the Opposition used exactly the same language that the Newman government used.

In the equivalent debate in 2012 I made comment that all that was coming from the mouths of Liberal National Party members was neoliberal mantra. A Chicken Little approach to economics, punctuated by sensationalist nonsense, parallels to the Spanish economy, falling into the abyss, darkened canyons and language such as that. Of course, this language was only intended by the Liberal National Party to lay a foundation of fear, meant to scare Queenslanders into accepting asset sales. At the time I accused the Newman government of taking an exaggerated low road, garnished with self-serving statements intended to promote a rabid and absolutist economic rationale.

In 2013 I observed that the Newman government had necklaced growth and doubled the estimated deficit. We did not hear any of that this morning. Deloitte's made it clear that the Liberal National Party's rabid austerity programs had crushed growth. We skip to 2014 and there is consistency again—a considerable deficit blowout and the groundwork for asset sales.

So we fast forward to today—the day when the new Leader of the Opposition had his chance to steal the march and lay out a positive future alternative as a statesman and as a leader and to be honest, if he had been honest, and get the record straight about asset sales. I decided to take some notes. I took notes for 45 minutes. These are the sorts of words that punctuated the Leader of the Opposition's contribution this morning: fear, twice; tax increases; slashed; blown; miserable failure; blame; Bligh even got a mention for goodness sake; conceal; disguise; misguided; dead; discredited; weaker; disillusioned, twice; miscalculated; ballooning debt; blowout; recklessness, twice; burden; raid; risky business; tricks; inconsistent; backward thinking; economically irrational—

Government members interjected.

Mr BYRNE: I have to get this on the record. This is a positive Leader of the Opposition. I continue: bribery; foolish; jealousy; bad; conscripted; errors; ripped out; declined; short changed; cannot manage; bad investments; hopes; chasm; flawed; desperate; shabby; and twisted. That was what I jotted down while the Leader of the Opposition was raving on about something or other. It had nothing to do with the budget, but it was a very interesting melange, I suppose, of what it was about.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! Member for Albert, if you want to interject please go back to your seat.

Mr BYRNE: In the middle of all that we had the interlude into Rome. Apparently the barbarians were at the gate. That is a reflection of what was said a couple of years ago in the debate on the budget. I said then that the barbarians were the Liberal National Party and that they were not at the gates. They were inside the walls for three years and the people of Queensland made their judgement about that pretty quickly. I want to talk about Roman history and add a bit of Shakespeare. It is unfortunate that the member for Southern Downs is not here, because the quote 'Et tu Brute' might be more appropriate for a budget debate. 'Et tu Brute' returns. Here we are!

When the Leader of the Opposition reflected on his vast history in opposition and what occurred at the time, there was no recognition in that debate, none whatsoever, of the global financial crisis. There was no mention of any economic fundamentals that need to be addressed either in this state or in Commonwealth relationships. There was nothing about vertical fiscal imbalances, something which people who understand what is going on in the country know needs to be addressed by members in this House. In all of that, there was nothing positive whatsoever in the Leader of the Opposition's commentary. I sat there thinking, 'This is the new Leader of the Opposition, here is his opportunity, what is on the table?' There was not much that people in Queensland could take from that. All the people who contacted me after watching the speech were astounded at the way in which it was delivered.

What were the positives? There was a mention of productivity. I thought, 'Here we go, we will hear something sensible about productivity.' There was no substance whatsoever. There was a statement of the bleeding obvious about what is essential in productivity.

My final note about this speech this morning concerns froth and bubble conservative nonsense because, frankly, that was the Leader of the Opposition's contribution. It has been simply incredible to watch the opposition when I recall just what an economic vacuum the LNP has been in and remains in to this day. There are so many examples where the Liberal National Party demonstrates its capacity to economically prostitute itself. A simple example was Tuesday's question time in this House. The definition of 'foreign' became a Liberal National Party critical area of dispute with Labor's economic initiatives. We are in budget week and their definition of 'foreign' becomes a critical point! That was followed by questions about attracting business to Queensland, and the nature of the question implied protectionism. It was a protectionist approach. There was this mismatch in terms of what they were concerned about in the budget. We repeatedly see this fundamental conflict in their economic philosophy and party construct.

The Liberal National Party is apparently in favour of a closed-shop approach, an anticompetitive policy, but also wants to champion foreign investors' rights of privilege over those of Queenslanders and Australians. Actually, they are reinforcing their lack of credibility. It is absolutely evident that they are protectionist and anticompetitive Luddites. There is a very recent poignant example of my assertions. Look back to the sugar bill that passed with the support of the opportunist opposition across the table who, by their actions, demonstrated precisely how malleable they are in terms of economic philosophy. The economic rationalists versus the agrarian socialists, the protectionists, the re-regulators versus the pro-investors, and the rationalists in terms of economics—that is what they across the chamber represent. It is a schizoid marriage of convenience called the Liberal National Party, a party created only because of optional preferential voting that has never been able to present a coherent, optimistic, economic narrative because of the party's foundation divisions.

Let us not forget the recent change of leader of the opposition. We see a party which is deeply divided and which is held together by self-interest and the ambition of individuals who cannot even maintain a constant view about asset sales. In the last 12 months we heard, 'No, yes, no, maybe, we will see in the future,' and what did we hear today? 'No comment.' I am not sure exactly where the Liberal National Party stands on much—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order.

Mr BYRNE: I am sure they do not know themselves; no idea at all. The truth is that the LNP have only ever had one shot in their locker, that is, asset sales. That is the one elephant in the room that nobody across the table in this debate spoke about or is prepared to speak about, because it is the only thing they have to talk about. That is the deal with the Leader of the Opposition. It has always been that.

The Treasurer's 2016 budget represents a significant investment in the safety of all Queenslanders. It is a budget that gives me great pride as a responsible line minister. It is a budget that delivers. I seek leave for the remainder of my speech to be incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Queensland Police Service

Mr Speaker, this Budget represents a significant investment in the safety of all Queenslanders. It is a Budget that gives me great pride as responsible Minister. It is a Budget that delivers.

Police, Fire and Emergency, and Corrective Services are critical to the safety and good order of our communities. The men and women involved, paid and volunteer, take on an additional burden to many of us in the course of their duty.

This Budget delivers for them.

Mr Speaker, the Budget provides real support for our police, with a real focus on operational equipment, building capability, and targeted investments in the future needs of the Queensland Police Service.

In 2016-17 the Government will provide increased funding of \$39.1 million over four years to Target Serious and Organised Crime and implement the Government's response to the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry report.

The Queensland Police Service will undertake operational and intelligence-driven activities, legislative reform and education and training.

More than \$16 million will be provided to Improve Counter-Terrorism Capability and Capacity in response to the sustained national threat level.

This funding will enhance the ability to profile and assess persons of interest, source valuable intelligence and counter violent extremism. This funding also includes \$788,000 in 2016-17 to provide operational equipment and vehicles.

The Government has budgeted \$3.2 million over 2 years to Tackle Child Exploitation and implement the interim response to the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry report.

This funding will enable a state-wide blitz on child exploitation material by building the capability of specialist police officers, providing additional civilian staff, and regional travel and training costs.

Mr Speaker, in addition, \$1.3 million over two years has also been reprioritised by the Queensland Police Service to implement the interim response to the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry report. This funding will provide specialist ICT and investigative equipment to enable detection of online child exploitation activity.

Mr Speaker, this Budget recognises the contemporary environment for police and the need for specialised infrastructure. The 2016-17 Budget has allocated \$5 million to develop a business case for a contemporary Counter-Terrorism and Community Safety Centre at the Westgate Police Academy.

The Budget also includes new funding of \$12.6 million in 2016-17 from the Camera Detected Offence Program for road safety, trauma recovery, rehabilitation services and the administration costs associated with infringements, and 12 additional staff within the Road Safety Camera Office. This includes capital funding for installation of additional fixed and mobile digital cameras, and Point to Point Cameras.

Mr Speaker, police are often the first responders to domestic violence. Our Government recognises the toll that domestic violence takes on victims and the Queensland community.

The Palaszczuk Government is providing the Queensland Police Service with \$17.5 million funding over five years for a number of domestic and family violence response activities.

This funding is part of an overall package of \$196.1 million to respond to the Not Now, Not Ever report including:

- \$8.7 million over three years from 2017-18 to enable the Queensland Police Service to continue to provide prosecutorial support for the expansion of the Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Courts. (Funding to be held in contingency).
- \$5.1 million over four years to enable the Queensland Police Service to undertake coordinated activities to support the High Risk Teams delivering an integrated response to domestic and family violence.
- \$2.2 million over four years to support the Queensland Police Service in pursuing cultural change.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

To support Queensland Fire and Emergency services personnel, this Budget brings new and upgraded fire and emergency service facilities, more fire appliances and communications equipment to service Queensland communities.

The Budget recognises the role of the community in preventing fire, mitigating risk and changing culture. Funding will be provided to support important community education programs. These include:

- \$3 million for a ten year, comprehensive consumer protection campaign for smoke alarms in domestic dwellings;
- \$400,000 for the Get out. Fire about. Winter fire safety campaign to educate Queenslanders about the importance of home fire escape plans;
- \$280,000 to deliver the Fight Fire Fascination program which supports parents to educate their children about the dangers of playing with fire; and
- \$250,000 to deliver a practical lifesaving road safety awareness program to young drivers facilitated by operational firefighters.

The 2016-17 Budget has also allocated \$1.5 million over two years to establish a Reserve Roster for firefighters. This roster will employ additional firefighters as an alternative solution to backfilling positions through overtime and the use of temporary firefighters.

The Government will deliver \$74 million for fire and emergency services facilities, urban and rural fire appliances and communications equipment. This includes:

- \$9.8 million to complete the replacement permanent fire and rescue station, Rural Fire Service Queensland and State Emergency Service (SES) facilities at Bundaberg and Petrie and the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Cunnamulla;
- \$8 million to complete the upgrade of the permanent fire and rescue station at Bundamba, the replacement auxiliary fire and rescue station, Rural Fire Service Queensland and SES facility at Roma, and upgrade the south western region headquarters at Charlton;
- \$5.6 million to commence replacement auxiliary fire and rescue stations at Childers, Gordonvale, Oakey, Rainbow Beach and Tara, and extend the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Thursday Island;
- \$2.9 million to upgrade the Horn Island collocated Rural Fire Service Queensland and SES facility, the permanent fire and rescue and auxiliary fire and rescue station at Mount Isa and the Richmond auxiliary fire and rescue station; and
- \$2.3 million to continue the replacement of the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Charleville and commence work at North Rockhampton.

In total, \$34.5 million will be spent in 2016-17 on replacement and new urban and rural fire appliances across Queensland.

Public Safety Business Agency

The independent review of the Public Safety Business Agency made recommendations to change the operating model and organisational structure of the PSBA and refocus it as a corporate services support agency.

These recommendations have been accepted by government and through the implementation of the report's recommendations, an improved support service will be provided to the public safety agencies, which in turn, will enable them to deliver a better service to the community.

In 2016-17 the Public Safety Business Agency will deliver efficient and effective public safety outcomes for its partner agencies, the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management.

This includes delivering most of the new and ongoing capital initiatives funded in the 2016-17 State Budget for partner agencies.

The 2016-17 Budget has allocated \$6.1 million over four years for a new Queensland Government Air rotary wing facility at Cairns. This facility will ensure the continued operation of rotary wing services to deliver lifesaving, community safety services in Far North Queensland.

The Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management

The 2016-17 operating budget of \$4.653 million for the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) will ensure it continues to review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management arrangements for opportunities to improve community outcomes. This includes undertaking reviews that may arise from future disaster events.

In 2016-17, the Office of the IGEM will review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management plans at local and district levels.

It will also enable stakeholders to conduct a health check of their disaster management capability against the Standard for Disaster Management through systems and processes that are easy to use, accessible and that provide clear, useful and timely information; and facilitate continuous improvement, consultation and collaboration across the sector through the state-wide network of disaster management officers and local disaster coordinators.

Corrections

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government recognises that the justice system needs to function as a coherent whole, in order to deliver a safer community.

This Government is committed to ensuring Queensland's criminal justice system operates effectively and efficiently.

This includes addressing the increasing demands placed on all aspects of the criminal justice system, and in particular the impact on prison infrastructure.

To this end, \$835 million has been allocated to Queensland Corrective Services to enable the agency to continue to manage prisoners in custody and offenders in the community, and contribute to a safer Queensland.

A priority for this Government is addressing the overcrowding and capacity issues faced within our correctional system. Since January 2012, the number of prisoners in Queensland has grown by over 38 percent.

It is no secret that this growth was tied to the former Government which made no effort to address this issue. Instead, they chose to plan for failure. They have left this Government an extraordinarily expensive mess to fix.

Queensland Corrective Services has a current built cell capacity of 6,076 in secure correctional centres. As at 6 June 2016, approximately 116 percent of this built capacity was occupied.

A number of key initiatives have been funded in the 2016-17 Budget to help QCS manage this increasing demand.

This includes \$1 million for the development of a business case for the expansion of the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre. QCS will also review existing business cases for the expansion of facilities at the Southern Queensland Correctional precinct by 1004 beds, and a further 244 beds for Capricornia Correctional Centre.

\$40.9 million of a \$126.9 million budget has also been allocated to complete the recommissioning of Borallon Training and Correctional Centre, incorporating the remediation of hanging points from all secure cells without air-conditioning. This will allow the remaining 244 cells to be re-commissioned, creating additional capacity at the centre.

As well as infrastructure initiatives to ease demand management, a number of non-custodial infrastructure initiatives have also received funding. This includes \$14.977 million over four years, to expand support services in correctional centres, including health, offender intervention and sentencing management strategies.

The Probation and Parole Service and the Queensland Parole Boards will also receive an additional \$20.5 million over two years to improve supervision of offenders on community based orders and the timeliness of decisions on the cancellation and suspension of parole.

Further, the Government recognises the need to address the causes of crime and reduce the likelihood of reoffending. To this end, \$4.5 million over five years (this includes \$0.5M in 2015-16) has been allocated for a specialised women's re-integration support service. This service assists with providing specific programs tailored to the individual and collective needs of women to enable a successful transition into the community.

Sexual Offender programs have also received a boost of \$10.3 million over four years to continue the delivery of evidence-based sexual offending programs aimed at reducing the future risk to the community.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (8.15 pm): It is interesting to hear the member for Rockhampton complain about exaggerated language when in his speech he managed to combine both exaggerated and pedestrian language. We had everything from 'schizoid' on the one hand to 'elephant in the room' on the other. Let us forget any exaggerated language in talking about this budget and let us talk about some facts. In terms of exaggerated language, this is a budget about jobs and yet unemployment goes up this year from 6.2 per cent to 6.25 per cent when we know that 6.4 per cent is today's starting point. It is a budget that raids superannuation in order to pay down debt and yet debt increases to \$78.9 billion. It is an infrastructure budget to create all these jobs and yet it has the lowest spend in Queensland's history by way of gross state product. If the member for Rockhampton wants it, there is a great example of exaggeration on that side being seen out by the truth of the figures in this budget. They mean a lot to the people of Mansfield, particularly in terms of the lack of infrastructure spend.

I refer to a couple of particular projects in Mansfield. My experience in Mansfield obviously echoes the experience of members on this side, particularly my colleague the member for Glass House, who once again pointed out that instead of getting projects in his electorate he is getting more and more studies and consultation with nothing actually happening.

I refer to Mount Cotton Road in my electorate. I shall go back a bit because my great-grandfather, William Davidson Ross, was a councillor on the Cleveland Divisional Board, what became the Cleveland Council. In 1892, the finance committee of the Cleveland Divisional Board met and there was a letter from a Mr William Finnane drawing attention to the bad state of Mount Cotton Road and asking that repairs be effected thereon. The finance committee comprising my great-grandfather and others allocated the sum of 20 pounds to fix Mount Cotton Road. It has not been fixed since 1892. I have a wad of documents from over the years where predictions were made in terms of when studies and work would be completed on Mount Cotton Road. One document states—

October 2007, the final detailed designs should happen by the end of 2010.

I table that document.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Redland Corridor Project—concept planning phase, Newsletter 1, October 2007 [966].

There is an email from Mr Reeves, the then member, to a constituent saying that construction would end in late 2010. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 10 March 2009, from the former member for Mansfield, Mr Phil Reeves, regarding the upgrade of Mount Cotton Road [967].

One of Mr Reeves' election flyers stated that the Mount Cotton upgrade was due for completion in 2011. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Brisbane Urban Corridor Traffic Facts' [968].

The *Redlands Corridor Program Community News* from 2010 states that the expected completion date for the particular section in question was mid-2012. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Redlands Corridor Program Community News, Issue 2, December 2010 [969].

I have been on Mount Cotton Road with Stanya and Karel from the Czechoslovakian Club in Upfield Street, off Mount Cotton Road. It is a very dangerous place to turn into or out of because Mount Cotton Road is so narrow and because huge trucks from the quarry come tearing down it. If someone

is stopping and wanting to turn right, they are in trouble. There was a recent tragedy on Mount Cotton Road where a man was killed in an accident involving a vehicle carrying fairground equipment such that they came into contact on that very narrow road.

Once again, there is no allocation for any substantial works on Mount Cotton Road. We have an allocation of \$2 million to widen the pavement between Moxon Road and the Tingalpa Creek Bridge. My expectation is that \$2 million will not go very far in terms of road widening. Once again we have a low allocation and another study about where the road should go but no action.

Another hot point in my electorate is Cremin Street, near the intersection of Logan Road and Kessels Road. For those members who know the south side well, that is the Garden City intersection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! Those on my right, there are a lot of conversations happening. Please take them outside if you wish to continue.

Mr WALKER: Before I was elected in 2012, I committed to fight for an upgrade of the Logan Road and Kessels Road intersection at Upper Mount Gravatt. It is a long-term project. It is an expensive project, but planning for that future project is important. I pushed hard to get the project firmly on the state government's agenda when I was elected. I secured a \$400,000 transport project planning study which was included in the 2014-15 version of DTMR's QTRIP document for the 2015-16 financial year. I welcome the confirmation of this project by the current government.

While neither I nor the community have been briefed on the work undertaken as a result of that project planning study over the past year—and I did expect that by the beginning of this year—I trust that the inclusion of \$500,000 in this year's budget for a business case for the upgrade of that intersection is a step in the right direction. Once again, it is only a study, and I contrast it with what the Brisbane City Council has done in respect of an intersection just down the road—the Player Street connection. The Brisbane City Council budget handed down this week allocates over \$11 million over the next four years to getting the work done rather than having a study. The area off Kessels Road at Upper Mount Gravatt is an important issue to local residents in Cremin Street in my electorate. As the Mount Gravatt Corridor Neighbourhood Plan is implemented and traffic pressures increase, a proper intersection on the state controlled Kessels Road is needed because the current intersection is not up to scratch.

I have made suggestions to TMR about measures which could improve that intersection such as a minor widening to create a proper left-turning lane into Kessels Road, better markings and improved enforcement of the keep-clear area on Kessels Road at Cremin Street, but a long-term solution is required, and that is the Player Street connection as set out in the Mount Gravatt Corridor Neighbourhood Plan. Brisbane City Council has committed money to it, but as yet the state government has not. Yet again all we have is a study.

The state government has also imposed a condition on recent developments in the area which ban right-hand turns into Cremin Street from Kessels Road in peak hours. That has only just come into effect, and locals are furious about that condition. When it was announced, over 200 locals signed my petition to the main roads minister to remove that condition. The main roads minister was not prepared to do that but flagged the Player Street connection—now funded by the Brisbane City Council—as the solution. I commend Team Quirk and the Brisbane City Council for committing funds to that, and I seek the state government's commitment to do the same so that this long-awaited intersection can occur.

I move to my shadow portfolio responsibilities and firstly look at the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's Service Delivery Statement for 2016-17. That also contains statutory agencies such as the Electoral Commission, Crime and Corruption Commission, Anti-Discrimination Commission and Legal Aid Queensland. Firstly, we welcome the additional funding that has been put forward to legal aid in general, the Legal Services Commission and the community on top of declining revenue that is coming out of the Legal Practitioners Interest on Trust Accounts Fund, commonly known as LPITAF. For those who do not know, a lot of Legal Aid and legal community centres are being funded from interest earned on money in solicitors' trust accounts. Over the years people are not putting money into solicitors' trust accounts anymore; they are doing electronic banking. Therefore, the return is declining.

I raised this with the Attorney-General in estimates last year, and she has acted and I commend her on doing so. We grappled with this issue ourselves in government and we did a review of LPITAF in 2012. Ensuring that Queenslanders have fair and equal access to justice no matter their location, gender or socio-economic status is an important role for the Attorney-General. As I said, when we were in government we took some important steps towards fixing some of the broken systems within the

Legal Aid and legal community centre funding such as moving to triennial funding. That model is now in place and gives certainty to the community legal centres, but there still remains the longer term issue of the use of LPITAF as that revenue continues to decline.

I do not know that government continually coming to the rescue is always the answer, because this will put continued pressure on consolidated revenue to meet the shortfall. As I have said to many people in the sector, at some stage in the not-too-distant future everyone needs to come together and work towards a viable, long-term sustainable funding model.

In 2014 the Productivity Commission released its report into access to justice arrangements in Australia. The commission was asked to undertake an inquiry into Australia's system of civil dispute resolution with a view to constraining costs and promoting access to justice. In 2012 an economic cost-benefit analysis conducted by the National Association of Community Legal Centres reported that for every \$1 of money spent by the government CLCs returned a benefit to society of 18 times that amount. Prevention, awareness and early intervention in our legal system substantially reduce the cost of running the court system in Australia, and that is why we need to support our community legal centres. I was fortunate to attend the recent QAILS regional CLC conference in Redcliffe and speak to many of the CLCs across the state about the ongoing challenges they face. I visited them in Southport, the Sunshine Coast, Nundah and quite a number of CLCs within the Brisbane CBD. They perform an important role in our society.

Increasing levels of domestic violence in our community are a concern to us all. That is why we have provided, and continue to provide, bipartisan support for the recommendations and implementation of the Bryce *Not now, not ever* report. This budget contains an overall funding commitment of \$198.2 million over five years to continue to respond to that report, and we welcome that commitment. In government we recognised that this issue was one that needed urgent attention and action, and we are pleased to see that the reforms we instigated in 2014 were finalised and are being steadily implemented since the report was handed down in early 2015. I have personally been down to the specialist DV court at Southport and met with Magistrate Colin Strofield to see how that program is going. It is an important trial.

There is money in the budget of almost \$4 billion over four years set aside to permanently entrench the successful trial in QCAT utilising our justices of the peace for minor civil disputes. As many honourable members on this side of the House will know, this was an initiative that commenced under the LNP in 2012 at five courts in Queensland—Southport, Brisbane, Maroochydore, Ipswich and Townsville. The results in improving front-line services and providing faster access to justice have been remarkable. I am not sure what the figures are at present—and the Attorney might like to update us at estimates; I see she has already given her budget speech—but at the beginning of 2015 this program had resulted in the processing time for hearing and disposing of minor civil disputes in Queensland to be almost halved from six weeks to three weeks. The program also provides an opportunity for our hardworking JPs, of which there are over 80,000 in Queensland across all categories, to enhance their skills and further assist the wheels of justice. As many members would know, without the thousands of volunteer hours our JPs contribute, the justice system in Queensland would simply grind to a halt.

While I am talking about access to justice, there are a couple of issues in the SDS that I want to briefly discuss, and that is the lower than optimal clearance rates, particularly for the criminal law sections of the Supreme Court trial division at 85 per cent and the District Court at 90 per cent. The target set is 100 per cent. Those figures are a concern and I will take that up with the Attorney in estimates, but it is often said that justice delayed is justice denied. It is incumbent on the Attorney to ensure, as far as she can within the executive and court system, that our courts are working as efficiently as possible.

I was concerned to see that, despite the promises from the government about no new taxes, fees or charges for Queenslanders, there is reference in the budget measures to a restructuring of QCAT fees to provide a disincentive for unmeritorious appeals. It is clear from the papers that this is intended to raise more funds. I would be keen to hear from the Attorney an explanation as to how this is not a broken promise not to increase taxes or introduce new charges within the court system.

In relation to statutory authorities, the Electoral Commission of Queensland has a measure that is linked to the targeted informal voting rate. It sets this for the Toowoomba South by-election at eight per cent. We know that this Attorney-General has been spending her time recently ramming through amendments to overturn reforms from the Fitzgerald era, from 25 years ago, with just 18 minutes notice to this parliament and no consultation with Queenslanders. For a government that prides itself on upholding the Fitzgerald principles, this was an absolute farce. It was an abuse of process and it was under the guise of improving informal voting levels.

The papers show that the Toowoomba South by-election will be the first measure of that test. It seems that, unlike the Attorney-General and the government, the Electoral Commission does not share the optimism about reducing informal voting levels. To put the target of eight per cent in context, at the last state election in 2015 the informal voting rate was 2.11 per cent and in 2012 it was 2.15 per cent. That was under optional preferential voting. At the 2013 federal election, the informal voting rate in Queensland for the House of Representatives was 5.13 per cent and in 2010 it was 5.45 per cent.

I want to touch on the commitments made in this budget regarding organised crime, some of which is through the police budget. No amount of additional funding can cover up the fact that this government is soft on crime and soft on organised crime. No additional funding helps if the laws are as weak as water. We know that the last time this government tried to deal with criminal organisations with its Criminal Organisation Act, which was introduced by the now member for Woodridge, the assessment made by Alan Wilson in his recent report was that that act was 'not useful and holds no promise of being so'.

We have seen in the recent past that criminal gangs know what is happening, lawyers know it and Queenslanders know it. In the last 12 months, we have seen crime rates go up and the criminal gangs already recruiting as they wait for the VLAD laws to be scrapped, penalties to be watered down and the advice of key law enforcement agencies disregarded. In December 2015 Crime and Corruption Commission chair, Alan MacSporran QC, provided the following submission to the task force into organised crime—

It is clear from the recent developments that several clubs (including three of the major clubs) have been actively recruiting new members on the Gold Coast. The timing of the recruitment activities suggests that, following the change of government in January 2015, it is perceived by clubs that there is a softening of the stance against OMCG activity.

My point is that no matter how much money is thrown at enforcement, no matter how many criminals they say they want to catch, if the laws are weak they will be ineffective and crime in this area will once again increase. We have seen crime rates increasing in the last year alone. It is an important lesson to be learnt and I am sure that this government has not yet learnt it.

I also want to point out that there is a reprioritisation allowance for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General of \$28.3 million over four years. That means that current programs are going to have to be cut or pruned back to channel funding into new spending measures. That is not identified in the papers—just the fact there is a \$28.3 million cut that still needs to be made over four years. I would appreciate an update from the Attorney-General during the estimates process on what measures are likely to be cut or wound back in that process.

I turn to the planning area, as I am the shadow minister for planning. In the May sittings of the parliament, a new planning act was passed through the House. In that important debate, the Deputy Premier stated that there would be targeted support to local government with respect to the large number of changes that have been made as a result of the legislation. If councils are not aware and educated as to their responsibilities, it will be difficult for council officers and difficult for their clients, the development community and the communities in which development is placed. It is important that that education program continues.

I have tried to identify it within the SDS. It is not clear whether it is in the Capacity Building for Local Councils section of the budget, which actually is a decrease in funding, or whether it is in the Better Planning for Queensland section of that document, which does show a significant increase. I hope and expect it is the latter but it is important for us to know that proper funds have been set aside to educate local government and the community more broadly about the significant changes that have been made in planning legislation which will have a significant effect not only on those intimately involved with the process but also on the community more broadly.

The Leader of the Opposition today pointed out that this has been a budget of raids, rip-offs and writedowns. It is a real Labor budget, as the Treasurer put it, and that explains it in one. It is a real Labor budget that lets everyone down in those areas. I was very pleased to hear what the opposition leader had to say today about our plan on this side of the House to get Queensland working. The apprenticeship boosts will give benefits to 10,000 new apprentices. We have heard in recent days in this House how apprenticeships have suffered over the past 18 months. The Tools for Tradies project is a very practical, sensible project to help workers equip themselves for work. The Job Start incentive will help 10,000 people who are not in formal education or training programs move towards a life of employment and contributing to our community and gaining their own self-esteem at the same time. The Employment Bonus means that those who have employed people for a year will have a WorkCover

concession for the following year. This is a practical, sensible, well-thought-out program to ensure that those businesses who are employing those who need to enter the employment stream are given a proper and sensible incentive to do so.

I am very keen to support what the opposition leader put forward to the House today. I am not at all keen to support the real Labor budget—a budget of raids, rip-offs and writedowns.

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (8.35 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise to speak in support of the second Palaszczuk Labor government budget. The 2016-17 budget is built around our commitments for infrastructure, innovation and investment in Queensland. The budget outlines how we will continue to grow jobs now and jobs for the future. The budget will seek to grow our economy and increase jobs as well as investments in services, particularly health and education. We are focusing on delivering jobs. More than 52,500 new jobs have been created since the 2015 election. We have a plan to advance Queensland's economy. The push to build the infrastructure we need has started. We are encouraging innovation amongst Queensland businesses. We are attracting investment into new industries and projects. Those benefits will flow onto the families and residents from Murrumba from this budget.

There are many laudatory aspects to this budget, many sets of wonderful figures, but I want to look at the framework of values and principles that surround this budget. I approach the budget with this principle: we are making our hard-earned wealth work for all Queenslanders. We work hard and generate an income and surpluses so we can improve our lives—not just improve a bottom line on a spreadsheet. This is an important principle to me. We are here to look after working Queenslanders. Our state wealth is to be utilised to make life better for ordinary Queenslanders.

I also see this 2016-17 budget as being ultimately driven by values—by Labor values. Some of those values are fairness, equity and equality of opportunity. I believe that can be seen in our budget. It can be seen from our drive to deliver better education and better health care for Queenslanders and to deliver jobs and the dignity of work for Queenslanders. In the sphere of education, the 2016-17 Palaszczuk Labor budget will deliver crucial infrastructure to our busiest local schools in Murrumba. A new \$15 million multistorey classroom block at North Lakes State College will be started with an initial \$750,000 allocation from this budget. The Mango Hill State School will get \$900,000 to complete a new \$4.1 million classroom building and \$500,000 for a new \$7 million classroom building. I am especially pleased to see investment in schools in Deception Bay, after the schools in my home community were virtually ignored under the previous LNP government. There is \$300,000 for the refurbishment of the home economics learning spaces at Deception Bay State High School, and \$200,000 for the refurbishment of B block at Deception Bay State School, the oldest school in the area.

I believe investment in education facilities is probably more important to Murrumba than any other electorate in Queensland. Murrumba is now the biggest electorate by population in the state. We live in the fastest growing region of the state. North Lakes State College is the second largest school in the state and Bounty Boulevard State School is about to become the second largest P-6 school in the state. It is not unusual for Mango Hill State School to have 150 new students each year. Therefore, delivering the infrastructure for our rapidly expanding schools is one of my priorities, and education funding is one of the Palaszczuk government's top priorities.

In the area of road and transport infrastructure, funding in the budget for the two major road projects in Murrumba has been confirmed. There is \$10.3 million provided this year to commence construction of the Rothwell roundabout, which will cost \$37.5 million in total, with some federal and local government funding. We have also allocated \$5.6 million to continue the construction of the Bruce Highway-Boundary Road interchange, once again with federal funding. These are two hugely important projects in my area. Outside of the rail link, these are the two most crucial pieces of infrastructure in my communities straddling either side of the electorate. I do believe that these projects are more than the LNP could have ever hoped to deliver. They could not have delivered them. Other projects to be completed through funding in this budget include the multisport facility in North Lakes, where we will allocate \$723,000 to finish construction of a clubhouse, car park lighting and storage facilities. We are also allocating \$50,000 for the indoor shooting range at the sporting shooters club in Burpengary.

We have a thriving small business community in Murrumba, centred on North Lakes and the Narangba Innovation Precinct, and they are set to benefit from this budget. I especially think the businesses in my area will see the real opportunities from the accelerated Advance Queensland package. This package embodies our drive in this budget to generate innovation and investment in Queensland. We are increasing, as we have heard, our investment in Advance Queensland to a total

of \$405 million over five years. I believe the accelerated Advance Queensland package offers new funding for industry accelerators and regional innovation hubs that will be embraced by my area. I hope that some of that funding can flow into North Lakes.

One part of Advance Queensland that I think will be especially embraced by my innovative local businesses is the Advancing Small Business Queensland strategy. This strategy aims to make Queensland the place for small businesses to grow, to start and to employ. It will provide targeted support for small business including \$10,000 digital capacity grants and \$5,000 grants through the Queensland Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow program. This budget is good for small business, especially the innovating and emerging businesses in Murrumba. Especially in the North Lakes-Narangba area a lot of them are web based digital businesses. I think the Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow program and the digital capacity grants will suit them to a tee.

Today in this debate we have heard the LNP accuse us of spending too much money.

Mr Boothman: You always spend too much money.

Mr WHITING: Poor us! What the member is doing is accusing us of spending money on employing more teachers, nurses and ambulance officers—employing more Queenslanders. Guess what? That is exactly what we have been doing. Over the last 12 months we have employed 1,940 extra nurses, 651 extra doctors, 479 extra health professionals, 940 extra teachers and teacher aides, 300 extra police and 54 extra paramedics. We are employing Queenslanders and we are employing them to improve the lives of all Queenslanders. This coming financial year will also see the recruitment of an extra 110 ambulance officers and the commissioning of 170 new and replacement ambulances. I want to give my congratulations to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services on this initiative. There will also be nearly \$16 million to progress work on the new and replacement ambulance stations around the state.

There is something else that is part of this budget that I know will greatly improve the lives of Murrumba residents and relieve their cost-of-living pressures. The residents of my area will see public transport fares slashed from next year under the Palaszczuk government's Fairer Fares package. Commuters travelling from North Lakes bus station to the Brisbane CBD via Petrie train station will save \$315 per year because a six-zone journey will become a three-zone journey. Public transport users travelling locally from Deception Bay to Redcliffe could save the same amount. Deception Bay residents could save \$565 per year on their journeys when travelling to the Brisbane CBD. I know a lot of people in my area struggle, and our new fare structure will make a real difference to their lives. I know that my people are the salt of the earth and they look to their government to lend them a helping hand.

That takes me back to the values and principles of this budget and why we have taken the funding decisions that we have in this budget. The values that honourable members see in our budget initiatives are designed to deliver people into jobs, support them in their jobs or enable them to get the training they need to get a job. The budget reflects our values of fairness and equity because it gives residents better access to top-quality healthcare services or access to a range of well-staffed and well-equipped local schools that give them every chance to get the best start in life. The area I represent is exciting, growing quickly and is very attractive for families and people of all ages. We have a great lifestyle in Murrumba and this budget supports and protects that lifestyle.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Have you cleared that with your whips and your government leader?

Mr WHITING: And with the Deputy Speaker, yes.

Leave granted.

Vulnerable Queenslanders in Murrumba will be better supported thanks to a boost for neighbourhood centres of \$6.9 million over four years under this Budget.

The Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Shannon Fentiman, and the Department of Communities Child Safety and Disability Services have listened to the needs of the communities in Murrumba, and delivered a raft of welcome projects and funding. These include:

- \$1.641 million to local organisations to support families to safely care for their children in Murrumba including funding for local service providers:
 - Mission Australia in Deception Bay
 - Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre

- \$226,000 to for the Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre to operate their community centre and deliver support to the community and vulnerable Queenslanders.
- \$282,000 for services to support young people and the community in Murrumba including funding for information advice and referral and support and case management services provided by Deception Bay Community Youth Programs Association.
- \$1.619 million to establish new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services in the Moreton Bay area as part of the Palaszczuk's action plan to reduce overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland child protection system (shared with all Moreton Regional Council electorates)
- \$1.618 million to assist persons under 65 or an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person aged under 50, with a disability or condition that restricts their day-to-day living, to stay living at home in Murrumba, including funding for local service providers like:
 - Deception Bay Meals on Wheels Incorporated in Deception Bay
 - Ozcare in North Lakes
 - Suncare Community Services Inc. in North Lakes
- \$0.079 million to assist persons under 65 or an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person aged under 50, with a disability or condition that restricts their day-to-day living, to stay living at home in Murrumba, including funding to Active 60 and Better Inc. in Deception Bay.
- \$12.895 million to assist people with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need in Murrumba, including funding for local service providers like:
 - Ablecare Pty Ltd in Burpengary, Burpengary East and Deception Bay
 - Brain Injury Association of Queensland Inc. in Deception Bay
 - Breakaway Inc. in Deception Bay
 - Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland in Deception Bay and Rothwell
 - Endeavour Foundation in Deception Bay
 - Funding to Individuals in Mango Hill and North Lakes
 - House With No Steps in Deception Bay
 - Insight Disability Pty Ltd in Deception Bay
 - Leeding Care Australia Pty Ltd in Rothwell
 - Open Minds Australia in Deception Bay
 - Queensland Support Services & Solutions Pty Ltd in Kippa-Ring
 - S.C.O.P.E. Inc. in Deception Bay and Griffin
 - The Corporation of the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane in Deception Bay and Rothwell
 - UnitingCare Community in Rothwell

The electorate of Murrumba will also get great benefit from Budget initiatives from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, the Honourable Bill Byrne and the Queensland Police Service

Counter-terrorism funding and a \$69.9 million boost to target serious and organised crime across Queensland are among a raft of community safety measures announced in the Budget.

The Government had committed more than \$16.2 million in increased funding over four years for the Queensland Police Service to enhance its response to terrorism.

\$39.1 million in extra funding had been committed to help police target serious and organised crime in Queensland over the next four years.

Other Budget initiatives that will help keep the resident of Murrumba safe include:

- \$3.2 million over two years for QPS and the Crime and Corruption Commission to tackle child exploitation
- \$5.1 million in increased funding over four years to support the High Risk Teams delivering an integrated response to domestic and family violence
- \$2.2 million over four years to pursue cultural change in support of the Not Now, Not Ever Domestic and Family Violence Report
- \$98.9 million to upgrade QPS facilities, information and communication equipment

Murrumba will benefit from the record infrastructure funding in this Budget, with an investment of more than \$20 billion over four years throughout Queensland.

Under the Minister for Transport Stirling Hinchliffe and Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports Mark Bailey, the program is the largest in five years and would support more than 15,900 jobs over the next four years.

The \$20.02 billion funding under the Queensland Transport and Road Investment Program (QTRIP) is a massive investment in Queensland's transport future and job creation.

The Palaszczuk Government is investing \$4.38 billion in the coming 2016-17 financial year alone to advance our state and ensure we have the infrastructure to plan for future growth.

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (8.45 pm): This is a budget of an accidental government that did not expect to be in a position to bring down one, let alone two, let alone three budgets. It is very, very clear from this government that they have no narrative whatsoever for responsible fiscal management—none whatsoever. That was very obvious in last year's budget but even more obvious in this year's budget.

This is the 26th budget that I have seen since I have been in this place and it is absolutely the worst budget. I remember saying in the early years of the Goss-De Lacy-Burns government that they were the worst budgets we had ever seen in Queensland. In comparison, those budgets were fiscally responsible. In comparison, those budgets were budgets that actually delivered substantially from a set of fiscal principles which sought to ensure that they were able to have a balanced situation and they did not mortgage the future. The reason we were critical at the time was that it was a significant departure from the economic and fiscal underpinning that went before that.

However, if one compares this budget to the budget that was brought down initially by those Goss governments in the case of De Lacy, also Hamill and after that Mackenroth, this is absolutely poles apart. I can remember standing in this place and commenting on those budgets in response to Keith De Lacy. He said at the time that you should not borrow for operational expenditure but that you should only ever borrow to lay down hard economic infrastructure that is going to return an investment for the state and to lay down a platform of making more revenue for you. I remember De Lacy saying those things. Indeed, at that time the likes of De Lacy, Hamill and Mackenroth would never, ever have raided the public servants' long service leave; they would never, ever have raided the superannuation fund of public servants. Up until last year they were sacrosanct. They were even sacrosanct to the Bligh-Fraser government with all of their profligacy. It was even sacrosanct to them. No amount of excuses from those on the other side are going to cover up the fact that they are now laying down a very, very sad legacy and one that is going to cost future generations of Queensland taxpayers and Queenslanders. There is absolutely no doubt about that. There has been a significant departure.

As Margaret Thatcher said, socialism is an absolutely wonderful idea until you run out of everyone else's money. In a previous iteration of government, the Bligh-Fraser government ran out of money so then they had to borrow even more and then they had to sell assets. What happened after that? The debt still ballooned out despite having a booming situation with the mining industry and the property taxes in Queensland. That is what actually happened in the state of Queensland. That is what happens with Labor governments. Now when they have run out of money, they are taking the public servants' money. They are now taking money that is owed to future generations of Queensland retirees.

That is a significant departure from having an actuarially fully funded, no-questions-asked public servants' defined benefit superannuation scheme; not one with caveats from the State Actuary who says, 'You have to be very, very careful about this because there is some risk going three or four years down the track.' What will happen? The bickie tins have gone now, so this government has raided the last of the bickie tins. There may be a billion left for next year, but the bickie tins have gone and now they have taken the bickie tins off to the pawnbroker. That is what they have done. That is the level of hopelessness from this Labor government and this Treasurer, who has absolutely no clue about prudent financial management.

When I speak to businesspeople, they say to me that they do not dip into their employee contingencies. I just had dinner with a mayor from my area who could not believe that this government is doing what they are doing and dipping into contingencies for employees. No businessperson out there who wants to remain financially solvent in the future does these sorts of things. Once you get into these sorts of raids in other areas of the corporations law, then you are in a very difficult predicament indeed. Notwithstanding the fact that this government has no economic narrative, it does not understand productivity, efficiency and effectiveness; it believes that you simply fix a problem by throwing money at it.

As the honourable member for Thuringowa knows, he is part of the modern iteration of a government that went to an election in 2009 and said that it would not sell assets but came back and sold Queensland Rail, Forestry Plantations Queensland and Queensland Motorways Limited. Annastacia Palaszczuk, the member for Inala, the member for Woodridge and others sat in that cabinet at that time when they deceived the people of Queensland. They believe that you can fix a problem by throwing money at it.

Let us look at what happened in Health. In Health in the six years to 2012 expenditure on health care went up by 42 per cent. The productivity outcomes—the increased services to Queenslanders—went up by 16 per cent, so they spent more and delivered one-third more based on the amount of money that they spent. It went up 42 per cent and the additional services went up just over 16 per cent,

so the providers of the services got the money but not the people who needed the services. That was the fundamental problem. What was the biggest indicator of that? In 2006 there were 120,000 on the waiting list for the waiting list, including people who were waiting within time and over time; when Labor left office in 2012 there were 232,000 people in time and over time. When we left office it was 228,000—a modest reduction—but it had been getting worse at 15 per cent per annum. There were 6,485 people on the long-wait surgical waiting list and 63,000 people on the long dental waiting list. When we left office there were zero on the long dental waiting list, and notwithstanding the fact that we gave Lady Cilento an extra couple of months there were 76 people waiting on the long-wait surgical waitlist and a small number more with regard to Lady Cilento. When we took over the portfolio, in the last full year of the Labor government it was \$300 million in the red. They went to Treasury and they asked for more money, and they simply gave them more money and they did not say, 'Change your habits.' They never said, 'Address ambulance ramping.' They never said, 'Deal with the issue of ambulance bypass.' They said, 'Here is more money.'

The only key indicator of efficiency and effectiveness in Health is the National Efficient Price, and that is something that was agreed to by the Rudd and Bligh governments, and we were making significant tracks. It is now deteriorating because this government is spending more on the administration of health care than service delivery and outcomes for patients, and it is the same in education. Look at the PISA results: Australia has spent 100 per cent more on education in the last 10 years and our results have got worse. That is because we have not fundamentally addressed the situation, and it is the same in health care. You cannot continue to spend amounts of money greater than your revenue increase and not get the productivity and the outcomes. Labor has the belief that you spend money and you fix problems. You spend money and you do not fix problems: you have to change the system. That is the fundamental thing that is lacking with the Labor government in Queensland. For those people who believe you can spend money and not worry about where it comes from, this is a good budget; but if you want to spend money and worry about where the money is coming from—and effectiveness, efficiency and productivity—this is a very, very bad budget. Indeed, this is one of the worst budgets that has not only been seen in Queensland but in Australia. That is why it has been ridiculed by serious financial analysts around this country and within Queensland.

I think it is interesting to address the nonsense issue that is proffered by the other side about health and education cuts from the Commonwealth. You cannot cut something that never existed in the first place. That was based on some sort of fanciful promise from Kevin Rudd that money would be available in 2019-20. It was money that was never ever there, and if it was there we would never have gone from \$40 billion in surplus at a Commonwealth level to \$600 billion in debt. Let us address the underlying fallacies in this budget.

On Tuesday the Treasurer stood there and said that there is a 4.3 per cent increase in state health expenditure in the budget. That sounds pretty good. If you think that is all due to Commonwealth cuts, guess how much the Commonwealth government contributed from its own source revenue into the state this year. What was the percentage of its increase to the budget? It was an additional 6.2 per cent from the Commonwealth. What does that do to the 4.4 per cent overall increase in expenditure on the three-quarters to one-quarter ratio of healthcare funding from state to Commonwealth? It brings the state's contribution from its own source down below four per cent. The Commonwealth has put in 6.2 per cent extra this year and the state has put down less than four per cent from its own source. Let us see what happens over the forward estimates for 2019-20.

The government's own Budget Strategy and Outlook is very interesting when you look at it because it gives a clear indication of what is happening with the Commonwealth. Page 158 shows that in 2016-17 there is \$3.63 billion from the Commonwealth; in 2019-20—this is in Health—it is \$4.337 billion. Over those forward estimates what is the percentage increase? There is a 19.5 per cent increase over the forward estimates. If you look at education there is a significant increase along the same lines as well, so enough of this nonsense about giving away money in the first instance that did not exist. We are talking here about real increases from money that the Commonwealth can give.

Go and ask the average business out there how they would feel about a 19.5 per cent increase in their revenue over three-year forward estimates. If you ask the average wage earner how they would feel about a 19.5 per cent increase over the forward estimates, they would be pretty happy about that. Indeed, I worry about our ability to sustain that in the future because that is higher in percentage terms than revenue increase, but it is going into areas that are always record budgets. I suspect that since this state was formed as a colony in 1859, notwithstanding the Depression years, every single health and education budget was a record because they are always records. Ours was around about 7.5 per cent, it then went down to about 4.5 and then up over five per cent. This government is on 4.3 per cent.

If you want to talk about real cuts, look at the cuts in the 2012-13 year with regard to the Commonwealth's manipulation of population growth where money that was actually spent was taken out retrospectively: \$42 million in the previous financial year and \$60 million in the current financial year at that time, half of which had been spent by the time the Commonwealth made the adjustment. Try to adapt to that. That is real money: not false money, not pie-in-the-sky money, not Monopoly money that is promised sometime in the future that did not exist. If it did exist, you would not go from \$40 billion in surplus to \$600 billion in debt, and that is the simple reality.

We have to realise that it is about time we dealt with productivity, efficiency and effectiveness in this country. Until you do, you will run out of money. You will never have enough money to do the sorts of things Labor is doing. Productivity, efficiency and effectiveness are falling away and falling away badly. If it were not, Health would not be \$100 million in the red. What happened to those \$500-odd million of surpluses that accumulated in our time that stayed in the health system? They are the things this health minister was able to use to, by and large, fund some of his initiatives in the first 12 months. They are now gone. If those opposite think this is sustainable, they are wrong. It is not sustainable now. It was not sustainable previously. It has never been sustainable.

The member for Rockhampton talked about how we did not have to deal with a global financial crisis. When I came into this place we had a recession. The Labor government at the time had to deal with that, and they did not lose the AAA credit rating. In around 1997 we had the Asian economic crisis, and a huge amount of revenue was written down. We did not lose the AAA credit rating and maintained a real surplus, not a false surplus which has been cooked up as a consequence of manipulation—of moving debt from one government entity to another government entity and raiding the bickie tin and then changing the accounting standards away from a fiscal surplus to a cash surplus, which the ratings agencies do not consider valid because it does not consider the cost of managing debt.

I came to this parliament during the times I mentioned. What happened during the global financial crisis? I say to the honourable member for Rockhampton that there should not have been a great big problem, because between 2001 and 2008 the Beattie government accumulated \$33 billion of windfall revenues. That is \$33 billion of revenues they did not even budget for. They did not put it away in a sovereign fund like the Norwegian government did; they spent it. Not only did they spend it; they also went on a mad borrowing spree. They went haywire on schemes such as the water pipeline, which cost probably two or three times what it should have cost. They just threw money around and there was no responsible financial management.

That \$33 billion of windfall revenues would have stood us in very good stead during the global financial crisis. What did the Senate estimates committee say at that stage? I think Standard & Poor's appeared as a witness before them. They indicated that prior to the global financial crisis, because of the fact the Queensland government was not managing its expenses against revenue, Queensland was in danger of losing its AAA credit rating. Members can go back and read that. It is a part of history. Those opposite cannot just blame other circumstances when you have been a major contributor to the sorts of things that have brought this upon the people of Queensland.

This would not be so bad if the consequences of this were only for the government that was making this decision. Unfortunately, the consequences of this are for the people of Queensland. Indeed, I was very interested to listen to the Minister for Education, who is similarly fiscally clueless, interjecting on one of our members, saying that debt went up \$12 billion or \$13 billion under the LNP. The reason debt went up under the LNP was forward estimates, laid down in the 2011-12 budget, for infrastructure programs and other things that could not be verified at the time.

I refer to Labor's last budget, brought down by Andrew Fraser. In 2011-12, the projection was \$65 billion worth of state debt. Andrew Fraser said that for 2014-15 there would be \$85 billion worth of state debt. That is what was laid down by Labor. Of course debt goes up in those circumstances, because the expenditure which is laid down is expenditure which is made around particular commitments in those out years and you have to start the process of addressing it.

Let us look at what happened in the 2014-15 year. The projection in our budget was that we would probably bring it down by \$6 billion to just on \$80 billion in that year. Through hard work we would bring it down by \$5 billion in our last budget. What was the final result when the budget paper was brought down last year—for our last year in office, our last budget? It came in at \$75 billion. State debt was brought down \$10 billion below the projected forward estimates of Andrew Fraser. That is the simple reality.

Let us also do away with this nonsense from Labor that they are addressing debt. What is projected to happen by the 2019-20 financial year? It is back up to \$79 billion—notwithstanding the raid of \$3.4 billion from public servants' long service leave, not paying \$2 billion into the superannuation

scheme, raiding another \$4 billion out of the superannuation scheme and shifting \$4 billion worth of debt from the government financial sector over to their GOCs. That is what we have seen in Queensland. Take some basic lessons in finances. This government needs to clearly understand and reverse this and right things before too long, because Queensland is now in a very dangerous situation due to its financial incompetence.

(Time expired)

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (9.05 pm): I live in and represent a very diverse electorate with a very diverse community. With a current population of around 200,000 people and an expected population of around 330,000 people by 2035, Townsville is the largest city in northern Australia.

I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill before the House which for the people of Townsville signals investment into the region that is vital to reactivating the local economy. The region has suffered from the perfect storm of economic disaster, the downturn in the mineral resource sector, the devastating impact of the drought and the closure of Queensland Nickel, which has all led to unemployment figures above the state average. Who can forget the sackings of all the teachers, nurses and doctors? Sack, sack, sack. They were all got rid of under the former LNP government. That had led to the perfect storm for Townsville.

This budget provides opportunities for the people of Townsville to get back to work. A further commitment of \$40 million towards the Townsville stadium, on top of the existing \$100 million, will create hundreds of jobs for local workers. However, the big carrot for local business is the ability to access the \$100 million Back to Work jobs package for regional Queenslanders including payments of up to \$15,000 to employers. Further to this is the restoration of front-line services. The city will see extra nurses, doctors, health professionals, teachers, teacher aides, police, paramedics and fire-fighting staff who live and work in Townsville. This will get Townsville back on its feet.

The cornerstones of Labor's values—health and education—continue to be supported through this budget, with an additional \$700,000 on top of the existing school maintenance funding for infrastructure enhancement programs in several Townsville schools. Palm Island will receive an additional \$8.5 million for a new primary healthcare facility as well as \$4.4 million towards water storage solutions on the island. Further to that, there is \$7.1 million to commence construction of new social housing units funded from the State Infrastructure Fund, and \$21 million to complete stage 2 of the upgrade of the Garbutt Depot and Logistics Centre in Townsville.

The Treasurer handed down the budget earlier this week with a 5.9 per cent increase, in comparison to the previous year's budget, to the Education and Training budget. The most significant budget item in this area is the allocation of \$102 million over four years to school administrative and support staff. While I recognise that this is merely a drop in the bucket in comparison to the overall big picture, it does recognise the significant amount of work these people do in our schools every single day—the BSMs who keep our schools going. It makes me proud, as a former teacher and high school principal, to have worked with and beside several of these people. I see them being recognised in this budget for the work they do quietly, behind the scenes of the school, every single day. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I have previously had it checked by the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

Industry and businesses will have the incentive to establish themselves in Townsville through the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund and via the road, rail, sea and air transport network infrastructure, have quicker and more direct access to the Asia Pacific area. This will dovetail nicely with access to up to \$33.5 million in the Advance Queensland Connecting with Asia Strategy.

The \$25.3 million for the International Education and Training Strategy over five years will help Central Queensland and James Cook Universities to enhance and grow greater international education and training opportunities that will lead to heightened trade and investment opportunities in the long term.

Small businesses will also be able to capitalise on the Building Digital Capabilities Grants of up to \$10,000 matched funding to help small businesses enter the digital economy or build their digital capabilities. For Townsville small businesses this is timely as it comes directly after the Townsville Bulletin conducted a series of economic stimulus forums including the power of the digital futures for the city.

In addition to this, the sugar industry particularly will have access to \$19.7 million to further develop alternative fuel sources through the Queensland Biofuels 10 year Roadmap and Action Plan to develop and attract the US South Pacific Fleet to take on 'green' fuel solutions in Townsville.

Mr Speaker, over the last 12 months, Townsville has seen a 30% increase in the Tourism sector which delivers millions of additional dollars into the local economy. Townsville too has access to \$49.9 million to promote and deliver the city as a tourism destination.

Building our Regions funding to the value of \$175 million will be another funding source can assist Townsville City Council to fund projects for critical infrastructure. The city council has several projects that they will submit applications in an endeavour to secure this vital funding.

We know that the building and construction industry is struggling at the moment. What the Queensland first home owners' grant increase to \$20,000 will do is incentivise first time home owners looking at entering the market to build a new home and thereby creating jobs for local builders.

Mr Speaker, I applaud the Palaszczuk Government's \$6 million state wide commitment to tackling the ICE epidemic including a Drug and Alcohol Brief Intervention Team in Townsville. This will complement the existing \$1 million commitment made by the Government to the Salvation Army's Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Facility in Townsville.

But Mr Speaker, I live in God's country and walk among the people who you would describe as being the salt of the Earth. I live in Townsville and we are people of North Queensland. We get knocked to the ground and we get back up, dust ourselves off and get started again. We look for opportunity from the assets that we have. And Mr Speaker, Townsville has an abundance of assets that it will capitalise on to get itself moving again.

This is a budget that is underpinned by growing innovation, attracting investment and building infrastructure. Perhaps the biggest investment in infrastructure that Townsville will see in a generation, is the stadium. This is a game changer for the city. The additional \$40 million announced in this budget along with the existing \$100 million signals that the Palaszczuk Government is serious about investing in regional Queensland and in particular my city. This \$140 million investment along with \$10 million for the NRL and NQ Cowboys has also attracted the commitment of \$100 million by both Federal Labor and now the Federal Government. This will fully fund the stadium. But this project is more than just a stadium.

By building this infrastructure in the Townsville Waterfront Priority Development Area, it will generate 100's of jobs. Local jobs. Local Townsville jobs. It will generate approximately \$85 million in wages for local people. It will inject \$440 million into the local Townsville economy all this during the construction phase.

Mr Speaker, what we are seeing and hearing since this announcement is the use of the word confidence back into the vocabulary of business owners and locals. There is an air of confidence that is growing in the city already. In fact Mr Speaker, there is another 'C' word to describe the stadium and that is catalyst.

The stadium is a catalyst project that will get construction happening in the Waterfront Priority Development Area and will encourage the private sector to build and invest in that same area. The exact intention that the PDA had for Townsville's city waterfront area.

In today's Townsville Bulletin the article by Charlie Peel starts with 'Cashed up investors buoyed by the news of construction of the inner city stadium will go ahead have flooded Townsville City Council's Development Department with calls expressing interest in being involved in the CBD's transformation'.

The Townsville Bulletin newspaper has run the good news story on the front page almost every day since the Treasurer announced the additional funding on Friday last week. Tuesday's paper ran the feature article by journalist Victoria Nugent who said 'Townsville is already fielding interest from property developers, accommodation providers and construction companies in the wake of confirmation of the long awaited CBD stadium will be built'. The article goes on to say that 'Hotel chains setting up in the Townsville CBD, a reinvigorated night-life and more people choosing to live in the city are tipped as flow-on effects.' Mr Speaker, investors have the money. They were just searching for another 'C' word themselves. Certainty. And now we have certainty.

Mr Speaker, I live and represent a very diverse region with a very diverse community. In the Eastern part of the electorate is the Port of Townsville. The Port, established in 1864, is one of Queensland's most strategic assets and plays a significant role in driving the economic growth of our region, state and nation. It is ideally located in close proximity to world-renowned minerals provinces that contain copper, zinc, lead, phosphate, magnetite and coal, as well as vast agriculturally-rich areas.

The Port's strength lies in its diversity, geographic locations and excellent transport connectivity, and the business capitalises on these to create premier transport supply chains providing fast, reliable and competitive services. The Port has a solid history of servicing the world's appetite for products, commodities and services; notably food and agriculture, resources and energy, and tourism (cruise ships).

The Townsville Port continues to grow and develop as the port hub of northern Australia and is reflected by funding from the budget for the Berth 4 upgrades worth \$26 million and the pile encapsulation project worth \$1.2 million as well as \$1.7 million to replace the pilot vessel Petrel II.

With the release of the federal government's white paper on Northern Australia, the time is right to grow the north to ensure that it is able to accommodate the exponential growth. In the State of the tropics report, highlights that the tropics emerges as a critical global region with a unique set of development challenges and opportunities.

The tropics covers only 40 per cent of the world's surface area but hosts approximately 80 per cent of its terrestrial biodiversity and more than 95 per cent of its mangrove and coral reef based biodiversity. The tropical world's economy is growing 20 per cent faster than the rest of the world and many tropical nations are important contributors to world trade, politics and innovation. The tropics is home to 40 per cent of the world's population and 55 per cent of the world's children under the age of five. By 2050, some 50 per cent of the world's population and close to 60 per cent of the world's children are expected to reside in the tropics.

Advances in technology are providing a platform for expanding business opportunities, enhancing prospects to reduce poverty and improving education and health outcomes. Incomes are higher, infrastructure is more accessible and life expectancy is the highest it has ever been. The federal government released its much anticipated white paper on developing Northern Australia. The opening paragraph states—

The north has untapped promise, abundant resources and talented people. It is also Australia's closest connection with our key trading markets and the global scale changes occurring in Asia.

Northern Australia, as I said, encompasses 40 per cent of Australia's land mass and has approximately one million people living in that same area. The white paper cites how the federal government sees the way forward in developing trade and business opportunities for Northern Australia. Page 60 of that paper states—

... the Government can help protect people and industries from increased biosecurity and health threats as more people and goods navigate international borders. This means bringing together research bodies, institutions and individuals in the north and across Australia, and partnering with regional countries to develop new technologies and greater capacity to protect northern investment. This will also generate new commercial and employment opportunities in tropical agriculture and health sectors, positioning the north as a global leader.

Mr Speaker, what this Budget does, is commit to Townsville. Commit to re-engaging the local economy with infrastructure spend like the stadium and like the hospital upgrade. For Palm Island people, this Budget strengthens the essential services like secure water storage, like water treatment facilities and like a new Health Services Centre.

For workers, this is a great budget that provides incentives to employ new workers. It provides incentives to expand and grow small and medium businesses. This Budget prepares the city to position itself as the hub of North Australia to meet the challenges of a globally growing middle class that is well connected. This is a great budget for the city of Townsville. I commend the Bill to the House.



Mrs SMITH (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (9.09 pm): I received some great news on Tuesday that I want to share with the House. I received an email from a young man—a year 12 student—who emailed my office and said—

Hi there,

I recently contacted you in regards of a meeting with Tarnya Smith. This was in regards to my geography assignment that I have submitted a few weeks ago. I have just received my results for that report today and if it wasn't for Tarnya I would not have achieved such a high grade. I have received an A+ for this report and would like to thank Tarnya so much for her efforts made in the aid of my assignment.

I am happy to share that with members because that is what our next generation of Queenslanders are all about: they are achieving great things. I had to share that good news because clearly the budget brought nothing for Mount Ommaney. The residents of Mount Ommaney got zero, zip, zilch, nil, nada. I will tell members what was sad about the budget handed down on Tuesday by the Treasurer—that is, that the budget will consign Ziad and his friends to a future of debt and deficit and it will be likely that Ziad's children will only know of a Queensland that is cash strapped and struggling, only know of an economic epidemic that will take them until their retirement days at best to recover from. The one thing we can always count on with Labor governments is that they will cost you more and you will get less—every time.

When it comes to the budget outcomes for the seat of Mount Ommaney, guess what? It is no surprise that the electorate has yet again been starved of funds, or, should I say, we have been Sector G-ed—Sector G-ed, *Total Recall*, Mount Ommaney Sector G-ed. That is a reflection on who is actually running this state, because the Premier, as everyone knows, lives in my electorate and she herself sponsored a petition to have Sumners Road upgraded a couple of years back and she could not even muster any influence to get this vital piece of road infrastructure on the agenda.

An opposition member: She doesn't run it.

Mrs SMITH: This vital piece of infrastructure has been overlooked yet again and I can only come to a couple of conclusions, and my colleague said one of them. The other one would be that even though the Treasurer makes the claim that he likes people I do not think he likes the people of Mount Ommaney. What is important to the state of Queensland is to ensure long-term prosperity and things like spending within our means, for a start; less taxes, not more; building infrastructure; and of course supporting business, be it large, medium or small, and we can do that by creating a conducive environment for businesses because that is where the real jobs are created.

Debt and deficit are not what this great state requires. Debt and deficit are a legacy delivered by the Beattie-Bligh government that has been perpetuated by this abysmal Palaszczuk-Trad government with the handing down of this budget. After a brief reprieve when this side of the House took the economic reins and steered the state back to a responsibly managed position, the unions again rule the roost and have determined that the puppetmasters are back in control of George Street and that the only way to the top is by driving this state to the bottom of all economic indicators.

'Jobs, jobs, jobs' was the mantra before the 2015 election and where does Queensland sit in terms of unemployment? The latest figures out today show that Queensland's unemployment rate is now 6.4 per cent on both measures. Queensland is the only state in Australia to go backwards in the last month. Since the last budget that was all about jobs, Queensland has fallen behind the other states and the sad, true tragedy for that young man, Ziad, and his friends is that Queensland has the second worst youth unemployment rate in the nation.

The results speak for themselves that Labor is all about talk, but do not just take my word for it. Let us look at what some of the leading economists have had to say about this budget. Let us start with CommSec Chief Executive Craig James. What did he say about the Queensland economy earlier this year? Can members remember? If members cannot remember, let me remind them. He said—

Queensland remains entrenched in the third tier of economies, alongside South Australia and Tasmania.

'Entrenched in the third tier of economies' might have a nice ring to it—well, it might to those opposite—but third tier certainly is not where Queensland deserves to be. The people of this state are over being treated like the lemmings being led to walk off the cliff blindly. Treating us as second or, as reported, third tier, the Treasurer and those across the chamber have blinded the people by smoke and mirrors hoodoo voodoo. All we hear now is 'blah, blah, blah'. This is an absolutely nonsensical, non-caring and irresponsible budget. While people may tout the Treasurer as a nice guy—and I am sure that he is—he is so far out of his depth, as he knows he is, as do the puppetmasters, but he is still choosing to drag the state down by killing off any hope that our youth have somewhat of a bright future. I remind the House of a *Courier-Mail* article not that long ago—on 11 June 2016—where Curtis Pitt said—

But what we have to do and what I have to do as Treasurer is ensure that we manage that fine line between being fiscally responsible ... as well as driving the economy.

Yes, Treasurer, that is what you have to do, but you have failed the people of Queensland badly. I draw the House's attention to a number of comments in the media after the announcement, and in reality that is all the budget was—an announcement of intent to suffocate and bleed the lifeblood out of this state. Judith Sloan reported—

When it comes to analysing a state budget, there are two key variables to look for. What's happening to employee expenses and what's happening to government debt.

On both scores, the Queensland government's mark is a fail.

Ms Sloan went on to say—

When it comes to government debt, Curtis Pitt performs a sleight of hand by raiding the ... public sector workers and directing some of the monies to paying down gross debt, by close to \$2 billion. But here's the thing: it will do nothing to alter the net debt position of the state ...

I table that document.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, dated 15 June 2016, titled 'Pitt's day of reckoning will come, and it's not far off' [\[970\]](#).

The Treasurer and the Labor government just do not get it. They have absolutely no idea on how to do business—none whatsoever. Let me delve more into the commentary for those who are in the know. The Heart of the Nation column in the *Australian* stated—

After being hit hard by the resources slump, Queensland needs private sector investment. There was little in the budget, however, such as overall payroll tax relief, to encourage it. Instead, Annastacia Palaszczuk and Mr Pitt have set out to buy jobs, allowing public sector staff costs—mainly in health and education—to balloon by 7.3 per cent (more than five times inflation) this year, with a further 4.9 per cent increase forecast for next year.

I table that document.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, dated 15 June 2016, titled 'Spending from a bottomless Pitt' [\[971\]](#).

The headline by Michael McKenna screams, 'Billions raided but still no better off', and I table that document.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, dated 15 June 2016, titled 'Billions raided but still no better off' [\[972\]](#).

Does this not ring alarm bells? Did not the Premier and Treasurer promise at the last budget to manage the debt? Yes, they did, but this was either an untruth or, more accurately, a complete lack of understanding of what they are doing. They just do not understand—that has become clear—and I would suggest to Labor ministers and the Labor government to stop being caught up in your own self-importance and stop worrying about yourselves.

The Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland made the following comment—

The context to today's State Budget is an economy doing it tough at present with Queensland's domestic economy in difficulty, contracting over the past two years and the unemployment rate on the rise ... Queensland needed a Budget that doubled down on efforts to help the Sunshine State transition from the resources boom to a more diversified economy.

Amy Remeikis reported in the *Brisbane Times* the response from the property industry and that revealed more broken promises. The chief executive of the Real Estate Institute of Queensland said—

The Queensland Government is treating the property sector like an ATM once again.

The chief executive of the Real Estate Institute of Queensland stated further—

Curtis Pitt made a firm commitment to Queenslanders and the property industry in 2015 that he would not raise stamp duty or increase costs or fees for foreign buyers ... He said, 'Queensland is open for business'—but today he's slammed the door shut.

The state government has failed to consult with industry groups on this matter and if they had, we would have told them how fragile the market is at the moment.

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

That is not a ringing endorsement for the Treasurer of this state. I feel that a pattern is being established and it certainly is not pretty.

I turn now to the portfolio of Science, Innovation and the Digital Economy. Last Friday I had the joy of attending the St Lucia campus of the University of Queensland where I looked at a number of very exciting, cutting-edge research projects that are currently being undertaken. For example, some great work is being done on plant based painkillers. The Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology is focusing on improving health outcomes for ageing Australians, for example, in working out how we can prevent people from getting arthritis, which hinders people from living a healthy lifestyle as they age. That research is being funded by the Australian government. It is truly fascinating stuff. It is these areas in which we need to ensure that we have a strong Queensland economy so that we can assist in supporting these home-grown programs.

The other day I was flicking through the government's Advance Queensland initiative election commitments and a couple of items stood out that I thought were worthy of mention. During the election campaign, Labor said that it would establish a high-level Advance Queensland expert panel led by the Deputy Premier. I went to the website to inform myself of the activities of this expert panel, and something stood out to me. The website states, 'The Chair of the expert panel will be the Minister for Innovation, Science & the Digital Economy.' Not only is the Deputy Premier not chairing the expert panel but also she is not even on it. Maybe she is too busy to be part of one of the government's so-called priority areas. Or maybe she was overawed by the level of expertise of the members on the panel—from the business, academia, research and education sectors—because she has never had a real job other than being a political hack. Or maybe she was just confused.

The second part of Labor's election commitment that stood out to me was the following promise—

Labor will provide a three-year payroll tax holiday to any new companies established in Queensland as a result of Advance Queensland research programs.

There is barely any reference to this initiative on the government's web page. I would appreciate an update from the minister during her contribution on how many businesses this program supports and how much money has been allocated and will be spent on this initiative. I will probably have a lot more to say about that during the estimates hearings as well.

One of the things that seems to be lacking as part of the government's Advance Queensland agenda is the lack of any targets and specific outcomes that would measure the success of an individual program, an initiative, or an entire program. We know that Labor members like to talk, talk, talk, but when it comes to delivering real outcomes, I would be right to have significant concerns.

On a further note, by providing a number of funds and grants, this government is trying to pick winners. The government's job is not to pick winners. I would like to place on the record that this is very much a slippery slope for the government to be going down. Of course, earlier this week, this minister was exposed for failing to update her ICT strategy. Her credibility in delivering the basics is already shaky at best. That document and others on that site, which I had not got to, that related to the digital economy strategy magically disappeared overnight.

It already appears that the government has taken its eyes off delivering better front-line services for Queenslanders. The percentage of clients satisfied with the services provided by Smart Service Queensland is at only 67 per cent—well short of the target of 80 per cent. Labor is renowned for being good at spin, hot air and terrible at delivery. Who could forget the biggest public maladministration in the history of the nation—

Mr Minnikin: Payroll.

Mrs SMITH: Bingo!—the completely bungled implementation of the Queensland Health payroll system, a small IT changeover that ended up costing taxpayers over \$1 billion and saw hardworking nurses, doctors and allied health professionals underpaid, overpaid, or not paid at all. How much did that cost? It cost \$1.253 billion.

When it comes to delivery, that is Labor's legacy. We will be scrutinising heavily the rollout and management of this portfolio, which has a history of mismanagement under Labor. The budget shows a couple of reductions in staff at the State Library of Queensland. We have seen three go. At Queensland Shared Services, there is 22. That is worth mentioning. We will see how these services are affected, if they are affected at all.

I have a confession to make: I am a fan of reality TV. Over the years there have been many programs. We have had *Masterchef*, *Big Brother*, *Survivor*, *The Voice*, *Dancing with the Stars*, *Hell's Kitchen* and *The Bachelor*, just to name a few. When the Treasurer was handing down the budget on Tuesday, I keenly observed his colleagues who were surrounding him. I can tell members what their body language was saying. The Deputy Premier was saying, 'You are the weakest link, Treasurer. Goodbye.' The member for Woodridge was saying, 'Your torch has been extinguished. The tribe has spoken. Treasurer, it's time for you to leave the island.' The member for Yeerongpilly was saying, 'Sorry, Treasurer, you did not get a rose tonight. Please leave the mansion.' What was the member for Brisbane Central thinking about? I think she was thinking about what was on the lunch menu that day. We had the member for Springwood saying, 'Your work of art doesn't work for us.' I think members get my drift, but I can continue. Other colleagues were saying, 'Please pack up your knives.' 'You no longer are in the running for Australia's top model.' 'Your journey has ended here.' 'Please leave the chateau.'

I say to the Treasurer that he had all the elements to create a budget that could have set a positive direction for Queensland. Instead, he has chosen short cuts and lazy methods. At no stage has the Treasurer grasped an understanding of the right ingredients that are required to provide financial leadership in this state. On that basis, on the overall score for the Treasurer's efforts on this budget, I give him a one out of 10.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (9.28 pm): It is wonderful to hear about the member for Mount Ommaney's love for reality television. I do not share the member for Mount Ommaney's predisposition for reality TV, but I can see that she might like shows like *Kiss Bang Love* or *Seven Year Switch*.

Mr Ryan: Wearing your trackie daks, eating chips.

Mrs LAUGA: I take the interjection. The member for Mount Ommaney was all sweetness and light talking about Jess, a student who the member for Mount Ommaney provided some advice to about a school assignment that she was doing. I think that it is really lucky that the member for Mount Ommaney did not provide Jess with a copy of her budget reply speech because Jess may well have ended up very embarrassed. Her assignment would have said that the budget reply speech had no reliable sources, had lots of opinion and no fact and was essentially riddled with errors and Jess would have received a fail, fail, fail.

I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill, a bill to endorse the 2016 Palaszczuk-Pitt budget. The Palaszczuk government has delivered a budget which will deliver jobs, build infrastructure, attract investment and grow innovation in Keppel and Central Queensland. This is a good Labor budget which responds to the needs of local people. It helps the youth and the elderly, the unemployed and the disadvantaged, but it also is focused on business and industry and the future. It is the budget that Central Queensland needs right now but with a clear path for the future, an economic plan for innovation, investment and infrastructure.

I am also very pleased that \$15 million has been funded for continuation of the wonderful Yeppoon foreshore project which is part of a master plan that will grow jobs, grow tourism and help our community recover after Cyclone Marcia. This \$15 million investment is part of the total \$25 million package that the Palaszczuk government is delivering for this project. When completed the transformed foreshore will generate jobs, drive economic growth and attract major private sector investment to our region. I cannot wait to see shovels hit the ground and the jobs flowing. Hundreds of community members and many stakeholder groups provided feedback and input into the plans throughout the months of consultation. Now with the plan adopted, in the next few months Livingstone Shire Council is seeking to award the tender for the next phase of schematic design. The Yeppoon foreshore project will lead to long-term business and job opportunities for local people. It is a significant drawcard for the area and the state government is proud to have contributed \$25 million towards the project.

The government has also invested heavily in education at Emu Park, Frenchville and Farnborough state schools, an investment in our future. For our students to have the best chance at success we need to ensure our state schools continue to be quality learning environments. Our teachers and school staff deserve access to the infrastructure and facilities they need to support the great work they do. Which is why I am so pleased that the 2016 Palaszczuk government budget includes a whopping \$26.4 million in Central Queensland to renew school facilities. Frenchville State

School will be receiving \$1.25 million from the 2016 Palaszczuk government budget to extend its current administration building and to construct a new courtyard shade structure. Last week I met with the acting principal of Frenchville State School, Donna Earle-Morrison, and she was very excited and grateful for the announcement. Frenchville is the largest primary school in Central Queensland and its current administration building is bursting at the seams. This much needed new extension will allow the administration team to better service their students and its community.

Farnborough State School will be receiving \$200,000 towards a new covered play area which has been an identified need for local schoolkids. Sun safety is incredibly important, especially in Central Queensland where we make full use of the sunny lifestyle. Providing covered and shady areas for our children at school is important in order to combat the unacceptably high rates of skin cancer we have.

The work on \$3 million worth of new classrooms at Emu Park State School will continue and I am looking forward to catching up with principal Wayne McMurtrie and the students at Emu Park to celebrate the completion of these much needed new classrooms. I have been working hard to secure additional funding for our local schools so it is great to see that my colleagues in the Palaszczuk government are just as committed to delivering the infrastructure we need in Keppel. This extra school funding is a welcome addition to our region and I look forward to seeing these important projects underway and benefiting our schoolteachers, staff and students.

More than \$9.1 billion will be delivered to Queensland in a record spend on education in this budget. Last year \$178 million was spent on important school maintenance which was welcomed by principals, teachers, parents and students across Keppel. Local apprentices are also winners from this maintenance work because at least 10 per cent of all maintenance work carried out on state schools was required to be undertaken by apprentices, ensuring we continue to develop skills locally. I am so pleased that in this budget the Palaszczuk government will increase school maintenance by eight per cent to \$192 million. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): It has been cleared by the Deputy Speaker?

Mrs LAUGA: It has.

Leave granted.

Yeppoon-Rockhampton Road

The Budget includes \$150,000 to commence duplication planning of Rockhampton—Yeppoon Road at a total cost of \$250,000.

For months I have been calling on the Minister for Main Roads Mark Bailey to find the money needed to begin planning this crucial project and I am pleased that my colleagues in Brisbane are hearing the calls of constituents here in Keppel loud and clear.

The Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road is an important part of the Central Queensland road network and this planning money will go into looking at how this road can best be improved.

The Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road is an important part of the Central Queensland road network with over 12,000 vehicles per day. The Road connects the two major economic centres of Yeppoon and Rockhampton and is the gateway to the Southern Great Barrier Reef.

I want to make sure this road continues to support the growing traffic demands of Keppel, now and into the future.

National Parks

One of the amazing things about Keppel Mister Speaker is the number of national parks around the electorate which provide a wonderful opportunity for locals to get out into the fresh air and enjoy our natural environment. Exploring nature has many health benefits including cognitive, social and emotional development, and it builds resilience and creativity as well. Experiences in nature as a child also leads to environmental awareness and stewardship later in life.

So I'm pleased that this Budget includes over \$1 million to improve infrastructure at our National Parks.

The main access to the coastal section of Byfield National Park, Waterpark Creek to Stockyard Point road, will be upgraded at a cost of \$415,000.

Red Rock campground at Byfield, my personal favourite camping ground, is receiving a \$350,000 makeover.

Similarly, Bluff Point is a popular local park will receive a \$265,000 upgrade. Bluff Point is situated at the southern end of Kemp Beach and is a popular picnic spot with superb coastal scenery. It features a range of coastal vegetation from mangroves and heath lands to open eucalypt forests and tussock grasslands and is the largest trachyte plug on the Capricorn Coast. Two lookout points are perfect for spotting marine life below and enjoying cool sea breezes, while the walk provides marvellous views of the hinterland.

Public moorings

I have been fighting for public moorings in Keppel Bay since I was elected and I'm pleased to announce that we've had a win.

Tourism and recreational boating on the Southern Great Barrier Reef has received a major boost with at least 10 new public moorings planned for the Keppel Bay area to be delivered in the 2016-17 financial year.

The Palaszczuk Government has announced almost \$2.4 million in next week's State Budget to fund a series of public mooring infrastructure along the Great Barrier Reef.

This project will not only open up more opportunities for marine tourism operators to help people explore the reef, but is an important investment in protecting one of Queensland's most important and iconic assets.

I have been fighting for these moorings since my election and I have lobbied the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for the Great Barrier Reef and National Parks Dr Steven Miles on many occasions to broaden the opportunities for sailors to visit our shores and enjoy the unrivalled beauty this area has to offer.

The Southern Great Barrier Reef and its island national parks are home to abundant and diverse marine life, attracting thousands of visitors each year. Corals are among the most popular attractions, yet they are the most vulnerable and it can take many years for coral to recover. Public moorings help protect the reef from damage by anchors, chain or rope.

The new mooring infrastructure, to be installed at popular anchorage spots in Keppel Bay, will facilitate increased access to the marine park, in a way which is both safe and sustainable.

The moorings announcement has been supported by Capricorn Enterprise Chief Executive Mary Carroll who said "Tourism infrastructure which assists our visitors and supports our tourism operators, whilst protecting the reef, can only benefit our destination. Capricorn Enterprise welcomes the Government's announcement of new moorings to support marine tourism to our magnificent Keppel Islands on the Southern Great Barrier Reef.

Tourism

This Budget will deliver an extra \$33.5 million in funding over four years to grow tourism and make Queensland the number-one destination for millions of Asian visitors which is excellent news for Keppel.

Our tourism sector is emerging as a major driver of economic growth as more Asian visitors come to Queensland, spending money and creating jobs across the state.

That's why the Palaszczuk Government is taking a focused approach to make Queensland Australia's market leader for the Asian tourism market and to build on the momentum that has seen record visitation numbers to Queensland.

This Budget announcement is welcome news, on top of more great news today that record numbers of tourists are visiting our Southern Great Barrier Reef region, tourists are staying longer and they are spending record amounts.

The latest Tourism Research Australia figures showed the Southern Great Barrier Reef region welcomed two million Australian visitors in the year to March 2016, an increase of seven per cent, resulting in more than 7.7 million visitor nights.

The record number of domestic visitors is a great reflection of our growing reputation as a tourism destination.

The income from tourists is benefiting local businesses. Tourists are not only coming to our region in record numbers, they are spending a record amount in the region.

Australian domestic visitors spent more than \$947 million in our region over a 12 month period.

This is great news for our local businesses and tourism operators who are seeing the benefits of a booming domestic tourism market.

International Education and Training

International education and training (IET) is one of the fastest growing industries in the global economy, with particularly strong demand growth from key Queensland trading partners in Asia so I'm pleased that the Palaszczuk Government is committing \$25 million over the next five years to deliver on the IET strategy.

A strong IET industry drives innovation, builds a stronger economy and creates more jobs and the Central Queensland economy is poised to significantly grow its international education market.

The IET industry enhances Queensland's global standing and enriches our community. It facilitates international diplomacy, creates global business networks and enhances research partnerships. We also know that an increase in international students in our schools, colleges, universities and other institutions results in additional tourists, spending and local jobs.

In 2015, direct spending by international students added \$22 million to the Central Queensland economy.

Keppel is perfectly positioned to grow international education, and I'd like to see our region increase its market share of international students. Together, the world-class CQUniversity, and our safe, laid-back lifestyle, make a powerful combination to attract more international students.

And that's why in this Budget the Deputy Premier and Minister for Trade and Investment Jackie Trad committed \$25 million over five years to deliver a comprehensive new IET strategy.

In 2015, Queensland's IET industry sustained about 20,000 jobs and is the second-largest service export industry behind tourism.

The State Government believes the industry could grow annually to generate \$7.5 billion in export income and create 6,800 more local jobs by 2026.

A strong and sustainable international education and training industry that facilitates global engagement, produces lifelong ambassadors for Queensland, and becomes a key catalyst for growing Queensland's knowledge economy.

Procurement

Finally, I think we all understand that we can deliver great social and environmental outcomes through getting government procurement right. It's critical that we do this in a way maintains value for money, supports local Queensland business, and delivers other benefits in our communities.

I'm pleased to note that the Minister for Housing and Public Works will establish the Office of Chief Advisor—Procurement that will lead a whole of Government approach to enhancing our capability to achieve those broader outcomes from the things we purchase as a Government.

Domestic and Family Violence

I'm proud that the Palaszczuk Government includes a \$198.2 million dollar investment over the next five years to tackle domestic and family violence in Queensland. This is a significant investment which builds on the \$31 million committed in last year's Budget to implement key recommendations of the landmark 'Not Now Not Ever' Report into domestic and family violence. This funding includes:

- \$42.4 million to roll out specialist courts, building on the trial at Southport
- \$43.1 million for additional or enhanced domestic and family violence services to support families
- \$26.3 million for eight specialist teams across Queensland to prioritise victims and their safety
- \$10.3 million for additional perpetrator interventions to help protect victims
- \$9.6 million for a communication and engagement program to change attitudes and behaviours towards domestic and family violence
- \$8.7 million for two new shelters to support women and children escaping domestic and family violence

This funding will go a long way in Central Queensland where the community is working tirelessly to combat domestic and family violence.

Environment

This Budget Mister Speaker puts the focus back on climate change and provided an additional \$6.8 million over four years to lead the development of the Government's climate change strategies.

This funding is in addition to the Government's \$12 million initiative to help coastal councils like mine defend our communities from the impacts of climate change (the QCoast2100 program), which was announced in last year's Budget.

Rapid action is also required to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

The Government is using recommendations from the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce to deliver on our \$100 million commitment for cleaner water for a healthy reef.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to preserving natural conditions and protecting cultural resources and values to the greatest possible extent.

The Budget includes \$2.275 million to support the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan including: information management; catchment monitoring; ground cover and water monitoring; wetland mapping; Queensland Wetlands program support; training on wetlands in agriculture; and supporting the State Council of River Trusts works program.

I'm proud that the Budget includes these funding allocations to help protect our Great Barrier Reef, improve water quality and adapt to climate change.

Health

I'm also proud that Queensland's multi-billion dollar health budget will jump 7.7 per cent to meet growing demands for health services across the state.

This record health budget will see an increase to \$15.274 billion in 2016-17, ensuring world-class health services for Queenslanders.

The bulk of the new budget, totalling \$12.614 billion, will go to the states' 16 Hospital and Health Services, Mater Health Services and Saint Vincent's Health Australia, which deliver the health services on the ground throughout Queensland. This year's funding increase will mean more people will be treated in the health system and more staff will be employed.

The health budget also includes \$230 million to fund significant health infrastructure upgrades around the state, while a further \$170 million will be spent on upgrades to critical ICT infrastructure.

In total, \$1.4 billion will be invested on capital works infrastructure in 2016/17.

Mister Speaker, I'm so pleased that Rockhampton Hospital will be getting a multistorey car park! A multistorey car park at the Rockhampton Hospital is a major issue for Central Queenslanders. So I'm pleased that Central Queensland Health and Hospital Service is finalising a business case for a multistorey car park and that it will go to tender by the end of 2016.

I'm extremely pleased that the Palaszczuk Government is investing in health. This is a Labor health budget where the priority is on frontline services.

Back to Work Package

We know some regions, some employers and some jobseekers need a confidence boost and support. The Palaszczuk Government's Back to Work program is a two year \$100 million package giving businesses in Keppel and in regional Queensland the confidence to employ jobseekers and providing an economic boost to regions facing challenging times.

The world is in transition following the unwinding of the commodities boom—economies and jobs are changing. Queensland is not immune. Back to Work is a package of assistance aimed squarely at those regions and those individuals who need our help the most.

The \$100 million Back to Work—Regional Employment Package provides: support for employers to build their skills base; support for regions doing it tough; and support for jobseekers to build confidence, upskill and retrain for jobs in a more agile Queensland economy. Back to Work includes:

- \$80 million for support payments for employers to take on regional jobseekers, including long term unemployed jobseekers
- \$10 million for additional training for eligible jobseekers to gain the skills they need for work through the Back to Work Certificate 3 Guarantee Boost
- \$10 million for Back to Work Navigation Teams to work with local employers and build regional employment solutions. Teams will also help create the capacity needed to meet emerging needs through networks and other innovative ideas.

Payments of up to \$10,000 will be available to employers to provide up to 8,000 real jobs to eligible jobseekers in regions outside South East Queensland. An additional \$5,000 is available for employers who take on someone unemployed for 52 weeks or more.

I am confident that this program will make a huge difference to unemployment in Central Queensland.

Back to Work will help Central Queensland businesses to build their confidence to employ jobseekers and provide a much needed boost to our local economy.

Mister Speaker, this is a Back to Work Budget—where every major initiative is geared at getting Central Queenslanders back in jobs—or making their existing jobs better and safer. It is a Budget that recognises some areas of the State are doing better than others.

This is a Budget that helps all Queenslanders share in the growth our economy is generating. It is a Budget that will Advance Queensland and secure our economic future.

I commend the Bill to the House.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (9.34 pm): As has been noted by a number of my colleagues on this side of the chamber in the debate on the Appropriation Bill, this second budget of the Palaszczuk Labor government is all about raids, rip-offs and writedowns. It does very little for the people not only of my part of the world, the electorate of Whitsunday—the place that I call paradise, the place that I am very proud to represent—but, indeed, the Mackay Whitsunday region, home to the biggest regional economy of the north, notwithstanding recent events and the downturn of the resources sector, Central Queensland, North Queensland, Far North Queensland and North-West Queensland. Last weekend I was in Richmond with long-time mayor John Wharton, the chairman of the Northern Australia CRC. This budget does very little for people of the west—those on the coast and, indeed, in my electorate.

We see the latest data coming through in terms of youth unemployment. Many in this chamber have children, some have grandchildren. There are a lot of young Queenslanders struggling for a job. They are scratching for a traineeship, an apprenticeship or meaningful employment. What we heard today in the chamber from the Leader of the Opposition, the leader of the LNP, in his budget reply speech in relation to the Get Queensland Working initiative warms my heart. It is looking to get up to 20,000 young Queenslanders into work.

On Wednesday morning after attending the Opteon state of the market business breakfast I was talking to a young lady who works in the real estate industry in Mackay. I was the only parliamentarian there. A lot of people came together to hear what is going on in our region, whether they are interested in the property market, the construction industry, the sugar industry, the cattle industry, the tourism industry or the coal mining industry. This young lady said, ‘Jason, I don’t know whether we are going to stay in Mackay.’ This was young couple looking to get ahead, but her boyfriend, who is a boilermaker by trade, does not have a job. He has been trying to get a job. He is symbolic, I dare say, of many people. Many of them are in a state of despair and some have, in fact, given up hope. I take the budget on face value. I am genuinely pleased to see, as I look to the member for Mackay, some money for mental health.

Ms Trad: Don’t be patronising.

Mr COSTIGAN: I am not going to be patronising. I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier who is not in her seat. I draw your attention to that, Madam Deputy Speaker. It is not patronising at all from myself. Mental health is something that should transcend politics because it is a serious issue. We get in here, we put badges on our blazers and go out on the Speaker’s Green and pose for photos. We have to be fair dinkum about it. I am actually saying I am pleased to see some outcomes in relation to mental health in my part of the world.

Ms Trad: You didn’t invest when you were in government.

Mr COSTIGAN: I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier. People need a job. Perhaps the Deputy Premier should instruct the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines to press the go button on the Carmichael Mine and open up the Galilee Basin. I know the member for Burdekin would like to see that.

Recently I was in Bowen and they are hurting in the top of the Whitsunday. Eighteen jobs disappeared recently. The iconic Bowen Coke Works is closing down after 83 years. It was born in the dark days of the Great Depression. It is a local icon. It was pleasing to catch up with the chairman of the local chamber of commerce, Bruce Hedditch, at the Larrikin Hotel, and Terry Pilcher whose family has been in business in Bowen since the late 1950s. Bowen has never seen it so bad. Pubs that I used to live in, the North Australian and the Central, do not have the trade they used to. In fact, the North Australian does not trade anymore, nor does the Commercial, and we have seen the demise of the Queens Beach Motor Hotel that I remember. There is also the Merinda Village Hotel, although that has been rekindled in recent times.

People have been planning their lives and investing in their communities, but unfortunately they have been burnt. This Palaszczuk Labor government is continually frozen at the wheel. It is in an ice box and it is not melting. People have been left high and dry; people such as Barry Owen, the publican of an iconic pub, although he is not on his own. That is happening right around the Mackay-Whitsunday region, with the City of Mackay at its epicentre. Mackay is the central part of the biggest regional economy of the north, which is worth \$20 billion-plus.

With great respect to our friends in Townsville and the neighbouring shires of Hinchinbrook and Burdekin, Charters Towers to the west and right out to the North West Minerals Province, ours is the biggest regional economy of the north. While that mob has been in charge, we have lost 8,000 jobs. My heart goes out to the displaced workers and their families from Yabulu and Townsville. While there has been a lot of publicity and hype about Townsville, I do not believe we have been getting proper representation from government members of parliament in our part of the world. I look to the member for Mirani and the member for Mackay in relation to those matters.

There is no doubt that we have been ripped off in terms of infrastructure spending. For the Mackay-Whitsunday region, infrastructure spending is down \$80 million.

Mr Last interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: It is disgraceful; I take the interjection from my neighbouring colleague, the member for Burdekin. For the Cairns region, it is \$120 million. The infrastructure spend is down, down and down again. It is like a Coles commercial. Then we come to Townsville, which is a great city and the home of our beloved Cowboys, to which I will come in a moment. The infrastructure spending is down \$180 million.

There is no doubt that I have always believed in the North Queensland stadium. It pains me to think that the former Bligh Labor government shelled out the whole box and dice for the new stadium at Robina on the Gold Coast, that is, \$160 million, yet in North Queensland—despite the rivers of gold that is our contribution to the economy—we get 56 per cent of the funding for construction from the state government. I think we have been ripped off. Whether people vote Labor, LNP or liquorice allsorts—it does not matter—they believe we have been ripped off.

What about our country towns? The other day I was in Pentland, catching up with George Small. He is a shandy off 80. I took him some smoko. He has voted Labor almost all his life. People such as George are the forgotten people. When I first came into this place I spoke about the forgotten people. People in the smaller communities are being forgotten. Labor has taken people such as George for granted. I take my hat off to the former health minister because he doubled the patient travel subsidy scheme. People such as George have to get on a bus or train to get to seek medical treatment. Some go to Charters Towers, but invariably they will travel to Townsville every now and again. There is no doubt that the former LNP government delivered in spades in relation to health.

In relation to infrastructure, we should be coming up with big job-creating projects in our regions. That is why I am so pleased that the LNP has drawn a line in the sand in relation to Royalties for Regions. If we form government again, that \$495 million policy is back on, baby! Clearly, as we saw today in this place, what we have delivered previously and, in fact, more recently makes the Labor equivalent look like toy town in terms of getting bang for your buck and delivering real outcomes for real people in real communities.

When it comes to roads, the Mackay-Whitsunday region has missed out big time. I see the member for Mirani looking on with avid interest. He talked about living in Walkerston, the town I still call Scrubby, on the outskirts of Mackay. To be frank, both sides of politics have spoken about the

Walkerston bypass, maybe not going back as long ago as when Moses played fullback for Jerusalem, but certainly going back a long time. Our federal colleagues in the coalition team have made a commitment to fund the bypass. What has happened this week? A big fat zero!

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: I take the interjection. The minister is trying to come up with something constructive here, because he has come up with zero, nil, nothing for the Walkerston bypass. People ask, what is the significance of this project? It is the major arterial to the port of Mackay that feeds the Bowen Basin. If we look at the budget snapshot for Mackay and the Whitsundays, we see that it contains nothing about the Walkerston bypass. On the back page it mentions the Vines Creek bridges project. I am happy to table that for the benefit of members. They all got a copy on budget day. We are still waiting for the Vines Creek bridges. It is talk, talk, talk, talk. There is more talk than 2GB and 4BC rolled into one. People want to see action.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: I am happy to table it.

Mr WATTS: I rise to a point of order.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Minister and members on my right! What is your point of order, member for Toowoomba North?

Mr WATTS: In her interjections, the Deputy Premier keeps using the word 'you'. If she could interject using the member's position, that would be good.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your advice, member for Toowoomba North. Notwithstanding that, I was just about to say to members on my right that a certain level of interjecting is acceptable, particularly if the member is not being necessarily quiet in the way he is delivering his speech. However, we have come to a point where it is getting very difficult to hear the member for Whitsunday. Please temper that, members on my right.

Mr COSTIGAN: As I was saying, there is nothing in the 2016-17 state budget for the Walkerston bypass. That is a concern for mums and dads from the two local schools, Walkerston State School and St John's Catholic Primary. Students and teachers toured Parliament House just last year or the year before. It is disgraceful. It is a concern for advocates for road safety, such as Graeme Ransley from the Road Accident Action Group. My good friend the member for Maroochydore is nodding her head because she has been there, on the ground, meeting with key stakeholders such as people from Singles Transport and RAAG, including Chris Bonano, the RAAG chair for my electorate of Whitsunday. This is not relevant just to the electorate of Mirani, the electorate of Dalrymple or the electorate of Gregory.

Mr Power: What about George?

Mr COSTIGAN: I say to the member for Logan, never mind George. He is a long way from Logan at the moment.

Mr Minnikin: And a long way from his chair.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! That is a good point that I remind the member for Logan of. He has made a number of interjections tonight, although not from his chair. If you wish to do so, please return to your seat.

Mr COSTIGAN: Obviously he is swapping notes with the north-west branch of the Labor Party. In the second Palaszczuk budget we have seen no money to start the Walkerston bypass, to get the traffic off the Peak Downs and out of Walkerston. It disappoints me and a lot of people, no matter which way they vote, because we cannot work it out. There is no doubt that ours is the biggest regional economy of the north when we look at the ports of Hay Point, Abbot Point and Mackay. I see the member for Gladstone looking on. His is a great city and a great port. The last time I checked, something like 54 or 55 per cent of exports in terms of tonnage move out of three or four ports. We deliver in spades for the Queensland economy. That is why I am ropable when it comes to this budget, because I do not believe for one second that we are getting our fair share.

We hear the Treasurer say that the deficit is under control, even as the state debt hurtles towards \$80 billion. Of course, he takes the she'll-be-right mate attitude. That is the amount of dough that the government needs to borrow to perform its functions. I was listening to the contribution of my good

friend the member for Southern Downs. In the days of Keith De Lacey, would they have borrowed money to put petrol in the police cars? There are a couple of former police officers in the chamber. I wonder if they had to borrow money to put petrol in the police cars? It is embarrassing how Queensland has gone to the dogs. It is not the Queensland that I remember growing up. The member for Southern Downs also spoke about the bickie tin.

In the old days the bickie tin probably had Tim Tams, shortbread creams and monte carlos. When we open up the bickie tin now, what do we find? We probably find a stinky old stale Sao with not even a skerrick of cheese on it. That is what is happening under this Palaszczuk Labor government. We have gone from being the envy of all other jurisdictions to being a basket case. I do not want to talk down the Queensland economy—

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: I will talk down the people who are presiding over the Queensland economy, including the Deputy Premier. The truth obviously hurts. I have been very much—

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: Are you the minister for crumbs as well now, Deputy Premier?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! The Deputy Premier and the member seem to be quite enjoying this interchange, but could both of you direct your comments through the chair.

Mr COSTIGAN: I appreciate your guidance. I am happy to respond if provoked.

I have been a very strong advocate of developing our water resources in northern Australia. I commend our federal colleagues going into the 2 July federal election. I know there are a number—

Mr Rickuss: I fed the cat.

Mr COSTIGAN: I fed the cat, which is part of folklore for the former agriculture, resources and environment committee. I thank the chairman of that committee, the member for Lockyer, for that. All jokes aside, I am a strong advocate for developing our water resources and harnessing our water storage, whether it is weirs or dams, up and down the North Queensland coast where it actually rains.

I remember being at Aloomba, in the electorate of Mulgrave, where they had seven metres of rain in the year that Cyclone Larry came to Far North Queensland. In North Queensland we have the Nullinga Dam on the Walsh River and the Urannah Dam, which is something I am fiercely passionate about and have been for a long time. There are 1.5 million megalitres and 30,000 hectares in irrigated farmland in the offing downstream. There is the Hell's Gate dam proposal on the Upper Burdekin. I was at Macrossan only the other day. One stops and thinks that these projects have been talked about for so long, but when will we see some action. There is also the Rookwood Weir on the Lower Fitzroy. I see the interest of the member for Callide. It has been talked about for a long time. There is also Eden Bann and the list goes on. The member for Gregory and I were talking about that offline earlier this afternoon.

I was on the Flinders River last weekend talking to John Wharton. That was in my role as the shadow assistant minister for North Queensland, which I take very seriously. My first love is the people of Whitsunday because without them I would not be here. I am humbled to be here serving them and being their voice in this parliament. As the shadow assistant minister for North Queensland I went out and talked to John Wharton. Some 200,000 megalitres flow past Richmond on any given day in time of flood on the Flinders.

It was great to be out at Silver Hills and see the sorghum crop underway. I was thinking that that could be a field of dreams. It could be a promised land in the mid-west. There could be something like 50,000 hectares of irrigated farm land between Julia Creek and Richmond creating jobs and bringing people to our western communities. They say it could create 300 jobs. If that is the case I think they would sell a few beers at the Mud Hut, which I called into on my way back to Dingo Beach after the races last Saturday.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: I take the interjection from the member for Thuringowa. Maybe one day he will have been to every pub north of the Tropic of Capricorn. If that is the case, then so be it.

I want to come back to the issue of roads. This is the Townsville regional snapshot contained in the budget. The people of Townsville are probably cock-a-hoop, as they should be, because the stadium has come in thanks to the federal government. Ewen Jones might not be everyone's cup of tea, but to give him his dues he brought the Prime Minister to town to get a commitment to get the stadium built.

Some 56 per cent of the construction costs are coming from the Palaszczuk Labor government. If we turn back time to when the Gold Coast Titans were trying to get into the NRL, they got everything. The people of North Queensland, no matter which way they vote, wanted to see the stadium built. This government has let them down.

In terms of roads, for the Townsville Ring Road there is \$40.9 million. Guess what? Mackay, the centre of the biggest regional economy of the north, is still waiting for the Mackay Ring Road. We are waiting to see some action there. People are wondering about this. They are despairing because we have lost so many jobs in our part of the world. At the moment people have basically given up on the state government because they do not believe they are fair dinkum about North Queensland. If we go out to the northern beaches, into the mortgage belt of my electorate—the southern end of my electorate—what is in the budget for them? If we go back to the regional snapshot, talking it up—

Mr Whiting interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: I take the interjection from the member for Murrumba who has finally found a seat. What is this? Is this a circus? Having extra money to go out and buy a home is great, but people cannot do that without a job and borrowing capacity. In my electorate of Whitsunday if one goes into Black's Beach cove one finds empty houses everywhere.

I will quickly refer to education. We have to look at Labor. Last time there was a government school built in the city of Mackay—the city that I represent—was back in the late 1990s. That was until John-Paul Langbroek became the education minister and he opened the Northern Beaches State High School. That is the first government school opened in a long time. It is lip-service to education because all they have is \$330,000 to improve Eimeo Road State School. There is not one red cent to reopen the kindergarten at Seaforth which was killed off last year. It is a disgrace. The budget is a dud.

Interruption.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Tabling of Documents

 **Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Before I call the member for Gladstone, I wish to refer to a previous ruling from a temporary Speaker regarding the unnecessary tabling of documents. I am going to point to this document as a particular example, but this is for the general information of members. I will read out part of this ruling. I note that Speakers have previously made rulings regarding the types of documents being tabled where they serve no purpose and where members can make their point without tabling those items. I remind all honourable members that there is a cost to the public purse when documents and items are tabled. They must be recorded, registered and stored at public expense forever. If a document has already been tabled and archived, there is no purpose served by tabling additional copies. The tabling of such a document could be ruled out of order. In this instance, this document has already been tabled earlier in the week. I just ask honourable members to note that for the future.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

DUTIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed.

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (9.57 pm): It is going to be very tough to follow the member for Whitsunday—aka the 'I've been everywhere man' member. I rise tonight to commend Treasurer Curtis Pitt on delivering a budget that sets out a clear economic plan for Queensland and for my electorate of Gladstone. The Gladstone electorate sits in the southern Great Barrier Reef and is surrounded by some of Queensland's richest natural resources.

Building on traditional strengths in mining, agriculture and manufacturing, Gladstone has been the centre of the state's coal and LNG investment boom. Gladstone is at a critical time in its history and we have a great challenge ahead of us to support the region's transition following the completion of major LNG construction projects and the downturn in major commodities in our manufacturing industries. This economic plan focuses on three priorities—job-creating innovation, investment and infrastructure. I wanted to take the opportunity to speak about how these priorities and this budget will support the people of Gladstone.

I rose in this chamber earlier this week to talk about the unique opportunity that Gladstone presents and the fantastic position we are in to attract future projects and investment thanks to the state development land with direct access to the world-class port facilities we have. This budget delivers almost \$20 million over three years to turn the state's emerging biofutures industry into a \$1 million export sector via a 10-year road map and action plan. We are starting with \$7.68 million in 2016-17 which will underpin the government's vision for an export oriented industrial biotech and bioproducts sector.

These funds will drive home our biofuels 10-year road map and our action plan that will lead the way to new industry opportunities for regional Queensland, particularly in my electorate of Gladstone. There is no doubt that, with the ramp-down of the construction phase of the LNG plants, some families in my community are suffering. While our economy transitions from our traditional strength in mining, the Palaszczuk government is supporting working families in communities like mine by investing in innovation. In addition to encouraging investment in future industries, this budget directly benefits those struggling to find work in my electorate through the Back to Work regional jobs package. It is a \$100 million package that will give businesses the confidence to employ regional jobseekers while providing an economic boost to regions in these challenging times. Regional employers who hire an eligible employed person will get an extra \$10,000 payment under this initiative, which will rise to \$15,000 for the long-term unemployed who have been out of work for 12 months or more. Unlike the Newman-Nicholls LNP government that put regional unemployment into the too-hard basket, this budget delivers a plan to bring jobs to the regions.

Clearly, our government is focused on job creation. While 43,000-odd jobs were created in Queensland since the election of the Palaszczuk government, we are determined to deliver more jobs for Queenslanders, particularly those doing it tough in electorates such as Gladstone. To this end, this budget also delivers much needed infrastructure investment into my community while creating jobs for local tradies and improving facilities across my wonderful community.

I thank the Deputy Premier and the education minister who, via the Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program, delivered \$21.45 million in additional funding for building projects in six local schools including Calliope State School, Gladstone State High School, Clinton State School, Kin Kora School and of course a school that has a special place in my heart, Rosella Park Special School. Rosella Park Special School will replace a replacement administration building and reconfiguration of their car park. This is the culmination of years of blogging, P&C petitions and lots of hard work.

Although \$4 million is being allocated to the school, it is a drop in the bucket. It is everything to this school. I am truly thankful to Minister Jones for visiting this wonderful school and for seeing firsthand the issues the school dealt with in the past. They have made do with one designated disability park in the set-down and pick-up area at a school that supports students with moderate to severe intellectual impairments whose ages range from five to 18 years. This is just not good enough.

I am thrilled for the principal, Kate Russ, and for the entire school community that these facilities are finally being delivered under the Palaszczuk government. This announcement comes after additional funding was sourced to fix an unsafe playground that involved children with disabilities and mental health issues playing on substandard and unsafe play equipment. It is this kind of support that is improving schools in my electorate.

Our biggest primary school, Clinton, with 800-plus enrolments, will receive a new building with eight classrooms to replace the demountables. They cannot come quick enough for this school. I thank the minister for the investment. Schools right across my electorate make do and get on with the job, but our teachers and school staff deserve access to the infrastructure and facilities they need to support the great work they do in my community.

For our children to have the best chance of success, we need to ensure that our state schools continue to be a quality learning environment and that these kids will be the innovators of our future. All of this investment is on top of the announcement earlier this year of a \$60 million brand-new high school

in Calliope. At our recent community cabinet I was so proud to stand beside the Premier of Queensland and the education minister to make this wonderful announcement for the ever growing community of Calliope. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker this budget is about innovation, investment and infrastructure, but most importantly it is underpinned by Labor values. Focused on jobs, education and health.

Our kids, teachers, parents, medical and front line staff and our communities deserve a government that priorities our community needs and understands the importance and flow on positive impact of investing in this. Not one that sells assets, forgets regional Queensland and cuts front line jobs.

The Palaszczuk Government has hired 940 teachers and teacher aides, 1940 more nurses, 651 more doctors, 479 extra health professionals, 300 extra police, 54 new paramedics and 44 new firefighters in the past 12 months.

And this investment continues with a record commitment to health funding across the State. In last year's budget the Central Queensland Health and Hospital Service of which the Gladstone Hospital is a part received \$488 million in funding.

In this year's budget the CQHHS will receive \$531 million. The services, and facilities at the Gladstone hospital are an ongoing concern for my community and one that I am working closely with the Minister and hospital executive to improve.

This increase in funding is a welcome announcement and one that will assist my local hospital in improving access to services from my community. This year's budget will also see the plans for the Accident and Emergency Upgrade come to fruition by the end of 2017.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering infrastructure projects in my electorate where it is needed most, with a 10 bed community-managed mental health facility being built in Gladstone.

Which together with those being built in Mackay and Bundaberg form part of a \$12 million investment in the health of regional communities, unlocking up to 35 construction jobs.

The new 'Step Up Step Down' facility will provide a safe, therapeutic environment, where patients can step down after a stay in hospital, or step up if they feel their health is deteriorating.

This service is so necessary in our community with no hospital based mental health facility, being able to support residents to return to their town after a hospital admission for recovery or to act preventatively prior to admission, is a welcome and desperately needed resource.

The facility is expected to open in late 2017 and will be staffed by a mix of clinical and non-clinical staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Mr Speaker, I am also pleased to hear that two major intersections in Gladstone will finally receive an upgrade in funding from this budget.

Work has started this week on two major intersection upgrades on Gladstone-Mt Larcom Road thanks to a \$4.5 million funding boost.

I thank the Minister for Main Roads and Road Safety Mark Bailey for his commitment to upgrading these vital road projects which will see Reid Road and Landing Road intersections on Gladstone-Mt Larcom Road, a major freight and commuter route fixed.

These upgrades will result in significant safety and traffic flow improvements for Gladstone-Mt Larcom Road and cater for the continued development of the Gladstone State Development Area.

Transport and Main Roads has worked closely with Economic Development Queensland designing the two intersection upgrades to align with the long-term plans for the State Development Area north of Gladstone.

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government is planning for the future of Gladstone and prioritising jobs for the region.

These upgrades will benefit the more than 7000 motorists who use Gladstone-Mt Larcom Road daily, including to gain access to the Bruce Highway, the State Development Area, heavy industry operations and port facilities.

An average of 14 direct jobs will be supported over the life of the two intersection upgrades, which is great news for the area.

Work at the Landing Road intersection will involve realigning the intersection, building protected turn lanes and upgrading lighting.

New lighting and turn lanes for vehicles entering Landing Road will increase safety, including for the heavy vehicles that use this intersection.

The works at Reid Road will improve safety and access to and from Gladstone-Mt Larcom Road for heavy vehicles, which currently turn across four lanes of traffic.

Mr Speaker, BMD has been appointed the successful contractor for the upgrades.

With an office based in Gladstone, it's good for the community to see BMD the successful contractor, and I implore them to utilise local workers for this local project.

The project is funded through the Queensland Government's LNG Proponent Funding Program.

Mr Speaker, as part of this budget I also welcome valuable ongoing support for vital services that look after my community including Child Protection, Domestic and Family Violence, Family and Child Protection, Women's Support Services and People with Disabilities.

Mr Speaker the Palaszczuk Government is committed to working together with industry and local communities to build a stronger, smarter, innovative Queensland and this budget is a testament to that vision through huge investments in Education and Health and Infrastructure.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (10.06 pm): The socialist lefty loonies are in charge of the budget in Queensland and we have seen how they cannot help but put their sticky fingers into Queenslanders' pockets. It was interesting to listen to some of the newbies in this place patting themselves on the back for what they believe was a wonderful budgetary effort—namely, putting their sticky fingers into the reserves of the Public Service. They call it 'repatriating funds'. This is a very creative way of saying rip-offs, raids and robbery, so instead they say, 'We shall just repatriate your funds'. Believe me, if a burglar broke into one's house and tried to 'repatriate' the funds from one's purse, we would call that robbery. This Labor government is robbing from the future funds of this state and not addressing the overspending and lack of productivity in key areas while this state has a real and genuine need to continue to grow to meet the needs of Queenslanders.

They dare go where no Labor government has gone before. We have seen some doozies from some Labor members who sat in the government of previous Labor administrations. We saw a doozy in the last budget where this Labor government was criticised when it took a five-year holiday from paying into the long service leave of public servants. In that budget they also shuffled the debt from one part of the balance sheet to the government owned corporations and then tried to pretend that somehow they had this miraculous relief of debt from the responsibility of government. That sleight of hand was well and truly seen through by any serious economist or analyst and did nothing to relieve the pressure that the rating agencies saw upon the Queensland budget. That was last year. We thought, 'Well, what will they try this year?' We have seen something that is just stunning in its breathless disregard for basic good economics and common sense. That this Labor government would seek to raid \$4 billion out of the superannuation funds of public servants and try to make that out as a fiscal virtue is just a stunning deceit.

What about the criticism that flowed so quickly when the government revealed it was seriously doing this? They tried to brush it off just as freedom of speech but, when senior members of the business community in this state say that this is not smart or wise, there should be at least some resemblance of conscience from this government in listening to those concerns. Perhaps there was a bit of conscience on the other side as we saw the heads dip, the silence and the stunned disbelief in terms of the public criticism expressed by people who are not part of the political class but who are part of the business machinery of this state and have not necessarily aligned themselves one way or another.

This repatriation of funds is in fact a high-risk robbery of these funds from public superannuation and exposes this state in terms of gambling and rolling the dice; in fact, they are betting the house. This is like watching a slow-moving train crash but, like most disasters of poor Labor administrations such as the Health payroll disaster, they were man-made and foreseeable in their systemic failures. Of course, if someone does not stand up and say, No they will keep going back for more. Last year we saw them dipping into long service leave payments. This year they are dipping into the superannuation revenue of the public service. What will they try next year—scratchies? They are wishing for an easy option, but like gamblers and addicts who have had a taste of what may be, they roll the dice and go back for more. The government has learnt nothing from the past and has in fact exceeded any of the poor decisions of the past by doing something that no other Labor Treasurer would seriously consider.

This Labor government has no mandate for this madness, but madness it is. They are stunning in their deceit and their temerity to do this. In this budget they even managed to underspend the funds that were there—20 per cent of the capital works budget. This government is good on recurrent expenditure and shovelling it out the door but very poor in terms of getting the boots on the ground, the concrete laid and the roads rolled out in an efficient way. They had a 20 per cent underspend in the budgeted capital program. The LNP, in contrast, had a much higher capital spend in the last year of our budget but we had key projects underway that are critical to ensuring the productivity of Queensland.

The Sunshine Coast had the largest capital works program plan that we took to the last election, building on top of the \$1.8 billion hospital. We brought forward that \$1.8 billion hospital which we were proud to see commence on the Sunshine Coast. Sadly, once again, as I said, the delay in construction under this Labor government has meant that it is late in opening. That has had quite a ripple effect for those businesses relying on that hospital to come online on time. It is behind schedule, and still we have not seen an adequate and honest response from this government as to the reason.

There are some major pieces of infrastructure that are critical for the future of my area of the Sunshine Coast. We went to the state election with a commitment for the Mooloolah River interchange. Contrary to the assertions of the main roads minister, there was a plan. In fact, resumptions had already commenced and I believe were completed or largely completed in that area. The plan that enabled this critical piece of infrastructure to be underway had been put in place and was underway with the acquisition of property to ensure that could take place.

That was absolutely necessary to ensure that the arterial network leading to that hospital was functional. The \$22 million that the minister has announced is a bandaid on a much bigger problem that needs to be addressed which he has not yet acknowledged. He has ignored the work that his own department has commenced and the resumptions which had taken place. We have seen the plans for this road, and it should be getting underway to ensure ambulances are not caught in traffic because, minister, you cannot ride a bicycle from those parts of the Sunshine Coast to our hospital. He might think that will work, but it ain't going to get the ambulances through and it ain't going to get the people through who need to get to that hospital.

On the Sunshine Coast our No. 1 priority is to see the rail line duplicated. That is absolutely critical. It is amazing to think that they built a railway line in the 1880s through the terrain that they did but it has not had a major upgrade to ensure that tilt trains can run at the speeds they are designed to run. On the Sunshine Coast 40 per cent of the rail line services to the north are not train services but are shadowed by rail buses. That is a disgrace. It is a rail line where tilt trains do not run at the speed which they are capable. They can only travel at about 50 kilometres an hour in some sections. It takes hours to get to Brisbane. In this day and age it should be a high-speed rail service. We are very supportive of that being built. Labor ripped up the business case that had been underway as part of the previous work that had been done and put on hold after 2009. We have now gone back to the drawing board with another business case which is delaying that process yet again. This is why we want to keep fighting to ensure that this rail network is brought to the fore and takes place.

I turn to the Bruce Highway. I know that there has been some movement in respect of this project in recent years. I want to acknowledge our federal colleagues for their funding commitment to this road. It is 80 per cent funded by the federal government and 20 per cent by the state, and yet the state delivers the construction design of these road networks. I will table in a moment the QTRIP for 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17. The six-laning proposition and the bundling together of the section of the Bruce Highway between Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway was not something that happened this year in regard to planning. That had been underway with the department over the last couple of years and it had appeared in the previous QTRIP. One of the reasons I did not criticise the readjustment of QTRIP last year was that I was aware there had been a rebundling and change in the way that that project was going to be delivered. It was last year that the QTRIP reflected the work that had been underway to bring forward the six laning and stages of that upgrade of the Bruce Highway that had been budgeted for and provided for by our federal colleagues, with a state contribution as well.

As these figures will show, the contribution to get that project underway was a lesser amount in the budget for the year that has just been in recognition of the change in the way that that was to be delivered because there would be more spent the next year. In the 2015-16 QTRIP it said that by the end of 2015-16 there would be \$6.5 million spent and in the financial year 2016-17 there would be \$182 million. That was including the widening to six lanes that had been referenced previously as 'stage works to widen'. That was last year's QTRIP.

When the latest QTRIP came out and showed that those moneys were not being spent in that order, even though the adjustment to that had been part of last year's QTRIP, and there was about \$135 million less being spent this year, you can understand our concern and why we do not want to see this project slip. I acknowledge the \$900,000-plus that our federal colleagues have committed to this and the hard work of the department in trying to bring the design forward. We will keep fighting to ensure the rest of the Bruce Highway north of Caboolture is upgraded, because it is such a critical piece of infrastructure. I table that QTRIP.

Tabled paper: Extract from Department of Transport and Main Roads: Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2015-16 to 2018-19, pp. 41, 43 and 53 [\[973\]](#).

On the Sunshine Coast it is probably not well understood that we have one of the highest small business ownerships as a proportion of our community in Australia. It is higher as a proportion of our population than the Gold Coast and Brisbane, with about 22 per cent of the population involved in their own small business. They are people who are employing themselves and employing other people. That

is very much part of the aspiration, the belief and the culture of our beautiful area where people want to live, work and raise their families and to protect the lifestyle that they so passionately adore in regard to our wonderful environment.

They have the jobs not only of today but also the future. We are very strongly a small business community and one that is passionate about ensuring that, as we invest in the future of our youth, they are able to have jobs in our area. That is why I was so delighted to see the announcement and to participate with my colleagues on the LNP's plan to get Queensland working again. The apprenticeship boost is particularly for young apprentices but it will provide up to 10,000 new apprentices over four years, with \$5,000 incentives for Queensland businesses which take on a new apprentice. That is something to be applauded. We know from talking to local businesses how much that is going to be valued.

Tools for tradies is not only for the carpenters and the chippies who are involved in the construction industry but also for the hairdresser who has equipment needs or a range of other trades that require that little bit of a boost. There is a \$500 voucher for tradies who complete their apprenticeship to get the tools they need to get working. We will provide tools to 20,000 tradies over four years. We have a job-start incentive of \$4,000 grants over 12 months to assist small businesses with recruitment and start-up costs for eligible young Queenslanders. This is something that is needed in our area. These are the things that have been raised with us that would be a practical help. We also have the employment bonus, which is thanks to the good stewardship of the LNP and the work that was done in our time in government to put us in a strong financial position again to encourage further businesses to train and retain young Queenslanders.

The Sunshine Coast aspirationally is a great place to live and work, but we want to see a brighter future for young Queenslanders and for Queenslanders of all ages. It has not been easy for a number of years because of the pressures the government has been putting on business. We have been critical of this Labor government. They are very good at spending other people's money and not respecting that each dollar comes with a cost. The government's role is to be a servant of the people, not to put the people into their servitude in order to pay off the debts that they have racked up through their poor fiscal management.

I want to address an area in regard to my shadow portfolio and particularly with respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships. I was privileged recently to attend the Indigenous Leaders Forum in Cairns. A number of resolutions were passed at that forum. I want to pay tribute to the leadership in the Indigenous communities of Queensland. They are spread throughout this great state and some are in very remote areas. Many of us have a background in rural and regional Queensland and we know that there are special challenges that come with living away from the major urban areas. For some of our fellow citizens in the Indigenous community, those gaps in access to service and the issues of disadvantage can be magnified so much more. It encourages you to see the strength of some of the leadership that is in those communities and the difference they are making. Some communities are really kicking goals and others are out there fighting so hard in respect to the gap in outcomes and the inputs into the community.

This needs to translate into meaningful ways where people are safe in their communities and young children have access to good educational opportunities and pathways to the jobs of the future. I would like to table some of the resolutions of the Indigenous Leaders Forum that cover a number of portfolio areas.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Indigenous Leaders Forum—Cairns—June 8 & 9 2016: Motions' [\[974\]](#).

They are not only state issues; they also cover federal issues. I table those resolutions so that members of the House can have an opportunity to review them. It is through genuine partnerships between us and all Queenslanders who have needs that we are able to provide that better future.

We cannot do that by paternalism. We have to respect and empower people to unlock their potential wherever they live. We have to ensure that we do not take away the choices of future generations through poor decisions that are made today. We need to unlock the potential of the future generations by having some respect for the fact that the decisions we make today are the ones that are laying down the opportunities for them in the future.

That is why we speak strongly for small business, for the empowerment of opportunity through those who are able to employ other people, particularly in local communities and not just in major corporations far away from the homes where people love to live. We need to ensure there is access to

local education. We need to ensure that governments respect and support the vulnerable, the elderly, the disabled and all levels of our community. We also need to understand that it should not be about putting them into the servitude of a government that has no respect for the fact that ultimately taxpayers' dollars are their dollars and they need to be spent wisely.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.24 pm): I rise tonight to speak in support of the Palaszczuk government's second budget. I am proud to stand here today as I know this budget delivers on our promise to govern for all Queenslanders. This budget is fundamentally about jobs. It is underpinned by an unwavering commitment to the dignity of work and the aspirations that our government has for all Queensland workers—to have gainful, fulfilling and secure employment as well as opportunities for growth.

This budget clearly outlines our principles when it comes to creating jobs and building our economy. We know that our central tenets—growing innovation, attracting investment and building infrastructure—are what we need to deliver the jobs of the future. Unlike the former Newman-Nicholls government, we are not merely paying lip-service when we talk about these core initiatives. We know that delivering for Queensland takes more than listing pillars. It takes thoughtful planning, unwavering vision and determined action.

The Palaszczuk government in this budget sets out our plan to manage the economic challenges Queensland faces now and into the future. One of the great challenges is dealing with the transition from the construction phase of the LNG projects to the export phase. It was previous Labor governments which had the foresight to invest in the necessary infrastructure and which worked with industry to make LNG production a reality. This foresight, as construction turns to production, will drive Queensland exports to almost \$100 billion by the end of the decade. Additionally, these exports will drive Queensland's gross state product to the highest in the country in the coming years. Growth will strengthen from 3½ per cent in this financial year to four per cent in 2016-17, meaning that Queensland is expected to record the strongest economic growth of all states over the forecast period.

The lesson from these figures is that investment and infrastructure supported and initiated by Labor governments a decade ago are now adding permanently to Queensland's economic growth. It is with this insight we must consider our present infrastructure plans. When we came to office, we had to reverse the short-sighted policies of the previous Newman-Nicholls government, who were more intent on selling off the assets built up over generations than adding to Queensland's asset base through investing in high-quality infrastructure.

Our four-year commitment stands in stark contrast—a \$40 billion investment in infrastructure which includes capital expenditure, capital grants and public-private partnerships which will drive jobs and growth in Queensland now and into the future. Our demonstrated commitment in these areas has also been recognised by industry, with Natasha Doherty of Deloitte Access Economics saying this about our budget—

It delivers on investment, innovation and infrastructure and they're going to be key on our economic growth and prosperity.

However, we recognise that this transition in the economy will not be easy. Workers involved in the LNG construction and in other infrastructure projects will need to find new jobs. Our new pipeline of infrastructure projects will help, but we are doing more. This is why the Palaszczuk government has developed its two-year, \$100 million regional jobs package which will give employers the confidence to take on new staff in regional Queensland. It is why our Advance Queensland initiatives build on our strengths in education and training—preparing Queenslanders for the jobs of the future. These plans will further add to the thousands of jobs created in Queensland since the election of the Palaszczuk government.

This is also a great time to diversify our industries. While the fall in commodity prices may have hurt some of our traditional export industries and sent the Australian dollar lower, this fall in the Australian dollar presents the Queensland economy with a substantial opportunity. Our service exports—including tourism and education—and our agricultural exports, which have fought against a historically high Australian dollar in recent years, will now be even more internationally competitive and further able to expand their export reach. The Queensland government recognises this opportunity and is backing our exporters when they need it most—when they are expanding into new markets.

Trade and investment Queensland is there to help and that is why investing in our international education and training sector through our new sector strategy backed by \$25.3 million and our two new trade offices in Singapore and Chengdu will now help Queensland exporters make the most of their opportunities.

We are building innovation through our signature Advance Queensland policy with an additional \$225 million investment announced this week. We have already seen considerable success. Through this program, Queensland is leading the nation when it comes to developing medical research, start-up culture and innovative new technologies. I am particularly proud of the agreement our government has with YouTube, a first for an Australian state government and brokered following my visit to YouTube offices in Singapore last year. With this partnership we have worked collaboratively to establish a unique program to help our talented local content entrepreneurs succeed on the world stage. It is through innovative partnerships like this that we will unlock the new economy. If Malcolm Turnbull wants to see the ideas boom in action, all he has to do is come to Queensland.

Innovators and visionaries will be the backbone of the new economy, but they must be backed up by growing investment and building infrastructure right now. As minister for both infrastructure and investment, I know that our budget initiatives in both these areas will pay huge dividends for jobs, growth and Queensland's economic success. The Queensland government has in this budget committed an additional \$1.5 billion to our State Infrastructure Fund, building on our existing capital budget for infrastructure and taking the total value of the SIF to \$2 billion. This significant investment will build the priority infrastructure that Queensland needs to support economic growth and liveability into the future.

The funding will drive key infrastructure initiatives including \$50 million to establish the Cross River Rail delivery authority and \$180 million to bring forward social and economic projects in regional communities in the Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program, or the SRIPP. Last week I had the privilege of speaking at the One Belt, One Road investment forum for Northern Australia hosted by the Chinese consul general and the Bank of China. China is absolutely looking outwards for its plans to invest, especially in trade-enabling infrastructure. Regarding investment, we are meeting their plans for investment with a strong, stable pipeline of infrastructure projects.

The State Infrastructure Plan, combined with other initiatives such as the rigorous assessment of projects through Building Queensland, is providing the right climate for investment in Queensland. This clear pipeline for projects has been welcomed by the Infrastructure Association of Queensland who this week said, 'We are encouraged by the recognition by the state government of the importance of an infrastructure pipeline.' In fact, our infrastructure agenda has been welcomed across the state by stakeholders who were left in the cold for three years without a plan for infrastructure in Queensland. BDO's Corporate Finance said that the \$2 billion going toward funding Queensland's immediate infrastructure priorities was a strong move. It went on—

Providing funding certainty for projects in the pipeline that meets Building Queensland's rigorous business case economic criteria will increase confidence in the infrastructure sector and provide a boost to economic productivity in Queensland.

We are delivering certainty for the future of infrastructure in Queensland and the industry is thanking us for it.

It is only Labor who can deliver the transformative infrastructure that our state needs, and there is no clearer example of that than the utter failure in this respect by the former Newman-Nicholls government. The billion dollar black hole that is 1 William Street is an enduring reminder that the LNP cannot be trusted to deliver infrastructure for Queensland. They had the opportunity to build for Queensland and instead they built a monument to themselves.

While those opposite thought it important to recognise themselves, our government is far more focussed on recognising the regions. We are building infrastructure in the regions with more than 25 projects in regional Queensland allocating funding which will give regional economies an important and immediate boost, supporting more than 280 construction jobs and increased business confidence right across the state. We are investing \$34.2 million to fix a peak hour bottleneck for the Cairns region, a four-lane duplication of the Cairns Western Arterial Road with an upgrade to the Bill Fulton Bridge, which will create up to 57 jobs at peak construction and will greatly improve travel and productivity in the Cairns region. I know that this project is a particular passion of the member for Barron River and I congratulate him on his excellent advocacy for his constituents.

Regional safety is a priority and more than \$28 million will be allocated to build or upgrade eight fire stations throughout regional Queensland, including Port Douglas, Smithfield in Cairns, Herberton, Dimbulah, Proserpine, Mackay and Rockhampton with a combined fire and police station also to be built in Howard, which I know the member for Maryborough is very excited about. These projects will support up to 46 local construction jobs at the peak and improve community safety for Queenslanders.

Mr Speaker, I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my speech into the *Hansard* record. It has been approved by the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

The program will also deliver projects to give regional Queenslanders better access to health care and mental health facilities, including more than \$12 million for mental health services in Gladstone, Bundaberg and Mackay. Significantly, this will be the first dedicated inpatient mental health facility in Gladstone and residents with mental illness will no longer have to travel to Rockhampton for treatment.

Further SRIPP health projects include an upgrade Palm Island's current health facility will receive an \$8.5 million upgrade, which will support up to 25 construction jobs. I recently visited Palm Island with the Member for Townsville and saw firsthand how essential this health infrastructure is to that community.

I also recently joined the Minister Assisting the Premier for North Queensland and the Member for Mundingburra to announce \$6.6 million for an expansion of the children's ward at The Townsville Hospital to provide essential care to the region's sick children. This expansion will mean that families with critically ill children will no longer have to travel to Brisbane for care.

The Queensland Government will also invest in improved housing outcomes, with \$14.2 million to four social housing projects in Townsville, Rockhampton and Toowoomba, which will create up to 21 jobs during the peak of construction.

An additional \$14.2 million will boost Queensland's tourism economy and create up to 27 construction jobs. Projects include a redevelopment of Bundaberg's signature tourism experience, the Mon Repos Turtle Centre, a new Mackay Tourism Centre, Mt Inkerman Nature Tourism Development, and 'scenic drives by the sea' with new moorings to contribute to the growing Great Barrier Reef tourism industry.

A \$26.3 million package will see the renewal of school facilities in Central Queensland, and a further \$20.3 million will go to Regional Education Infrastructure Enhancements. This is education infrastructure funding that is so desperately needed in our regional communities and I am incredibly proud to be able to partner with the Education Minister to deliver these important projects.

Farther North the Queensland Government is committed to improving liveability and sustainability of our Cape York indigenous communities. \$2.48 million will deliver essential water and wastewater projects for the people of Aurukun, Mapoon and Pompuraaw.

Our strong commitment to building infrastructure in our regions has been recognised by the Master Builders Association who said "Regional Queensland is getting some of the recognition it deserves, with today's State Government budget announcement of investment in capital infrastructure.

"It is heartening to see that the government is spending on building schools, hospitals and public buildings in areas that need it the most."

The job-creating State Infrastructure Fund will also continue to support ongoing programs including the \$300 million Priority Economic Works and Productivity Program and the \$20 million Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program.

The previous commitment of \$300 million to this program is helping to deliver targeted, productivity lifting transport infrastructure like the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade—Darra to Rocklea, the Sunshine Coast University Hospital intersections package and the duplication of Riverside Drive in Townsville.

The Palaszczuk Government also remains committed to our hard-working local governments.

Queensland experiences more natural disasters than any other State or Territory and we need to support community preparedness and build disaster resilience.

We are doing this by providing \$10 million for the Community Resilience Fund. In the past year, this has funded 48 projects including floodgates, diversion channels and upgrades to cyclone shelters.

We are also contributing a further \$12 million over two years towards the Natural Disaster Resilience Program. The program will deliver a total of \$24 million with funding matched by the Federal Government. We will also increase community preparedness with \$2.1 million for local governments under the RACQ Get Ready Queensland Program.

Another \$28.3 million has been allocated for the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program for shovel-ready projects to build vital community infrastructure.

This funding creates jobs and contributes to building safe, caring and connected communities.

The Government is also providing \$15 million over four years through the Major Infrastructure Program to address priority environmental health infrastructure for Torres Strait councils.

A further \$1.3 million over four years has been set aside to the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council to improve the water supply system and water security for Cape York communities.

We are continuing to help build strong indigenous councils with more than \$35 million in the Indigenous Council Grant Program to help councils deliver services to their communities.

This significant investment in our communities demonstrates the Queensland Government's strong commitment to our council partnerships and delivering the right infrastructure in the right place at the right time so that we can continue to build productivity and jobs growth throughout Queensland.

That seems like a lot of local government initiatives and that is because it is—our government is committed to working collaboratively with local councils and this is reflected in our budget. The LGAQ have in fact said that this is “the best State Budget for local government in years”.

This budget also delivers great news for Queensland's trade and investment sectors, after three years of neglect by the former Trade Minister and now Opposition Leader.

The Budget allocates \$34.04 million to Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) in 2016-17, a 14 per cent increase on last year's allocation of \$29.9 million.

Queensland already has an open economy with overseas exports accounting for around 20 per cent of the State's gross state product, and an estimated 440,000—or one in five—Queensland jobs underpinned by the broader export sector.

However, we need to keep working to make sure we continue to adapt to changing market conditions and ensure Queensland is firmly front and centre on the world stage.

In Asia in particular, there is growing demand for Queensland's quality goods and services—from our fresh produce to our education and training services.

With this year's increased Budget investment into TIQ, a strong focus of our Government will be to develop a whole-of-government trade and investment strategy to make sure we have a coordinated approach to promoting Queensland as the perfect destination for investment into both our traditional and growing innovation sectors.

Last week I announced out \$25.3 million investment in the international education and training sector and launched our Government's Draft Strategy for this sector.

Last year, Queensland's international education and training sector generated \$2.9 billion in export revenue and supported around 19,000 jobs, making it the state's second-largest service export behind tourism

But Deloitte Access Economics estimates that with the right strategy in place, this industry could be worth \$7.5 billion in export income each year and create an additional 6,800 jobs for Queensland by 2026.

Queensland boasts some of world's best education and training institutions, not to mention a well-established multicultural community, a safe, relaxed, enviable lifestyle and some of Australia's most beautiful destinations.

Further this policy drives a virtuous circle. A stronger international education and training sector will help drive innovation, diversify our economy and create more knowledge based jobs for the future making Queensland an even more attractive destination for the world's students.

We know that students who have studied in Queensland become unofficial ambassadors for Queensland. Time spent making them feel welcome enriches Queensland culturally but also aids our economy and trade performance down the road.

We know we have what it takes to become a destination of choice for international students, which is why our Government is so focused on building this important sector.

This investment stands in stark contrast to the way that those opposite—significantly the now opposition leader—handled this essential industry.

We recognise as a government that in order to create more jobs in export sectors and help our Queensland businesses grow we have to expand into new markets. In this budget Queensland's international trade engagement with Asia is set for a boost, with the Palaszczuk Government announcing new trade offices in Chengdu in Sichuan, China as well as in Singapore.

We will provide \$1.5 million over three years for the new offices which would expand Queensland's international footprint to 15 locations in 12 different markets.

Chengdu is a natural match for Queensland. It's rapidly growing high tech industries are a perfect complement to our Advance Queensland programs. In addition, our office in Chengdu will be a gateway to the large markets of Western China.

Further, the capital of Sichuan is rightly famous for its cuisine. UNESCO designated Chengdu a “City of Gastronomy” in 2011. There couldn't be a better market for Queensland's agricultural products than one which values our clean, sustainable, high-quality produce. Our Trade and Investment Queensland office will be there to help Queensland businesses make the most of these opportunities.

Singapore will be an equally important trade post. The recent expansion of Australia's already close trade and cultural links to Singapore through the Australia-Singapore Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in May will be a boon to Queensland. The partnership foreshadows substantial investment in Queensland agribusiness, infrastructure and defence industries. Further, the partnership has led to James Cook University being given University status within Singapore—the first Australian educational institution to be so recognised. Our new Trade and Investment Queensland office will help consolidate this close relationship and make it stronger and bring more benefits to Queensland.

An office in Singapore will also increase our presence in the region. Singapore is also an important hub for the ASEAN region where growth is set to continue strongly. ASEAN countries are developing quickly and will provide growing markets for our exporters if we invest now. To capitalise on these opportunities we have funded a new Singapore trade office so Queensland can develop new export markets, attract more investment, and collaborate on infrastructure and innovative projects.

There is not an MP in this place who doesn't have great news to deliver to their electorate from this Budget. My electorate of South Brisbane is no different with \$10.75 million for West End State School to build eight new classrooms, an outdoor learning area and a library and resource centre.

There is also new funding for capital works at several of the other wonderful schools in my electorate with \$104,000 for a new tuckshop for Junction Park State School, \$700,000 for refurbishments at Brisbane State High School and \$550,000 for upgrading classrooms at Narbethong State Special School.

Our community in the inner-southside is growing and changing and for our local schools to be able to keep up, Governments must be prepared to invest in modern education infrastructure.

I am proud to be a part of a Labor Government that understands the importance of access to high-quality, well-funded education facilities for all children.

This is a budget that is thoroughly focused on education and its positive impact will be felt across my entire community of South Brisbane.

My constituents will also benefit from the Palaszczuk Government's Fairer Fares package which will lower the cost of public transport. The cost of a one zone trip will drop from \$3.35 to \$3.20. Zone one will also expand to include zone two, meaning somebody travelling from Dutton Park station to work in the CBD will now pay \$3.20 instead of \$3.93. That's a saving of more than \$315 a year for a Monday to Friday commuter.

Through this budget our government is once again demonstrating our absolute commitment to building jobs now and for the future and to creating a more prosperous and fair economy for Queensland.

Through embracing innovation, attracting investment and building infrastructure we are making these ideals a reality.

This is a budget for all Queenslanders. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms Trad, adjourned.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Contempt of Parliament by a Member

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (10.35 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Mr Speaker, I rise to apologise to the House and to you following coverage today of yesterday's proceedings. My gestures were a lighthearted exchange between MPs and were not meant to reflect on your earlier ruling or any MP. Please be assured of my respect for the parliament and appropriate behaviour at all times.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

DUTIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed on motion of Mr Pitt—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (10.36 pm): I rise this evening to contribute to the debate on this year's budget. At the outset I acknowledge the Leader of the Opposition for his reply today to this government's budget. What we have seen today from the Leader of the Opposition is not only a very clinical response and assessment of this government's budget, but he also took the opportunity to tell the people of Queensland what it is that we would do to make sure that we delivered jobs not only for the regions but for all of Queensland. What we have seen with the budget that was tabled and delivered on Tuesday is a government that is incredibly disappointing. We saw a budget that did not live up to the expectations. We saw a budget that is reliant on the hopes, wishes and aspirations of a number of fairies. Instead of a Treasurer who is trying to pull gold coins out from behind his ears, what we see this year is him trying to keep as many fingers and toes crossed that everything comes together just as he said that it would.

The Leader of the Opposition today said that this was a budget of raids, rip-offs and writedowns. This is a sentiment that has been echoed not only by many of my colleagues on this side of the chamber but also by people in the business community and, more broadly, people across Queensland. What we have seen are public servants who are having their superannuation ripped out from underneath them,

as the government steals the superannuation of hardworking public servants in an attempt to pay down debt. What we see is that under this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government, debt continues to rise. What we see under this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government is that unemployment will continue to rise. What we see is that the only thing that will drop are the approval ratings of the Premier and this government.

We have seen this budget fail the Gold Coast. We have seen this budget fail my electorate of Broadwater, and I will touch on that later in my contribution. This government talks about infrastructure and how it wants to build infrastructure in Queensland. What they have done is fail to spend money that they said they were going to spend. Last year they failed to spend about 20 per cent of their infrastructure fund. What we have seen is this government cut infrastructure spending in Cairns, Townsville, on the Darling Downs, in Rockhampton, Mackay—right across Queensland we have seen this government continue to cut funding for infrastructure.

What we have seen is a government stand up in this House and claim that they are capable of fiscal management, of reducing debt. However, what they have done is mislead the people of Queensland because, as we know, the Labor Party are incapable of delivering a good budget not only in Queensland but across the country.

We have seen the Labor Party prove that they are incapable of managing debt appropriately. I believe that we should have lower taxes, I believe that we should have less government and I believe that we should create an environment where business is able to create employment and grow jobs.

Mr HARPER: I rise to a point of order. The member for Broadwater misled the House when she said that the Townsville infrastructure spend is less. It is actually \$44 million more than it was last year.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! There is no point of order.

Miss BARTON: As I was saying, I believe that we should create an environment within which business, and particularly small business, is able to do what it does best, which is create wealth and grow jobs. We have seen this government fail to do that, and their actions in this House last night with the merger of Ergon and Energex show the contempt that the Labor Party has for small business in this state. As we on this side of the House know, small business is the economic powerhouse of Queensland. It is the backbone of Queensland.

One of the things that I said was that I believe in lower taxes, and that is why I was proud to be able to support my colleagues on Wednesday evening in the disallowance motion, because this government has increased car registration by double the rate of inflation. That has significant impacts not only for people in my electorate of Broadwater and across the wider Gold Coast but also for my colleagues in rural and regional Queensland who do not have an opportunity to use public transport, which was an alternative suggestion. I note that the member for Warrego contributed to the debate last night and she was very vocal about that.

When we are talking about increases in taxes, we have seen this government place a tax on noncitizens buying homes in Queensland. Instead of saying to noncitizens who want to buy a home in Queensland or who want to invest in property in Queensland, 'We welcome the investment in our state. We welcome you bringing your culture to our state, and we welcome you bringing all your other gifts to our state,' we say, 'We are going to impose another tax on you.' When the Treasurer announced it last week, I was contacted by a resident of my electorate. Lynne, who lives in Coombabah, has been living in Australia for 10 years. She is on a retirement visa 410. The only conditions on that visa are that she has to maintain a specific level of private health insurance. What she has said to me is that she is incredibly disappointed that, as someone who contributes to this country by paying taxes where appropriate, by contributing to society more broadly, but who does not have an opportunity to take advantage of some of the other benefits that Australians do like Medicare, Centrelink and the like, she is disappointed that the government in this state would seek to punish her further when she chooses to move house. I table the email that I received from Lynne.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 10 June 2016, from a constituent to the member for Broadwater, Miss Verity Barton MP, regarding the proposed foreign investor tax [\[975\]](#).

Not only did she send me that email last Thursday; she also took the opportunity to see me at my mobile office on Saturday outside the Runaway Bay library to deeply express her concerns to me about what the actions of this government mean.

In this budget we see the government claim they are focused on jobs, and they talk about a jobs package that they say is going to revitalise everything, but of course that is not going to do anything to get young people into employment on the Gold Coast or even more broadly in South-East Queensland.

What we have done, and what we have seen today, is the Leader of the Opposition announce the LNP's plan to get Queensland working. It is only the LNP that has a plan to get Queenslanders and Gold Coasters working. What we are going to do is support not only those who want to undertake apprenticeships and who want to be able to seek further education but also those young Queenslanders who want a job. We want to be able to support those businesses who have the opportunity to be able to offer them gainful employment. That is what it is about: it is about getting young Queenslanders back into work. It is only the LNP that has a plan to do that. It is only the LNP which has a strategy to deal with youth unemployment because, unlike the government, we do not think that it is just something that happens, you cannot deal with it and it has been around forever.

As I said, we are going to focus on apprentices so we have the Queensland Apprenticeship Boost, which will be a \$5,000 incentive for Queensland businesses which take on an apprentice and complete that apprenticeship. We are going to support tradies. We are going to provide tools for tradies because we understand that when someone has gone through their trade qualifications and they are entering the workforce, sometimes they need a bit of support at first. The other thing that we are going to do is the Job Start Incentive, which is about encouraging small businesses across Queensland to employ a young person who wants to work. That is what it is all about: making sure that young people who want to work have an opportunity to work.

In the contribution by the Leader of the Opposition this morning, we also heard him raise some very important issues for the Gold Coast community. One of the things that he raised was the fact that this government plans to roll out the red carpet to criminal motorcycle gangs in Queensland. The other thing that he spoke about in his budget reply speech was the fact that this government is yet to sign another contract with respect to the V8 Supercars. As I am sure all members from the Gold Coast appreciate, and indeed the members who represent the Ipswich and Townsville regions, significant and major events such as the V8s and other major events across Queensland not only bring a significant amount of money to the local community by way of creating jobs as well as tourism spent, but they are also an opportunity for us to showcase our regions right across not only Queensland but also Australia.

The other thing I wanted to touch on was the fact that this government has ignored my electorate of Broadwater. Perhaps the Labor government is punishing the Gold Coast for returning LNP members—I am not sure—but when you have a look at the budget spend on the Gold Coast the only things you see that this government is spending money on are Commonwealth Games projects that were locked in by the former deputy premier and the member for Callide and the former minister for the Commonwealth games. This government has ignored an opportunity to increase security at Biggera Waters State School. This government has ignored an opportunity to increase safety at the crossing out the front of Coombabah State School. This was an issue that I raised in this House last year, because just before the budget last year there were children hit by a car while crossing the road at the designated crossing outside Coombabah State School. I took the opportunity at the time in the lead-up to the budget to write to the Treasurer. I took the opportunity in the lead-up to the budget to write to the Minister for Main Roads. It is disappointing that we have not seen this government come to the table when it comes to the safety of schoolchildren in my electorate.

Last year, in addition to ignoring those things, they also ignored a fully funded, fully costed plan to install flashing school zone lights outside Labrador State School. I am pleased to say that with a significant amount of lobbying from not only me but also the Labrador community, we eventually forced the government into a backdown. I am hoping that over the coming months, however long it is until either the member for Woodridge decides to use his numbers to roll the Treasurer in caucus and become the Treasurer, or until the Deputy Premier herself uses her numbers to roll the Premier and take over government, in the intervening period between now and then, or even an election, this government will take the opportunity to consider the safety of the students at Coombabah State School. We had a plan that was fully costed and fully funded which was going to ensure that that intersection was safely upgraded for the benefit of those students in my electorate. As I say, it is disappointing that we see a government that is more concerned with playing politics than potentially saving the lives of children.

The other thing that I am disappointed to see—I am sure that my colleague the member for Coomera would join me in being very concerned about this—is a complete lack of work by this government to even consider an upgrade of the Jabiru Island bridge, which connects Paradise Point in my electorate and Hope Island in the electorate of Coomera. It is an incredibly busy thoroughfare. It is a state controlled road. Two lanes become one over the bridge and immediately become two lanes again. It is disappointing that this government has again ignored the wants and the needs of the Gold Coast community.

I have been contacted not only by people raising concerns about this government's determination to force noncitizens to pay more when they buy property in this state but also by people who are very concerned that their children will not be able to get jobs. They do not have trust and faith in this government's ability to get the economy right, to get the basics right—to set in train an economy within which business can do what it does best.

As we and the people of Queensland know, it is not the government that creates jobs. It is the role of the government to create an environment within which business is able to create jobs and grow wealth. The only jobs this government seems to be able to grow are those in the public sector. We have seen staffing levels in the public sector increase at twice the rate of population growth. We should be focused on making sure Queenslanders—young Queenslanders in particular—have an opportunity to get back to work and are able to do so within the private sector. I commend the member for Kawana for the work he has done in putting together a fantastic plan to get Queensland working.

A number of things about this budget concern not only me but also a number of my colleagues. Particularly at a time when we really need to make sure we are focused on paying down debt and reducing our deficits, I am concerned that we have a government that is delivering fiscal deficits totalling \$7.3 billion over the next four years. The LNP when in government was focused on getting the budget back on track, on making sure that we could forecast and deliver operating surpluses. What we have seen is this government focused only on pork-barrelling in its own electorates as it ignores electorates represented by LNP members across this state. We have also seen it focus only on paying back its union mates and increasing debt.

A government member interjected.

Miss BARTON: I take the interjection from the member for Thuringowa about the stadium. I put on the record my acknowledgement of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull—I also recognise the former member for Thuringowa, Sam Cox—for the work he has done for the people of Townsville. The Prime Minister is contributing more to the people of Townsville than this government. The Prime Minister has put more money on the table than has the federal Leader of the Opposition. The Prime Minister is absolutely delivering for the people of Townsville. I am sure that the member for Thuringowa joins me in acknowledging the great contribution of the coalition government to the people of Townsville and the electorate of Herbert.

One of the things we hear the government talking about is their focus on jobs, jobs, jobs. If they are so focused on jobs, at a time when they are growing the public sector at twice the rate the population is growing, I still do not quite understand why unemployment is going up. Maybe the employment minister does not quite understand her role, but unemployment, if you are creating jobs, is supposed to go down. What we have seen, and what we will see, is unemployment continuing to rise under this Labor government. This government does not understand what we need to do not only to get young Queenslanders back into work but also to get Queenslanders working again.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Member for Kawana, member for Hinchinbrook and Attorney-General: if you want to have a discussion can you take it outside the chamber. I could barely hear a word that was being said.

Miss BARTON: If it would benefit the House, I am happy to start again. What we have seen is this government focused only on jobs in the public sector and only on jobs for their union mates. The jobs policy that has been announced by this government has no impact on South-East Queensland, so it is not going to deliver jobs in my electorate of Broadwater and across the Gold Coast, in Brisbane, in Logan, in the Ipswich region, in the Redlands region, on the Sunshine Coast or in the Caboolture region.

If members listened to the Leader of the Opposition and his reply today they would know that this LNP team has a plan to get Queenslanders working again. That just shows the contrast. On the one hand we have an asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government that does not have a plan to get Queenslanders working again; on the other hand we have the LNP's real economic plan for economic growth. We on this side of the House understand what we need to do to get the economy going again, to appropriately manage debt and to ensure young people have an opportunity to get an apprenticeship and a job.

This government's budget has been full of disappointments, not only for my electorate of Broadwater, where nothing has been delivered, but also for the people of Queensland more broadly. We have a budget that increases debt and unemployment. The only thing that I say will decrease under this budget are the approval ratings of the Premier and this government, who are asleep at the wheel and are not delivering for Queensland but are betraying the trust and faith that they claim has been put in them by the people of Queensland as they destroy the opportunities young Queenslanders will have

in this state. As I say, the contrast is stark: on the one hand an asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government with no plan and on the other hand an LNP team with a real plan to get Queensland moving and to get Queenslanders back into jobs.

Mr SAUNDERS (Maryborough—ALP) (10.56 pm): I rise to say how happy I am about the budget. I thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the other ministers of the government for how they have delivered for Maryborough. On 16 July last year I said in this House—

I made a commitment to the people of ... Maryborough ... that I would put Maryborough first. I am very proud to be part of a Labor team and the Palaszczuk government that has delivered for Maryborough. We had 18 years in the wilderness—15 years with One Nation and an Independent and three years with the LNP.

I am proud to stand here tonight and say that Maryborough is on the right track. This budget has delivered for Maryborough. I have heard those opposite talking about how they have missed out. Maryborough is on the right track.

Let us talk about the new Howard Police Station and auxiliary fire station. In 1893 Howard got a brand-new police station. It was modern. Now in 2016 the Labor government is putting a brand-new police station at Howard. The great officers at the Howard Police Station—Nev and 'Big Ed'—and the other people who work there are very happy to know that they will have a brand-new police station next year. At the moment, when they go to use the toilet they have to fight brown snakes, lizards or whatever is there. We are delivering.

Howard is the centre of the Burrum district, which is the fastest growing area of my electorate. Howard was a great coalmining area. As I said, the police station was built in 1893 and has not been upgraded since then. We are getting a brand-new police station, a brand-new auxiliary fire station and a brand-new rural fire station. That is what we call the Burrum district in Maryborough. The Burrum district looks after Toogoom, Burrum Heads, Howard, Torbanlea and Aldershot on the Bruce Highway. I thank the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the police minister for giving us these facilities that are long overdue in the Maryborough electorate, because we have been forgotten for a long time.

Since the budget has been announced it is wonderful to talk to the people of Howard because this \$10 million is the biggest infrastructure spend that Howard has ever seen and it is a great thing for the communities of Howard, Torbanlea, Toogoom, Burrum Heads, Aldershot as well as the Bruce Highway.

Mr Harper: They've got a great local MP getting on with the job.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection from the wonderful member who has just got a brand-new stadium for Townsville; thank you very much. I do make great representations, but the difference is that the ministers have listened and they have come and looked and seen. The Palaszczuk government is delivering for rural and regional Queensland. Those on the other side say that it is not, but the Maryborough electorate has been a great electorate since 1865 yet in the three years of the former government it was like Detroit city, as I said 12 months ago. There has been great expenditure and this budget has been fantastic for the Maryborough electorate. There are road upgrades and school upgrades at Bauple school, Mungar school and also Granville school—schools that have been neglected for many, many years.

The Maryborough Neighbourhood Centre has had no funding and for three years under the Newman government it was cut to the bone. I thank the minister, who is in the House tonight, because that neighbourhood centre will now get funding which means that it will be able to provide services to people. It is a privilege to be the local member and to stand here tonight and say that that neighbourhood centre is equivalent to any centre in Queensland. I thank the minister very much, the member for Brisbane Central, who came up to the area and talked to the people and saw how funding for the last three years had been cut to the bone. She acted and now it will be able to provide services—basic services. I am not talking about flash services or gold-plated services. I am talking about basic services for a community, and the minister listened. The minister talked to the director of the centre and also to people from Maryborough and she has acted, and I am very proud to say that that neighbourhood centre will now be one of the best neighbourhood centres in regional Queensland. That also goes for the TAFE as well.

With regard to the Bruce Highway and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, a lot of the Bruce Highway runs through my electorate and there is great expenditure for my electorate in that regard. I am very proud to say that, after representations from me and people from the community, the Bruce Highway will be upgraded at the entrance to Torbanlea. With regard to the feeder roads in my electorate, the Burrum Heads to Pialba Road is a main arterial road in the electorate of Maryborough.

It has not had a dollar spent on it for years. It will now be upgraded and the Toogoom entrance will be upgraded for road safety. There have been significant changes through a Palaszczuk Labor government.

Tonight I have sat here and listened to members of the opposition and I want to tell them that this is a regional Queensland budget. With regard to unemployment in regional Queensland, the federal LNP member for Wide Bay for 26 years has been the Deputy Prime Minister and every year the local youth unemployment rate has gone up. That is the only thing I can say about the Hon. Warren Truss—that is, that every year the unemployment rate has gone up. This Palaszczuk Labor government is doing things that the federal government has not done. The Deputy Prime Minister has represented this electorate and yet youth unemployment is 26 per cent. Those opposite have said that Labor increased youth unemployment, but let me tell them: it has gone up one per cent every year for 26 years since the Deputy Prime Minister has represented the seat. I am not the only one—there are quite a lot of us—who is glad that he is retiring, because we may get some representation in the Wide Bay electorate.

The Palaszczuk government—and I thank the minister for this—is providing \$10,000 for employing people who have been unemployed for 12 months and \$15,000 for employing those who have been unemployed for longer. That will be a significant issue for my electorate because that will give long-term unemployed people a chance to get something done. That is what a Labor government does: we care about people. We look after people.

The health minister has increased the Health budget for the Wide Bay health district by about eight per cent on last year's budget, which is pretty good and equates to about \$10 million. My biggest concern is this, and I say this to members opposite: my health district is going to lose \$53 million a year for the next 10 years—\$530 million will be cut back—if the Turnbull government is re-elected. That will mean cutbacks. That will mean that we will lose services that the people in my electorate desperately need—\$530 million.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection. That means that people who cannot afford it will have to front up with \$495 to get an MRI. It is disgraceful because we will lose \$53 million in funding. In terms of state funding, we have increased state funding to the Wide Bay health district because we have a government that cares and we have ministers who come to the electorate and talk to the people.

An opposition member: What's your waiting list?

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take the interjection. Our waiting list is one of the lowest in Queensland.

Mr Cripps: Well done, Laurie!

Mr SAUNDERS: Thank you very much for that because you have given me a chance to promote how great my health district is with Adrian Pennington as the manager, because the funding from the health minister in Queensland has made sure—

Mr Cripps: Lawrence Springborg.

Mr SAUNDERS: The member for Southern Downs cut pathology whereas under the Labor government we got pathology services returned. We have reopened pathology services—a great Labor initiative. We were the only hospital on the east coast of Australia without a pathology unit. Guess what? We have one now. It used to take anywhere between two to six hours to get a result back. The other day we got one back in 6½ minutes. As the local member I am so proud to say that a Palaszczuk government is delivering for my electorate.

An opposition member: This is just pork-barrelling.

Mr SAUNDERS: It is not pork-barrelling. Fancy the pot calling the kettle black. Fancy that! Those opposite pork-barrelled right around Queensland except in the Maryborough electorate and they stripped the services out. The Palaszczuk government is delivering services back into the Maryborough electorate. They talk about—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr Cripps: What a load of nonsense!

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection from the member for Hinchinbrook, and I will tell you why: he was part of that government that he is proud of. He is an embarrassment.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: He stands there and tells people in this House how good his government was. I will tell you what: I had people sleeping in cars because of you! You are a disgrace! You are a disgrace to humanity!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Member for Maryborough—

Mr SAUNDERS: We had people sleeping in cars!

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr SAUNDERS: We had people sleeping in cars!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Maryborough, will you please—

Mr SAUNDERS: I get a bit passionate about the people from Maryborough.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough, I find the language that you used unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw and I ask you to direct your comments through the chair.

Mr SAUNDERS: Sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker. I withdraw. I do get a bit passionate about my electorate, as everyone here knows, and I always put Maryborough first. I love the people that I represent and I do not like what happened to them during the three years of the previous government.

This budget has delivered for my electorate and I am so proud to be part of a Labor government that is delivering for regional Queensland and that finally people in my electorate are treated the same as anywhere else in Queensland because we have a government that cares. We have ministers who are actually delivering for the electorate. I do not make any apologies for my advocacy of my electorate, because for years we have been forgotten. We have been the poor cousins of Queensland and this government led by the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the ministers have actually put Maryborough back on the map. I thank them very much from the bottom of my heart, as do the people of Maryborough.

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (11.09 pm): I rise to make a few comments about some aspects of this budget that will affect my electorate. Some of them are very important, such as those that relate to roads. It is a disappointment that some of the major funding issues on the Cunningham Highway and the Warrego Highway have not been picked up in this budget. That really concerns me, because these roads cause a lot of grief. Unfortunately, there has not been a lot of money spent on them, particularly at the intersection for the Amberley air base at Amberley-Willowbank. I realise that it is a federal funding issue, but that area of road has to be given a high priority so that that intersection can be fixed up. About 7,000 or 8,000 vehicles a day travel along the section of the road past Willowbank raceway but once you get to the Amberley intersection, which is only a couple of kilometres down the road, about 17,000 vehicles a day travel along there. It is chaos there, particularly in the mornings and afternoons when people are coming and going from the Amberley base.

That part of my electorate has been represented by Labor federally for a number of years. I know that the current federal Labor member is very good friends with Julia Gillard and Kevin Rudd, because he tells me that every time we are at a function together. I am sure he is probably very good friends with Bill Shorten. I am expecting him to deliver a bit more funding for that area over the years—

Mr Brown: Are you expecting Bill to win?

Mr RICKUSS: I take that interjection. No, I am not expecting Bill Shorten to win; I am expecting Shayne Neumann to lobby for an upgrade to that intersection because of the Air Force base that is located there.

My electorate in South-East Queensland is 3½ thousand square kilometres in size. The Cunningham and the Warrego highways, which are major arterial roads, run through it as do some other major state roads. Those roads always require work to be done on them. The budget contains small amounts for them—\$6 million here and \$7 million there. The Toowoomba Second Range Crossing is starting to happen in the Lockyer electorate. The construction of that road is starting at Toowoomba. About 50 per cent of that road will be located in the Lockyer electorate. There is some real concern about the way the design of that road has morphed. I think some of the take-offs will need to be reassessed. They are cutting and burning to a great extent. I think that has probably been caused by this broke Labor government, which is struggling to manage money. That is always going to be a problem.

Another issue in my electorate concerns Ropeley State School. On day 8 in 2015, there was one child at that school. It costs \$250,000 to operate that school for the year. There is another school located within 10 minutes of Ropeley State School and another school within 12 minutes of that school. I have written to the education minister and asked her, 'Why don't we transfer this student?' The high school has also written to me and they are quite happy to take on the campus. Unfortunately, the Minister for Education is frozen at the wheel. She will not make a decision. In 2015, it cost \$250,000 for one student. This year, there are four students at that school, but three of them are probably not from the catchment. This is a real problem. We have a government that just will not make a decision. I do not want the school closed down, but it could be another campus for Lockyer District High School. It can use it as an agricultural campus. It makes really good sense to do that. I cannot understand why it is not happening. If members want to see some of the data on that school, they can read question on notice No. 10 that I asked on 16 February 2016. I will not table that question, because we have been told that we should not table documents that are already contained in the budget. Unfortunately, that is an example of some of the poor decisions that are being made by this government that is frozen at the wheel.

I have an email from a constituent of mine whose name just happens to be Ian. That is a good name. It refers to the lack of facilities and appropriate truck stops for truck drivers on some of the highways. I will table this document.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 15 June 2016, from a constituent to the member for Lockyer, Mr Ian Rickuss MP, regarding toilets for truckies, and attaching a photograph [\[976\]](#).

Mr Krause: I think he might be one of my constituents.

Mr RICKUSS: He might be. He is from Mount Tamborine. In this email he refers to vasovagal syncope, which is fainting. He had quite a bad accident because he fainted, which occurred because he could not go to the toilet at the right time. Apparently, it is quite common. I spoke to the member for Greenslopes about it and he acknowledged that it was quite common. I know that the main roads minister will pick up this issue. It is important that we have appropriate truck stops. We have very strict regulations in relation to logbooks and fatigue management for truck drivers, but we also have to have in place the appropriate facilities for them. It is no good putting in place regulations and then just totally ignoring them.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to the V8s at Willowbank Raceway, which is located in my electorate. Willowbank Raceway provides a great boost for the Ipswich economy. The Labor government totally ignored its own constituency when it shifted the Queen's Birthday public holiday away from the Winternationals, which is one of the biggest events to be staged at Willowbank Raceway. That has affected the raceway. To also not have the V8s signed up for future years will be a disappointment. I am sure that people in Townsville and on the Gold Coast would also be disappointed. For a lot of people who enjoy motorsports, the V8s are an integral part of the racing calendar. I must admit that I have been down to Willowbank on numerous occasions and have given out some of the prizes. Willowbank Raceway is really an integral part of the Ipswich community. They have a great motorsports facility there.

Mr Harper: Did you do a hot lap?

Mr RICKUSS: No, I have not done a hot lap yet. The next issue that I would like to raise relates to the QBCC. I find it totally frustrating trying to deal with issues relating to the QBCC. I will table some documents.

Tabled paper: Extract from decision in the matter of MacDonald v Queensland Building and Construction Commission [2014] QCAT 158, pp. 1, 29-30 [\[977\]](#).

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Information to be provided to the Hon. Mick de Brenni MP, Minister for Housing and Public Works at meeting—Thursday 11 February 9 am—Reinstatement of Jonathan MacDonald's Builder's License' [\[978\]](#).

I have approached Minister Enoch and Minister De Brenni about this issue. John MacDonald is a builder of high-quality houses. He was a member of the rectification board of the QBSA. That was indicative of the quality of the work that he was doing. He became involved in a dispute, which ended up going to QCAT. He won the dispute. The decision states—

On the contrary, I find that his actions were consistent with an intention to perform the contract.

Accordingly, I would set aside the decision of the QBCC and find that the correct and preferable decision is that the homeowners did not validly terminate the contract on 19 August 2008 ... I would still conclude that the builder had not evinced an intention not to be bound or only to tender performance on a vastly different basis ... I make orders setting aside the decision of the QBCC, and substitute my own decision that the homeowners did not validly terminate the contract.

Unfortunately, the QBCC have taken this bloke's licence off him and will not give it back. I cannot get anyone to review the decision. I am staggered. I know that a new chairman has been appointed. I am frustrated by this decision. When you have a bureaucracy that goes mad, it affects small business and stifles growth. It is really disappointing that John MacDonald, who is a highly qualified builder, cannot get a decent decision.

I have spoken to Kellie Lowe who was the acting chairman. She procrastinated on what could be done about it. The ministers do not seem to be able to do anything about it. I know he has gone to the Ombudsman. That is dragging on as well. This is how government can stifle growth and get in the way of business. It is really disappointing. The member for Ipswich West complains about a quarry around the Ipswich area and has been trying to call it in.

Mrs Frecklington: I bet he still wants to drive on his roads.

Mr RICKUSS: That is right. The argument is that it uses state roads. Instead of trying to stifle businesses we need to work out solutions to the problems. I do not know whether the member is only trying to satisfy a few of his noisy constituents who are opposed to any type of development. Governments have to make decisions that will benefit the community.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (11.20 pm): Tuesday saw the Palaszczuk Labor government introduce its 2016 budget for Queensland. The Premier, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and all the front bench should be congratulated for the great budget that puts front and centre the Palaszczuk Labor government's policies to assist the regions that sadly were neglected during the reign of those opposite. The Cowboys did not miss out in the regions. The great North Queensland Cowboys will finally get their stadium in Townsville.

This budget reinforces our commitment to bring not only fiscally responsible, but morally responsible solutions to guide Queensland through the downturn in the resource industry and the impact that is having on jobs in the regions and also jobs in my electorate of Sunnybank. Within my electorate is Hastings Deering. Hastings Deering supplies the mining industry with those large dump trucks that transport minerals to be processed and then transported to the coast by train. Hastings Deering is just one example of heavy industry affected by the downturn in the mining industry which has resulted in high job losses in my electorate. The pain of job losses from the mining sector downturn is also very relevant in my electorate.

Whilst I have been speaking about some of the harder aspects of what is occurring in Sunnybank there is some good news for my electorate. This budget will make the life of my constituents so much easier. The children of my electorate will receive a better education by improving the services that are available to a number of the schools in my electorate. The constituents who rely on public housing will receive a further boost with the Cornerstone Living project in Coopers Plains. I take this opportunity to also highlight some of the achievements that have been introduced in the Labor Palaszczuk government's 2016 budget. I hold a special place in my heart for the Sunnybank Special School. The staff at that school are a great example of selfless devotion to the students they have in their care. That is why I am proud to be part of a Labor government that is delivering on education in my electorate, including \$150,000 to refurbish administration space and \$400,000 for site redevelopment at the Sunnybank Special School. Watson Road State School will get \$93,370 of the \$100,000 needed to complete work on an outdoor learning area. The Watson Road State School is one of the most diverse schools in my electorate. There are many Indigenous children at this school as well as many children from all over the globe. I know the parents, students and teachers at Watson Road State School will be very grateful to receive this funding to complete the outdoor learning area.

There is also \$3.3 million allocated from the 2016-17 budget as part of multiyear \$4.8 million government funding to the Technology Commercialisation Fund. The Palaszczuk government made an election commitment to attract funding for agriculture research, development and extension initiatives. In Kessels Road in my electorate is an agriculture research centre that will benefit from the increased funding that will ultimately benefit the whole of Queensland through the expansion of exports of our produce overseas. That is why I am pleased these funds are being spent in my electorate. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, in partnerships with universities and other research facilities, are continually developing new and innovative advancements in the agriculture sector but there is a gap between these advancements and making them a commercial reality. The Technology Commercialisation Fund will fill the gap and allow these innovations to jump the divide. The Technology Commercialisation Fund will engage with the private sector to invest in the government's agriculture and food based research and development with the aim to spearhead commercial innovations into both

the domestic and export markets. The flow-on effect of this will be more jobs, more profits and a more robust economy for the great state of Queensland. The funding we have given this initiative demonstrates our commitment to building a stronger agriculture industry in this great state to improve our ability to export our produce to the world. I commend the appropriation bills to the House.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.27 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2016. The 2016-17 state budget is a bad budget. It fails to deliver for Queensland and it sure as hell fails to deliver for the people of Mudgeeraba. It is a budget from an asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government that fails to get the basics right and does not deliver the projects my local area needs. In typical Labor style, electorates like mine have missed out in favour of marginal Labor electorates in a shameless display of political expediency and pork barrelling. This is another example of politics coming before people and campaigns coming before communities as even small ticket items set to make a big difference to my electorate were put on the backburner. The sad truth is that the projects we had secured under the former LNP government which meant so much to my communities have been scrapped, ignored and scuttled away. Of course, this comes as no surprise. This has been the consistent narrative of this government. It has been 18 months and this do-nothing Labor government has not delivered a single thing for my electorate. This holds true for other electorates across the state.

This is a budget of broken promises. This is a budget of more debt and more deficit. This is a budget of infrastructure neglect. On all accounts this is a typical bad Labor budget which boasts more taxes and nothing to show for it. It is arguably the worst budget in over 50 years since superannuation for public servants was fully funded as, in an economically irresponsible attempt to fill his budget black hole, the Treasurer has raided \$4 billion from the superannuation funds of our hardworking public servants. Despite this sneaky \$4 billion shift, we still see debt continuing to increase over the forward years. In fact, no matter how this government tries to spin it, this is a budget that includes an increase to net debt of \$7 billion. Debt is hurtling towards \$80 billion and this government has no plan to stop it. Whilst the Treasurer predicted an operating surplus of \$1.2 billion just last year, he has now predicted a surplus of just \$150 million. We still see infrastructure spending slashed by \$2.3 billion compared to the former LNP government, the lowest infrastructure spend in Queensland's history. Compared to the last budget delivered by the LNP, infrastructure spending is down by almost \$800 million. While last year the Treasurer promised an infrastructure spend of \$10.1 billion, he only spent \$8.1 billion.

As this Labor government heralds its so-called innovation budget, its so-called infrastructure budget, its so-called jobs budget, all we see are reckless raids, dodgy debt and the same old Labor. In contrast with this Labor government's failed budget that fails Queensland, the LNP has put forward our plan to get Queensland working, as outlined by the Leader of the Opposition earlier today in his budget-in-reply speech. Our plan will secure employment for Queenslanders across this state, particularly in electorates such as mine, with targeted support for small businesses and workers that will lead to up to 20,000 more jobs for young Queenslanders. Our plan will reduce the cost of working for young apprentices and incentivise businesses to train and retrain young Queenslanders.

Finding employment can be tough for young Queenslanders and for young people in my electorate. This plan will give them the vital opportunity they need to complete their training and get the experience they need to make a meaningful contribution to the workforce. Importantly, our plan will also include support for up to 20,000 Queensland tradies over four years by contributing \$500 towards new tools for apprentices upon completion of their training. We will provide a \$5,000 boost to businesses that take on new apprentices and help them complete their training. That grant will be available to businesses with a turnover of up to \$2 million and, as the Leader of the Opposition said, will provide 10,000 jobs for young Queenslanders over four years.

Recognising that workers compensation is an added expense for many small Queensland businesses, under our plan, after 12 months of continuous employment of each eligible worker, that worker's wages will be excluded as part of the next year's premium calculation for workers compensation. Any worker injured at work will still be covered.

We understand the costs young tradies in electorates like mine face when they start work and we are committed to easing the burden on our young workers. The LNP has a strong track record of getting young Queenslanders back to work and boosting employment in Queensland. Our positive plan to get Queensland working is in stark contrast to the theories and nonsensical propositions put forward by those opposite, with the Minister for Employment claiming youth employment is not new and there is not much you can change about it. As the Leader of the Opposition outlined in his budget-in-reply speech today, in the first 12 months of this Labor government 2,600 fewer Queenslanders started training and 7,100 fewer Queenslanders completed training.

On this side of the House, we know that something has to be done to get our young people the jobs they need. We know that the empty promises and careless disregard we are seeing under this Labor government are not the way to do it. Whilst this Labor government splashes money around, we are putting forward a real plan that will have a massive impact for young people in electorates such as mine. Our plan is a way for young people to get their foot in the door and to have the tools, training and experience that they need to stay in work and make a meaningful contribution to our state's economy. Under this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government, we are seeing unemployment go up and young people missing out, and our economy is suffering as a result.

Nowhere is the economic incompetence contained in this Labor budget more damaging than in the Mudgeeraba electorate. For 18 months we have felt the impact of this Labor government's careless disregard, as residents are spending less and less time with their families, out and about in our local area or contributing to our economy and more time stuck in traffic. Every single day, those residents of the southern Gold Coast who live south of Mudgeeraba, particularly in areas such as Robina and Reedy Creek, are stuck in traffic on their daily commute, as this government continues to hold up the upgrades of the M1 from exits 82 to 85. As members will recall, after Labor's first disastrous attempt at a budget last year I spoke about the failure of the Minister for Main Roads to ask for funding in the 2015-16 federal budget. Despite that embarrassing blunder, it did not stop the minister from issuing a media release following the federal budget in which he claimed to have asked for \$350 million to upgrade the M1 but had received nothing. Of course, what the minister was referring to was not a submission made by the Labor government as he would have us believe, but rather a submission made three years earlier by the former LNP government to the Rudd-Gillard-Rudd federal government, which was promptly ignored.

Four months later we saw this government contradicting themselves as the Deputy Premier came into the House and delivered a statement in which she lauded the fact that this government had finally mentioned an upgrade of the M1 on the Gold Coast to the federal government in their submission to Infrastructure Australia. No doubt Queenslanders and residents of my electorate were understandably baffled, as the Deputy Premier stood in this place and directly contradicted claims made four months earlier by her Labor colleague, the Minister for Main Roads. Not only had Labor taken seven months to prepare their submission; it became clear that they had simply rehashed initiatives from the former LNP government, including an M1 upgrade from Robina to Reedy Creek, with at least one other project being decades old.

Just as we thought that this Labor government could not possibly bumble and fumble any further, earlier this year the Minister for Main Roads outdid himself by forgetting to include the M1 in Labor's so-called State Infrastructure Plan. In April, I asked the minister about that blatant omission in a question on notice. After taking a month to think about it, the minister responded—

The M1 Pacific Motorway upgrade—Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes upgrade is listed on page 10 of the *State Infrastructure Plan, Part B: Program*, under the heading "Infrastructure Priority List—Queensland Projects

What the minister forgot to mention was that that page was not in fact listed in projects put forward by the Labor government, but rather was reiterating priority projects put forward by the federal coalition government in the Australian Infrastructure Plan. After my federal colleagues and I called the minister out on that latest instance of forgetfulness, we saw him publicly declare that he had submitted a final business case for the M1 upgrade six weeks prior. Unfortunately for the minister, that turned out to be another case of telling porkie pies as the federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport confirmed a final business case had been submitted only three weeks prior.

As a result of these continued delays and Labor holdups, we have now seen reports that commuters on the southern Gold Coast are spending the equivalent of four days a year in traffic and that commuters are now spending two more hours a week in traffic than they were a year ago. With our constituents sick of these delays, last week I joined the member for Burleigh to call on the Labor government to finally fund the next upgrade of the M1 in this week's state budget. We said it was about time this Labor government put their money where their mouth is and delivered the \$110 million we need to upgrade the M1. Our calls came amidst renewed public pressure for the Labor government to agree to a fifty-fifty funding split. Unfortunately, once again, the southern Gold Coast has been ignored.

This bad Labor budget is yet another nail in the coffin when it comes to seeing the M1 upgraded before the Commonwealth Games. After a year and a half in power, Labor has once again refused to commit any funding to upgrading the M1 between Robina and Reedy Creek. For 18 months, we have seen bumbles and fumbles, porky pies and bewildering forgetfulness, but now we can see clearly set in stone that this government is not serious about alleviating traffic congestion. This government has well and truly abandoned the southern Gold Coast.

In fact, in the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program, or QTRIP, for 2016-17 to 2019-20, for my electorate all we see is rehashed funding for projects I have already announced. On the Gold Coast-Springbrook Road, we see funding listed for a feasibility study for a future upgrade of the Austinville causeway. I announced that study in September of last year and it has already been completed. On Beechmont Road, we see funding listed for the installation of guardrails and a stopping bay, which is a project I announced in April after the Labor government finally caved in to months of political pressure and announced a quick-fix solution following a string of fatal and near-fatal accidents on that hazardous hinterland road. We see funding listed for the signalisation of the intersections of Gooding Drive, Palm Meadows Drive and Lakelands Drive, which is a project that I have been telling local residents about for the better part of a year.

For residents of my electorate, no new announcements for our roads is not the only disappointment that has come from this bad budget. Once again, we see no funding allocated to important local projects that would have been fully funded under an LNP government. The \$330,000 for CCTV cameras and lighting at the corner of Nerang-Murwillumbah Road and Pine Creek Road in the Numinbah Valley, which was a fully costed election commitment of the LNP, under Labor has slipped under the radar and remains unfunded in this year's bad Labor budget. For residents of Springbrook and the Numinbah Valley, that means that one of their biggest concerns will remain unaddressed. As members are aware after my speeches in this place, that location is a known hooning hotspot and is an ongoing concern for the Queensland Police Service, particularly our local officers at Nerang Police Station. The intersection is only five kilometres north of the Numinbah Valley township and only 150 to 200 metres from the Numinbah Valley Environmental Education Centre.

Hooning activity is putting the community and visiting students in danger, as fires started by the burning of tyres pose a serious bushfire risk and hooning activity causes those staying at the Environmental Education Centre great distress. That is why during the 2015 state election campaign, alongside the then minister for police, fire and emergency services, I announced that \$330,000 would be spent to address hooning at that location under a re-elected LNP government, which was part of our fully costed and audited election commitments. Since then, I have asked for assistance from the Labor government to address hooning at the location. I have asked that they deliver on the former LNP government's funding commitment.

To date and again in this bad Labor budget the community's concerns have fallen on deaf ears. Similarly, projects such as \$100,000 to clean up the Mudgeeraba Creek from the M1 to Swanton Drive in Mudgeeraba; \$80,000 for flashing school zone lights at Mudgeeraba Special School, Merrimac State School, Mudgeeraba Creek State School and Numinbah Valley State School; and \$155,000 for tourism signage in Springbrook at Wunburra Lookout have been ignored in this bad budget. These are projects that were fully funded and fully costed under the LNP but ripped away from the community under Labor. Whilst these projects would have enhanced our local environment, kept our schoolkids safe and boosted local tourism for the struggling Springbrook economy, this Labor government has continued to ignore our community.

Disappointingly, victims of domestic violence on the southern Gold Coast have also missed out in this bad Labor budget, with no funding allocated for the Robina Community Legal Centre. Half of the Robina Community Legal Centre's case load is made up of domestic violence victims with nowhere else to turn, who seek free legal advice from the volunteer lawyers at the centre. This Labor government has ignored the community's pleas for months, instead choosing to play politics and blame the federal government for all their woes, and their response to this budget is more of the same.

Whilst this budget is bad news for my electorate of Mudgeeraba, as the shadow minister for communities, women and youth, child safety and the prevention of domestic and family violence and shadow minister for disability services and seniors, I am pleased to see the good work started by the former LNP government being continued. As members are aware, the former LNP government began the tremendous task of reforming our state's child safety system, of stamping out domestic violence in our communities and of getting Queensland ready for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

The LNP instigated the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry, chaired by the Hon. Tim Carmody QC, and committed over \$400 million to implement the report's key recommendations. The commission was directed to deliver recommendations on reforms to ensure that Queensland's child protection system achieves the best possible outcomes to protect children and support families. The LNP accepted all 121 of the commission's recommendations and passed the Public Guardian Act 2014, the Family and Child Commission Act 2014 and the Child Protection Reform Amendment Act 2014. This budget contains funding to continue the implementation of these reforms.

When it comes to the prevention of domestic and family violence, the LNP commissioned the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, chaired by Dame Quentin Bryce, which produced the *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland* final report. The report identified a framework for change and improved responses to domestic and family violence. The LNP opposition has offered bipartisan support for all 140 recommendations of the report, aiming to eliminate the scourge of domestic and family violence from our community. I am pleased to see the Labor government allocate funding to continue to implement these recommendations.

In the critical area of disability services, the LNP wholeheartedly supported the National Disability Insurance Scheme, giving Queenslanders with a disability greater control and choice over their care. The LNP signed up for the National Disability Insurance Scheme in 2013. The LNP had inherited from Labor the lowest per capita disability spend of any state in Australia.

The Queensland and Australian governments signed a bilateral agreement announced in March 2016 for the rollout of the NDIS across Queensland. Whilst the LNP welcomed the signing of this bilateral agreement, it was disappointing to see the Palaszczuk Labor government playing politics with the federal government and delaying signing the agreement for almost 12 months. Credit must be paid to the member for Aspley for her outstanding tenure as the minister in the former LNP government, for without her bold approach to tackling child safety and domestic and family violence we would not see these issues being addressed.

I am pleased to see that almost \$200 million over five years has been allocated to address domestic and family violence in Queensland, in line with the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report. I commend the minister for her commitment to continuing the good work of the former LNP government and ensuring that we continue to curb the scourge of domestic violence in this state. This includes through the development of new and enhanced specialist and generalist domestic and family violence services that will be directed towards closing current service gaps. In total, this funding commitment is worth \$43.1 million over four years. I am pleased to see a continuation of the important reforms begun under the former LNP government by the member for Aspley. I also welcome the allocation of funding to the rollout of the NDIS which begins next month, continuing the LNP's commitment to the most significant disability services reform of our generation.

Overall, however, this is a budget that does not deliver for Queensland. It is a budget that does not deliver for my electorate of Mudgeeraba. It is a budget of more debt and deficit, raids of public servants' superannuation, broken promises and record low spending on infrastructure. As a result, my constituents will continue to miss out under an asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government with no plan for our area and no plan for the southern Gold Coast.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (11.44 pm): I rise tonight to speak in support of the Treasurer's budget presented on Tuesday. What a great budget it was. Do not take my word for it. Let us look at the contribution that the member for Dalrymple gave earlier. His were independent eyes that looked over the budget. The member for Dalrymple has been in this House since 2004.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BROWN: That is a lot longer than some of those opposite. He said that it is the best budget he has seen. It is a budget that backs Queenslanders. It does not sack Queenslanders. It backs Queenslanders into jobs and supports them when it comes to services. It does this by growing innovation, attracting investment and building on infrastructure.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr BROWN: I have woken them up. That is good. It does this while delivering budget surpluses into the four-year forecasts.

What hits me first about the budget on Tuesday is that it restores front-line services. We saw when those opposite were in government that they cut front-line services—slash and burn. Now we will see the jobs in those services come back—940 new 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. Despite the *Courier-Mail* calling them bureaucrats, I do not see the member for Burdekin, the member for Barron River or the member for Thuringowa getting around saying that they were bureaucrats. They are front-line service providers.

A government member: Working Queenslanders.

Mr BROWN: I will take the interjection. They are front-line working Queenslanders. Front-line services comprise 86 per cent FTEs.

I talk a lot with parents in my community about their children looking to buy their first home. We have seen the first home buyers grant increased from \$15,000 to \$20,000. This is a big help for first home buyers in my area trying to get into a tough market. There are limited opportunities for this in the Redlands. I know that this will be a helping hand for those people looking to get into the housing market.

This budget also addresses the environment. I commend the work done by the Minister for Environment and for acting quickly after the UQ report into koala populations. An extra \$12 million has been allocated to protect koalas. I commend him for his efforts in that regard. As we know, the logo for the Redland City Council is the koala. It is important that we protect the koala coast. I look forward to evidence based solutions that come from that funding.

This budget also delivers in terms of education in my area. I commend the work of the education minister. She is a real firecracker who delivers for my community. Some \$2 million has been allocated to construct the Redlands early years service which is a wraparound centre at the Capalaba State College. That is a great initiative. There is \$380,000 for refurbishments at the Alexandra Hills State High School. There is \$200,000 for refurbishments at Birkdale South State School.

The budget provides not only for state school children but also for children with disability. I commend the work of the Minister for Disability Services. She came out to Silky Oaks Children's Haven in my electorate which has been allocated \$673,000. We noticed on the day the great work that the staff do to make sure that these children have a chance in life and a chance to go to school. We saw such joy on the faces of those children and their parents that day. I thank the minister for coming out. I thank her even more for the funding that she has provided in this budget.

The final part of this budget that I want to address is how we are getting the Redlands moving. We are getting the Redlands moving through the Fairer Fares announcement of the Minister for Transport earlier this week.

Mr McEachan: Not fair for the islands.

Mr BROWN: I take the interjection from the member for Redlands. He is the only person I have heard complain about a discount. They are actually getting a discount, but it is not enough. He makes out to be a neoliberal, but he then moves away from a user-pays system. He wants free ferries. Ask the member for Cleveland whether Straddie should get free ferries. He is the only opposition member who has moved away from a user-pays system. They do not want socialism unless it is in their seat.

This budget gets Redlands moving via Fairer Fares. I commend the work of the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Transport. This means that workers in my area travelling each day from Thorneside train station, Birkdale train station and from Capalaba park-and-ride will save \$889 annually. There is also a number of pensioners who travel in the Redlands using this transport. They will save up to \$3.78 every trip because of this government initiative. I applaud the work of both ministers and the Deputy Premier.

This initiative works alongside the Thorneside train station park-and-ride upgrade with 136 parks and up to 180 parks. The Cross River Rail is vitally important for the Cleveland line. We cannot increase capacity unless we have Cross River Rail. A \$50 million down payment means that this project is back on track after the disastrous BaT tunnel of those opposite. The Cross River Rail is expected to cut journeys on the Cleveland line by 14 minutes. We are moving Redlanders into their work and into the city. We are doing that not only through public transport but through our roads.

I am pleased at the Minister for Main Roads' budget announcement regarding Old Cleveland Road planning and design work and at the \$205,000 on-ramp to the Gateway Motorway. The members for Redlands, Cleveland and Chatsworth know that traffic banks up in the morning and that this is a much needed solution. I am glad that we on this side can deliver it. We are getting Redlands moving by bus, road and rail. This is a great budget in that regard.

In summary, this is unashamedly a Labor budget which delivers innovation, investment and infrastructure, which restores front-line services and which is great for local education, local community groups and transport. I commend the budget to the House.

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (11.51 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Appropriations Bill. One would think that with Queensland burdened with the highest per capita debt in the country—a debt that is Labor's legacy piled upon Queenslanders while it sold assets, a debt that Labor wantonly and recklessly grew and in doing so created an intergenerational burden—Labor would hesitate to plunder the \$4 billion put aside to ensure the retirement income of Queensland's public

servants. Further, Labor is growing the public service at a near record rate, up to six times the rate of last year's population growth in Queensland and twice the population growth rate this year. This irresponsible engorgement of the public service combined with this reckless risk-taking endangers the defined benefit super scheme. I predict that under Labor it will soon go into deficit.

In yesterday's *Australian* newspaper it was reported that the State Actuary warned against grabbing \$4 billion of the defined benefit surplus as it markedly increased the risk of the fund plunging into deficit by 2020. If that happens, the State Actuary warns that Queensland taxpayers would have to stump up the extra cash to ensure bureaucrats receive their retirement entitlements. There is no evidence that Labor can manage a budget at any level of government. Federally, no Labor government has ever left Australia in surplus since Federation. For 115 years they have left a legacy of debt. The DNA is the same. It is the same old Labor. The members for Ferny Grove and Redcliffe are examples of that. They have never worked under a Labor government that has not driven Australia into debt.

Queenslanders are being ripped off. Queensland is being devalued by economic incompetence and recklessness. It is a value writ large. When other states with their AAA credit ratings intact look to Queensland, they see a great state mismanaged. They see proud Queenslanders suffering under Labor's ideological mantra. They engorge the Public Service, unfairly compete with private enterprise and pander to a glut of unelected union heavies. In Queensland, we have what is in effect a money-laundering scheme that Don Corleone would be proud of.

Queensland taxpayers pay the public service, taxpayers pay for Labor's union encouragement initiative, union numbers grow, their dues are tax deductible, the union pays for untruthful, distorted, manipulative campaigns to keep Labor in power, the unions donate their taxpayer funded dues to the Labor Party, the Labor Party further legislates to empower the unions, the Labor Party's black shirts intimidate and threaten anyone who stands up to them including MPs, mum-and-dad businesses, and Queensland families—in one word, thugs.

Last night we saw the Premier and her Labor government come into the chamber and vote to create the single largest energy company anywhere in Australia, an energy company that in the explanatory notes provides for the establishment of an energy services retail business fully owned by the Queensland government in direct competition with mum-and-dad businesses. As we heard this morning, some are faced with the decision of laying off employees because simply they cannot compete with this government and union controlled enterprise. This government is not creating jobs for ordinary Queenslanders: it is only interested in retaining their jobs by lining the pockets of their union masters on Peel Street.

This Labor government has let down Redlanders badly. Redlands is one of the fastest growing electorates in Queensland. The city of Redlands includes the electorates of Capalaba, Cleveland and of course Redlands. By urban population, it is the fifth largest city in Queensland, bigger than Cairns, Toowoomba, Mackay and Rockhampton. We are fiercely proud of our part of the world and protective of it. We love living there. We love the bay. We love our bushland. We have fantastic community groups and we look out for each other.

If we consider comparable cities in Queensland, we can note what the Palaszczuk government is doing for them. I refer to the Regional Action Plan. In Cairns, there is an additional \$33.5 million for tourism. Compare that to North Stradbroke Island in the City of Redlands which is getting just \$20 million after Labor closed down its primary industry, the sand mine. In Townsville there is another \$33.5 million in additional funding for tourism. Compare that to North Stradbroke, still stuck on \$20 million after its only viable industry was shut down. There was another \$33.6 million for capital works and schools. In Redlands, we got nothing. In Mackay, there is another \$33.5 million for tourism by way of additional funding.

Mr Pearce: Table the document.

Mr McEACHAN: It was already tabled; the Treasurer tabled it on Tuesday. How is Peak Downs going? Look at what the City of Redlands gets when within the electorate of Redlands we hardly get a brass razoo. Our roads are bursting at the seams, island car parking is overflowing, our schools are on enrolment management plans and our hospital needs serious investment to provide more beds, services, better access and support for the hardworking staff.

This a spiteful budget from the Palaszczuk Labor government for all of Redland City. The poor old member for Capalaba must be out of favour at the moment, because the only significant funding he received in Capalaba was for the Redlands electorate, specifically residents of Redland Bay. The Treasurer is putting money into Capalaba not for Capalaba residents but for Redland Bay residents.

This might be of some benefit to them, except that for Redlands residents it can take up to an hour to get there because traffic is at a standstill, just like this government. The level of incompetence, ineptitude and indolence from this Palaszczuk government is simply staggering. It bears repeating: the level of incompetence, ineptitude and indolence from this Palaszczuk Labor government is simply staggering. The Palaszczuk Labor government claims this is an infrastructure budget yet it has the lowest infrastructure spend in Queensland's history.

Under the Palaszczuk Labor government the people of Redlands, including the residents of Southern Moreton Bay islands, are slugged higher fees, levies and charges with nothing to show for their hard-earned taxes. The Palaszczuk Labor government has yet again shown contempt for the people in the islands of my electorate by denying them provision of a zone 3 or even 4 in the public transport zone review, and punting them out to zone 5 is on a par with the Sunshine Coast up to 100 kilometres away.

The Southern Moreton Bay Islands are unique in Queensland. They are alive with community groups, arts enthusiasts, volunteers, up to 500 businesses, retirees, RSLs, sporting clubs and schools. These vibrant communities do all this in spite of communal disadvantage compared to the mainland. Last year's *Dropping off the edge* report assesses this persistent communal disadvantage to be equivalent to that of Palm Island, which I note in this year's budget received \$32.6 million ongoing in the forecasts. Yet what do we see for this part of Redlands? Absolutely nothing.

Enough is enough. The residents of southern Moreton Bay islands are sick to death of being treated like second-class citizens. When will this asleep-at-the-wheel, do-nothing Premier and her Labor government finally start governing for all Queenslanders, not just those at Peel Street and their acolytes? I encourage all residents of Redlands to visit my website and tell this incompetent Palaszczuk Labor government exactly what they think of her plan to yet again treat them with disdain.

The electorate of Redlands needs comprehensive investment across a range of portfolios. As an LNP member, I will continue to fight for proper investment in our roads. Recently the roads minister declared, 'We buy and sell assets all the time.' This minister sold the Mount Cotton Training Centre. Redlanders reasonably expected that some or all of the proceeds would be invested in local state roads, but, in the member for Yeerongpilly's infinite wisdom, it has been spent on government advertising and the Redlands community is ripped off again.

I remind the minister that we have just two direct points of access to Brisbane from the Redlands electorate—Cleveland-Redland Bay Road and Mount Cotton Road. Only the LNP is committed to upgrading the Anita Street intersection with Cleveland-Redland Bay Road. Only the LNP is committed to upgrading Cleveland Redland Bay Road to dual lanes from Magnolia to Double Jump. I will continue to fight for more roads funding across the electorate. I will continue to fight for front-line service staff including more police for Victoria Point, Redland Bay and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands; more doctors and nurses for Redland Hospital; and more teachers and improved facilities for kids at our local schools.

Infrastructure for boaties, kayakers, sailors and fishers needs serious investment. If you want to tie up your yacht, cruiser or tinnie anywhere in the Redlands electorate, incredibly there is nowhere you can do it. Thousands of boats go past our wonderful islands smack bang in the middle of Moreton Bay Marine Park unable to refuel, take on supplies or step ashore to enjoy warm hospitality and coffee at places like Auntie Alice's Cafe or the Blue Parrot Cafe.

Redlands punches well above its weight. We are an aspirational community, and all we ask is for a fair go with the taxes, fees and charges we contribute to the Queensland economy. We are sick of being duded by Labor. Under the previous LNP government, tough decisions were taken. They were taken for the benefit of all Queenslanders with the future of all Queenslanders in mind. They were taken with the grim understanding that Labor had driven Queensland's balance sheet to something akin to an Edgar Allan Poe horror story. Debt was hidden in GOCs, terms of trade were in freefall, public sector spending had to be financed by borrowings and surgery waiting lists were totally out of control. The former premier had declared that Health was broken and, like Humpty Dumpty, could not be put back together again. It was a rotten, stinking mess and Queenslanders were right to sweep irresponsible Labor members into the dustbin of history.

Only the LNP has a clear plan to kickstart jobs for the youth of Queensland and support businesses that give them a go. Labor has no plan and is more than asleep at the wheel; indeed, it has slipped into a coma. To its shame, youth unemployment has grown under this Labor Palaszczuk government. This Premier's own employment minister even had the gall to say that youth unemployment was not new and there was not much you could change. The LNP believes that you can

have a plan to help young Queenslanders get a job or a qualification. By contrast, the LNP has a plan to create up to 20,000 jobs as part of our plan to get Queensland working. It is a plan that includes increasing apprentice opportunities for up to 10,000 young Queenslanders, helping tradies to get working with a \$500 tool voucher upon completion of their apprenticeship, and providing small businesses with incentives to help train and retain young Queenslanders—young Queenslanders who just want a job and a fair go. Our LNP plan will be guided by experts, not by union heavies, with the establishment of the Ministerial Industry Commission.

Only the LNP has the energy, experience and commitment to get Queensland working and creating jobs and opportunities for young Queenslanders. Only the LNP has a plan for Queensland and only the LNP will deliver for Redlands.

 **Mr WILLIAMS** (Pumicestone—ALP) (12.05 am): It gives me great pleasure to rise to congratulate Treasurer Curtis Pitt on delivering a sound, innovative budget on behalf of the Palaszczuk government. This budget is a budget for all Queenslanders and, more importantly, it delivers for the people of Pumicestone. They are my first responsibility in this parliament.

This budget is delivering for communities. In 2015 it was a lean budget as we endeavoured to repair the fiscal destruction caused by three years of the Newman LNP government. Alarming, the only piece of infrastructure they built in those three years was the \$2,600 million spent on the LNP's tower of power, 1 William Street. Make no mistake: those opposite voted for this with Newman, as did all past members. They committed a fraud on their electorates.

Our wonderful Pumicestone people will receive a \$4 million Caboolture Hospital car park, which my colleague Mark Ryan and I fought to achieve, and it will be free to users. I thank the health minister, Cameron Dick, for that. The hospital itself was promised by the LNP for three elections prior to the 1989 election. It took Labor's Jon Sullivan to get elected to finally make this happen.

More recently, this car park was promised by the LNP's Andrew Powell, the member for Glass House and the former member for Pumicestone. It was never delivered—just promised and promised and promised. This hospital is in Pumicestone. With all the attention from the member for Glass House, I wonder whether he does not like the people in his own electorate. Then there is the federal member, Wyatt Roy, who came out with a hollow election promise of \$2 million to do a \$4 million job. That would be like trying to get blood out of a stone. He has had six years to do it and all of a sudden he wants to do it now. It is all right, Wyatt; Labor has done it.

The people of Pumicestone are getting a new Caboolture Police Station and a watch house upgrade. Stage 1 is worth \$2 million and the total cost is \$7.8 million. Three schools in my electorate will receive funding. Bribie Island State High School will get \$100,000 to replace a leaky roof on two blocks. Caboolture State High School, one of the oldest schools in the area, will get \$200,000 to refurbish the manual arts block. They have been waiting for this for some 20 years. Tullawong State High School will receive a new home economics refurbishment worth \$200,000. We are spending money on our community. We can do that because there has been no helicopter joy rides taken by Labor members, unlike Jarrod Bishop.

A government member: Who?

Mr WILLIAMS: The member for Kawana. I will talk further of the benefits to the people of Pumicestone and to Queensland, but I digress. As a former certified financial planner, I have worked extensively in the superannuation environment. Accumulated funds return the initial investment plus interest. This is the type of fund that most of us have today. However, defined benefit funds operate totally different from these funds. They deliver a benefit equal to a multiple times of one's average salary. The actuarial calculations commonly reveal that these funds develop a massive excess. This is not a raid on the defined benefit fund; in fact, it is a safe redistribution based on the actuarially calculated excess in the fund.

The Caboolture River requires a new bridge. It will cost \$11.6 million. This has to be done; it is not a luxury item. Bribie Island Road needs some traffic lights; there is \$2.8 million there. We had a fatality there recently and there is some blackspot money coming into that. It is a safety issue; again, it is not a luxury item. The electricity substation at west Caboolture will cost \$5.1 million. This upgrade is necessary to stop blackouts in the area and to cater for expected future growth. Further extension of a warm-up area at the State Equestrian Centre at Caboolture will cost \$190,000. Interestingly, this is in the member for Glass House's area.

Ms Boyd: Is it?

Mr WILLIAMS: Yes. Maybe the member has been playing up so I get the joy of announcing it for him. He has not done much else in the last four years.

Biggs Avenue at Beachmere needs a new seawall. That is going to cost just under a million dollars. We have had money spent on the Pumicestone region, but it has been neglected for some time. This is all necessary works. There are really no luxury items in any of the works we are having done.

To ensure children in need of protection in Pumicestone and others have a safe place to stay and maybe some counselling and court support, \$8.5 million in funding will be spent across several community groups that work in this area. We are a high needs area. The fantastic workers at the Bribie Island and Caboolture neighbourhood centres will receive \$225,000 for the invaluable work they do in our community. We will receive \$576,000 in transitional housing for high and very high needs applicants under a community rent scheme.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to our community. The former LNP government ripped their hearts out with cuts; we are restoring front-line services. The Fairer Fares travel savings announced by the Minister for Transport, Stirling Hinchliffe, the member for Sandgate, are of great value to the people of Pumicestone. They will be able to save up to \$748.80 annually if they travel back and forth to Brisbane on a daily basis. Even more importantly, it applies to parents who take kids to sporting fixtures on weekends. Children up to 14 will be able to travel free. This will be a great benefit to the people of Pumicestone.

Lastly, Queensland is transitioning from a mining economy to biofuels, innovation, education and tourism. This is important for farmers, for businesses both large and small and for all workers. Our new Queensland economic strategy will transition us from a mining economy. The measures the cabinet have put in place are sound and we will have confidence in our economy going forward knowing that it will go from strength to strength. I commend the appropriation bills to the House.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (12.14 am): I rise to deliver my speech on the budget for the Hervey Bay electorate. Firstly, I want to talk about the announcement that there is \$209,000 in the budget out of \$373,000 to go to the proposal to extend the Fraser Island World Heritage area. Is this a Green-Labor handshake that will further lock up the Fraser coast, with increased green zones and no-go zones? When I was the mayor of Hervey Bay, I realised just how they can lock up things. When they made it a marine park, we were thinking about dredging to put sand on the beach. After it became a marine park, we had to go back and do more studies. I understand how these types of things can cost coastal areas huge amounts of money for very little gain at the end of the day. I am not quite sure

The area for extension will be the Cooloola section of the Great Sandy National Park, the Breaksea Spit to the north of Fraser Island, Platypus Bay, the Great Sandy Strait, Tin Can Bay, the Ramsar area and the Wide Bay Military Reserve. Will this extension of the World Heritage area have a negative impact on the industries in the Hervey Bay region? How will this announcement affect our commercial and recreational fishing industries? How will it affect the future of the marine developments to cater for the extra boating facilities for recreational fishermen, channel dredging or the construction of more floating jetties and sea access? In Hervey Bay we have a thriving commercial fishing industry which employs hundreds of people on the Fraser Coast. Hundreds of small businesses earn a living by supplying services to the commercial fishing industry.

Fraser Coast seafood is world renowned and delicious, especially the Hervey Bay scallops. That seafood goes all around Australia and it is exported overseas as well. What is going to happen? One of the stupid things that is happening in the scallop industry is that they have stopped one of the fishermen from dumping the shells into the sea. I watched *Landline* the other day and it showed that in Western Australia they are actually encouraging the fishermen to put the shells back into the sea and they are doing the same thing in Tasmania, yet fishermen in Hervey Bay are told not to do it. I cannot understand why. It is stupid red tape and all the rest of it that goes with it.

Our commercial fishermen are the farmers of the sea and they execute sound fishing practice and that is why they are still there. If they did not, they would not be in the industry still. Something that the opposition cannot quite grab—

Mr King: You're the opposition, Ted.

Mr SORENSEN: To me, you are the opposition at the moment. This work cannot be done from Brisbane. The workers have to get out there to see what is happening on the ground. It is just crazy that an employee would be able to do their work here in the government offices. I remember one time when I was the mayor I was arguing with a guy and I asked him how long it had been since he had

been in Hervey Bay. He said it was about 30 years before that and he told me what a little seaside resort it was. How can people in Brisbane sit in Brisbane and tell us what to do? It is absolutely ridiculous, and it just goes on and on and on. I will be watching closely to make sure the extensions do not push industries from the very high unemployment areas like Hervey Bay. We have very high unemployment in Wide Bay. We have 20 per cent youth unemployment, we have 10 per cent unemployment and the government is virtually doing nothing in Wide Bay. These things are ruining the place. In contrast, the LNP worked for the recreational anglers by creating artificial reefs in Hervey Bay. The Simpson and Hardie reefs just off Fraser Island in the Great Sandy Strait were welcomed by the fishers.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr SORENSEN: It certainly was a great initiative by our government to make sure that it was done. It has been constructed as part of the LNP government's \$50 million Marine Infrastructure Fund. The LNP ensured that both of our fishing industries were viable with improved infrastructure.

This budget does very little to address the cost-of-living pressures for the people of Hervey Bay. When the LNP was in government we were determined to make a difference there where it counted such as by freezing car registration. Business confidence has plummeted and investment has stalled because they are being slugged with higher taxes and more red tape under this asleep-at-the-wheel government. The outcome is having a negative impact on jobs growth, where more than 40,000 full-time jobs have been lost in the last three months. If we look at what the Australian Bureau of Statistics has to say about that, we see that 40,000 full-time jobs have disappeared in the last three months on a seasonally adjusted basis.

No matter which way we look at this, today's job figures are bad news for Queenslanders looking for jobs. The trend unemployment rate has increased for the fourth consecutive month, up to 6.4 per cent. Queensland was the only state in Australia to go backwards in the last month. While the seasonally adjusted measures went down to 6.4 per cent, this has been driven by the decline in participant rates of Queenslanders who have given up hope of finding a job. More and more people have given up looking for work and around 5,000 full-time jobs were lost in May.

It always amazes me how many people move in to Hervey Bay and move out again. I guess they give up on trying to find a job in Queensland and go back to New South Wales and Victoria. That is what happens. It is quite amazing. Last month around 1,000 people moved into Hervey Bay and usually more than that move out. People come up here, they cannot get a job and they move out again.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I would urge you not to provoke the member for Hervey Bay.

Mr SORENSEN: Interestingly, they talk about regurgitating. I can never get over how much the Labor Party regurgitates things. On 14 August 2015 there was an announcement of \$26 million to upgrade the Yarrilee school intersection. The day before the 2016 budget an article stated—

Ahead of Treasurer Curtis Pitt's second budget, Mr Saunders confirmed \$26 million for the Pialba-Burrum Heads Rd, Scrub Hill Rd—

which is known as the Yarrilee intersection. However, the next day in the budget the amount dropped down to \$2.2 million to install traffic lights at the Scrub Hill Road-Wide Bay Road infrastructure. What happens to the \$26 million? It is being regurgitated all the time. A lot of these promises are regurgitated time after time. Even the Minister for Main Roads, Mr Bailey, is struggling. He said in the House that the intersection at Hervey Bay and Urraween roads had already been upgraded four weeks ago and that I and my colleagues need to keep up with the pace. Of course, there was no upgrade. There has not been an upgrade, but he said in this parliament that it had been upgraded four weeks ago.

Mr Boothman: It is in his mind over there.

Mr SORENSEN: It must be. The intersections do need work for motorists' safety.

There was a promise from this government to deliver more infrastructure for regional Queensland, but infrastructure spending has been slashed in key regional areas like Wide Bay. They promised infrastructure, but infrastructure investment is down to record lows. The annual infrastructure spend in the Wide Bay is down by a whopping \$400 million when compared to the last LNP budget. This is a perfect example of how out of control the finances are. The budget papers tabled this financial year still do not show the \$26 million needed for the upgrades on the Fraser Coast in the 2016-17 financial year. There is some regurgitation.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hervey Bay, I am sorry to interrupt your speech. I would urge members to take their private conversations outside.

Mr SORENSEN: The other thing that I would like to talk about is the \$7.8 million to secure high-resolution satellite imagery coverage of Queensland, making it clear that the government intends to target farmers and landowners managing vegetation on their properties and treat them like criminals. That is pretty accurate. Those poor old farmers out there are struggling all the time and now they have this satellite imagery. While I would normally welcome the use of satellite imagery, Labor's track record on pandering to the green groups and treating farmers like criminals makes me very nervous about the government's true motivation and intentions. The government is really giving the farmers a hard time out there in relation to this. We have talked to some of those farmers out there who have had to go to court to prove themselves innocent. Criminals do not have to do that.

A government member interjected.

Mr SORENSEN: It is; it is the \$7.8 million that is in the budget for the—

Mr King: Absolutely nothing to do with the budget.

Mr SORENSEN: It is—

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. It is getting late. I urge you to allow the member for Hervey Bay to finish his speech so we can move on.

Mr SORENSEN: I am also really disappointed when journalists write things like this article titled 'Pitt's day of reckoning will come, and it's not far off'. The article states—

When it comes to analysing a state budget, there are two key variables to look for. What's happening to employee expenses and what's happening to government debt.

On both scores, the Queensland government's mark is a fail.

Then it goes on to say—

... Queensland has the highest gross debt per capita of all the states ...

It continues—

The bottom line is this: resorting to fancy financial accounting, raiding the super fund and getting government-owned corporations to load up on debt (last year's trick) won't resolve the massive financial black hole that is the key feature of Queensland's public finances.

They cannot keep raiding the piggy bank.

Mr Power: We're not.

Mr SORENSEN: The government is raiding the piggy bank. They cannot tell me they are not. The article goes on to say—

And, by the way, forecasting a growth rate of 4 per cent for the Queensland economy next financial year is completely fanciful.

It goes on and on. We only have to read the papers to see right through the government's little tricks about how it is going to finance things and all the rest over it. I have been fighting for the *Tobruk* to come to Hervey Bay and fighting with—

Mr Butcher: I've been to Hervey Bay.

Mr SORENSEN: That is good, so long as you left some money behind. We have been fighting hard to get the *Tobruk* to Hervey Bay because a lot of sailors from Hervey Bay have sailed on the *Tobruk* and we have had a lot of community support to get it there. I must admit that it has been a little bit disappointing. I have to say that Kate Jones had the decency to meet with us.

I went to the Premier time and time again but I could not get a meeting with the Premier. The only thing I could do was to put it in a question without notice to get some sort of answer. It would be a great thing for Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, Burrum Heads and places like that if we could have the *Tobruk* in the area. Keith Pitt, the member for Hinkler, has worked really hard to make sure that the navy gives us the boat in the first place. They could have scrapped it or sent it overseas to one of the neighbouring countries as a gift. We convinced the navy to allow us to have the boat as a recreational dive site, and it would be great to have it in Hervey Bay. We have put a lot of effort into it. We have had people go down and have a look at the boat. We have had a report on the boat and different things like that, but at the end of the day we are not getting the support that we should be getting.

The federal government wants to give Tasmania X amount of dollars to sink it down in Tasmania, and the Labor candidate got on television the other night and said, 'We don't need it.' I could not believe what he was saying. We are supposed to fight for our own area, and he is saying that they should sink it in Tasmania and that we do not need it in Queensland. Hervey Bay does need different things because tourism is an industry where you have to reinvent yourself all the time to make sure that you have different products and different things for people to come to see. The Labor candidate for Hinkler pops up and says, 'We don't want it.'

Mr Power: That has nothing to do with our budget.

Mr SORENSEN: We have been asking for money for a long time, mate. You have been talking about a lot of things tonight that have nothing to do with the budget, that is for sure. Bloody oath, there's a lot of stuff that goes on here, but I will not say that. I am running out of time, but I must admit that it is a very disappointing budget for Hervey Bay. The only thing that is there is not good news for Hervey Bay. We got about \$150,000 for a toilet on Fraser Island and I think that is about it. If the Labor government thinks this is a great government, when you read all the comments in the *Courier-Mail* and the *Australian* and the journalists are bagging it all the time, it makes you feel pretty disappointed that the Queensland government is that far backwards compared to governments in other states in Australia. It makes this government look like the village idiots of Australia, as far as I am concerned.

A government member interjected.

Mr SORENSEN: No, they are not. You are reading the wrong papers, mate. You might be reading the *Townsville Times* or something. This useless budget is a real disappointment. It is one of the worst budgets I have ever seen in my lifetime. I have handed down budgets in the council, and you have to make sure that your fiscal management is in place. We are just heading down a big black hole, and how we are going to get out of it at the end of the day is quite devastating to think about. You just have to make sure that you have some sort of fiscal management in this whole place, but those guys have nothing. They talk absolute rubbish; they really do.

It is about time that they stood up for Queenslanders and made sure that we get things like the *Tobruk* into Queensland, to make sure that we have a good tourist industry and to make sure that we really have some meaningful stuff at the end of the day. Spending nearly \$400,000 in this area is absolutely ridiculous when we need other infrastructure. All we can do is spend \$400,000 to expand the World Heritage area around Fraser Island, and what is that going to do to Hervey Bay and other coastal towns down to Gympie and all those places? At a time like this it is absolutely ridiculous. I cannot believe it, and I believe they should be damned ashamed of themselves for wasting money like that.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (12.35 am): I rise to wholeheartedly support the Queensland budget, which was delivered by the Treasurer in parliament this week. I congratulate the Premier, the Treasurer and all of our ministers, who take so seriously their responsibility to do the right thing by Queenslanders and to invest in their future. They work so hard and they are everywhere all the time talking to us, talking to Queenslanders, and making sure they are always in touch with what this state needs. I am so excited about this budget that, if I had to pick my favourite things about it, I almost would not even know where to start; however, of course I do know where to start, and that is in talking about the wonderful things and the many ways in which my electorate is going to benefit from this budget. I have had such great pleasure letting people know about the budget this week since the Treasurer delivered his speech.

I have 13 wonderful schools in my electorate, and I am so proud to work alongside them. Each has their own—

Mr Ryan interjected.

Ms FARMER: I take that interjection, thank you, member for Morayfield. Each has their own special character and strength, and each has so much to offer the students of our community. Our parents are spoilt for choice. That is why I was so delighted to see several of our local schools in particular receive a well-deserved share of funding in the Education budget. I want to thank the Minister for Education and her wonderful staff for delivering this for us.

I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated into *Hansard*, and I have had approval from one of the other Deputy Speakers.

Leave granted.

She has spent many hours listening to my entreaties about our local schools, and she has shown through this budget that she has a true and genuine understanding of what needs to be done to ensure children across the state can aspire to be the best that they can be. But locally, Mr Speaker: The mighty Balmoral State High School will receive almost \$1 million in funding for

refurbishments of classrooms in A and C blocks, and of their Multi-Purpose Sports Hall. I am delighted about the classrooms as this work is badly needed. However it's the Sports Hall that I'm especially pleased about, as this is something that I have been working with the school community on for some years now. I know how thrilled they all are, and I congratulate Acting Principal Gerowyn Lacaze and P&C President Lisa Marzano, and their predecessors, and the enthusiastic teachers, parent and students of the school—for the constructive way in which they have put forward their best case. What says a lot about Balmoral High is that the other school communities in our local area are equally pleased for them about this budget announcement. We all have such a special place in our hearts for Balmoral High and we know what this funding boost will mean for them. We are very proud for them.

It was also a great delight to phone Ben Turner, the Acting Principal of Murarrie State School, and Robert Stansfield, the long-standing President of its P&C, to let them know that the school would receive \$550 000 for refurbishments of the multi-purpose sports hall, of B Block and of the Collaborative Outdoor Learning Area. This is the most precious school Mr Speaker small but with the closest school community you could imagine. They had a hard year last year but things have been looking up in 2016, and I know this news has been the icing on the cake. I want to commend Ben in particular for the great work he's been doing while the much-loved permanent principal, Tina Gruss, has been on leave.

To Cannon Hill State School and the wonderful Principal Chris Ling and P&C President Ineke Unsworth and everyone who is involved with the school congratulations on everything you do there to make Cannon Hill the exceptional school that it is. The students are absolutely outstanding and their achievements, not just of the academic kind, constantly amaze me. The \$200 000 which they will receive for learning spaces, I know is greatly appreciated.

And of course then there is Bulimba SS Mr Speaker, and the \$5.7 million, of a \$6.9 million budget which is allocated in this financial year to their new classroom block. This has been a long-term project Mr Speaker and one on which Principal Michael Zeuschner, P&C President Mike Wilkes and School Council Chair Cathy Pitkin, and their respective Committees, have worked very hard in order to make sure it was right for fit. I so admire their tenacity and their refusal to accept anything except the best for their students. I must acknowledge too, that the building of the new block necessitated the removal of the historic C Block, a building which held so many stories of past generations at the school and from our local community. As always, the school handled this loss in the most sensitive manner—which I know was greatly appreciated by the Bulimba Historical Society, led by the dedicated Norm Love.

Mr Speaker, some of the other major wins for the Bulimba electorate were in the Transport Portfolio, and I really want to acknowledge the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games, and the Deputy Premier for her previous role as Minister for Transport, and their staff—for their unfailing patience as they have listened and listened and listened to my lobbying about car parking at Murarrie and Cannon Hill railway stations. I was very fortunate to receive funding in last year's budget for a feasibility study into parking around Cannon Hill station and this became the precursor for the significant funding—\$4.245 million combined—that has now been allocated to these stations to solve the parking problems there.

I have spent a number of years working alongside local residents to find solutions to these issues, and I want to thank everyone who has helped me to lobby, who has signed petitions, spoken to our local paper, and been out on the hustings with me, to get these them resolved. I also acknowledge the Murarrie Progress Association, Murarrie Neighbourhood Watch and Murarrie State School for their advocacy on the issues around Murarrie railway station. They first raised this many years ago and I cannot describe my satisfaction in finally being able to deliver for them.

Mr Speaker, I have also been lobbying to have the zoning changed for Murarrie commuters, so that they were paying the same fares as Cannon Hill commuters. The feasibility study we did around Cannon Hill showed us that over 65% percent of commuters parking around that station came from outside the local area, and the reason for this seemed to be that it was the first stop in the cheapest fare zone.

By significantly upgrading the carpark at Murarrie, and by changing its fare zone, the aim was to encourage commuters, particularly Murarrie commuters, to stay away from Cannon Hill station a sort of sharing of the load. There was also the issue of fairness for Murarrie commuters who, I believe, should not be expected to pay more for travel than their fellow commuters only one station away.

Under the new fare zones announced by the Government last week, there is certainly a reduction in the difference in fares between Cannon Hill and Murarrie stations. However I don't believe that is enough. My strong view is that, in order to achieve the outcomes we want, commuters using those stations should be paying the same fares. I have had extremely robust discussions with the Transport Minister about this over the last few days, and am hoping that we will still get the zoning we need. The Minister has promised to closely consider our case while the consultation period is going on around the new fare structure.

But while we're talking about fare zones, I must stress just what a huge impact the new Fairer Fares initiative is going to make right across my local community. This is about making public transport more accessible for those who already use it, and who need to use it. Because I believe that public transport is a social justice issues. It's about kids, families, workers, our seniors. In fact Mr Speaker when I was doing the consultation among our seniors groups about our Queensland Seniors Strategy, and asked the older people of our community what single thing the Government could do to help reduce social isolation accessible and affordable public transport was right at the top of their list. I thank the Bulimba Seniors, Cannon Hill Sixty and Better, ST Oliver Plunketts Seniors Club, and the Norman Park Seniors for the tremendous ways in which they facilitated those discussions, and allowed a spotlight to be shone on what is such a huge issue.

However what is also absolutely critical about the new fare structure Mr Speaker is that it is also such a strong tool to help combat traffic congestion. This is a huge issue for an area like ours, and one that is really starting to impact on our quality of life. When people have to start dropping their kids off to child care at 6.30 in the morning, in order to avoid traffic congestion on the way to work, you know that something serious has to happen. We simply have to get more cars off our roads.

Mr Speaker, in yet another massive boost from the Transport portfolio, I was delighted to be see funding allocated for a review into the bus network in the Bulimba electorate.

We've certainly made a number of improvements to bus services over the years. However there's always more we can do which is why this new funding is so important.

Local residents, for instance, regularly raise issues with me like:

- The need for more loop services to Morningside Train station and other commuter terminals;
- the frequency and reliability of local services like the 232 route;
- the bus trip into the City taking too long in peak hour;
- with increasing numbers of people moving into the area, whether our existing bus services are going to be sufficient to cater for demand.

These are the sorts of issues I am hoping a review will cover. Again, this is an issue which has been raised with me constantly over the last 7 or 8 years, and I am absolutely delighted at this result. I thank everyone who has lobbied with me over the years.

And what of the other critical achievements for my local area from the budget?

- \$5.485 million to assist people with a disability and their families to access the support and service they need in Bulimba, including funding for local service providers like:
 - Branches Lifestyle Support in Carina
 - Endeavour Foundation in Cannon Hill;
 - Funding to individuals in Camp Hill and Carina;
 - L'Arche Brisbane in Morningside
 - Life Without Barriers in Cannon Hill;
 - The Tertiary Place in Murarrie
 - UnitingCare Community in Morningside;
- \$873 500 in ongoing funding for the Foodbank to continue their statewide program of support for Queenslanders in need. This amazing organization, based in Morningside, is the largest food relief organization in QLD, and has provided over 8 million meals so far this year. For every dollar they receive, they provide the value of \$7 to the vulnerable and needy. My regard for this is without bounds and I have made a deep commitment to them that I will always advocate for continuing and more Government support for the work they do.
- And many other wonderful local organisations, like Gallang Place, Bulimba Meals on Wheels and Centacare Community Connections in Cannon Hill which will receive funding.

Mr Speaker, this budget is also going to deliver on so many other things that are important to the people of the Bulimba electorate:

- The \$405 million Advance Queensland initiatives which will help us to diversify our economy and take us into the future. Most importantly, it's going to deliver on jobs.
- Our \$10.7 billion infrastructure program;
- The commitment of \$198.2 million to addressing the remainder of the Not Now Not Ever Taskforce recommendations;
- Keeping our health sector strong, with a 4.3% increase in the budget from last year, to deliver a \$15.3 billion health budget which means more nurses, doctors, paramedics, extra health professionals and others;
- A \$50 million down payment to help deliver Cross River Rail;
- Protecting our environment by allocating \$21.7 million to protecting the Great Barrier Reef; \$6.8 million to develop and implement a Climate Change Policy; \$3.7 million to preserve unique environments; and \$7.8 million for statewide high resolution satellite imager;
- Helping Queensland Businesses, including \$22.7 million to kick-start local businesses, \$44.5 million to help existing businesses grow and \$40 million to bring new businesses to QLD;
- Helping our young people buy their first home, with the increase of the First Home Owners Grant to \$20,000;
- \$41.8 million over the next four years to generate cultural tourism opportunities, including those big blockbuster events that we all love so much in Queensland, and that form such wonderful memories for us all. What a great idea to help bring attention to Brisbane.

And Mr Speaker, I know how important Education is to the people of my local area. That's why they are so pleased for the 5.9% increase in the education and training budget that was announced in this week's budget. This will cover the State School Building program, the School Maintenance Program and the International Education and Training Strategy. Importantly Mr Speaker, it will cover the boost in funding of \$102 million to support our Business Service Managers (BSMs) and other support staff in our schools to finally acknowledge them, in terms of pay and classification, for the absolutely invaluable work they do. They are the backbone of every school, and have, for too many years, worked too hard for little acknowledgement. I was delighted to stand in for the Education Minister several weeks ago, at the Business Service Managers Association Conference, where the Minister announced this boost to the BSMs who were there, and it was a humbling experience at that conference, to see their sheer joy and the many tears of excitement.

As I said at the beginning, there are so many good things about this budget that it's hard to know what to leave in and out of this speech.

However for now I've said enough. I finish this speech with the confidence that, with this budget, I can go out as part of the Palaszczuk Labor Government team that listens, that has vision, and that has a measured plan to achieve everything we need to achieve. We are spending. But we are spending on the right things, and we are spending within our means.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government was humbled to receive the mandate that we did at the last election, from the people of Queensland. We will always work hard and I promise that we will never let you down.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.37 am): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Friday, 17 June 2016.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.38 am): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Macleay Island, Asbestos



Mr McEACHAN (Redlands—LNP) (12.38 am): I rise tonight to speak about a matter of utmost concern. For many years the residents of Macleay Island have lived with an area of their foreshore that is quite literally littered with asbestos. As you arrive on the island, you are immediately taken with its natural beauty and friendly atmosphere. However, just to the left of the ferry terminal is a two-metre cyclone fence adorned with signs warning to keep out due to the asbestos risk. I know of no other community or town in Queensland where this situation either exists or would be acceptable. At low tide you can walk between the fence line and the water and pick up pieces of asbestos. In the fenced-off area asbestos could be raked into dry, fibrous piles. The community's patience and forbearance is at an end.

I put it to the House that every single one of us here would find this totally unacceptable. How many people are being exposed to airborne fibres? How many people are at risk of developing asbestos related diseases? How many schoolchildren waiting for the ferry are exposed on a windy day? The truth is we will never know, but we do know that exposure to asbestos is deadly: it kills. The federal Department of Health states that there is no absolutely safe level of exposure to asbestos fibres. The Australian Asbestos Network states that 'medicine tells society that there is no safe level of exposure to asbestos fibres' and that 'medical authorities advise that people's safety could be ensured only by the elimination of exposure altogether'.

As I speak tonight, a decision to entomb this area is pending with SARA, the State Assessment and Referral Agency. I put it to members of this House that entombment is the only acceptable outcome for residents and visitors to Macleay Island. In 2009, the report of the Queensland Ombudsman, Phil Clarke, contained 36 recommendations for improving asbestos removal regulations. Redland City Council and the state government have been discussing how to contain the asbestos on the beach since a 2009 Safety in Mines Testing and Research Station, or SIMTARS, report found contamination. Since then, 8,800 square metres of land above and below water has been fenced off, and the council has applied to two state government departments for a development application to build a car park to entomb the asbestos and in the process provide much needed infrastructure including a recreational boat ramp. All we need is the go-ahead.

It seems obvious to me, and I suspect to those opposite, that a mesh fence is not in any way suitable to containing and eliminating the risk of airborne asbestos fibres, and any delay in entombment is unacceptable. I need not remind anyone in this House of the human tragedy of exposure to asbestos. This is an injustice to Macleay Island residents. It needs to be resolved. This asbestos must be entombed. Macleay Island will not accept anything less. As their representative, neither will I.

Ewen, Ms L; Queensland Day Award



Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (12.41 am): I rise today to speak about the work of an outstanding member of the Stafford electorate, Liz Ewen. Liz was just one of the recipients of a Queensland Day Award in my electorate. Each recipient demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the Stafford community in a number of different ways. The recipients of these awards were recognised at an afternoon tea last Friday at the Grange Bowls Club.

Liz Ewen has been volunteering with Special Olympics for 22 years. Over this time she has given up her time and assisted in a number of different roles. Liz is the long-term coach for the Special Olympics Brisbane aquatic program as well as the State Aquatics for Special Olympics Queensland. In this role, she oversees and coordinates all aquatics competitions throughout the state as well as offering training, support and guidance to other Special Olympics Queensland coaches.

Recently Liz helped launch the Stafford Unified Swim School, a school for swimmers with and without an intellectual disability. Liz is both the pool and program coordinator and head coach of the swim school. She coordinates almost everything—from coach training and recruitment to summer enrolments and pool management. This is all in a voluntary capacity. Liz's passion and dedication to both aquatics and providing opportunities for people with an intellectual disability to reach their personal best is inspiring and infectious.

She was selected in 2011 to pilot the Michael Phelps individual medley program in Australia, and this resulted in the implementation of the program in Special Olympics Queensland clubs, mainstream swim schools and special school units. The program empowers young people to be safe in and around water whilst cultivating a love of swimming and being active. Empowering young people to reach their goals is one of Liz's true passions. She contributes many, many hours every week of the year to ensure that young Queenslanders have vital safety skills and that athletes with an intellectual disability are given the opportunity to train and compete in the sport they love.

Special Olympics is lucky to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable volunteer. Liz's volunteer efforts mirror that of just under one million Queenslanders who contribute 133 million hours to volunteering efforts across this state. In 2014 this volunteering was worth \$12 billion to the Queensland economy. The people of Stafford are just some of the many Queenslanders who reap the benefits of Liz's work, and for that I say thank you.

Everton Electorate

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (12.44 am): I would like to give the House an update on some of the things that are happening in the wonderful electorate of Everton. Last Saturday was a day of birthdays. Every Saturday morning at seven o'clock at Mitchelton Teralba Park there is a park run. Parkrun is a wonderful initiative that happens right across Brisbane, where a bunch of volunteers get together to run five kilometres and to do that each week to better their times. We have a great attendance at Mitchelton parkrun. Every week around about 250 people turn up.

For their birthday last Saturday I put on a free sausage sizzle. After that exhausting run they all enjoyed a sausage sizzle. It defeats the purpose a little bit—that is, running and then afterwards having a couple of sausages. They appreciated it. It was great to have Andrew Wines, the local councillor, there. David Kingston, the candidate for Lilley, was also serving there. We all had a very good time.

Mr Hinchliffe: I was with the member for Lilley at the parkrun Sandgate.

Mr MANDER: I will not take that interjection. At Blackwood Street, the iconic street in Mitchelton, which is at the southern end of my electorate, we celebrated the 60th birthday of Garozzo Mitchelton Pharmacy. This is a great success story of a small business man. Rill Garozzo started his pharmacy 60 years ago. Unfortunately, he passed away a couple of years ago. His sons have carried on the tradition. This pharmacy that started at Mitchelton has now expanded. Rod, his son, runs two pharmacies at Keperra—one at Samford and one at Arana Hills.

Rod has been our family's pharmacist for many years. He did great work with my dad, who passed away a few years ago. My family really appreciated the service that he gave to us. It was great to see on the weekend so many customers and clients of Garozzo pharmacy come along to celebrate this great milestone. Congratulations Rod and Peter; well done. Good on you for keeping up the family tradition. I hope to see that tradition carry on for many more years.

Finally, I want to say thanks to Vinnie and Paddy at Mitchelton State Special School. They are great Rugby League supporters of the Titans and Cowboys. Thank you so much for the morning tea that you served me there last week. It was absolutely delicious. Thank you, boys.

Algeria Electorate

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (12.46 am): I am lucky enough to live in and serve the electorate of Algeria, where so many people go above and beyond, giving their time and energy to help others. Over the past number of weeks I have been privileged to be able to recognise some truly inspirational community members in my electorate of Algeria and take part in some wonderful community events.

Late last month the Forest Lake Lions held their third annual Walk with Lions fundraiser. Hundreds of local supporters walked around the lake, raising funds this year for a wonderful organisation Red Kite and the prevention of children's cancer. Congratulations to all members of the Forest Lake Lions, including the previous past president Barbara Rendic and incoming president Jonathan Slack, on yet another successful event.

I inform the House that last year I made a deal with the Forest Lake Heritage Community Bank manager, Mr Mark Newman, that we would both dress as a superhero for the event and, to the amusement of many, we did just that.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms ENOCH: Supergirl. Last week it was my honour to celebrate the dedication and bravery of police officers from the Browns Plains Police Station situated in Hillcrest. Constable Michael McEwan and Constable Daniel Kelly were presented with the Assistant Commissioner Certificate of Appreciation after saving a man's life in nearby Regents Park. Inspector Mick Dowdy received the 35-year clasp to the Queensland Police Service Medal. These police officers have proudly served the community and they do our community proud.

This past weekend I was delighted to host a ceremony acknowledging the inaugural Algester Queensland Week Award recipients. Queensland Week allows us to shine a light onto the quiet achievers, those who go above and beyond what is expected of them because they know that it makes a difference. These award recipients come from across the Algester electorate, from different organisations and walks of life, but each of them is a community champion contributing to making the local community in Algester and Queensland a better place. Whether through supporting students and their families in school, providing social services, facilitating the benefits of sport or helping raise money for the community and charities, the inaugural award recipients are truly inspirational.

I have been honoured to experience firsthand the hard work and dedication our inaugural recipients display and was pleased to recognise them. The recipients recognised on the day included: Michael Mitchell from Algester Parkinson Lions; Stephen Wallace, the Deputy Principal of Boronia Heights State School; Phil Manitta, the Principal of St Stephens Catholic Primary School; Reverend Russell Reynoldson of the Uniting Church Forest Lake; Courtney Smith, the Vice President of Algester State School P&C; Gavin Rook, previous past president of the Grand Avenue State School P&C; Lauren Sturges, the Deputy Principal at Pallara State School; Garry Dunne, the President of Calamvale Leopards; Maria Becis, the founder of Run 4 Kids; and Ken Houliston, the Executive Director of the Spot. I hope that in years to come these awards will grow as we receive more nominations to be able to recognise more hardworking community members.

Bovine Johne's Disease

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (12.49 am): I rise to speak on an important biosecurity issue and the failure of the Palaszczuk government to properly consult with the 19,000 beef and dairy cattle producers in Queensland on bovine Johne's disease or, as it is more commonly known, BJD. Late yesterday, in the middle of budget week, and after giving producers and industry just two weeks notice, the agriculture minister announced that she was dumping Queensland's hard-won protected zone status for BJD.

The timing of the minister's announcement has been very sneaky. It was timed so that it would be lost in budget week and, ironically, after she and her government issued verbose statements about boosting biosecurity for agriculture, when in this case nothing could be further from the truth.

We have worked hard to establish our \$3 billion-plus beef and dairy industry and to establish our brand as the best in the country and we need to ensure this industry receives the necessary support from government to continue to grow, free from the threat of disease. In ignoring the line being held by Western Australia and the Northern Territory, this Labor government has rolled over to pressure from vested interest groups and southern seed stock breeders and their agents and thrown years of hard work, keeping our herds protected, out the window.

In typical Labor style, there has been no consultation with the broader Queensland beef or dairy industry—none. We have every right to question the decision taken by the minister to get rid of our protected status. Instead of consulting, holding genuine industry meetings and listening, this ill-informed minister has taken the line of least resistance and rolled over to a vocal minority of vested interest groups that have nothing to lose.

At a time when industry needs leadership, the minister has failed to stand up and demonstrate her commitment to our beef and dairy industries. The minister has totally ignored the calls from our dairy farmers, already under immense pressure from the drought and the ongoing battle with the supermarkets and their highly damaging dollar-a-litre milk campaign. The minister has ignored the QDO at a time when they need strong local community and consumer support and, moreover, strong support from the government.

It is incomprehensible that two weeks out from the commencement of the Biosecurity Act and associated regulations our graziers and dairy farmers remain in the dark on how they will manage this insidious disease going forward. When will the minister release the regulations which will set out how the act is to be implemented and applied? We cannot and should not allow BJD back into Queensland and we need to be doing everything possible to ensure we retain our hard-won protected zone status.

Wassenaar, Mr D

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (12.52 am): I rise to speak about a remarkable man in my electorate of Sunnybank in the suburb of Acacia Ridge. Mr Douwe Wassenaar celebrated his 100th birthday on May Day. He has lived in Australia since 1956. He was born in the Great War and survived two world wars and the Great Depression in his home country of Holland. He was one of 12 children, born in a tiny village in the Netherlands. His father was a sail maker. He recounted fond memories of living in the village on the riverfront and working around his dad's family business. He recounted how much fun he had working for his dad and reminisced about the pocket money he earned in the family business.

He also recounted to me fond memories of his childhood in Woadsend, where he would join with his friends and chase after the town crier and mimic his loud messages. Despite growing up during two world wars, he said that he was always free to explore the countryside. He would spend every day searching for birds' eggs. He said that he got to know all the local farmers. If he was lucky, he would get buttermilk from the farm workers.

His first real job, at the age of 15, was as a spray painter. Although he aspired to be a mechanic, he never achieved that dream. It was remarkable to talk to a 100-year-old gentleman who was reminiscing about a dream he had all those years ago. He studied mechanics for a while but continued to work as a spray painter for a living.

During the Second World War he married Marie. Ultimately, they moved to Australia, where they made a home. He ran a painting business and now lives in Acacia Ridge with his daughter. He had fond memories of his journey to Australia. He spoke about the trip on the ship via the Suez Canal, Fremantle, Melbourne and Sydney, ultimately arriving in Brisbane. Although the early days were a challenge, he has really enjoyed the freedom of this great country.

Rickertt Road and Green Camp Road Intersection

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (12.55 am): Northern Redland City residents who battle peak-hour traffic jams every weekday along the Rickertt-Green Camp roads corridor have finally received a solution that will substantially ease their traffic congestion. The good news is that a \$10 million upgrade of the Rickertt Road and Green Camp Road intersection, as part of a bigger \$20 million road upgrade of the Rickertt-Green Camp roads corridor, has been committed to by the federal LNP government and the Brisbane City Council. The intersection upgrade includes the extension of the dual carriageways in both directions past the intersection and the coordination of the traffic signals along both roads. This means a faster commute to and from work and getting kids to school and home earlier.

As part of an RACQ 2016 study of the most unroadworthy roads in Queensland, a survey was conducted that involved 896 responses to 427 local, state and federal roads. The survey showed that that Brisbane City Council road, Rickertt Road, is the fourth worst road in Queensland. That unroadworthiness, together with the traffic congestion of Rickertt Road, makes the corridor one of the most important roads to fix in South-East Brisbane and South-East Queensland.

Over the years, local residents in Wellington Point, Birkdale and other parts of the Cleveland electorate have reported to me the issue of traffic congestion, the three main elements being the Tingalpa Creek Bridge, the single-lane sections and the Green Camp Road intersection. Every hour about 1,000 vehicles pass through that intersection during peak traffic times, commonly resulting in traffic queues up to two kilometres long. It has been a worsening choke point for many years.

The federal LNP member for Bowman, Andrew Laming, previously helped secure federal funding for a joint agreement with Redland City Council to duplicate the road on the Redland City side of the bridge. This week, it has again taken the intervention of the federal LNP member for Bowman, together with the LNP member for Bonner, Ross Vasta, to come to the rescue of Redland City commuters, working with the Brisbane City Council to ease the congestion on the Rickerdt-Green Camp roads corridor. I also acknowledge the federal Minister for Major Projects, Paul Fletcher, and Senator Jo Lindgren for their support.

Unfortunately, the state Labor government showed no interest in the previous 14 years of partnering with either the Redland City Council or the Brisbane City Council to fix the road, as it could have. This state budget confirms Labor still has no commitment to fix Redland City roads. I have fought two Labor governments for this much needed upgrade and I am pleased, in partnership with my LNP colleagues, to deliver solutions to Wellington Point and Birkdale commuters.

Domestic Violence

 **Mr PYNE** (Cairns—Ind) (12.58 am): I am always available to speak up on behalf of Queensland women suffering disadvantage, discrimination or a denial of human rights. Today I rise to raise a profound and disturbing event that has happened to one of my constituents regarding domestic violence and the law of Queensland. Susan Prince is a professional theatre maker. Last year, Susan performed in a groundbreaking theatre piece called *It All Begins With Love*.

It All Begins With Love is a verbatim piece of theatre created by Rod Ainsworth of Creative Regions in Bundaberg. The social theatre piece was developed by interviewing over a dozen victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. An evaluation done by Wendy Madson called 'Using socially-engaged theatre to raise social consciousness around domestic violence', which takes a health-promotion perspective, was submitted to Global Health Promotion for publication. The evaluation found that that piece of theatre had influenced the landscape of domestic violence, its impact on society and the laws that govern our country.

The theatre piece was funded by UnitingCare, one of the state's domestic violence services, Arts Queensland and several regional councils across this state. The piece toured to 17 towns throughout regional Queensland, including my constituency of Cairns. During Susan's employment as an actor in this piece, she was asked to do an interview with Karina Carvalho of ABC television. During that interview, Ms Prince said that she related to her character as she had had an abusive husband. The interview was vetted by the ABC's legal department before going to air. The man whom Susan divorced in 1983 is now taking Ms Prince to the District Court for defamation.

I am vexed that this is even happening in 2016. The Hon. Dame Quentin Bryce made 144 recommendations regarding domestic violence and the law, which this government has endorsed. This case has political ramifications for all survivors of domestic violence. If Susan loses the case, it could set a precedent for all survivors of domestic violence, discouraging them from speaking up about this scourge, as their perpetrators could then take them to court for defamation should they have the resources to do so. This leaves poor or low-income women particularly vulnerable.

Defamation is often a sport for the wealthy, to keep silent those traditionally without a voice. So much for any implied freedom of speech in this country! I ask this government to stand by its promise to stop domestic violence and stop this case in its tracks. As I see it, the 144 recommendations of the Hon. Dame Quentin Bryce that are endorsed by this government are changing the existing laws of our state. Those existing laws also allow perpetrators to do injustice to a survivor, by making her defend her survival of domestic violence. I am outraged that this can happen to any survivor in 2016 and I ask this government to intervene.

Female Genital Mutilation

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (1.01 am): This morning I rise to discuss a topic of serious concern to the House. I will preface my contribution by going back to the beginning. Last week, I had the honour of attending the 27th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association seminar. I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, and respective staff members for organising a truly excellent conference.

Mr Speaker, as you would be aware, as part of the conference program a session was held that focused on a parliamentarian's role in tackling domestic violence. That session was hosted by the Hon. Shannon Fentiman, the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. In a spirit of bipartisanship, I wish to commend the minister for giving a comprehensive and professional speech about what the former LNP

government did and the current Palaszczuk Labor government is doing to address and tackle the issue of domestic violence. During that discussion, a comment came from one of the African nations that was part of the assembled panel of parliamentarians. Where reference was made to whether we here in Queensland considered the issue of female genital mutilation as part of the overall framework of domestic violence, which leads me to draw the issue to the attention of the House.

Whilst members might think this issue is more predominant in other countries such as in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, where more than 200 million girls and women alive today have been surgically cut, that is not the case. The Melbourne Royal Women's Hospital has reported seeing 600 to 700 women annually who have been victims of some form of female genital mutilation. While the procedure is covered by state legislation and is illegal throughout Australia, it is suggested those incidents happen overseas or are conducted in private and remain secret. Upon further research, I was horrified to learn, via the World Health Organization, that the procedure intentionally alters or causes injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons and provides absolutely no health benefits for girls and women. Rather, female genital mutilation can have far-reaching consequences, including complications in childbirth and an increased risk of newborn death.

Furthermore, last Friday I attended the *Time of Others* exhibition at the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art, where the honourable the Deputy Premier opened the proceedings. There I visited a most confronting display, a wall lined with what looked like white standard analog clocks. Upon closer inspection, those clocks were passing time at different speeds. I stepped closer to investigate and noticed each clock had a shocking world issue on them, including deforestation and death by stroke, as well as cases of female genital mutilation. I was shocked and appalled at the speed at which this clock passed the time between each statistical case of the procedure. The clock in the display certainly stood out. I am sure all members in this House could agree that we need to seriously look at ways to address and raise awareness of this cultural practice.

Redlands Genealogical Society

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (1.04 am): Tonight I rise to disclose a gift to the House. I feel there are some ambiguities in regard to the standing orders when it comes to a gift that is priceless, which is what I received from the Redlands Genealogical Society. Last week the society presented me with my family tree, which is the first that they have done for local figureheads in the Redlands. I hope that the member for Cleveland will have a chance to be presented with his family tree. I found it absolutely wonderful and outstanding. The amount of work that the members put into this family tree and the presentation was fantastic.

This all came about following a gambling grant that I was able to support the society with that went towards buying microfilm readers. The presentation was extra special, because I was able to share it with my parents and my aunty. My mother has found it difficult to follow back her family tree because her parents were orphans. It blew me away that the society was able to research back so far. Three full A4 binders were presented to me, along with the presentation on the day. In particular, I thank Annette, Audrey and President Helen Veivers, who is also my old school principal.

On my mother's side, I am three-quarters Scottish and one-quarter German. They were mainly farmers who felt the uncertain change of industrialised nations and saw an opportunity to come via boat to this country. That is a benefit, as it means that I can join the German Club and be a full-paying member.

On my father's side, my forebears are predominantly Scottish farmers. There was a stage when I thought I was going to get away with having no pommy blood, but there it was. For the society, it was a bit of a Holy Grail moment, because they like looking for convicts within a family tree. The one pom was a convict. He was done for larceny. He was sentenced to 14 years in Australia, but he got off lightly: they were soft on crime back then and he served only seven years. Luckily for me, he was also allowed to marry. There was a nervous moment when a Snell married a Snell. That could explain a few things. I was happy that the society was able to detail that it was two separate families.

The society gave me a once-in-a-lifetime gift. I thank the society for all their hard work to present me with my family tree. Again, thanks to Annette, Audrey and Helen for the fantastic work that they do. If members have a genealogical society in their local areas, they should support them and support them well.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1.07 am (Friday).

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, 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, 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