



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

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FRIDAY, 17 JUNE 2016



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

PRIVILEGE

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



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 13 May 2016 the member for Currumbin wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs and member for Brisbane Central, the Hon. Grace Grace, deliberately misled the House on 21 April 2016 when she said—

I want to put this on the record very clearly: there is no business relationship between myself and Steve Wilson. There never has been and there never will be in the future. I have no letter from the Integrity Commissioner to table because there is no conflict and there is no business relationship.

In her letter to me, the member for Currumbin stated that the member for Brisbane Central had deliberately misled the House by stating that she did not have a business relationship with Mr Steve Wilson and when she said that she had no letter from the Integrity Commissioner to table because there was no conflict and no business relationship.

I sought further information from the member for Brisbane Central about the allegations made against her, in accordance with standing order 269(5). The member for Brisbane Central denied the allegations made against her and stated that, in respect of both issues, she did not intend to make a misleading statement, nor did she make a deliberate or knowingly misleading statement to the House. Standing order 269(4) requires—

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

On the matter of the member for Brisbane Central misleading the House during debate on the Racing Integrity Bill 2015 on 21 April 2016 in relation to an alleged business relationship with Mr Wilson, taking all of the material before me into account there is an obvious difference of opinion in the definition of a business relationship between the member for Currumbin and the member for Brisbane Central. Given the apparently equally reasonably held differences in definition of this term, any potential misleading of the House could at best be a technical one.

On the matter of the member for Brisbane Central misleading the House in her statements on 20 and 21 April 2016 regarding having sought and received advice from the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, I am of the view that the statements were neither factually or apparently incorrect nor misleading, because the statement on 20 April 2016 referred to seeking advice on the member for Brisbane Central's shareholdings while the statement made on 21 April 2016 was in the context of any business relationship with Mr Wilson.

On this basis I have decided that both matters do not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring them. I table the correspondence in relation to these matters.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 10 May 2016, from the member for Currumbin, Mrs Jann Stuckey MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an allegation of misleading the House [\[979\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 27 May 2016, from the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Hon. Grace Grace, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an allegation of misleading the House [\[980\]](#).

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contempt of Parliament by a Member



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 16 June 2016 the Minister for Education wrote to me alleging that the member for Surfers Paradise had acted inappropriately in the House on 15 June 2016 by making inappropriate hand gestures. On 16 June the member for Surfers Paradise rose on a matter of privilege, apologised to the House and clarified that his gestures were not meant to reflect on the chair or any member. In light of this apology, I will not be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee.

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



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 11 May 2016 the member for Hervey Bay wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply and member for Yeerongpilly deliberately misled the House on 20 April 2016 when he said—

Here we have the member for Maroochydore—24 years in this parliament, a shadow minister—calling on us to fund an intersection we upgraded four weeks ago. You have to keep up in this place.

In his letter to me the member for Hervey Bay stated that the member for Yeerongpilly had made a deliberate inaccurate statement as the intersection had not been upgraded. I sought further information from the member for Yeerongpilly about the allegations made against him, in accordance with standing order 269(5). The member for Yeerongpilly stated that it was not his intention to mislead the House and that, while he accepted that his wording in the *Hansard* extract relied on by the member for Hervey Bay could have been more precise, in the context of his answer as a whole he believed it was clear that his reference to the intersection being 'upgraded' meant that the upgrade had been funded. Standing order 269(4) requires—

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

Having considered the information before me, I am of the view that, while the specific statement referred to by the member for Hervey Bay can be considered factually incorrect, when read in context of the full response to the question without notice the statement was not misleading although had the potential to cause some confusion.

On this basis, I have decided that the matter is technical and does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 11 May 2016, from the member for Hervey Bay, Mr Ted Sorensen MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an allegation of misleading the House [\[981\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 7 June 2016, from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Hon. Mark Bailey, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an allegation of misleading the House [\[982\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Questions on Notice



Mr SPEAKER: Standing order 114 requires questions on notice to be lodged with the Clerk by the end of question time each day. I remind all honourable members that question time will conclude at 10.30 am today, pursuant to sessional order 1(i).

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper, sponsored and lodged by the Clerk—

Burrum River, Proposed Bridge

From 776 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a technical investigation and feasibility study in preparation for a submission to Infrastructure Australia for federal funding to provide a bridge over Burrum River between Buxton and Burrum Heads [\[983\]](#).

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petitions, sponsored and lodged by the Clerk—

Molluscs, Collection Limit

From 751 petitioners, requesting the House to amend legislation to reduce the number of molluscs (namely pippies) being taken from Queensland beaches to a bag limit of thirty per person up to maximum of 100 per vehicle with a minimum size of 35m [\[984, 985\]](#).

Edens Landing, Castile Crescent, Pedestrian Lights

From 432 petitioners, requesting the House to urgently install pedestrian operated traffic lights between the entrance of the townhouse complex at 50 Castile Crescent, Edens Landing and the gate not in use to the grounds of Edens Landing State School [\[986, 987\]](#).

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

Energy Industry, Service Providers

From 321 petitioners, requesting the House to abandon the plan to establish a publicly funded energy business to offer electrical services in direct competition with existing Queensland electrical and solar installation businesses and instead provide greater support to Queensland small businesses who already provide these and similar services [\[988\]](#).

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Cox, Ms J

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.39 am): Mr Speaker, for the second time in a week I stand here before you in sadness and shock following an extreme act of violence on the other side of the world. The condolences of the government, the parliament and the people of Queensland go out to the family of British MP Jo Cox, our colleagues in the British parliament and the British people.

Any murder is horrific, but if early reports are true and it was motivated by politics it strikes at the very heart of the democratic ideals Britain, Australia and many other countries hold dear. As all members would agree, politics is robust. Ideas are debated forcefully and disagreements are common, but long gone are the days, especially in modern, dynamic democracies, where hard-fought debates and disagreements should turn into violence. In the same way Queensland has offered its support to the US in the wake of the Orlando shooting earlier this week, we also stand by the people of Great Britain in the wake of the tragedy. Here in Queensland we will honour Jo Cox by declaring that we will never take the right of freedom of speech and freedom of political expression for granted. This was a member of parliament doing her job, representing her constituents, going about her job, doing her job, serving her community. Vale, Jo Cox.

Working Queensland

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): In our first budget last year, my government launched Working Queensland. It included \$240 million for Skilling Queenslanders for Work to support up to 32,000 jobseekers, \$34.5 million for Rescuing TAFE, \$180 million for Advance Queensland and the Business Development Fund, and \$200 million for Building our Regions. In our second budget, we have expanded on this commitment. We know the importance of Queensland's transition beyond the mining boom. We know the importance of job generation across our state, particularly in regional Queensland. That is why my government has more than doubled the funding under Advance Queensland to \$405 million. That is why my government has added \$175 million to Building our Regions. That is why my government has announced the two-year \$100 million Back to Work package to boost jobs in regional Queensland. That is why my government has provided a payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees.

My government has introduced these programs because they were either cut or ignored previously. My government has had to rebuild confidence because it had been undermined. My government has had to restore services because they had been cut. Skilling Queenslanders for Work will support up to 8,000 Queenslanders this financial year to develop the skills they need to get back into the workforce or enter higher level training. The Back to Work program will support up to 8,000 Queenslanders in regional areas to get a job through incentives for employers to take on the unemployed. Through the Building our Regions program, the 42 critical infrastructure projects from round 1 are already having a positive impact on regional communities. Construction has now commenced on eight of the 42 approved projects and a further 28 projects are at the design or tender stage. All projects are expected to start construction by November this year.

Budget, Arts

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.42 am): I am proud to stand in this House today to speak on arts in Queensland. As Minister for the Arts, I understand the importance of investing in the arts and having it accessible to all Queenslanders. Art plays a significant role in communities. I was pleased that in Tuesday's budget we announced funding of \$41.8 million over the next four years to grow cultural tourism, invest in arts infrastructure and increase regional access to the arts. We will reinstate funding for blockbusters at the Queensland Art Gallery and the Gallery of Modern Art with \$10.8 million over the next four years. Since GOMA opened in 2006, it has hosted exclusive exhibitions featuring Warhol, Picasso and Matisse, drawing millions of people to our

state, and this legacy will continue. The Queensland Museum will deliver unique cultural tourism benefits with up to \$4.5 million over four years. The Queensland Museum will maintain the state's priceless collections across its network in Toowoomba, Townsville and Ipswich and its storage facility at Hendra with funding of \$7 million over four years. An additional \$1.5 million has also been allocated to QAGOMA for plant and equipment. We have also allocated \$3 million towards cultural infrastructure, including the refurbishment of QPAC's Cremorne Theatre for the redesign of staging and seating areas.

In areas in regional Queensland such as Cairns a \$15 million allocation has been made for the Cairns Performing Arts Centre, subject to the outcome of federal government funding and a business case. I know that Mayor Bob Manning is very happy with this announcement. The budget will also enhance regional access to the arts through the Playing Queensland Fund. The arts is an investment in communities, it can create cities and regions, it can bring communities together. Our budget funding announcements reinforce my commitment to Queensland's arts sector to deliver economic and cultural benefits to millions of people across our state.

Shaping SEQ

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.43 am): Just over a month ago I launched the community consultation on Shaping SEQ—Planning for the Future as the first step in delivering a new regional plan for the South-East Queensland corner. Since then my department has spoken to nearly 1,250 local residents, hearing their great ideas for the future of our region and listening to what is most important about how we will live, work and play in the future. So far my department has conducted 14 events across the south-east, with 20 in total scheduled by the end of the first round of consultation on 29 June. There have been almost 4,500 visits to the Shaping SEQ website. Throughout the consultation, people are sharing their thoughts on how we should live, connect, grow, prosper and sustain. In fact, almost 800 ideas for our future have been shared with us as part of this consultation and what we are hearing is that people want to ensure the unique characteristics of their neighbourhoods are maintained with plenty of green space; that residents want reliable public transport and additional bikeways, with growth concentrated in areas close to existing services; and strong protections for the local environment. We are also hearing great ideas on how our region's lifestyle can be made even better. We are also hearing great ideas on how to meet the challenges of an increasing population while preserving our unique identity and the qualities that define the south-east corner.

We have also hosted a Thought Leadership series, with great planning experts and innovators from both here and abroad—people like Mitch Silver, the Parks Commissioner for New York City, and Ethan Kent, a leading US placemaker and urban designer, and there are many more to come. I urge everyone in South-East Queensland with a great idea for the future of our region to speak out and get involved in the conversation at one of our consultation events or via the Shaping SEQ website. With our population changing in size and demographics, we are expected to grow by approximately two million people over the next 25 years. The economy is also shifting to more service based and knowledge industries and technology is changing the way we live, work and travel. We want the community's ideas to ensure we make the most of the opportunities that come with a changing population. The community will also have further opportunities to be involved as we develop the new regional plan. It will be able to have its say on the draft plan later this year ahead of the final plan being released next year. With one in seven Australians living in South-East Queensland, the Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to delivering a great regional plan that our region deserves.

Budget

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (9.46 am): The 2016-17 budget is all about continuing Queensland's strong fiscal management and driving the economy forward through growing innovation, attracting investment and building infrastructure. The budget contains two key initiatives to ensure our economy is well positioned to deliver more growth, more jobs and more opportunities for success. Firstly and most importantly, we have budgeted for a \$10.7 billion capital program this year to support directly around 31,000 jobs. Secondly, we are continuing the critical debt reduction task that the Palaszczuk government commenced last year with our Debt Action Plan. From 2016-17 to 2019-20, Queensland's total capital expenditure, capital grants and public-private partnerships will be a combined \$40 billion. This represents a significant pipeline of infrastructure across our regions and cities. It sends a clear signal to the construction industry, the contractors and the consultants across the state that we have all got a job to do to deliver this infrastructure.

The economic and fiscal plan we took to the election was to reduce general government debt by \$12 billion over 10 years. This budget shows that general government debt is more than \$10 billion lower under Labor than was forecast for 2016-17 under the former treasurer's last budget. This is a significant achievement in the current economic climate. This outcome stands in contrast to the \$13.6 billion increase in general government debt we saw under the previous government. I reiterate my comments that as Treasurer and as a government we remain steadfast in our commitment to upholding the quality of our state's credit. In addition, the state is forecast to save more than \$800 million in interest expenses in 2016-17 when compared to the 2014-15 budget. Again, when comparing directly to the 2014-15 budget, interest expenses are \$1.9 billion lower than forecast under the former government out to 2017-18. I want to bring to the attention of members of the House the Deloitte special budget edition titled 'Shifting gears, a clearer focus?' which is the Deloitte Access Economics take on the 2016-17 budget. It states—

In line with our recent *Business Outlook*, Queensland's growth is firmly ahead of the state pack. However there still isn't a 'feel good' factor as the growth is dependent on exports.

Deloitte goes on to say—

Despite the fiscal headwinds, this budget aims to position Queensland to take advantage of its current strengths to build future economic opportunities.

On the government's decision to utilise a portion of the defined benefit scheme's surplus, Deloitte says—

Unlike other States, the Defined Benefits Scheme in Queensland has a \$10b surplus—some of this lazy money can be put to work. The defined benefits cookie jar has been opened, with \$4b to be split between reducing debt and investing in infrastructure.

While there has been a lot of commentary on the source of this funding, it is more important how it gets used.

I could not agree more with this sentiment. On growth, Deloitte says—

Queensland has a solid growth outlook over the forward estimates, with Gross State Product forecasts underpinned by strong LNG exports.

However, Treasury's growth forecasts have been downgraded half a percent since the MYFER, from 4% to 3.5% annual growth. This is consistent with Deloitte Access Economics' forecasts over the next five years.

Deloitte also point out—

The Non-financial Public Sector (which includes Queensland commercial entities) debt to revenue ratio is also forecast to decline, despite the total value of borrowing increasing over the forward estimates.

On general government sector debt, Deloitte says—

General Government Sector debt to revenue ratio is forecast to decline across the forward estimates to 68% in 2019-20. This places Queensland in a more secure position in terms of its credit rating.

I am confident that this budget will deliver for Queenslanders, but its success will depend on business, industry and government working together to deliver jobs and growth.

Employment and Training

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.50 am): This government is committed to delivering the skilled workforce that Queensland needs for economic growth. The government is investing in training and skills to help build the workforce that we need to attract and build new industries, expand existing industries and create jobs. That is why this year's budget is investing another \$60 million to deliver our commitment to Skilling Queenslanders for Work to support up to 8,000 Queenslanders to get the skills they need to get back into the workforce or into higher level training. I thank all of those partners in business, local government, training providers, the not-for-profit sector and employee organisations who have worked to deliver this important program.

The government also recognises that a strong public training provider is crucial to delivering the high-skilled workforce that Queensland needs for economic growth and to support expanding industries. This budget will continue to implement the government's Rescuing TAFE initiative, which is part of a \$34 million investment over three years to support the TAFE sector and to provide high-quality training for Queenslanders.

I am also pleased to be delivering the government's commitment for Jobs Queensland. Jobs Queensland has been established in the ICON building in Ipswich, which is a great outcome for Jobs Queensland. I know the members representing Ipswich—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are warned under standing order 253A. I will be quite clear: I will not allow interjections during ministerial statements. Standing order 251 says that the minister speaking is not to be interrupted, except in certain circumstances. The member can refer to the standing orders if he wants to.

Mrs D'ATH: I know the members representing Ipswich have been very keen to see those positions based in Ipswich, as has the Premier.

A well-respected executive director-general, whom we poached from interstate, has already been recruited and work is already underway with her team. The interim reference group was established in January and has met monthly to help guide future skills priorities and a strategic outlook for future workforce planning. That group is comprised of representatives from a broad range of industries who possess the expertise needed for the critical functions of Jobs Queensland. The interim reference group includes representatives from CCIQ, the National Retailers Association and Tourism Queensland along with employee and training representatives. We on this side of the House are committed to providing Queenslanders with the opportunities to upskill, to build careers and to play an integral part in the attraction and expansion of industries.

Education, Curriculum Review

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (9.52 am): In this year's state budget, there is \$24 million in new funding to transition to the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance system. We are redeveloping the senior curriculum for modern learning. This is the first curriculum-wide review of authority subjects in decades. Close to 80 senior syllabuses will be overhauled to ensure that we are giving students the skills to succeed in a competitive, technology driven economy and society. We know that a comprehensive education requires more than learning basic subjects. That is why the Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority will develop new senior syllabuses to encourage critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration and ICT skills.

As part of this reform, some current syllabuses will be incorporated into new subject areas and new subjects will be developed. For example, for the very first time in Queensland a new psychology subject will be available. A new business and economics subject will be developed to pursue entrepreneurial skills. The existing range of ICT subjects will be incorporated into a single digital technology subject. Learnings in graphics and technology studies syllabuses will be incorporated into a new subject called design technology.

The QCAA is consulting with teachers and experts on the content of the curriculum. Learning area reference groups, including subject experts and stakeholder representatives, are informing the development of the draft syllabuses. Last May, the QCAA released drafts for the first 35 syllabuses to be redeveloped, with thousands of educators providing feedback to the expert writing teams. Work will begin on redeveloping a further group of syllabuses next month.

This is a major undertaking. It involves thousands of education professionals, many opinions and hard conversations. The reward will be a system that focuses on education and inspiring young Queenslanders, who are lifelong learners, valued employees, innovators, entrepreneurs, creators and responsible global citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Member for Pumicestone

 **Mr WILLIAMS** (Pumicestone—ALP) (9.54 am): My focus is and always has been on the needs of the people of Pumicestone. Therefore, I am disappointed that I have to rise in this place to talk about anything other than them.

I rise to speak about the outcomes of an inquiry into allegations levelled against me. On 31 May, the Queensland Police Service issued the following media statement—

The QPS investigation has concluded and no further action will be taken in relation to this matter.

Investigations determined there was insufficient evidence to conduct a formal interview with the subject of the allegations.

It is not intended to release further details relating to the investigation or any advice obtained as part of the investigative process.

I am extremely disappointed that these allegations were raised. I want to thank my parliamentary colleagues, including some members of the opposition, who supported me through this ordeal.

I also want to thank my wife, Cheryl, my mother, Betty, my family and the people of Pumicestone, who stood by me and maintained their confidence in me. I will continue to work hard to achieve for the people of Pumicestone. God bless.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (9.56 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That the Exhibited Animals Regulation 2016, subordinate legislation No. 69 of 2016, tabled in the House on 14 June 2016, be disallowed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Liberal National Party, Performance

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (9.57 am): The state budget, brought down this week, has outlined Labor's economic plan for Queensland. Yesterday, the opposition had an opportunity to put a real plan on the table. What did it do? It poached some of our ideas—ideas that the LNP never had while in office—and presented them as pale imitations. The Leader of the Opposition presented just cheap knock-off versions. We know that the former member for Moggill, Bruce Flegg, labelled the member for Clayfield a very lazy treasurer. Now, he is leading the laziest opposition we have ever seen.

The big difference between our policies and the ones that the Leader of the Opposition talked about is that our policies are fully funded. Before the Leader of the Opposition stood up yesterday, the LNP already had a \$7 billion black hole. By the time the member for Clayfield had sat down, that black hole was \$8 billion. The Leader of the Opposition is making unfunded promises and promising more money for infrastructure. He opposes the pause in the contributions to the defined benefit scheme. That is \$2 billion. The Leader of the Opposition opposes the use of the surplus in the defined benefit scheme. There is another \$4 billion that the LNP has to find to fill its black hole. He would never realise the interest savings of \$800 million in his measures.

Of course, in terms of cash management and the GOC reforms, that is another big lump of \$750 million in the black hole that the LNP has to find. The Leader of the Opposition wants to scrap the planned three per cent surcharge on foreign buyers of residential property, which is digging the hole deeper by \$90 million. The Leader of the Opposition is criticising us, but is he criticising his colleagues in New South Wales, who are putting in place a four per cent surcharge?

The member for Indooroopilly attacks the 3.5 per cent indexation policy. In doing that, he is attacking the policy of the now Leader of the Opposition when he was treasurer.

Mr Emerson: It's twice the inflation rate.

Mr PITT: The shadow Treasurer keeps talking about 'twice the inflation rate'. Those guys opposite put it in. They built it into the forward estimates. They seem to have amnesia. Under their government, it was in the forward estimates.

If the members opposite want to put in place a freeze on car registration, that is another \$345 million that they will have to find. In addition, the LNP voted against the Ergon-Energex merger, a measure that will save \$680 million over the forward estimates.

Ms Palaszczuk: They wanted to sell it!

Mr PITT: I take that interjection from the Premier. They wanted to sell them off. Now they have great care about what happens with these GOCs. They are so compassionate when it comes to the future of GOCs, but they did not care about them when they wanted to flog them off.

Surely there is something that we can take from the speech of the Leader of the Opposition yesterday. I think what we took from it is that there was absolute silence and a noticeable absence of policy on privatisation. There was nothing. He could not even talk about what was there. We read about the fact that some of his colleagues are quietly backing a return to privatisation. They are obviously the ones who were not around for the last two elections where Queenslanders categorically ruled out asset sales. The Leader of the Opposition will be on his feet in a moment. Is this the time where we will find out an answer?

Cox, Ms J; Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.00 am): Before I engage in robust discussion, I also want to take a moment to express our shock and sorrow to hear of the terrible events in West Yorkshire that claimed the life of the British member of parliament, Jo Cox, early this morning Australian time. Politicians hold a privileged position in society, but there are times when expressing a clear view on behalf of either your constituents or your party or, indeed, your own beliefs, can make you a target within your own community and that is something that we should all fight against. These terrible events must only strengthen our determination to protect our precious freedoms and to never, never, never give in. We extend our deepest sympathies to Jo Cox's family—she leaves two young children behind—to the members of her party, the parliament and the British people.

What a week it has been. The end of this week cannot come quickly enough for the government in this place. We came into this place knowing we were going to see a week of raids, rip-offs and writedowns. We saw a sterling performance by the Treasurer, who got his own tax wrong by 3,000 per cent in his own hand-prepared notes and a media release where he could not even get his tax numbers right. On Monday we then had the spectacle of neither the Premier nor the Treasurer knowing how their incentive scheme would work. The Premier did not know whether it was going to be a tax break, whether it was going to be a payroll tax break or whether they were going to hand moneys over. On Monday they were as confused as the rest of Queensland was about their budget. On Tuesday we saw the worst delivery of a budget that I have ever seen in this place. There was not one iota of support from the backbench. They all sat there wondering what was going on. We were all left wondering what was happening with infrastructure. The Deputy Premier looked like she had swallowed a lemon when she found out there was only \$50 million for the most important infrastructure project in Queensland and it crashed and burnt on the launch pad. That was only Tuesday.

By Wednesday they could not understand where their superannuation money was coming from and could not explain why they ignored the State Actuary's original recommendation to only take \$2 billion. By Wednesday lunchtime their business sponsors could not even see the economic sense in their program. By Thursday the Treasurer's probably only backer, the Premier, was even refusing to say his name in this place. We also had the revelations that the government's property tax was the worst tax designed in Australia and at the same time trend unemployment was on the up. This leaky ship of Labor currently being steered by 'Captain Risky' is doomed to sink.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Budget

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (10.04 am): My first question is to the Premier. I refer to reports today of increasing criticism of the Treasurer and his failed budget amongst his cabinet colleagues and union supporters. Will the Premier be telling these cabinet and union critics just to 'settle down'?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. The Treasurer, Curtis Pitt, has handed down a responsible, measured budget. As I said yesterday, and I will say in the House again today, we will back our Labor budget against an LNP budget any day of the week. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition had the opportunity to stand in this House once and for all and state very clearly his bold vision and plan for Queensland. Did we get anything? We got nothing—absolutely nothing!

Ms Trad: We got JPL!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. We had someone on the TV for all the wrong reasons, and it was not the Leader of the Opposition, that people in this House should be ashamed of. Very clearly the Leader of the Opposition had the opportunity to state once and for all whether the LNP stands for asset sales. Does it still hold the view that it did when it was in government that the only choice was to sell asset sales? If the Leader of the Opposition wants to talk about colleagues, let us look at his colleagues. It is reported in the *Australian* today that privately some of his colleagues are quietly backing a return to some form of privatisation. There are murmurings and rumblings. They are talking to Sarah from the *Australian* because they still want a pro-privatisation policy in this state.

The people of Queensland spoke very clearly at the last state election. Has the Leader of the Opposition heard that message? Today is the day—he did not do it yesterday—to stand in this House and let Queenslanders know once and for all does he still hold an asset sales policy in this state. The people of Queensland want to know. There is disunity on the opposition benches. They are unhappy. They are going around talking about privatisation.

Who can forget the first budget that the Leader of the Opposition handed down? How was that measured? There was a rally of over 20,000 people at the doors of this parliament against his budget. Do not forget the past. We do not forget the past. We will remind those opposite every single day in this House—

(Time expired)

Budget, Superannuation

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Premier. I refer to reports about Queensland's fantasy super surplus and the fact that the Treasurer will not commit to making a contribution to public servants' super fund if it goes into deficit due to Labor's \$4 billion raid. Why after two days will the Premier or the Treasurer not guarantee to top up the fund if it goes into the red? I table the report.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, dated 17 June 2016, titled 'Queensland's fantasy super surplus sets a dangerous precedent' [989].

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. First of all, and I have made this point before, the fund is fully funded. The surplus was used to pay down debt and pay for infrastructure to get people back into work. The entitlements of the public servants who are part of the defined benefit fund are guaranteed by legislation, just as they are legislated in every other state, but in every other state they are unfunded.

Obviously the Leader of the Opposition is incapable of reading the State Actuary's advice wherein it was advised the government could take up to \$5 billion. Let me repeat it once again: we made a tough decision because we need to drive the economy and get people back into work. That is what my government is doing.

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was quite clear: why after two days will the Premier or the Treasurer not guarantee to top up the fund if it goes into the red?

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the Opposition. I made a ruling yesterday. We have one budget week a year. I have made it very clear that I will allow a relaxation in relation to the issue of the narrow interpretation of the question. Premier, do you have anything further to add? The Premier has finished.

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Thank you, member for Callide. I hear you.

Back to Work Regional Jobs Package

Mr BUTCHER: My question is of the Premier. Regarding the government's \$100 million Back to Work regional jobs package, is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches to growing jobs in regional Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Gladstone for that important question. Central to our budget was the \$100 million Back to Work program to grow those economies and to make sure that people have the opportunity to get a job. I reiterate that I asked businesses throughout regional Queensland to partner with government to ensure that people can get jobs in regional Queensland. I know how important that is in Gladstone and other regions. I have been to Gladstone. We have had the downturn and the LNG industry coming on board and we need to make sure that we get people back into work.

Yesterday, the program outlined by the Leader of the Opposition was quite shocking. He wants to utilise the money from the Back to Work program, but take it out of regional Queensland. He does not stand up for the regions in this state. His policy was to take it out of the regions. The website is live and we want businesses to come on board. The Leader of the Opposition has been critical of other companies moving to Queensland. His was an anticompetitive LNP government—

Ms Jones interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right, the LNP member from Clayfield. Where are the true Liberals? These ones are anticompetitive. Let us look at some of the businesses that, under the policy of the Leader of the Opposition, would not have moved here: Virgin would not be here and neither would the jobs that it creates, Boeing would not be here and perhaps Hawker Pacific would not be here. In fact, 97 businesses were attracted to Queensland under former governments, but obviously he does not want them to be here.

What is the view of the Leader of the Opposition on Southern Oil, which is looking to create a brand-new industry here in Queensland? We were able to attract Southern Oil from New South Wales to Gladstone, in the member's electorate. Obviously, the Leader of the Opposition is anti-competitive. He does not want the businesses here. If you do not want the businesses here, you do not want the jobs that go with them. Do they support competition or not? We will back business and we will back jobs. We will back our Back to Work program, because it is about getting people jobs in regional Queensland.

Jobs Queensland

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. Given that Queensland was the only state to see an increase in unemployment yesterday with almost 40,000 jobs lost in the past three months, I ask: is not this further evidence that Labor's Jobs Queensland plan is a failure?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I find it ironic that any member of the opposition would ask about jobs or dare to mention the word 'jobs' in this House considering their track record: they sacked 14,000 people. As I said, we are putting in place a very clear jobs program to get people back into work. That is why we reinstated Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which will train 32,000 people, enabling them to get employment. That is why we put in place a \$100 million Back to Work program to get 8,000 people back into the workforce. We back Queenslanders and they sack Queenslanders. Given their track record, I will not be lectured to by anyone from the opposition about jobs. Let us remind the Leader of the Opposition—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, quite frankly, I do not mind a reasonable interjection. You have had more than ample latitude, Leader of the Opposition. Member for Callide, if you persist you will be warned. You have notice.

Ms PALASZCZUK: If the Leader of the Opposition wants to talk about numbers, he got only 14 for the leadership.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, this is question time. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has asked a question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They have actually attacked our business attraction initiative. They have attacked a program to bring businesses to Queensland to grow jobs. My government is firmly focused on growing jobs throughout Queensland no matter where people live, because we understand that there is dignity in work. Members must not think for one moment that any front-line worker such as an ambulance officer, a nurse or a doctor is not terrified at the prospect of that lot taking power again.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They are very rude, today. They must be tired.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I am looking for people I can name and identify. The member for Albert is being identified by his colleagues, so member for Albert, you will join the list. Member for Albert, you are warned under standing order 253A, as voluntarily identified by the member for Callide.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In conclusion, this budget is about jobs and it is about getting people back into work. We will back Queenslanders every single day.

Infrastructure

Mrs LAUGA: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on what the Palaszczuk government is doing to deliver the infrastructure that Queensland needs and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative policies?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Keppel for her question. I know that she is a keen advocate for infrastructure in regional Queensland. That is a good thing, because Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered the Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program. I know that there are a whole range of local members on this side of the House, although not too many on that side of the House, who have been strong advocates for local projects in their communities, which this government is prepared to fund and back because we know how important those projects are for stimulating local economies, creating jobs and delivering great facilities for service delivery in regional Queensland.

This year our capital budget is \$10.7 billion. Over the forward estimates, it will be more than \$40 billion. This year alone, 31,000 Queenslanders will be supported through our capital program—that is, 31,000 jobs. Yesterday I sat in this House and heard those opposite talk about a lack of infrastructure spend. Those opposite fail to remember their own record of only 18 months ago. We know that those opposite failed to deliver a state infrastructure plan. They promised, but failed. They failed to deliver a pipeline of projects that investors could invest in. When the Leader of the Opposition was trade and investment minister, he went overseas, came back and reported to this place that investors were looking for a pipeline. What did he do? Nothing! He knew that there were markets looking to Queensland to invest. What did he do? Nothing!

What did he say yesterday about Queensland's No. 1 infrastructure project? He said nothing. Did he mention Cross River Rail yesterday? Not at all, but he wants to get up in the House and talk about the fact that we have allocated \$50 million to get the delivery authority up and running to get this project built. I call on the member for Clayfield to actually do something useful—pick up the phone to Malcolm Turnbull and actually get him to deliver on this project. It has been this government that has made Malcolm Turnbull commit to Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2. It is this government that has made Malcolm Turnbull commit to the Townsville stadium. It will be this government that makes the next federal government commit to Cross River Rail.

Public Service

Mr EMERSON: My question is to the Premier. I refer to the government's plan to change the way it counts public servants and the fact that the government has failed to publish the number of public servants for March 2016. Why will the government not tell Queenslanders how large its ballooning bureaucracy has become?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker—

Ms Grace: Why do you hate public servants?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take that interjection. I thank the shadow Treasurer for the question. As reported today—and this is in the budget papers—there will be a new ICT system to calculate the numbers so that they are presented in a clear—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, the Premier's answer is relevant to the question and she deserves the opportunity to be heard in silence.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. It will be there for all to see. When those opposite were in government we could not even get the total number of people who were sacked because they wanted to hide that from the public.

As we said at the last election, we will restore front-line services in this state. That is why there will be 1,940 extra nurses, 651 extra doctors, 479 extra health professionals, 940 extra teachers and teacher aides, 300 extra police, 54 extra paramedics and 44 extra firefighting staff.

The real issue for those opposite is to go back to their electorates and say whether or not they support those front-line services in their electorates or whether they will sack those workers in the future. That is what Queenslanders want to know. When it comes to the record of those opposite, their record is sacking public servants and not valuing people. They are the front-line service providers who are there to provide a community service.

Budget, Rural and Regional Queensland

Mr KING: My question is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer outline how the budget is being received in rural and regional Queensland?

Mr PITT: I thank the member for the question. I am glad that someone in this House is prepared to ask me a question. I have been looking forward to one during budget week. Clearly, those opposite are not looking to get any answers. If they need any further clarification, I point out that debt is lower under us, growth is higher, unemployment is lower and we are saving more in interest repayments. That is just in case they want to get some answers out of us this week.

I thank the honourable for his question. He understands that this government is putting its efforts into where they are needed most right now—that is, in regional Queensland. We know that half of the \$10.7 billion infrastructure program is being spent in regional Queensland—\$4.9 billion. The Back to Work package worth \$100 million is going to be about supporting regional Queenslanders, including

long-term unemployed regional Queenslanders, to get back into the workforce. We think it is going to support around 8,000 Queenslanders. That is 8,000 families that will be better off under our package than the employment light version that was offered up by the member for Clayfield yesterday.

Why do those opposite not care about regional Queensland? We heard in the member for Clayfield's budget reply speech that he did not agree with our hundred million dollar Back to Work package. He thinks that he can use that as a funding source for the other things that he is putting up. The problem with that is that it is about the only thing he provided a funding source for. He cannot fund anything if he cannot tell us what his position is on asset sales.

Going forward we have a lot of things in this budget that we can talk to. There is the rural debt and drought task force that was undertaken last year and early this year. I thank the member for Mount Isa, the member for Nanango and also the member for Ipswich West for their work on that. There are great things happening as a result of that task force bringing that information to government. They will deliver real outcomes for people in rural and regional Queensland.

We also need to talk to a few other issues. There are some regional MPs in this place who have had some good things to say about the budget. I normally do not quote back to members in this House what they said in a speech the day before. I was pleased to hear what the member for Dalrymple, Shane Knuth, said yesterday. He said that since he was elected in 2004 this is probably the best budget he has seen for rural and regional Queensland. I thank the member for that.

We are here to work for all Queenslanders, including delivering into the electorates of those opposite. We are actually about picking the economy up and driving it. We know regional Queensland is this government's focus. South-East Queensland is not being left out. We have to prioritise spending where we can.

Let us have a look at what the LGAQ said. I will quote from their release. They stated—

Queensland councils will be heartened by today's State Budget, with funding allocated to major road projects ...

Mr Knuth interjected.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock! Treasurer, unfortunately you have provoked the member for Dalrymple to engage in a debate. Member for Dalrymple, you have had a pretty good go.

Mr PITT: That was not the effect we were hoping to have. This is a great budget for regional Queensland—one that I will be very much looking forward to talking to communities right across the state about. On this side of the House we get it. We are about jobs.

Retail Energy, Deregulation

Mr HART: My question is to the Premier. I refer to Labor's controversial decision to delay deregulation of the retail energy market in South-East Queensland by a year which has cost families hundreds of dollars, and I ask: with deregulation now scheduled to occur in less than two weeks, where is the government's public information campaign to inform consumers of these changes?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member very much for the question. The government is very well aware that deregulation is to commence on 1 July. There will be a public communication campaign about that to ensure that people understand the process.

Whilst we are talking about electricity, let me end on this note. One very important point that contrasts our government with the previous LNP government is pensioner concessions for electricity. Our government believes that pensioners have the right to those concessions. Let us not ever forget the track record of the Leader of the Opposition in his third budget when he axed those concessions. I will only give credit for this: it was the former premier who actually forced the treasurer at the time into a backflip because there was a huge outcry from pensioners right across the state. That shows once again that this government has a heart and the LNP does not.

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will finish at 10.30 this morning.

Regional Queensland Jobs

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations. Will the minister update the House on the government's efforts to support jobs in regional Queensland and on any alternative proposals?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have two minutes.

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Mackay for her question. I am looking forward to working with her on Back to Work Mackay—a program that is a practical plan to get unemployed people back to work in the regions, supporting employers and business. This is a plan that supports all regional employers and businesses willing to take on a jobseeker and not just businesses with a turnover of less than \$2 million. What we saw yesterday from the Leader of the Opposition in response to our plan is a half-baked and hastily cobbled together policy on the run which could only have been thought up by the member for Kawana.

The so-called Tool for Tradies plans would give apprentices \$500 vouchers to buy tools. The member for Kawana claimed, 'The commitment was part of the LNP's plan to get Queenslanders working, providing jobs for up to 20,000 Queenslanders.' This is nothing but a cruel hoax. While I support assistance, I remind the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Kawana that vouchers are not jobs. It is a program that was scrapped by the federal Liberal government and replaced by a loans scheme. Contrast that with our Back to Work package, dedicated with a focus on regional Queenslanders and all businesses—a package with up-front payments after four weeks, not after four years. They are so out of touch with modern workplaces.

This plan that they have cobbled together is nothing but a cruel hoax for those jobseekers in the region and is wrongly targeted. Regional Queensland deserves better. Regional jobseekers deserve better. Regional employers and businesses deserve better. They are getting a better deal under the Palaszczuk government's regional Back to Work package. I look forward to working with all our regional members to deliver that package on the ground.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

DUTIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 16 June (see p. 2531), on motion of Mr Pitt—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (10.31 am): I rise to contribute to the debate on the budget brought down this week by the Treasurer. The opening line in this year's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Service Delivery Statements states—

A strong agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector remains essential to meeting the Queensland government's objective to create jobs in a diverse economy.

This statement is clearly at odds with the figures in this year's raids, rip-offs and writedowns budget. The raw figures show a 2.5 per cent cut to agricultural spending which equates to a real cut of \$5 million in the forward estimates. It is hardly a glowing endorsement of the importance that the agricultural sector plays in Queensland's economy and it reaffirms this government's history of neglecting rural and regional Queensland. While the minister says she is trying to grow agriculture across Queensland, in truth there is not a lot of support.

There is not a lot of commitment from her government, especially when costs have increased in line with CPI, Public Service wages are up 2.5 per cent, and average growth in government spending is three per cent. There is no big spending in agriculture. Indeed, the real question in terms of spending on biosecurity and the new Office of Rural Affairs with no new money is: what does it all mean to existing programs and more particularly to existing front-line staff and especially those in the regions? There is simply less money for agriculture against the background of Labor's massive spending spree in the Public Service vis-a-vis hiring 4,103 more staff than forecast in 2015-16 and with the Public Service wage bill ballooning by 7.3 per cent, but not in agriculture.

I firmly believe that agriculture is ideally positioned to fill the void left by the downturn in the mining and resources sector. There is a growing demand for our produce both domestically and internationally and there is no question that our hardworking farmers are at the forefront when it comes to producing top quality produce in this state. It is my vision to develop a global agribusiness plan focusing on major income creation for Queensland agribusiness with a special focus on South-East Asia. This is a budget short on detail. My phone has not stopped ringing with calls from producers, industry groups and media expressing their concern with the lack of detail contained within the budget.

I am particularly interested in how the government will work to improve front-line services in the areas of wild dog and pest officers, agronomists and fisheries officers. These positions are vital to ensure our farmers and producers receive the support they need to function. The LNP worked hard to get more staff in the regions out of head office and out into the regions and on the front line, but there are no new front-line staff in this budget. Overall, there is less money and fewer staff on the front line. Funds for the biosecurity overhaul will need to be found internally, so there will be cuts in other areas. We will have to wait and see where.

Whilst I acknowledge the ongoing commitment to drought assistance funding and the injection of funds into Queensland's biosecurity capability, Panama Disease and research facilities, I do have concerns with the government's announcement to rebadge the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority as the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority. Given that the Rural Debt and Drought Task Force report was then referred to the Finance Administration Committee for consideration and is not due back before the House until the end of the year, one would question the motive behind this initiative.

The announcement of this initiative in the budget makes a mockery of the committee process, and committee members and indeed producers right across the state have a right to question the logic behind this decision. I certainly hope this is not some bandaid measure rushed through parliament as part of the budget process to appease the task force chairman. There is no detail in the budget document relating to how this new entity will function and if in fact loans, grants, rebates and subsidies would be administered, including lending criteria, and if this new entity will be subject to the same strict financial regulations and rules as our commercial banks. After all, if our producers cannot access low-interest loans with more flexibility in terms of repayments and security than a commercial institution, what is the point in establishing this entity?

The last thing our producers need is another bureaucracy that creates more obstacles and burdensome red tape. The fact the minister is looking at an expanded board charter highlights these concerns. What assurance can the minister give that the new Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority will provide the necessary assistance to Queenslanders in an efficient and cost-effective manner? I also ask whether this new entity will continue to administer the delivery of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangement Assistance Program for primary producers, small businesses and non-profit organisations.

I note that the minister is establishing a Queensland Climate Risk and Drought Resilience Program along with a new Office of Rural Affairs. Where will the funds for these initiatives come from? In a department that is strapped for cash and, according to the minister, needs to spend a lot of money on getting biosecurity up to scratch, how much will this cost and is this simply another layer of bureaucracy? There is nothing new here.

This is a Labor policy that someone in the bowels of the department has pulled out of the draw, blown the dust off and presented to the minister as a new, you-beaut idea for the bush. The last time that this was done, Labor's previous incarnation, the Office of Rural Affairs and Rural Communities, was headed by that old bushy, Anna Bligh's partner, Greg Withers. That is right: that old bushy with his South Brisbane earring. I wonder if he is still around and available to head up this new hard-hitting policy unit? I hope that our farmers and industry will be consulted on the minister's plan to introduce legislation to improve farm debt meditation as the relationship between our farmers and lending institutions has been at times in the past very ordinary.

I am pleased to see the removal of stamp duty on intergenerational transfer of farming properties where a financial consideration is exchanged. I believe this would be a great incentive for farming families to enact succession planning strategies earlier and help to future-proof the agricultural industry. I am aware this issue has been raised by Cotton Australia and that this concession does not apply to the water licence entitlement component of these intergenerational transfers. In many cases, the water licence component of an irrigated farming property can account for in excess of 50 per cent, and in some cases up to 80 per cent, of the value of the land and water package. As a consequence, I would ask the Treasurer that, if stamp duty still applies to the value of the water licences, this anomaly be rectified and that that exemption apply to the total family farm asset.

There is no questioning the importance of industry relevant education and training, so it is with some concern that I note a reduction in the number of full-time employees in the upcoming budget along with a reduction of almost \$2 million in funding from the 2015-16 budget to the 2016-17 budget. Surely at a time when we are talking about upskilling Queenslanders and creating jobs the government should be committing to additional funding in this area. After all, we are talking about our next generation of farmers.

I also believe there should be a greater use of our regional and rural TAFEs to deliver industry relevant education and training with a closer link to producers. To use Bowen as an example, I believe there is enormous scope in this community for agricultural courses through the TAFE in Bowen to link with our universities and deliver that training in a locality where they get firsthand experience and where there is a need to educate our next generation of farmers. This would keep our young people in the regions and provide real job opportunities and a career path for these young people.

The minister claims that her government is committed to high standards of biosecurity, but her claims are not supported by her actions. This is a government that cut biosecurity staff in 2014-15 from 621 to 561 in the 2015-16 year—that is right; a reduction of 60 staff. This week the minister has taken action to dump Queensland's hard-won protected zone status for Bovine Johne's Disease, more commonly known as BJD, leaving our state's 19,000 beef and dairy producers to cope for themselves. Furthermore, this minister has ignored serious concerns raised by dairy farmers and rushed ahead with the dumping of the protected zone without final approval from her own industry advisory committee because the paperwork failed to arrive in time for a recent meeting. Only the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation have taken a stance and highlighted the total lack of consultation with real producers in Queensland.

This decision from the minister, dropped out this week with just a couple of weeks notice, is the last thing the industry needs and it goes totally against the line being held by other governments in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. It has been packaged as a market driven, industry managed and risk based approach, but that is simply a smokescreen. It is now down to individual farms to cover off and protect their herds by getting assurances. All I can say is good luck with that. The truth is there has been no fair dinkum consultation with the vast majority of Queensland beef and dairy producers, no explanation from the minister, no meetings, no outline of how this is going to work, if the department is going to maintain a list of infected herds and properties, and how producers can check paperwork on the stated health status of cattle.

Earlier today I received a call from AgForce which expressed its concerns at the lack of information amongst our producers regarding BJD and how this removal of the protected zone status will impact on them. They have certainly raised concerns and issues, and a recommendation has been put forward to the government to have a health awareness document—statement or certificate; call it what you like—accompany all cattle, particularly those coming into Queensland, to give them that degree of comfort that they need to know they are bringing cattle into this state that are BJD free. The Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation surveyed its 450 members in August last year, and the overwhelming majority of respondents said that they wanted the protected zone maintained. Given that a shipment of dairy heifers from Victoria to Japan were recently found to have BJD, it highlights the potential risk to our live export industry and the need to ensure we maintain our protected status in Queensland.

We simply do not know with beef producers because there has been very limited consultation with only a handful of people. No survey has been undertaken by industry and certainly not by the government. With producers having to self-manage for BJD from 1 July, the entire industry was left wondering because the all-important new regulations on how it was supposed to work have still not been released by the minister. The key question the minister has failed to answer is how dumping the protected zone will stop the spread of BJD in Queensland's beef and dairy herds.

The budget papers show the government has failed to deliver on its promise made last year to establish a fish allocation policy and revised regulations for commercial fishing. Whilst I note the government will be engaging with recreational and commercial fishing organisations to investigate the establishment of a commercial net-free fishing area in Moreton Bay, I also note there is no funding allocated to this initiative in the budget. The commercial fishing sector in Queensland is in turmoil thanks to this government and not just because of the current minister but also because of her predecessor, Bill Byrne. It defies logic to think that this government is running at least a year behind—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I ask the member to refer to members by their official title.

Mr LAST: The member for Rockhampton; my apologies, Madam Deputy Speaker. The minister is also paying lip-service to Queensland's forest and timber industry, which accounts for more than 10,000 jobs in this state. Apparently the minister is going to continue with the forest and timber industry plan—a plan the LNP started in 2012—but she does not even include the forestry industries in the title of her department.

The Treasurer has clearly shown in this budget that he is incapable of delivering a sustainable, long-term plan and an ability to create jobs in the agricultural sector. The agricultural industry needs a commitment from the government to take on the big issues, to reduce the price of electricity, to better

manage and improve water assets, to open up overseas markets and commit to the delivery of infrastructure which will provide real growth in the sector. Unfortunately, what they got was confirmation that the agricultural sector is the poor cousin when it comes to funding in this state at a time when it has the potential to drag this state out of the mire pit it finds itself in. The LNP government had to re-form a dedicated department because there was no department of agriculture under Labor, and this budget clearly shows little has changed in terms of the importance of this sector to Queensland's future.

I now want to turn to my electorate of Burdekin. Words cannot express how disappointed I am in the lack of interest shown by this government in funding vital infrastructure projects throughout the electorate. Projects like the Drive It NQ facility at Calcium, the Bowen Developmental Road upgrade, the Haughton River Bridge project, the Stuart Drive upgrade in Townsville, the all-tide VMR boat-launching facility in the Burdekin, maternity services at Bowen Hospital, the Bowen boat harbour and Collinsville rejuvenation plan are just some of the projects that would kickstart the economy in the region and provide much needed jobs.

Whilst I welcome the commitment to the Mount Inkerman nature tourism development, Bowling Green Bay National Park walking track upgrade and widening of the Bruce highway at Nome, there is no commitment to projects which have the potential to create significant jobs. Regional communities such as Bowen and Collinsville, and to a lesser extent Ayr and Home Hill, are haemorrhaging, highlighted by the announcement last week that Glencore will be closing down the historic Bowen coke works which has been producing coking coal for several decades. Increasingly, we are seeing hotels, motels and small businesses in these towns closing. For Collinsville, in particular, it has reached a critical juncture. If we do not start supporting these communities, they will become ghost towns. That means stipulating the engagement of local contractors in government projects and providing the necessary funding and support to kickstart these projects.

I have often stated in this place that the Burdekin is ideally situated to become the food bowl of South-East Asia. Whilst I know it has often been talked about, there are real opportunities to develop this area to capitalise on the growing demand for Australian produce. If you want a real project that will create hundreds of jobs and change the face of North Queensland, then fund the Elliot Main Channel, which would open up all the land between Home Hill and Bowen to intensive irrigated farming. A raised spillway at Burdekin Falls Dam means there is no reason why this project could not proceed.

There is a distinct lack of confidence out there in rural and regional Queensland. Business owners are looking to government to deliver the big-ticket items—the major projects which will drive investment and boost consumer confidence. Townsville is a classic example of a community in the doldrums. We need to see more cranes and more activity in Townsville. We need to see our tradies gainfully employed to inspire the confidence to put on more apprentices, and the best way to do that is to start building.

Of particular concern to me is the ongoing delays to the Adani mine project and associated development at the Abbot Point terminal. I acknowledge my neighbouring member for Whitsunday, who spoke about the importance of this project yesterday when speaking about his own electorate.

I am pleased to advise the House that we are finally moving ahead with a prefeasibility study for the construction of a food processing plant in Bowen. This facility will not only process produce from the local region but potentially process produce from throughout the state. This is a game changer for this area. We are not sitting around and waiting for this do-nothing government to start long overdue infrastructure projects in the north. Bowen Collinsville Enterprise, Bowen Gumlu Growers Association and local DAF staff and growers are now working together to bring this project to fruition. We are not talking. We are rolling up our sleeves and making it happen. It is a pity that those opposite did not join us on this journey.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Before I call the member for Kallangur, I would like to welcome to the gallery a group of students from St Ursula's College in the electorate of Toowoomba North.

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (10.51 am): I rise today to speak in support of the second budget from the Palaszczuk Labor government. I will start by congratulating the honourable Treasurer and cabinet on once again delivering a true Labor budget—a budget that delivers on jobs, that delivers on education and health services for Queenslanders and, importantly, that delivers for the people of Queensland while retaining our revenue-producing assets in government hands whilst reducing debt in a sensible and stable way. This budget delivers on what is always a priority for Labor governments—that is, jobs for Queenslanders.

The figures speak loudly. We have created over 52,000 jobs since January 2015. Our state's economy continues to be one of the fastest growing in the nation, even though we are transitioning from our resources boom. Why is that? It is because our government has invested strongly in innovation

so we can provide future jobs for future generations. We have invested \$405 million in Advance Queensland and \$19.7 million in biofutures so we can help to grow a sustainable biofutures industry to help deliver these employment opportunities. There is nothing more important to us than keeping Queenslanders in decent jobs that are safe, secure and rewarding.

We are investing more than \$10.7 billion in our capital program which will focus on important transport projects, like the Gateway Motorway north upgrade between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge which will help residents in my area who use the Gateway to and from work. This budget will continue to focus, as promised, on the restoration of vital front-line services like health and education—the services that suffered so much at the hands of the LNP's cruel cuts. We will be funding 1,940 extra nurses, 651 extra doctors, 479 extra health professionals, 940 extra teachers and teacher aides, 300 extra police, 54 extra paramedics and 44 extra firefighting staff.

This budget provides a vital reform to public transport fares in South-East Queensland. The existing 23 zones will be reduced to eight zones. This works particularly well in my electorate, as now Burpengary station is in the same fare zone as every other station in the Kallangur electorate. This will allow commuters to use the lesser used Burpengary station and ease pressures on nearby Narangba station.

Mr Power: Good outcome.

Mr KING: Great outcome; I take that interjection. This change will also bring lower fares across all zones from 1 January 2017. An average commute one way from my electorate to the Brisbane CBD will drop from \$7.27 to \$5.96. It will bring free weekend travel for children on a go card and keep the 'One, Two, Free' program for seniors. My local schools will once again benefit from the new funding. In my electorate, my local schools will receive \$3.3 million to construct additional classrooms at Murrumba State Secondary College, which is well needed and great—

Ms Jones: Hear, hear!

Mr KING: Thank you very much. My local schools will also receive further funding to complete the refurbishment of manual arts facilities at Dakabin State High School, where they sadly had the death of their peacock the other day so hopefully the refurbishment of the manual arts block will make them feel a bit better; \$100,000 to refurbish classrooms in block 11 at Dakabin State High School; \$200,000 to refurbish block A and C at Kallangur State School, a great school as well; \$300,000 to refurbish the former library block for special education program delivery at Kurwongbah State School; further funding to complete the refurbishment of the library at Narangba State School; and \$250,000 for the refurbishment of block 16 at Petrie State School.

Ms Jones: Thanks for your lobbying.

Mr KING: It did work. I take that interjection. Other funding in Kallangur will include \$28 million to fund the state component of the new Boundary Road interchange on the Bruce Highway, a project that the LNP were only going to fund if they sold our assets; the continuation of safety barriers on the Bruce Highway, which will go a long way towards stopping some of the tragic incidents we have had in recent months with vehicles crossing onto oncoming lanes; the completion of the new Petrie Fire Station; over \$950,000 to ensure children in need of protection have a safe place to stay in Kallangur, including funding for residential care services provided by Mercy Community Services in Petrie; \$611,000 to support the needs of children in out-of-home care in Kallangur, including funding for counselling services provided by the Frederick Marsden Youth Centre in Kallangur; \$389,000 to respond to domestic and family violence in Kallangur, including funding for counselling services and court based services provided by the Caboolture Regional Domestic Violence Service in Lawnton; \$112,000 for Encircle to provide community support at the Pine Rivers Neighbourhood Centre; \$6.039 million to assist people with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need in Kallangur, including funding for local service providers like Backstop Respite Care in Petrie, the Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland in Kallangur, Endeavour Foundation in Kallangur and Petrie, Leeding Care Australia in Kallangur and Kurwongbah, Multicap Ltd in Kurwongbah and Petrie, SCOPE in Kallangur and Murrumba Downs, and UnitingCare Community in Petrie.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr KING: Kallangur did well. I am happy to see that my colleague to the north, Mark Ryan, has secured a necessary—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I ask the member to please refer to other members by their official title.

Mr KING: My colleague to the north, the member for Morayfield, has secured a necessary disability upgrade to Morayfield station in this budget. Last year my colleague to the south, the member for Pine Rivers, received an upgrade to Strathpine station so I am awaiting with great interest the outcome of the scoping study into what options exist for the much needed and well-overdue full upgrade to Dakabin station in my electorate. We have heard about that many times in this place. As I have stated quite a number of times, Dakabin needs much more than just a disability upgrade. I have been advised by the minister that an interim options analysis is expected to be delivered at the end of June 2016 for the purposes of technical assessment by TMR, with the full options analysis to be delivered by October 2016. Once this analysis is complete, the minister and I will certainly be having discussions about the pathway to a complete upgrade. I commit to continue to lobby until our residents get this necessary upgrade to our station.

Less than two years ago, Queenslanders made a decision to vote for a Labor government that would deliver for the people of Queensland, providing funding for infrastructure, innovation, education and health as well as creating jobs now and into the future. This budget confirms they made the right choice. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (10.58 am): In this 2016-17 Queensland state budget, we have again seen comments that have been vague and mostly seem contradictory. The smoke-and-mirrors plan seems to have a couple of main elements or thought bubbles. The budget injects funds from the Queensland public servants' defined benefit fund into government owned corporations to seek project finance from the private sector. The government is continuing to spend as only Labor can—with no plan for the future.

There has been plenty of controversy over this government's plans to raise funds from investors and government owned corporations. This highlights the many dangers with playing smoke-and-mirrors and not attacking or achieving any real change—a sad day for Queensland. What should be highlighted is this Treasurer's use of language that suits the needs of the government when talking about government finances. When the Treasurer talks about 'the budget', he is referring to the general government budget, which excludes government owned corporations—which this government has loaded billions of dollars of debt onto the balance sheets for future generations of conservative governments to deal with. This lot will never achieve a positive budget outcome. They are using smoke and mirrors and treating the electorate like fools.

We know that the world economy continues a slow recovery from the global financial crisis and that superannuation funds are also struggling. We have heard from Reserve Bank governor Glenn Stevens, who stated that the world's really low interest rates are putting increased pressure on superannuation funds. There are many speaking out against these raids on superannuation funds. The Future Fund has just posted its first negative quarter performance in almost four years. With discussions around poor investment outlook, especially here in Queensland, one wonders with all these challenges facing the superannuation sector why this government would raid the capital of the state's defined benefit superannuation fund to plug the increasing black holes in their budgets. It will be disastrous to the great state of Queensland.

In the words of Queensland's independent Auditor-General, the Palaszczuk government's first budget was full of short-term strategies. In 2015-16 the state budget included some desperate measures including stripping \$3.4 billion out of the long service leave entitlement pool reserve, increasing debt on government owned corporations by \$4 billion and of course instituting a freeze on those superannuation contributions for public servants. The Auditor General's report to this parliament was critical of the now all-too-common hollow-log raids becoming commonplace and strongly suggested that the government apply more permanent solutions to reduce debt. We know that these raids, which have been condemned by the Actuaries Institute of Australia and many Labor Party senior members, will mean that the long service payments will now have to be funded through more Labor debt into the future. This is again another example of our grandchildren being responsible to pay down this government's ever-increasing debt liabilities.

In acknowledging that once these funds were always free from political interference, the state will not have the capacity to weather another financial crisis. Queensland was the envy of all the other states and successive governments for having fully funded long service leave and superannuation. The big problem with this short-sighted raid on Queensland's defined benefit fund is the fact that the fund is volatile like many other funds. In the period prior to 2008, the returns of these funds varied between minus five per cent and 21 per cent. During the global financial crisis the defined benefit fund was in deficit. It was reported in the *Australian* that in the last two reporting periods the fund has missed its investment target by nearly a billion dollars. Given the financial sector's concerns about Queensland

government investment returns, those who have taken investments through government bonds know the present investment returns are below the long-term bond rate—and Labor has made the decision to freeze superannuation contributions.

There are now many who believe that the reported surplus could disappear rapidly if there are any market failures. We should be concerned about what tricks and smoke-and-mirror antics this government will have to produce next budget to fund its unfunded election promises and out-of-control expenses growth. In reviewing this budget we find it makes next to no mention of the clear election commitment and the legislation that was passed in this House recently regarding the merger of Queensland's electricity generation and distribution assets to scrape out meagre annual savings. We all heard many times during the campaign of this government's grand plan to deal with their legacy debt issue. This budget was silent on committing two-thirds of the dividends of income-earning assets towards debt in the future and a plan that supposedly was going to raise \$12 billion over a decade. Both dodgy deals were shot down by economists; they were part of a two-card trick to get through an election campaign. What Queenslanders got instead is a plan that puts at risk one of Queensland's greatest fiscal advantages over the rest of Australia—our fully funded Public Service entitlements.

Labor are trying to argue that GOCs pay off their own debt using their own revenues anyway. We all shrug our shoulders as if this is not a problem. The problem is that Queensland taxpayers are ultimately responsible for the debts of these businesses. That is exactly why there will not be any positive action from the ratings agencies as they measure the debts of the whole government sector against a state's revenue, even if money is being moved across to different balance sheets—a real problem for ratings agencies into the future.

What has not been disclosed is that loading the energy networks up with maximum debt now reduces their capacity to fund future capital works with retained earnings, meaning either they have to carry more debt with a reduced capacity to borrow, or they will require an equity injection from the state, as we do for CS Energy and Stanwell. Tens of millions of dollars from taxpayers is required every year to sustain these assets, but we hear from those opposite that these are the important revenue-earning assets.

What successive Labor governments do not acknowledge or ever deal with is debt and debt reduction. Servicing that debt must be done one way or another. What would happen in an economic downturn? It is much like what happened in 2009 when Labor was elected and only later revealed it planned to sell assets. What Queensland has received this year is an underwhelming budget, underdone because nothing will change in relation to the cost-of-living pressures, and debt levels will continue to rise—something we receive from traditional Labor budgets.

As has been well reported, the 2016-17 Queensland budget is scathing in its disregard for public finance accounting standards. We now know that, as Labor has opened the door to these dodgy and deceitful raids on government owned corporations, not content with a lazy \$4.1 billion from the most recent raid, more work will be done to find even more idle cash.

What is most disturbing in this post-GFC, post-mining boom decade of low interest rates with an obviously stalled global economy, which appears to be getting worse every day and highly volatile stock market returns, is that Queensland Labor would recommend cutting the relatively small surplus in these superannuation schemes to zero. In keeping with a typical Labor budget, there is no acknowledgment that Queensland finances are in no state to restart the spending trajectory of the Bligh-Fraser years. The 2010s has been and will continue to be the toughest decade for Australians. Per capita, incomes have been falling and the domestic and global outlook remains uncertain. Whereas other Australian governments have heeded these warnings and reined in debt and spending, Queensland thinks it is a special case, believing that it will be saved by liquefied natural gas exports.

There is very little doubt that Queensland's finances will be downgraded again. The only thing that has saved them recently was a credible Liberal National Party treasurer who was able to tell a convincing story of fiscal repair. I have said consistently that in all integrity people cannot be moved off the unemployment queue into a classroom to be trained in programs that failed previously for jobs that did not exist because, unfortunately, this government is doing nothing to grow the economy and stimulate the infrastructure spend we desperately need. We also know that, instead of looking to the private sector, Labor is just growing government and is hiring another 6,000 public servants at a cost of \$1 billion. These types of poor Labor policies were predicted before the election. Here we go again!

Honourable members can be assured that there is nothing good in Labor's proposal to phase out sandmining on North Stradbroke Island, and that has been well prosecuted in this House previously.

We have seen much made by those opposite about the preannounced federal government road projects and previously announced local projects. What is concerning is the lack of infrastructure, especially for the Bundaberg-Burnett region. We were bitterly disappointed that no flood mitigation projects were announced. Of course the hydrotherapy pool cuts were not refunded and there was no funding for the urgent safety upgrade to Kay McDuff Drive. Thankfully, the federal coalition has intervened so the state Labor government's infrastructure freeze will be averted.

I am also glad that our master plan for Mon Repos turtle visitation centre and research facility has seen round 2 funding to allow our master planned upgrade to continue from the work done in 2014. I must thank Bundaberg and North Burnett Tourism for their continued pressure to ensure this vital project was not ignored.

Our region will benefit from the funding of the Childers auxiliary fire and rescue station replacement. I know that the people of the region will welcome the forecast forward estimates from the 2014 announcements of the Bundaberg replacement fire and rescue station, incorporating the new ambulance station and gas pipeline to the mighty Burnett port.

An honourable member: The mighty?

Mr BENNETT: The mighty; I take that interjection. We do acknowledge the importance of water security for the region, so the funding for the ongoing Paradise Dam improvements was essential. We welcome that funding.

We have heard a lot about jobs, but I cannot identify any new money for my region that will generate the much needed jobs. We hear that this government will introduce many of their failed training programs, including announcing \$750 million for vocational training. The majority of this was already announced last year. In my region we have seen announcements that destroy—things like the Bundaberg Safe Night Out strategy, which will destroy jobs. I acknowledge that those opposite have not ceased our commitment to more police and teachers. Of course, we must continue our pensioner concessions. I know that people in my electorate will welcome those announcements. Police are going to need the numbers and resources, and Labor is continuing its form of going soft on crime. We put a shout out that we need more vehicles in my region.

With the huge demand for infrastructure in the regions, Labor's Building our Regions had a \$70 million budget allocation last year, but only \$406,000 of that budget was actually spent. With the huge demand for infrastructure in the regions, we must get a better result. The reality is the LNP's Royalties for the Regions program, which Labor scrapped, delivered more last year than Labor's own Building our Regions program.

The big new tax—Labor's rego slug—means a four-cylinder car now costs \$300 more to run. This is before including CTP insurance and the government's traffic improvement levy. We know that this is nothing new for Labor; the Bligh government increased car registration by 30 per cent. Under the last four years of the Bligh Labor government, car registration increased by 30 per cent. That is why we froze car rego for the term of our government. We know that running the family car is expensive and the LNP has committed to keep rego increases for the family vehicle to the inflation rate so Queenslanders can have a fair go.

The reality is that this budget delivers very little for Bundaberg and those hardworking men and women of the region. Employment growth is down; jobs are now drying up in the region through a significant lack of confidence; and unemployment is up and continues to rise after we stopped the upward pressure. I will be sad to expose this deteriorating state to my local area.

Labor promised to create jobs for young Queenslanders, but in the first 18 months of the government we have seen youth unemployment rise and fewer Queenslanders starting or completing apprenticeships and trainees. Labor is good at spending taxpayers' money but terrible when it comes to delivering real outcomes and jobs for Queenslanders. They talk about training for training's sake, and we talk about skills and training that leads to real jobs. Labor's flagship bureaucracy Jobs Queensland had not even started, despite being the relevant legislation passed by parliament eight months ago. Labor's only plan for jobs was to employ Labor mates like Peter Beattie, Terry Mackenroth, Steve Bredhauer and John Battams.

I will reiterate some of the things that have been spoken about this week: 5,500 fewer apprenticeships, traineeships and school based apprenticeships and traineeships have been completed in this financial year; there were 1,800 fewer apprentices and traineeships commenced in Labor's first nine months as opposed to the same period in 2014; youth unemployment has increased, particularly in my region where it is up to about 20 per cent. Thankfully, we are developing our policies to start fiscal repair, and I respect the position of those in my region who have been completely neglected by this government.

I am happy to discuss what we will do in relation to some cost-of-living issues. Our car rego pledge is out there for everyone to know about. We will keep car registration increases to the inflation rate for our first term of government. With regard to petrol price transparency, an LNP government will legislate so that fuel retailers have to display the undiscounted price of the most popular product. Of course our law and order stance against criminal gangs would be sustained. An LNP government would recommit to a red-tape-reduction target to ease the cost of doing business here in Queensland.

Our announcement about a container deposit scheme was a great thing for the environment and would also generate some benefit to the economy. An LNP government will reinstate and refine the flagship Royalties for the Regions program to boost jobs and help regional communities meet critical infrastructure needs.

The Service Delivery Statements for the Department of Housing and Public Works has shown an increase in costs and a reduction in assistance for housing services. It also shows the government's new Fairness Review has shown an increase in underoccupancy in government owned and managed social rental housing. We also see a forecast reduction of department owned social rental dwellings in acceptable condition. In general, the majority of measures flag a reduction in target expectations with one notable exception. We see a forecast increase in average wait times for allocation of assistance with government managed social rental housing for clients with very high or high need. It is concerning that new measures introduced only predict a 54 per cent new service standard demonstrating effective facility utilisation, so half the number of buildings for effective utilisation is very underwhelming.

All ministers are issued a charter letter upon their appointment. The minister received his in January this year, and it sets out the Premier's expectations as to what should be achieved in the minister's portfolio over the remainder of the term. It is interesting to note that a significant number of the items refer to reviews, and of course these are on the final page of the document: a Retirement Villages Act; a full review of housing policies; a review of findings of the Senate Inquiry into Affordable Housing; a review of security-of-payment laws; and a review of government procurement practices. This raises a number of questions. While it is sensible to review existing practices, procedures, policies et cetera, what plan did Labor have before it took government? It appears that the government is now chasing around for something to do. It clearly had no plan when it assumed office and, like so many other ministers, this minister has to review every aspect of the portfolio.

This long list of reviews calls into question how the minister's predecessor filled in her time throughout 2015. How come most of this reviewing had not been completed under the previous administration? The second half of the term should have been concerned with implementing the results of these reviews, not waiting around for someone to tell the minister what should happen. This is typical of the Labor government. It had no plan when it took office and now has to waste the bulk of its term seeking answers to questions it should have answered in opposition. These issues do not appear to be resolved by this budget.

The LNP introduced a number of reforms to deal with problem tenants. If Labor wants to unravel these important reforms with a 'fairness' policy, Queenslanders will need to know the details before they put this into place. There are issues with the cost of construction of government housing and what measures the government proposes to keep costs under control. If nothing is done, we will simply see more money being spent on fewer homes. This will mean that there will always be a shortfall in public housing, which is something that Queenslanders should have expected to be resolved. It is evident that the budget is lacking any innovation and reinforces the idea that government must do things differently if it is to get on top of the public housing shortage. Involving the private sector should be a key component, as would be the case in any future approved LNP policy. Again, raising these issues now will lay sound foundations as we all need to develop policy alternatives in the future.

Page 4 of the Service Delivery Statement sets out some of the charter letter matters, including the inquiries. It is unfortunate that the government sees an inquiry which it should already have undertaken as a highlight. On page 9 it states that a new Office of the Chief Adviser (Procurement) will be established from 1 July this year, and we just wonder who will be up for that job. Page 3 points out a list of challenges that the department is facing in the coming year, but there is limited evidence that they are in a position to adequately meet these challenges. This highlights the need to do things differently and the need for the government to examine innovative ways of doing business. This department is potentially one that will suffer from the government's general economic mismanagement. As the money runs out the temptation will be to cut services in the areas where they are needed most. As with housing, it tends to be expensive. Ultimately, it will be those who can least afford it who will be asked to pay for the government's economic recklessness.

In conclusion, unfortunately for the future of Queensland this is a budget of raids, rip-offs and writedowns.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Before I call the minister, I would like to acknowledge another group in the gallery from St Ursula's College in the electorate of Toowoomba North.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerst—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (11.16 am): I am pleased to speak in support of the Palaszczuk government's 2016-17 Queensland state budget. In his speech to parliament the Treasurer delivered a budget to support our state's transition to a more diversified economy; one in which innovation is at the heart of our future prosperity. This is a budget which is all about innovation, investment and infrastructure. It is a budget which is clearly designed to create jobs and get Queenslanders back to work.

In contrast, the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply has underlined the LNP's lack of vision for the future of Queensland's economy. In his response to the budget, the Leader of the Opposition once again failed to offer any hope to Queensland that he has a policy to diversify the economy. Queensland's start-up, entrepreneur and research and science community should be quite rightly concerned by the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply. Not once did he mention start-ups, entrepreneurs, researchers or the digital economy, he did not even mention the world 'science' and there was hardly a word about innovation—something that governments across Australia and around the world recognise as being a key for the future.

Did the shadow minister for innovation provide any semblance of hope for Queensland's innovation and science community in her budget reply? Sadly, she did not. What we did hear throughout her speech was negativity and some bizarre, irrelevant reference to her love of reality TV. There was not one mention of the opportunities that the digital economy is providing; not one mention of driving innovation in existing industries; not one mention of supporting start-ups. In effect, last night the shadow minister declared that the LNP have no interest in innovation and no plans for transitioning Queensland's economy. She showed no regard for the hardworking entrepreneurs, researchers, scientists and innovators who are helping to build Queensland's future. Instead, we heard another embarrassing claim by the member for Mount Ommaney who seems unable to undertake even a simple internet search.

On Tuesday she stood in this House and asked why a strategy developed by ICT leaders across government, which was implemented in 2013 and scheduled to run until 2017, still had a photo of the former minister in the forward. She also asked why the strategy—which, I remind Madam Deputy Speaker, is scheduled to run until 2017—had not been refreshed. If the member for Mount Ommaney had bothered to click any of the other links on the page where she found the strategy or had even read the actual page where she found the strategy, she would have discovered that work is well and truly underway on refreshing the strategy to be ready for 2017. She would have also discovered that this work is being developed in consultation with ICT leaders across government and the sector over many, many months.

That is not where the embarrassment stops. The member for Mount Ommaney then stood in this House last night and claimed that the digital economy strategy had disappeared magically overnight. Another simple Google search could clear up that great mystery for her very quickly: the Go Digital Queensland strategy is right there on the Go Digital Queensland website. Given the member for Mount Ommaney's clear inability to use modern technology and simple search engines, I will chalk up this embarrassing claim to inexperience rather than deliberately misleading the parliament; however, after her performance in the House last night no-one could consider her the shadow minister for innovation, as she has clearly demonstrated herself to be the shadow minister against innovation.

In contrast to what we have heard so far from the LNP, the Palaszczuk government's commitment to innovation and building the new economy is being delivered through the \$405 million Accelerating Advance Queensland program. What we see is a stark difference in policy for a rapidly changing global economy. The Palaszczuk government has an innovation policy and a \$405 million innovation and jobs plan.

The Leader of the Opposition and the LNP have nothing to contribute on innovation. We have a clear vision and are on a path to prepare our state for the future knowledge economy. We are helping Queensland embrace the opportunities innovation and the digital economy are providing to diversify our economy and create jobs now and jobs for the future. For example, we are investing \$6 million to develop regional innovation hubs to create a statewide innovation network and a further \$6 million for small business digital grants to help Queensland small businesses engage with the digital economy.

Mr Whiting interjected.

Ms ENOCH: I take that interjection; it is. The Palaszczuk government has also committed \$9 million for industry accelerators to increase productivity in key industries, and we are investing \$10 million in a platform technology program to support collaborative research and development activities on technologies like UAVs for use in areas such as agriculture, disaster management and environmental monitoring.

What the LNP have to offer is, sadly, an empty policy cupboard and, quite frankly, no vision for ensuring future generations of Queenslanders have the tools and the infrastructure to compete in domestic and global markets. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Can you confirm that you have approval from me as the Deputy Speaker?

Ms ENOCH: Yes, I do confirm that.

Leave granted.

This Budget is also about people and the residents in my electorate of Algester have benefited from announcements made this week.

Grand Avenue State School will receive \$300,000 in funding to refurbish three existing Special Education Program Learning Space areas.

Investing in local education infrastructure now would deliver benefits into the future for the community.

As we move towards the knowledge-based economy of the future, it is vital that we provide our children with the best possible learning environment.

To prepare the next generation for the jobs of the future we have to equip them with the tools to make the most of the opportunities the new economy will present.

I'm proud to be part of a government which is committing record funding to education.

There was also \$11.2 million provided to assist people with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need, including funding for Corporate Development Services and Wapdas in Parkinson and UnitingCare in Boronia Heights.

Ongoing funding of \$4.87 million will be delivered to ensure children in need of protection have a safe place to stay—including organisations like Mercy Community Services in Algester and Doolandella.

Services to support families to safely care for their children were provided \$636,000 in funding which will go to organisations like The Spot Community Services in Parkinson.

There was an allocation of \$124,000 to support young people and the community, including funding for the Salvation Army at Forest Lake.

And \$822,000 was provided 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, including funding for Flexible Living in Hillcrest.

I am delighted to see so many services providing support to my local community receive important funding.

Mr Speaker, right at the centre of the budget is the Accelerating Advance Queensland program.

This program has seen the \$180 million Advance Queensland innovation and jobs plan boosted to become a \$405 million whole-of-government program.

The Palaszczuk Government understands that investment in innovation and entrepreneurialism is going to be critical as we prepare Queensland for the knowledge-based economy of the future.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to update the House on the key role my departments are playing in the delivery of this Budget promise.

Through the Advance Queensland initiative we are working diligently to deliver a better future for the people and businesses of this state.

The initiatives led by the Departments of Science, Information Technology and Innovation and Small Business are delivering a sweeping agenda of economic transformation that will lay the groundwork for a bright future for all of us.

The Palaszczuk Government has increased its investment in innovation and creating the jobs of the future to \$405 million, an increase of more than \$225 million on the initial \$180 million announced last year.

This significant increase in innovation spending will position Queensland as the national innovation leader and broaden our focus to embrace further opportunities across the economy.

Advance Queensland is key to our state's economic diversity and our commitment to accelerate Advance Queensland will ignite economic growth and help create the jobs of the future.

Accelerate Advance Queensland is about this Government backing entrepreneurs and innovators across all sectors and across our regions, including startups, small business, school children, farmers, scientists, researchers, tradespeople, engineers, doctors and teachers.

This new investment has four primary objectives.

- Unlocking the potential of business to innovate
- Growing our regions
- Harnessing existing strengths and fostering emerging opportunities
- Building future generations.

I would like to expand on these objectives.

To Unlock the potential of business to innovate my departments will invest:

- \$22.7 million over three years for the Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy; and
- \$10 million for a Platform Technology Program.

The Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy has an emphasis on:

- stronger advocacy for small business;
- making it easier for small business to do business and connect with government and each other; and
- empowering small businesses to start, work smarter, grow and employ.

The strategy will be implemented from 1 July 2016, and will create an environment to increase Queensland's business competitiveness and make Queensland the state to start and grow a small business.

Under the strategy, we will establish an Office for Small Business.

The office will help small business create jobs, drive business growth, harness innovation, build digital capacity and improve coordination of small business initiatives across Government.

The office will develop and deliver programs to foster future entrepreneurs through the Queensland Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow program and expand the highly successful Mentoring for Growth program, with special focus on supporting women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We will put in place actions to advocate for small business such as appoint a Small Business Champion to advocate on behalf of Queensland's small businesses at state and federal discussions, and bring us in line with other states.

A new Small Business Knowledge Hub will also be created to research key issues impacting Queensland small business and draw on this to inform and influence policy decision making across Queensland Government.

It will also provide targeted support for small business to get a better start including \$10,000 Digital Capacity Grants and \$5000 grants through the Queensland Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow Program.

These initiatives will help small business increase their digital capabilities, presence and sales; ensure a more coordinated approach to service delivery across the government; strengthen support for regional small business; and provide a stronger advocacy voice for small business.

The Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy has a strong regional focus, with initiatives that will build better partnerships with government and regional stakeholders.

Under the Platform Technology Program, \$10 million will be invested to position Queensland at the forefront of the development and application of key technologies.

The program provides investment for collaborative R&D activities, focusing on technology platforms such as autonomous vehicles, drones, sensors, robotics, cloud and big data.

Projects supported will bring together large companies, SMEs, startups and research organisations to undertake R&D, support demonstrators and look at the broader regulatory environment to enable these technologies to enter new markets and uses.

Alongside generating new exports, these technologies have the potential to drive productivity growth in a whole range of existing industries including, aerospace, defence, agriculture, oil and gas field management, disaster management and environmental monitoring.

The program will help position Queensland as a leader in the Asia-Pacific region and speed technology emergence in the market.

To grow our regions, through the Accelerate Advance Queensland program, the Palaszczuk Government will invest \$6 million in Regional Innovation Hubs.

These hubs will build Queensland's regional innovative capability and create a statewide network encouraging collaboration and knowledge sharing.

They will be a focal point for linking entrepreneurs, startups, businesses, major corporate players, councils and universities to drive innovation within the regions.

Innovation Hubs will be a key point of access to support for business growth and innovation, R&D partners, mentoring and investors.

To harness our existing strengths and foster emerging opportunities we are committing:

- \$9 million for Industry Accelerators
- \$5m million for a Biofutures Commercialisation Program

Funding will be provided for a series of accelerators focusing on key industries such as agtech, mining and METs, lifesciences and medtech, tourism innovation, and the internet of things.

These accelerator programs will offer intensive support to help ambitious, early stage companies develop and market-test new products and services, build customers and attract angel and venture capital investment.

The programs will provide mentoring, advice, hands-on support and in some cases, seed capital to participants.

We know high growth, small businesses are the key drivers of job creation in the nation. We are determined to provide them with the best possible support to realise their growth ambitions.

The 10-year Biofutures Roadmap and Action Plan sets out a vision for a billion-dollar, internationally competitive industrial biotechnology sector in Queensland by 2025.

Through this initiative, the Palaszczuk Government will put in place a suite of initiatives to realise the opportunities the sector presents to grow new exports and jobs.

The Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation will lead work on a Biofutures Commercialisation Program to help this industry find its feet and grow strongly.

Support will focus on demonstration and scaling high-potential technologies, linking businesses with research partners and investors, build supply chain connections and critical mass, and evaluating global market potential.

Through the initial \$180 million Advance Queensland group of initiatives, the Palaszczuk Government has approved more than 183 funding applicants to undertake work in priority areas, such as developing cleaner, renewable energy technologies, improving health services, protecting the state's biodiversity and improving agricultural practices and outcomes.

In addition to the new Advance Queensland initiatives I have outlined, the Palaszczuk Government is determined to ensure that businesses, entrepreneurs, communities and research organisations have access to the infrastructure and connectivity to thrive in the digital age.

Not only is my department leading work on a digital infrastructure strategy to complement the State Infrastructure Plan, through this Budget, the Palaszczuk Government has committed an additional \$15 million to improve mobile coverage in Queensland.

This new investment will leverage additional funding from the Australian Government and mobile network operators.

As a result of previous funding to tackle mobile blackspots, 68 new mobile towers are in the process of being built across Queensland.

This new investment will see around 80 further towers being added, greatly benefiting communities and businesses across the state to whom mobile coverage is vital to their operations.

The Palaszczuk Government has worked with local governments to identify community priorities and consulted with mobile network providers to seek feedback on viability, cost estimates and eligibility of locations.

The locations to be funded under Round 2 will likely be announced in the second half of 2016, and will be rolled out over a two-year period.

Together with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), we have also secured new funding to provide higher resolution and more frequent satellite imagery to support improved management of the environment, vegetation and of course the Great Barrier Reef.

The Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation develops and produces a broad range of land-cover and land-use mapping and monitoring products based on remotely sensed satellite imagery.

These products that are used extensively by farmers, industry, researchers and public safety agencies.

New funding for satellite imagery will provide access to the higher resolution and more frequent (up to five days) Sentinel-2 imagery from the European Copernicus program.

This new funding will support Queensland's contribution to an agreement between Australia and the European Commission to secure access to free, regular, medium-to-high resolution satellite imagery from the multi-billion-dollar Copernicus Earth Observation Program, operated by the European Space Agency.

Together with DNRM we will spend \$7.8 million over four years on high-resolution satellite imagery coverage of Queensland.

This will ensure that Queensland has one of the most comprehensive imagery datasets in the world.

Timely, high-quality digital satellite imagery will assist in vegetation management monitoring and the early detection of land cover change; particularly in vulnerable Great Barrier Reef catchments where satellite imagery will be collected on a more frequent basis to aid our vital management work.

I look forward to seeing the bright future made possible by these initiatives being led today by the Departments of Science, Information Technology and Innovation and Small Business.

Let me finish by reflecting briefly on the Advance Queensland Innovation and Investment Summit we held in April.

The Summit marked a pivot point in our economic journey.

It showed the world that the spirit of innovation is burning bright here in Queensland.

This Budget and the additional \$225 million to accelerate Advance Queensland is a clear demonstration of our faith and commitment to back the ingenuity and entrepreneurship of Queenslanders.

This is a budget for innovators everywhere—in our schools, in small business, in technology startups, in government and across all of our regions.

It is a budget that seeks to make technology work for us—a Queensland that not only embraces change but shapes it on the global stage.

And through this Budget, this Government has shown our commitment to realising this potential.

I commend the Budget to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (11.21 am): I rise today to respond to the government's budget for 2016-17. I have to say at the start that this budget has been incredibly disappointing. This budget does not live up to any of its promises. All it does is deliver more debt, more deficit and more decline in infrastructure.

Despite the Treasurer's \$4 billion raid on superannuation, debt continues to increase over the forward years. Despite the Treasurer's raid on superannuation, infrastructure spending has been slashed by \$2.3 million when compared to the LNP. The Treasurer's so-called infrastructure budget will deliver the lowest infrastructure spend in Queensland's history. Despite the election commitment to pay down debt, debt continues to increase over the forward years. Debt is still increasing up towards \$80 billion, and it is clear that the government has no plan and absolutely no intention to fix it.

The bad news continues in the portfolios of Corrective Services and Police, Fire and Emergency Services. I direct the attention of the House to Corrective Services. As I mentioned in my contribution on Thursday morning, the current minister has failed to deal with the blow-out in the prison population. In fact, he is all talk and no action on this particular issue. He spoke very vigorously when in opposition, but he has not backed up that talk with action in trying to address this issue. In the last 12 months, which has been entirely under Labor's watch, the utilisation rates in our prisons have increased by almost eight per cent, to 111 per cent. In our high-security prisons, which house our most hardened criminals, the utilisation rate has increased by nine per cent, to 115 per cent. This is incredibly disconcerting. Unlike the LNP, who had a plan to deal with this issue, it seems that Labor's only plan was revealed on the front page of the *Sunday Mail* of 29 May. It states—

QCS is prioritising resources for diversion, community supervision and re-entry services as part of a demand management strategy for women.

We know what these words mean. These words are code, basically, for letting people out early and not sending crims to jail in the first place when they deserve to be incarcerated. Labor is soft on crime. We know that, the criminals know that and Queenslanders know that. That is why this government cannot be trusted to manage our prison system.

We have hardworking prison officers striking right across the state because they are concerned about their safety. This is a serious issue. Unlike the minister, who huffed and puffed when he was in opposition, we actually took this issue very seriously. Our hardworking corrective services staff have a difficult enough job as it is without having to put up with record levels of overcrowding of hardened criminals in our jails.

Nine out of our 11 prisons are over capacity. As at 1 January this year, after almost a year of Labor reign in this state, the utilisation rates are: Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre, 113.9 per cent; Brisbane Correctional Centre, 116 per cent; Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre, 137.4 per cent; Capricornia Correctional Centre, 118.6 per cent; Maryborough Correctional Centre, 113.4 per cent; Southern Queensland Correctional Centre, 119.2 per cent; Townsville Correctional Centre, 107.8 per cent; Wolston Correctional Centre, 116.4 per cent; and Woodford Correctional Centre, 110.1 per cent.

As I mentioned earlier, the LNP had a plan to deal with this issue. We make no apologies for making our communities safer. We had a plan to deal with increasing prisoner numbers.

Mr Russo: Well, share it.

Mr MANDER: I will do that. In the 2014-15 state budget we had a \$61 million plan to provide an additional 650 beds across prisons in Queensland, including 492 at a recommissioned Borallon Correctional Centre, which should have been fully operational 12 months ago. All this minister had to do was hand in the homework of the LNP. All of the work was done, the money was allocated and much of the capital program had been completed. As we have seen from Labor time and time again, they are good at talking about problems and issues and ordering reviews but terrible when it comes to delivering outcomes and getting on with the job of managing our prisons and protecting our hardworking corrective services staff.

By his own standard, the current minister has failed the test as corrective services minister. In 2012, when he was in opposition, he said that 'the Corrective Services minister needs to be held personally responsible' for any incidents as a result of prison overcrowding. That quote will haunt the current minister for all of his time in parliament, until he addresses this issue head-on. Our prison population is up and the unions have been striking. The minister needs to get on with the job he is paid to do.

I turn to policing. This year's Police budget hands in the homework when it comes to our four-year commitment of 1,100 additional police officers but fails to deal with the shortage of police cars that has been so eloquently put in the past week or so by the Queensland police union—the only union, it seems, that the Labor Party does not listen to. They estimate that there is a shortfall of some 200 police vehicles and that in some locations officers are having to catch public transport—the train, the bus—or even ride their bicycle to the job they are paid to do. In the last two Labor budgets only 25 additional police vehicles have been provided, compared with an additional 46 new vehicles in the LNP government's last budget.

We will match our record on police resource investment with that of Labor any day. When we came to government in 2012 we had to make up for years of neglect from Labor with additional police numbers and resources, and we did. In typical Labor form, they have again dropped the ball. From those people who gave us trains without seats, dams without pipes, a fake Tahitian prince and a massive bungled Health payroll system, the administration of services is again faltering as this government and this minister remain asleep at the wheel. It is Queenslanders who are paying the price.

Figures in this year's budget reveal that reported crime is up across the state, undoing much of the good work and the results achieved under the LNP. In the last year assaults are up by 9.8 per cent. In the last year robbery is up by 7.7 per cent. In the last 12 months unlawful entry is up by 2.8 per cent. In the last 12 months motor vehicle theft is up by 5.8 per cent, and the families and the businesses of Queensland are suffering from Labor dropping the ball. While we welcome money spent to address the resources needed to fight organised crime, we know that Labor is soft on crime. The criminal gangs know that. The lawyers know that. Our law enforcement agencies know that and Queenslanders know that. These additional resources do not make up for Labor's scrapping of the VLAD laws, watering down of penalties and winding back resources for important specialist policing squads like Task Force Maxima—a group of men and women who need to be congratulated for the work that they have been doing in taking drugs, illegal weapons and other contraband off our streets and making our communities safer. In fact, over the last 12 months or so, Task Force Maxima has taken over \$38 million worth of drugs off our streets. These are the drugs that are manufactured and distributed through bikie clubhouses, which Labor cannot guarantee will remain closed under its weakened response to organised crime. Right at this moment criminal motorcycle gangs—patched members—are campaigning on the north side of Brisbane against the LNP because they do not want these laws retained because they want to come back in force to this state.

Mr Minnikin: They can sniff an opportunity.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth; they can sniff an opportunity and they cannot wait for the Labor government to weaken these laws.

Turning to fire and emergency services, I do not want to touch on legislation that is before the House at the moment but we do welcome the funding in the Fire and Emergency Services budget for \$3 million over 10 years for consumer awareness campaigns for changes in smoke alarm requirements. These are very important changes and it is important that the education of the public takes place. However, they are as a result of our strong action in this area and forcing the government to act on something that it had no intention of doing.

I turn now briefly to my electorate of Everton—an electorate that I am incredibly proud to represent and an area that I have lived in all my life in the north-west suburbs of Brisbane. Again this budget delivers nothing or very little for the electorate of Everton. For some time we have been campaigning about the intersection of South Pine Road and Stafford Road. This is an intersection that causes a major bottleneck every morning and afternoon. Now that the suburbs of Cashmere, Warner and further out have been developed, the intersection of Old Northern Road and South Pine Road is part of a major arterial and, with the completion of the Woolworths development at Everton Park, this intersection has become a nightmare. Unfortunately in this budget there is no funding allocated whatsoever to improve and make the upgrades that are necessary. When we were in government there was a concept plan finalised, so the plans are there all ready to roll but all we need is funding. A couple

of weeks ago when we had that very bad weather it was quite disturbing that there were three accidents at that intersection within a period of hours. This intersection is not only inconvenient; it is also dangerous. We need to ensure that we upgrade this intersection as quickly as possible.

There was some mixed news with regard to traffic lights that we lobbied for on the corner of Explorer Drive and Old Northern Road. I want to thank the residents who came to me about this issue, particularly the residents of Aveo retirement village at Albany Creek—elderly people who were concerned about coming out on to the main road of Old Northern Road. The transport department recognised that, yes, this did warrant traffic lights and there is an allocation in QTRIP, but unfortunately that is not for the coming financial year but the financial year after that. I am concerned about that. I am grateful for the funding, but we will be asking for that to be brought forward because this is potentially a very dangerous intersection and it is important that there are lights there to make it as safe as possible. There has also been an allocation for the North West Transport Corridor planning study. We have been planning this north-west corridor for a long time. I am not too sure what this \$600,000 is going to be spent on, but it would be good to see less reviews and a bit more action. We have to do something on the north side of Brisbane. The congestion is increasing on a daily basis. We need a long-term solution and it seems like it does centre around that North West Transport Corridor.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr MANDER: I think it may go through your electorate, Minister, does it?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I ask the member and the minister to direct all your conversations through the chair. Thank you.

Mr MANDER: Let us hope that something comes out of that and we get a long-term solution. I also express my disappointment with regard to the funding for schools in my electorate. The answer to that is very easy and you can actually answer that basically in one word—zero, zip, nothing. This has happened for the second year in a row, so that is very disappointing for the 16 schools in my electorate, including eight state schools. They are all great schools.

An opposition member: Nothing?

Mr MANDER: Nothing for capital upgrades at all. They are great schools. We are all very proud of the schools in our electorates and I thank the teachers and the staff for the incredibly hard work that they do on a daily basis. In summary, this is a disappointing budget. This is a budget that has not served the needs of the state, not served the needs of the police and fire and emergency services nor the correctional services areas and it most definitely has not served the needs of the electorate of Everton.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.36 am): The Palaszczuk government is a government that believes in equality, opportunity, fairness and reform and we are optimistic about Queensland's progressive future because we believe in innovative ideas, long-lasting economic and social reform and of course a fair go. This year's budget reflects just that. The outcomes of the 2016-17 budget will mean a better working, more inclusive and more prosperous Queensland. We know that reducing disadvantage, poverty, discrimination, violence and abuse here in Queensland will lead to better economic outcomes for our state's future.

In my role as the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence I have now been to visit hundreds of our neighbourhood centres, resource centres, community recovery hubs, youth centres, respite centres, childcare centres, family support services and domestic violence services and refuges right across Queensland. I visited these organisations because I was there to listen—listen to their concerns and vision for the future, and now we are acting on what we have heard. That is why we are investing in community services and infrastructure and leveraging community efforts to assist with cost-of-living pressures and create new pathways to jobs.

Our community services industry is doing great things and our budget will ensure that in the future community services can be an even more powerful force that drives Queensland's equity, productivity and prosperity and of course provide rewarding jobs and careers, because every Queenslanders deserves the chance to reach their full potential to participate equally in our economy and society. The widening gap between the rich and poor is unacceptable and must stop.

We know that reducing income inequality is one of the best ways to help vulnerable Queenslanders and grow the economy. We know that income inequality makes economies more volatile and susceptible to sudden downturns in economic growth. It is not only us that says it. Both the

IMF and the OECD recognise that wealth redistribution is vital to a sustainable and prosperous society and economy, which is why it still baffles me as to why when the LNP was in government it ripped funding from 362 community organisations. Not only that, they bullied, intimidated and silenced our community organisations through the disgraceful gag clauses in their funding agreements. The only conclusion that we can make is that they have nothing but contempt for the vulnerable and disadvantaged people who use those services.

If the opposition leader's budget reply speech is anything to go by, the alternative government would have Queensland go back to the last century. The budget reply made no reference to domestic and family violence funding. In fact, the only time women were mentioned at all was in a biblical reference to 'covet thy neighbour's wife'.

The Palaszczuk government is leading the way with positive policies and implementing innovative, long-lasting reforms that will allow all Queenslanders to grow together. One of the areas where my government has shown significant leadership across the nation is in investing in financial inclusion programs to build community and family resilience. I am pleased that we have allocated \$12 million over the next two years towards a special financial assistance package. We are leading the way as part of an innovative corporate-community partnership with Good Shepherd Microfinance and the National Australia Bank, which will provide the expertise and financial capital to open the first Good Money stores in Queensland. This means that Queenslanders facing serious money worries will have access to safe, fair and affordable finance to get their lives back on track.

Good Money stores will provide fair, safe and affordable options for loans and other programs for people on low incomes who would otherwise have to go to exploitative and expensive payday lenders. This initiative will help people battling financial strife with a statewide network of 20 financial resilience workers, including counsellors, who will provide advice and a wide range of specialised support, including no-interest loans and subsidies for utilities payments. On top of support from Good Shepherd Microfinance, NAB has committed \$130 million in loan capital to microfinance programs nationally, including Good Money. The first Good Money stores will open in Cairns and on the Gold Coast, where community groups report a high need for the help that they offer.

The Palaszczuk government recognises that the solution to growing our economy is to create a fair and equal society where every Queenslander has the right to participate equally in our economy and society. Of course, no society can achieve its potential without the full engagement of women—not just in political life, but across the community sector, business and industry. It is not just the right thing to do; it is smart economics. The UN, the OECD and the World Economic Forum all recognise that women's contribution to the economy produces fairer societies and growth in new sectors. It is largely acknowledged that violence against women and gender inequality are strongly related.

I am so proud that the Palaszczuk government is delivering almost \$200 million across the government to invest in a package to tackle domestic and family violence. Part of this package will focus on communication strategies to tackle the underlying attitudes and behaviours that feed the cycle of violence in our communities, with \$9.6 million over four years for a campaign aimed at challenging and changing those attitudes. We will also be investing \$10.3 million over four years to roll out perpetrator intervention services across the state, as well as \$26.3 million over four years to roll out eight high-risk teams as part of an integrated service response, which is about saving women's lives. There is also an allocation of \$42.4 million over four years to roll out further specialist domestic and family violence courts across the state. We recognise that a large part of preventing further violence is identifying high-risk perpetrators early and reaching out to help victims of domestic and family violence as soon as possible.

Earlier this year, I participated as an observer in a men's domestic violence perpetrator program. It was an incredibly confronting experience, but it revealed to me how vital these programs are if we really want to see real generational change and a shift in culture away from violence. The Palaszczuk government believes that every Queensland woman or child who is a victim of domestic and family violence should have a safe place to go and access to support and services no matter where they live. That is why we have allocated \$8.7 million over four years to establish two new DV shelters—one in Charters Towers, where we have identified an immediate gap. I would like to thank the member for Dalrymple for his continued advocacy in ensuring that his community receives this vital service. As well, another shelter will be located in a rural or remote area. We have also committed \$43.1 million over four years for new and enhanced specialist and generalist services to address service gaps, including counselling services, sexual assault services, a step-down women's health service and services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

I am immensely proud that the Palaszczuk government's second budget has decidedly invested in local neighbourhood centres. Neighbourhood centres provide crucial programs and services for local communities that stand the test of time. That is why neighbourhood centres are also a key part of our efforts to address domestic and family violence. We are working towards improving the capacity of neighbourhood centres, enabling them to provide long-term, viable, quality support services. We are investing \$6.9 million over four years through our Neighbourhood Centre Investment Strategy. An allocation of \$3 million will go towards the employment of new Community Connect workers in 12 neighbourhood centres across the state. These new specialist Community Connect Workers will allow further support to people who are affected by domestic and family violence.

My department has also allocated a further \$6.4 million in capital works funding for neighbourhood centre replacement and ensuring vital upgrades and maintenance. We have also committed to reallocate funding to Queensland's neighbourhood and multipurpose community centres to restore their peak body. Further funding for neighbourhood centres will ensure the future of our vital community centres. It is about putting our money where our mouth is and spending a budget that is for the benefit of all Queenslanders. There are, of course, other funding commitments across child safety, communities and drought support and some other exciting initiatives in my own area. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): You can confirm that you have my approval for that. Thank you.

Leave granted.

Keeping children safe and supporting vulnerable families to stay together, of course, remains one of our Government's top priorities.

While we are working hard to deliver a range of child and family reforms, we realise a lot more work needs to be done.

Especially as we look for better ways to deal with Indigenous disadvantage.

That's why we have allocated more than \$1 billion in this year's State Budget to deliver targeted support to vulnerable Queensland families.

Early intervention, and keeping families together is a strong focus of our reforms and we know that it works.

We've seen more than 7000 families have already been referred by Family and Child Connect Services to the services they need.

I am delighted our final two Family and Child Connect Services will be rolled out across the state this year.

And I am equally pleased that the first Indigenous Family Wellbeing Centre will open its doors in September.

This Budget contains \$13.8 million for these vital services including funding for two Family and Child Connect services in Mount Isa/Gulf and Cape York/Torres Strait that will complete the state-wide rollout.

It also includes \$45.7 million for complementary Intensive Family Support Services that assist families with multiple and complex needs.

However, the disproportionate number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who end up in the child protection system is totally unacceptable.

It is nothing short of a crisis—and we need to do a whole lot better.

And we know we must work earlier and better to support them, their families and communities.

Our new community-run and community-controlled Family Wellbeing Services will focus on cultural knowledge and understanding both key to improving children's safety, wellbeing, belonging, identity and participation in community life.

The first new Family Wellbeing Services will be rolled out in September in areas of great need—Roma, Mackay, South Burnett and Moreton Bay—with further services across 20 locations to be fully operational in 2017.

Other key budget initiatives include \$3.3 million for support to young people leaving care through the Next Step Care initiative, and \$6.6 million over two years from 2015-16 for the delivery of Parenting Support for Queensland Families.

This program gives Queensland families access to the world renowned Triple P Program which improves the knowledge, skills and confidence of parents.

We want Queensland families and communities to be empowered, to become stronger, more capable and more resilient.

By delivering these vital child and family support services, we are one step closer to doing just that.

As I have continued to mention, our community groups and services are the backbone of the support we provide for our State's most vulnerable.

We believe that Government should be there to lend a helping hand when communities are facing a tough time—particularly when hit by natural disaster.

That is why additional funding of \$4 million in 2016-17 has been provided to extend existing community support measures in drought declared areas to strengthen resilience of drought affected Queenslanders.

This is on top of additional funding of \$2 million in 2016-17 and \$500,000 ongoing from 2017-18 to modernise the Community Recovery Disaster Management system.

Turning now to my electorate of Waterford, where it is great to see the Palaszczuk Government investing in capital works that are vital to our community.

We welcome \$15 million funding to install safety barriers on the M1 in Loganholme.

But \$4 million for a new cycle and pedestrian pathway in Loganlea, which includes a bridge over Scrubby Creek, is also vital infrastructure for our local community.

As cycling continues to gain popularity in the area, it is important to ensure the safety of pedestrian, cyclists and motorists.

Shared user paths are also a great way to encourage members of the community to get outside and be active, leaving their cars at home whenever possible.

Waterford residents will also benefit from public transport reduction in the number of zones, fare prices and children under 15 traveling for free on weekends.

The Palaszczuk Government has invested in our local schools in this budget—with a record \$12 billion invested in education this year.

Included in this funding is \$100,000 for a disability upgrade at Beenleigh State High School.

And of course, it is great to see \$3.4 million over five years to support the development of the new integrated domestic violence service response trial in the Logan-Beenleigh area.

This means that local service providers and agencies with a role in keeping victims safe and holding a perpetrator to account—police, hospitals, domestic violence services, corrections staff—will be able to collaborate and work together following the same model.

The funding package also includes dedicated funding for an integrated domestic and family violence support service for local migrant and refugee women.

A culturally appropriate domestic violence service is vital for Logan, which is proudly one of the most multicultural cities in the world.

And as our community grows, we must ensure that victims of domestic and family violence from multicultural and multi-faith backgrounds have somewhere to turn to and feel safe.

This year's budget not only shows that Palaszczuk Government cares about people.

It shows that we have a plan. And we are delivering on it.

We understand that by investing in our community services, and investing in infrastructure that supports our communities, will reduce inequality, and lead to further, sustainable, and fair economic growth into the future.

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (11.46 am): Queenslanders should be concerned about the raids, the rip-offs and the writedowns in the Palaszczuk government's second budget. Labor's second budget demonstrates that it is incapable of delivering a long-term economic plan or creating jobs for Queenslanders. Instead, it is propping up the state's finances by raiding public servants' superannuation and increasing taxes.

Last year, Labor shifted \$4 billion of public sector debt on to the balance sheets of government owned corporations and stopped making contributions to the Queensland Public Service defined benefit superannuation scheme, which was an unprecedented step. This year, the Palaszczuk government is not only failing to pay in its required contributions but also withdrawing \$4 billion from the fund to pay for the commitments that it has made in this budget.

Queenslanders need to be aware that Labor's budget forecast is for the Public Service to blow out by almost 10,000 over the next four years, with public sector employee expenses growth predicted to increase this year from 5.3 per cent to 7.3 per cent. This is completely unsustainable, when Queensland's population growth is currently only 1.25 per cent and when total debt is forecast to increase to almost \$79 billion by 2019-20.

The Palaszczuk government has also made some bold claims about its employment initiatives, but the budget papers still forecast unemployment to increase across Queensland—to 6.25 per cent—and remain at more than six per cent across the forward estimates. Despite 20,000 jobs being lost in Queensland since Labor delivered its last budget, and the rate of youth unemployment having blown out, the Palaszczuk government's only plan to create jobs is to employ more public servants.

Last year, I described Labor's decision to discontinue payments into the Queensland Public Service defined benefit scheme as pulling a swifty. I said that, fundamentally, those employer contributions did not belong to the government and that it had no right whatsoever to withhold them as they belong to the people who had earned them regardless of the relative health of the fund that they

are paid into. A year later, I cannot believe that the Palaszczuk government has gone an extraordinary step further—a radical, reckless step further—and will withdraw funds that have been previously paid into that scheme on behalf of those employees. I genuinely think that that is a scandalous thing to do, because the money does not belong to them.

Labor is using some very interesting, even elastic, language to describe this unprecedented action. They are calling it a repatriation of funds—a clever, even tricky, description of this decision. Repatriation is generally understood to be the process of returning a person or thing to its place of origin or to where it belongs. This Treasurer is surely stretching the meaning of the word to its limits. I say again, those funds do not belong to Labor or to the Treasurer, they belong to those employees who earned them. I am astounded that the unions representing Queensland's public servants have failed to represent their interests when many other businesses and industries have condemned the move.

I turn now to my shadow ministerial responsibilities of natural resources, mines and northern development. Despite claims that this budget is focused on delivering infrastructure and creating jobs, the Palaszczuk government is spending up big to ensure that its vegetation management compliance officers have new tools to prosecute farmers and landowners in regional Queensland. Labor's state budget announcement of \$7.8 million to secure high resolution satellite imagery coverage of Queensland is a clear indication that it intends to target farmers and landowners managing vegetation on their properties. In fact, the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines has confirmed that the new digital imagery will be focused on the use of monitoring vegetation management activities and detecting land cover changes.

The Palaszczuk government currently has a bill before the House to amend Queensland's vegetation management framework to bring back the reversal of the onus of proof and remove mistake of fact as a defence. Now it is spending millions on high resolution images. These two measures taken together make it clear that Labor is tooling up their reinstated tree police unit to target Queensland's farmers and landowners. In ordinary circumstances I would welcome the delivery of high resolution satellite imagery in recognition that Queensland's vegetation maps have always been notoriously inaccurate and unreliable. Unfortunately, due to Labor's track record of treating farmers like criminals and their focus on prosecuting landholders, I am extremely nervous about the Palaszczuk government's real motivations and intentions. In fact, the budget papers for the Department of Natural Resources and Mines clearly state that the purpose of the proposed amendments to Queensland's vegetation management framework is to protect the Great Barrier Reef and reduce carbon emissions. In the absence of any mention of the agriculture sector or regional economic development, I fear this investment is meant to facilitate targeted compliance activities.

The Palaszczuk government's second budget paid only lip-service to Queensland's resources sector with no announcements to address the growing perception of sovereign risk in an industry that is under siege from green activist groups. The claim by the Treasurer that Labor was delivering certainty by not increasing royalties totally ignores the problems the industry faces with a constantly changing regulatory environment. The intensely high level of uncertainty over the last 15 months under the Palaszczuk government was the result of Labor's hostile attitude towards the resources sector in Queensland.

Under Labor the Queensland resources sector has taken multiple body blows from a rampant and radical green movement that has taken advantage of the political weakness of the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. Even the minister's reported commitment to secure additional resources for the Land Court to cope with frivolous and vexatious appeals lodged by green activist groups is buried in an obscure allocation in another portfolio and will have to compete with other programs and priorities.

Since the Palaszczuk government stumbled back into office in February last year it has lashed out at the Queensland resources sector on several occasions, including unnecessarily interfering with the approvals process for the expansion of Abbot Point, overturning laws to prevent green groups from lodging frivolous objections to projects, unnecessarily interfering in the development of the Aurukun bauxite deposit, prematurely and aggressively shutting down sandmining on North Stradbroke Island, reintroducing an arbitrary ban on the development of uranium mining in Queensland and unnecessarily interfering with the approvals process for the Acland Stage 3 coal project.

A recent survey of resource companies released by the Queensland Resources Council found confidence in the regulatory environment in Queensland at a near-five-year low. There is a growing perception of sovereign risk in Queensland as a result of Labor's policies. Our reputation as an attractive jurisdiction in which to invest in the resources sector is under threat and that is bad news for the budget's forward estimates.

This week's budget papers exposed the embarrassing failure of Labor's so-called Building our Regions program to inject funding for much needed infrastructure projects into regional communities. In last year's budget, the Palaszczuk government committed to spend \$70 million through Labor's Building our Regions program on regional projects, but Tuesday's budget papers revealed that only \$400,000 had actually been spent. This means the Palaszczuk government has spent less than one per cent of the funds it allocated for regional projects in last year's budget—a disgraceful and incompetent failure by Labor. In fact, this week's state budget papers actually reveal that the former LNP government's Royalties for the Regions initiative has delivered more funding over the last 12 months for regional projects 15 months after the last state election.

Mr Seeney: They like coming and opening the projects too.

Mr CRIPPS: They certainly do. I will take that interjection by the member for Callide. We welcomed the member for Townsville into the Hinchinbrook electorate recently to cut the ribbon on a Royalties for the Regions project funded by the former LNP government. It must be embarrassing in the extreme for the state development minister to have to admit that the LNP's Royalties for the Regions initiative—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I think we have heard enough examples from members to help highlight what the member for Hinchinbrook is saying. Thank you, everyone, for your assistance.

Mr CRIPPS: As I was saying, it must be very embarrassing for the Minister for State Development to have to admit that the LNP's Royalties for the Regions program is still doing more for regional Queensland than the Labor Party's pathetic alternative program. This revelation in the Palaszczuk government's own budget papers is another example of how Labor is simply not up to the job of delivering for regional Queensland and how very little they care about it.

I turn now to matters in the budget that are relevant to my electorate of Hinchinbrook. Having perused the budget papers it has become clear that there is very little to get excited about for the Hinchinbrook electorate. I have therefore decided to take a more philosophical approach to this less than impressive budget and I have resolved to be grateful for small mercies. While Labor claims the budget is all about jobs and infrastructure, the reality for the Hinchinbrook electorate is that there are very few allocations that will create jobs or deliver infrastructure and the contributions that I have found are relative small for the communities between Townsville and Innisfail.

Nevertheless, given the serious financial mismanagement, increased public sector debt and increased taxes delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government and its budget I will acknowledge them anyway and remind myself that it could be worse and probably will be if Labor gets to hand down another budget. The minor allocations for the Hinchinbrook electorate that I have managed to identify include: \$150,000 for the upgrade of the access road to Murray Falls within the Girringun National Park at Murray Upper; \$2.9 million for annual refurbishment works and minor upgrades at the Kareeya power station north-west of Tully, which in fact comes from Stanwell Corporation anyway; \$430,000 to build a new Queensland Police Service residence at Halifax replacing the original residence that was built in the 1880s; and a share of \$980,000 in funding for the continued delivery of the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program at Cardwell.

I must say that I am particularly pleased to see the funding for the new Queensland Police Service residence at Halifax and the continuation of the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program in Cardwell because both of these issues I have been very closely involved in. I pursued the issue of securing a new Queensland Police Service residence at Halifax given the existing home was built in the 1880s and had serious maintenance issues that would have been far too expensive to address. A new residence was a much better option in that case. I also campaigned alongside the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation to secure the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program for Cardwell after the former Bligh Labor government had resisted the obvious need to deliver that initiative in the Hinchinbrook region.

I am disappointed that schools in the Hinchinbrook electorate appear to have missed out on the win for education in Townsville claimed by local Labor MPs. It is not right for the Palaszczuk government to be playing favourites. I wrote directly to the Premier and to the education minister in January this year requesting modernisation and expansion works at Bluewater State School and Bohlevale State School. I have read and listened to comments from the three local Labor MPs crowing about a win for education in Townsville, but these two state schools on Townsville's northern beaches have been left out and it is not right.

Personally, I would hate to think that they were the victims of political favouritism. Both Bohlevale and Bluewater state schools currently operate under enrolment management plans and Bluewater in particular has several ageing buildings. The state budget confirms an allocation for the construction of a new state primary school in Burdell in my electorate of Hinchinbrook, but of course that funding has been carried over from last year's budget and I am somewhat concerned that the amount allocated in the state budget appears to have fallen from \$50 million to \$45 million. After a long campaign on behalf of my local community on Townsville's northern beaches, I was pleased to see funding allocated in last year's budget. Construction of the new primary school at Burdell is due to commence during this coming financial year, but the reduced budget for the project has not been explained so I will be investigating that matter to ensure my constituents are not being short-changed. I will continue to advocate for all schools in the Hinchinbrook electorate, but I will especially be working on behalf of Bluewater State School and Bohlevale State School, which deserve a fair go in view of the win for education claimed by the three local Labor members in Townsville.

There will continue to be a busy program of capital works on the Bruce Highway in the Hinchinbrook electorate as several projects continue to be progressed and several new projects secure allocations for the first time. While those allocations are listed in this budget, the fact is that 80 per cent of funding for projects on the Bruce Highway come from the Commonwealth government, so I would like to thank the federal LNP government. I take this opportunity to remind people such as the member for Mackay that if they are going to quote other members in the parliament they should quote comprehensively and not selectively.

After a long campaign to secure funding from the Commonwealth and Queensland governments, I am delighted that \$8.7 million has been allocated to upgrade and reconfigure the intersections of Bowden Road and Church Road with the Bruce Highway at Black River. That is an important road safety project for the residents of Townsville's northern beaches and I am very pleased that we have achieved this positive outcome. I welcome \$12.4 million to widen sections of the Bruce Highway between Ingham and Innisfail, while \$10 million for the replacement of the Arnot Creek Bridge north of Ingham and \$9.6 million for a new overtaking lane south of Ingham are in the budget for the first time, despite being previously announced. Previously announced projects on the Bruce Highway benefiting the Hinchinbrook electorate, including stage 4 of the Townsville Ring Road and the Cattle/Frances Creek upgrade, remain in the budget. A number of those projects are supposedly part of the Palaszczuk government's Accelerated Works Program for North Queensland, but since the initiative was announced in January this year those projects have not really been accelerated at all.

While Labor has not created any jobs, I welcome the release in response to the state budget of the LNP's comprehensive job creation plan to claw back jobs lost in Queensland under Labor. The LNP's jobs plan will give young Queenslanders an opportunity to get a job, encourage more apprentices to finish their trade and provide incentives to employers to train and retain workers. The LNP's get Queensland working plan includes targeted support for small businesses and workers, which will lead to jobs and opportunities, particularly for young Queenslanders, which is a concern in North and Far North Queensland. I am certain these measures will be welcomed by employers in the Hinchinbrook electorate and will boost employment in communities between Innisfail and Townsville.

The LNP's plan to get Queensland working includes the Queensland apprenticeship boost, providing a \$5,000 incentive for Queensland businesses that take on a new apprentice from beginning to end. The boost will provide up to 10,000 new apprenticeships over four years. The Tools for Tradies initiative will provide \$500 vouchers for tradies who complete their apprenticeship to get the tools that they need to get working. This will provide tools to 20,000 tradies over four years to help them get ahead. The work-start initiative will provide \$4,000 grants over 12 months to assist small businesses with recruiting and start-up costs for eligible young Queenslanders who are unemployed and not enrolled in full-time education or training. The employment bonus initiative will, after 12 months of continuous employment of each eligible participant, enable employers to exclude workers' wages as part of next year's premium calculation.

The Palaszczuk government's second budget is a short-sighted and risky document that exchanges cash raided from public servant superannuation for increased public sector debt and high taxes. I am disappointed that Labor's budget does not treat the Hinchinbrook electorate equitably, with few new allocations being announced, even in those areas where the Palaszczuk government claims it was focusing such as schools and infrastructure. Raiding the Public Service defined superannuation benefit scheme is a risky move that no other Queensland government has ever resorted to, regardless of its political affiliation. Despite Labor's claims that it will create jobs, the budget papers forecast

unemployment to remain high. For the Hinchinbrook electorate, the budget does not make any new investments in schools, in tourism infrastructure, in hospitals or health services, or in any other major piece of infrastructure that encourages the creation of local jobs.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.05 pm): I rise to support the appropriation bills before the House and I wish to highlight for the House some of the investments in the Logan electorate. Before I do that, I would like to reflect and make some commentary on the speech of the Leader of the Opposition. Yesterday, with flourish and pomp, as is his wont, the Leader of the Opposition quoted Charles Maurice de Talleyrand, the 18th century French aristocrat. I too have a quote from Talleyrand, who was known as the prince de Benevent. Talleyrand said, 'Not all quotes attributed to me on the internet are actually mine'. Of course, he did not really say that; but then again, he did not say the quote that the prince of Clayfield attributed to him yesterday morning. The member for Clayfield's quote is one of many that you will find on the internet that those who seek affectation attribute to someone of historical note. The quote he used was—

They have learned nothing, and forgotten nothing.

That was the misattributed quote from yesterday morning.

I will not say that the member for Clayfield has learnt nothing from his time as treasurer in the Newman-Nicholls government, but he has certainly not learnt any of the lessons of selling off our state's income-producing assets. In his speech yesterday, once again he tried to set the groundwork for selling off assets. That is clearly his plan, his philosophy and his values. He was the driving force of the sell-offs in the Newman-Nicholls government. The member for Clayfield has learnt nothing from the 2015 election and it is clear that he may have to once again learn the lesson at a future election.

The reply speech showed that the member for Clayfield can talk up a problem, even invent a problem, but he does not have as much capacity for the hard work of finding solutions. His is a feet-up style of taking the easy options—that is, sell off Queensland's assets rather than listen to Queenslanders and get down to the hard work of solutions. The LNP backbench know that this feet-up style will not work. The member for Clayfield's friend Talleyrand is also reported to have said, 'Never speak ill of yourself; you can count on your friends for that'. I am sure that that is true of the friends of the member for Clayfield, as only 14 actually voted for him. After that lacklustre speech, his friends will not be speaking well of him. We know so graphically what the member for Surfers Paradise thinks of the budget reply speech.

This government is investing \$35 million in the Mount Lindesay Highway, including upgrading the Camp Cable Road intersection and the Beaudesert Road bypass. A further \$40 million will be allocated for four-laning a section of Waterford-Tamborine Road near Logan Village. This investment of \$35 million in the Mount Lindesay Highway, made in just two budgets of the Palaszczuk government, will make journeys safer and quicker, and it is significant. In fact, it is seven times the investment that the Treasurer and now opposition leader made over three years of the Newman-Nicholls government. However, with developments in Park Ridge, Flagstone and Yarrabilba, nearby locals will be looking for more investment and I agree. Investing seven times as much as the LNP hides the criminal underinvestment that the member for Clayfield made into that road. I will continue to fight for more funding. As we speak, we have roadworks on the highway and, even before the grader engines cool, I will be pushing for more to improve the road. I also note that the Logan City Council's Let's Get Moving campaign makes it one of their priorities, so I will be working strongly with them.

I have fought very hard to try to make up for the cuts in services and the increased costs that the LNP delivered for the people of Logan over its three years in government. The member for Indooroopilly and then transport minister cut services, and the member for Clayfield and then treasurer increased bus fares. That terrible duo hated Logan bus users, yet the economic results were a disaster. The net effect was less bus users, less bus services and no overall saving for the government. Logan bus users know not to go back to that terrible team.

I am proud that this government knows we need more users of our public transport. That was why I was pleased when—and, humbly, I would like to think that I had a bit to do with lobbying on behalf of locals—the Minister for Transport and the Premier announced the Fairer Fares package. Every bus fare in Logan will be cheaper and fairer. I will highlight one fare. The cost of a one-way trip between Grand Plaza in Browns Plains and the Brisbane CBD will be reduced by over \$2 each trip. There will be funding for a new bus stop on Camp Cable Road. I will continue to work with the minister to improve local bus services, especially through innovative options.

For Logan this could really be called the education budget as we will see new classrooms at the Logan Village State School and funding towards a future Yarrabilba State School, both of which the education minister mentioned yesterday morning in question time. There will also be new classrooms

at Crestmead State School, which I share with the member for Woodridge. There will be a refurbishment of the Flagstone State School library and outdoor learning centre that I know will be much appreciated in the growing area of Flagstone.

I know that schools in our area are doing great things with passionate teachers and eager students. Of course there are some students who need a little bit more guidance, as the member for Townsville, a former principal, would know. I was especially impressed by the young students at Browns Plains State School who are taking classes to learn coding and robotics. They are living out the Palaszczuk government's push towards jobs of the future.

There is also funding for refurbishment of D block at Browns Plains State High School and for the B and C modulars at Browns Plains State School, which I am sure the coding kids will appreciate. There will also be a refurbishment of prep and outdoor learning areas at the Park Ridge State School.

In health, my neighbour MP, the member for Woodridge and Minister for Health, knows only too well that the growing community appreciates improved health services. There is funding for improvements to car parking at the Logan Hospital, which is vital because it is often under strain. That builds on the improvements we have made to the Logan Hospital emergency department in the last year.

Our local sports groups are growing. They are attracting new athletes. There is funding for their already successful bids for the track enhancements at Centenary Plains BMX and the lighting upgrade at the Logan Village Falcons. They are two of the fantastic clubs in my local area. I would also like to mention the Park Ridge Pirates. I know we need to work together because they are located at Park Ridge State High School and desperately need better facilities. I will be working hard for them this year.

There is also support for the disabled in Logan Village with supported accommodation through the House with No Steps. The Logan region, as defined by Treasury, is expected to grow by over 200,000 people by 2036. Much of it will be in or nearby the electorate of Logan. We feel the pressures of growth, but we also know that we want to accommodate the new young families of South-East Queensland and give them a chance at house ownership in a growing community.

I will continue to work with the community and with the ministers of the Palaszczuk government to fight for better services for Logan. I commend the Appropriation Bill to the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.13 pm): My reply to the Palaszczuk Labor government's 2016 budget is about people, specifically my people—my constituents. The people living in the northern Gold Coast and Eagleby in Logan's south deserve the same level of services as others on the Gold Coast and in Logan City—the same police resources, the same public transport regularity, the same consideration when it comes to getting onto and over and off the M1. The Coomera electorate is about 33 kilometre long and is wholly on the eastern side of the M1. This causes challenges for infrastructure delivery, but those challenges are solvable.

Let us start at the top of my electorate in the suburb of Eagleby, which is a Logan City suburb. It is interesting that the member for Logan has just been talking about bus services and discounted bus fares. I applaud the concept of discounted bus fares to improve affordability for people. People in the Eagleby area would benefit greatly from the savings, but that comes at a cost. That is the fear that I have. There is a cost associated with the discounted fares. I read somewhere that around \$210 million over the forward estimates is what is going to be lost in revenue when it comes to the lower bus fares.

If people are in an area, as I am, that does not have all of the bus services that it needs, we wonder whether the costs of those discounts are going to be foisted upon the people of the northern Gold Coast and Eagleby. I will use the Eagleby bus service as an example. We have a bus service at 7.30 am and 8.30 am. The problem I have is that most of the students that go to Beenleigh State High School, in particular, and other schools in Beenleigh catch the school bus. If the school bus is full they catch the 7.30 am bus. They cannot catch the 8.30 am bus because it will get them to school too late. That is great.

There is a problem. People who need to get on that bus to get to the train station to catch the train to work—those commuters that the minister spoke about—cannot get on that bus. The minister said the other day—

This is a government that is ... also getting people better connected to their work. We know that public transport is critical in connecting people with jobs, education, health care (n) and essential services.

I applaud him for saying exactly those same words and for the discounted bus fares, but what about an additional bus service for the people of Eagleby so everybody can get to the train station on time. That would mean that people who need to start work in town at 8.30 in the morning could catch

the train that leaves shortly after the 7.30 bus service arrives. It just makes sense. Let us get another bus or another school bus so that we can get all of the students onto the school buses so that the local bus does its job and gets people to the train station on time.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr CRANDON: Those opposite do not have issues in their areas. There was no mention from the member for Logan about bus regularity in his patch, but in my patch we have issues.

Let us look at the Ormeau bus service. I will read what the minister said again. He stated—

This is a government that is ... also getting people better connected to their work. We know that public transport is critical in connecting people with jobs, education, health care (n) and essential services.

That is not so for the people of Ormeau on my side of the M1. Remember I said that we have a 33-kilometre-long electorate. All the buses for Ormeau go down one side of the M1. Within eyesight of them, if they were in a tall enough building—there is a boundary fence on the M1 that is the barrier—are all the services in the buildings across the highway. The problem is it does not take them 10 minutes by bus to get to those particular services, it takes them an hour and 20 minutes because they have to catch the bus through the suburbs on that eastern side over to the railway station and then, if they are lucky, they will be able to get onto a bus that will take them back to those services. It is an hour and 20 round trip.

It is a public bus service. We did not say we would get people there super fast. We said we would get people there. We can get there. The problem is that in the middle of the day we have this massive break in services and the services cease very early. If people wanted to go in the afternoon, for example, they would have to wait until quite late and they could not actually get home on the bus service that has been provided because of the time it takes to get there and get back.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr CRANDON: I take the interjections from the member for Logan because clearly he has no issues in his electorate in relation to regular bus services that take people to where they need to go. He does not care about the people of the northern Gold Coast. He does not care about the people of Eagleby either. He is okay in his patch.

I return to my central theme of bus services and refer now to the Coomera bus service. My constituents walk to the railway station to get to work on time, because the buses do not start early enough in the day to get some of them and others on the other side of the highway in the seat of Albert to the railway station on time. It is about a 45-minute walk for them every morning. By the way, do not get off the train too late otherwise you will not catch a bus home but will be walking. That would not be an issue for the member for Logan.

The Pimpama bus services, half way between Ormeau and Coomera, encompass the fastest growing region in Australia. In the latest available statistics, there was 20 per cent growth in this area. In fact, there is a new school in this area. I thank the minister—because at least the Minister for Education sees the fast paced growth in that area of my electorate—for the \$50.5 million for a new school that will be online in 2018. It was due to come online in 2019, but that decision was changed to 2018 because they realised that with the growth in the electorate it was needed earlier. As the crow flies, that school and two other primary schools are within one kilometre of one another. That is how fast the growth is. There are three schools within one kilometre of one another and our new high school is also in that area.

In relation to the Pimpama bus service, the problem is that children have been left behind at the high school. The bus pulls up, 'Sorry love, bus is full, catch the next one.' The problem is that there is no next bus to take this constituent to where she needs to go to pick up her five-year-old sister at the next school, so children have been left behind.

There are buses on this bus service that travel at 70 kilometres per hour past a shopping centre. Some 1.4 kilometres down the road the bus stops to drop people off so they can walk 1.4 kilometres back to the shops. How is that? Once they have all their groceries, it is 1.4 kilometres again all the way back to the bus stop.

I called on the minister for a meeting with his planners. The planners came along—and it was absolutely wonderful for them to come along—and we discussed it and we talked about going off Yawalpa Road and going around and so forth. It sounded very, very positive. This occurred about two months ago and I have not heard another word or cracker from them. Buses still leave kids behind and

travel at 70 kilometres per hour past a major shopping centre with the likes of Woolworths and other services. I cannot get them just to slow down at that roundabout, turn left, go up that street, come back out and drop people off. I have not heard a word. That is the Pimpama bus service. Is this government getting people better connected to their work? We know that public transport is critical in terms of connecting people to jobs, education, health care and essential services.

Let me refer now to Hope Island and to the shopping centre in which my office is located. What is happening there? A new building is being built. The Education Queensland regional office is moving into my electorate. In the next 10 months, between 300 and 400 additional people will move into that shopping centre. That is fantastic, but there is no bus service. They are building—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr CRANDON: I take that interjection. They are still building it and it will be online early next year. It was not there two years ago: they are building it now for next year, so 300 to 400 people are coming online but there is no bus service to take them there. Actually, there is. Depending on from where one commutes—and it is not just the people who want to work there, it is the people who live there—there is between 900 metres and 1.4 kilometres to get to their bus stop. Obviously that is each way. They catch the bus to the railway station or to the shops but when they return there is another 1.4 kilometres to traverse. I have asked the minister three times to change this arrangement and three times he has said, 'No'. Technically, the minister said no twice as the previous minister said 'No' once, so overall I have been knocked back three times in terms of the bus travelling an extra 400m to pick up and drop people off at those shops. It is okay in the member for Logan's area as he has no problem with his bus service.

I refer to schools. I again thank the minister for the new school. If members did not hear me before because of interjections, there are three schools within one kilometre of one another. That is the triangle of schools and there is of course Pimpama State Secondary College. Stage 3 is about to be finished. Fantastic. What about stage 4? No, there is no stage 4. Hang on a second, this Pimpama State Secondary College is smack bang in the middle of the fastest growing region in Australia where we built three primary schools in less than a handful of years. The brand new high school has been online now for three years and every year its projected numbers of students has increased by at least 10 per cent. But there is no stage 4. What will we do? Let us do a bit of planning. Let us look a little more at forward planning for our schools. No, we closed that department. We do not anymore have the forward planning department of the LNP government. We need to step up again. We do need a Stage 4 to accommodate those students. Remember, we are the fastest growing region in Australia.

Will a member opposite move that I be heard for a longer period, because I am running out of time and have a lot to say? Let us look at the population on the northern Gold Coast.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr CRANDON: Someone will seek an extension of time for me in a moment, I am sure. Let us discuss the population in relation to police numbers. According to research that the Parliamentary Library conducted for me, 175,000 people enjoy their life on the northern Gold Coast. That is 31 per cent of the population of the Gold Coast. The overall area to which I refer is more than 50 per cent of the area of the Gold Coast, but it has 31 per cent of the population. There is a long distance between some areas within the northern Gold Coast region. There are some wonderful locations out there at Jacobs Well and so forth and so on. Let us compare that now with the police numbers. According to the library research, as at 30 June 2015 there were 877 police on the Gold Coast. According to that same research there were 60 police officers at Coomera station, representing 31 per cent of the population and over 50 per cent of the overall geographic area. Now, let us add the road policing command just to boost the figures a bit. Let us say there are 84 officers, so that is less than 10 per cent of police numbers in Coomera and yet we represent 31 per cent of the population and more than 50 per cent of the geographic area. It is not enough.

After much lobbying, I understand that in about a week two crews will move into the northern Gold Coast. That is interesting as well. In the local paper recently, Brian Codd, the Assistant Commissioner, made it very clear that these are not Coomera police, that these police are Gold Coast resources required to go wherever they can go. That is interesting because the same day that that appeared in the paper a press release from the minister said that they were Coomera police resources. I do not know. I will go with the operational people, with Brian Codd, in that they are not a resource for Coomera: they are a resource for the entire Gold Coast. They will be handy. We will welcome them and we are happy that they will be there, because they will be able to respond to issues in the northern Gold Coast more quickly and are a resource for the entire area.

We still need those extra 50 police and we need a police hub further to the north. It is 20 kilometres from the Coomera Police Station to the border with Logan City. We do not get many police coming over the border from Logan City into the northern Gold Coast, so a police hub in the northern Gold Coast would make it even better for them. Remember that we have 31 per cent of the population and more than 50 per cent of the geographic area but less than 10 per cent of the police.

I turn to main roads and exit 38. When we were in government, we fixed a major issue with ramping at exit 38 for less than \$10 million. That included some traffic lights to regulate traffic a couple of kilometres further down the road. The problem is that we only have \$600,000 allocated for planning around our exits on the M1. What does that mean? It means that we do not have any solutions. We do not have \$10 million to fix the problem anywhere up and down the M1 because there is only \$600,000 for planning. What about exit 45 and the ramping there? What about exit 41 and the ramping there? What about exit 49 and the ramping northbound in the morning and northbound in the afternoon? How are we going to fix those exits when we only have money for planning? We do not have any money to fix the problem; we only have money for planning. Someone is going to get killed. That is the reality.

I turn to youth employment or youth unemployment, whichever way you want to look at it. Back in our day we had \$6,000 for everybody who wanted to put on an apprentice. We absolutely sold that out, with 6,000 apprentices put on just like that. We were going to increase it to 12,000 apprentices—100 per cent of employers who wanted to take on an apprentice were going to benefit from that. What did this government do? A year ago it implemented a change. I know a number of those opposite will remember this. They changed it so that people got a payroll tax rebate, but the problem is that only four per cent of employers in the state benefited from that. Our idea, which benefited 100 per cent of employers, is well and truly worthwhile.

In the last 30 seconds that I have, I am going to quickly say how crazy it is that the government is ripping an additional \$2 billion out of a super fund that is supposed to be earning seven per cent—that is what the figures say—to pay down debt. The interest rate is 3½ per cent. We are about \$70 million a year behind by doing what the Treasurer has done and everybody, including the sponsor of his breakfast the other morning, says that it is crazy.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (12.33 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland budget 2016-17. I stand before you today to once again speak on a budget that is good not only for the people in my electorate of Ipswich but also for all Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government has remained steadfast to its commitments, and this is very evident in this budget which continues to put the people of Queensland first. By putting Queenslanders first, we have not shied away from one of our paramount commitments, which is to not sell our assets.

Once again we have proven that we are a government that understands the need to look to the future. We need to embrace technology. We need to identify jobs for the future. We need to encourage tourism and embrace projects that will significantly diversify our economy. I commend the Premier for her strong leadership of this state and for her progressive approach to the future of Queensland. I thank the Treasurer for providing a budget that delivers for all but, importantly, for Ipswich people.

With over \$16 million being spent on major capital works for Ipswich schools, the Palaszczuk government is putting its money where its mouth is and ensuring that the education of our children, including some of our most vulnerable, are at the forefront in all decisions. Of the \$16 million, \$10 million will go to Claremont Special School. Claremont Special School is an established and treasured part of the rich tapestry of Ipswich, and it has been educating some of our most disadvantaged children for over 20 years. I commend and thank Principal Patricia Thiedeman, staff and teachers who are committed and passionate about educating some of our most disadvantaged students and providing the opportunity for students to develop respect, independence, communication and a healthy self-esteem. I am so proud that we as a government have been able to provide \$10 million to assist in the further development of this school. The funds will provide a new two-storey building which will house not only 10 new classrooms but also an additional admin centre which will enable Principal Trish and her staff to continue to provide a high level of professionalism. This is something we have come to expect from this school.

This funding is an example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the education of students with disabilities. There are three special schools in my electorate of Ipswich—Ipswich Special School, ably led by Principal Bruce Grigg; Claremont Special School; and Ipswich West Special School, led by Acting Principal Renee Summerville. I am pleased to say that a further \$5.8 million will be provided to the Ipswich West Special School to provide additional classrooms.

Ipswich West Special School is a small but vibrant school in my electorate of Ipswich. It has been providing quality education to children living with disability since it was established in 1973, and it is a testament to the quality of education provided by Acting Principal Renee Summerville and her loyal staff that the school continues to shake the disability education landscape in Ipswich.

There is another delightful school in my electorate, Churchill State School led by the dynamic and inspiring principal, Kelly Harvey. I am delighted to say that in this budget \$400,000 will be delivered to Churchill State School for the upgrade of many of their existing classrooms. Both of my children attended Churchill State School—quite some years ago now—and it is fantastic to hear that the school will be able to modernise their classrooms and provide current students and students of the future with the opportunity to have access to modern facilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Main Roads, the Hon. Mark Bailey, for listening to me, my state colleagues and my constituents in Ipswich and committing \$200 million to fund the Ipswich Motorway upgrade from Darra to Rocklea. Like the member for Ipswich West and the member for Bundamba, I was delighted to see that the upgrade to the last section of the Ipswich Motorway has finally been given the attention that it was due. For those who do not venture west very often, this section of the motorway is vital to our economy. At present, there is an estimated 85,000 motorists who travel, and very often sit idle, on this section of the motorway every day.

When I was elected in January last year, I made a commitment to my constituents that I would do everything I could to ensure that the Ipswich Motorway upgrade was completed. I made this commitment because I know how important that road corridor is in my electorate, but I am disappointed to say that this vital piece of infrastructure had been overlooked, obfuscated about and used as a political football by the LNP. During their time in government I can recall the LNP talking about many things like sacking 14,000 public servants and cutting funding to the incredibly successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, just to name a few cuts to vital services in my area, but one thing that was conspicuously absent during those dark days was any talk of an upgrade to this section of the Ipswich Motorway. What a missed opportunity for the LNP and what a missed opportunity for the people of Ipswich.

The former Labor federal government committed funding to complete the Dinmore to Darra section of this motorway—\$2.8 billion—and then committed a further \$279 million to kickstart the Oxley section of the road at the roundabout. The newly elected federal coalition government came forward and said that they would match any commitment from the Queensland government, but sadly we never saw anything from the LNP from 2012 to 2015. I know that is all in the past now, because earlier this year the federal Labor opposition committed to matching this government's commitment to fund the completion of the Ipswich Motorway from Darra to Rocklea and the federal coalition government made the same commitment afterwards, but the people of Ipswich will not forget the contempt with which they were treated by the LNP for far too long.

This piece of infrastructure is in many ways the lifeblood for the people of my electorate and the LNP did nothing. I say to the Premier and the Minister for Main Roads, and on behalf of my constituents, a very sincere thank you for hearing this call. Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated into the *Hansard*. I have had approval from the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, I am also proud to be part of a Government that is committed to providing housing to our most vulnerable. I commend the Treasurer and the Minister for Housing, Hon Mick de Brenni for providing \$5,114,704 to complete 37 dwellings in Booval and Bundamba as part of the Government's social housing construction program. This is on top of the \$1,248,848 commitment to commencing 6 new dwellings in Booval.

The funding of these housing projects will have a very positive impact on those who are most at need in the Ipswich community.

Additionally, Mr Speaker, I commend the Treasurer and Minister Fentiman for continuing to fund those in our community who are affected by the scourge that is domestic and family violence. The \$1.177 million for the Domestic Violence Action Centre to respond to domestic and family violence will go a long way in providing support and advice to those affected by this epidemic.

The \$1.118 million for local service providers like DVAC, Relationships Australia Ipswich, Uniting Care Ipswich, and the Ipswich Housing and Support Services in Booval will deliver support and services to the most vulnerable residents of Ipswich.

The needs of Ipswich children have also been remembered in this Budget. Mr Speaker, the Treasurer has made sure that children in need of protection have a safe place to stay in Ipswich by providing \$12.645 million of funding to local service providers such as Churches of Christ in Bundamba, Life Without Barriers in Ipswich, Mercy Community Services in Churchill, and UnitingCare Community in Ipswich.

This is on top of the \$2.932 million to support the needs of children in out of home care in Ipswich. Important services, including counselling services, can continue to be provided by Ipswich providers from UnitingCare Community, West Moreton Hospital and Health Service, and Kambu Medical Centre.

Mr Speaker, we all know that it takes a village to raise a child. In the sometimes disconnected society in which we live, it is important that we are able to support families to safely care for these children. The \$3.586 million of funding provided for in the Budget will allow Ipswich service providers such as Uniting Care Community, Mission Australia, Ozcare and the St Vincent de Paul Society to make a world of difference for those families.

It is also my pleasure to announce that the Ipswich Community Youth Services Inc has received \$325,000 in funding. This will allow the ICYS to support young people and the community in Ipswich to provide information advice and referral, and support and case management services.

The ICYS has been providing assistance and support to at-risk young people, their families and their communities in the Ipswich and surrounding regions since 1983. The funding from this Budget will allow the ICYS to keep providing a range of support programs and activities to the almost to assist and empower young people to make positive choices and decisions for their future.

Mr Speaker, I am proud to be part of a Government that is looking after our most vulnerable. These include those who are victims of domestic and family violence and children who are in need of special care and again I commend Minister Shannon Fentiman for her fabulous work in these areas.

I am pleased to say though, Mr Speaker, that the Palaszczuk Government has not forgotten the older members of the Ipswich community. This government, by committing \$6.478 million in the budget, is allowing Ipswich service providers such as Able Australia, ALARA Qld Limited, the Alzheimer's Association of Qld, Blue Care, CODI, Ipswich Meals on Wheels, Ozcare, the Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane, and the Secondo Day Respite Association Inc to assist persons under 65 or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged under 50, with a disability or condition that restricts their day-to-day living, to stay living at home in Ipswich.

The \$209,000 given to Able Australia Services, Ipswich 60 and Better Program Inc, and Seniornet Association Inc will allow these organisations to provide support for older people in Ipswich to help maintain and strengthen their connections to the Ipswich community.

Mr Speaker, I am proud to be part of a Government that has committed over \$20 million to assist people with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need in Ipswich. I thank the Minister for Disability Services, the Hon Coralee O'Rourke for her great work. The support and services provided by organisations such as ALARA Qld Ltd, Cerebral Palsy League of Qld, Life without Barriers, Ozcare, UnitingCare, and Ipswich Regional Advocacy Services will allow those most vulnerable in our community to live comfortably.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I commend Minister Cameron Dick for his continuing commitment to helping those in our community who are struggling with mental illness. The \$391,942 in the 2016-17 financial year is a small part of the larger \$1.16 million commitment to provide a range of non-clinical support to people with mental illness, their carers, and families.

Additionally, the \$972,386, which is part of a \$2.91 million funding commitment over 3 years to provide palliative care services will assist those in our community who require extra help in their times of greatest need.

Mr Speaker, the budget that this Government has put forward is the blueprint for our state. A state that will look after the most vulnerable. A state that will invest in the future. A state that will protect what we have. I could not be more proud to be a part of this Palaszczuk Government.

Mr Speaker, this is a budget that is good for Ipswich and good for Queensland.

I commend the Bill to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (12.40 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the appropriation bills. This is the opposition's opportunity to analyse how the state government have collected and expended Queensland taxpayers' money and if they have been responsible with the use of the taxpayers' money. In 2016 we have another Labor state government delivering a budget of increased taxes and raids on public servants' superannuation funds. Labor true to form have a strong track record of raiding funds. The words from the member for Southern Downs really do sum up this budget in about two lines—Labor have raided the bickie tin and now they are taking it down to the pawnbroker. It pretty well hits the nail on the head. Remember the Goss Labor government raiding the ambulance funds and the hospital board funds as well. I too remember the Beattie Labor government who raided the GOCs and made them revalue assets, borrow to the hilt and then send a cheque back to Treasury.

This is supposed to be an employment budget; however, it forecasts increased unemployment. This is supposed to be an infrastructure budget; however, it forecasts record low infrastructure spending. This is supposed to be a debt reduction budget; however, it has debt increasing. This budget sees Public Service expenses increasing six times the population rate—4,000 extra public servants last year and an estimated 5,000 extra this year. That is about 13 public servants being put on the government payroll every day, costing more than a million dollars a day every day. In my electorate, we are not getting our fair share of the teachers, the teacher aides, the front-line nurses and the health professionals, and how we would love to have some more permanent doctors. One only has to read the Health Service Delivery Statement to see the increases in expenditure due to higher payments for locum doctors. We would dearly like to have some more permanent doctors in our local hospitals.

The Queensland Resources Council modelling indicates in the Warrego electorate the resources industry in 2014-15 provided \$1 billion in gross regional product and \$79 million in royalties. The state government's own budget papers under 'Economic snapshot' for the outback region show that

agricultural production was \$1.9 billion in the region during 2014-15. Given what the Warrego electorate produces for the state from just two of the industries, it is clear we are not getting our fair share in return from this state government.

This budget sees taxes and charges increasing at twice the inflation rate—increasing the tax take to \$2,697 per person. The Queensland Government's Statistician Office states that in 2014-15 the average weekly earnings of a Queenslanders was \$1,448. If we put these figures in perspective, every Queenslanders works approximately nine working days to pay their state government taxes and charges.

I have been keeping a watching brief on the Warrego Highway upgrade program, which comprises 15 projects between Toowoomba and Miles that are planned to be delivered by June 2019. The Warrego Highway upgrades were developed and first announced two years ago by the former LNP government in partnership with the federal coalition government. It has been pressure from local community groups, like the Chinchilla Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the community and me, who have kept these projects on the balance sheet. However, the Jingi Jingi bridge construction and approaches project has had a \$12 million deferral in this state budget. The Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program showed last year that in the financial year 2016-17, \$20 million was to be spent on this project. QTRIP this year shows that only \$8 million will be spent on the project; therefore, \$12 million has been deferred in one year. I am a regular driver over the existing Jingi Jingi bridge, like many of my constituents, and I understand why it is in need of replacement sooner rather than later. It is disappointing that the state government do not share the road users' safety concerns.

Recently I visited the wonderful community of Inglestone and drove a long section of the Meandarra-Talwood Road. The Inglestone area is a very productive cropping and cattle country, and the Meandarra-Talwood Road is the main freight route for grain coming from New South Wales to the feedlots at Condamine. Most of this road is about five metres wide. The edges of the bitumen are disintegrating, and on some sections the gravel used to build up the shoulders to the bitumen is sharp and unsuitable for this purpose. One landholder advised me he has expended some \$30,000 on tyres that have disintegrated because of the road and the gravel. There are school buses that operate on this road, and I am concerned for the children's safety and that of other road users. There is an urgent need to further allocate sufficient funding to address the unsafe road shoulders. I have inquired to the department who advise there is no maintenance funding for this purpose. However, they will do their best to try to do something—and I know they will—but they do need the support of the state government to help them with funding for this purpose. This road needs to have an ongoing program of widening to improve the safety of the road. I will work with the community to achieve this outcome.

Last year during the budget speech, I raised on behalf of a constituent, Randal Newsham, the condition of the Bollon to St George road. I am pleased to advise that due to my representations there has been a road roughness assessment on the Balonne Highway between Bollon and St George. Maintenance works will now be undertaken to address the bumps and depressions along this stretch of the highway. I look forward to Mr Newsham's report in relation to those works. There is still more work to do to complete the humps on the levee bank on the Balonne Highway and to ensure that the town of Bollon is completely flood proofed. I have also tabled a petition in the parliament demonstrating how important this matter is to the community of Bollon. I will continue to press the government for these capital works.

The communities of Mitchell and Morven were buoyed in April this year with the announcement of \$2.5 million to upgrade the rail sidings on the western line in conjunction with the reopening of the old branch line to support the expansion of the Oakey Beef Exports. Reports indicated the government wanted the department to start planning immediately and begin upgrades within six months. With such urgency on the government's part, I would have thought we would have seen this project as a separate line item in the budget. However, this does not appear to be the case. It would give great confidence to those communities if there was actually a line item for that project.

Another rail project that is very important to the Warrego electorate is that of the Toowoomba Range capacity and clearance project to deepen the rail tunnels on the Toowoomba Range. The budget paper notes are very revealing on this project. The total project cost advised by TMR was \$58 million, but the current total estimated cost based on a reduced scope is \$34 million. This is another vital infrastructure project experiencing a funding reduction from the Labor state government. This project is yet to start under this government.

As many are aware, the state government has announced a \$70 million replacement of the Roma Hospital through the \$180 million Enhancing Regional Hospitals Program. I welcome this announcement and acknowledge the advocacy by the former LNP health minister and member for

Southern Downs. I note that the replacement program was so far progressed that the incoming Labor government was unable to unwind the commitment. Looking through Budget Paper No. 3 and in particular page 99, I welcome the \$27 million listed in the budget for the Enhancing Regional Hospitals Program. However, it would give much more confidence to the communities to see a specific line item for the Roma Hospital replacement, given that other hospital redevelopments with lesser amounts of expenditure are expressed in this manner. This budget has also missed an opportunity to start the planning for the rebuild of the Charleville Hospital. This hospital is still located in a flood prone area and the difficulties that are experienced with legionella in the old pipework with warm bore water should be compelling reasons to progress the planning and the replacement of this hospital.

Last year there was no mention of agriculture in the Treasurer's speech. This year at least there was an acknowledgement and a mention. I would also like to welcome the extension of the family farm transfer duty concession for family transfer of farm businesses. This is a good outcome for primary producers. It is disappointing, however, to read that the agriculture budget has been reduced by 2.5 per cent.

There is an urgent need for more research funding for pimelea poisoning of cattle. Primary producers in the Warrego electorate have had stock losses into the millions of dollars. Pimelea thrives on winter rains around the St George district, which I understand we are about to get a bit more of over the weekend. It is a highly poisonous native plant found in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory. It is essential that the state government fund more research to fully understand the chemical analysis and combine this with animal trials. It will be an expensive process. However, it will provide major benefits to the cattle industry in Queensland and across the country.

I am disappointed by the state Labor government spending on vegetation management compliance officers. As we heard earlier from the member for Hinchinbrook, there is a \$7.8 million allocation to secure high-resolution satellite imagery coverage of Queensland. I would have no problem with that if it was focused on actually correcting the inaccuracies in the existing maps. However, it is clear that the government intend to target farmers and landowners managing vegetation on their properties and treat them again like criminals. There is no doubt the intention is to reinstate the tree police within the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and send them out, as I do find them at the moment, harassing farmers and their families. It is bad enough that primary producers are denied the use of the tools of their trade by the government refusing category H weapons licences for pistols; but now primary producers will be treated like criminals again by the eye in the sky.

Across the Warrego electorate there are a number of auxiliary fire and rescue stations to be replaced at Roma, Tara, Charleville and Cunnamulla, and they are listed in the budget papers. What is equally important is that local contractors and builders be able to tender for the construction of these stations. They are not complex builds; they are good projects that support local jobs. I have asked the Parliamentary Library to search for the prequalification system for local builders and contractors as I have been advised there are no builders west of Toowoomba on that particular list. Each one of these stations listed for replacement is west of Toowoomba. The Parliamentary Library advised that the prequalified contractors list is, in fact, secret. Secret or not, I will be checking on each one of these projects and, if the locals do not get the opportunity to tender, it will show that the government is not supporting local jobs in the electorate of Warrego.

The Wallumbilla State Emergency Service and Rural Fire Brigade is seeking funding—some \$245,000—to construct the first stage of the combined emergency service centre in Wallumbilla. I was greatly disappointed by the response from the Minister for Police when I wrote to him about funding for this project. His department suggested the SES and the Rural Fire Brigade should seek funding from community grants from the likes of Suncorp and the Queensland Country Credit Union. This is an unsatisfactory response from the government. I urge the government to look at the amazing job these volunteers do at Wallumbilla, especially the road crash unit. It is a very worthy project and the state government should be helping them out financially with this project.

The budget brings me to one of the programs I have championed for many years, Royalties for the Regions. In 2014 the LNP Royalties for the Regions investment in the Warrego electorate was a total of \$120 million: the state government contribution of over \$43 million, another \$52 million from the private sector and \$25 million from local governments. The LNP was only elected in 2012. In two years the LNP delivered a total of \$120 million worth of projects in the electorate of Warrego. Let us contrast that against Labor's Building our Regions program: a \$70 million budget allocation last year but only \$400,000 of that budget was actually spent across the state.

I think we can clearly see where the problem is with the Building our Regions program. It is frozen with the Labor state government, which is why the LNP has committed to restore a \$495 million Royalties for Regions program to replace the smaller, shorter, narrower and frozen program of the Labor government. The LNP will restore jobs and confidence to rural and regional Queensland with a real Royalties for Regions program and we will make sure it is unfrozen.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (12.53 pm): The Queensland government continues to invest in the future of our children and young people with a \$9.1 billion recurrent state budget designed to improve education in our state. This year's budget will continue to deliver on our vision of providing world-class education for all Queensland students by investing in new skills and improved facilities, supporting universal access to kindergarten, driving reforms to senior assessment and delivering a wage increase to support workers in Queensland schools. It supports our commitment to preparing students to take advantage of the opportunities of the knowledge based economy and to support them in forging important links within our region.

With regard to maintenance and capital works, the Queensland government is committed to ensuring all students have access to high-quality educational facilities and building new schools where they are most needed across the state. We continue to invest heavily in Queensland education and early childhood facilities, with the infrastructure investment program totalling more than \$667 million this financial year. This includes a \$475 million capital works budget and \$192.4 million for maintenance.

The 2016-17 program includes \$57.6 million as part of the \$147.3 million total funding over five years to commence construction of three new primary schools in high-growth areas including Caloundra South, Coomera and Yarrabilba in Logan. These three growing communities will receive a brand-new school by 2019—Caloundra South and Coomera in 2018 and Yarrabilba in 2019. Each one of these schools will cater for around 1,000 students in these high-growth corridors, ensuring we continue to deliver a world-class education to the growing numbers of students enrolled in Queensland state schools. We have to be prepared to meet this demand now and into the future.

We are spending \$21.1 million as part of \$50 million in total funding to commence construction of a new primary school in North-West Townsville. In Cairns—and I am sure the Deputy Speaker would be interested to know—we are spending \$21.4 million as part of \$25 million that will be spent to complete the Cairns Special School. An amount of \$48 million from the capital works budget will be needed to contribute to the former government's 10 PPP schools—only for schools in South-East Queensland—and funding of \$117 million will be spent to undertake new stages for four recently opened schools and provide additional classrooms at existing schools in growth areas throughout the state.

I do note that my neighbour the member for Everton made a comment that there was nothing in the budget for his electorate or for schools in his electorate. I draw to his attention that there is well over a million dollars being spent in his electorate, including at McDowall State School under the schools subsidy scheme; the Albany Creek State High School, with \$400,000 being spent there; the Albany Creek State High School is receiving a further \$120,000 for works undertaken through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program as well as additional works at Bunyaville Environmental Education Centre; another \$400,000 at Everton Park State High School; and another \$100,000 for Everton Park State High School for the outdoor collaborative learning centre. The member might not want to sell the education budget to his schools, but I know his schools will be happy to receive this infrastructure. I think it is an admission that he has not lobbied me at all for any of those projects.

The School Infrastructure Enhancement Program, which supports long-term improvements to the condition of school facilities, delivering fit-for-purpose, contemporary learning environments, will be allocated \$73 million to set up our students to meet the learning outcomes of the future. Our asset life cycle strategy is driving our maintenance dollars further which is great news for taxpayers.

We are also very focused on quality early childhood education because we know that it sets up children for a successful learning journey, particularly if we get it right in the early stages. That is why we will fill the \$42.8 million black hole left by the federal government in the National Partnership Agreement. This will enable Queensland to maintain current kindergarten subsidy levels. It is really important to note that we have no certainty from the federal government beyond 2017. We have seen the trajectory continue to decline despite the quadrupling of the number of children doing kindergarten. Our focus over the next 12 months will very much be on improving the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children accessing kindy as well as children in rural and remote parts of Queensland.

We are not only focused on the early years of learning: one of the centrepieces of this budget is the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance system. The Queensland government will invest \$72.4 million over four years to continue developing the new senior assessment system for students who will enter year 11 in 2018. An amount of \$24 million will be invested this year to help prepare for the change as part of the record investment. As I said this morning in my ministerial statement, we are currently working very closely with the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority with regard to rewriting the syllabuses and ensuring that we are offering our students a modern and contemporary curriculum to ensure that they have the skills they need to be competitive into the future.

We know that our schools are only as good as the staff who are in them. Our schools are filled with great, hardworking people. We recognise the important contribution of administrative and support staff in Queensland schools so that principals and teachers can focus on maximising student learning outcomes. This government's Letting Teachers Teach policy statement highlights the valuable role school business services managers and other support staff play in the successful operation of our schools. We have honoured our election commitment and delivered the first real reform in over 20 years—in two decades—a \$102 million funding boost for resourcing for administrative and support staff in Queensland schools. I know from all the correspondence I have received from members of parliament that that is something we are very proud of as a government.

Every state, primary, secondary and combined and special school across Queensland will benefit to some extent from this significant resourcing boost. New classification levels that are being made available for business services managers will better reflect the range of responsibility involved in the broad range of increasingly complex administrative, financial, facilities and human resources tasks in contemporary schools. This reform will also strengthen resourcing for our small schools, many of which are located in rural and remote communities across the state.

Before we go to the lunch break, I want to acknowledge on the public record Katie Flanders, Sharon Abbott and Dan Goldman for their contribution on behalf of workers. What defines this budget more than anything is our focus on supporting the staff and supporting our schools. I have to say that when we finally secured the funding and I met with both Katie and Sharon, we all had tears in our eyes because we know that this is a reform that is going to make a real difference. In the majority they are women who have worked in relatively low-paid jobs and have been the backbones of our schools for a very long time, often with their workloads growing because the size of the school has grown. When we look at growth overall, we have seen a lot of students coming back to the state schooling system. It was very emotional, and I am very proud that as the Minister for Education, I have been able to deliver this reform and support them.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to incorporate the rest of my speech into *Hansard*. I have run that past the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

STEM

It is essential that Queensland students are prepared for the jobs that tomorrow will offer.

Our children and young people need to be supported to harness the opportunities offered by advancements in digital technology and innovation, by building on the essentials of literacy and numeracy.

Our Advancing education action plan will inspire students to become lifelong learners, global citizens and successful people, confidently able to navigate their future.

To meet that challenge, we are investing in programs and initiatives to give our students the best chance of achieving these goals.

The \$3.3 million Schools of the Future initiative will foster engagement with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) to prepare students to take advantage of the opportunities of the knowledge-based economy.

Under this initiative the Queensland Government is committed to ensuring students engage with STEM by:

- fast tracking the Digital Technologies Curriculum from 2016;
- developing virtual STEM academies to deliver programs for the best and brightest in Years 5 to 9;
- promoting the participation and high achievement in STEM for girls through initiatives such as the STEM Girl Power Camp;
- fast tracking the teaching of coding and robotics through the Digital Technologies Curriculum;
- establishing a Queensland Coding Academy to provide learning opportunities for students and teachers; and
- developing the Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow through opportunities with industry to shape ideas and business plans.

For example, Alexandra Hills State High School in the electorate of Capalaba has launched a Centre of Excellence in Automation and Robotics.

This is a joint initiative between the Department of Education and Training and the Queensland Resources Council with the DETE contributing \$100,000 seed funding.

It will operate in consultation with industry partners, the Queensland University of Technology and teachers.

It will provide opportunities for students in Years 7 to 12 to study automation and robotics.

Global schools

We are determined that young Queenslanders will be prepared to embrace the future opportunities of a globalised world.

Our location in one of the most dynamic and future focused regions in the world puts us in the ideal position to capitalise on opportunities for future growth.

Our ability to connect with the Asian economy will depend on our understanding of other cultures and our proficiency in Asian languages.

That is why through accelerating Advance Queensland we are delivering \$7.1 million for the Global Schools initiative.

Global Schools will see a new focus on language and cultural studies for students in Queensland state schools.

We will expand the offering of languages and culture from Prep to Year 12 with a focus on Asian languages.

While around 70% of Queensland students study an Asian language, only around 5% continue those studies until Year 12.

We want to boost the number of students continuing the study of Asian languages right through to their senior years and expand it into the early years of learning right down to Prep, with currently only around 69 schools offering language studies in the prep year.

We are also rolling out grants of up to \$50,000 to boost the capability of our state schools to deliver high-quality language education.

Through the Deputy Premier's new international education and training strategy, we are encouraging more school-age students to study here in Queensland.

We know that international students diversify and enrich school communities and help local students become global citizens sharing languages, ideas and social and cultural experiences.

The Palaszczuk Government has demonstrated its commitment to innovation, technology and knowledge industries, and with this Budget, we are making sure that our children and young people will be well equipped to take up their place in building this future.

Our commitment to providing new schools, additional classrooms and improved facilities will ensure all Queensland students have the right environment to succeed now and into the future.

We are delivering on improved access to kindergarten, reforms to senior assessment and a wage increase to support workers in Queensland schools so that our children and young people are ensured access to a world class education and a bright future.

Tourism

Mr Speaker, this Budget also delivers on our commitment to boost the number of Chinese visitors to Queensland

We have already seen a 30 percent growth in Chinese visitors to Queensland in the last 12 months.

Our Connecting with Asia—tourism jobs in the regions package delivers a \$33.5 million investment to grow tourism in regional Queensland.

This builds on our success through the Aviation Attraction Investment Fund which has secured half a million additional inbound seats to Queensland.

We know that tourism is one of the great winners in the Queensland economy and this new \$33.5 million fund will ensure Queensland grows its market share and grows tourism jobs.

Ashgrove

Mr Speaker, I'm proud to stand here as the member for Ashgrove.

This Budget delivers funding for our community.

It's great to see support for our schools including \$2.7 million for a new learning centre at Enoggera State School.

We're also supporting our senior citizens and those with disability.

The Budget delivers \$8.3 million for local supports and services for people with disabilities and \$750,000 to continue the Elderly Parent Carer Innovation Initiative project in Enoggera

We're continuing to redevelop the Walkabout Creek Discovery Centre with \$1.4 million to upgrade the centre's car park and the removal of an aging and unstable fire tower structure.

It follows \$1.5 million allocation in last year's Budget to construct a junior mountain bike skills park, trail network, events lawn and picnic areas at the centre.

We're also continuing to support our local community groups.

This Budget delivers \$49,000 to complete the construction of a two wicket block practice net facility with lights and storage shed at Memorial Reserve in Enoggera, \$200,000 to complete a \$400,000 upgrade of The Gap Football Club's clubhouse and sporting fields and \$192,000 for Picabeen Community Association in Mitchelton to support vulnerable people.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I want to make mention of the changes to public transport fares that will make a real difference to the cost of living for residence in the Ashgrove electorate.

It will bring great benefit to the people of The Gap who will now be in zone 2 instead of zone 3.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms Jones, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.31 pm.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Absence of Members

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Currumbin of her absence from the House from 14 to 15 June 2016. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A.

Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Bundamba of her absence from the House from 15 to 20 June 2016, and that member's notification also complies with standing order 263A.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Reports

 **Mr PEARCE** (Mirani—ALP) (2.31 pm), by leave: I have two reports to lay upon the table of the House: firstly, report No. 27 of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 February 2016 and 19 April 2016*; and, secondly, report No. 28 of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee titled *Consideration of the Auditor-General's Report 4 for 2015-16: Royalties for the regions*.

Tabled paper: Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 27—Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 February 2016 and 19 April 2016 [\[990\]](#).

Tabled paper: Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 28—Consideration of the Auditor-General's Report 4 for 2015-16: Royalties for the regions [\[991\]](#).

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.32 pm), by leave: I lay upon the table of the House report No. 168 titled *Matter of privilege referred by the Agriculture and Environment Committee on 20 April 2016 relating to an alleged unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings and an alleged deliberate misleading of a committee*.

Tabled paper: Ethics Committee: Report No. 168—Matter of privilege referred by the Agriculture and Environment Committee on 20 April 2016 relating to an alleged unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings and an alleged deliberate misleading of a committee [\[992\]](#).

I commend the report and the committee's recommendation to the House.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (2.33 pm): I advise honourable members that the House can continue to meet past 6.30 pm this day. The House will break for dinner at 6.30 pm and resume sitting at 7.30 pm.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**APPROPRIATION BILL****DUTIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL****Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

Resumed from p. 2585, on motion of Mr Pitt—

That the bills be now read a second time

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.33 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill, the Appropriation Bill and the Duties and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This week we have heard a lot of fancy words and numbers, as I mentioned yesterday in my private member's statement, but there are not a lot of fancy results from this budget. We have heard much from this side of the House about our concerns. The fact is that there have been many announcements about jobs, but of course unemployment continues to be a thorn in the side of this government. As we have heard from honourable members, increased unemployment is forecast in this budget and record low infrastructure spending is forecast. This is a budget that has debt increasing, notwithstanding the honourable Treasurer is trying to suggest that the debt that was incurred during our time in government was a continuation of the situation we inherited due to the forward estimates. This budget sees public service expenses increasing at six times the population rate and taxes and charges increasing at twice the inflation rate. It is really back to the bad old days of Labor.

I want to speak today about the portfolios that I am shadowing, Health, Ambulance Services and the Commonwealth Games, and also some Gold Coast specific issues which I will come to at the end of my presentation. If we look at the budget papers for Health, at page 18 it shows that, rather than a predicted deficit of \$14.2 million, hospital and health services will have a deficit of \$99.6 million. These are the 16 hospital and health services that were set up under our term of government. It is a real concern that, when we have a record Health budget, 10 of the hospital and health services are running significant deficits notwithstanding that many of them received extra resources during the last financial year.

Many members will be aware of the fact that we did inherit a \$300 million deficit, as we heard last night from the former health minister, the member for Southern Downs. He turned that around into a surplus that is now being expended by this government. It is really important to understand that, when we hear about the government speaking about more resourcing, what we want to speak about on this side of the House—and what we showed in our term of government—is focusing on outcomes. When I was part of the Public Accounts Committee in my first two terms in this House in the 51st and 52nd parliaments we often spoke about the integrity, economy, efficiency and effectiveness of public sector spending. We have extended that in our term of government to talk about productivity and ensuring that we have better productivity outcomes as well. They are the things that we were able to achieve whilst we were in government.

I note that there are significant issues in the budget within the Health portfolio; for example, employment expenses going up by 5.71 per cent. With regard to the new fiscal standard that the Treasurer has spoken about, which is about increasing employees, we see at page 22 of the Service Delivery Statement for Health that in the last year the number of people employed in Queensland Health has gone from 75,442 to 79,625 which is an increase of 4,183. The fiscal standard that the Treasurer spoke about yesterday is now something that he said he wants to try to achieve as a balance over the course of time and not necessarily focus on, because of course in its first year we are not tying expenses growth to revenue growth as we see by those expenses going up. That is the same old standard we have seen from Labor in years gone by before we came to government in 2012: revenue going up by two to three per cent and expenses going up by seven to eight per cent. That is something that cannot keep going. That is why we always focus on outcomes and making sure that, whilst we want to make sure we have enough revenue going into departments—and health and education will always have record budgets because we have an increasing population—it is also important to make sure that we do get those productivity increases which we were able to achieve whilst we were in government.

Some of those examples were specialist outpatients, commonly known as the waiting list for the waiting list. Despite the minister saying that he was targeting this area, I pointed out yesterday that the number of patients on the waiting list for the waiting list is expected to grow to 247,220 from 231,821 this year. In our term of government in the 54th Parliament we were able to get that waiting list down to

228,000, and it had been increasing by up to 15 per cent year on year before that. Over the last year the budget papers reveal that 39 per cent of category 1 specialist outpatients waited longer than the clinically recommended time, 50 per cent of category 2 waited longer than the clinically recommended time and 26 per cent of category 3 specialist outpatients waited longer than the clinically recommended time. Similarly with elective surgery, yesterday we saw that the results to 1 March 2016 saw 4,290 people treated in category 1 elective surgery—the most urgent—and last year at the same time it was 4,799. There was little or no improvement in elective surgery in the other categories. Similarly in emergency wait times there was little or no improvement and yet they were things, as I will point out, that during our time in government we were able to make significant improvements in.

It is really important to understand that this budget does beg, borrow and steal. As I pointed out yesterday, Labor is trying to beg from the federal government. That has been the case ever since the election last year, whether in relation to light rail at the Gold Coast or the Townsville stadium. Again today we saw the Deputy Premier trying to tell the federal government that it is imperative for them to come to the party. That has been the style of this government—to beg, borrow or steal. In this case it has been 'repatriating', the definition of which has been analysed by members on this side. The government is taking money out of the defined benefit scheme against the specific recommendations of the State Actuary. That is something that continues on from last year's efforts in relation to long service leave and ceasing contributions for up to \$2 billion into the defined benefit scheme. There is a limit to how long that can be done. We have heard that from other members. It is really important to make sure that we acknowledge that when we focus on the outcomes, whether in education or in health.

I want to clarify something I said yesterday. I spoke about the health minister's 33 mentions in 13 different contributions—ministerial statements, private members' statements, questions without notice, estimates hearings or legislation second reading debates. A number of times the health minister has berated the federal government, saying that their \$11 billion worth of cuts into the out years was going to affect Queensland. That was a proportion of the national spend that Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard had supposedly put into the system but which was not in the forward estimates. In response to a question from the member for Caloundra, the then shadow minister for health, on 19 May 2015 the Minister for Health said—

Labor does not have to promise anything more because it is a Labor initiative that is delivering \$11.8 billion.

In this current federal election campaign, Bill Shorten, the federal opposition leader, last week said that he was not going to match the \$11.8 billion that our health minister had been saying should be coming back into the system. He promised \$2 billion for the whole of Australia. Our proportion of that would normally be about 20 per cent, and that is a long way from the \$11.8 billion that the health minister referred to on 19 May 2015. Again, he said—

Labor does not have to promise anything more because it is a Labor initiative that is delivering \$11.8 billion.

The federal opposition cannot even keep a promise they have made in opposition as part of an attempt to win government. I refer to the actual payments for specific purposes to Queensland in Budget Strategy and Outlook, Budget Paper No. 2, at pages 157 and 158. This was pointed out last night by the member for Southern Downs, the former health minister. Section 7.5.1, 'Structure of payments for specific purposes', on page 157 states—

Growth in National Health Reform (NHR) funding is stable at around 6.1% each year from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

That is just in health that this government will be receiving about 19 per cent more over those four years. Importantly, the promises made by Bill Shorten and the federal opposition all through the last term of the federal parliament have proven to be based on quicksand. When it comes to the crunch they will supposedly put \$2 billion into the system, whereas this government was holding the current federal government to account supposedly for \$11.8 billion. That needs to be called out for what it is. The health minister has said over the past couple of years that its pressure on the Turnbull government would be maintained all the way to the federal election. Now we hear nothing from the health minister about the fact that \$2 billion is a mere fraction of \$11.8 billion and that Queensland's share of that will be \$400 million.

I note that the health minister is yet to respond to a question on notice asked by the member for Morayfield. It is due to be answered by 24 June—a week from today. I expect that the tenor of the answer to that question on notice will be somewhat different given the different numbers that have been presented in the past week by the federal opposition.

Yesterday I mentioned that we have heard the fancy words from the government. They have criticised the federal government to try to scare Queenslanders into believing that the state has been neglected. The figures in their own budget papers show that a significant amount of revenue—19 per

cent in Health alone over the next four years—is coming to this state. They have tried to blackmail the federal government into coming to the party. I have also pointed out today that they have been using other people's money to spruik their economic plan.

I return to the issue of the hospital and health service deficits. I was proud to be the minister for education in the 54th Parliament. We championed autonomy for local schools. Similarly in Health, we gave hospital and health services the autonomy they needed to deliver local services and balance the books. As I have already mentioned, there is now nearly \$100 million in deficits by those hospital and health services. Ten out of 16 are running deficits, notwithstanding that they had been given significant extra revenue through the year. I want to go through those figures from the budget papers. A surplus under our government meant that the local hospital and health service could reinvest, through a better healthcare bonus, to enhance local front-line health services in line with local priorities. The reinvestment of those savings could reduce surgery waiting lists, expand statewide access for child health specialist services, upgrade clinical facilities and infrastructure and address local maintenance issues.

Last night the member for Southern Downs reiterated that there was a \$300 million shortfall when we inherited government and that at that stage Ambulance or Health would just go to Treasury and ask for more money. That meant that in Ambulance they were not dealing with the ramping issues or bypass issues. It was really important that we addressed the heart of the problem. The problem that was often happening in emergency departments was due to ambulance ramping and bypass. They are the things our government dealt with to make sure we could have those surpluses, better responses and better outcomes for patients.

Unfortunately, we now have centralised command and control back in Charlotte Street. As a result, those 10 hospital and health service boards are now running up deficits. In the Cairns Hospital and Health Service the 2015-16 estimated actual is a deficit of \$20 million; in Children's Health Queensland a deficit of \$5.8 million; in the Mackay Hospital and Health Service a deficit of \$7 million; in Metro North Hospital and Health Service a deficit of \$4.2 million; in Metro South Hospital and Health Service a deficit of \$22 million; in North-West Hospital and Health Service a deficit of \$7.8 million; in the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service a deficit of \$7.1 million; in West Moreton Hospital and Health Service a deficit of \$8.1 million; and in the Wide Bay Hospital and Health service a deficit of \$14 million. That is what is actually happening in the hospital and health services. It is obvious that, whilst more money is going in, we are not necessarily getting better results. That means that Queenslanders are paying more and getting less.

Our government was able to do significant things including make sure our nurses and midwives were paid more. That is something we have dealt with in the term of this parliament. They were almost 10 per cent better off in their pay packets, thanks to our government. We made sure there were more doctors and nurses. There were 801 doctors employed in public hospitals after Labor's last full year in office and more than a thousand nurses—no matter what those opposite say. We also had faster and more modern ambulances. We added 397 new and replacement ambulances since March 2012, we dealt with ambulance ramping and bypass issues—we made sure that, rather than having patients dying after being shuttled from hospital to hospital, there was an end to ramping and bypass—and we provided funding for another 100 front-line staff.

As I have said, we dealt with waiting lists. We see those figures already slipping back under this Labor government. In our term, 97 per cent of category 1 patients requiring urgent surgery were seen on time, compared with just 86 per cent at the change of government from Labor to LNP. It is the same story for patients requiring semi-urgent surgery, with 86 per cent seen on time compared with 73 per cent at the change of government. The percentage of non-urgent patients who received surgery on time also improved, from 90 to 92 per cent.

We also achieved shorter waits in emergency departments and a dental waiting list blitz. The long waits for dental were eliminated from over 60,000 to zero which ensured that people who needed that dental care got it. There was also a record investment for BreastScreen and more access for rural and regional patients. We doubled the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme and we doubled the mileage subsidy.

Government members interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: Those opposite do not like it, but it is true. That is what we were able to achieve using fiscal discipline to ensure that we could achieve the outcomes that Queenslanders wanted—not just a focus on more money, more money, more money. We ensured that we had the best

focus on efficiency, economy and ensuring that there was integrity in all of our services. We improved children's surgery times and we ended Labor's hidden waiting lists, many of which have now gone back to the bad old days of us not being able to find out exactly what is happening.

In my remaining time I want to speak about the Commonwealth Games. It has also been disappointing this week that of the 32 new bureaucrats employed in tourism only one of them is on the Gold Coast, yet literally that is where the bulk of the Commonwealth Games are going to occur. It is really important to ensure that there is a focus on the Gold Coast, acknowledging that in Tourism and Events and other departments there is going to be cross-coordination. However, the Commonwealth Games headquarters are in Ashmore in my electorate and it is important to ensure that there is appropriate representation on the coast.

In the Department of Transport and Main Roads I am concerned about a local issue that is very significant for residents. Whilst the former transport minister and the now shadow Treasurer, the member for Indooroopilly, announced the widening of Bundall Road, it has been of great concern to all, and I am very appreciative to the transport minister that my office can engage directly with the local office—the regional office—of DTMR and not have to put all inquiries through his office. A number of residents in Rapallo Avenue at Isle of Capri have expressed concerns, which I certainly share, about the widening of Bundall Road opposite the Sorrento shopping centre where it has been widely publicised that there were constituents of mine who were unhappy about having their houses resumed. It now turns out that at what we thought was going to be a park in that area there is going to be an access road to enable people to turn right down Via Roma across the Isle of Capri. That is not something that those eight residents envisaged—that is, that they are now going to have a road opposite them instead of a park. That was in spite of the member for Mermaid Beach, the member for Southport and a number of Gold Coast members making the point that it was of great concern to their electorates and to commuters on the coast that, whilst the intersection at Ashmore Road and Bundall Road should be straightened, the best long-term plan would be a flyover. However, DTMR said that we did not need to do that, but no-one envisaged a road where there was supposed to be a park.

Ongoing issues about law and order on the coast will bedevil this Labor government all the way to the next election. The winding back of gang laws and rolling out the red carpet for criminal gangs and the cruise ship terminal will continue to be big issues on the Gold Coast. Lockout laws, which will be put into place in just a couple of weeks and then next February, will also affect tourism numbers and small businesses. Other issues such as unsafe practices of scooters on sidewalks mean that I will continue to represent on behalf of my electorate one of the best parts of the Gold Coast in the best state in Australia.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.52 pm): I rise to make some comments on the 2016 state budget firstly as Premier but also as the very proud member for Inala. I thank Treasurer Curtis Pitt on the delivery of this week's state budget and I also thank the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Main Roads and Energy, both of whom were instrumental in putting together this budget, as well as the entire cabinet.

Our government's second budget is focused on advancing Queensland's economy through innovation, investment and infrastructure because that means jobs. It is a back-to-work budget that is responsible and measured. It will strengthen and diversify our state. It will keep Queensland growing. It includes debt reduction, nation-leading economic growth, surpluses across the forward estimates and forecast revenue outstripping forecast expenditure, meaning that we are spending less than we earn. Like everything our government does, the 2016-17 budget is all about jobs.

Over the last year I have travelled the length and breadth of Queensland. My Working Queensland Cabinet Subcommittee has met in Mount Isa, Charters Towers, Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Mackay, Maryborough and Toowoomba this year. I promised to consult Queenslanders, to engage them, to give them an input into helping frame government policy. I have heard how so many, especially in our regions, are doing it tough. This budget is aimed squarely at working with the private sector to address those concerns. I am especially proud of the \$100 million regional Back to Work program which will support 8,000 Queenslanders get back into work. This builds on our \$240 million Skilling Queenslanders for Work commitment in last year's budget which is supporting 8,000 Queensland jobseekers a year and 32,000 jobseekers in total over four years.

Under the regional Back to Work program there will be employer support payments of up to \$10,000 to hire and keep a regional Queenslanders employed for 12 months or more. That climbs to \$15,000 for hiring a long-term unemployed person. The program also includes a boost to the certificate III program, access to job readiness payments to help workers start a new job, and regional

back to work officers who can connect workers with jobs or specialised skills training. I want this to be a partnership between government and business, enabling small as well as bigger businesses to put on more workers.

The support for the regions does not stop there. We will also deliver a \$175 million boost to the Building our Regions program. We will put in place a \$77.9 million rural assistance and drought package to help the 84 per cent of Queensland still in drought. There is also a \$33.5 million Connecting with Asia tourism package, a \$96.5 million Northern Queensland road funding program and of course our capital program will focus heavily on the needs of regional Queensland. This budget commits to investing \$40 billion over four years throughout our state. We have boosted the State Infrastructure Fund to \$2 billion, with \$500 million worth already allocated. Fundamentally, I want to show Queenslanders, especially regional Queenslanders, that when you talk my government listens. That stands in stark contrast to those opposite. How could you possibly cut funds from a region-specific back to work fund and spend it on the south-east corner? As usual, it is Labor that will stand up for regional Queensland, not the LNP.

There are enormous areas of opportunity across other portfolios. Something that I am particularly proud of is the way this budget embraces innovation, and I know that the innovation sector has the potential to drive new economic and job opportunities in our regions. We have more than doubled our investment in our Advance Queensland agenda to \$405 million, promoting the jobs of the future, and I am determined to see Queensland become the national innovation leader. We will create regional innovation hubs, we will help small business innovate and we have money set aside to create a biofutures industry. We are focused on innovating in traditional industries and creating whole new industries and we will actively attract new investment, poaching businesses from interstate and overseas through the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund.

This budget also recognises the cost-of-living pressures facing Queenslanders. We have delivered the biggest reforms to public transport in recent history, meaning cheaper fares for commuters. In my electorate of Inala, public transport users will benefit from fewer zones and lower fares. Travelling from Inala bus station to the CBD during peak periods will be more than \$2 cheaper per trip. Commuters on this route could save up to \$889 a year, and I know how important that is to families living in my electorate. Local travel will also be cheaper, with a trip from Gailes station to Ipswich providing savings of up to \$328 a year. These are real savings that will deliver real benefits to the people of Inala and across South-East Queensland. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I can confirm that this has been cleared by the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

I'm also proud to say my Government has protected electricity concessions for pensioners.

No-one will forget the last Newman/Nicholls Budget of 2014 when they cut pensioner concessions, only to reinstate them following a groundswell of public opposition.

That's what you get from the LNP and the Member for Clayfield a complete disregard for the needs of Queenslanders.

Mr Speaker, We will also maintain a heavy focus on the fundamentals over \$15 billion in the health budget, including the implementation of our ICE strategy, 170 new and replacement ambulance vehicles, and an additional 68 nurse navigators for our hospitals.

And almost \$13 billion for education and training ensuring the next generation of Queenslanders has even greater opportunity than those of us that have gone before them.

To help those saving for their first home starting from July they will be able to get our First Home Owners' Grant of \$20,000 for a newly constructed house, unit or townhouse valued at less than \$750,000.

And as we have been clear about it will be funded by a property surcharge on foreign investors something Victoria are doing and New South Wales are planning.

Except as usual our surcharge will be lower, making us more competitive than the southern states.

Inala

Mr Speaker, My first and foremost calling is to the people of Inala. As a growing, ageing, diverse community, the needs of my electorate vary greatly. And this Budget delivers.

We have set aside \$25.4 million for the Ipswich Motorway upgrade from Rocklea to Darra. This money is to commence the construction of additional lanes in the Oxley Road Suscatand Street Street.

You'll recall that my Government increased its funding to \$200 million for this project half the total cost, despite it being a Federal road.

Not only is this project a job-generator, but it will dramatically improve the time people in the south-west suburbs spend in traffic.

Mr Speaker, There is also \$1.2 million to continue the replacement of the Inala Community Centre.

Almost \$500,000 for local community groups and neighbourhood centres, including:

- Inala Community House
- South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre in Inala
- Vietnamese Community in Australia (Queensland Chapter) Inc in Darra
- Elorac Place in Ellen Grove

And crucially Mr Speaker, over \$15 million in funding to support people with a disability and their families.

Great organisations like Autism Queensland, Endeavour Foundation, Southern Cross Care Services among others, need this support so they can support those in our community.

And finally Mr Speaker, nothing is more important to my electorate than high-quality education.

We will continue to provide strong funding to all the schools in my electorate, including money specifically for a collaborative outdoor learning area at Camira State School.

And the Inala Early years' Centre will receive \$29,500 through the State Government's Early Years' Small Assets grants program.

Conclusion

Mr Speaker,

This Budget is about getting the balance right. Strengthening our balance sheet while stimulating the economy, especially in regional Queensland.

That is what my Government has delivered.

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (2.57 pm): Today I rise to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2016 and say from the outset what an absolutely dismal and disappointing second budget it is by this accidental Queensland state Labor government—that, it must be said in its defence, was more surprised than anybody about getting into government. The unfortunate result of this is that its lack of planning prior to entering government means that its first and now second budget contains a lot of announcements. However, as we have seen over the last 12 months, there is very little substance and tangibility to back those announcements.

What does the current budget hold for the Gaven electorate? It is unfortunately not looking too positive for the good people of Gaven. There are few, if any, comparisons for Gaven which can be made between this year's budget and the previous Labor budget, of course with one exception—being that in this year's and last year's budgets Gaven has received none of the much needed funding for police resources, road infrastructure and community infrastructure that we require to keep pace with the continual population growth in our electorate. The announcement of capital grants under the Commonwealth Games for the Nerang bike trails is only a follow-on from last year's announcement for the same infrastructure and was already in the pipeline from the previous LNP government.

Similarly, this year's announcement of funding for the Commonwealth Games precinct at Carrara—the place where the unions have encouraged workers to have picnics on the lawn where they can eat prawns and have nap time during work hours—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr CRAMP: Yes, that is the one down at Carrara. This announcement follows an announcement for the same infrastructure last year. Again, it is just one of multiple projects already planned and put in place by the LNP.

Mr Krause: It's a lovely spot.

Mr CRAMP: It is a lovely spot for a picnic, but people should go there in their own time, not on taxpayers' time. In fact, after going through the budget papers, it seems to me that that is the case for most of the announcements relating to the Commonwealth Games.

The only additional announcement that I could find in this budget is a share of funding for community centres over three years, which will be available for application by the Nerang Neighbourhood Centre to trial the placement of Community Connect workers in order to provide support for a range of issues, including those affected by domestic and family violence. Even though it disappoints me to see the Gaven electorate so vastly overlooked by Labor, it is good to see at least one new investment in my community, which I hope will benefit those who need the support.

Under this budget, the Gold Coast as a whole has not fared much better. In terms of education, although there is some new construction for schools on the Gold Coast, Labor's decision to ditch the LNP's long-term plan for Gold Coast schools will lead to students in the fast-growing northern Gold Coast suburbs, of which the Gaven electorate has several, being packed into portable classrooms like sardines.

In terms of public transport, Labor's fare reforms will cost up to \$210 million in forgone revenue over the next four years. Of course, Labor is pinning its hopes on recouping this shortfall through increased patronage on all public transport. However, Labor is severely lacking any real detail on how it is going to achieve this increase in patronage. To have cheaper fares on public transport, you need to have the transport vehicles and facilities to enable these fares to be used. It is fortuitous that we have the transport minister in the House today. Perhaps he could listen to my request and that of my colleagues representing the northern Gold Coast for bus services and bus stops for our communities.

An opposition member: That seems a reasonable step.

Mr CRAMP: I take that interjection. It is a reasonable request. Disappointingly, regardless of the tireless efforts of the Gold Coast based LNP members, calls to provide funding for the Robina Community Legal Centre are ignored, despite it providing a community legal service to a record number of domestic violence cases. The centre is said to be expecting to receive 1,000 clients this year alone.

With the federal coalition government poised to pay half the cost of upgrading the Pacific Motorway horror stretch between Mudgeeraba and Reedy Creek, Labor has again shown its lack of care and interest for the Gold Coast by failing to include its commitment in the budget for the M1. Thanks to the Labor government, with these upgrades to the M1 being ignored for at least another year, motorists will now be subject to bumper-to-bumper traffic along this stretch most likely until after the Commonwealth Games have been held.

On a rare positive front, the Treasurer has announced that the First Home Owners' Grant will be increased from \$15,000 to \$20,000 for buyers of their first property under the value of \$750,000 for 12 months from 1 July. It is certainly my hope that this increase will promote and encourage first home owners to enter the market, thereby creating more employment in our construction and associated industries on the Gold Coast. Unfortunately, this boost to the Gold Coast local construction industry will be more than offset negatively with the Treasurer also announcing an extra three per cent duty surcharge on foreign investors. With the Gold Coast relying heavily on foreign investment in its construction and development industry and the global economy still struggling, this surcharge will potentially cause investment in new construction to reduce, cutting jobs from the construction sector.

By proving his absolute lack of financial ability in announcing the tax hike, Treasurer Pitt—a 'Captain Risky'—incorrectly identified the cost of the tax of a property—

Mr POWER: I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, there is a persistent abuse by the members opposite of not using the correct title of the Treasurer. I ask that you ask them to use the correct title.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): The member referred to the Treasurer by his correct title, but I remind the member for Gaven that that should be the only way that he refers to the Treasurer.

Mr CRAMP: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for your guidance. As I stated, the cost of the tax on a property with a dutiable value of \$365,400 was stated by the Treasurer to be \$336. The Treasurer was about only \$10,500 off, with the real cost of the foreign investment tax on a property with that dutiable value being \$10,962.

Mr Minnikin: Missed by that much.

Mr CRAMP: Just a little bit. I am sure members in this chamber can do the sums on the much higher figures that are associated with development on the Gold Coast. To make matters worse for the Gold Coast construction industry, as has been noted earlier by the shadow minister for employment, in the first 12 months of this Labor government in Queensland, 7,000 fewer apprenticeships were created than there were under the previous LNP government.

Mr Krause: Shame!

Mr CRAMP: Absolutely. I take that interjection from the member for Beaudesert. It is an absolute shame. In last year's budget, we saw a lot of hope placed on the global economy improving and the talking up of increased tourism forecasts based on the upcoming Commonwealth Games. Of course, the centrepiece of that budget was the \$40 million Jobs Queensland plan. So far, the only output of this program has been Labor's various mantras and rhetoric about job creation that the lemmings on the left of the Labor ranks have blindly paraphrased. In fact, in the past 12 months, Jobs Queensland has not even had a board set up to administer the program. So far, Labor's only response to media questions regarding this inaction around the Jobs Queensland board is that it has an interim board and the selection process for the board is still progressing. After all this time we have no board, no action and, so far, a cost of about \$10 million of taxpayers' money.

Mr Minnikin: But they've got their board.

Mr CRAMP: Yes. Fantastic work, Labor. The result for the Gold Coast from this lack of any tangible action by Labor is that the area has not seen any significant impact on unemployment. Significantly, over the past 12 months in Queensland, under this Labor government youth unemployment has increased to 15 per cent. As we have heard before in this House, that equates to over 21,000 young Queenslanders having lost their jobs since Labor came to power. Certainly, that is a record not to be proud of.

On the Gold Coast, the youth unemployment figure is around 12.3 per cent. That figure certainly does not address the issue of underemployment, with many young people in my area and other areas on the Gold Coast struggling to find enough hours of employment to support themselves. Of course, the young people on the Gold Coast are faring better than young people in other parts of Queensland, considering that the youth unemployment rate in outback Queensland areas is a staggering 28.5 per cent. When it comes to jobs, Labor is all talk and no action. It promised to create jobs for Queenslanders, but it has failed miserably.

In stark contrast, the LNP has a strong track record of providing pathways to jobs for young Queenslanders. We recognise that more needs to be done to get Queensland working. As announced yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow minister for employment, an LNP jobs plan will see up to 20,000 young Queenslanders in jobs, encourage apprentices to finish their training and give incentives to employers to train and retain workers. The Gaven electorate is a proud small business community and is equally proud to be home to a significant percentage of the Gold Coast's professional tradespeople. The LNP's plan to get Queensland working by targeting support for small businesses and workers that leads to jobs and opportunities for young Queenslanders will be a major boost to employment in the Gaven electorate.

This budget makes anyone with even a skerrick of financial knowledge shudder with fear. With seemingly no idea as to how to pay for anything, again, we see that the Labor Treasurer has decided to raid the piggy bank, this time taking \$4 billion of public servants' defined benefit superannuation to fill his budget black hole, just as he did in his previous budget. This is very poor financial decision-making and the potential impact of negative returns occurring over the next few years could see taxpayers footing the superannuation bill for the Public Service. Certainly, as we have heard many times, the Treasurer's actions are deemed to be so economically unsound that even the sponsor of his post-budget lunch, Ernst & Young partner Paul Laxon, insisted that the state's finances were going backwards under Labor's plans to pay down government debt. Mr Laxon stated—

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—

Queensland Investment Corporation—

deriving effectively an equity return, an investment return.

And we are replacing that with paying down (debt) so you are effectively getting a saving in debt costs which is very low so we are actually going backwards.

The overall situation in Queensland is not being helped by Treasury miscalculating the state's economic growth by more than \$5 billion a year on average for the past decade. The Chamber of Commerce Queensland advocacy manager, Nick Behrens, said that the fault was with the poor quality of the initial estimates, stating—

Quite simply, each year we are relying on money that we don't have and we are spending money that we don't have.

The fact is that many Gold Coasters are already doing it tough and finding it increasingly difficult to repay their debts. One of the nation's largest debt-collection agencies, Prushka, said that the company's findings show that cracks are starting to appear in the economy, with many households living pay cheque to pay cheque, despite record low interest rates.

It was revealed that householders are unable to pay for bills for dentists, trades or the vet; these bills being as little as \$50 but on average were \$200 to \$300. I have no doubt this will affect our small and medium businesses, with statistics already showing 42 per cent of small business owners struggling as they chase money from their customers.

What is required here to help Gold Coasters and, in fact, all Queenslanders, is prudent financial management. However, we have seen anything but from this hapless Treasurer and incompetent, frozen-at-the-wheel Labor government. Labor has no plan, no idea and seems intent on making the Queensland public pay for their reckless waste of money through higher taxes, increased fees and charges and raiding the retirement savings of workers.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Before calling the Minister for Health, could I welcome to the public gallery the former member for Woodridge, Desley Scott.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Could I also welcome to the public gallery the former deputy prime minister of Australia, the Hon. Tim Fischer. Welcome to the Queensland parliament.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.10 pm): The 2016 state budget delivers more doctors, more nurses, more allied health professionals, better healthcare facilities, more ambulances and more ambulance officers for the people of Queensland. Here is what it does not do: cut jobs. The Palaszczuk Labor government supports those 90,000 people who work in the Queensland health system. Those opposite had as their first priority sacking them. After the first budget of the LNP government in 2012 the big debate was not over new or expanded services, better innovation and integration in health care or new infrastructure initiatives but, rather, how many jobs were being cut. Was Budget Paper No. 2 of that year right when it stated that there would be 4,140 full-time-equivalent redundancies in Health in 2012-13 or was the member for Southern Downs, the then minister for health, right when he stated that only 2,754 full-time-equivalent jobs would go from Queensland Health? That is the debate that took place when the members of the LNP ran Queensland: how many people were going to be sacked—4,140 or only 2,754.

Only the Palaszczuk Labor government has a plan for health. In his budget reply yesterday the Leader of the Opposition and member for Clayfield devoted just 157 words out of 6,220 to health—the largest portfolio in the Queensland government. In those 157 words he again touted what the LNP see as their big triumph in health when in office: their wait-time gimmick. This was a policy which ignored completely the people waiting to get on a waiting list. There were over 100,000 people in that category. What they saw with the LNP was an outfit that was promising something to people further up the line than them, but for those people waiting, nothing.

Health workers around the state would be alarmed after yesterday's budget reply speech by the member for Clayfield and Leader of the Opposition. There was no apology by the Leader of the Opposition to Queensland Health workers for mass sackings. There was no apology by the Leader of the Opposition to health workers for smashing front-line services. There was no commitment by the Leader of the Opposition to fight for their health jobs. There was no recognition nor apology for the LNP's health legacy: a risky children's hospital opening, the risky closure of an adolescent mental health facility, real cuts to mental health spending and an attack on front-line services. Health workers around Queensland simply cannot and will not trust the member for Clayfield.

By contrast, ours is a Labor budget with a greater emphasis on front-line services. It delivers \$12.614 billion, or 82.6 per cent of the total operating budget, to hospital and health services. This is an increase of 8.6 per cent compared to last year's budget but, more importantly, is 16.8 per cent higher, or \$1.7 billion more, than was allocated to hospital and health services in the final budget of the member for Clayfield. The budget also includes \$230 million to fund significant health infrastructure upgrades around the state and \$170 million in upgrades to critical ICT infrastructure. In total, \$1.4 billion will be invested in capital works infrastructure in the health portfolio in 2016-17.

The Queensland Ambulance Service budget has been increased by 6.3 per cent to \$673.1 million. This will mean an extra 110 ambulance officers and 170 new or refurbished ambulances. Having obtained the approval of the Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my budget reply speech into the parliamentary record.

Leave granted.

This is a Labor budget with a greater emphasis on frontline services. And it is framed around our government's 10-year strategy for Health in Queensland—My health, Queensland's future: Advancing Health 2026.

This strategy outlines that by 2026 Queenslanders will be among the healthiest people in the world and this outcome will be guided by four key directions and relevant targets over the next decade. The directions are:

Promoting wellbeing

Delivering healthcare

Connecting healthcare; and

Pursuing innovation

The first direction—Promoting Wellbeing—is about improving the health of Queenslanders through promoting good health behaviours, preventing illness and injury and addressing the social determinants of health.

We've already made significant progress on this direction through programs such as the 10,000 steps program, the Heart Foundation walking groups and the new food labelling legislation.

This budget also provides an additional \$15.8 million over three years to implement the Sexually Transmissible Infections Action Plan. This is in response to the increasing notification rates of infectious syphilis among North Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

In support of mental health services in Queensland, this budget also provides an additional \$12 million to build three new community-managed mental health facilities in Mackay, Bundaberg and Gladstone.

The budget also provides \$9.6 million over the next three years to help hospital and health services build their capacity to prevent suicide.

One measure will involve training one person in each emergency department who will then train others in identifying people at risk.

Late last year the Palaszczuk Labor Government announced additional frontline services in response to the chaotic effect Ice is having on individuals, families and communities in Queensland.

This Budget will provide an additional \$6 million to continue to support the Drug and Alcohol Brief Intervention Teams in emergency departments in Logan, Rockhampton and Townsville Hospitals and a range of response services in Cooktown, Gold Coast, Charleville and Cunnamulla.

Under the second direction of Advancing Health 2026—Delivering Healthcare—the budget provides \$12.614 billion, or 82.6 per cent of the total operating budget, to Hospital and Health Services.

This is an increase of 8.6 per cent compared to last year's budget, but more importantly, is 16.8 per cent higher—or \$1.7 billion—more than was allocated to HHSs in the final budget of the Opposition Leader.

On the rare occasions that members opposite talk about health, generally it's to say that we're gutting the Hospital and Health Services.

Let the record show otherwise. Each and every Hospital and Health Service around Queensland has considerably more money than was allocated by the Member for Clayfield in his last budget.

Gold Coast, \$219 million better off under the Labor Government than the member for Clayfield; Cairns, \$110 million better off, Townsville, \$106 million better off.

The Queensland Ambulance Service budget has also grown 6.3 per cent this year to \$673.1 million—that's 170 more ambulances and 110 more ambulance officers.

The budget provides \$6 million over four years for expanded pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP trials which have the potential to reduce the transmission of HIV in Queensland. PrEP involves a single tablet taken once daily to shield people from acquiring HIV. We have the very real prospect of wiping out HIV in Queensland with this measure.

As part of a five point plan to drive efficiencies and keep emergency departments and ambulances moving this flu season, an additional \$15M will be provided to HHSs.

Under the third direction in Advancing Health 2026, Connecting Healthcare, the budget provides an additional 68 nurse navigators to work across system boundaries in close partnership with other health and allied-health services to support appropriate and timely patient care and improved health outcomes.

There is also an additional \$700,000 in 2016-17 to fund an education program for health staff across a range of domestic and family violence initiatives, as well as \$100,000 per annum for three years to support the Refugee Health and Wellbeing Network.

This budget again delivers an additional \$1.5 million to continue the delivery of Mental Health Support Workshops and interventions as part of the existing whole-of-Government Drought Assistance Package.

This budget supports improved integration through the recently announced Integrated Care Innovation Fund, providing \$35 million over two years aims to better integrate patient care, avoid duplicate testing and unnecessary hospitalisation.

Under the fourth direction in Advancing Health 2026, Pursuing Innovation, the budget provides an additional \$230 million over five years to facilitate essential upgrades to health facilities and supporting infrastructure across Queensland, including:

- repurposing of the Nambour General Hospital,
- redevelopment of the Atherton Hospital including the emergency department and operating theatres, and
- redevelopment of the Thursday Island Hospital
- development of a new health precinct for the southern corridor of Cairns and
- short term carpark solutions at Caboolture and Logan Hospitals.

This budget also provides an additional \$170 million to replace the Laboratory Information System and the Financial System Renewal project. These systems are critical to an efficient and effective health system.

I want to put on the record some elements contained within the budget papers about the current performance of the health system.

I am pleased that the Department of Health Service Delivery Statement makes it clear that the number of people receiving treatment within clinically-recommended time frames in Queensland's public hospitals is at record levels, despite extreme demand challenges.

79 per cent of patients attending out EDs are meeting the four-hour recommended treatment frame.

The number of Queenslanders waiting longer than clinically recommended for a specialist outpatient appointment is steadily falling down from 100,000 when we came to office to under 80,000.

The health system is also delivering elective surgery procedures with record speed.

Last financial year, 98 per cent of Category 1 and Category 3 patients received their elective surgery within clinically recommended times, as well as 94 per cent of Category 2 patients.

These results are more impressive when seen through the prism of rising demand.

Across all major categories of activity we are seeing growth that far outstrips population growth. For example, calls to Queensland Ambulance Service are up 5 per cent in the 12 months. ED presentations are up 4.5 per cent a year with category three ED presentations up 13 per cent. More Queenslanders are receiving elective surgery—up 6.5 per cent.

I now want to turn now to the impact of the budget on the electorate of Woodridge.

I'm pleased to say this Budget will improve health services for Woodridge, with the local community set to reap the benefits of a total \$8 million funding specifically for Logan Hospital.

A boosted budget of more than \$2.1 billion—an increase of 8.7 per cent on last year's operating budget—will allow Metro South Hospital and Health Service to invest \$4.9 million to establish a nine bed Clinical Decision Unit at Logan Hospital.

A further \$1.2 million will increase the number of beds at the hospital from 16 to 20 and increase staffing levels at the hospital's Paediatric Inpatient Unit.

Another \$1.9 million will boost staffing levels in the adult emergency department.

I'm also pleased to say the new Advancing Queensland's Health Infrastructure Program includes delivery of a short-term carpark solution for the Logan Hospital.

In addition, there's funding in this Budget to provide Mental Health and Allied Health related services to particular clients of Logan Community Hubs, and to deliver a range of services benefitting those in need in the Woodridge community.

This includes more than \$480,000 to non-government organisations to deliver homelessness services, and more than \$120,000 to go to registered housing providers to deliver crisis accommodation.

There is also more than \$200,000 as part of a more than \$800,000 commitment over four years to support and enhance community relations with people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

This Budget will also directly benefit some of the youngest members of my electorate, with Crestmead and Berrinba East State Schools looking forward to receiving new and refurbished learning spaces.

There's \$500,000 of \$5.2 million set aside to construct eight additional classrooms at Crestmead State School, and a further \$1 million to refurbish the student support services teaching block to assist students with learning challenges at the school.

\$250,000 will refurbish the special support unit teaching block at Berrinba East State School.

This Budget is also delivering for the sports stars of Woodridge, with funding to upgrade local netball courts, install lighting at Logan Metro Football Club and more than \$70,000 to boost participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in structured sport and active recreation activities.

From next year, our government's Fairer Fares initiative will also mean a slash in train and bus fares for Woodridge locals.

This major overhaul of public transport costs will mean cheaper journeys for Woodridge residents heading to the CBD or Gold Coast.

Woodridge commuters travelling from Kingston station to the CBD could save almost \$900 a year, and those travelling locally from Woodridge station to Logan Central would save more than \$60.

I'm looking forward to this initiative delivering some real cost of living relief for Woodridge public transport users.

First home buyers in Woodridge are also among the winners of this year's Budget, Mr Speaker, with our government increasing the First Home Owners Grant from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

This means more Woodridge locals will be helped to achieve the dream of owning their first home sooner from as early as next month.

This is a Budget which delivers better health care for the people of our state. It is a budget that delivers for Woodridge. It is a budget that delivers for Queensland.

As Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services and as the State Member for Woodridge, I'm proud to be part of that delivery.

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (3.15 pm): I rise to make my contribution to this budget debate. Another year, another magician's trick from the Queensland Labor Party. The old white rabbit is looking even scruffier than it did last year, but it is all those opposite have for Queensland voters. Now that this rabbit has come out of the hat I am not sure that Queenslanders really like the look of it.

In last year's budget reply I raised concerns relating to the raiding of one of Queensland's greatest fiscal advantages over the rest of Australia—our fully funded Public Service entitlements. Last year the Labor government raided the funding pool set aside for long service leave entitlements, took a holiday from contributing towards the defined benefit fund and passed debt onto the balance sheets of government owned corporations. This year they have gone even further: they have taken \$4 billion out of the surplus of the defined benefits scheme. Even the Treasurer does not seem convinced that his latest gamble will be without pain for Queensland taxpayers into the future. That is hardly comforting. Future governments and future generations of Queensland taxpayers will have to pick up the tab for this silly folly if there is a downturn that affects the underlying property and infrastructure assets.

I would like to know why this Labor government did not accept the State Actuary's original advice, being a maximum repatriation of \$2 billion, before it changed the fiscal principles in how the fund is to be treated to receive the advice allowing it to take \$4 billion from that fund. This is double what the original advice had stated. Of the \$4 billion raided from the super fund, \$2 billion will be used to pay down general government sector debt. This move has left leading economists around town scratching their heads, with Mr Paul Laxon from Ernst & Young at the Labor budget lunch explaining—

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.

I hope those across the room understand that. It means you are making money—just to dumb it down. He continued—

And we are replacing that by paying down debt so you are effectively getting a saving in debt costs which is very low so we are actually going backwards.

That means that you are not making money. I hope those across the chamber get that. I am concerned that the Labor government is choosing to gamble with public servants in this post GFC, post mining boom decade of low interest rates, a stalled global economy and a highly volatile stock market. Any reduction in the surplus position when investment returns are below expectations reduces the capacity of the fund to withstand adverse effects. That means if the economy and the share market falls off a cliff when people want to collect their superannuation fund, the money might not be there.

Like last year, over and above their reckless attitude towards the superannuation fund of public servants, this government has again targeted the government owned corporations. The 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—this Labor government is back to stripping cash out of the GOCs as if our most important utilities are nothing more than just a giant ATM.

I turn to my electorate of Buderim. It is astonishing to see that once again the good people of Buderim miss out under this government. As I cannot speak to anything specific that my electorate of Buderim will receive through this shambles of a budget, I will speak again about what the electorate of Buderim desperately needs that would benefit the residents not only of Buderim but also the Sunshine Coast generally. Soon the Sunshine Coast University Hospital will offer a range of new and expanded public hospital services to the Sunshine Coast. It will be supported by specialist staff and an extended range of services. Unfortunately, it will not be supported by the road network that is needed to get people there safely and on time.

The planned \$440 million Mooloolah River Interchange was set to play a key role in catering for growth on the Sunshine Coast, reducing traffic congestion in the area and providing easy access to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital precinct. Therefore, it is really disheartening to see the plan scrapped by this Labor government. The \$440 million works should have included four lanes on the Sunshine Coast Motorway between Kawana Way and the new interchange, a new connection from Nicklin Way to Brisbane Road and a new two-lane Kawana arterial road from Kawana Road at Parrearra to the Mooloolah River Interchange. If patients are delayed when travelling to the new hospital due to the inadequate road network lives could possibly be lost, while incredibly dangerous weaving on and off the motorway at the Mountain Creek interchange will continue.

On that particular point, I table an article from today's *Sunshine Coast Daily*. It is headlined, 'Six vehicles crash in motorway pile-up'. Those opposite should be proud, because they contributed to that!

Tabled paper: Media article from the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, dated 17 June 2016, titled 'Six vehicles crash in motorway pile-up' [993].

I have asked several questions of the Labor government in the parliament and during last year's estimates hearings. I have called on the Labor government to explain how it intends to deal with the predicted congestion and traffic pressure the new hospital is expected to bring upon us when it opens,

which we are told will be up 48 per cent the day it opens. The failure of this Labor government to provide any clarity weighs heavy on the minds of residents in Brightwater and Hideaway Waters who have been in limbo for almost a decade. In the local area, some properties have already been resumed for the MRI project. I want the people of my electorate of Buderim to get to work, to school and to the new hospital safely and on time, without having to sit in traffic jams. However, the question about funding for the project remains. The Mooloolah River Interchange is a critical piece of infrastructure for the Sunshine Coast. Again I call upon Labor government to provide clarity about the funding and the delivery of the MRI to the people of the Sunshine Coast.

In March last year, in an answer to a question on notice, the Premier stated that she was 'advised that the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is now finalising planning for the MRI project'. However, we have not heard anything since. In June 2016 the *Sunshine Coast Daily* published an article in which a spokesman for the main roads minister said 'the interchange was not yet designed'. In June 2015 the same newspaper reported that 'the planning phase is expected to be completed by the end of 2015'. I would like this Labor government to explain to the people of Buderim and the wider Sunshine Coast why there is a difference of some 15 months between statements that the MRI planning has been finalised and that the MRI planning is still being designed. I think that is a question that the Premier needs to talk to the main roads minister about.

I leave a message for the main roads minister: when he comes into this House, he needs to tell the people of Buderim and the people of Queensland the open, honest and transparent truth in relation to this project. Either the Premier has it wrong or the main roads minister has it wrong. I am not too sure who is wrong, but most things being equal in this House, the Premier normally wins. She may wish to sit the main roads minister down and talk to him about reality. There is a project, everything has been done and it is ready to go, but 15 months later the main roads minister says, 'I think we're just about to start. I might have a look at this project and maybe we will get there at some stage in the future.' Members opposite have to get their act together. If this is how the rest of Queensland is being treated, I think we are in serious trouble.

All things considered, what are we to conclude from the budget? I can tell the House what I have concluded from it: yet again Buderim is set to miss out in a Labor budget. The Labor government has abandoned Buderim. It has delivered a budget that cuts infrastructure spending on key services and does not provide clarity around the Mooloolah River Interchange, despite repeated questions. I ask the government to take that on board today. This is another budget of broken promises, propped up by raids on Public Service superannuation and increased taxes. Labor promised a budget that would deliver jobs, but unemployment will rise. They promised a budget that would pay down debt, but instead debt will increase. They promised record infrastructure, but have slashed infrastructure funding to a record low and, again, there is no Mooloolah River Interchange project for the Sunshine Coast, which would provide not only much needed traffic solutions but also jobs for many locals throughout the area. It means that the Buderim electorate will miss out on vital infrastructure and services, all because Labor cannot manage the books.

What will happen next year when they are out of hollow logs to raid? What will they do now that they have run out of GOCs to load up with debt and superannuation funds to raid? This budget does not live up to any of its promises. All it does is deliver more debt, more deficit and a decline in infrastructure. Despite the Treasurer's \$4 billion raid on superannuation, debt continues to increase in the forward years. Despite the Treasurer's raid on superannuation, infrastructure spending has been slashed by \$2.3 billion when compared to that of the LNP. We know the financial experts have lined up to express concern about the direction that the Queensland government is taking and its extraordinarily brazen disregard for public finance accounting standards. This is not fiscal repair; this is fiscal charade. One headline in the *Australian* read, 'Spending from a bottomless Pitt—Queensland Labor's budget strategy is risking further debt'. Gee, they know how to spend!

The wages bill for bureaucrats is set to balloon by \$1 billion a year, with an extra 10,000 public servants hired over the past 12 months. During the 2015-16 year, government departments overshot employment targets by 4,104 workers, which is on top of the 6,177 individual staff they were supposed to hire. Full-time-equivalent staff numbers soared by 10,281 to a record 210,000 public servants. If it were a State of Origin match it would be great, but this is unaffordable. Even the Treasurer knows that this is unsustainable, as he has said that staffing growth on average should not exceed population growth. He has introduced new fiscal principles, but the 2016-17 budget papers reveal the Public Service wages bill will outpace population growth every year. The Treasurer failed his brand-new fiscal principles in record time. It was broken the moment he announced it.

While population growth is forecast at 1.5 per cent, employee expenses are forecast to grow at five per cent next financial year, 3.4 per cent in 2017-18, 2.2 per cent in 2018-19 and 4.2 per cent in 2019-20, when the annual wage bill will exceed \$23 billion. When you take that off 50, it leaves you with 30 and then you have to pay a whole lot of interest. I would love to see them divide the rest between 89 seats, but that will never happen because they are too parochial. In the past decade, the Public Service has swollen by 24 per cent from 160,000 to 210,000 employees. Someone has to pick up the tab for this folly and it will be future generations of Queensland taxpayers.

What have we learned from this budget? We have learned that Queensland's debt is still rising, revenue is in decline, cash is being shuffled around like 'now you see me, now you don't' card tricks and still we do not have an answer to the Mooloolah River Interchange issue, which may well jeopardise the functions of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. We have learned that this budget again proves that Labor has no plans for jobs, no plans for growth, no plans to improve business confidence, and no plans to avoid the debt and deficit disasters that they left Queensland with last time.

This budget delivers nothing for many LNP seats. I would like to know whether the Premier is aware of the disparity among the 89 seats in Queensland? Does she approve of this? Is this something she overlooked or was she not in the cabinet room when these decisions were made? How can she face every day Queenslanders throughout the state when they have done this. We all have the same blood running through our veins. We are all human beings. We all have needs and requirements.

There are children in the schools in Buderim that I expect to be treated the same as children in the schools in Inala. That is obviously not the way the Premier thinks if she votes in favour of this budget. The people of Queensland are not being treated equitably. I am not going to cry like a spoilt child. I do not mind copping a kick in the guts. That is what Labor is doing to many LNP seats. They do not mind doing that.

Let us look to next year when they may think a bit differently. The world is going to be a different place. We could look into the crystal ball. There are major problems throughout Europe. There are major financial problems throughout the world. If members have looked at the stock market over the last three or four days they would know that the stock market has dropped by roughly three per cent.

What happens if that keeps on dropping and they have taken away the funds that support all government workers in Queensland? Are they going to treat them like the people of Buderim and slip the boot in when nobody is looking? That is what they have been doing today. That is what they have been doing for the last 18 months in government.

I hope that the next year and a bit that this Labor government is in power delivers good outcomes for Queenslanders. All we see is registration going up and wages going through the roof. It is like there is a fast boat heading towards shore and they have decided to jump off and take a swim and let the boat run into the bank. The boat is Queensland.

Those on the other side of the House do not understand finances. I do not think most of them have been in private enterprise or ever run a business or understand what it is like to pay 18 per cent interest. Today interest rates are the lowest we have seen in living memory. I remember as a child that my parents were paying seven per cent fixed interest. I thought that was pretty good.

I went into business in 1986 and borrowed \$1¼ million and bought a caravan park. We were paying 18½ per cent in 1989-90. Can members imagine what is going to happen if interest rates jump up again? How is this government ever going to survive? They have people on that side of the House who do not run businesses and do not understand finances. They understand how to run unions. They understand how to be heavy handed on building sites. That is what they are experienced at. They have a lot of experience in those. They are holding Queenslanders' heads down. They are not letting people get up, deliver good outcomes and create jobs. They talk the talk but they do not walk the walk. That is what we do on this side of the House. We understand business. We deliver good outcomes for the people of Queensland.

Regardless of what those opposite think, the LNP was in government for two years and roughly 10 months. We delivered some fantastic outcomes. I will talk about a policy that I had under my portfolio called Get in the Game. I am pleased that the government has kept that. That is one program they could not get rid of because they knew how good it was. I am proud that they have actually continued with saving the green turtle species on Raine Island. That was another outcome that was good for Queenslanders.

The shadow Treasurer was the main roads minister when in government. He did a lot of work in the transport portfolio. He froze registration for three years. That kept the cost of living down so mums and dads could afford for their kids to be involved in sport.

In the time remaining I have to talk about Malcolm Turnbull. What a great job he is doing. He is supporting the Queensland Labor government deliver upgrades to the Bruce Highway of \$8.5 billion—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! We will have a lower tone in the House, please.

Mr DICKSON: I do not want those opposite to miss the message so I will start that point again. What a great job Malcolm Turnbull is doing. He is upgrading the Bruce Highway by allocating \$8.5 billion towards that project. We have to put our hands together for him because he has delivered the Townsville stadium. That is an outcome that only Malcolm Turnbull could deliver. The Gold Coast Light Rail is another great outcome for Malcolm Turnbull.

Mr RYAN: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I have two points of order. I will seek a withdrawal from the member for Callide for his unparliamentary language which I find personally offensive. I also raise a point of order in respect of relevance. We are talking about the state budget and not the horrible federal budget from the LNP which cuts billions of dollars from health and education growth funding.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order in terms of the second part. I did not hear what reference, if any, the member for Callide made. For the sake of peace, can I get the member for Callide to withdraw?

Mr SEENEY: Exactly. I have no idea what the member took offence to, but I will withdraw it anyway.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unqualified—

Mr SEENEY: I withdraw it anyway.

Mr DICKSON: I say to the weak hearted and all those people who just cannot stand all of the great work that Malcolm Turnbull has done that we should be so proud and so blessed. The Queensland Labor Party should be on their knees praying to God every night that Malcolm Turnbull gets elected.

Let us talk about Gold Coast Light Rail. Without Malcolm Turnbull that just would not happen. There is \$1.3 billion for the Toowoomba bypass. I think the Gateway north upgrade has been allocated another billion dollars. How fortunate are we to have a coalition federal government? They are delivering great outcomes for Queensland.

It is fantastic to see the former deputy prime minister in the gallery. Thank you for everything that you have done. Those opposite should put their hands together for him. He did such a great job for Queensland.

I congratulate this side of politics. All members have done a great job with their speeches. I am sorry for their electorates as I am for Buderim that they have not done too well out of this budget. Those opposite have taken advantage of the people of Queensland. They do not care about the cost of living. They are going to stitch up every Queenslanders. They do not care if they can afford a cup of coffee tomorrow.

We want the children of Queensland to have a happy, healthy lifestyle. We want them to have the same sort of lifestyle we had when we were growing up. Labor can never offer Queenslanders that. They will only get it from the LNP. Those on the other side really need to think about doing a business degree or understanding how business operates or learn how to use rods to count—one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before calling the minister, can I remind members in the House that there is a convention about referring to members or ministers who are not in the House. That occurred during the presentation by the member for Buderim. That is a general warning.

 **Hon. MC deBRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (3.36 pm): The 2016 Palaszczuk budget delivers on the mandate that was given to us by the people of Queensland in 2015. It was given to us by the hundreds of thousands of mums and dads, students and seniors. It does not matter whether people work as a nurse or a teacher, an engineer, a carpenter, a concreter, an accountant, a businessman or a cook, this budget is in response to their decision to vote Labor. In doing so they asked the new government that they elected to work with Queenslanders to restore faith in government itself. We have continued to do that. They asked us to be a government for everyone—a government with a vision to advance the state and to do that with compassion. We are fulfilling that commitment. This year's budget reflects that. We are building confidence in communities across Queensland through a program to boost new road construction in regional Queensland.

In my electorate of Springwood we are building confidence by investing in roads here too. We have delivered funding for the M1-Gateway merge upgrade. I know that the people of the electorate I represent also expect us to deliver world's best services. Our local schools will see new buildings, renovations and new technology to make sure every child in our neighbourhood gets a quality education so they can get a good job.

We are investing in giving people security and peace of mind. When the unthinkable happens, families can rest assured that we have put more ambulances on the road. We are restoring services right across this state. We are treating Queenslanders with the respect and dignity that the community expects. The key to this is that we are a government that listens. I am very proud to be part of a government that listens.

For three years those opposite rose in this House to talk down Queenslanders. They talked down teachers, health workers, doctors and legal professionals. They talked down our economy. They talked down front-line services. They even talked down their own budgets. All of this was designed to destroy faith in government itself so that the LNP could advance their agenda of sack, slash and sell. They treated budgets not as an opportunity to advance the living standards of Queenslanders, but as a vehicle to advance their radical conservative agenda.

It was not at all an agenda to deal with the real challenges that Queenslanders face; it was an attitude that treated Queenslanders with disdain, and ultimately Queenslanders responded at the ballot box. I have been listening and working with the people of the electorate of Springwood and am pleased to report to the House on the budget measures that mean so much to our community. I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my speech into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Daisy Hill

I have been working with local stakeholders to develop the Daisy Hill Action Plan, a conservation and recreation plan that will fulfil Daisy Hill's tourism potential and that will lead to local jobs.

This plan will set up Daisy Hill as a hub for conservation excellence. I thank the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef for his commitment to Daisy Hill.

In this budget we are spending \$633,000 in 2016-17 out of a \$2 million total spend to enhance the facilities at the Daisy Hill Koala Centre as part of a \$12.1 million commitment to koala conservation.

There is no doubt that Daisy Hill also represents one of the most significant tourism opportunities in our neighbourhood. And that's why this Budget's contribution to a sophisticated trail network is vital.

The mountain bike community has rolled up its sleeves in this part of the world. They've outlined a vision to grow a sport that not only brings our community together but has the potential to be the catalyst for an adventure tourism economy in our very own community. A clean, green economy that creates local jobs. Our investment is a down payment on our commitment to supporting that vision.

Adventure tourism and conservation education are a good fit with our community and they will deliver jobs.

As I mentioned I have been working on the action plan with a range of local stakeholders. Just last week I hosted a session to discuss the plan with:

Logan City Council, Redland City Council, South East Queensland Trails Alliance, Logan and Albert Conservation, Logan Community Trail Care, Brisbane South Mountain Bike Club, Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation, Logan Tourism Association, Koala Action Group and local residents.

M1

Mr Speaker as a parent who spends too much time at work away from my kids, I know how important it is for every other mum and dad to get home from work as efficiently as they can.

The M1 and Gateway merge keeps families apart and it costs local businesses in lost time.

Residents of Springwood, and people right across Logan, have been clear about how important upgrading the M1 merge is. We have delivered the State share of funds to upgrade the merge as part of a holistic plan to help make our local economy move.

Locals tell me that the motorway problem is just part of the picture and that wider action is needed. Fixing the M1 is not a solution in itself.

Thousands of locals signed petitions calling for fairer public transport. It started with a rally at the Hyperdome and was helped by advocates like Inari Thiel and Jordan Morley Buchanan. And now this budget is proposing one of the biggest transport savings measures since the bus stations, delivered by Labor governments, opened at Logan and Springwood.

Housing and public works

The contrast between the LNP's sack, slash, and sell agenda and our Government's approach is clear in terms of my portfolio of housing and public works.

Housing

Housing is an issue that every Queenslanders has a stake in. Whether you rent, own, have a mortgage or are an investor or builder—Queenslanders have skin in the housing game.

As I've listened to Queenslanders across the state people have highlighted affordability as a key concern.

Affordable and low cost housing is a challenge that Government can't meet on its own. That's why, in consultation with the community and key stakeholders in property, construction and the housing sector, we are exploring options to deliver new affordable housing across the state.

This consultation is this basis for a new ten year housing strategy that we will release later this year.

Addressing housing affordability and affordable housing is complex. It requires government to take a broad approach, to consider the problem holistically. It requires a real plan.

This government is committed to affordable housing that allows people to live with dignity, confidence and security and contribute fully to their communities.

As I've said this week already, Queenslanders expect more than a hit and hope housing strategy. They expect a real plan.

Which is exactly why we have been listening broadly with Queenslanders, with industry groups, with businesses, housing organisations and across the entire width of the property spectrum.

And during 2016/17 we will deliver a strategy that does justice to the expectations of Queenslanders.

This process has been consultative from the outset.

The process has been guided by my Ministerial Housing Consultative Committee made up of:

Dr Judy Kraatz, Griffith University, Mr Jeff Cheverton, Forresters Community Finance, Dr Judy Yates, University of Sydney, Mr David Cant, Brisbane Housing Company, Dr Lesley van Schoubroek, Queensland Mental Health Commission, Ms Maria Leebeek, Micah Projects, Ms Rhonda Phillips, The University of Queensland, Dr Annabel Taylor, Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Research, Mr Mark Henley, Queensland Council of Social Services, Ms Rachel Watson, Q Shelter, Ms Penny Carr, Tenants Queensland.

As we develop the new strategy, we are continuing to put in the hard yards of providing housing for Queenslanders who need it, and this is reflected in the budget.

Social housing

This government is committed to providing social housing to the people most in need.

Through my department, \$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 277 new homes, complete 368 more, and buy 12 existing homes.

We will also purchase 111 lots for further social housing development.

Adaptability for Seniors and NDIS

And as we build this new housing we are modernising and renewing our portfolio to cater for the changing needs of seniors in our community. For our mums and dads and grandparents. For those with a disability we are stepping up and making sure they live better.

In rolling out this modernisation we are guided by the imperative to meet the needs of our ageing population. As the demographic profile of people in our houses changes, so too must the homes themselves.

We are meeting the changing needs of people in our community. We are responding to the things that matter to them in housing. We are making sure that the homes we provide are adaptable and that they are the right size.

People I've met across state and in the neighbourhood I call home, disability advocates like Chris Simpson and Greg O'Donnell who both asked me to make sure that our government had a plan to help their kids have a safe and secure place to call home.

To this end, new social housing is designed under the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines referencing Gold and Platinum Levels.

Gold Level dwellings include features such as wider hallways, level thresholds and provision for grab rails. Platinum Level dwellings also include additional features, such as extra clearance spaces, making them suitable for clients who mobilise in wheelchairs.

Typically, up to 30% of social housing apartments in any new multi-unit project are designed to LHDG Platinum Level with all remaining ground floor and lift serviced apartments designed to LHDG Gold Level, with some additional requirements.

The minimum standard for detached houses is LHDG Gold Level, with LHDG Platinum Level applied in response to identified client need.

The department carries out disability modifications to existing dwellings to improve their liveability, for example, to cater for people who require accessibility features as a result of ageing or accidents. These range from grab and hand rails to ramps and accessible bathrooms and kitchens.

Family and domestic violence

The budget also reflects this Government's commitment to tackle family and domestic violence.

We are providing \$4.2 million for a Domestic and Family Violence Shelter in Charters Towers, and another in a rural or remote location yet to be selected.

Homelessness

When my year six year old niece Emily did a class inquiry about social disadvantage and discovered the extent of homelessness in every community, I saw how moved she and her classmates were to do better as a community. Their inquiry showed that no matter how wealthy the average person was in a community, homelessness was all too common.

It's now an honour to serve as the Minister responsible for homelessness services and in this Budget we will provide \$139.4 million in State and Federal funding to support homelessness services across the state.

And this government has committed \$5 million to begin building a 40-unit rental facility in Townsville that will provide specialist supported accommodation for rough sleepers.

Ultimately we need to revolutionize the way we think about delivering homelessness services and that thinking will form part of the findings from the development of our Housing Strategy.

Home assist secure

In 2016-17, to ensure the elderly and vulnerable in our community have access to assistance so they can stay in their own home. I will issue \$20.2 million in grants to be used by Home Assist Secure providers to help with the simple, but important tasks that help keep people in their homes.

We expect that it will help more than 52,000 Queensland households.

I have also committed to providing safe and secure housing for employees involved in frontline services in Queensland communities most in need.

Our teachers, nurses, police, and other officers living in remote communities will welcome the \$33.4 million spend in 2016-17 on government housing, spending \$23.4 million to provide 37 accommodation units, and another \$10 million to upgrade existing residents. We'll continue to reinvest in properties well beyond these figures through a strategic property reinvestment strategy.

I've met the dedicated public servants that pack up their entire lives and head to remote Queensland, often when they are very young. And they do it because they believe in what they do makes a difference in remote communities. I appreciate that safe, quality housing helps them feel valued, especially in locations, which are often hot and isolated.

Building policy

I'm proud of my life's work, dedicated to the supporting others to enjoy the dignity and security that having a job brings. And a job that lets you build things and that gives you an opportunity to actually build a community is a great job.

I'm committed to maintaining confidence in the construction industry.

Security of payment

That's why I set about making time to listen to every type of worker in the construction industry, in every part of Queensland. It's clear from this work that security of payment affects people right across the construction industry.

Across the course of this year I've sat down with subbies and tradies and heard heartbreaking stories about family break up and small business collapse as a result of non-payment. I've sat down with the peak organization representing the trades, with building companies and developers.

Everyone expects to see a level playing field, where your business success relies on your skills, your products and your effort, not some cunning misuse of insolvency laws or industry influence.

So to make sure that the commitments I gave to those men and women, this budget allocates the funds required to design and test the operating model for providing security of payment. This is Queensland's chance to design a model that works, that can be established across this key industry; and that means small businesses across the State can have real confidence in simply getting paid.

This added confidence will encourage more people to take on more work and employ more staff.

Springwood State High School

When I was growing up, I wanted to take on the same profession as my Dad. And I fully expect that the construction professionals living in Springwood would be keen to see their sons and daughter follow in their footsteps and perhaps join the family small business as a tradesperson.

For the 3000 families in my electorate that work in the construction sector, I want them to know that the upgrade and construction allocated for the new Manual Arts Centre at Springwood State School is a big step forward and it provides a great pathway.

This investment will give young people in Springwood the opportunity to learn skills to set them up with a trade.

Springwood State High is a great school with a great school community and I congratulate principal Julie-Ann McCullough and school leaders O'Shai Whettam and Jake Barry on the work that they have done.

I've walked through the existing manual arts block with Julie-Ann and it's great to see students getting training on automotive and construction projects.

This new funding will mean that these programs can extend to advanced construction, providing linkages with STEM and robotics projects.

Conclusion

Speaker, listening to Queenslanders talk about the sort of future they want to see is how we've built our vision to advance Queensland and we are getting on with the job of delivering.

I commend the Appropriation Bills to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.40 pm): Less than \$800,000 and rebadging, reannouncements and recycling amounted to Gympie's share of the Queensland state Labor budget. That is less than \$20 for every person in the Gympie region. Gympie's share of the multibillion dollar budget was a rewrite of previous commitments and shows that, despite wild claims of supporting regional Queensland, this government is treating the region with contempt. I remind the government that Gympie is part of regional Queensland. This government is all about paying lip-service to investing in the regions and redressing serious issues of stalled growth and unemployment.

The budget is such a disappointment. For Gympie, all we were given were either announcements about works that have been ongoing for a number of years or a reannouncement of a reannouncement. Despite repeated representations and speeches in the parliament about Gympie's needs, the only new projects are the funding of the Gympie Special School and the Rainbow Beach Fire and Rescue Station. I welcome the commitments of \$490,000 for the Gympie Special School, for the renewal of the administration block and the additional classrooms; and \$300,000 for the Rainbow Beach Auxiliary Fire and Rescue Station. However, that is still \$1 million short of the \$1.3 million estimated by the department to replace the station. All we have in the reams of paper issued by the government are rebadging, reannouncements and recycling.

The \$1.4 million announced for the Rainbow Beach Ambulance Station is a reannouncement from last year's budget and delivers the LNP commitment of 2014. The LNP had committed \$1.5 million for construction of the ambulance station, with another \$400,000 for specialist ambulance vehicles. My representations and advocacy to the department in November last year meant the continuation of remediation works for abandoned mine land management, with \$500,000 to manage issues at Rainbow Beach and \$282,000 in Gympie through the Mine Shaft Repair Program. However, none of this is new as the remediation works are an ongoing project. The funding obligations committed to the Cooroy to Curra section of the Bruce Highway sections C and D are a continuation of the LNP's commitment. The major portion of funding, 80 per cent, comes from the federal government.

Gympie's list of missed needs is long and nothing has been done about it. There is no mention of funding for the upgrade of the Gympie Hospital. There is nothing identifiable to upgrade local bridges which will assist in flood-proofing the region. There is nothing about supporting our local TAFE and its courses which have been impacted by funding cuts last year. There is no identifiable capital expenditure to upgrade local arterial roads. There is no identifiable capital expenditure to upgrade and maintain local schools. There is nothing identified to support local government through targeted funding programs such as the control of feral animals and declared weeds. Gympie landholders continually face serious problems trying to control wild dogs, feral pigs and invasive weeds. I am disappointed that \$3.7 million in funding, spread over three years, has only been provided for control of wild dogs in areas affected by drought in Far Western Queensland.

There is nothing for regional and Gympie landholders. There is no mention of assistance to combat the class 2 weed giant rat's-tail which continues to affect landowners throughout the Gympie region. This is not a political football and it is important that all levels of government work together to assist landholders. GRT continues to spread and is an ongoing problem affecting many Gympie landowners. I am receiving concerning reports of it causing some properties to be devalued and become unviable. The grass is unpalatable and reduces grazing carrying capacities. Landowners are expected to comply with the conditions under the Biosecurity Act to control the weed. Unfortunately the cost to get on top of it is becoming prohibitive and it is severely impacting our valuable local agriculture sector.

The government refuses to provide a specific commitment for the iconic Mary Valley Heritage Railway as sought by the Gympie Regional Council. This is despite the previous LNP government budgeting \$2.6 million for the iconic railway. The Gympie Regional Council will have to apply through the contestable Building our Regions fund, meaning that this project will have to compete for funds against every other region in Queensland. Gympie residents should not hold out much hope for the support, because the government's track record on the Building our Regions fund shows that it does not readily provide to the regions. It has kept the purse strings tightly shut.

In the budget documents we learnt this week that the government could only find in the last year \$406,000 worth of projects to deliver to regional Queensland. That was out of a budget last year of \$70 million. That is right—less than 1.58 per cent of the budgeted \$70 million was spent on the Building our Regions fund. The reality is that last year, which was the government's first full year in office, the LNP's Royalties for Regions program, which this government scrapped, delivered more for regional Queensland than the government's own program. That is right; this government is so dismissive and contemptuous of the needs of regional Queensland that LNP programs delivered more than did the government.

This budget claims to be about regional Queensland, about infrastructure spending and about innovation. Despite the \$4 billion raid on superannuation, infrastructure spending has been slashed by \$2.3 billion when compared to infrastructure projects under the LNP. Despite promises and wild claims to deliver more infrastructure for regional Queensland, spending has been slashed in key regional areas like Wide Bay. Annual infrastructure spending is down by almost \$800 million when compared to the last LNP budget. The major infrastructure projects in the budget were either funded by the LNP or are being delivered by the private sector. The government is so desperate to bump up its lagging infrastructure investment it has included private projects in the budget papers. In fact, this budget will deliver the lowest infrastructure spend in Queensland's history.

Gympie would have gladly welcomed spending on infrastructure in the region, but it seems the government is not interested in Gympie. With an unemployment rate of 9.4 per cent in the December quarter, Gympie needs greater investment in local infrastructure projects, maintenance and improvement of existing facilities, and providing support and incentives for local business that want to grow in the area. Unemployment in the Wide Bay region is 8.6 per cent. It is 3.1 per cent above the Australian average and 2.2 per cent above the state average. Youth unemployment is 20.6 per cent for 15- to 24-year-olds and is one of the worst five regions in Australia.

I hope that the members for Bundaberg and Maryborough take a strong lead in this government and address these issues, because, for the last 27 years, the Labor party has been in government in this state for all but five of those years. Instead of always blaming someone else, it is time those members accept some responsibility. To date, all we hear are the reasons why they had nothing to do with it or why nothing can be done. Those statistics mean that when a party is in charge for 22 out of 27 years that party is responsible; the buck stops with it.

It is about time all electorates within the Wide Bay region were treated equally. Now is the chance for the members for Maryborough and Bundaberg to stand up for the unemployed of all of the Wide Bay to address the unacceptably high rates of unemployment, because the key drivers to reducing unemployment rates are state government investment in genuine key infrastructure projects which increase business and consumer confidence and which create an environment for strong business growth to provide educational opportunities. This budget does nothing about tackling Gympie's above average unemployment rates by making it easier for the region's 4,200 businesses to do business and employ people. It is business—and not bureaucrats—who are the best placed to provide growth and to create employment opportunities.

The Gympie business community is primarily made up of agriculture, manufacturing, construction, education and tourism, with significant employers that operate out of the region. The focus should be on providing a healthy economic and work environment and reducing over-regulation through kneejerk green and red tape which drives people from operating business. That is what is choking Gympie. Holding back employers are government policies limiting the activities of commercial fishers, oppressive tree clearing and vegetation management, increasingly onerous obligations to control feral animals and weeds without support, and rising employment costs. This mean-spirited government is moving hardworking rural graziers and families who have operated in national parks off their leaseholds. It ignores the fact that they have sustainably grazed their properties for 100 years providing jobs, wealth for families and food production.

This government has budgeted \$209,000, out of a total spend of \$373,000, to progress the Great Sandy World Heritage nomination. This will not help wealth and employment creation in the coastal areas. This is a choking of the job prospects for the hardworking local tourist industry and commercial fishers in our region. These policies are a pay-off to the inner-city greenies at the expense of graziers, the tourist industry, fishers and regional Queenslanders at the expense of employment and wealth creation.

Whenever I speak to small business operators, they regularly raise employment costs including penalty rates, WorkCover and payroll tax being major inhibitors in trying to put on more staff. Whenever costs get out of hand, business is unable to put on more staff. The government needs to take the

shackles off business, reduce oppressive regulatory red tape and allow them to borrow, invest, reinvest and open up more employment opportunities. Instead the state government made changes last year to workers compensation which made it harder for the 4,290 local businesses to create more jobs for the local unemployed. Local businesses have told me that they have been hit hard and are already experiencing increases of up to 49 per cent in workers compensation premiums. We all know that an increase in cost for small business workers premiums affects profitability and the ability to employ more people. Enough is enough about paying lip-service to the regions. The key challenges for the Gympie region are addressing the high levels of unemployment, making safer our road network, raising the education levels of locals so they have better chances of securing meaningful work, differentiating ourselves from other regions in attracting tourists, and providing quality facilities for health and education.

As I said earlier, there is nothing in this budget to support Gympie residents to improve their educational and skills levels. Education qualification levels in Gympie are among the lowest in Queensland, with only 13.5 per cent having a bachelor degree compared to 21.6 per cent in the state. Almost 70 per cent of students at the University of the Sunshine Coast Gympie campus are mature aged, demonstrating that the previous lack of a local higher education facility delayed their chances of further education. It is therefore disappointing that the government in the last 18 months has been systematically preventing and withdrawing increased educational opportunities for Gympie locals at both a vocational and university level.

The government has given nothing to support our local TAFE and its courses which have been impacted by funding cuts last year. Last year the government closed down nursing studies which were being delivered out of the Gympie TAFE. The nursing course was part of the collaborative arrangement Gympie TAFE had with the University of the Sunshine Coast, which is also situated at the Gympie education precinct. It was being used as a pathway course for students who were then able to transition to a bachelor degree at the USC. Compounding the problem is government inflexibility and a narrow, bureaucratic, visionless mindset regarding the USC. Since 2014 the university has been trying to expand its Gympie presence so it could offer more courses and increased spaces for enrolment. However, since February last year through sheer bloody-mindedness the minister has continually refused to support an expansion and prefers to leave an empty and unused building while students are denied access.

The minister's paralysis and inaction on decisions regarding the education precinct has impacted staff, students and courses. The minister is beholden to the union movement, which does not want to share the campus with anyone but is quite willing for buildings to lie empty and for courses to be gutted. This mindset is reckless and is an irresponsible treatment of taxpayers' dollars. It does nothing to address economic and educational activity in the region. There is both a cost to the community in lost opportunities and a cost in leaving buildings unused and empty. There are also lost opportunities for local students who are not able to attend university because of distance and financial factors, for the high number of unemployed youth who want to gain skills, and for mature aged students who are trying to upskill but who are not able to move away because of work and family commitments.

The only way to help growth in the Gympie region is by direct expenditure and investment in genuine key infrastructure projects. It does not mean recycling projects over and over again. The Bruce Highway upgrade from Cooroy to Curra has become the gift that keeps on giving. The stage C upgrade has been reannounced. The government continues to reannounce funding for what was an LNP commitment. The stage C upgrade was announced by the LNP minister and member for Indooroopilly with the then deputy prime minister Warren Truss and former prime minister Tony Abbott. There has been no real plan to grow Gympie and the Cooloola Coast.

This budget is pretty light on for a government that has had to raid superannuation. This budget does not live up to any of its promises. All it does is deliver more debt, more deficit and a decline in infrastructure. Debt continues to increase over the forward years despite the unprecedented raid on superannuation. I remind members opposite of the Labor Party's election commitment to pay down debt. The Treasurer and Premier promised to pay off net debt, but this budget includes an increase to net debt of \$7 billion. Debt will continue to rise over the forward years. Debt is still increasing up towards \$80 billion, and it is clear this government has no plan for fixing it.

I do not know about members opposite, but when average Queenslanders look at their household or business budgets they know something is seriously wrong when debts continue to rise and spending is not reigned in. They know that it is time to pay off the debt and get rid of the superficial and unnecessary expenditure, otherwise debt will spin out of control. Unfortunately, this government is incapable of being fair dinkum about reining in expenditure and paying down debt. Instead it searches for hollow logs. I have news for those Labor members: those logs will dry up.

Last year the government used an accounting trick of shifting \$4 billion of debt onto government owned enterprises. This time they had to resort to stealing \$4 billion from public servants' superannuation to pay for their promises. The budget sets the priorities of the government. This is where the government is judged on whether it governs for all of the state, including the regions, so they grow and prosper.

The Treasurer promised an innovation budget, but there is nothing innovative about a short-sighted cash raid which does nothing to address the state's financial problems. There is nothing innovative about keeping businesses hamstrung from growing. There is nothing innovative in recycling announcements while paying lip-service to the regions. I am extremely disappointed that Gympie and the region has not received its fair share, and after 18 months the government continues to ignore Gympie and fails to deliver.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (3.56 pm): I rise to speak to the 2016-17 budget handed down by the Treasurer on Tuesday, 14 June, the second budget of this Labor government. This state budget just handed down has left Cleveland residents out in the cold once again and North Stradbroke Island residents unemployed and short-changed as Labor's infrastructure freeze on major projects in the Cleveland electorate sets in.

Previous budgets of the LNP government delivered essential infrastructure and services for the people of the Cleveland electorate—things like Toondah Harbour; at Redland Hospital shorter waiting lists for surgery and dental care; a new palliative care service; better public transport; needed school buildings; record fishing and boating marine infrastructure; and job protection on North Stradbroke Island among other achievements, all while repairing the unsustainable state finances left behind by Labor. Labor's budget delivers nothing substantial that is new and nothing from their own planning and funding—just more nothing for Cleveland.

With the change of government in January 2015, we left the state government finances in a much improved position and the incoming government with a more stable economic situation on which to build. Unfortunately, instead of continuing our successful financial strategies this second Labor budget shows they have gone back to their old ways of high spending, higher taxes, higher cost of living, higher cost of doing business, a ballooning Public Service and dangerous levels of debt.

The first Labor budget was bad for the economy, bad for jobs and bad for growth—and this budget is like the first. It has rightly been called a magic pudding budget and a budget of cheap trickery. It fails in real terms to follow through on promises of debt reduction and job creation. It is a budget of raids, rip-offs and writedowns. The 2016-17 budget is a budget based on false hope. In terms of jobs, the Palaszczuk government promised jobs now and for the future, but since the last budget we have seen more than 2,000 full-time jobs lost every month with more job losses in places like North Stradbroke Island still to come.

In terms of infrastructure, infrastructure investment is down to record lows. In terms of growth, the growth rate has been cut by almost a quarter. In terms of debt, debt continues to climb towards \$80 billion over the forward years, risking another Labor credit downgrade. Raiding the GOCs and the Public Service superannuation scheme to balance the books has been labelled a risky strategy and one that will do nothing to alter the net debt position of the state.

In terms of the public sector, under Labor, public sector staff costs—mainly in Health and Education—are set to balloon by 7.3 per cent this year, with a further 4.9 per cent blowout likely next year. In terms of a plan, unlike Labor we have a clear plan to create jobs for future generations of Queenslanders. 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 Queenslanders.

I turn my attention specifically to my electorate of Cleveland. This budget does not deliver for the people of Cleveland. Instead, it sets in an infrastructure freeze on major projects that began last year. A wintery chill has set in around Cleveland, as the Palaszczuk Labor government overlooks Cleveland for major projects for the second year in a row. This politically green, extreme left, Labor-Independent minority government has been frozen at the wheel for two budgets now, and the big freeze on infrastructure in Cleveland continues in the form of no new major projects or services in health, education, transport and roads among other things.

This government's greater Brisbane document that they tabled as part of the budget shows that there are no plans for any major infrastructure projects of their own in the mainland Cleveland electorate. The residents of Cleveland, Thornlands, Birkdale, Ormiston and Wellington Point will get nothing new from this government of any significant scale—nothing major in education, health, public transport, main roads, marine and boating infrastructure.

In terms of the freeze on health in Redland city, the infrastructure freeze extends to health in Cleveland. There is no new commitment to Redland Hospital expansion to land north of the current site. I keep before the government how critical it is to not sell this asset, the land, and to keep this land north of the hospital for the needs of the ageing and growing Redlands community in the future.

The budget suggests that there are no new capital projects being planned for Redland Hospital, like an intensive care unit, a rehabilitation area, a new wing with beds or even a car park upgrade—unlike the LNP government that established a new palliative care service in our time in government at Redland Hospital. This new palliative care service included an in-hospital, five-bed palliative care unit based at Redland Hospital, plus additional in-home capacity on top of that.

This budget contains no announcements about ambulance services at Cleveland or Birkdale stations, or nothing that can be identified yet as such. I hope they will have the resources for the personnel and equipment that they need. Under the LNP government, more ambulance officers, equipment and new ambulances were provided at these stations. Under the LNP government, we got our fair share of health funding but under this Labor government we are getting a hospital infrastructure freeze in Redland city.

What about the freeze on education infrastructure in Redland city? Again, we see that Cleveland schools are not receiving their fair share of capital funding. We see an infrastructure freeze in that regard. This budget fails to deliver an indoor multipurpose auditorium for Cleveland high school. It is one of only two state high schools, I am told, without a hall or auditorium in which the whole school can assemble under cover. Almost 2,000 students now attend Cleveland high school—

Mr Krause interjected.

Dr ROBINSON: Yes, 2,000. An undercover auditorium is badly needed, but once again this government has ignored that request of the principal, Paul Bancroft. For 10 years or more—maybe 14 years, and mainly during Labor state reign—he has been requesting that auditorium. We have had 14 continuous years of one Labor government that did nothing about this need, and again they have an opportunity to fix it. Labor has failed to plan for the extra classrooms our students need over the next several years. Some of those classrooms are needed at Cleveland high school now, and in the very near future they will be needed even more so—either that or they need to start planning now for a new high school in the southern Thornlands area.

What about the freeze on major public transport and roads projects in Redlands? Again, the infrastructure freeze in Cleveland has seen no substantial funding for transport and main roads infrastructure projects. There should have been funds to fix congestion on major arterial roads that are important to Redland city commuters, seeing as the government inherited a much more sustainable financial outlook than what we did when we came to power. There should have been funding for Cleveland-Redland Bay Road, for example, or for other road projects like signalling the increasingly dangerous intersection of Shore and Wellington streets. With the exception of the continued rollout of the LNP's flashing lights in schools initiative, little has happened. Regarding roads, the Mayor of Redland City, Karen Williams, spoke of the state budget this week and said—

The absence of funding in the State Budget for Redlands roads highlights the need for alternative and innovative options to be considered to clear traffic congestion hotspots.

That is a very damning indictment of this government by a very balanced and popular mayor. The absence of funding in the state budget means she has to look elsewhere and she cannot look reliably on this government to provide funding for the state roads. Mayor Williams said—

A market-led proposal ... remained the best option to fast-track much-needed roadworks to address worsening traffic congestion in a number of areas of the Redlands.

She went on to say—

Residents made it very clear to us before and during the election campaign that congestion was a major issue, and we know the worst choke point is Cleveland-Redland Bay Road.

While this is a State-controlled road—

this is very interesting—

we do not expect it to be on the State Government's roads agenda any time soon.

This is again a sad indictment of this failed Labor government. She continued by saying that we—

... need to find other ways to upgrade the road, which is one of the major links within our city.

Mr Brown interjected.

Dr ROBINSON: I hear the member for Capalaba wants to have a toll on the road. He can look at that policy if he wants to. The mayor continued—

If we are to get this work started and finished, the best option looks to be a partnership between Council, the Government and the private sector.

She went on to say—

The reality is we just cannot afford to do nothing. As this road does not seem to be a priority for the State—again, what a major and sad indictment of this failed Labor government—

we have to convince them that it is for us and we are ready to work with them and the private sector to complete the work.

Mayor Karen Williams said—

... a report commissioned by Council ... showed the worst traffic congestion within the Redlands was mainly on State-controlled roads. It identified Cleveland-Redland Bay Road as a priority for consideration—

What an indictment on this government. The mayor went on to talk about one other road that needed attention. She said that it was neither a Redland City Council road nor a state road but it was a road that was nonetheless important to Redlands people—that is, Rickertt Road through the Green Camp Road corridor. She said that Rickertt Road in the city's north has been a worsening choke point for many months.

It was with great pleasure that I was able to advise the parliament last night that, through the very kind of partnerships that the mayor has called for to fix roads that are important to Redland city residents, the LNP federal government and the LNP Brisbane City Council have announced a \$10 million upgrade of the Rickertt Road and Green Camp Road intersection as part of a bigger \$20 million road upgrade of that road corridor. This means a faster commute to and from work and getting kids to school and home earlier on a road that the RACQ has called the fourth most unroadworthy road in the state based on a 2016 survey of 427 roads. It is a road that carries 1,000 cars per hour at peak times and it can be so congested that traffic backs up two kilometres.

Local residents in Wellington Point, Birkdale and other parts of the Cleveland electorate are already expressing their gratitude to the LNP, particularly to federal MPs Andrew Laming and Ross Vasta, for joining with me, the LNP Brisbane City Council and Mayor Karen Williams, for the hard work, persistence and innovative approach to getting the job done—when for 14 years of the last state Labor government, before this one, nothing happened. They were asleep at the wheel; they were frozen at the wheel.

Mr Brown interjected.

Dr ROBINSON: The member for Capalaba wants to have another go. The government fails again to consider major public transport projects like the duplication of the rail line from Cleveland to Manly and also the Eastern Busway to Capalaba that state Labor promised to build from state funds alone but now has put on the backburner. The government seems to have no interest or plan to improve facilities or provide more car parking at Birkdale station. At Cleveland station the government has changed the parameters of the development of the station in terms of the number of commuter car parks which has short-changed the locals. The lack of parking is no fault of the Redland City Council but, because the Labor government has moved the goalposts since they came into government—they have reduced the number of park-and-ride car parks that was supposed to be part of that development—this has greatly upset the locals who live nearby. I join with the local people and residents of that area in demanding the government provide more car parks as part of the plan as was originally intended.

I turn to North Stradbroke Island. The people of North Stradbroke Island are fast realising the hardship that will soon be visiting them because of the decision of this government to prematurely close the mine and sack all of the workers. The cost of Labor's early closure of mining on North Stradbroke Island was meant to be compensated for by a \$20 million economic transition over five years, a fund that the Australian Workers' Union claimed should be \$200 million and should include many other projects that would help a transition. The people of North Stradbroke Island are angry that the fund is far too small and poorly targeted.

To add insult to injury to North Stradbroke Island residents, this Labor government's budget has announced that only \$2½ million of the inadequate \$20 million will be spent in the first year, 2016-17, thus short-changing the people of North Stradbroke Island by \$1½ million, which is what one would expect based on an average of \$4 million per year over 20 years. There will be \$1½ million less spent in the first year than what is required—and far more is required, anyway. Further, it is becoming clearer

that Labor's early closure will cost about 150 direct jobs and put a further 150 or more jobs at risk on the island and across Redland city. There needs to be additional investment in North Stradbroke Island including the commitment of somewhere in the range of \$30 million to \$50 million for a tourism redevelopment of Dunwich Harbour, otherwise the gateway to Straddie's tourism future will become a strangling bottleneck.

The plight of the Quandamooka people on North Stradbroke Island is also of great concern to me as it has been over the last seven years that I have been the local member. I appreciate and enjoy the good relationships that I have with the vast majority of the Quandamooka people and families and the majority of the elders as well. I thank them for their advice over the years on how best to represent them in the parliament.

With many Aboriginal workers to lose their jobs due to this Labor government's decision—and many will; 30 per cent of Sibelco are Indigenous workers—the concern is that the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians on North Stradbroke Island will widen. This government has ignored the COAG partnership and agreement with respect to the Closing the Gap agenda. I appreciate the work of Indigenous Queensland Senator Joanna Lindgren, who has pointed this out at a state and a federal level as she seeks to represent Indigenous people and to reduce their disadvantage in Queensland. I think she does a wonderful job in representing her people. She points out that this is a critical thing about the Closing the Gap agenda that this government has forgotten.

In terms of recreational fishers and boaties, successive LNP budgets in terms of Cleveland have delivered for recreational fishers and boating communities. The LNP budgets delivered over \$1 million, which upgraded and resurfaced the Wellington Point reserve boat ramp—working with the council—built a new boat ramp and two new floating walkways at Cleveland and extended artificial reefs with artificial reef balls at Peel and Coochie reefs, sunk a barge at Harry Atkinson reef and funded the construction of a new artificial reef at Turner reef off Scarborough. Another artificial reef was being planned for inshore waters off Wellington Point but the current government has prevented that from going ahead at this stage. I will continue to fight for this reef and for more artificial reefs throughout Moreton Bay. In this budget, like Labor's last one, boaties and fishers in Moreton Bay have been left out in the cold with no new commitments visible yet.

In conclusion, much was achieved in the Cleveland electorate by the LNP while we were in government. However, the infrastructure freeze imposed by this Labor government upon the people of Cleveland is unacceptable. I call on the government to give Clevelanders a fair go and give them the fair share that they are entitled to. Hopefully Cleveland will not be cast forever into an eternal winter. It is my hope that Labor will start to invest in Cleveland again. Thankfully, the LNP cares about the people of Cleveland—with new federal funding commitments to roads and health—and I want to acknowledge Andrew Laming for his hard work in this regard. I urge the people of Redland city to reject Labor at the federal election. Queensland cannot take three years of hard Labor at both the state and federal level.

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (4.15 pm): I am very excited to rise in the House this afternoon to contribute to the debate on the Queensland state budget and also to speak in support of the Appropriation Bills introduced by the Treasurer. I start by commending the Treasurer, the Premier and all ministers for their great effort in respect of this budget.

Out in the community I have been telling people that this is the best budget that I have seen in at least a decade. It is an outstanding budget not only for Queensland but for the local community that I represent. It is an outstanding budget because it continues that good work that we are undertaking to transition our economy by growing innovation, attracting investment and building infrastructure to create jobs now and for the future. Of course, it also continues our good work of fulfilling our election commitments, those commitments of restoring front-line services, supporting job-creation activities, paying down general government sector debt and doing all of those things without the sale of our most profitable income-generating assets.

I am pleased to see that since the last election unemployment is down and tens of thousands more Queenslanders have a job. We also see that general government sector debt is down; it is forecast to be down by \$10.4 billion. We also see revenue growth is forecast to exceed expenses growth and growth is expected to be the highest in the nation. At the last election we said there was a better way and we are delivering.

Locally, we see some outstanding things in this budget for the Caboolture region such as the Fairer Fares package, which I know will help a lot of people in the Caboolture region with the cost of living. There are a lot of people in the Caboolture region who rely on public transport. In fact, the train stations within the Morayfield state electorate—Burpengary, Morayfield and half of Narangba train

station—are some of the busiest train stations in the network. We will have some great cost-of-living relief for those people using those train stations. For a growing region I also see that the first home owner's grant will make a big difference for young people and other people in the Caboolture region who are looking at purchasing their own home. I am very pleased to see the support for small business and jobseekers that this budget delivers.

As I have said, this is one of the best budgets for the Caboolture region in at least a decade and the reason is the local projects that are supported and funded in this budget. I am so pleased that the Minister for Education is here because it is her department that is supporting the great schools of the Morayfield state electorate. I am just so pleased to see some money in the budget for the Burpengary State School hall project. I say thank you very much to the minister for her support of that project. As I have spoken in this House before, this year Burpengary State School celebrates 140 years. What better birthday present to give to the Burpengary State School than to support their hall enclosure project. We also see new classrooms at Narangba Valley State School and, most importantly, the beginning of the redevelopment of Caboolture Special School—the beginning of construction of \$6.4 million worth of new classrooms and administration at Caboolture Special School. When I informed the principal of that contribution she started crying. She gave me a hug and she said, 'Thank you, Mark, and your government for delivering for Caboolture Special School.' It is the largest special school in Queensland. It is three times the average size of a normal special school, so everything that we can do to contribute to the work that Caboolture Special School does, the better.

We also see money to construct a new police station in the Caboolture region and upgrade the Morayfield train station to ensure that it has disability compliance. Most exciting of all, we see money for a new car park at Caboolture Hospital. We have heard others speak about what they say they were doing with car parking at Caboolture Hospital. They say there was money in the budget before the last state election. They say they were going to construct all these car parks. All it was was imaginary money on imaginary land with imaginary car parks. What have we done? We have committed real money, \$4 million, to construct 300 car parks at the Caboolture Hospital. That is a very welcome announcement indeed, and it follows a lot of hard work from both my colleague, the member for Pumicestone, and me. With respect to those great announcements I look at the local newspaper, the *Caboolture News*, and this is what it says about our great state budget—

While most eyes are on the fallout from the federal budget, last night's state budget was one of the most Moreton Bay-friendly in recent years.

It continues—

The comparisons between this budget and the LNP's federal budget are stark after [the federal government] cut funding for both hospitals and education, while focusing on trickledown economics.

I want to finish with the headline on the front page of the *Caboolture News* this week entitled, 'Big win in state budget'. This is a winner state budget; it is a winner state budget for the Caboolture region. It is a winner Labor government delivering for the people of Caboolture, and I am so pleased that the people of the Caboolture region will receive improvements to infrastructure, support for job-generating activities and cost-of-living relief. I support the budget.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (4.22 pm): I congratulate the member for Morayfield, who is the only one of his colleagues who has made a speech to the House tonight rather than just reading from a piece of paper. You must be in line for a promotion soon, member for Morayfield: 'Minister for Car Parks', perhaps?

This budget is a slap in the face for the Beaudesert electorate. I will address some of my electorate issues shortly, but first I would like to address some issues in relation to my role as shadow minister for racing, tourism and sport. I will first turn to racing, because this budget and the financial plan of the government for the next year mirrors the reckless and confidence-destroying actions of the government towards the racing industry.

This budget confirms cuts to prize money for country racing of \$4.6 million, and I table an article from the *South Burnett Times* entitled 'False hope for races', in which the vice-president of the Kumbia Race Club, Mr James Curtain, reflects the anger and feelings of many in the industry when he says that he felt the state government had ignored the grassroots of the sport.

Tabled paper: Article from the *South Burnett Times*, dated 17 June 2016, titled 'False hope for races: \$21 million assigned to country races comes with a cost' [\[994\]](#).

That is the message that I hear as I talk to people who are involved in the racing industry. This government has ignored the needs and desires and views of people in the racing industry. This budget locks in prize money cuts across the next four years, and although funds are set aside to assist country

race clubs to generate other income and promote their events, we have no idea—and the industry has no idea—how that money will be spent or even whether it will actually make it into the country regions. It is this uncertainty and angst that is reflected by Mr Curtain and the Kumbia Race Club, who see that support coming through only indirect means. That money should go back into racing and supporting country racing.

The comparison between Labor's approach to country racing and the LNP's policies, which boosted prize money and gave life back to country racing after years of decline, could not be starker. Labor shattered the racing industry years ago during the Bligh years, and they have done it again. Questions remain about where funds which were slated for infrastructure works in past budgets have gone, as apart from Eagle Farm there appears to have been no capital investments made by Racing Queensland in this term of government.

The racing industry also has significant concerns about the method of calculating costs for QRIC, the integrity commission. In particular, we have concerns about the possibility that it will suck money away from Racing Queensland, away from prize money and away from funds available to grow the industry and into a big, black bureaucratic hole.

Eagle Farm has now re-opened, and it is terrific to see that. Last Saturday was a great race day, with an historic four group 1 races on the same day. This project was only made possible because of the work of the former LNP government to invest funds generated by racing back into the racing industry, and that is what this government does not get.

The actions of this government over the past 12 months have shattered the confidence of racing across all codes. It sacked an entire board which represented all codes because of the actions of a small number of greyhound trainers. It left Racing Queensland with a single member board for almost 12 months, and a year later it has still not appointed a permanent CEO. The minister appointed a thoroughbred representative to the board, only for him to resign in disgrace a couple of days later, and two months later the minister still has not replaced him—leaving the board without a representative of the code that generates almost 75 per cent of wagering revenue. Four of the seven board positions remain vacant.

The government's incompetence, dithering and political meddling in the racing industry have many fearing that Labor has a deliberate policy to strangle the life out of racing in this state. I want to speak directly to all of those thousands of people in the industry and assure them that I want to see racing go ahead. An LNP government will get on with the job of letting you get on with your racing business to generate income for our regional economies and grow the Queensland racing industry as a whole.

I now turn to tourism, and it is exciting to see profitable times for many parts of the tourism industry in this state. The good data about visitor numbers, both domestic and international, is something that we on this side of the House welcome. We all want to see a prosperous tourism industry, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I am sure you do too, because of its huge impact on jobs and growth in our great and beautiful state. Many of our tourism operators are small businesses, so Labor's policies that undermine small business confidence and profitability undermines tourism—like the Treasurer's payroll tax rebate incentive for training which is only available to people who pay payroll tax: three per cent of businesses in Queensland. For those who pay payroll tax, the government has abandoned any notion of reducing it. It is a tax on jobs. There is no notion that this government is going to reduce a burden on business that will boost jobs. We need to look at ways of reducing red and green tape for regulation for tourism operators, because the multiplier effect of every dollar spent in tourism is significant. Every dollar spent is vital. The LNP in government implemented over 60 initiatives to reduce regulation while maintaining important measures to ensure responsibility in business.

I note that the government is continuing the successful policies of the former government's Attracting Aviation Fund, promoting tourism based on more flights arriving in Queensland. In this case the message I am hearing from the tourism sector from RTOs, tourism officers, QTIC and operators is simple: the key to terrific results in the past 12 months has been aviation and the lower dollar. Aviation is an area that the government can continue to promote to bring more people to Queensland.

Given that the results of the past 12 months—positive as they are—were built through a period during which the LNP government's policy settings were in place, I want to commend the work of the former government and former minister for tourism in working so closely with industry to achieve these results. We set out a road map for 2020 through DestinationQ, together with the industry laying the foundations for the good times that many in the tourism sector are enjoying now. But there is never any time for the government to rest on its laurels, and there is always more work to do to get the conditions

for jobs and growth right. There are two very important matters that this government is clearly failing on, and that is the lockout laws in the tourism sector and the watering down of strong anticriminal motorcycle gang laws. I was on the committee that reported on the lockout laws, and we heard evidence from a number of tourism operators and tourism businesses including hotels, hostels, tour operators and entertainment venue operators about the negative impact that these laws and earlier closing times are going to have on their businesses. Whether it was Cairns, Airlie Beach, Townsville, the Gold Coast or Brisbane's Fortitude Valley, the industry does not support the government's laws. They will cost jobs, it will cost Queensland income and it will hurt tourism.

In Cairns the government could not find a single witness to support their laws—a very telling fact. I table an article from today's *Courier-Mail* and a Facebook post from a club owner who is closing the doors of his venue in Fortitude Valley because the lockout laws will impact on his business and he cannot see a viable way forward, because of the reduced revenue from the actions of this government.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 17 June 2016, titled 'Fortitude Valley bar blames impending lockout laws as it shuts its doors for good' [995].

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, of Prestige Bar's Facebook page, regarding closure due to lockout laws [996].

Businesses told the committee that the laws would cost jobs. It is sadly true. Twenty people are now out of work in that business and there will be more. The same has occurred in New South Wales.

It is not too late for the government to listen to the tourism sector, to take note of the evidence that shows that most alcohol related violence occurs before 1 am as a result of drugs or preloading away from entertainment precincts, to listen to tourism operators across the state and to abandon these laws. If those opposite are really in favour of jobs—tourism jobs, private sector jobs—that is what they will do. I think we on this side of the House have figured out—and the people of Queensland will eventually figure out—that the government is no friend of the jobseeker in Queensland.

The overwhelming message from Gold Coast tourism chiefs about the criminal motorcycle gang laws is that they support the tough approach taken by the LNP that has kept the Gold Coast virtually free of bikie violence since 2013. The minister needs to listen to the important views about Queensland's gem of tourism, the Gold Coast, and reject any watering down of the anti-bikie laws. They have kept safe not only Gold Coasters but also every person—every family, every child—visiting the Gold Coast. They have been kept safe from the eruptions of bikie related violence that we saw in 2013 that made international headlines and reflected terribly on the image of the coast as a tourism destination.

If there is one thing this government can do to safeguard the reputation of the Gold Coast as a destination to visit, I would say it is to keep the bikies out. No tourist wants to feel harassed, intimidated and frightened by criminal motorcycle gangs. Re-emergence of the bikies on the Gold Coast at this point in time represents the single biggest threat to tourism on the Gold Coast. The minister needs to make sure her colleagues understand the importance of this issue to the coast. The minister should listen to the industry and, with its guidance, wake up the government to common sense and the interests of the entire community when it comes to bikies.

Queenslanders love their sport. I am an avid sports fan and a racing fan, too, unlike the Minister for Racing, who apparently had never been to a race meet before she became minister. I welcome the government retaining the LNP's successful Get in the Game initiative. The participation of children in sport is vitally important to their overall development and health. That is why the LNP made available \$150 vouchers for kids and grants to improve participation and infrastructure.

Research from the Parliamentary Library shows that the Beaudesert electorate received the third highest amount of Get Playing Places and Spaces funding over rounds 1 to 4 of the program—edged out by only Mount Isa and Gregory. This reflects the dedication of the many hardworking sporting clubs and associations in the electorate. They put a lot of time and effort into supporting sport and recreation and seeking out grant funding. Well done. I have been advocating since the time I came to this place for investment in our sporting facilities.

As I have said before in this House, I have no confidence in the Labor Party to deliver for the people of Queensland or the residents in my electorate. If my constituents need proof of this point, the budget provides it. Labor has raided \$4 billion from public servants' super. Last year it stopped contributing. The government transferred billions of dollars in debt from the government to Energex, Ergon and other GOCs, meaning that every Queenslanders pays more for power than they should. Still the Labor government cannot run a surplus, and debt and unemployment continue to rise. They have raided the cookie jar—in fact several of them—and still debt, deficit and unemployment go up. If that is not a sign of failure, I do not know what is. We need a government in this state that can trigger and

provide a catalyst for private sector investment so that business can grow and employ more people. Labor does not get it. Its only answer is to employ more public servants—employee expenses are up seven per cent this year—to impose more red and green tape to keep their friends in the Greens happy and public servants in a job, and to strangle any part of the economy that is not aligned to their union paymasters. That is what we are seeing with the proposal for Energy Queensland to go out into the market and compete with small business electricians—a proposal that many people in my electorate, where most businesses are small businesses, are very worried about.

I fight for improvements to infrastructure and services, no matter who is in government. I have been fighting for improvements to the Mount Lindesay Highway, Beaudesert Police Station and Beaudesert State High School, for increased TMR services in Boonah, and for a fair go for farmers who are faced with ever-increasing electricity bills to irrigate their farms, especially dairy farmers and horticultural producers. In government I was proud to deliver maternity services back to Beaudesert Hospital, working with the community. We stopped coal seam gas activities. We made improvements to crucial intersections on the Mount Lindesay Highway. Beaudesert Racecourse was upgraded and reopened. Jimboomba Park secured \$1.5 million to upgrade its fields. The 540 bus service went from offering three services a day to running hourly services. Wyaralong Dam was made a top-class rowing facility. We froze car rego. We held down irrigation tariffs for farmers—tariff 62, 65 and 66. There were other things as well, but there is more to be done.

This budget is a slap in the face for the Beaudesert electorate. There is still no plan for the Mount Lindesay Highway, despite the government's own safety review hearing dozens of submissions about the need for significant improvements. In 2010 Labor approved massive residential developments at Flagstone and Yarrabilba, and there are estimates that put population in these two estates at over 50,000 in the next three to five years. This represents a great deal of pressure on the Mount Lindesay Highway, yet now that Labor are back in office do they take responsibility for building the infrastructure to service those estates? No, they do not. The people moving into these areas and my constituents from Beaudesert and beyond who travel the Mount Lindesay Highway every day suffer because the Labor government failed to plan in 2010, they failed in 2015 and they are still failing.

This is a failed government. They promised the people of Queensland they could deliver infrastructure without privatisation, without raising taxes and without reducing services, but the delivery is quite different. The infrastructure spend is lower than in the last LNP budget, there are higher taxes, fees and charges and there is the addition of several thousand more public servants to the payroll of long-suffering taxpayers who, in my part of the world at least, just want to see basic infrastructure needs met.

I note with appreciation the recent commitment from the Turnbull government and the member for Wright, Scott Buchholz, to provide \$10 million in funding for the Mount Lindesay Highway. I have lobbied and will continue to lobby for an upgrade to the Beaudesert Police Station. I know that not everything can be done at once—we need to prioritise things—but when I called out to the Minister for Police the other day, asking where the funds were coming from for this project, he responded to me by saying words to the effect, 'Come over to this side of the House and you'll be right.' I think it is a disgrace that the Minister for Police clearly shows he prioritises party politics and pork-barrelling above what is needed on the ground in various parts of Queensland. No matter where you live in Queensland or who you vote for, when it comes to things like police resources, health and education services, the Queensland government should treat all equally in assessing need. A priority list should not be influenced by whether your electorate is ALP, LNP or anything else. We miss out on a Beaudesert Police Station upgrade again. It has been on the books since about 2004. Officer numbers have increased from about five to 20 in that time. We will continue fighting for that.

I table an article from this week's *Beaudesert Times* in relation to increasing electricity prices for irrigators.

Tabled paper: Media article from the *Beaudesert Times*, undated, titled 'Irrigators slam electricity hikes' [997].

I know the farmer in the article well—a top farmer who produces top-notch vegetables for both national and international markets in the Fassifern and the Bundaberg region as well. The Fassifern, where I live, and the Lockyer have dozens of world-class farmers who are being squeezed more and more by electricity prices. Of course this means less income for the community, but eventually it means less income for the state because when these farmers go to the wall because of electricity prices we all lose. We will be more dependent on imported food. Our government worked to hold down these tariffs, but Labor has abandoned these farmers. Labor had the chance to bolster agriculture in a massive way. The decision by the AER to reduce revenue for Energex was a once-in-five-year opportunity to reduce electricity costs for irrigators, and Labor has failed. By saying that no person in

Energex would lose their job, Labor is sacrificing the jobs of farmers who produce the food we eat, the milk we drink and who are the lifeblood of rural Queensland in the interests of the ETU and the CFMEU. Those cost savings through reduced revenue paid to Energex should be passed on to farmers.

We see the agriculture minister throwing away Queensland's BJD protected zone status and making changes to the tick line without properly consulting people who are affected by it whilst budgeting \$7 million to victimise farmers who are managing the vegetation on their property. It is a disgrace that farmers and rural landholders are targeted in this manner. Long-suffering dairy farmers, because of the milk price wars and the \$1 a litre milk, will have more issues with red tape and heavy-handed regulation coming onto them from this government. The primary producers of this state do not need more regulation. They are the best custodians of the land that we know and the government should get behind them.

I welcome the \$463,000 that the south coast region of TMR has informed me has been allocated for safety works at Aratula on the Cunningham Highway. I have lobbied for these and it has been great that the south coast region has seen fit to allocate these funds.

In the time remaining I want to touch on some comments from the member for Logan earlier. The member for Logan claimed credit for the Beaudesert town bypass—something funded by the LNP in 2014 and a long way from his electorate. I realise that the member for Logan may be somewhat short of things to claim credit for in his own electorate, but he should not need to claim credit for projects that the LNP has delivered in Beaudesert.

In closing, former deputy prime minister Tim Fischer was in the gallery earlier and, with your indulgence, Madam Deputy Speaker Linard, I want to make one comment in what has been a tragic week in part of the United States and another tragedy occurring in the United Kingdom this morning with the death of a member of the House of Commons. Tim Fischer as the deputy prime minister of Australia stared down a lot of opposition from the National Party in 1996 together with John Howard to introduce the gun laws that we have here in Australia today. That took a lot of courage—and with your indulgence, Madam Deputy Speaker, I will finish on this point—but Australia is a better place today because of it. We need to see similar courage from members of parliament on all sides to face the big issues facing Queensland and Australia today and we could all take a leaf from the courage shown by Tim Fischer and John Howard facing down their own—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Linard): Order! Thank you, member. I have given you some indulgence, but if you are going to move on to political statements like that I call the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.

 **Hon. LE DONALDSON** (Bundaberg—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries) (4.42 pm): I rise to commend the Treasurer on a budget that provides unprecedented support for farmers and for rural Queensland, and it is of course a budget for jobs. It is also without a doubt a budget for the bush and it is no surprise that it has been so warmly received by the agricultural community. Indeed, there are so many positives for Agriculture and Fisheries I hardly know where to start. Perhaps before highlighting the measures that have been welcomed by our primary producers and rural communities I will begin by contrasting the government's comprehensive support strategy with the lack of ideas from the opposition benches.

Producers have told me many times in the last six months how much the Newman-Nicholls government took the bush for granted, and it is patently clear that with the former treasurer now leading the LNP that shameful neglect of rural Queensland by the LNP is continuing. When the Leader of the Opposition delivered his alternative budget for Queensland yesterday, he did not once mention agriculture. He did not mention farms. He did not mention drought. He did not mention biosecurity. Our \$17 billion agriculture and fisheries sector is simply not even on his radar. We should not be surprised, because it is clear that the Nicholls-Frecklington regime believes it can treat the bush with disdain as the former Newman-Nicholls government did.

Earlier today I listened with disbelief as the shadow agriculture minister delivered his contribution to the debate and it is obvious from his statements this morning that the member for Burdekin is not across the issues. His comments on Johne's disease are out of step with what the majority of the cattle industry are saying publicly, and this displays a worrying lack of understanding on this issue. For example, Sharon Howard from AgForce is on the record saying that allowing producers to handle diseases along with government surveillance programs is an absolute positive. Like so many in the industry consulted over the past 18 months, AgForce has stressed that overregulation was the main reason the disease crippled sections of the industry. On the ABC yesterday Wallace Gunthorpe, Chairman of the BJD Action Coalition, said that common sense had prevailed. I am worried that what

the shadow minister is really saying is that he does not trust cattlemen and women to make decisions for themselves about their own businesses. I comment on the member for Beaudesert's contribution about less red tape and regulation but then on the other hand not wanting producers to have the ability to make those decisions for themselves as well, so I am not sure whether he is for or against regulation. Regardless, he would be unhappy anyway.

The shadow minister's failure to grasp the overwhelming support for the Johne's disease management changes we have introduced is bad enough, but I also want to comment on his extraordinary claim that in government the LNP worked hard to get more department of agriculture staff on the front line in the regions. His denial of reality on the LNP's record of staff dismissals in the department would be funny if it were not so serious. For the benefit of those opposite who clearly cannot distinguish their own spin from fact, let me place some facts on the record. The number of full-time-equivalent positions in the department fell from 2,589 to 1,973 during the Newman-Nicholls government. This included a cut of 26 per cent in Biosecurity Queensland staff. The human resources statistics for the period between June 2012 and January 2015 under the LNP show a cut in front-line staff from 614 to 491, a reduction of 20 per cent, and these job cuts were felt most keenly in the bush. The department lost 25.6 per cent of its staff in Central Queensland, 33.79 per cent of the staff in the north, 20.45 per cent in the south and 30.66 per cent in the south-east. Nearly nine per cent of the department's staff in the Brisbane CBD were dismissed, but it is clear that it was in the regions where the axe was wielded with the most devastating effect.

This is in contrast with the Palaszczuk government's investment in the department, and it could hardly be more stark. We have made no staff cuts despite what the opposition would have you believe. Since the election we have employed an additional 23 full-time equivalent workers in Biosecurity Queensland, 16.2 in Agriculture, including Agri-Science Queensland, and 14.5 in Fisheries and Forestry. On Tuesday the Treasurer delivered a \$454 million investment in Queensland's agriculture and fisheries sector. The comprehensive support package for rural Queensland includes, as part of a \$36 million rural assistance package, the removal of transfer duty on all family property transfers for farms, and this is a decision that has received universal praise. It brings Queensland into line with other states and territories and it will make it easier for sons and daughters to succeed their parents when the time comes for them to retire. I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my speech in *Hansard*. I have approval from the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

The Rural Assistance Package includes grants for agriculture businesses, including to seek advice on succession planning, and improved accessibility to First Start Loans

These are practical measures to support our primary producers

Our focus is aimed at reducing financial stress and improving financial sustainability.

We recognise the debt issues afflicting so many of our farmers and we will assist them to service that debt

The Budget also ramps up measures to support our farmers and rural communities coping with the record drought.

The Drought Assistance Package is worth \$42 million

It includes \$24 million for the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme

\$4.2 million for land rent rebates and water licence waivers

\$4 million for Community Assistance grants

\$4 million for drought relief from electricity charges

\$1.5 million for the Royal Flying Doctor Service drought wellbeing service

\$650,000 for Rural Financial Councillors including two positions while this drought lasts

\$3.5 million for a new climate risk and drought resilience programme

The program is another practical measure to help producers better manage climate risk and future droughts.

It includes establishing a Queensland Drought Mitigation Centre in partnership with the University of Southern Queensland.

I would also like to highlight our determination to rebuild our biosecurity capability.

The Budget provides additional funding of \$10.84 million over four years to begin implementing the recommendations of the Biosecurity Capability Review.

It raises to \$30.2 million our commitment to strengthening the incident preparedness and response capability of our biosecurity systems.

The Newman-Nicholls administration was devastating for biosecurity.

Again, we are rebuilding what those opposite destroyed.

Finally, before I move on to talk about the ways the Budget will benefit my own electorate of Bundaberg, I want to reassure our banana growers of the continuing determination of the Palaszczuk Government to manage Panama disease.

There is a further allocation in the Budget of \$7.3 million in the 2016-17 financial year for containment of a biosecurity threat.

Left unchallenged there is no doubt that Panama disease Tropical Race 4 could destroy an industry worth \$600 million a year to the Queensland economy

I am immensely proud that the government acted quickly and decisively when the disease was first identified in March last year.

The containment campaign has succeeded thanks to our considerable investment and hard work in co-operation with plantation owners, local councils and industry stakeholders

To date there have been no signs of the disease at other locations outside the one property in Tully where diagnosis was first confirmed

We will do all in our power—through intense surveillance, testing and education programs—to keep it that way

And now I would like to describe how the Budget will help my electorate of Bundaberg

Tourism is one of our region's biggest drivers and the \$10 million redevelopment of our iconic eco-tourism Mon Repos Turtle Centre will increase visitor numbers as well as provide better facilities for our dedicated rangers and experts working on turtle research.

Only today the Chairman of Bundaberg and North Burnett Tourism said the potential economic spin off of this redevelopment is enormous and could bring in excess of an extra \$100 million a year to our region.

Mental Health is also a big issue in regional Queensland and it was great to see the budget include a new 10 bed 'Step Up/Step Down' mental health facility in Bundaberg.

This \$4 million investment facility will provide a much needed alternative to hospital for people recovering from mental illness and will have such a positive influence and deliver positive services to our community.

Education doesn't miss out either with an additional \$4 million being invested into our Bundaberg schools with the 'Investing for Success' initiative.

Bundaberg schools are big winners in this as this initiative focuses on funding based on student needs rather than just on student numbers.

Also a further \$360 000 is being spent on the infrastructure upgrades at our schools including \$200 000 to modernise the Home EC learning spaces at Kepnock State High School.

People with disabilities and their families are also not being forgotten about with the region to receive \$17.5 million to help them access the services and support they need.

Other highlights include a continuation of the rehabilitation of the Burnett Traffic bridge of more than \$6 million.

\$440 000 for the refurbishment and enhancement of the Bundaberg irrigation Systems

\$470 000 for alcohol and drug related outclient treatment services and

\$650 000 for non-clinical support for people and families dealing with mental illness.

The Treasurer is to be congratulated on producing a Budget packed with positives for Queensland, for rural communities, for primary producers and for Bundaberg

I commend it enthusiastically to the House.

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (4.48 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the appropriation bills for 2016. In the seven years that I have been a member of parliament I have never witnessed a Treasurer deliver a budget with such a mind-numbing lack of enthusiasm than the member for Mulgrave. Even Andrew Fraser had a crack at being up-beat when he delivered his asset sales budget. Government members looked like they would rather have been anywhere else but in this House when the budget was delivered—heads down, no supportive 'hear, hears', nothing. Why? Because they knew that raiding \$4 billion of the state's public servant superannuation fund was a very risky business—not only the financial risk but that public servants would not like it. The government members knew that putting their sticky fingers on public servants' retirement money was not going to be popular with the very people this government claims to champion. As the shadow Treasurer stated, and this has been echoed by my LNP colleagues, this is a budget of raids, rip-offs and writedowns.

This second budget of the Palaszczuk Labor government once again fails families in the Aspley electorate. It fails to address issues of importance to people living in suburbs such as Aspley, Chermside West, Carseldine, Bald Hills and Bridgeman Downs. The Aspley electorate is the northern gateway to the city of Brisbane and the people of my electorate are very proud of that status. However,

being the northern gateway comes with increasing challenges, particularly when it comes to road infrastructure. With housing developments continuing to expand northbound in Moreton shire and through to the Sunshine Coast, over 70,000 cars travel along Gympie Road daily. Traffic can bank back for several kilometres as commuters from those areas make their way into Brisbane. Peak hour is horrific. The intersection of Beams and Gympie roads is akin to a car park. The frustration of motorists is high and the impact on local traffic is significant. In fact, even beyond normal peak hour periods, congestion starts to build as early as two o'clock in the afternoon for commuters travelling north.

The residents of Carseldine know this issue only too well. After lobbying my local TMR regional officers, there is some money to have a look at the issue—and I am pleased about that. I encourage the Minister for Main Roads to make a visit to the northern suburbs so that he can see the traffic mess firsthand. As the minister will be stuck in traffic for a very long time, he can perhaps have a little bit of a sleep at the wheel because, after all, that is what his government does best. While he is at it, he could have a look at the Linkfield Road overpass at Bald Hills. He could always stop playing politics with the installation of sound barriers along Gympie Road at Carseldine. The Aspley electorate is also—

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that comment about the politicisation of the sound barrier program. That is not the case. I find it personally offensive. That is a very tight and clear point. I am personally offended and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Linard): The minister has raised a point of order. I did not hear the comment, but the convention is that, as he has said that he found it personally offensive, I ask the member—

Ms Davis interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: (The member has raised a point of order and said that he found the comment personally offensive. Member for Aspley, I did not hear it. Can you withdraw?)

Ms DAVIS: I withdraw. The Aspley electorate is home to outstanding school communities, great students, great principals and teachers and very hardworking P&Cs. It was disappointing to find that, again, no money had been allocated to Aspley State High School to upgrade its school hall—a school hall that is also used by the broader community. At the last election, the LNP committed funding to refurbish the kitchen and bathroom amenities and install an extractive cooling system so that students can be more comfortable, particularly during the sweltering heat of a Brisbane summer. This education minister did not feel inclined to do the same. The school community is not asking for a flashy upgrade or a new performing arts centre, they just want a hall that is suitable for their needs. Once again, Labor has cast aside the Aspley electorate.

The Treasurer handed out a glossy brochure that spruiked innovation, investment and infrastructure. I have a couple of words that more accurately describe this budget and how this government feels about the people of the Aspley electorate. They also begin with the letter I: ignorance and indifference—ignorant to the aspirations of the people of the Aspley electorate and indifferent to the challenges faced by the people of the Aspley electorate. The Treasurer said that the government has replaced confrontation with consultation, but the truth is that it has replaced consultation with complacency.

In his reply, the Leader of the Opposition rightly highlighted the many budget fails. He also announced the LNP blueprint to get young people working. The Leader of the Opposition reminded the government of its responsibility to the people of Queensland and I think it is worthy to remind the Labor government of those responsibilities again. Governments must deliver public services efficiently and fairly. Governments must use taxpayers' money wisely. Governments should not borrow money unless there is certainty that there is a return to the Queensland taxpayer from that investment. Governments should stay out of the way of the private sector generating jobs and wealth and raising living standards and governments should also lower business costs to promote international competitiveness so that business can employ more people.

This budget is being seen by Queenslanders as a major disappointment, because they wanted to see real and significant opportunities ahead. Instead, this budget has not inspired confidence, either in individuals or in business. It is a budget that does not offer real economic reform. In fact, it lacks reform and it lacks vision. This is not a budget that offers tax relief for Queensland families. This is another Labor budget of smoke and mirrors—a budget built on a house of cards, a budget designed to tax high, spend high, and shuffle the deckchairs. It is a budget that is built on the Treasurer and the Premier keeping their fingers crossed in the hope of something, in the hope of anything, in the hope that a miracle will happen to save the day.

If this were a budget for jobs, then why is unemployment continuing to creep up? If this is supposedly a budget for infrastructure, why is the spending on key infrastructure at such low levels? How can Labor justify a budget that is supposedly fiscally responsible when public sector spending is increasing at rates well over the rate of inflation? This is a Labor government that would rather rob the earnings of the public sector superannuation fund than develop a long-term economic plan. Despite promising to pay down debt, this year's budget shows overall debt increasing. As I said previously, this budget delivers massive blowouts in public sector wages owing to massive increases in staff.

On the government's own figures, despite all the so-called jobs that it has claimed to have created, unemployment has risen. The cruellest part of this budget is the hit on hardworking Queensland families—the huge hit they will take with the excessive hike in fees and charges across-the-board. This year's budget exposes once more the length of the tricky economics and smoke and mirrors that this Labor government is willing to go to in an attempt to shuffle the debt problem it created.

When Labor promised to pay down debt before the election, I do not think that any Queenslander could have imagined that it would be by raiding the profits of our state pension fund. I will speak more to that issue shortly. Let me say this: if we do not tackle the debt issue it will continue to spiral out of control and cripple our ability to grow into the future. It will cripple opportunities for our families and our children to achieve what they aspire to achieve. Make no mistake: this is a budget that promised to pay down debt, but the reality for our families and for our children is that the total debt is still heading towards \$80 billion.

I would like to speak specifically to Labor's raid on the state pension fund. Recently, the opposition leader pointed out that, as the world economy continues its gradual recovery from the global financial crisis, superannuation funds around the world are working overtime to protect their capital. Our super funds also battle against the pressure of extremely low interest rates. Despite all of these challenges facing the superannuation sector, this Labor government in Queensland has made the decision to rob the capital of the state's defined benefit superannuation fund to fill its budget black hole. As the Leader of the Opposition pointed out—and I agree—this is a move that opens the state's finances to disastrous implications for Queensland.

Alarming, this year's raid comes on the back of a similar raid last year, which involved the Labor government stripping \$3.4 billion out of the long service leave funding pool reserve. Despite advice from Wayne Cannon, the State Actuary, that there is a one-in-five chance of an accrued deficit in the QSuper defined benefit scheme, Treasurer Curtis Pitt still decided to take \$4 billion from the fund. This action should ring alarm bells, particularly if this government intends to do the same next year. Make no mistake: if there are future downturns in the stock market, that will leave the fund exposed. This reckless action means for future governments that, regardless of the state's financial position into the future, we could be forced to top up the defined benefit fund.

The Queensland Teachers' Union made some comments about the scheme, as this decision could adversely impact its members. The Queensland Teachers' Union said that it would 'call-out any actions by the state that would jeopardise this unique feature of the QSuper defined benefit scheme' and that 'government must ensure that all benefits remain guaranteed until the last member of the fund has retired'.

Given that the Premier and the Treasurer refuse to confirm that the fund would be topped up should things go pear-shaped, the Queensland Teachers' Union should be a bit worried and the union should get mobilised. The State Actuary said there were risks in the plan and the government would need to top up the fund if the economy or markets tanked even if it might not be in a strong financial position to do so. This would be worrying to all Queenslanders, particularly if the top-up means more taxes, fees and charges or reduced services in areas like health and education.

This week in the *Australian Financial Review*, respected financial reporter Mark Ludlow wrote—

Pitt will plunder \$10 billion in dividends and tax equivalent payments from the energy, port and water assets to help him pay down the general government sector debt.

Ludlow also wrote—

Under the guidance of former federal Treasury official Jim Murphy, he's even making the state-owned company keep their \$1.2 billion in excess cash in Queensland Treasury's coffers so they can skim the interest earned.

This is a sleight of hand that is robbing the state owned companies of the ability to retain their own interest earned. This is a tricky accounting move that exposes the lack of a real economic plan. We have to challenge this Labor government. How long can it keep taking and taking and taking before there is nothing left to take?

I am very privileged to be the shadow minister for education. The education of our children should always be a priority. We know that a good education is one of the most important formative experiences of our lives. We know that access to a world-class education can set our children and young people on a journey to realise their personal and professional potential. We know that the net gain from the quality education of our children—the improvement in literacy and numeracy that is needed—adds in a true and meaningful way to long-term economic benefit to our state.

When the LNP was elected in 2012 we set about renewing the focus on student outcomes. For decades Queensland schools had languished at the bottom of the NAPLAN tables, schools had fallen into disrepair and principals were struggling to navigate the bureaucracy to ensure discipline was maintained in the classroom. Prior to that, Labor's answer was to throw money at the system, but the reality was that the increasing expenditure did not equate to increased educational outcomes for our students.

It is important that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and transparently with clear evidence of a return on investment and it is no different when it comes to education. That is what our children deserve. In government we invested in education. We introduced independent public schools. The interest right across Queensland to transition to an IPS was stunning—and why? Because the IPS model empowered principals and gave school communities the capacity to respond to the school's needs at a local level not bureaucratic direction via Education House. A significant consequence of the success of independent public schools was increases in enrolment numbers back into the state school system which, under Labor, were in decline.

A part of providing a quality education is planning for future school infrastructure across all schooling sectors. The LNP understands the importance of planning and in government we implemented the Schools Planning Commission to map growth areas and subsequent demand for new schools across Queensland. The role of the commission was to make strategic recommendations on initiatives that would streamline and coordinate processes for the planning of schools in Queensland, drawing on evidence, expertise and consultation with key stakeholders. The Schools Planning Commission projected that in the next 15 years 39 to 47 new primary schools and 20 to 24 new secondary schools would be needed to keep up with growth demand in Queensland. This budget provides for only six new schools over four years—only six new schools—when the Schools Planning Commission clearly indicated that we would need significant more numbers than that.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is not thinking about planning for the future. If schools are not built where there are students needing classrooms where are they going to learn? Are we back to overcrowded classrooms and children packed into demountables like sardines? The reality is that the LNP delivered 11 new schools, schools that the Minister for Education is happy to cut the ribbon at and have her photograph taken at. She seems uninclined to project into the future. She needs to get her planning shoes on quick and fast. If the minister cannot manage to do this then perhaps she might explain to Queensland why this government puts such a low priority on forward planning for our new schools.

The minister has talked much about her focus on science, technology, engineering and maths, the STEM subjects in our schools, and how vitally important this is so that children are prepared for the jobs of the future. I agree. On a matter so important to the minister there is an investment of only \$3.3 million of new funding over the forwards going into the classroom into the STEM area in an annual budget of around \$12 billion. I question how much of a priority this really is for the minister.

I have talked about the students, but, of course, having quality teachers in front of a classroom is essential. Queensland has great teachers. To support them, when in government we delivered the Great Teachers = Great Results initiative. This initiative rewarded high performing teachers and positioned high performing teachers where they were needed the most. Importantly, it enabled school leaders and teachers to drive outcomes for students. When I am chatting to parents of students they tell me overwhelmingly that the most important things are for their children to be happy at school. That is No. 1. They also want them to receive an education that is responsive to their child's needs and capabilities and they also want to have a bit of a say on how that happens. They do not tell me they want a fancy overcrowded curriculum. What they want is an education that provides their children with the tools to reach their potential and provide a solid foundation for their future. Teachers work hard every day to respond to those aspirations. The minister needs to step up and do the same.

I would like to acknowledge here in the House the former minister for education, the member for Surfers Paradise, who did an outstanding job in the three years that he had leadership of education in this state. It moved forward and we are in a much better position now than what we found ourselves in prior to coming into government.

Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition announced the LNP's plan to create jobs for up to 23,000 young Queenslanders through the Get Queensland Working initiative. Get Queensland Working encourages apprentices to finish their training and to provide incentives to employers to train and retain workers. Since January last year 21,300 young Queenslanders have lost their jobs and things are not set to improve under this Labor government. Additionally, he announced Tools for Tradies, which is a \$10 million initiative which will provide \$500 towards new tools for apprentices upon completion of their training. Our young people wherever they live across our great state deserve the political resolve to create real employment opportunities for them. They do not want a government to put them in the too-hard basket. How must young people feel when the minister for employment throws her hands in the air and says there is not much you can change to address youth unemployment. The LNP will not give up on young people in Queensland. They are our future.

Our taxpayers, our industries, our hardworking men and women, our families, our seniors and our children deserve much better than a budget based on the magic pudding economics that this government is dishing up. This is a true Labor budget—which means it is a truly risky budget. Only the LNP can deliver the conditions needed to instil business confidence and jobs growth for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Only the LNP has the experience and vision for this great state to achieve its full potential.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.08 pm): I rise to speak on the appropriation bills cognate debate. Quite frankly, I am saddened by this budget. It is the same old Labor, with no regard for our kids and future generations. It is another budget of reckless spending, which is typical of what we have seen from successive Queensland Labor governments over the past 20 to 30 years.

I wish that state governments were subject to the same requirements as local councils. From my time in the Gold Coast council as chair of finance, I know that the first rule was that you were not allowed to deliver a budget that was not balanced. You were not allowed to set a budget that was in excess of your income or your ability to cover the full cost of the budget, nor were you allowed to set a budget that would generate any significant surplus. You had to account for every cent.

The second principle that councils had to subscribe to was the one of good fiscal management in terms of debt servicing. Councils have statutory requirements as to what proportion of their budget they can spend on debt servicing and debt repayments. I think it is quite sad that we do not have similar standards for state governments, particularly here in Queensland.

Recently I was chatting with an older friend of mine who made a comment that I think is quite relevant. He said that typically politicians only have their eyes on the next election, but statesmen have their eyes on the next generation. I have to say that there is very little about this Labor budget that is about the next generation. All we will see from this budget, last year's budget and the previous decade of budgets is a legacy of debt and deficit. I was so concerned about this that during the week I thought I would do a bit of research into what help there might be for our Treasurer in terms of getting good advice around what a good budget looks like. Obviously, Treasury is not giving him great advice.

I stumbled across some advice on the internet. It is from an Australian based company. The opening page of the website states—

Getting out of debt takes commitment, discipline and the right knowledge.

Sounds like hard work, doesn't it? In fact, the hardest part is deciding that you're ready for change and that you're ready to find the right people who can guide you through that process.

Quite frankly, I do not know that the people sitting around the cabinet table with the Premier and the Treasurer are necessarily getting the right advice. The company claims that just a slice of what you get when they work with you includes—

- Expert personal budgeting advice
- Total visibility of your finances at your fingertips
- Structure and support from client coaches to you help achieve your goals
- A customised plan to pay off your debt, if required
- Daily management of income expenses
- Your payments and obligations to creditors are scheduled and prioritised

They will also give you help with savings forecasts and access to client support. Under the heading 'How to get out of debt', the website states—

Personal debt is at record levels in Australia and hundreds of thousands of people are trying their best to get out of debt. Many find themselves burdened with loans and credit cards they can't afford. Others are afraid of losing their car, home or other possessions.

Of his great plan to help pay off some of the debt, I note that in his speech the Treasurer talked about recycling money. Effectively, he said that, of the \$4 billion that they are raiding from the superannuation fund, they are going to use \$2 billion to pay off debt. That is a little bit like taking out \$2,000 as a cash advance on your credit card to meet your mortgage payment for the month. The problem is that, while you might have got the bank off your back for your mortgage payment, you still have the net debt.

This local company offers a free consultation. It concludes by stating that you do not want to be a statistic; that you should seek to be a better you. I am happy to table this information in the interests of getting Queensland out of debt. That free service is offered to the government and constituents by Mybudget.com.au. I table that document in the interests of trying to get a little common sense into our approach to budgeting.

Tabled paper: Screenshots of www.mybudget.com.au [998].

Government members interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: I am not sure what the interjections were from those opposite but, as a father of four, one of my concerns is for the future of my kids. It would be reckless of me as a parent not to be thinking about the financial security of my kids. I want to be in a position to support them with their education and help them get on their feet later in life as they move through their careers. As a government, we have a responsibility to think about our kids and their kids. Sadly, what we inherited in 2012 and what we are still living with is a legacy of debt and one of the worst balance sheets in Australia. Sadly, that does not augur well for the future of our kids.

I note that in the budget papers the government revealed that they have splurged and in the past year added another 4,103 staff, or they plan to, which is over and above the 5,088 that they put on last year. For the first time, this year the state's wages bill will surpass \$20 billion, with more to come.

A government member interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: I take that interjection. I have no problem with employing more teachers and nurses, but in the past 20 years of Labor mismanagement we saw governments that squandered the opportunity to build more infrastructure and simply added more people so that they could boost the employment figures. What they should have been doing is employing workers such as tradesmen, road builders, nurses and doctors, not more bureaucrats for the office of the Premier.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: I take that interjection. There was some good construction, but not enough. A lot of money was wasted in the executive offices in George Street by the Beattie and Bligh governments.

I want to talk a little about the detail in the budget as it relates to the Gold Coast. We have all seen the regional brochures that were produced by the government for us to proudly take back to our constituents. We are supposed to be excited about this. We are supposed to be saying, 'Isn't this amazing?' Frankly, the Gold Coast flyer does not say anything different from what was said in the flyer of the year before. In fact, it is not that much different from the flyer of the year before that. All we see is a re-announcement and a rehash of the commitments to upgrading infrastructure on the Gold Coast that we made when in government.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: We committed to that as well, prior to the last election. I have worked tirelessly with many of my colleagues on the Gold Coast, at both a council and a state level. Frankly, I find it incredibly frustrating that members on the other side of the House keep wanting to take credit for something that previous governments put in place. Sadly, the member for Mermaid Beach is not here. When he was the mayor of the Gold Coast back in the late 1990s, he was part of a move to look at the future needs of the city. Under his leadership, light rail for the Gold Coast was identified as an opportunity as far back as about 1995. It was subsequently championed by Mayor Gary Baidon. If the truth be known, it was councillors David Power and Ted Shepherd, others from the Gold Coast council and I who worked with a former minister, Minister Mickel. The ongoing legacy of that was that the former Liberal National Party government had to find the money to pay for it and deliver it. It was a debacle. It created disruption to businesses through Surfers Paradise and Southport, because it was so badly planned and delivered in terms of its early execution. If we want to talk about history, let us get our facts straight.

I return to the brochure: I had to laugh because under the heading 'Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games', the big announcement is \$1.4 million for specialist firefighting equipment. That is it. It goes on to talk about some of the other precincts and events. I am not sure whether that is a typo or whether the strategist did not quite get it right in the presentation. It does not exactly shine in terms of what is on offer for the Gold Coast.

I would like to take a few minutes to go through the Advancing Queensland's Economy document. Then I will talk specifically to some issues in the Capital Statement. I love Labor spin. This is what they do and have been doing for decades. If we turn to page 15 of the budget highlights document in bold letters we find 'Tourism and Events Queensland guarantee \$49.9 million'. We could be mistaken for thinking that that is a big increase. When we were in government it was typically around \$25 million to \$30 million a year. Then we read the fine print and see that it says that that is over two years. Why do they not just state the figure that is committed for the year rather than try to make it seem bigger than it is? What are they trying to hide?

Quite disturbingly, if we turn to page 27—and this is where we should not be playing politics, but sadly we are—the government talks about \$200 million being allocated to address domestic and family violence. When we read the fine print, we see all of those commitments are over four years. It is not \$200 million next year; it is \$50 million.

What I find incredibly sad to hear when I talk to many of the service providers and organisations that are dealing with the challenges of domestic and family violence is that the most desperate need is for housing and crisis accommodation. Looking at the budget we find that there is \$42 million over four years for specialist domestic and family violence courts. There is \$43 million for domestic and family violence services. When we come to the most important part, we have \$8.7 million for the entire state of Queensland over four years for new crisis shelters. That is hardly a commitment. That is two new shelters to support women. That is two new shelters over four years to deal with this huge challenge across the state.

Ms Fentiman: That's the capital.

Mr MOLHOEK: I know it is capital. I understand that. What do we see in the column next to that? There is \$9.6 million over four years for what is nothing more than an advertising campaign to say what we are going to do about domestic violence. The commitment is to spend more on marketing, communications and engagement—over and above the integrated services response—than we are going to spend on building accommodation for people in crisis. That is a really sad and lame commitment for dealing with the issue. What people need is shelter.

I now turn to page 70 of the Capital Statement. The member for Springwood, the member for Woodridge, the member for Algeester—

Ms Fentiman: How many new shelters when the LNP were in government?

Mr MOLHOEK: We were spending a lot more on public housing than you are.

Ms Fentiman: How many shelters when the LNP were in government?

Mr MOLHOEK: I have visited some of the shelters we built and funded.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: I visited the new shelter near Mount Coot-tha. What do we see in terms of a commitment to public housing from the current government? For starters, there is about \$100 million less this year and last year than we saw in the previous two years when the LNP were in government.

What are the commitments for Logan? There is nothing there for the construction of new housing—zero. This is from a government that has stalled the Logan community housing renewal program, which would have seen up to 2,000 new dwellings built at little or no cost to government. What do we see in the budget? We see nothing.

Who are the members representing that area? We have the member for Springwood, the member for Woodridge, the member for Algeester, the member for Waterford and the member for Logan. There are six Labor members in the area and there is not one cent in the capital works budget for more housing. This is from a government that says that they are committed to helping families who are in need of support. That is a shame. That is a breach of everything that I thought Labor said they were about and their core values, but I digress.

I want to touch briefly on the Gold Coast health service. We have a magnificent new hospital in the heart of my electorate. I am pleased to see that there will be an increase in spending of about 7½ per cent. I suspect that part of that is a reflection of inflation, as we all know well, although it has been lower in recent years. Part of it is a reflection of the growing demand and the growing population on the Gold Coast.

What saddens me is when we turn to page 101 of the Performance Statement and look at the service standards for category 2, category 3, category 4 and category 5 visits to hospital. In one year what we have seen is a significant decline in every one of those categories. These categories deal with the percentage of patients who attended emergency departments and were seen within the recommended time frames.

In category 2 we have seen it drop from 80 per cent to 58 per cent in one year. In category 3 we have seen it drop from 75 per cent to 41 per cent. In category 4 we have seen it drop from 70 per cent to 59 per cent. The only category that has held up is category 1, which is the category where you obviously see people within a couple of minutes.

What did we hear from the health minister this week? We heard that there is going to be a winding back of the standards that we sought to bring in requiring that hospitals do everything they can to deal with patients within four hours of their arrival. We have already seen a decline in that standard. We have heard a wonderful announcement from the health minister that there is going to be a further relaxation of that standard.

I have been to the Gold Coast University Hospital. I had the pleasure of spending an afternoon and the early evening with the director of the ED and the director of nursing. They were more than happy to show me around and talk to me about some of the challenges they face. They were not complaining about the four-hour turnaround. They were not complaining about that performance standard. They were very supportive of it. They said it encouraged the hospital staff to function more efficiently.

I acknowledged, as I am sure everyone in this House would acknowledge, that there are occasions when those standards cannot be met and there are good reasons for that. I do not believe that anyone serving in our hospitals, as has been alleged by the health minister this week, would ever use a four-hour time frame as an excuse to offer a patient poor service and not look out for their best interests.

I find it incredibly sad that the message to our hardworking staff at the Gold Coast University Hospital is, 'It is okay. Do not rush too much. Take your time.'

Mr Kelly: To do your job properly. Look after the patients properly.

Mr MOLHOEK: Absolutely, we want them to do their jobs properly. The message that the health minister has sent this week is only going to see a further deterioration of those service standards. That is sad for Queenslanders and it is particularly sad for the quality of our health services.

I want to touch on the Commonwealth Games for a moment. There are some great new facilities being built as result of that. I have to say that I am very fortunate to have so much happening in my electorate with the new games village. I commend the former deputy premier on the incredible job that he and the team did in hammering out what was a very solid financial deal with Grocon. It will potentially save us a significant amount of money and get the best possible outcome for Queenslanders.

I am grateful to the council and the former departmental staff for the work they did in delivering the aquatic centre. I find it quite amusing that in the Gold Coast budget brochure the Labor government have reannounced the aquatic centre. It has been opened and operating for about two years. I am not sure why they are taking credit for that. That is an interesting aside. I am pleased that Coomera will benefit from a new sporting facility. When we were in government we made the decision not to build \$12 million of temporary facilities on the Broadwater that would be subsequently torn down but invest that money in better outcomes for families in the north.

I have concerns about the budget. I finish where I started. I am very sad about the legacy that the budget leaves for our kids. I wish the government had its eyes more firmly on the future hopes of our kids.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (5.29 pm): After hearing that contribution from the member for Southport, I am going to have to check the tide times because surely it must be a very low tide in Southport tonight. I note that the member for Southport liked getting up and waving the budget papers around, but it was quite apparent that he had not read them because it is my great pleasure to congratulate the Treasurer, the Hon. Curtis Pitt, on the handing down of the second Palaszczuk Queensland government budget. Truly this is a budget focused on advancing Queensland through a heady trifecta of economic growth, innovation and job creation.

As well as committing a total of \$405 million to accelerate the Advance Queensland program, the Treasurer has made funding available to significantly reduce public transport fares in South-East Queensland and deliver around 31,000 direct jobs through a \$10.7 billion capital program this year. Additionally, the budget has increased the Queensland First Home Owners' Grant from \$15,000 to \$20,000 over the next 12 months and delivered a \$40 million Industry Attraction Fund to aggressively target interstate and international businesses to move their operations to Queensland.

Queensland's Health and Education budgets will also grow by 4.3 per cent and 5.9 per cent respectively—a record spend in both portfolios. Despite significant royalty and tax writedowns of \$4.7 billion since the last budget, this has all been achieved while maintaining solid surpluses across the forward estimates, including a surplus of \$867 million in 2016-17, the largest surplus for a decade.

Locally, my constituents in the electorate of Stretton will benefit from lower fares, with savings of up to \$889 for those who travel from Calamvale, Kuraby and Drewvale to the city. Students and parents in Calamvale are big winners in this budget, and rightly so, with \$4.3 million to complete construction of additional classrooms and staff accommodation at Calamvale Special School and \$500,000 for refurbishment and modernisation work at Calamvale Community College.

Protecting some of our most vulnerable members of society is very important. I am very happy to see this budget has allocated \$3.898 million to ensure children in need of protection have a safe place to stay in my local community, including foster and kinship care, intensive foster care, residential care and supported independent living services for local providers, including Kyabra Community Association in Runcorn, Key Assets in Eight Mile Plains, Churches of Christ in Queensland in Calamvale and Safe Places Community Services in Drewvale.

Early praise for the budget has been effusive, and for good reason—this represents a high-water mark in the history of Queensland's budgets. This budget is so on target, so completely focused on growth, innovation and jobs, yet at the same time so fiscally prudent and responsible, that I think it is a contender to be considered the greatest state budget in Queensland's history. To the Treasurer, I say well done. Unfortunately, we of course have to suffer the predictable and rather hopeless attacks from the opposition to what is a gem of a budget. Yet again, the LNP have been exposed and embarrassed by what we can achieve and how perfectly Treasurer Pitt has calibrated the budget to focus on growth, innovation and jobs while also ensuring it is responsible and completely affordable now and into the future. Since I have been elected, I have listened intently to many speeches from the member for Clayfield. I have listened quietly and attentively but, unfortunately—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take that interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. Unfortunately, I have to admit that I have found little that is coherent. I am sure, in common with many Queenslanders, nothing much the member for Clayfield says resonates with me, but I have to admit that a statement in his budget reply speech yesterday did resonate with me. Admittedly, it was a small part of the speech but it is worth noting. The member for Clayfield expressed the view that the best predictor of future action is past actions. I repeat: the best predictor of future action is past actions. Given that sentiment expressed by the member for Clayfield—

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr PEGG: The member for Toowoomba North would do well to listen to this and apply the opposition leader's test. I would like to contrast our approach to advancing Queensland through growth, innovation and jobs to the miserable efforts of those opposite. Let us have a look at the past actions of the member for Clayfield to predict his future action. Let us remember and contrast what the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP did when they were in power to assist us in predicting their future actions should they return to government.

In the 2012-13 state budget, after promising that nobody would be worse off, the member for Clayfield and the LNP implemented the most ruthless budget Queensland has seen for decades—over 14,000 public servants were sacked; \$1.4 billion was wiped from the state's capital program, halting essential road and infrastructure upgrades; and the supposedly low-tax LNP increased taxes by \$600 million. This was followed up with an uninspiring budget in 2013-14 that did nothing to stimulate growth or reduce gross state debt. In 2014-15, the centrepiece of that budget was a desperate attempt to reduce debt through a fire sale of the state's prime silverware by liquidating \$37 billion in highly profitable state assets. The cynicism of that particular budget was incredible. Not only had the then treasurer failed to keep debt under control up to that point, but around \$8 billion from these sales was earmarked for a range of pork-barrelling and wild election promises to prop up shaky LNP electorates.

Let us now look at the facts and examine the results of those three LNP state budgets. State government debt increased from \$62.6 billion in 2011-12 to \$75.5 billion in 2014-15—a shockingly high increase in debt of over \$3 billion per year. Under the LNP, unemployment in Queensland skyrocketed from 5.7 per cent in early 2012 to 7.1 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms by October 2014. What an achievement!

Of course, during the LNP's time in power, Queensland's credit rating was downgraded or put on watch by all three credit rating agencies—Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch. The rating agencies were clearly signalling to the government that the economic management of Queensland had worsened under their leadership, but the LNP would not listen. We all know how this ended—the people of

Queensland rejected this approach and the LNP were deservedly thrown out of power. I would hate to see the LNP back in power because I know exactly what they would do in their first budget. I know exactly what their plan for Queensland would be—it would be to cut, cut, cut because that is their solution to everything.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take the interjection from the member for Southport because there is an opportunity for the LNP to learn from their mistakes and understand that you cannot just cut your way to prosperity; you have to grow the pie so that everyone can benefit. The best way of doing this is through stimulating innovation and building a new economy. Rather than just thoughtlessly criticising the government, I would encourage the opposition and particularly the Leader of the Opposition to admit how hopeless their budgets were and publicly congratulate Treasurer Pitt for what is arguably the most impressive state budget in Queensland's history.

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (5.37 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Appropriation Bill. I start by saying that I think those in high-ranking positions in the government who have been a lot closer to the action than I have been would admit there are a lot of big numbers at play in any budget that are very difficult to interpret and very difficult for us to make a comment on as to how they are arrived at. The one thing we all inherently understand is that there are ever-increasing demands on services and expectations from the public within this period of a diminishing ability to recover those costs. I speak very much of the downturn in the resources industry and many other industries in my patch of the world. It is a challenge for any party in government, and I have a lot of respect for the people in Treasury trying to deal with that issue.

The point I would like to make—and hopefully it is a point of difference—is that a way to reconcile those expectations with our ability to get that revenue is to have less focus on that fiscal balance and more focus on unemployment and industry, particularly that building of industry. That is easy to put into words, but I think it can be done and there can be a change in government if governments get their hands dirty and play a part in how that industry builds.

The mantra for a long time in this state has been that it must be delivered through private industry. That can often be the best case, but we are in desperate need of new industries to be formed in this state and that sometimes takes the intervention of government. An example of that would be in the ethanol industry. I am pleased to say that we played a role in making sure that biofuels will now be mandated in this state. It is a new industry coming from nowhere and it builds jobs and produces something that goes some way to address that. There are many other opportunities that require intervention.

I think we can always do a lot better in that space. Whilst it is important to acknowledge and address that fiscal budget in the long term, there is no point in high-fiving and air punching in 10 years time if we have achieved budgetary balance—if we have balanced the books—but we have left industry in tatters around the state. That is a very hard thing to balance. In the long term, in the context of the current economy the focus on industry policy is more important than that fiscal balance. That is the commentary I would make on the overall direction of the budget.

I am very grateful for the contribution to the Hann Highway. I make a public thankyou to the Treasurer and the respective ministers. It has been talked about a lot. Some years ago a \$30 million contribution for the Hann Highway was made federally through my father. Since then, there has not been a lot of investment. There has been a lot of talk about it and there have been election commitments, but now we are seeing money in the budget. Irrespective of what happens in the federal election, that should trigger a response and some action for something that is really a collaborative initiative. I say that as the Hann Highway is located within the Mount Isa electorate, but I think it benefits more electorates outside of Mount Isa. It particularly benefits the banana industry and the growers of fresh produce on the Atherton Tablelands as it is fast-tracked to Sydney and Melbourne where it is readily consumed. The Blenners Transport and the Mackay bananas are much more a fan of the Hann Highway than other industries within my electorate because they will be the big beneficiaries. It is wonderful to see that funding there and I am very grateful for it. I see the minister for roads. That money is there; that is a big contribution and it is something for which we are very grateful.

There is some money for the refurbishment of some health buildings in Cloncurry. There are some buildings that look like they are from the 1950s and 1960s—probably because they are—and they are full of asbestos. There are three little huts. Most people in Cloncurry said, 'That is okay. We will put up with that,' but they are really unacceptable in this day and age. It is an embarrassment that

those health buildings in Cloncurry are still being used. They will finally be replaced. I think that the practical outcome of not building all new buildings but refurbishing a modern government building in Cloncurry that is vacant at the moment is a good outcome for everyone.

I turn to the extension of roads money into TIDS. The western roads package in last year's budget had a phenomenal impact on western areas and there is money still flowing through from that. With additional years of TIDS, that is a terrific benefit to all those western councils who rely on the vital money they get for roadworks. The TIDS funding went down to \$30 million and then it was \$40 million under the previous government. It has now been upped to \$70 million and that will extend for another year or two, which is very good news for regional Queensland.

Whilst it did not come through in this budget, I will make mention of the investment of \$25 million for the rail line between Townsville and Mount Isa. That is the sort of thing that builds industry. If more trains can be fitted along that rail and it is maintained there will be a more efficient rail service and more mines and more cattle can get on that line. That is good for everyone in the state. The \$25 million investment in that line and another \$12 million on culverts is a big investment on that Townsville to Mount Isa rail line from which many people outside the Mount Isa electorate benefit. I think that is an excellent spend of government money.

The rural assistance package cannot be underestimated. It has been a very long journey in making and forming those resolutions. I make reference to the rural debt task force and again thank the member for Ipswich West and the member for Nanango for supporting our efforts there and supporting that initiative. There was broad consensus with the majority of the recommendations in the chairman's report, and the majority of those recommendations have been delivered in this budget. The intent was to recognise that there are some very big structural problems in Western Queensland. I really have trouble putting into words the gravity of the problems that exist there and what it is going to take to turn those around. We were looking to those recommendations of that task force for measures that were sympathetic to the taxpayer but have the ability for some sustainable outcomes that really create generational change. I will just to elaborate on some of those points.

Honourable members may think it is a minor thing, but everyone has said that everyone needs financial coaching; we need to get on these farms and help these people understand their business. Another part of looking after people in rural areas is multiperil insurance. It is an initiative which is understated and lot of people do not understand the impact it has. Multiperil insurance is what people have when they do not have exceptional circumstances money. In the past, if people on cattle stations or farms were wiped out by flood or drought they used to have access to federal money for exceptional circumstances. Those days have gone; we will never see that money again. In relation to multiperil insurance, if we can create an industry whereby the industry can look after itself then they can self-fund some protection against exceptional circumstances.

To start up a multiperil insurance industry overnight data collection is needed. To get data collection people need to be encouraged to provide financial statements and get good, clear statements on their productivity and their financial position, which also helps enhance their financial strength and the robustness of their business, which is something that is also strongly advocated by the agricultural groups. These people need help with financial coaching, so we could kill two birds with the one stone. If the multiperil insurance industry participants get more data on productivity and on financials from people, they can then start to offer packages to these people out there. They can then protect themselves via insurance from things like drought and floods. This could be the start of something big. Generational change is being made with that amount of \$2,500 per farm that is made available in Queensland. It is following what has been a great initiative in New South Wales where the industry is taking off. That is a small point that is made in that rural assistance package. It has very big ramifications and is the start of something big.

The stamp duty concessions have not received enough air time. I believe that is a really good thing for rural people. There are a lot of people stuck out there at the moment who cannot afford to get off the farm. Mum and dad cannot afford to leave because there is not enough in it for them to buy a house in town and let the new generation take over. There might be a reluctance to take over because things are tough. With the reduction in stamp duty, that could result in up to \$300,000 on the average place in the Mount Isa electorate. Using that figure of \$300,000, that would be enough for mum and dad to buy a house on the coast and retire and let the kids take over the station, ensuring there is generational change. That is at a pretty big cost to the government. Getting that concession was not an easy thing to yield. Through the fullness of time I think many Queenslanders will benefit from that. Everyone around the state will benefit from the fact that we have enabled a newer generation to have that opportunity to come on and take over the primary production business from their parents.

The \$3.7 million package for education support in drought-affected areas is something that came from a lot of people—a lot of mums—coming forward who were very distressed that they could afford to send their kids away. That required a further input, even though there has been a seven per cent increase in LAFHA in the last couple of years. We have made some progress there.

That \$3.7 million package will allow them the right to have an education. The comment that remains with me came from a very distressed mum one night. She said, 'We chose this lifestyle, and we will put up with not earning any money so we can stay out here, but what really hurts us is that we have had to pull our kids out of school because we cannot afford to send them away. They may not have a chance, and perhaps we have committed them to another pathway. That is what distresses us the most.' Something that would hit at the heart of any Queenslanders is that people cannot afford to send their kids to school and they have no other choice, so that \$3.7 million will come in very handy for some people.

I detected a bit of criticism about the Office of Rural Affairs out of DAF, and I accept the criticism that often people do not want more bureaucracy, but the question is what do you do? Do you accept how things are operating now? With the emergence of the rural debt issue, what has been identified is that there was not enough analysis or focus from a policy level in DAF to acknowledge that the problem existed. Someone needs to be quarantined from the other section of the department and commissioned with identifying where these problems lie. That is an important thing to recognise, and this is where we have landed now.

I remember sitting in various meetings with both this government and the previous government, and time after time DAF officers told me that we have good drought assistance measures in place and drought concession loans are doing their job. It was not really a shock to me to learn that, as at December 2015, of the 265 drought concession loans that had gone out in Queensland, four of them had been in the Mount Isa electorate. Out of the worst drought-affected areas, over a third of Queensland, and four loans went out in my area. That tells members how useful they were in western and north-western Queensland. They were absolutely useless, and everyone was sitting around telling me how good they are. Yes, you always have problems with reporting from departments, but something needs to happen. Something needs to change in that space.

The same applies to the shakeup of QRAA. I think that was a comment from both sides of the House and the task force in addressing QRAA and the way that things are being delivered from there. There needs to be different attitudes taken towards how we address the problem of rural debt. We have a bill before the House, and that is an enabler to facilitate that to happen. I gave the example of drought concession loans. Something needs to be shaken up there because things were not being delivered and messages were not getting through to government. You can sit around and do nothing or you can make changes, so we appreciate the changes and I think they will have an impact.

I have some other information in my speech, which I will incorporate about the other components of the package. We could always do with more, but we are very appreciative of that coming through. It is a big change, but more needs to be done. I am sure that a lot of those issues will have a big impact and go some way to changing some of that.

Something that I strongly object to in the budget package is the strategy for monitoring vegetation. I do not want to go too much into the whole debate on vegetation management, but the focus is always to put money into monitoring areas. So much money is needed to fix up feral cats and pigs and prickly acacia—and I acknowledge that there has been an increase in the budget for prickly acacia—but if we stopped worrying about monitoring and punishing all the time and just tried to get some money into these areas where there are really big problems with callitrope bush, prickly acacia, pigs and cats, if we could channel some money in there or fix up some of the national parks in my area where they are degrading, that is where that money should be spent, not on increasing the monitoring.

The other thing I welcome is the \$19 million for biofuels. There are enormous efforts in this country from the oil companies to stem the rollout of biofuels, which will inevitably cost them money, but there are great opportunities for Queensland and this country to deliver a biofuels industry. I would like to think that we played some part in that \$19 million being put towards the biofuels industry. I think that will be a great thing for Queenslanders.

I would like to table some letters of support on another issue from community members and a nonconforming petition from the member for Dalrymple in support of the continuation of a generalist councillor position at the Ravenshoe Community Centre.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding the continuation of a generalist councillor position at Ravenshoe Community Centre [999].

Tabled paper: Bundle of letters regarding the continuation of a generalist councillor position at Ravenshoe Community Centre [1000].

I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my speech into *Hansard*. I have received approval from the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

The KAP has continued to assert ourselves in Parliament for our communities and all those outside of major city centres. It's resulted in rural Queensland and the Mount Isa electorate securing some wins in the 2016-17 State Budget. The delivery of the budget with funding for a number of key projects was validation of the influence of the crossbenchers.

In the Mount Isa electorate, these projects will create much needed jobs and stimulate the economies of our rural towns. It has been a long and hard-fought battle, but I'm proud to say we've been successful in delivering for the bush in the 2016-17 state budget. I have worked hard to put the focus back on the bush, championing for important rural and regional issues. The budget is a great example of what a minor party can achieve in a hung parliament. The focus on regional Queensland, particularly the implementation of many recommendations from the Rural Debt and Drought Taskforce, which I chaired, is welcome and very much needed.

There are some positive measures within the \$77.9 million Rural Assistance and Drought Package to assist rural producers and communities which was the culmination of hard work towards improving the outlook for rural towns. This will include almost \$42 million to extend existing drought relief arrangements and \$36 million to tackle rural debt and to provide other assistance, such as wild dog control and weed management.

One of the most pleasing aspects in the Farm Transfer Duty exemption, offering long overdue relief for stamp duty which will help inter-generational transfers of property and make it easier for the family farm to survive.

Education support for those in drought-affected areas will also assist in ensuring kids from the bush are receiving the best possible learning outcomes through \$3.7 million across three years. Many of these initiatives are the result of the hard work of the Rural Debt and Drought Taskforce and the input from the people of rural communities. Communities hit hard by drought will get support to extend measures to boost mental health initiatives and financial assistance, along with electricity relief for farm irrigation. The Office of Rural Affairs, another recommendation of the Rural Debt and Drought Taskforce Report, will collect specific rural data and report to government on the best way forward.

Funding for pest and weed management, boosting regional phone coverage, a review into Biosecurity capabilities and a new agricultural economy for food-based research and development are also positive measures. A commitment to transition Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders from prison into ongoing employment in the resource sector through the Jail to Jobs program is a welcome initiative to get more people back into work.

Then there's \$5 million over three years for the Youth Justice Transition to Success Program, providing additional funding to reduce recidivism and increasing participation in education and vocational training activities. There is also a raft of important commitment to the biofuels industry, which the KAP has advocated strongly for, and will continue to push for expansion. The Biofuels Mandate Implementation and Consumer Education Campaign will market research and development into this vital industry through a community awareness campaign around the benefits of Biofuels. This adds to the implementation of the biofuels mandate (Environment) to develop best practice environmental standards as part of the Biofuels mandate. The \$5.3 million Advance Queensland Biofutures 10 year roadmap and Action Plan will help build sustainable export orientated industrial biotechnology and bio products sector, creating regional high value jobs. A \$14 million Biofutures Industry Development Fund will also be established to enable businesses to access venture capital.

In the Mount Isa electorate, the Western Roads Upgrade Program will deliver \$32.4 million in 2016 out of a \$40 million total, due for completion in June 2017. One of the hallmarks of the budget is the long-awaited commitment to seal the Hann Highway, with almost \$20 million to deliver this critical piece of nation-building infrastructure. Other key roads include \$1.72 million in 2016-17 to strengthen and widen the Flinders Hwy (Richmond Julia Creek), \$1.2 million in 2016-17 for sealing the Richmond- Winton Rd, south of Richmond and \$1.2 million in 2016-17 to strengthen and widen Wills Developmental Rd and Julia Creek to Burke & Wills Junction.

For education there's more than \$6 million for schools in Mount Isa electorate. Schools in Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Winton and Normanton will benefit from upgrades to improve learning outcomes. At Winton State School, there's \$540,000 to complete the Manual Arts refurbishment and \$640,000 to complete the Home Economics Kitchen refurbishment. Normanton State School will receive 327,000 for Sports Court Shade Structure through the School Subsidy Scheme. Mornington Island State School will get more than \$3 million for infrastructure upgrades, including a nutritional centre. Through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program, Mount Isa Central State School has \$210,000 for refurbishments. Doomadgee State School will receive more than \$2 million for refurbishments and Cloncurry State School more than \$200,000 for upgrades. Three key health projects will also be funded, with the Alan Ticehurst Building scoring almost \$1 million for refurbishments.

There is \$300,000 in 2016-17 with a \$2 million total for the Boulia Community Hospital refurbishment and in McKinlay there is \$5 million for the multi-purpose health service to be refurbished and expanded. I've always said investment in infrastructure is a great industry enabler, and we will continue to pressure Government to commit to more funding in this area.

Some of the key infrastructure projects in the Mount Isa electorate include \$1 million for each of the Mount Isa and Richmond fire stations for upgrades, benefitting our hardworking firefighters. On Mornington Island, there is \$1,152,900 in 2016-17 as part of a \$1,647,000 commitment to improve community resilience through the Gununa Jetty and Barge Landing Redevelopment Project Stage 1. \$500,000 has been allocated as part of a \$215.4 million commitment over two years to provide a new Water Reservoir to Georgetown.

After being tragically destroyed by fire recently, there is a welcome \$840,000 in 2016-17 (\$1.2 million total) for the Waltzing Matilda Centre in Winton. In Camooweal, there is \$500,000 in 2016-17 for a solar generation project a welcome initiative which I hope is just the start of more investment in the renewables space. The McKinlay Shire also benefits from \$425,000 in 2016-17 (\$1.4 million total) for Punchbowl Bridge replacement. All of this is on top of the already announced \$25 million to upgrade the Mount Isa to Townsville Rail Line.

Whilst pleased to deliver for the bush, this is only the beginning of our constant pressure on Government to send a larger allocation of funds to rural and regional Queensland. The work will never be done and of course, there were some announcement within the budget that we questioned. The government is spending almost \$8 million dollars over three years and ongoing funding of 1.5 million for satellite imagery of rural and remote Queensland to assist with vegetation management. It's disappointing they will spend millions on spying on our primary producers, because apparently they don't trust our farmers to be responsible managers of their own properties. The government is spending \$10.8 million on the Queensland Art Gallery to bring International and 'blockbuster' exhibits to Brisbane, but sadly leave our primary producers struggling to make ends meet. The government is also going to invest in South East Queensland rail with an exorbitant amount on Cross River Rail with reckless abandon but mentions nothing of investment west of the Great Dividing Range.

There will always be negatives and we will never be fully satisfied, but this has been one of the best budgets in recent times for rural and regional Queensland. The delivery of the budget was validation of the influence of the crossbenchers and has only reinforced our position as champions of the bush. I commend the Bill to the House.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (5.56 pm): It is an honour to rise to speak in support of this Palaszczuk government budget and the associated appropriations. It is a further honour to do so as the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games in addition to my role as the member for Sandgate.

This budget is a strong Labor budget with a strategic focus on innovation, investment and infrastructure for Queensland's future. It is a careful and considered economic plan that will advance Queensland's economy and help deliver jobs now and jobs for the future. This economic plan is focused on job creation, and this Labor government is more than happy to compare our record on job creation with that of the opposition and its leader, the failed former treasurer and member for Clayfield. This budget is also targeted at helping working families in other ways, including easing cost-of-living pressure.

As the minister responsible for public transport I am particularly proud of the Palaszczuk government's Fairer Fares package. Ninety-three per cent of South-East Queensland commuters will see savings, with less money going to public transport expenses and more cash going towards making ends meet in the family budget. These current commuters will experience savings of between four and 34.5 per cent. This signal will drive increased patronage. In my own electorate of Sandgate those using public transport for local trips, as well as commuters into the CBD, will see more money in their pocket. Locals catching the bus from Bracken Ridge to Sandgate will save up to 18.6 per cent on their fare. My constituents catching the 330 bus service from Woolies at Bracken Ridge into the CBD will save up to 34.5 per cent each way. That means Bracken Ridge residents who take the bus to and from work in the city will save up to \$889.92 a year. Similarly, the thousands of commuters who catch the train from Sandgate Railway Station will save up to 25.6 per cent. Commuters taking trains from Shorncliffe, Sandgate and Deagon stations using that measure will save up to \$578.88 each and every year.

As transport minister as well as the member for Sandgate, I am also proud to be delivering—alongside the Treasurer—\$634 million to introduce the European Train Control System, or ETCS. The ETCS will help prepare the South-East Queensland rail network for the city-changing Cross River Rail project. The network efficiencies and improvements to be delivered by ETCS mean that commuters taking the train from my electorate in Sandgate will enjoy more reliable rail services, and that will occur right across the whole of the South-East Queensland rail network.

Labor understands that for a quality, modern and efficient rail network to benefit commuters we need to invest in technological solutions and the infrastructure that will support future population growth in the south-east. With the business case for Cross River Rail to be finalised soon, commuters know that only Labor can be trusted to deliver city-changing infrastructure that Queensland needs. The Palaszczuk Government Delivery Authority for Cross River Rail, which is funded in the Treasurer's budget, will ensure that politics is taken out of the project and that we can get on with delivering a top-quality project over a long period of time, delivering those city-changing elements.

The Palaszczuk government wants all stakeholders to be at the table in order to work towards a fair funding model for Queensland's No. 1 priority project. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and the LNP need to come out and show their support for this project without delay. We want Cross River Rail built, because we on this side of the House recognise its long-term value and the benefits for the people of this city and for this state. With Fairer Fares, Cross River Rail and ETCS, Labor is delivering an affordable and quality public transport system for South-East Queensland.

I will work together with my cabinet colleague and departmental colleague the Minister for Main Roads, Minister Bailey, to deliver the projects that will come out of the Palaszczuk government's \$20 billion investment in roads, rail, marine, public transport and active transport infrastructure over the next four years under the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program. Not only will QTRIP see investment in economy-boosting projects right across the state; it will also support more than 15,900 direct jobs over the life of the program.

Work on the construction of the Gateway Upgrade North is making great progress. It is a vital piece of road infrastructure that will reduce congestion, improve travel time, improve reliability, accommodate future growth and improve motorists' safety. It will make a huge difference in addressing congestion issues on the north side of Brisbane and also provide significant benefits to the residents in the Sandgate electorate so that they do not have to get on to the Gateway Motorway in order to conduct business around their local community.

Having obtained approval of its contents from the Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Now Mr Speaker, I wish to comment more specifically on how my constituents will benefit from the second Palaszczuk Government budget.

Mr Speaker, I have watched with great excitement as the Gateway Upgrade North project has progressed.

This joint State-Federal partnership was fought for long and hard by our local Federal Member for Lilley, Wayne Swan when he was Treasurer of Australia, as well as former local Federal MP for Petrie, now Attorney-General and Member for Redcliffe in this place, Yvette D'Ath.

I am thrilled that the Treasurer has worked with the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports, the Member for Yeerongpilly, to set aside a further \$250 million this financial year to continue the works on this \$1.142 billion project, which will widen the Gateway Motorway to six lanes from Nudgee Road to the Deagon Deviation.

In our local schools, I have had the great pleasure of speaking to the Principals of Bracken Ridge State High School, Brighton State School and Taigum State School to inform them of important projects at their schools, thanks to the Palaszczuk Government's budget.

The Minister for Education, the Member for Ashgrove, has worked hard to deliver a record education budget this year.

This includes \$250,000 for the refurbishment of the Resource Centre at Bracken Ridge State High School, and \$100,000 for a new Collaborative Outdoor Learning Area between A and B Blocks at Brighton State School.

\$50,000 will also be contributed for the refurbishment of the Special Education Program Learning space in E block at Taigum State School.

I would like to particularly thank the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Member for Waterford, and the Minister for Disability and Seniors, the Member for Mundingburra, for the \$5.622 million of funding for important community centres and groups in my electorate.

This funding will go towards supporting women and children fleeing from domestic and family violence, as well as youth services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with a disability or restrictive condition, amongst others.

The groups delivering these services include fantastic local groups, such as the Sandgate and Bracken Ridge Action Group, or Sandbag, the Jabiru Community Youth and Children's Services Association in Bracken Ridge, Kyabra Community Association and St John's Community Care in Taigum, just to name a few.

These Ministers have worked with the Treasurer to deliver \$6.652 million to assist people with a disability and their families to access support and services they need in my electorate of Sandgate, including funding for local service providers including:

- Ablecare in Brighton
- Montrose Therapy and Respite Services in Fitzgibbon
- Multicap Limited in Bracken Ridge and Taigum
- North Brisbane Personal Care in Taigum
- Qualtime in Taigum
- Sandbag, as previously mentioned, in Sandgate and Bracken Ridge, and
- Local church groups such as the Catholic Archdiocese and the Uniting Care Community

The record budget on health care outcomes for Queensland is very important to my electorate.

The Sandgate electorate has a significant number of older people living there, and access to quality health services is of utmost importance.

Making sure Northside hospitals are adequately funding is a passion that all Labor Members on the Northside care about.

Minister Dick's commitment to the Brighton Health Campus, or Eventide as it is better known, and the restoration of high quality aged care at that location is something of which I am very proud to work with him in ensuring.

Despite Federal Government cuts, the Metro North Hospital and Health Service administers great local hospitals and health services across the Northside, not all of which are in the Sandgate electorate, but on which those in my electorate rely.

Mr Speaker, this State budget is good news for Queenslanders, and excellent news for those doing it tough in my electorate of Sandgate.

This is a budget that helps strengthen the Queensland economy, as well as delivering key infrastructure priorities and important frontline services.

I wish to congratulate the Treasurer for this budget, and to commend the Bills to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.01 pm): I rise to talk to the budget. I will make a couple of key points about the Transport portfolio while the minister is in the chamber. We have been waiting for a review of public transport in Toowoomba. I think the minister has been elected for about 18 months. I am wondering how long the review might take. We look forward to receiving the results of that review. The simple fact is that public transport in Toowoomba is absolutely atrocious. No amount of other people's money—no matter how much you might want to take off them—will be able to solve the problem without a decent plan. I am looking forward to seeing the plan. It should be a fantastic plan because it has taken a very long time for the plan to be drawn up.

There are a couple of other areas in relation to which the minister needs to answer a few questions. The first is the great rail rip-off that is going on in and around Toowoomba. We have been waiting for a long time, as has everybody to the west of us, to be able to take agricultural containers down the 150-year-old range crossing. Last year we were quite excited because \$58 million was allocated in the Capital Statement. Some of that money was spent. The figures are particularly interesting. When you look at the amount of money that was spent in 2015-16 and you update that with the total amount that has been spent on the project you see that the minister has achieved something absolutely remarkable. He has managed to get a negative spend of \$358,000 on the project. He has actually managed to reduce the amount of money they spent last year with the amount of money they spent this year. I will be interested to understand where the negative amount of \$358,000 comes from.

This is a productivity piece of infrastructure. We talk about jobs and we talk about infrastructure. I hear a lot of rhetoric from those on the other side of the chamber, but on the ground there is not a great deal of action. Last year's Capital Statement said that \$58 million would be spent on this project, and this year's Capital Statement says that the total project is \$32 million. So \$24 million has gone walkabout. \$24 million has been ripped from the program that was allocated in last year's budget. The project was much trumpeted. Forms were put out in my area telling everybody how much money was going to be spent. We have now found that \$24 million has been pulled out of it and nothing was spent. Last year I heard all of the rhetoric: 'We are going to invest in infrastructure. There will be jobs on the ground for everybody on the Darling Downs. Won't it be fantastic?' In fact, they did not invest anything. They actually invested negative \$358,000 and reduced the total spend by \$24 million. It is very interesting accounting.

Why do we need these tunnels? One train with agricultural containers on it takes 85 trucks off the road. We talk about congestion in Brisbane. The people of Brisbane have a wonderful public transport system that I am sure one day—Toowoomba is in the south-east corner when it is being taxed but out of the south-east corner when it is a service delivery area—will extend all the way to Toowoomba. It will obviously not be on the current rail line, because it takes about 4½ hours, but eventually it will. Wouldn't the people in the south-east corner like to see some trains coming down the range from Toowoomba and the Darling Downs, with each one of them taking 85 trucks off Ipswich Road as they are trying to get to port; each one of them taking 85 trucks off the Gateway, trying to get around to the port; each one of them taking 85 trucks off the Warrego Highway. That flows on to maintenance, all of the work and investment that is needed. Labor could have done this by spending the money that it trumpeted it would spend last year but did not.

I want to talk about some other transport matters. I hope that the minister listens to what I am saying. The Toowoomba Second Range Crossing—1,800 jobs—is a project that I and the LNP team fought to have funded and delivered into our area to make sure local people got the jobs. What do we find now as this plan is developing? We find that the water will now be able to be brought out directly, saving about \$50 million, but it might affect other people's allocations. We find that five sets of traffic lights will be put out on the Warrego Highway, when we are trying to reduce the 18 traffic lights it takes to get through town.

There is all this talk about infrastructure again. Bear in mind that \$24 million has been taken off the rail project and a negative amount was spent last year. Some money was spent last year on the range crossing. That was good. We spent \$67.5 million. Unfortunately, the amount allocated in the Capital Statement to be spent last year was \$172 million. People in my electorate have been wondering where all the jobs on the range crossing are. They have been wondering where they have all gone to. Everybody is saying, 'There is supposed to be all these jobs. What is happening? I do not see anything happening. I do not see anything at all going on.' The government has the money. The government allocated the money in the Capital Statement 2015-16. I encourage people to go to the page and check

it out. I was very excited last year when I saw it. I think I even offered congratulations that the money was finally being spent. Unfortunately, the shortfall in the actual spend is \$104 million. Is this how we create a surplus? We talk about what we are going to spend and then we do not spend it?

Between those two projects, \$120 million allocated in last year's Capital Statement was not spent when it was supposed to have been spent. To me that is a real shame, because there are people in Toowoomba who are unemployed and have the qualifications. In fact, two civil engineers live next door to me. One has gone north for work and the other has gone to New South Wales. In New South Wales they are spending some of the money they have to build some infrastructure—rather than just putting out brochures saying that they are going to spend the money and then not spending the money.

We find ourselves about \$128 million short, just in my little tiny footprint. This affects local people who are looking for jobs. They are looking for opportunities to get work. There are apprentices looking for opportunities to get an apprenticeship. Suddenly, hundreds of millions of dollars has been dragged back to the centre to try to scrape through some artificial surplus. At least the money in the range is still there to be spent in the future.

Mr Russo: Well, that should make you happy.

Mr WATTS: It does make me happy because that was the deal that was signed by us with the federal government, so unfortunately those opposite cannot get out of it because our government signed that deal. It does make me happy that they will spend the federal government's money eventually. Unfortunately, it would be nice to do it now. This is a frozen-at-the-wheel government: lots of talk, a few brochures, some pretty things saying that there are going to be all these jobs and everything else, but nothing is actually happening.

I turn now to Highfields State School. I was very proud to play my part in getting that school built. It was something that was announced when I was a candidate in 2008 running for the 2009 election. Kerry Shine, who was a good local member, is a very clever politician. A week after we announced it and after him being elected for eight years, guess what he did? He announced that he would build it too and he committed some money, yet in his next three years unfortunately he did not allocate one dollar to acquiring it and getting the construction underway. The previous government purchased the land but there was nothing to build the school. We allocated the money to build the school, stage 1 was built and the school is now oversubscribed by what was expected by the department. Interestingly enough, for big year groups coming through, last year it was allocated \$14.5 million in the 2015-16 Capital Statement. That is what was allocated last year for stage 2, and again I congratulated the minister on allocating that money. Unfortunately, we find that this year it has been cut back by \$5 million. School enrolments are higher than were expected and the design of the school was originally done in three phases, but we now find that \$5 million has been ripped out of it. While there are these raids and these rip-offs and these writedowns going on, what we find—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr WATTS: I am happy to take the interjection, because what we find is that \$24 million has been ripped out of the rail—that is the first one—\$100 million has been ripped out of the range crossing and \$5 million has been ripped off the kids at Highfields and their families. It is a great school and I really hope we do not start doing second-rate stuff because someone is trying to penny pinch to get a surplus. Unfortunately, \$5 million is a third of the budget and it has gone straight out of the school. That is a real shame because the kids at Wilsonton did not get anything at all. I heard the member for Morayfield talk about how he was really pleased to get some money to enclose one of the school halls in his electorate, and I commend him for getting that money to enclose it. At least they had a cover to start with! I understand that the school in his electorate would probably have slightly different temperatures from Toowoomba in the middle of winter, but it will be nice because they will be cosy and warm in his electorate and in Toowoomba they will be standing outside!

Mr Power interjected.

Mr WATTS: I cannot hear the interjection from the member for Logan.

Mr Costigan: You're not missing much!

Mr WATTS: No, but I will take that interjection. If he wants to come up the front a bit, I am happy to take the interjections, because whatever it is he is talking about he is talking through his hat, and we all know that.

I am really keen to analyse the two brochures that were put out—the one from the budget last year relating to the Darling Downs and the one from the budget this year relating to the Darling Downs. What we find is that Labor is going so well in my area given that dwellings sold were at 6,088 in 2015-16

and under the stewardship of this government—it has really ramped it up—it is now 5,441, a drop of 647 houses. If you are a tradie in my area—if you are trying to build new houses or if you are looking for a new house—unfortunately, there are fewer around. There is less construction going on under the stewardship of this government. It had been going up previously, but it is going down now. In terms of brand-new builds—the first one was the dwellings sold and this one is the brand-new builds—what we find is that last year there were 1,922. They were obviously still coming off a bit of a boom from when the LNP was in government, because in 2016-17 we find that 1,576 residential dwellings have been approved for construction. That is only down by 346—another wonderful achievement!

Even better than that was the prediction of population growth. No wonder those opposite do not want to spend any money on infrastructure in Toowoomba. It would appear that by their own numbers people have already said, 'If you're not going to spend any money up there, we probably can't live there. We'll have to come and crowd in the south-east corner with everybody else,' because in one year we have managed to drop the predicted population by 20,000 people. By 2036 it will have dropped by 20,000 people. If this government stays in power, we should be able to buy a house really cheaply in Toowoomba because I do not think that by 2036, if we lose 20,000 people a year, there will be many people left living there at all! Again, this government is frozen at the wheel. It has all of these brochures and everything else about what is going to happen and how wonderful it is going to be and where it is going to spend the money, but what actually happens? Not very much on the ground at all.

What we find on the ground is that the people I represent are saying, 'Trevor, where are the jobs? I thought they were going to employ locally. Where are they?' I have been asking questions on notice—members can check the record here in the parliament—about what is a local, where are the jobs, what is going on, what is the communication plan, what is happening. We know what is happening now that we see it in the budget. What is happening is that \$100 million is being shuffled away from the Darling Downs and the Toowoomba second range crossing to plug some black hole that exists somewhere else—\$100 million ripped out of that.

With regard to dropping \$24 million from rail, what the people really need with the rail network is some certainty, because the rail network is in desperate need of investment and there is a great opportunity at Charlton to invest in putting stuff on rail. Each train would take 85 trucks off the road, as we have said. There is 150-year-old infrastructure that needs just a little bit of help. The money was allocated and everybody agreed that it was a good idea, but absolutely nothing happened apart from we managed to get a negative spend.

These businesses need to at least know that what is in the Capital Statement this year will get spent this year, so I ask the minister to put out some kind of guarantee. We are talking about people who want to invest hundreds of millions of dollars to try to move freight in this nation. They need some confidence from the minister that what he said is going to happen will happen and that next year we will not be back here with another \$24 million ripped out of the \$32 million that he has allocated this year and there is nothing much happening on the ground. They need some confidence. It is the same with the second range crossing. Businesses need to know that this is going to open on time, yet it is going to be hard to get it open on time if we do not start spending some money on it—money that was allocated but then has been ripped back out of it—soon.

There are a couple of the things that are worrying me in my area. There is the Wilsonton campus hall. If ever there were something that pained me on election night, I have to say that probably the most disappointing thing for me was knowing that I had won my seat but this government was not going to help the kids out at Wilsonton.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr WATTS: I hear the member for Logan squawking away up the back there. Unfortunately, the people of Wilsonton put their faith in Labor. They were looking for Labor to deliver for them and they have been abandoned—completely abandoned. Their children are at a school that has around about 800 kids and they are standing outside. There is not even enough area to protect them from the rain.

Let me go through a couple of other things. We have all seen the Captain Risky ads on TV. What they are really trying to say with those Captain Risky ads is that if you moderate your risk you will pay a lesser premium. I know that is a really difficult concept, but if you tune in and watch the commercials you will start to get some understanding of it. We had a system here to provide for the future of our public servants and their retirement that was second to none in the country. What do we find? This Treasurer, much like the Captain Risky guy in the ads, is throwing caution to the wind and is squandering that money, which will inevitably lead to higher rates of interest being paid as people

quantify the risk of the government of Queensland borrowing more money. The reason the credit rating is important is that we end up giving less money to merchant banks. Those members opposite need to try to understand what they are putting at risk. We do not need any magic tricks or anything else from the Treasurer. We need a sensible budget that delivers.

What happens if something goes wrong? There was a nickel refinery up north that was travelling really well. People were getting a Mercedes bought for them. People were getting trips overseas. Everything was wonderful and fantastic. Then what happened? When there was a bit of a crisis, all the gloss came off and we found that people could not get their entitlements because the provision for their entitlements had been squandered. Some people got a Mercedes, some people got trips to Fiji—everybody had a good time—but when pressure came on the nickel refinery, their entitlements had been squandered.

Fortunately, we know that, under legislation, these defined benefits will be paid. Those opposite need to think about who is going to pay those benefits if we encounter a crisis and they have squandered the money like Clive Palmer did on Mercedes cars and trips overseas. The people who will pay the benefits will be their children and their grandchildren. Their taxes will have to go up—

Mr Russo: Rubbish!

Mr WATTS: Mark my words, after a crisis, the member for Sunnybank will come into this place and know that he has made his children poorer by spending their money. Not only were there dodgy growth predictions in the budget, but \$3.4 billion was taken out of public servants' long service leave allocation, \$4 billion was taken out of the superannuation fund for public servants, \$4 billion in debt was switched from the government to the GOCs, and the government let itself off from paying \$2 billion in superannuation. That is \$13.4 billion. What is the surplus this year? Is there a \$13.4 billion surplus? This is money that has been taken. This is money that someone has to pay back at some point. This is not some pretend money. Our children will have to pay back this money. I implore members not to support this budget.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (6.21 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Palaszczuk government's budget for 2016-17, its second budget. Queensland voters sent a clear message that they do not want their assets sold, that they want a steady, consultative government with progressive reform and a government that keeps its promises. This government is honouring that commitment through this budget. This government is delivering a budget that charts a course to surplus without asset sales.

The Department of Energy and Water Supply plays a crucial role in supporting the delivery of energy and water to homes and businesses across Queensland. Labor understands the importance of keeping the cost of living down, with spiralling energy and water bills during the term of the previous Nicholls-Newman government putting enormous pressure on Queenslanders, with 43 per cent increases over three years.

The reliable and cost-efficient delivery of energy and water gives businesses a foundation on which to grow and leads to the creation of new jobs right across Queensland. This year's state budget invests \$655 million across the Energy and Water Supply portfolio. In particular, the 2016-17 budget delivers for regional Queenslanders.

The government has committed \$561.2 million to fund the community service obligation, which ensures that regional Queenslanders pay the same for their electricity as those living in the south-east corner. Despite the additional cost of maintaining electricity poles and wires and moving energy across vast areas of rural and regional Queensland, the community service obligation ensures that a family in Townsville, Cairns or Mount Isa pays no more for their electricity than does a family in Brisbane.

Building our regional communities and growing our agricultural sector is vitally important for the Queensland economy and job creation. The government's investment in regional Queensland will support drought affected farmers and deliver cost-effective solutions for the delivery of water and electricity services. This budget includes \$4 million to support Queensland farmers battling drought conditions by providing relief from fixed charges for electricity accounts that are used to pump water for farm and irrigation purposes. As an aside, it is good to see that there is a steady amount of rain heading across large areas of this state over the next few days. This funding is part of the Palaszczuk government's \$41.9 million drought assistance package.

Queensland biofuels can power our vehicles, diversify our fuel mix and reduce carbon emissions. By supporting the use of biofuels, we have an opportunity to drive growth in our regional areas and add value to the state's abundant agricultural resources. Therefore, the government has committed \$8.2 million to support the implementation of the biofuels mandate, including educating consumers about the benefits of biofuels.

To support the ongoing collaboration between regional water providers, my department has committed \$1.2 million over the next two years to the Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program, known as QWRAP. This funding fulfils an election commitment to provide ongoing financial support and certainty for the QWRAP initiative, which encourages regional councils to work together in the provision of urban water services and promotes leadership in striving towards best practice service delivery to their communities. By investigating collaborative approaches to providing water services, this program, led by the Local Government Association of Queensland, identifies cost-efficient measures to save councils money, supports knowledge sharing and identifies ways to collectively improve and deliver the best possible water services to communities across regional Queensland.

This budget also includes a further \$6.9 million to provide total funding of \$8.9 million for Local Management Arrangements projects. This project involves agreeing on final terms for transitioning ownership and control of the Theodore, St George, Eton and Emerald schemes to local management as well as providing additional funding for the Bundaberg, Burdekin-Haughton, Mareeba-Dimbulah and Lower Mary schemes to carry out further investigations and prepare revised business proposals on how those schemes could operate under local management.

To limit price increases for Queensland irrigators, my department will invest almost \$6 million this financial year into ensuring that prices for SunWater and Seqwater's rural irrigation schemes move gradually towards recovering the true cost of supply. This important measure provides relief for irrigators and farmers who would otherwise be faced with significant increases in water prices if they were required to pay the full cost of supply immediately.

In addition to the departmental budget, there is \$2.2 billion in capital purchases for energy and water statutory bodies and government owned corporations that report to me as the minister. Some significant new initiatives include Ergon investing \$787 million to ensure continuing safe, efficient, reliable electricity supply in regional Queensland. Ergon is also preparing for the integration of new technology into its network by investing \$8.2 million for the battery storage network development, otherwise known as the GUSS—the grid utility support systems, which are big industrial sized batteries going into our regional electricity network. I see the member for Maryborough smiling and waving, because he knows how much his community benefits from the latest battery storage technology that is helping our network right now under this government.

Energex has a capital program of \$705.3 million that is aimed at improving and reinforcing electricity supplies across South-East Queensland, especially to meet peak electricity demand periods and to support the increased use of residential solar power storage batteries and electric vehicles and appliances such as air-conditioners.

CS Energy will invest \$48.2 million for improvements to the Callide Power Station, including overhaul work. Stanwell Corporation will invest \$50.5 million for Stanwell Power Station projects, including a major overhaul of unit 2 and \$63.4 million in Meandu Mine projects, including coal handling preparation plant replacements and upgrades.

SunWater will invest \$18.6 million to improve works at Paradise Dam and Seqwater will invest \$12.6 million to continue refurbishment and upgrade works at several water treatment plants, such as Lowood, Mount Crosby and North Pine.

I also acknowledge the investments that we are making in renewable energy, with the hydros at Wivenhoe, Kareeya and Barron Gorge as well as geothermal power at Birdsville. When it comes to renewables, we are keen on whatever form they take.

An opposition member: What about the power of the unions?

Mr BAILEY: The member would know all about that. That is why he is on that side. This budget highlights how Energex and Ergon—the electricity distribution businesses—support the whole of Queensland through their capital works program and ongoing services. These are exciting times for the energy sector. The changes associated with the merger are combined with the market transformations driven by significant new renewable generation capacity and the introduction of new technologies, as I outlined in a speech earlier this week.

The Palaszczuk government has a key leadership role in supporting the development of emerging technologies and industries such as those in the renewable sector. As the minister, it is my focus to ensure that key industries are adapting to their rapidly changing environments. We are passionate about progressing our election commitments in support of this important industry. For example, we have tripled our election commitment to provide long-term financial support for up to 120 megawatts of installed large-scale solar generation. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I have had that approved by the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

Ports

Queensland is serviced by 15 trading ports, two community ports and three smaller ports from Brisbane to Burketown.

Palaszczuk Government is keeping these ports in State hands.

Our ports are our gateways to international markets—they contribute significantly to our state's economy, handling approximately \$47 billion in exports last financial year.

They have a central role in the facilitation of trade which provides income and jobs for many Queenslanders.

They boost local economies, driving jobs in the local community and providing significant flow-on effects to other local industries.

Government owned port corporations alone employ approximately one thousand full time staff.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to fostering the economic activity of our ports, creating more jobs for Queenslanders while protecting the environment.

We will continue to invest in port infrastructure and the roads that service them, boosting productivity and growing our economy.

TMR

Mr Speaker, the 2016-17 Budget continues the Palaszczuk Government's significant commitment to delivering road infrastructure right across the State.

The Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP) outlines our key priorities over the next four years, with over \$20 billion in investment for both road and transport infrastructure across Queensland.

It also continues the Palaszczuk Government's focus on jobs and the economy, supporting an estimated 15,900 direct jobs over the life of the program.

This budget delivers on our commitments made through the State Infrastructure Fund (SIF).

It delivers \$200 million towards the Ipswich Motorway (Rocklea to Darra) Stage 1 project, and I can advise the House that early works have begun on that project this week.

It provides our 20% commitment towards the Pacific Motorway-Gateway Motorway merge upgrade—despite the fact the Australian Government continues to ignore its responsibilities and refuses to commit to the project.

Other projects funded under the State Infrastructure Fund include:

- the \$40 million timber bridge replacement package on the Dawson Highway from Gladstone to Biloela
- the \$30 million duplication of Riverway Drive in Townsville, from Gollogly Lane to Allambie Lane
- the \$22 million Sunshine Coast University Hospital intersection upgrades package at Kawana Way and Nicklin Way
- the \$10 million Rockhampton Road Train Access Stage 1 project.

More than \$144 million worth of infrastructure projects state-wide have been fast-tracked under the Accelerated Works Program.

These projects will help to drive the economy and sustain and create more than 400 jobs in regional Queensland.

The first one of these, Mr Speaker, the Heavy Vehicle Breakdown pad in Townsville has already been delivered and I was delighted to open it with the Member for Thuringowa earlier this month.

Building on the 2015 Palaszczuk Government's Building Our Regions election commitment—which we accelerated by a year—this Budget delivers an additional \$30 million per annum through the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) from 2017-18.

This program is vitally important to local governments across Queensland and this additional \$90 million will extend the ongoing base investment in TIDS to \$70 million per annum across all QTRIP years.

This will provide much needed planning certainty to many local Councils, sustaining local jobs and improving local infrastructure.

This is in addition to the \$40 million Western Roads Upgrade Package the Palaszczuk Government announced last year to stimulate and secure jobs in the western part of our State.

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government is a government for all Queenslanders, no matter where they live, and this Budget proves that again.

In north Queensland, \$42.3 million has been provided for a pavement widening package on the Gregory Developmental Road between Charters Towers and The Lynd to deliver around 30.9km of wider and safer two-lane highway to accommodate future increases of heavy vehicles.

It's not just a road safety project, Mr Speaker, it's also a productivity multiplier and an example of our commitment improving freight efficiency.

Also in North Queensland, \$34.6 million has been provided to construct a new high-level bridge on Gregory Developmental Road at Cape River, 116km south of Charters Towers.

I inspected this site earlier this year with the Member for Dalrymple. I know this will be welcomed by the local community, and will greatly improve future flood resilience in this part of the State.

In north west Queensland, \$19.6 million has been provided as the state's contribution for improvements to the Kennedy Developmental Road (The Lynd—Hughenden), known locally as the Hann Highway, to improve productivity, resilience and safety.

The Australian Government commitment to complement Queensland's funding is now going to allow progressive sealing of sections of the highway over the next five years.

Not only will this provide and secure much needed local jobs, Mr Speaker, it will also provide an alternative to the Bruce Highway during adverse weather events.

Meanwhile, on the Gold Coast we will continue to deliver our Commonwealth Games Roads Package—a more than \$160 million investment that is improving the local road network before the Games in 2018.

Mr Speaker as well as being Minister for Main Roads, I'm honoured to have the responsibility for Road Safety.

Road safety has been a strong focus of the Palaszczuk Government since its beginning and this Budget continues that commitment.

We're investing an additional \$82 million over two years for road safety programs, road accident injury rehabilitation and safety upgrades—funded by speed camera revenue.

Reducing the road toll is one of our top priorities and that's why we invest this money back into targeted projects that will save Queenslanders lives.

Mr Speaker, I'd like to touch on some of the contributions to the debate we've seen from members opposite.

The Leader of the Opposition set the tone early. No mention of road safety, and only one mention of roads and it was incorrect!

He claimed that funding was delayed to improvement programs along the length of the Bruce Highway.

That's not correct. Where there are funding reductions in 2016-17, they are predominantly due to savings that will be reallocated to the next agreed priority.

In fact in many instances, the 2016-17 funding is increased!

The Leader of the Opposition might be interested to know that those savings and reallocations are all done in conjunction with the Federal Government—and we are continuing to work with them to accelerate projects.

Unfortunately, many Members of the Opposition seem to have taken their lead from their Leaders flawed premise.

In particular the Member for Glass House got it wrong when discussing the upgrade of the Bruce between Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway.

Let me assure the Member—and his colleague the Member for Maroochydore—this more than \$1 billion upgrade remains on track—as agreed with the Federal Government—for construction to begin in late-2016.

The allocation in the 2015/16 QTRIP was an estimate, based on historical forecasting and preliminary designs, whereas the 2016/17 QTRIP funding is based on actual design and construction forecasts by the proponents.

What Members opposite also failed to acknowledge was that the previous LNP Government had a timeframe of ten years for this project, which would not have included widening the highway from four to six lanes.

In stark contrast, the Palaszczuk Government secured a deal with the Federal Government last year to widen the highway from four to six lanes, upgrade the interchanges and to accelerate the project so it finishes four years ahead of schedule in mid-2020.

The Member for Burleigh has suggested that my department's service delivery statement is blank. It is anything but.

While PowerQ provided a valuable perspective of the strategic challenges facing the electricity sector and set out a number of actions it lacked a sufficient focus on driving job opportunities and protecting the environment.

We are reviewing the strategy to ensure these important issues are appropriately prioritised and that we deliver on our election commitments including the Queensland Productivity Commission review into electricity pricing and the Independent renewable expert panel.

Those elements of PowerQ which deliver value for Queenslanders will of course continue in line with our priorities for the energy work program.

Mr Speaker, our government has established the independent Queensland Productivity Commission (QPC), delivering an important election commitment.

Two of its critical work programs have been to investigate electricity prices as well as a fair price for solar.

The Commission has run a public consultative process, and we will closely consider the final reports and recommendations.

The Member for Burleigh has suggested that I am keeping QPC's final report on electricity prices a secret.

We will always do our best to look after the interests of pensioners and low income earners.

The report is significant and requires whole of government consideration.

Under legislation I have 6 months to respond in writing to the report, but will be responding before then.

The Member for Burleigh also appears to have referred to a reference in the QPC's draft report on electricity prices about preliminary modelling of a 50 per cent target. This was based on some high level assumptions.

The Renewable Energy Expert Panel I announced on 27 January will undertake a much more detailed analysis and advise on credible pathways towards 50% renewables by 2030.

Importantly, the Expert Panel will consider the benefits as well as the costs and look at scenarios where the Federal Government and other states also do their fair share.

The Panel currently has released its issues paper and undertaken public consultation—it will finish its work by the end of 2016.

There is a departmental budget allocation of \$1.2 million, which includes panel engagement and internal costs.

By way of comparison, the Independent Review Panel (IRP) on Network Costs (undertaken during the previous Government) was allocated a budget of \$1.5 million to undertake their review over a similar timeframe as the Renewable Energy Expert Panel.

Mr Speaker, unlike those opposite, the Palaszczuk Government will develop a renewable energy economy for Queensland. We'll turn the Sunshine State into the Solar State.

Yeerongpilly Budget Initiatives:

As the Member for Yeerongpilly, I'm pleased to advise the House that this Budget has delivered for my local community.

The Palaszczuk Government is continuing our investment in Queensland Netball, with \$15 million allocated to continue constructing the new State Netball Facility at the Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre in Nathan—part of the \$30 million total cost of the project.

We're also supporting the local Olympic FC, Football Club by upgrading their lighting to provide better grounds—\$27,253 of the total \$54,505.

There is grant funding of \$60,000—part of a 3 year, \$180,000 commitment—to Dr Wayne Water from Griffith University to conduct research into "Making Solar Better: Advanced Electronics for Distributed Energy Storage".

Dr Fernanda Adame from Griffith will also receive \$60,000—again, part of a \$180,000 3 year commitment—to conduct research into: "Cost Effective Restoration of Wetlands that Protect the Great Barrier Reef".

There is also grant funding of \$100,000 as part of a \$1 million commitment over four years provided to Griffith University towards: Peak Demand Energy Management.

Other initiatives include:

- \$1.225 million to ensure children in need of protection have a safe place to stay in Yeerongpilly including funding for local service providers:
 - UnitingCare Community in Annerley; and
 - Mercy Community Services in Moorooka
- \$100,000 to assist persons under 65 or an Aboriginal or 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 Yeerongpilly, including funding for local providers like:
 - The Corporation of the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane in Annerley and Rocklea
 - Yeronga Meals on Wheels Incorporated in Yeronga
- \$18.087 million to assist people with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need in Yeerongpilly including funding for local service providers like:
 - AEIOU Foundation in Nathan
 - Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland in Moorooka
 - Deaf Services Queensland in Moorooka
 - FSG Australia in Salisbury
 - Homes West Association Inc in Yeronga
 - Life Without Barriers in Annerley
 - Montrose Therapy & Respite Services in Yeerongpilly
 - Multiple Sclerosis Society of Queensland in Annerley
 - The Corporation of the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane in Salisbury and Yeronga
 - The Richmond Fellowship of Queensland in Annerley
 - UnitingCare Community in Annerley, Salisbury, Tarragindi and Yeerongpilly.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (7.30 pm): I rise tonight in response to the Palaszczuk government's second budget. Abraham Lincoln once famously stated, 'You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.' That profound statement epitomises the second 'Pitt the Younger' budget. Let me begin my budget reply speech with where I left off last year when I stated—

As they will sadly learn, you cannot play catch-up tennis with financial management. At some stage, you have to pay back the piper. This sleight-of-hand budget will come back to haunt the government during the remainder of their time in office. It is a one-off sugar fix that lacks vision and true economic reform in their quest to chase short-term political populism. This budget fails future generations by avoiding the tough decisions required to be made by this generation. Unfair, intergenerational debt will continue under Labor.

So much for the one-off sugar hit. Unbelievably, this government raided the right-hand side desk drawer last year and has now raided the left-hand side desk drawer. It is indeed a budget of raids, rip-offs and writedowns.

In addition to the delivery of the state budget at this time of the year there is, of course, another extremely important activity that also occurs. I refer to next week's second State of Origin match. Whilst on the rugby league field we may be going in ahead having won the first match, I am disappointed to say this is the only way we are ahead of New South Wales right now when we look at state finances and economic performance. According to Budget Paper No. 2, page 5, Queensland's general government debt is forecast to be \$37.775 billion for 2016-17. If one includes non-financial public sector borrowings, debt is estimated to be \$75.270 billion over the same time period. I was very interested in comparing and contrasting our position to that of our fierce interstate rivals south of the border and so I undertook a little exercise. According to that magnificent research bureau, the Queensland Parliamentary Library research section, the estimated resident population, the ERP, of Queensland is 4,832,491 citizens as at 15 June 2016—a couple of days ago. This represents \$7,816.88 of general government debt per capita. However, if we look at debt per capita including the non-financial public sector borrowing it equates to, per capita, every Queenslanders, \$15,575.82.

By way of economic comparison, the New South Wales 2016-17 budget will be released on 21 June this year. Forward estimates in the 2015-16 budget, the half-yearly review, show \$5.108 billion of government debt for 2016-17. The New South Wales population for 2016 is 7,708,850 people. Therefore, based on this data, New South Wales' per capita debt is \$662.62. For the benefit of the economic illiterates across the chamber, let us repeat the economic State of Origin scorecard once more. Queensland's per capita debt is \$15,575 per head versus New South Wales per capita debt at \$662. I am not sure about other members, but I know which side I would rather be on in this particular game.

Despite raiding hollow logs for two years in a row we still pay as a state approximately \$450,000 per hour in debt interest. If our state credit rating is downgraded—hopefully not, but if it is—this interest bill naturally increases. As I stated in my budget in reply speech last year, every budget needs a contextual framework to underpin it. Since being elected this government has continually stated it is all about jobs, jobs and jobs. The 2016-17 Budget Highlights document lists under the title the contextual framework of this budget as job-creating innovation, investment and infrastructure. If you cannot stimulate the economy as they were hoping to do with last year's failed budget what is there left to do? Buy jobs! As the editorial in the *Australian* newspaper stated on 15 June—

Instead, Anastacia 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.

How has the \$10 million investment in Jobs Queensland been going? Having an economics background I read with keen interest Budget Paper No. 2, page 106, section 5.3.1 pertaining to employee expenses. The accompanying chart 5.3 shows it all. The wages bill for bureaucrats is ballooning by a billion dollars a year in Queensland—

Mrs Smith: How much?

Mr MINNIKIN: A billion dollars a year! I take the interjection from the member for Mount Ommaney. That hired 10,000 extra public servants over the past 12 months. Incredibly, government departments have overshot employment targets by 4,104 workers during 2015-16 on top of the 6,177 additional staff they were supposed to hire. Full-time-equivalent staff numbers soared by 10,281 to a record 210,000 public servants. The bloating bureaucracy will recruit 5,087 more staff in 2016-17 fuelling annual wage costs by 4.9 per cent to nearly \$21 billion. According to Natasha Bitu writing in the *Australian*, also on 15 June, in the past decade, the Public Service has swollen by 24 per cent from 160,000 to 210,000 employees.

I have asked this in the past and it is worth revisiting: does this government truly understand how to rework capital on a balance sheet, what about the notion of elasticity of demand, how about risk spread using the 10-year bond rate as a starting measure? Those opposite have no idea. Over the last couple of days I have listened intently to Labor backbenchers who are maintaining their democratic socialist party line speaking points, regurgitating their budget in reply speeches with many—in fact, most—incorporating their speeches into *Hansard*. As is evidenced by many of their career backgrounds, as I stated last year, what worries me is their lack of fundamental economic business precepts and concepts. What I continue to find appalling though is that some of the culprits, such as some of the current ministers responsible for driving the state into the ground with a massive debt burden in the failed Bligh government, have come back into this 55th Parliament. Their lack of real world business acumen continues to be truly breathtaking.

As was the case last year, members on the other side of the chamber have been hoodwinked by their own leadership team into thinking that the fiscal principles adopted in this smoke-and-mirrors budget are actually sustainable in the medium to long term. Like the vacuous lemmings they are, they eagerly accepted their USB sticks with their pork barrelled goodies and now simplistically chant 'ALP good, LNP bad'. Judith Sloan recently wrote, again in the *Australian*—

There are very real dangers in raiding the super fund, particularly as it comes on top of the decision last year by Pitt to suspend contributions for at least five years. The issue with actuarial assessments that demonstrate the scheme is overfunded is their sensitivity to small changes in key variables. A surplus can quickly disappear as these variables change.

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.

...

The day of reckoning will come and, it is not far away.

I believe that other members on this side of the chamber have used that exact quote.

As I have mentioned previously in the chamber, I have tutored in economics next door at QUT. Similar to my comments last year, this budget is lightweight, lacking in long-term vision and true reform. It merely delays the inevitable fiscal pain and, yet again, would not pass muster as an undergraduate assignment. Much to my dismay, there are a few basic precepts that members opposite fail to fundamentally come to grips with. In my speech on the budget last year, I mentioned that throwing ever-increasingly large amounts of money into key government areas such as health and education is not in itself a measure of success.

Every government proudly boasts that theirs is a record budget spend on X, Y or Z. It is certainly true that state government services and activities need to be adequately funded to provide for our citizens, but it is about the effectiveness of outputs and not just input efficiencies. As I keep repeating over and over to members opposite, it is what you actually do with the resources, rather than just throwing money at an issue. Labor's mentality is based on the false premise that to improve an aspect of public policy one simply needs to throw more money at the problem, rather than look at how to best achieve outcomes by looking at the efficiency of all business inputs and the effectiveness of all of those outputs.

The 2016-17 budget handed down a couple of days ago is most definitely a budget for the future—that is, the future of intergenerational debt and deficit. The Labor mantra of jobs, jobs and jobs is really spend, spend and spend. This is a budget that claims to be focused on innovation, investment and infrastructure, but it is not. The only innovation I see each year is new innovative ways to steal from Queenslanders and then promote operating surpluses and debt repayments, while debt actually increases over the forward estimates. It is a budget that has seen \$4 billion ripped out of the defined benefit scheme to pay for its deliverables. Treasurer Pitt has now set out to put Australia's most secure Public Service superannuation fund at risk. Tellingly, the State Actuary recommended that only \$2 billion—and we have heard this, already—be utilised, but incredibly the Labor government ignores that sage advice and rips out \$4 billion. Simply put, the Palaszczuk Labor government is indeed playing Russian roulette with the Public Service superannuation fund.

This is another smoke-and-mirrors budget. It is fiscally irresponsible. There is nothing fair about making our children pay for the irresponsibility of this government's broken promises. It involves stealing from Queenslanders to pay for a list of projects that deliver very few cost-of-living benefits. It is a budget that sees the cost of living for Queenslanders continue to grow, with the hikes on car registration creeping up higher and higher to be amongst the highest and most expensive in the country. The only

infrastructure I see from this budget is the construction of broken promises and tall tales, as well as underpinning in infrastructure. The ALP cannot even commit to their own commitments. I will say it again: this budget is a budget for future generations, as future generations will be forced to pay for the decisions made today by the Palaszczuk-Pitt government.

What are some of the lowlights? Would the following pass muster at the public bar? Would it pass muster at the Carina Leagues Club tonight or tomorrow night? What we have is a budget that claims to boost employment, but unemployment continues to rise. We have a budget that claims to build new infrastructure, but has record low infrastructure spending. We have a budget that claims to lower debt, but instead has it increasing. We have a budget that sees Public Service expenses rise, incredibly, at six times the population rate. We have a budget that sees taxes and charges increasing at twice the inflation rate. No, I do not think it passes the public bar test at all.

Last year the Labor Party raided entitlements from the right-hand drawer by shifting \$4 billion of debt onto government owned enterprises and, just as irresponsibly, this year it is taking \$4 billion from the left-hand drawer which contains public servants' superannuation. Indeed, it will be interesting to see what assets will need to be sold to have that \$4 billion materialise as it is not a pile of gold coins sitting in a vault, contrary to what some of the tyros across the chamber must think.

According to the 2016-17 budget papers, revenues are set to rise by 3.2 per cent, with the current spend to increase slightly below that at 2.9 per cent. The state's ability to meet those targets will be challenging given commodity price forecasts, which will necessitate strong fiscal resolve to control current spending. I agree with the comments that have come from both sides of the chamber that past behaviour is the best way to predict future actions. As we have seen with the current crop of new members, it does not seem to matter which Labor Party members come or go: in their DNA they all share an absolute inability to understand what expenditure containment and debt control is really all about. We must always remember that on past form they have a proven track record of year-on-year expenditure growth of 10 per cent. That is unbelievable. It is why we are in the mess we are in today. The economic geniuses and neophytes across the chamber need to remember that extreme year-on-year expenditure growth that was undertaken by the end of the Beattie government and elevated to a new art form by the Bligh government has massively contributed to the financial position that the state finds itself in today. The key take-out message is that Labor's prodigious appetite to spend and spend knows no bounds.

Like last year's budget, there is another problem here: according to table No. 2 on page 5 of Budget Paper No. 2, overall non-financial public sector debt will climb to \$77 billion by the end of Labor's term in 2017-18, which is around the same figure as when they took office. Just like 12 months ago, the democratic socialists will have merely come full circle. So much for their much taunted debt repayment strategy. It is another series of myth busters taken to a new extreme. It has amused me to see the ALP lemmings across the chamber begin many of their speeches by congratulating the Treasurer on his sound economic stewardship.

As I did last year, I give the government credit for at least one section of the 2016-17 budget. That may be found in Budget Paper No. 2 on page 145 at point 7.1.2 under 'Opportunities for reform'. This process represents an opportunity for Queensland to ensure reforms align with objectives to clarify federal-state relations, improve sustainability and the efficiency of Queensland's revenue base, and address vertical fiscal imbalance. I have already spoken in this chamber on these issues and I intend to do so again in the future, as VFI is critical to this state. True to form, the Palaszczuk Labor government has handed down a budget that has been propped up by raids, rip-offs and writedowns. Incredibly, even with the economic sleight of hand, over the next four years Labor will still spend \$2.3 billion less on capital purchases than we committed to whilst in government. This government promised to pay off net debt, but the budget sees an increase to net debt of \$7 billion. Our debt is now climbing towards \$79 billion and it is becoming clear that there is no plan to fix it. This government is, indeed, asleep at the wheel. Last year, the Treasurer predicted the employee expenses would grow at 5.3 per cent. However, he is now forecasting growth of 7.3 per cent. That is almost six times our state's annual growth rate.

As I mentioned last year in my speech on the budget, all politics is local, so I will discuss the budget in relation to my great electorate of Chatsworth, which sadly and predictably will not take all that long. The worsening traffic congestion on Old Cleveland Road will continue and residents can continue to ruminate this fact as they pay extra for their car rego. Similar to last year, I note in Budget Paper No. 3, the Capital Statement, the Queensland State Velodrome funding of \$6.5 million is provided for, along with \$14.8 million for the Belmont Shooting Centre, as part of the Commonwealth Games preparation.

I have been working tirelessly with the Gumdale State School community to put the motions in place for their school master plan to occur. I lobbied hard for funding to be committed to stage 1, to improve amenities for local students and teachers, centred around creating much needed building canopy space by constructing a new sports oval on adjoining Department of Education land. I am proud to state that this final stage of the project is nearly completed and will be opening in coming weeks.

However, as far as this year's budget is concerned, the cupboard is bare for the good burghers of Chatsworth. With more than 34,000 constituents, 10 incredible schools, three of which are independent public schools, two major feeder roads that connect eastern Brisbane with the Brisbane CBD, and a major shopping centre, Carindale Westfield, I am simply amazed at how little my constituents will receive from this budget. Like all people, those people work hard, pay their taxes and abide by the law. What do they get? Continued budget funding into two sporting facilities, compelled only because of the upcoming Commonwealth Games. Like many members, I still have schools without wi-fi, air conditioning or fans, with maintenance issues and roads that are listed as some of the worst in Queensland in terms of congestion. What my electorate needs is a responsible government; a government that can see the needs of each electorate, instead of pork-barrelling and investing solely in their own seats.

It is interesting to watch this government reward the people who vote for them. I will be the first to admit that we lost the trust of Queenslanders at the last election. However, Queenslanders did not vote for a government to take their superannuation, they did not vote for a government to thrust \$4 billion worth of debt onto their power companies, forcing electricity prices to increase. I have said it before and I will say it again, they are economic tyros.

With regard to what my wonderful constituents are receiving in this 2016-17 budget, it is closer to nothing than it is to something. Notwithstanding this, I will continue to fight for my great seat of Chatsworth. I will continue to lobby the government to ensure they receive what they are equally entitled to.

In closing, this budget, like last year's budget, is disappointing on multiple fronts. As I mentioned in my first speech, our role and responsibility as a government is to provide an opportunity deposit slip for all Queenslanders and not an entitlement chequebook. It is our responsibility as the government to be an enabler of opportunity and not a provider of assumed entitlement. This budget fails to offer on this compact.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (7.50 pm): The 2016 Palaszczuk government's budget is good for my electorate of Mackay and regional Queensland. The budget delivers on much needed new infrastructure and maintenance projects to get tradies back to work, with opportunities for apprenticeships. This is what my community has been asking for.

The Palaszczuk government's second budget has thoughtfully and successfully addressed the neglect our emergency services and other vital community services endured under the former LNP government. While the former LNP government treated our firefighters as a low priority, the Palaszczuk government has worked to rectify the LNP's reckless mismanagement by restoring funding to this important sector. Mackay's firefighting response capabilities will be overhauled with a \$7.5 million dedicated modern fire station in Mackay. The funding will provide complementary emergency services support facilities to the Mackay region. This new station will deliver better equipped infrastructure to respond quicker to emergency situations we may face in the future. I am pleased our hardworking emergency service workers will have the best facilities with new office accommodation, staff amenities, storage, operation areas and vehicle accommodation.

Students in Mackay are also going to benefit from the state government's budget. As a passionate believer that all students should receive the same educational opportunities, regardless of where they live, I am thrilled to announce that there is \$10.6 million in capital works funding. Mackay District Special School, Mackay State High School, Pioneer State High School, Victoria Park State School and Mackay West State School will be all sharing this funding. For our students to have the best chance at success, we need to ensure our schools continue to be quality learning environments. This extra school funding is a welcome addition to our region. I look forward to seeing these important projects underway and benefiting our teachers, staff and students.

Mental health is a pressing issue in my community. The current LNP federal government has shamefully neglected the Mackay community by withdrawing funding for transition housing—a shameful lack of support for regional mental health services. My colleague the member for Mirani and I hosted a recent visit to our region of the Minister for Health at the Mackay Horizons clubhouse. The members at

this clubhouse told heart-rending stories of how their lives were turned around being able to access transition housing—moving from acute care into the community. The fact that almost every person in our region knows of someone who has been affected by mental health issues and suicide and yet the current federal LNP government has continually denied people access to support services through their ruthless lack of funding is clear evidence they are out of touch with what is important.

One of my most important priorities since being elected to represent my electorate of Mackay has been to lobby for increased mental health services and facilities for our community. That is why the member for Mirani and I have asked the Premier and the health minister to provide additional mental health support services in Mackay, and they delivered. The Palaszczuk government is investing \$12 million to build new step up, step down community managed mental health facilities at three regional locations, including Mackay. Our new 10-bed facility will provide prevention and recovery care services which will support the transition between acute and community services for people with mental illnesses. This facility reflects my community's need and will deliver innovative mental health services that offer flexible, recovery focused care close to home and support networks. There can be no doubt this facility will save lives.

In line with the Queensland government's commitment to creating new and diverse employment opportunities, the budget provides \$1.3 million for a new Mackay region tourism centre to develop our emerging local tourism industry. This is great news for the community as part of a state-of-the-art visitor information centre for Mackay which will be repositioned on the highway and designed to recapture visitors who currently bypass the city. This project would integrate with other tourism upgrades currently taking place in the region. I am delighted the visitor information centre is expected to be completed and ready for operation in November 2017—in time for the peak Christmas holiday period.

Not only is this great news for our local tourism industry; this project will also provide local construction jobs for our region. The tourism industry employs more than 6,000 people in the Mackay region and brings economic output of more than \$1.4 million per year. This project will help connect visitors to the fantastic tourism offerings around Mackay. I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my speech, which I have had approved by the Deputy Speaker, in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Growing the tourism industry will benefit local businesses and support jobs in the region.

In addition—a \$435.8 million infrastructure spend in the Mackay, Mirani and Whitsundays region in the 2016-17 budget will support an estimated 1500 jobs locally.

All of this has been achieved without the need for asset sales. I commend the Palaszczuk Government on the delivery of an economically responsible and future focused budget that will provide widespread benefits across my electorate.

Mr Speaker I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my speech approved by the Deputy Speaker.

Other Key initiatives announced in the budget that will support jobs and growth in Mackay and region are (new and continuing):

- \$5.3 million in 2016-17 to continue the replacement of bridges and approaches at Vines Creek, Harbour Road, North Mackay, at a total cost of \$28 million. These works represent a portion of the \$144.6 million Accelerated Works Program.
- \$4.8 million in 2016-17 to establish a long life Multi Offloading Facility at the Abbot Point Port, at a total cost of \$8.6 million.
- \$500,000 to commence construction of a replacement Mackay Tourism Visitor Information Centre, total cost \$1.3 million.
- \$50,000 in 2016-17 to develop a strategy to identify and prioritise safety upgrades to principle cycle routes in the Mackay urban area, at a total cost of \$100,000.
- \$3.4 million in 2016-17 to construct a Roll Off Roll On ramp at the Abbot Point Port, at a total cost of \$3.5 million.
- \$3.6 million of \$4.7 million to complete construction of additional classrooms at Mackay District Special School.
- \$300,000 for amenities upgrade including replacement of air-conditioners at Pioneer State High School.
- \$1.1 million refurbishment of the swimming pool change rooms at Victoria Park State School.
- \$1.2 million to refurbish the Home Economics and Manual Arts classrooms at Mackay State High School.
- \$55,755 of \$500,000 to complete the upgrade of Prep Classroom at Andergrove State School.
- \$400,000 to commence construction of Mackay replacement fire station, total cost \$7.5 million.

Other initiatives (ongoing and continuing):

- \$9.2 million to continue replace aged assets at the Mackay Substation, the total estimated cost of the project is \$32.3 million.
- \$2,646,000 from multiple ongoing funding sources to non-government organisation as part of the Homelessness Base initiative to deliver homelessness services for Queenslanders.
- \$1,659,319 from multiple funding sources to commence construction of 10 dwellings as part of the Public Rental Housing New Construction initiative due to commence in July 2016.

- \$530,000 from multiple ongoing funding sources to provide Home Assist Secure for Queenslanders aged 60 years and over, and people of any age with a disability.
- \$508,000 from multiple ongoing funding sources to provide transitional housing to eligible applicants with high or very high needs as part of the Community Rent Scheme.
- \$57,000 from multiple ongoing funding sources to registered housing providers to deliver crisis accommodation as part of the Crisis Accommodation Program.
- \$216,400 as part of a \$461,400 commitment to be spent in 2016-17 to invest in communities through funding for the Dudley Denny City Library in Mackay.
- \$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..
- \$0.09 million for the Rural Water Use Efficiency for Irrigation Futures program to assist the irrigation sector statewide to achieve more productive on-farm water use.
- \$2.25 million as part of a \$215.4 million commitment over 2 years funding the Building our Regions program, this project is to provide upgrades to 42 sewage pump stations across the Mackay Region.
- \$250,000 as part of a \$6 million over four year investment into regional waterway health report cards.
- \$236,000 for crocodile management as part of \$1.9 million allocated in 2016-17 under the enhanced crocodile management strategy, worth \$6 million over 3 years.
- \$50,000 is provided as part of a \$150,000 over 3 year agreement to support the operations of the Mackay Conservation Group.
- Finalisation of Mackay Hospital redevelopment.
- \$12 million to develop Step Up/Step Down Units in regional communities.
- \$123,076 as part of a \$469,604 commitment over four years to support and enhance community relations with people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.
- \$1 million to commence expansion of public moorings and coral appreciation zones on Great Barrier Reef, total cost \$2.4 million.
- Mackay Cricket Association Inc: \$118,753 to complete the construction of the dressing rooms, coaches box, upgrade oval and install lighting at Harrup Park at Mackay, worth \$734,121.
- \$77,680 to increase participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in structured sport and active recreation activities in each community; to deliver a quality and sustainable multisport and recreation program; and increase the capacity of communities to plan and manage quality sport and recreation appropriate to local needs as part of the Indigenous Community Sport & Recreation Program ongoing program.

Department of Communities Child Safety and Disability Services

- \$313,000 for the George Street Neighbourhood Centre Association in Mackay, including \$200,000 to commence major upgrades to the Mackay Neighbourhood Centre worth a total of \$1.2 million to improve connectivity between building spaces, increase functionality and efficiency and address overcrowding.
- \$4.457 million to ensure children in need of protection have a safe place to stay in Mackay including funding for local service providers:
 - Churches of Christ in Queensland in East Mackay
 - Marabisda in Mackay
 - Life Without Barriers in North Mackay
- \$721,000 to support the needs of children in out of home care in Mackay, including funding for local service providers:
 - Churches of Christ in Queensland in East Mackay
 - Mackay Hospital and Health Service in Mackay
- \$2.206 million to support families to safely care for their children in Mackay, including funding for local service providers:
 - Act for Kids in Mackay
 - Churches of Christ in Queensland in Mackay and East Mackay
 - George Street Neighbourhood Centre Association in Mackay and East Mackay
 - Mackay Women's Centre Inc in West Mackay
 - Mackay Youth Support Service Inc in Mackay
 - UnitingCare Community in Mackay
- \$793,000 to respond to domestic and family violence in Mackay including funding for counselling and court based services provided by Domestic Violence Resource Service (Mackay & Region) in Mackay.
- \$563,000 to deliver support to vulnerable Queenslanders, including funding for local service providers:
 - Murri Watch Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation in Mackay
 - UnitingCare Community in Mackay
 - Domestic Violence Resource Service (Mackay & Region)
 - Community Accommodation and Support Agency in Mackay

- Mackay Women's Centre in West Mackay
- Mackay Yamadi Lera Yumi Meta Association in Mackay
- \$619,000 for women's support services in Mackay, including counselling, community support and capital funding for the Mackay Women's Centre in West Mackay.
- \$572,000 for services to support young people in Mackay, including funding for local service providers:
 - Mackay Regional Council in Mackay
 - Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association in North Mackay
 - YIRS One Stop Youth Shop in Mackay
 - Madec in Mackay
- \$612,500 to establish new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services in the Mackay and Whitsundays 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 other electorates in the Mackay and Whitsundays areas—funding not yet awarded to organisations to determine exact location)
- \$4.160 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 Mackay, including funding for local service providers like:
 - Blue Care: Head Office in Mackay
 - Community Accommodation and Support Agency Inc in Mackay
 - HTM Community Transport Inc in North Mackay
 - Integrated living Australia Ltd in Mackay
 - Life Without Barriers in North Mackay
 - Mackay Community Visitors Assoc Inc in West Mackay
 - Mackay Hospital and Health Service in Mackay
 - Mackay Meals on Wheels Association Incorporated in Mackay
 - Mackay Yamadi Lera Yumi Meta Association Inc in Mackay
 - Ozcare in Mackay
 - Skills Training Mackay Association Inc in Mackay
 - The Presbyterian Church of Queensland TA PresCare in Mackay
- \$0.010 million to provide support for older people to help maintain and strengthen their connections to the community in Mackay, including funding to Mackay 50 and Better Programme Inc in North Mackay.
- \$13.437 million to assist people with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need in Mackay, including funding for local service providers like:
 - Autism Queensland Limited in West Mackay
 - CQ Nurse Pty Ltd in West Mackay
 - Endeavour Foundation in Beaconsfield, East Mackay, Mackay and West Mackay
 - Engedi Inc. in North Mackay
 - Funding to Individuals in Andergrove, Beaconsfield, Mackay, North Mackay and Slade Point
 - Healthcall Pty Ltd ATF the Healthcall Unit Trust in Beaconsfield
 - Innovative Disability Employment and Liaison Placements Assn Inc in Mackay
 - Life Stream Services Inc in Mackay and North Mackay
 - Life Without Barriers in North Mackay, South Mackay and West Mackay
 - Mackay & District Spinal Injuries Assoc Inc in West Mackay
 - Mackay Advocacy Inc in Mackay
 - Mackay Family Care & Community Support Inc in Andergrove and Mackay
 - Mackay Hospital and Health Service in Mackay
 - Mackay Regional Council for Social Development Ltd. in Mackay
 - Madec Ltd in Mackay and South Mackay
 - Multicap Limited in Beaconsfield and West Mackay
 - Phoenix Place Inc. in Mackay
 - The Cootharinga Society of North Queensland in Mackay, North Mackay and West Mackay
 - The Presbyterian Church of Queensland TA PresCare in North Mackay.

I congratulate the Treasurer Curtis Pitt and commend the budget.

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (7.55 pm): As the Leader of Opposition Business I rise, as is a tradition in this House, to conclude the budget address-in-reply on behalf of the opposition. Can I begin by thanking and congratulating all of the opposition members who contributed to this debate over the last couple of days. I am proud of the way that opposition members have upheld the purpose of this parliament.

I have a fundamental concern about the way the government members have incorporated their speeches into *Hansard*. When we come to this place and begin to incorporate large quantities of material into *Hansard* we are going down a path that will inevitably lead to a point where we might as well all not be here.

In considering this question and in balancing the extent to which speeches were incorporated against the time constraints for people who obviously think they have a lot more important things to do, we have to remember the purpose of this parliament. When it is possible to incorporate such large amounts of material into *Hansard* then the purpose of this parliament is eroded. The purpose of this parliament—

Mr Dick: What complete rubbish.

Mr SEENEY: I would say to the member for Woodridge that the purpose of the *Hansard* record is not to allow government members to incorporate a whole range of material that is written by somebody else and emailed in here without the people whose name it stands under even beginning to understand it. One of the things that has been clear enough in this debate is that so many of the government members did not have a clue about the material they were incorporating. They did not understand the words that were supposedly theirs and were being incorporated into the record of this House. It was clearly obvious from the limited amount of delivery that we have seen in this place.

Every one of us was elected to be here as a parliamentarian—to stand in this place and represent the people who sent us here and not to come in here, as so many of the government backbenchers have done, and read speeches that they obviously did not write, to read speeches that were produced in some sort of cookie-cutter fashion so that they could have all of their material incorporated into *Hansard*.

Mrs LAUGA: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Callide is alleging that many members in this place, including myself, did not write our speeches. I personally take offence to that and I wish the member to withdraw.

Mr SEENEY: On the point of order, the member cannot take offence because I did not mention the particular member. If she wants to identify herself as someone who did not write her speech—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Thank you, member for Callide. I find no point of order on that.

Mr SEENEY: I particularly congratulate the Leader of the Opposition for the contribution that he made. It stands in stark contrast to the contribution that was made by the Treasurer when he delivered his speech. One of the features of this budget, if you like—and I have seen quite a few in this place—was the sheer unbelievability of it. That was reflected in the delivery of the Treasurer when he delivered his speech in here on Tuesday afternoon. As the Leader of the Opposition said, he could not deliver a pizza. It was obvious that his heart was not in it, he did not understand the words and he did not understand the concepts, and his body language showed it. Never was there a more reluctant Treasurer than the one who came in here on Tuesday afternoon.

After about 10 days of gaffes, mistakes and sheer ridicule from the financial community in Queensland, he trotted in here with his tail between his legs for one of the most dismal budget performances that I have seen in the 20 years I have been in here. The sheer unbelievability of the Treasurer's delivery has been reflected in the delivery of every other member in this parliament. They believed it so much, they were so fired up by it, they were so passionate about it that they had to incorporate their speeches rather than stand in here and fulfil the purpose of this parliament—such was their passion. It flowed directly from the passion that was exhibited by the Treasurer when he came in here with what would be the most unbelievable budget that I have seen in the 20 years I have been here.

It is worthwhile asking yourself what a budget is supposed to be. The member for Southport touched on this, as did the member for Chatsworth. What is a budget supposed to be? In the rest of the world, out in the corporate world or in local government, it is supposed to be a document that sets the expectation of the entity in relation to its income and its expenditure. It is supposed to be a document that imposes discipline on that organisation to meet those targets. A budget is supposed to be a document against which the management of the organisation is judged and their performance is assessed, but the document that was presented to this parliament on Tuesday would never serve any of those purposes. Does anybody seriously believe the projections that were in the document presented by the member for Mulgrave? Does anybody seriously believe the growth forecasts that—

Mr Rickuss: Four per cent.

Mr SEENEY: Yes, four per cent. Does anybody seriously believe that? Do any of those mindless backbenchers up there think we are going to come in here in 12 months time and see a four per cent growth rate? Of course we are not. That is what makes the budget so unbelievable. Does anybody really believe that we are going to come in here in 12 months time and see all these jobs created because you have all stood up and said, 'This is a jobs budget'?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members!

Mr SEENEY: You can stay—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Callide, I am on my feet. Resume your seat now. You will be warned under standing order 253. You know the position when the Speaker is on his feet. Members, there is more work to be done tonight. I would urge you to show some respect and consideration in your contributions.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, I begin by apologising. I did not even know you were there. I am sorry. I absolutely understand the protocol when you are on your feet. I will continue questioning the remotest possibility that anybody would seriously believe the projections that are in this budget document.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I know you are primed, member for Callide. I know you have been here all day and you have been very tolerant listening to the contributions. Member for Lockyer, I do not think the member for Callide needs any prompting. I urge the government members to not prompt the member for Callide and we might get through this speech and move onto the vote, as well as the other bill which is waiting in the wings to be debated which I think will take a number of hours.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, as you say, I have been here for a couple of days, as is my responsibility in this position, and I have been saddened by the level of debate that has characterised this budget in reply debate and by the whole budget process. The budget that that has been introduced into this parliament this week is characterised by this unbelievability—this unbelievability around its key measures, the key elements, the things that define what a budget is. Nobody believes them. No-one in here believes them; no-one out in the community believes them. No-one out in the community believes that this government is going to reduce debt. Of course they are not, because in the budget documents themselves debt is going up. Nobody out in the community believes that this government is going to constrain the growth of the Public Service. Of course they are not because the figures in the documents themselves show the increase in the Public Service numbers.

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr SEENEY: The Treasurer comes in here and talks about his fiscal elements or whatever the term was—the things that are going to guide him.

An honourable member: Fiscal principles.

Mr SEENEY: Yes, the fiscal principles, that is the one—the fiscal principles that he is going to be guided by.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, I know you are primed. I would urge you to make your comments through the chair and then you will know when I want you to pause for a moment. The Treasurer will have an opportunity to respond. As I understand it, I do not think the member for Callide interjected on anyone during the debate on the Appropriation Bill. I certainly have not heard it.

Mr SEENEY: That is unusual, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: That is unusual, but I think you are making up for it now.

Mr SEENEY: At the conclusion of this budget in reply debate—and it is called a debate—it is important to see the budget for what it is, and the process has demonstrated that. The process in this House has reflected the reception in the community. The process in this House has laid bare the unbelievability of the document that the Treasurer presented on Tuesday afternoon. As I was saying, the fiscal principles that he referred to are in themselves an indication of the unbelievability because

the fiscal principles were broken, were destroyed, no longer applied as soon as he said them—especially in relation to the government's so-called constraint of the growth in the Public Service and the expenses that go with that.

One of the things that someone such as me who has sat in this place for a long time gets to see is the body language and the interchange between members in this House. We know when there is disruption in the ranks on either side; you can tell, you can see.

An honourable member: You can smell it.

Mr SEENEY: Absolutely.

Mr SPEAKER: Can you come back to the theme, please.

Mr SEENEY: This week, one of the features of this budget has been the lack of enthusiasm by the members of the government for the budget. It is clear to me that even they do not believe it. It is clear to me that even they have grave concerns about the document that the Treasurer introduced. When we watch members such as the member for South Brisbane and the member for Woodridge and the way they respond to the answers that the Treasurer gave in answer to questions about the budget over the last couple of days, we can see the contempt writ large. They know that their government has a—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! One moment, a point of order. Pause the clock.

Mr DICK: I rise to a point of order. I am taking a point of order. I think I have the call.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, come on.

Mr DICK: I take personal offence at the idea, the suggestion and the words used by the member for Callide. I ask him to withdraw. Mr Speaker, I also draw you to the point of relevance. This is the second time the member for Callide has not spoken one word at all about Appropriation Bills, about the budget papers, about the—

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister.

Mr DICK: No, it is a slur on members to describe their demeanour and the smell, as those members opposite have described. It is a slur on this parliament and members when he is not speaking to the parliament and I ask you to bring him back to the relevance of the budget.

Mr SPEAKER: The *Hansard* record will show I have already asked the member for Callide to come back to the purpose of the bill. Member for Callide, will you withdraw any of those comments that the minister finds personally offensive?

Mr SEENEY: I will withdraw whatever the member finds personally offensive. I thank the member for Woodridge for his guidance. When the member for Woodridge was in this House as the member for Greenslopes, he was well known to have the most fragile glass jaw in the place.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, we do not want to get into personalities. Please, member for Callide, can you come back to the bills.

Mr SEENEY: I know that those were the bad old days; we do not do that anymore. We are nice to each other now in this parliament. I am happy to be nice to the member for Woodridge.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, can you please come back to the purpose of the bills we are debating tonight?

Mr SEENEY: Absolutely. As I was saying before I was interrupted, this budget is characterised by the sheer unbelievability of a number of its key elements. I think the element that is most unbelievable is this notion that somehow or other the Treasurer is doing Queensland a favour by repatriating a lost \$4 billion. It sounds as though he has found a flock of sheep that has been lost and he is bringing them home—repatriating \$4 billion of superannuation funds. The question I think that the Treasurer needs to answer at the conclusion of this debate is the question that every Queenslanders who has thought about this is asking, and that is: why is he the one who has suddenly found these lost sheep? What about all the other treasurers who have struggled with the task of balancing the state's income against its expenditure? What about all the other Labor treasurers stretching back in time? What about people like Terry Mackenroth, who was treasurer; David Hamill, who was treasurer; Keith De Lacy, who was treasurer; and Anna Bligh, who was treasurer? What about those Labor treasurers? Did they not know about this flock of lost sheep that suddenly the member for Mulgrave has found and now he is going to repatriate; he is going to bring them home? Of course it is nonsense.

The people of Queensland know that this is the second fiddle in two years. Last year there was a \$4 billion fiddle. There was a \$4 billion con as he shifted debt on to the government owned corporations.

Mr Walker interjected.

Mr SEENEY: That was an extra; that was over and above. The member for Mansfield talks about the holiday contributions. That was over and above the \$4 billion fiddle that was perpetrated on the government owned corporations. This year there is another \$4 billion fiddle, another \$4 billion fraud that the Treasurer seeks to explain as 'repatriating these lost dollars'. Nobody in this House believes that. Even the government backbenchers do not believe it. Even though they stand up like loyal soldiers and read the speeches they have been given, they know in their hearts that they are not repatriating lost funds. The Treasurer is not repatriating lost funds; he is sticking his hand into the last hollow log that the government can find and he is taking out—

Mr HARPER: I rise to a point of order. I ask him to withdraw. The member for Callide has suggested that we have—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. I have heard your point of order. It is not a point of order. There has been no personal reflection on you as the individual member or by way of your electorate. The member for Callide has six minutes left.

Mr SEENEY: I think that claim, above all else, highlights the unbelievability of the budget. It highlights the unbelievability of the sales job or the message that the Treasurer has tried to communicate that has been so soundly rejected in this parliament, across the state and in the media over the last three days and that will continue to be over the next few weeks as the people of Queensland come to understand that two fiddles in two years is not sound financial management.

One of the other things that I think has been indicative of the debate in this House over the last two days as I have sat here and listened and reflected on debates in the past, is the extent to which every government member has sought to justify the budget by attacking the opposition and the opposition leader as if by doing that somehow the budget can be justified. They think that somehow that absurd financial management, those stupid claims about repatriating funds and meeting targets that everyone knows are impossible can somehow be achieved if only they can show how horrid this particular member is or how nasty that particular member is. Then all of a sudden everything will be right; the finances of Queensland will suddenly be good. That is as absurd as the other thing that every member of the government did. Every member of the government—or every speechwriter who wrote the speeches for them—was working on the principle that if they say it enough times it will be, that somehow or other repetition creates reality. In the real world it does not. Repetition does not create reality. Hard work creates reality. If they want to build infrastructure, they have to get out there and make it happen. If they want to create jobs they have to free up the elements of the economy that create jobs. They cannot just come in here and repeat it over and over again.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr SEENEY: I will take the interjection from the Leader of the House because that is a great example. He and the Minister for State Development come in here and knock what we did in terms of our Royalties for the Regions program—\$500 million invested in infrastructure in regional Queensland. The program that they replaced it with has invested \$400,000, yet they come in here—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, thank you. Leader of the House, please do not provoke the member for Callide.

Mr SEENEY: However, they come out, as the member for Ipswich did last weekend, and open the projects; they come up and snip the ribbon and say, 'The Queensland government is delighted to invest in this infrastructure.' That is the hypocrisy of this government. They criticise the work that we did to make those projects happen. They cannot make the projects happen themselves. They are frozen at the wheel. They are bogged down in terms of any sort of administration, but they love to take the credit for what we did, just as the Minister for Main Roads did in relation to the work that the member for Hervey Bay did on the intersection in his particular electorate.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, one moment. I know you are in full flight. Leader of the House, please do not provoke the member for Callide at this stage. It is getting late and there is another bill to come.

Mr SEENEY: The other point that I would like to make before my time regrettably runs out is to say to all of the innocent government backbenchers who stood up here and read those speeches with some sort of 'cargo cult' delivery, just listing off all the things that were happening in their electorates: can I let you in on a secret? All of those things are part of departmental programs. They happen anyway. You did not make them happen: they happen anyway. They are part of departmental programs. Whether it is a program in the health department or a program in the education department, they happen anyway. You can stand up here and take the credit, but you had absolutely nothing to do with it. Your contribution to this budget reply was to read out a list of things that you got in your electorate and then move that the rest be incorporated. You failed in your duty as MPs because you did not scrutinise the legislation that the Treasurer introduced into this House and—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (8.21 pm), in reply: I rise to close the debate on the 2016-17 Appropriation Bill and the other cognate bills. It is hard to follow such a positive contribution. It really was a constructive contribution to this debate. I think it took him about 14 minutes before he finally got to the point. After denigrating people for 14 minutes, he then started complaining—

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. That is not even right. I find the Treasurer's comments personally offensive and I ask for them to be withdrawn.

Mr PITT: I withdraw. The member used the word 'unbelievability' quite a few times, and I think it is unbelievable that he is still here. He is from a bygone era and he has tonight shown that he himself has no respect for the parliament, nor does he have respect for you and your role, Mr Speaker.

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. I find that comment personally offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr PITT: I withdraw. Glass jaw—shattered! There are a few things the member for Callide said that I want to address. While in government last term he sat in this chair over here and he kept on decrying how the former Beattie-Bligh governments had funded infrastructure. He hated how that infrastructure was funded, and what did he do? He went along, he smiled for the cameras and he cut the ribbon on those projects. He and all of those opposite hated how we funded things because—

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. I find that comment personally offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr PITT: I withdraw. What I was trying to get to before is that the member for Callide has been here a long time, and in all seriousness he does know that there is a longstanding rule about incorporation. It is the right of members to do that if they have spoken with the Speaker and had their speech cleared. For whatever reason they wish to incorporate their speech, they are able to do so. I think that is something the member for Callide knows. He knows that to be true, but tonight he has chastised almost all government members for doing just that.

It is sometimes funny how these things come up and all of a sudden things drop in your lap, because I have just been handed a few speeches by the member for Callide. There is a speech from 7 March 2007 where the member for Callide rose, spoke two paragraphs and said, 'I seek leave to incorporate the rest of my second reading speech into *Hansard*.' I table that.

Tabled paper. Extract from *Hansard*, dated 7 March 2007, of a speech by the member for Callide, Mr Jeff Seeney MP, on the Civil Liability (Good Samaritan) Amendment Bill [[1002](#)].

There is also one from 15 March 2007 on the Terrorism, Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Surveillance Bill. After two paragraphs he said, 'I seek leave to incorporate the rest of my second reading speech into *Hansard*.'

Tabled paper. Extract from *Hansard*, dated 15 March 2007, of a speech by the member for Callide, Mr Jeff Seeney MP, on the Terrorism, Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Surveillance Bill [[1001](#)].

Mr RICKUSS: I rise to a point of order. I do not think the Treasurer's speech is relevant to the budget debate.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order; it is relevant. I have made specific announcements in relation to the opportunity for members to have parts of their speeches tabled in parliament and *Hansard* will reveal that. Members in this House would recall the specific statements I have made in relation to the tabling of parts of members' speeches during the debate on these bills. I call the minister.

Mr PITT: I want to take people way back to 10 September 2003. The member for Callide rose and moved that the bill be now read a second time. Then he said—

This is the second bill that will enshrine in law our charter of property rights. I seek leave to incorporate my second reading speech in *Hansard*.

Tabled paper: Extract from *Hansard*, dated 10 September 2003, of speech by the member for Callide, Mr Jeff Seeney MP, on the Land Acquisition Amendment Bill [1004].

The point is that the member for Callide has used this technique on a number of occasions in this House, and then he went and chastised all on this side; that is what is unbelievable.

Tabled paper: Extract from *Hansard*, dated 31 October 2007, of a speech by the member for Callide, Mr Jeff Seeney MP on the Freedom of Information (Open Government-Disclosure of Contracts) Amendment Bill [1003].

I hope that we will now be able to maintain some kind of civility. What I was looking at when we were tabling those was the body language of those opposite. I thought it was very interesting that the member for Callide—

A government member: Allan Pease!

Mr PITT: The Allan Pease of our time.

Mr SPEAKER: Before we go further, it has just been brought to my attention that I used the word 'tabled' when I should have used the word 'incorporated'. We have debated this point: let us move on to the reply.

Mr PITT: I think we should bring some civility back to the House, and I am very happy to get on with it.

I would like to thank all members for their contribution to the debate on the 2016-17 Queensland budget. It is a back-to-work budget to advance Queensland's economy. This budget sets out a clear path for job creation based on three priorities. This budget is about growing innovation through our \$405 million Advance Queensland strategy. In reply, the opposition leader dismissed this investment in the new economy as a 'squander' and 'not for the government to micromanage'. This is the dead hand of the man who continues to boast that governments should not be doers, just enablers.

This budget is also about attracting investment through incentives to expand our existing Queensland businesses as well as lure new businesses from interstate and overseas, which is something that the opposition leader disgracefully dismissed in his budget reply as corporate welfare, bribery and a cash cow—this from the party who is allegedly of business and for business. He talked about 'trousering' and then strangely quoted from the Bible, Exodus 20:17, to pillory our investment attraction policy and talking about 'coveting thy neighbour's wife'. I am surprised he did not go on to use the rest of that passage, which goes on to talk about donkeys and manservants.

My point is that this is in such contrast to this side. This morning I was at the convention centre with the Minister for Communities and the Minister for Women, Shannon Fentiman, and we announced our women's budget statement. We are not talking about coveting neighbours' wives and using things in gest. We have shown that there is a very important difference between this side and that side, and we very much value the place of women in our economy and the economic participation of women. The fact is that there should be no gender bias and no gender inequality, and I think there is such a strong contrast. I was proud to do that this morning with the member.

If the member for Clayfield had won the election and he was still the treasurer, instead of him reading from Exodus 20:17 I think we would have had an LNP exodus in 2017. This budget is about many things, but at its core it is about jobs. Those jobs will come from the infrastructure we build—building the state's infrastructure needs now and for the future. On the opposition's own preferred measure, capital purchases as a percentage of gross state product have improved from the 2.2 per cent delivered last budget to 2.5 per cent in 2016-17, despite the member for Clayfield's attempts to tell this House otherwise yesterday.

While our three i's of innovation, investment and infrastructure offer a positive path to job creation, the opposition leader's budget reply talked about rip-offs, raids and writedowns. He ripped off our Back to Work policy, yet somehow made his version offer less but cost more; he raided his own indexation

policy, with an unfunded \$350 million promise to take money out of schools, hospitals and roads by returning to CPI; and he wrote down a further \$8 billion through a budget black hole created by rejecting our debt reduction and infrastructure investment.

The pervasive negativity of the opposition continues. It has been five years now—five years of talking down our economy. If being negative was not enough, there was a series of mistruths in the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply. He told Queensland that unemployment was not forecast to fall below six per cent for the next four years. This is simply not the case. Page 4 of Budget Paper No. 2 clearly shows the unemployment rate consistently falling to 5¾ per cent over the forward estimates. He accused our government of overstating growth. Surely there can be no greater example of this than the six per cent and 5¼ per cent growth the member for Clayfield forecast as treasurer, when every other independent analysis had forecast growth around half this figure. He talked about the infrastructure profile but neglected to tell Queenslanders that the 2016-17 budget delivers capital purchases that are, on average, almost \$850 million a year higher over the forward estimates 2016-17 to 2019-20, compared to his 2014-15 budget. The one thing he did not talk about was asset sales, although he was unsurprisingly downcast about GOCs and any assets owned by the state. He rejected the merger of Ergon and Energex and rejected the \$680 million in savings that will result. The LNP 'spendometer' now totals \$8 billion in new spending or savings measures they oppose, with no alternative plan for debt reduction or infrastructure.

Many members of this debate have remarked on the measures contained within the Duties and Other Legislation Amendment Bill that accompanies the budget and appropriation bills. These measures reflect our priorities as a government. To ensure young Queenslanders have an incentive to own their first home and contribute to our property market, this budget boosts the Queensland First Home Owners' Grant from \$15,000 to \$20,000. This will make a real difference to Queenslanders who have been saving for their first home. As I have said before, in towns like Mackay that is almost half the 10 per cent deposit on the median house price. In Rockhampton it is almost the 10 per cent deposit.

The duties bill also provides for a new transfer duty concession for the transfer of land used by a family primary production business, including adjacent residential land and personal property used to conduct the business on the land, between specified family members. This concession only currently applies to the extent the transfer is by way of gift. This measure will help Queensland families to pass down the family farm to the next generation.

The final component of the duties bill is the introduction of a three per cent additional foreign acquirers duty. It is important to ensure foreign buyers of residential property who benefit from government services and infrastructure make an appropriate contribution to their delivery, as local buyers do. High-quality government services and investment in infrastructure in an area contribute to growth in property values for investors. Foreign buyers are beneficiaries of this. Foreign buyers of residential property, however, are not necessarily subject to some of the other major sources of state government revenue such as GST.

The Palaszczuk government welcomes foreign investment, and we are confident that foreign investment will continue because Queensland's competitive advantages will continue: our diversified economy, our climate, our natural assets, our connection to global supply chains and our shared time zone with expanding Asian markets. These are the reasons foreign investment in residential property will continue to grow.

When it comes to transfer duty, Queensland will remain more competitive than the rest of the eastern seaboard. The Victorian government has introduced a seven per cent surcharge on transfer duty and a further 1.5 per cent surcharge on absentee landholders. New South Wales has confirmed that it will introduce a four per cent surcharge on transfer duty and a 0.75 per cent surcharge on land tax. In stark contrast, Queensland's transfer duty regime remains below the national average. The Commonwealth Grants Commission's analysis for 2014-15 indicates that Queensland's transfer duty tax effort is 92 per cent of the national average. An interstate comparison with principal place of residence duty payable based on a house price of \$465,000 in Brisbane, near the median price at the time the analysis was prepared, shows the transfer duty payable on a principal place of residence based on the median house price in Queensland is over \$10,000 lower than the average of other jurisdictions. Clearly, with house prices in New South Wales and Victoria, the duty payable in those jurisdictions on a median home will be even greater.

There are a number of factors that are likely to influence foreign buyers' decisions to invest in property in Australia, including changes in economic conditions in their own domestic economies; in the case of China, given it is a major source of foreign investment, any tightening of capital controls; any

changes in policies impacting on foreign student enrolments, given its share of foreign residential property purchases is for use by families studying in Australia; exchange rate risk; and change to bank lending practices for foreign investors.

The impact of the introduction of the surcharge on foreign demand for new homes in Queensland relative to other states is likely to be mitigated by several factors including the introduction of similar or even higher surcharges on buyers in other jurisdictions—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Treasurer, one moment. Thank you, member for Burleigh, I was thinking the same thing. Members, there is too much private conversation.

Mr PITT:—the relatively lower level of foreign investment in Brisbane's new apartment market compared with Sydney and Melbourne; average Brisbane property prices remaining significantly lower than in Sydney and Melbourne; ongoing underlying demand from foreign investors for residential property in Australia; and low interest rates in Australia continuing to support domestic demand for new dwellings. Within this context, Treasury does not anticipate a significant impact on foreign investor demand for Queensland property as a result of the surcharge.

I appreciate the concerns raised with me by the property industry, and today I met with the Property Council of Australia to discuss these concerns. The Palaszczuk government remains committed to ensuring the bill applies to foreign acquirers of residential land, including those who make these purchases through company structures and trusts. We are also committed to working through industry concerns. I want to outline the consultation framework for the application of the bill.

Once the legislation to give effect to the amendments has received assent, the Office of State Revenue will issue guidelines for publication about the operation of additional duty. The scenarios raised by the property industry will be considered in this context and guidance provided. This material will then be published in time for the commencement of application of the liability, on 1 October 2016. I have also instructed the Office of State Revenue to convene the Property Consultative Committee to work through the development of guidelines between now and 1 October to ensure the appropriate application of the duty including an *ex gratia* relief framework.

It is important to note that the provision of general discretionary power to the Treasurer to provide exemption from taxation is not a method able to be used in Queensland as to do so would raise issues with our fundamental legislative principles, delegating the legislative power of the parliament to a minister or to an administrator. The appropriate mechanism to achieve relief in Queensland would be *ex gratia* relief supported by published guidelines.

The ability to grant *ex gratia* relief based on guidelines will be an important feature of the administration of this surcharge. In Victoria, for instance, guidelines have been developed to take into account relevant circumstances such as the impact on the economy where a developer can demonstrate that it is actively investing in and significantly adding to the supply of housing stock; and the impact on the community, where the entity has a considerable level of Australian participation and the entity predominantly employs or contracts the services and materials of Australian building contractors and suppliers. An example in Queensland may be instances where priority development areas contribute significantly to Queensland's economic activity and where accompanying developer contributions are significant. Consultation about the development of similar guidelines in Queensland between now and 1 October, as well as examining expected legislation from New South Wales following their budget next week, will enable Queensland to get the balance right with the introduction of this surcharge.

I want to conclude tonight by stepping through that this is a budget that delivers for all parts of Queensland. In Brisbane, this budget delivers over \$2 billion in infrastructure, supporting 5½ thousand jobs, including a \$50 million down payment on Cross River Rail. There are major school upgrades at Bulimba, New Farm and Kelvin Grove. The member for Moggill even praised the funding we have delivered in his electorate for the Moggill Koala Hospital.

On the Gold Coast this budget delivers over \$1 billion in infrastructure, supporting 3,000 jobs through projects like stage 2 of Gold Coast Light Rail and \$50 million on the Carrara Sports Precinct in preparation for the Commonwealth Games. In Logan this budget delivers over \$235 million in infrastructure, supporting 500 jobs, including the state's share of funding to fix the M1-Gateway merge south bound, South-East Queensland's biggest bottleneck. In Ipswich this budget delivers \$865 million in infrastructure, supporting 2,500 jobs through projects like the \$400 million Ipswich Motorway upgrade

between Rocklea and Darra. On the Darling Downs this budget delivers over \$1.2 billion in infrastructure, supporting 3,500 jobs, including the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, with \$400 million to be spent on the range this year alone.

Across Moreton Bay and the Sunshine Coast this budget delivers over \$1.6 billion in infrastructure, supporting 4,500 jobs, including the Bruce Highway-Boundary Road interchange at Narangba and the completion of the Sunshine Coast Hospital. Across Wide Bay this budget delivers over \$639 million in infrastructure, supporting 2,000 jobs on projects like a new police and fire station at Howard and important Bruce Highway upgrades at Tiana and between Maryborough and Gin Gin. In the Fitzroy region this budget delivers over \$823 million in infrastructure, supporting 2,500 jobs, including a new state high school at Calliope and Yeppoon foreshore revitalisation. In the Mackay region—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I apologise, Treasurer, but pause the clock. Members, we need to be able to hear the Treasurer.

Mr PITT: In the Mackay region this budget delivers over—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh, that is not an invitation to start a conversation straight after the Treasurer resumes. You are warned under standing order 253A.

Mr PITT: In the Mackay region this budget delivers over \$435 million in infrastructure, supporting 1,500 jobs, including the Vines Creek bridge. The member for Whitsunday praised the mental health spending for his electorate that we have delivered in this budget. In the Townsville region this budget delivers over \$586 million in infrastructure, supporting 1,500 jobs on projects like the \$200 million Townsville Ring Road, Riverway Drive and the Townsville stadium. Across outback Queensland this budget delivers over \$620 million in infrastructure, supporting 2,000 jobs on projects like sealing the Hann Highway and a \$40 million western roads upgrade program. Finally, and very close to my heart, in Far North Queensland this budget delivers over \$636 million in infrastructure, supporting 2,000 jobs on projects like the Cairns Performing Arts Centre, the Cairns Innovation Centre, the Thursday Island Hospital and refurbishment of the new Atherton Hospital. Across every region of Queensland, this really is a back-to-work budget.

In summing up I want to say this: there are a number of people who need to be thanked in relation to this budget. I certainly thank all members of our caucus for their great contributions and I thank them for respecting the rules of the House in offering to ensure that we get a free-flowing debate at the same time as managing the business of the House. Thank you, members of caucus. I want to thank my cabinet colleagues. I want to thank all of them for coming and speaking with me and the other members of the Cabinet Budget Review Committee in ensuring that we had the best look at what was needed across government to ensure that we could deliver for all of Queensland. In particular, I want to thank the Premier and the Deputy Premier. I want to thank the Treasury for its support in preparing this budget. Treasury does not often get the marks for being the big entertainers, but I can tell you this: it is made up of a very highly dedicated group of people who are extraordinarily professional and I thank them for their tireless and dedicated work in helping bring this budget together—the second budget of the Palaszczuk government.

I want to thank my ministerial office. My ministerial office has worked around the clock for so long to bring this together, and they are the hardest working people across government. I have worked with many people, but this group of people are a special group and they really have done the hard yards to deliver what I think is an exceptionally good budget on behalf of a Labor government. Finally, I want to thank my family. I want to thank my wife, Kerry, and my children, Tristian, Layla and Kobi. I have to spend many days and nights away from home, away from my family, but the one thing that always makes me forget about any of the things that sometimes come up in this House are the things that stick in my mind—the memories of my children and the support that they and my wife give me in enabling me to do my job. This budget is a real Labor budget, one that is delivering for Queensland about growing innovation, attracting investment and building infrastructure. I commend the bill to the House.

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bills read a second time.

Referral to Portfolio Committees

Mr SPEAKER: Order! In accordance with standing order 177(2), the bills stand referred to the portfolio committees.

Second Reading

Question put—That the Duties and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Duties and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Clauses 1 to 8, as read, agreed to.

Clause 9—

 **Mr EMERSON** (8.45 pm): The opposition will be opposing this clause. We have indicated that this is clearly a breach of an election promise because the Treasurer clearly indicated that there would be no new taxes or charges. This is a new tax—a clear breach of an election promise—and his claims now that in fact what he said was that there would be no new taxes or charges for Queensland is not backed up by any evidence. Importantly, senior and significant professionals and experts in the area—whether it is the Property Council of Queensland or the REIQ or other organisations—have warned about the impact of this tax. The ludicrous, ridiculous and disgraceful efforts by the government to claim that this is a tax that will encourage the property sector is not backed up by the evidence. We also saw the rather confused attempts by the government to explain it and the comical efforts by the Treasurer at the media club luncheon where he claimed that no foreign investor would be frightened off by a tax on a \$366,000 home when he was wrong by 3,000 per cent—30-fold of what he claimed to be the case. We believe this is a clear breach of an election promise and his sales pitch for this shows the incompetence of this government and the confusion and incompetence of this Treasurer.

Mr PITT: I thank the member for Indooroopilly for his contribution. I do find it quite interesting that the member would come here and talk about broken promises when we know that when you look up 'broken promises' in the dictionary there is a photo of Campbell Newman and right next to him is the member for Clayfield and right next to him is the member for Callide. They broke just about every promise they could. They broke nearly every promise they could. Let us go through the list. Did everyone save \$120 a year on their electricity bill? No. Did public servants have nothing to fear? No. What about no asset sales? No. Even better, when they could not get that one across the line—

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mr PITT: I take the interjection from the member for Callide. He said that was ours. We suffered an election defeat in 2012 because we certainly did go down that pathway. Guess what the LNP campaigned on in 2012? No asset sales. That was its whole campaign mantra. It was against us selling assets. It is a real galling effort by the member for Callide to start suggesting that they have learned their lesson when the bloke sitting two seats down from him has nothing else on his mind except selling assets.

Just in case members have forgotten, I remind them of what happened when the LNP thought that it could not get asset sales across the line. The LNP said, 'It's not an asset sale; it's a lease.' When it comes to this property surcharge, we know that, in Queensland, we have introduced a surcharge of three per cent, compared to New South Wales, which is introducing next week in its budget a four per cent charge. After Victoria introduced a three per cent charge in its 2015-16 budget, it is now introducing a seven per cent charge.

We will remain highly competitive. I have spoken already at length in my summing-up about the fact that this surcharge will not have that sort of impact on property purchases by foreign buyers in Queensland. We have given commitments to work with stakeholders in the property sector, including the Property Council and others, to make sure that the guidelines we apply allow me as the minister on behalf of the government to look at ex gratia relief. We will do that in a genuine, consultative way.

I say to the member for Indooroopilly that I have not said in this House that it was not about Queenslanders; it was about the \$4.7 billion in writedowns that would have happened under this government, or would have happened if the LNP were in government. Global conditions have framed this budget and have framed the necessary responses that we have made. We make no apologies for

putting this charge on foreign buyers in a responsible way—it is lower than the surcharge in other states—to benefit young people who want to get into their first home. We are increasing our First Home Owners' Grant from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Ms Jones: They love it in my electorate.

Mr PITT: They do. I take that interjection from the member for Ashgrove. It is such a pleasure to have a member for Ashgrove like Kate Jones, rather than the last bloke.

We will be certainly supporting this measure. It is one that we have thought long and hard about and it is one that we will continue to work with the property sector on, because it is an important measure and one that we want to get right to ensure that we maintain our status as an attractive foreign investment destination.

Division: Question put—That clause 9 stand part of the bill.

AYES, 43:

ALP, 40—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

KAP, 1—Katter.

INDEPENDENT, 2—Gordon, Pyne.

NOES, 39:

LNP, 39—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Walker, Watts, Weir.

Pairs: Furner, Cripps; Miller, Stuckey.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 9, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 15, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (8.58 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (8.58 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Member for Burnett, Finding of Contempt

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (8.58 pm): by leave, without notice, I move—

That this House—

1. notes the Ethics Committee report No. 168 tabled in the House today, which recommends that the member for Burnett be charged with contempt;
2. finds the member for Burnett guilty of contempt for making an unauthorised disclosure of a proceeding of the Agriculture and Environment Committee; and
3. orders that the member for Burnett stand in his place and make an unqualified apology to the House and the Agriculture and Environment Committee.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVILEGE

Ethics Committee Report

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (8.59 pm): In response to the recommendations of the Ethics Committee Report No. 168 tabled this afternoon, I unreservedly apologise to the House and the Agriculture and Environment Committee for the disclosure of the committee's deliberations and proceedings.

PRIVILEGE

Member for Southport

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (8.59 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. On Wednesday, in response to the Electricity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, I may have unintentionally breached the provisions of clause 211 of the standing orders by referring to and quoting correspondence received and noted but not published as a late submission from the CEO Queensland Branch of Master Electricians Australia.

I unreservedly apologise to my fellow committee members and the secretariat. As my colleagues are aware, there is a lot of reading material and information provided as part of the committee's role in reviewing legislation. There have also been recent charges to standing orders and I was unaware that the information in this document was part of privileged information.

YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2015

YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2016

Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 resumed from 1 December 2015 (see p. 2972), and Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 resumed from 21 April 2015 (see p. 1341).

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.00 pm): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the House and Leader of Opposition Business, bearing in mind that it is Friday and I do not know how long we may sit, if members have their speeches prepared I am happy for them to be incorporated in recognition of the fact that we have been sitting all week. It is under the same provision as we have just been through with the Appropriation Bill. I would expect that government members have their proposed speeches looked at by members on the speaker's panel and opposition members likewise.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need your assistance. I am merely dealing with what may be a long sitting.

Mrs D'ATH: I rise tonight to take the final steps in the long process of restoring and strengthening the Queensland youth justice system after it was seriously and shamelessly attacked by the previous government. The Youth Justice Act was subjected to two raids under the leadership of the former premier and his disastrous attorney-general, the member for Kawana. To repair the damage done I introduced the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 into parliament on 1 December 2015 and the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 on 21 April 2016. The bills were referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, with the committee tabling their reports on 1 March 2016 and 1 June 2016 respectively.

Twenty-six submissions were made in relation to the 2015 bill and 13 in relation to the 2016 bill. The extensive consultation with key legal and youth justice stakeholders had also taken place prior to the bills being introduced. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of those who took part in that consultation, those who made submissions on the bills to the committee and those who took the time to give evidence at the committee's public hearings. The overwhelming majority of submissions were

in support—strongly in support—of the bills. In fact, the overwhelming majority of submissions to the committee when the Youth Justice Act was under attack in 2012 and again in 2014 were fundamentally opposed to those bills. In this context it is disappointing but not surprising that the committee could not reach a recommendation in support of either bill.

The focus of the bills on restoring legislative provisions to give effect to common law principles and effective legislative and rehabilitative responses to children and young people is directly aligned with the feedback received as part of the former government's own *Safer streets crime action plan—youth justice* and comments made by the President of the Childrens Court in the Childrens Court of Queensland Annual Report 2013-14. This feedback indicated support for efficient and accountable court practices in the form of the reinstatement of sentence reviews together with a call for broader evidence based rehabilitative responses that allow for an increased focus on addressing identified risks of offending, including disengagement from education, poor health and complex family support needs.

Those attitudes have not changed. As recently as last week I was in Townsville for a youth justice forum which was organised and driven by the members for Thuringowa, Mundingburra and Townsville. It was a great opportunity to meet with members of the local community to hear their concerns about youth offending and hear what they considered to be important in tackling it. It was clear from listening to the local community that they were genuinely interested in preventative and reinvestment strategies that would see young people turn away from crime. The great thing is that this is consistent with what the experts tell us works most effectively for young people who become involved in crime. There was strong support for ensuring that victims could face offenders and making sure that they understood the damage they were doing to individuals and to the community. I can honestly say that I was pleased to explain that the 2016 bill was doing just that. The forum was a great success and a testament to the commitment of local members to meaningfully engage with their constituents. I thank the members for Thuringowa, Mundingburra and Townsville and I thank the community of Townsville for their genuine and constructive contribution on this important issue.

These bills deliver in full the government's commitment to repeal amendments made to the Youth Justice Act 1992 by those opposite me in 2012 and 2014. The bills specifically reinstate the sentencing principle in the Youth Justice Act 1992 that a detention order and detaining of a child in custody for an offence whether on arrest or sentence should only be imposed as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period; amend section 9 of the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to reinstate the sentencing principle that prison is a sentence of last resort for all offenders aged 17 years or over—except those convicted of offences of violence, child sexual abuse or conduct involving child exploitation material; omit the provisions in the Youth Justice Act that childhood findings of guilt for which no conviction was recorded are admissible in court when sentencing a person for an adult offence; omit breach of bail as an offence against the Youth Justice Act; reinstate the offence provisions relating to publishing identifying information of any young person in the youth justice system unless allowed by court order for those who have committed particularly heinous and violent offences and where the publication is in the public interest under the Youth Justice Act; reinstate the Childrens Court of Queensland's power to review sentences handed down by the Childrens Court magistrates—this will include expanding the definition of a sentence order so as to allow new sentences imposed as a result of a child's contravention of their original sentence order to be reviewable under the Youth Justice Act; close the Childrens Court when hearing all youth justice matters under the Childrens Court Act 1992 and provide for victims or their representatives to be present in closed court; increase the age at which children and young people subject to periods of detention under the Youth Justice Act are to be transferred to adult corrections from 17 to 18 and empower a court on application to delay a young person's transfer for up to six months; provide certainty to 18-year-olds who are transferred to adult corrections by declaring that a parole order issued in relation to a prisoner in adult corrections who was sentenced under the Youth Justice Act 1992 is a parole order for the purposes of the Corrective Services Act 2006; and reinstate an expanded court referred youth justice conferencing program to allow for increased flexibility in the delivery of restorative justice interventions as part of police referred and court referred conferencing.

The former government's amendments were not evidence based. The bills before the House today reflect the research and evidence on what actually supports a reduction in youth offending, with a longstanding body of national and international evidence showing that increasing the severity of the punishment is a blunt and ineffective tool when it comes to reducing recidivism, particularly with respect to children and young people. The bills usher in a reform agenda that is about real impacts and changes—changes not just for children and young people but also for local communities and the broader Queensland community, as whole.

There is no doubt that a focus on reducing offending by children and young people must include a clear and comprehensive focus on reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the criminal justice system. It is for this reason that all interventions within the youth justice system to divert and reduce offending, including current and planned activities, are interventions that have and will continue to have direct application to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people especially are missing out on the benefits of early diversionary approaches. As part of the suite of legislation before the House, this issue will be specifically addressed with a new referral pathway created to catch those who have fallen through the cracks in the past.

I would like to address inaccuracies purported to be true by opposition members as part of the committee's examination of the bills. Firstly, there is no evidence to show that the 2014 amendments were a catalyst for reduced offending by children and young people. A review of youth justice data over six years shows that the number of young offenders has decreased by 19 per cent since 2009-10. This trend clearly shows that a pattern of reduced youth offending existed and preceded the 2014 amendments.

I will address comments about the supposed positive impacts of the former government's youth boot camp trial. In Townsville and Cairns where boot camp programs were introduced in 2014, unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences were showing a decrease in numbers prior to the announcement of the boot camp programs. It was further noted that during the period of the boot camp programs motor vehicle offending started to increase, rather than decrease. An independent evaluation of the trial commissioned by the government was comprehensive. There was limited evidence to indicate that the sentence youth boot camp was having a significant impact on offending behaviour. Furthermore, the cost of the trial had blown out by \$16.7 million over three years, which is more than eight times the \$2 million cost announced by the former attorney-general when establishing the trial in November 2012.

We have sought to glean important learnings from the boot camp trial, with enduring practices put in place during and following the trial by the hardworking youth justice staff, particularly in the north of the state. In particular, the trial once again highlighted the critical importance of the involvement of family and other support services in all phases of youth justice programs. In short, programs that remove young people from their home environments for short periods with little or no provision for follow up and consolidation of support when they return do not work. They do not reduce offending, they do not make our communities safer and they do not provide young people with real opportunities to improve their lives.

The government is committed to building a youth justice system that adopts a balanced evidence-based approach to reducing youth offending. This means supporting young people involved in the youth justice system to attend school, get into training and find work. A compelling example of this commitment is the Transition to Success or T2S initiative. Transition to Success is an alternative education and vocational training program currently being delivered to young people aged 14 to 18 years in a community setting. The program is currently being trialled from within existing resources, in partnership between Youth Justice, Education Queensland, local secondary schools, registered training organisations, not-for-profit organisations and local businesses.

Transition to Success is demonstrating success in education, training and employment outcomes in reducing recidivism. One example I am happy to share is of one young person from a highly traumatic background, with a serious history of offending that included violence and gang-related activity, and who had spent time in detention. Over an 18-month period, that young person had completed a number of certificate III based qualifications through T2S, was given the opportunity to engage in work experience with a local business and gained paid part-time employment as a result. That young person continues to participate in a certificate III course and is now aspiring to go on to university. Importantly, their offending behaviour has turned around. They have a path and a future life without offending.

This is evidence based. This is achieving community safety. This is what this government is doing at a very practical level to address youth offending. I can confirm that the government remains committed to a comprehensive staged reform of the youth justice system. The reforms brought forward in these bills are to be complemented by broader government policy and more immediate changes in programs and practices, with steps already being taken to change the way children and young people within the youth justice system are assessed and responded to so as to reduce future offending. These changes in practices will be further supplemented through the government's current work and planned release of a draft whole-of-government youth justice policy later this year.

I look forward to continuing to work with our partner agencies across government, non-government organisations and the community in the delivery of innovative and locally responsive services as part of this strategy. I acknowledge the Minister for Education who is here in the chamber with me this evening. It is so important that we work hand in hand. It became very clear at the Townsville meeting, and we know it to be true, that early intervention and prevention is the only way to turn these kids' lives around. That is what the people of Townsville were calling for. We need to ensure that we identify those children early. When they start offending or they start missing school and we see absenteeism happening, we must intervene early and provide the necessary supports. If we invest early, we save in the long run. If we invest early, we save taxpayers' dollars from youth justice, the adult correctional services, income support and the ongoing consequences of crime. We know that overall our community benefits socially, as well. It is in the best interests of everyone that we have restorative justice and justice reinvestment programs.

I say to the people of Queensland that an evidence based response—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: And I do hear those who are intervening across the chamber—to reducing youth offending does not equate to a soft option or light-touch response to offending. Under our legislative and broader system reforms, the courts and police will continue to have the necessary powers to act swiftly in responding to offending behaviour by children and young people. We will also have a deliberate and necessary focus on justice reinvestment. Justice reinvestment, including rehabilitation and diversion of children from further involvement in the justice system, is the focus of this government.

I refer to the committee's report on the 2016 bill, which highlights the evidence given to the committee by a number of legal stakeholders on the strength of youth justice conferencing. A senior lawyer from Legal Aid Queensland advised that the Youth Justice Act referred to making a child responsible for their offending and said—

... there is no more powerful tough-on-crime measure than making a child sit opposite their victim and apologise. I have been to hundreds of conferences and they can be very powerful ways for a child to make amends to the community in general. There are some children—

Mr Costigan interjected.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer) : Order! The minister has the call. Thank you to the Minister for Education and the member for Kawana, but the Attorney-General has the call.

Mrs D'ATH: I will pick up that interjection. To say that this is a waste of time, to say that they get paid for it—the children do not get paid to go to those conferences—is just offensive.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I was not referring to the member for Kawana.

Mr COSTIGAN: I rise on a point of order. I think the Attorney-General is looking across the chamber, suggesting that I am saying that it is a waste of time. I did interject and I said, 'Why do some people think it is a waste of time?'

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mrs D'ATH: It seems quite an odd interjection to say, 'Why do some people think it is a waste of time?' I hope that the member on the other side is now saying that he thinks it is a good use of time and that it is a beneficial exercise to go through, because everyone else in the legal fraternity certainly believes it is and so do the courts.

Mr Bleijie: It's a waste of time.

Mrs D'ATH: The member for Kawana says, 'It's a waste of time'. That is why the member for Kawana is sitting over there and we are now in government—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms Jones interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Education and member for Kawana, the Attorney-General has the call. Please allow her to speak.

Mrs D'ATH: It is the view—held not just by the member for Kawana but certainly led by the member for Kawana when in government—of the LNP and their arrogance in government about how to deal with youth justice that has led them to where they are today. Their views are not reflective of the general community. They are not in touch with the general community. That is why they are sitting on the opposition benches today. They showed it time and time again when in government and they are showing it again tonight in this debate.

I will repeat the quote of a senior lawyer from Legal Aid Queensland. That lawyer stated—

... there is no more powerful tough-on-crime measure than making a child sit opposite their victim and apologise. I have been to hundreds of conferences and they can be very powerful ways for a child to make amends to the community in general. There are some children who do have a poor attitude. There are always going to be those children, it is just part of nature.

The Queensland Law Society agreed and advised the committee that youth conferencing—

Is often a very beneficial thing for the victim as well to be able to meet the offender and develop a bit of a broader understanding about some of the reasons why that young person has committed that offence.

We are talking about a vulnerable, often seriously disadvantaged, group in our society. Asking children and young people to come face to face with victims through the reinstated court referred conferencing can be confronting for an offender. Asking them to really think about, acknowledge and address the reasons for their offending is a positive approach for both the victim and the offender. It is an approach that can result in lasting change.

It is also one which resonates with victims of crime. Prior to the former government's axing of the court ordered youth justice conferences, victims were given the opportunity to make comments about the process through a satisfaction survey. I will read some examples of comments made in the free text section of those surveys. One comment reads—

I think that this is a wonderful thing. Youth justice conferencing gives the victim a face and shows the offender that it is not just them who is suffering but they have caused the victim and their family to suffer also. Thank you to all.

Another comment reads—

It is worthwhile to come face to face to understand all the facts, not just mine, e.g. the effects this has on everyone, because you can tend to be tunnel vision at times.

Another comment reads—

I was hesitant about this process but now feel that it's an extremely valuable process for all involved with a good outcome.

Another comments reads—

Enjoyed the opportunity to hear exactly what happened and why it happened. Plus to sort out issues related to the incident. Great!

Another comments reads—

I found it rewarding as I felt as though the offender actually acknowledged what he had done was wrong and inconvenient for the victims and he seems to be improving with his social wellbeing.

Another comment reads—

I feel like I can get over the past and move on.

Another comment reads—

Better than a court case. Quicker, fairer and more say on both sides.

In my view, the words of these victims of crime speak volumes about exactly what it is that restorative justice seeks to achieve. The bills before the House address the significant breaches of international conventions introduced with the 2014 changes. Those changes put Queensland at significant odds with practice in other jurisdictions. They did so because they were not based on evidence, but politics. This Labor government rejects that approach.

I will move a number of amendments during consideration in detail, which are predominantly technical in nature. They have already been circulated in this chamber. They seek to provide further clarity of the application of referrals. I am proud to be part of a Labor government that recognises restorative justice for our youth and that is acting on this belief through these two bills. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (9.23 pm): We have seen during the last week that this government does not have a plan for Queensland and that Queensland has been and is suffering because of it. The focus of this government in the last 16 months has been either to review or to undo. This bill is exactly another example of that.

The Attorney-General has been talking a lot about evidence based proceedings and evidence based legislation. There is only one piece of evidence that the government needed to take this measure. The only piece of evidence they needed was that the LNP had brought these measures in. Once they had that piece of evidence they wanted to turn it around. That is all that they have proceeded on.

In 2014 the former LNP government introduced changes to the youth justice system in Queensland in response to an escalation in youth crime, particularly in regional parts of our state, and to significant public concern about that. There were lots of figures around at that time that my colleague the member for Kawana based the legislation that is now being reversed on. One that sticks in my mind is this one. In 2011 some 32 per cent of offenders in youth detention had been there five times or more. That is a startling and scary figure. What this government is bringing in tonight is returning exactly to the system that threw up results like that. That is why the LNP will not accept this legislation. We will not accept a circumstance where we are going back to a situation where 32 per cent of offenders in youth detention had been there five times or more. That is what this system threw up last time. This is not new. This is not a nirvana. This is going back to the system that threw up those figures.

In 2014 the legislation was introduced following a period of formal review. It was introduced specifically to address a cohort of repeat youth offenders who continually snubbed their noses at the criminal justice system. They had no respect for authority or for the property and safety of residents of this state. It was our commitment to do two things: to protect the community from crime; and to help police stop a revolving door of youth offenders who needed help to break a cycle of crime.

Crime committed by young people needs to be addressed otherwise the young criminals go on to become adult criminals. They know how to work the system and they continue to threaten the safety of Queensland communities. We needed to have a better approach to ensuring the appropriate balance between rehabilitation on the one side and penalties as deterrents rather than just a slap on the wrist.

Helping these young people get back on their feet and become skilled so that they can gain employment and ensuring they have the right support at home is vital in getting them out of what has been dubbed a college of crime—that is, the juvenile justice system in Queensland. Queenslanders expect that when a crime is committed justice is served. That does not always mean incarceration. The existing legislation brought in by the LNP gives lots of other options. It is about putting a plan in place that ensures the offender has the best opportunity not to fall onto the wrong side of the law again.

We all know that Labor is soft on crime. They have proven it time and time again, whether it is weak sentencing principles or a focus on spin and media hype over delivering evidence based criminal law reform. The bill before the House, despite what the Attorney-General said, was not the subject of any evidence based review. It is simply a case of undoing policies of the former government, ironically when the early indication was that they seemed to be working.

It also shows that Labor does not have a plan to address youth crime and youth recidivist behaviour across Queensland. It also undoes specific measures to address issues in Townsville, particularly repeated car thefts. We saw the issues in Townsville recently—sadly, front and centre. The *Townsville Bulletin* reported that for the first four months of this year, statistics reveal that Townsville was No. 1 for assaults and car stealing, No. 2 for robbery and No. 3 for drug offences in what has now been dubbed unfairly and unhappily the state's crime capital. That is a title that Townsville does not deserve.

At a time when the editorial is calling for a tougher approach to younger thugs, this government is winding back reforms that have received popular support in regional Queensland, particularly from community crime action groups and the Townsville City Council. As the newspaper reported—

In some instances, Townsville's statistics so far this year have doubled the crime rates of the major cities that have populations similar to our own. For many in the community, these figures will come as a shock, but for an increasing majority of victims in Townsville, it will reaffirm the belief that the city is becoming a haven for repeat youth offenders who are in a cycle of crime.

These offenders, mostly young people, thumb their noses at the law. They don't fear the police and they have no respect for the courts. The police deal with them so often, they know some by name. According to senior police, Townsville has a core group of about 100 young offenders who continually break the law.

Local police were reported in the newspaper as saying—

We have a hardcore group of recidivist offenders who we constantly deal with ... 43 per cent of our top 100 property crime offenders are aged 11 to 16.

There were 2,581 residents who also signed a parliamentary e-petition earlier this year calling on the government to abandon the proposed reforms in these bills. If ever Townsville needed a community champion, it was now, but sadly it seems that it is severely lacking. The member for Townsville seems to be saying the right things in Townsville, but let us see how he votes on this bill. In that same *Townsville Bulletin* article he said—

The consequences just aren't that big ... to create change it needs to come from a whole range of perspectives, the public, when they feel justice hasn't been afforded for the crimes, it's also the police, us as local members, we need to provide that feedback, which I do on a regular basis through the Attorney-General.

The more pressures we put on the court system to say they are out of step with what the expectations are and the penalties need to meet the crime that has been committed, the more likely we are to see change.

That was the member for Townsville. If he wants to ensure that the penalties need to fit the crime, he should be opposing these bills. He has got the chance to do it here and he has got the chance to do it tonight. I look forward to the contributions of the three members from Townsville in this debate and to see if they stand up for their community, as opposed to being strangled by the views of their Labor masters here in Brisbane. It is not good enough for people to say one thing in their own communities and then come down here to parliament and do the exact opposite. As stated in the explanatory notes, the objectives of the first bill that we are debating are to—

1. Remove boot camp (vehicle offences) orders and boot camp orders from the range of sentencing options for children;
2. Prohibit the publication of identifying information about a child dealt with under the *Youth Justice Act 1992*—

this is commonly called the name and shame provisions—

3. Remove breach of bail as an offence for children;
4. Make childhood findings of guilt for which no conviction was recorded inadmissible in court when sentencing a person for an adult offence;
5. Reinstate the principle that a detention order should be imposed only as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period when sentencing a child;
6. Reinstate the Childrens Court of Queensland's ... sentence review jurisdiction and expand the jurisdiction to include Magistrates' decisions in relation to breaches of community based orders; and
7. Reinstate into the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* ... the principle that imprisonment is a sentence of last resort and a sentence that allows the offender to stay in the community is preferable.

As I said before, the changes implemented in 2014 by the LNP have not been given a chance to work, but the early results had been very encouraging. In the 2014-15 Childrens Court annual report President Michael Shanahan noted—

The trend line in relation to the ten year comparison of the number of juvenile defendants disposed of in all Queensland Courts shows a slight increase, although in 2014-15, there was a 8.7% decrease from the previous year.

I will repeat that: 'in 2014-15, there was a 8.7% decrease from the previous year'. He continued—

The trend line in relation to the ten year comparison of the number of charges against juvenile defendants continues to rise, although in 2014-15 there was a 4.9% decrease from the previous year.

I will repeat that as well: 'although in 2014-15 there was a 4.9% decrease from the previous year'. Michael Shanahan continued—

In 2014-15, ten percent of juvenile offenders were responsible for 45% of all proven offences. These figures demonstrate the comments I have made in previous Annual Reports that there are a number of persistent offenders who commit multiple offences. It is this identifiable group to which attention must be given in attempts to rehabilitate if a significant decrease in offending by them as juveniles and, later, as adults is to be achieved.

That is from the mouth of the president of the Childrens Court himself.

Based on the latest figures, there was a decrease in 2014-15 both in terms of the number of juvenile defendants disposed of in Queensland courts and the number of charges against juvenile defendants. That is no coincidence. That comes hot on the heels of the introduction of the measures by the LNP government.

I also want to refer to some of the testimony given to the committee that illustrates the level of frustration that is felt around many Queensland communities at the moment. In evidence presented to the committee in the Townsville public hearing on 22 January 2016, Ms Tracey Bannerman, from the Townsville Crime Alerts and Discussions, stated—

On 1 December 2015 the Palaszczuk government released a statement announcing youth justice reforms. This government deemed these reforms did not work.

I presume she means there the LNP reforms. She continued—

How can the current government say something does not work if it has not been utilised properly? The government have been in power for 12 months now and during that time they have repeatedly said they would get tough on crime. In those 12 months they have not introduced any new policies or reforms in regard to combating juvenile crime. Instead, they have been busy trying to quash the previous government's reforms which were put in place by the LNP government because the public had had enough. The public were sick of hearing about crimes happening and having little to no feedback if the offenders were caught. We have yet to see the courts use these reforms to their full and proper potential so that they are actually given a chance to work.

Townsville fought hard for these reforms to be put in place because the residents felt that something needed to be done about the level of crime that their city was experiencing. People were frustrated by the lack of action against juveniles repeatedly committing crimes and hearing about them getting off with a slap on the wrist. Juveniles were using the court system like a revolving door.

Councillor Gary Eddiehausen from the Townsville City Council also provided the following evidence at the Townsville public hearing. He said—

Townsville is one of a number of regional cities in Queensland where juvenile crime is a significant issue and of real concern to many law-abiding residents. Such levels of crime have occurred in our city at a high level, and this has been the case for some years now. Our city's residents are sick to death of juvenile offenders, especially recidivist offenders, seemingly in a cycle of detention, immediate release and then a continuation of their activities and possibly back into custody again. They have little or no respect, as I said before. If these type of offenders, especially serious offenders, choose to continue with their life of crime, that is their personal choice.

Civic and community leaders are fed up with the softly, softly approach and the changes in this bill will only change the balance that is required but take it in the wrong direction. There is also no evidence that the policies being implemented through this bill—or rather being undone—will reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous juvenile offenders in our youth detention centres.

I heard the Attorney touch on this point but we differ in this regard. In her explanatory speech and in the explanatory notes, there is in fact no reference to this issue whatsoever. Again, we need to consider the evidence. In the 2014-15 Childrens Court annual report, President Michael Shanahan noted that young Indigenous people accounted for 43 per cent of all young people with a charge disposed of in a Queensland court and that this has been trending upward in the last five years. Further, 64 per cent of the average daily number of juveniles in detention were Indigenous. That is a tragic set of figures.

Where is the government's plan to deal with this issue? We should be seeing positive action in this space, but instead we see reactive turning around of measures that were brought in to deal with these matters—with no evidence base at all other than, as I said before, that it was an LNP provision and therefore it has to be overturned.

I also want to reference the KPMG report on boot camps and the trial that was undertaken by the former LNP government. This report was actually initiated by the former LNP government. In another example of Labor simply undoing LNP reforms with no plan of their own, the government ignored the recommendations from the report which did not suit their LNP roll-back plan. In particular, the report said—

... it is recommended that the Gold Coast continues as a pilot for a further period of time, with changes to the referral process to ensure a broader range of pathways into the program and potentially expanding the eligibility criteria to increase the intake of young people who have been subject to Youth Justice Conferencing or a supervised statutory order.

The report continued—

There is a clear identified need for an intervention to help stop the "revolving door" of offending for a cohort of young people, who are repeat offenders and who have been in detention a number of times with no discernible impact on their re-offending rate.

While Labor remains soft on crime, Queensland communities particularly in regional Queensland are going to continue to suffer. We will remind them that Labor has no plan to address this issue.

The second youth justice bill, introduced in 2016, deals with three further issues that unwind changes introduced by the LNP in 2014. The key objectives of the bill as they are set out in the explanatory notes are, firstly: to close the Children's Magistrates Court when hearing all youth justice matters under the Childrens Court Act 1992 and provide for victims or their representatives to be present in closed court; to increase the age at which children and young people subject to periods of detention under the Youth Justice Act 1992 are to be transferred to adult corrections from 17 to 18 years of age and empower a court on application to delay a young person's transfer for up to six months; and reinstate a court referred youth justice conferencing program and expand the program to allow for increased flexibility in the delivery of restorative justice interventions as part of police referred and court referred conferencing.

The statement of reservation in the committee report states—

The Attorney-General advised in her explanatory speech that:

"Reducing youth crime in Queensland is a priority for this government. That is why we are ... adopting an evidence based approach to reducing youth offending."

The non-government members of the committee find this statement hard to believe, given that Labor have no policy to reduce youth crime other than unwinding reforms implemented by the former LNP Government, that were only introduced in 2014 and which have not been given a chance to work.

Going soft on youth crime is not the answer.

Returning to the failed policies of the past is not the answer.

We know that Labor is soft on crime. Rather than implementing a system which maintains the right balance between rehabilitation and strong deterrents that reinforce the authority established by the Courts and the Queensland Police Service, Labor is simply returning to failed policies of the past. The Labor Government has not conducted a proper review of the effectiveness of the 2014 amendments and is simply undoing them for the sake of political payback.

The 2014 amendments implemented by the former LNP government appear to be making an impact; however, they were not given a proper chance to be tested and they were not properly assessed. For the second consecutive youth justice bill, the Attorney-General has failed to mention this issue in her explanatory speech or explanatory notes. There has been no proper review of the 2014 amendments. For that reason and for the other reasons listed above in the speech I have just made, the opposition will be opposing the bill in its current form or with amendment. We will be opposing both of the bills before the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (9.41 pm): I support the shadow Attorney-General in his comments just made with respect to the two bills before the House introduced by the honourable Attorney-General relating to youth justice amendments. It is clear that if we want to reduce crime in this state, particularly youth crime, we have to reduce the youth unemployment rate. If we look around the state, particularly the regions such as Townsville and the other areas of North Queensland that have high unemployment rates, we see high youth crime rates as well. That has always been the issue.

It is one thing for the Labor Party to repeal everything the LNP does, but not having a replacement or an alternative policy is another. It is no wonder that when the Minister for Training and Skills, the honourable Attorney-General, and the employment minister, who is sitting over there, are repealing all this legislation introduced by the Liberal National Party when we were in government at the same time we are seeing unemployment rise across the state. We are seeing youth unemployment skyrocketing to extremely high levels and we are seeing youth crime back on the increase, yet we are seeing no alternative plan for when this legislation is repealed. If we go back to the old days as the shadow Attorney-General said, the Labor Party will have youth detention centres operating jumping castles, bucking bulls and all these extracurricular activities that they thought would solve the issue of youth crime, not helping kids get a job or assisting kids get an education. They would not be giving them experience in the real world, but just putting them on a bucking bull in a detention centre and sending them out from the detention centre thinking they'll be right in life. They do that without giving them the experience, the expertise, the education or the job and the opportunity they need after they leave the youth detention centre.

After this bill passes tonight youth in Queensland will be exactly where they were a few years ago: a 14-year-old will be at the youth detention centre in Townsville. They will walk out of the youth detention centre, get straight into a car and be driven back to a community where they will still be committing the crimes that caused them to be in detention in the first place. They will have no rehabilitation programs, no opportunities afterwards and no employment afterwards.

Earlier I heard members interjecting about boot camps, and I note the member for Mansfield talked about boot camps. If members opposite want to talk about the boot camps, I heard recently that when the Labor Party was announcing their supposed solutions to the issues of Aurukun, they were going to send them to so-called boot camps and get them jobs working on farms. Interestingly, that is what Lincoln Springs was all about. It was about getting them out there working on the land, working on the farms, riding the horses and learning how to herd the cattle. That is what it was all about: giving young kids an opportunity that they would not have had if not for the courts. As the shadow Attorney-General said, the boot camps were optional and only if the court deemed it necessary. They were the ones who sent them to the boot camps. If they thought the kid could get along and get ahead in life, they were the ones who sent them there. Hopefully, after they finished the boot camp program they would then have a job or an opportunity for full-time employment. We anticipated that crime would then reduce. That was supported by the community of Townsville.

I will be really interested to hear the contributions from the members for Mundingburra, Townsville and Thuringowa tonight as to how they tell their community they are dealing with the issues of youth justice. I heard from the member for Everton, who went up to the crime forum last week, that the Townsville community is not too happy that the Labor Party are ripping everything away that is dealing with youth justice and replacing it with nothing—absolutely nothing. What are they replacing it with? Do not worry; they are going to get the victim and the offender in the room together to talk to each other. We already have police youth justice conferencing. The police can warn the young individuals. We already have youth justice conferencing with the police and that is working effectively. The crime rate in Townsville was on the way down. We will see it go up, and the members for Townsville, Mundingburra and Thuringowa are going to explain to their communities why they got rid of this legislation, why they got rid of these incentives.

The member for Mansfield has even said that in his annual report the president of the Childrens Court showed that in 2014-15 the crime rate actually started to decrease on these particular issues, particularly when dealing with the repeat offenders, which was all about vehicle offences in Townsville. In the last 12 months we have seen vehicle offences increase. If we look at Tracey and Torhild from the Townsville crime action group on Facebook that they operate, we see there are thousands and thousands of members. I pay tribute to those wonderful ladies up there, Torhild and Tracey, who run that organisation because they are solving a lot of crime with the assistance of police. I pay tribute also to Paul Taylor, the superintendent up there for battling those issues of youth crime, particularly the repeat offenders who were stealing the cars.

If we look at some of the issues in this bill such as naming and shaming and also prior convictions of young offenders, we find that was a recommendation from the prosecutors. The prosecutors were getting fed up when they had an adult before the court who had committed and been convicted of all these prior offences as a young person and they did not have the ability to tell the judge about all those prior convictions. The judge would then have to sentence this person who basically had a clean slate. The prosecutors of Queensland felt it necessary to recommend the legislation be changed so that a judge could take into consideration the previous convictions of the young person because we do not want these people walking out in the community continually committing crimes if they can offer the Townsville folk, the North Queensland folk or people anywhere around Queensland a genuine rehabilitation effort. That is what it was about.

In terms of the 17-year-olds in adult correctional centres, in all the correctional centres across Queensland we are talking about only a handful of people who had particular provisions. However, there was the situation where there were 24 30-year-olds in youth detention centres. That was not good for 13-, 14-, 15- and 16-year-olds in youth detention centres. I have dealt with the prosecution issue.

Honourable members talk about the boot camps. There were lots of interjections about Lincoln Springs and so forth. Their own report, the KPMG report which we commissioned to review the boot camps, recommended that the Gold Coast boot camp stay open. In fact, for the information of those members who were not here at the time—and that is the majority of those on the Labor Party side—Anna Bligh announced a boot camp at the Gold Coast, and guess what? It was the same provider that ran the boot camp on the Gold Coast for the Liberal National Party government. Anna Bligh announced a boot camp on the Gold Coast run by the same provider who won the tender for the Gold Coast boot camp.

Through this legislation the Labor Party are still closing them down, so how do they justify that? They said they were relying on the advice in the KPMG report and closing them down, but the KPMG report recommended keeping them open. Again, this is all about just repealing legislation, reviewing legislation and not having an effective alternate policy to deal with these issues. The people who will suffer from this legislation tonight are the good folk of Queensland. Crime will increase, youth unemployment will increase, youth crime will increase and more people will have their cars stolen, particularly in the areas of Townsville and Cairns where this was rampant.

I remember going to Townsville and Cairns many years ago and listening to the people of Cairns tell me about these issues, and the Liberal National Party dealt with them. When I went back to Cairns and Townsville these issues were not raised. There was peace on the streets. I remember that in Cairns women were being assaulted and on numerous occasions they were harassed on the streets of Cairns. Once we passed the legislation and we got tough on crime, those issues subsided significantly. They will be on the increase again, because this Attorney-General, this employment minister and this skills and training minister have nothing on their minds other than repealing what the LNP did.

I saw the education minister in here before whinging and whining. She looks to her ministerial advisors on the side there, who give a laugh and say, 'Yes, good on you, Minister for Education!' 'That was a great interjection, Attorney-General!' They do not realise that the advice they have given tonight will put people in harm's way. It will mean that more cars will be stolen in Townsville, and they can have their silly little laughs back and forth, 'Good on you, Minister', just as you practised in the mirror this afternoon. That is how you do it! 'Good interjection, Minister for Training and Skills.' The fact is that under this Attorney-General and skills and training minister and under this employment minister, unemployment is rising in this state; apprenticeships are down in this state; and traineeships and skills are down in this state. That will lead to more unemployed kids, fewer kids with jobs and more crime in this state.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (9.52 pm): Well, well, well. Member for Kawana, is it any wonder we are cleaning up the mess tonight with regard to youth justice? No-one has forgotten the boot camps. What was in the report? Not only did he ignore the advice of the department; he then went and signed the contracts. What happened after the contracts? Oh, Billabong just happened to give \$5,500 to the Liberal Party, but that does not matter. What is \$5,500 between mates when you waste millions on the project? Guess what? It did not work. That is the member for Kawana's record on youth justice.

The member for Townsville and the member for Thuringowa are here because of him. If the policies were so good the three LNP members in Townsville would have been re-elected, but they are gone. You put the member for Kawana in hiding for six months, and guess what? He has been demoted twice since he has been here, yet you want to hold onto his failed policies and his failed legislation. You are holding on, but your actions speak louder than that. We are here unwinding the mess tonight. As a member of the committee I will speak to the three issues that we were able to address with regard to the 2016 bill.

The first point is with regard to closing children's courts. We heard evidence from submitter after submitter, there was research after research and data after data, saying that it is good for the offender to make sure that they are not named and shamed and it is also good for the victim. You wonder why the LNP would want to do something that hurts the victim, but then it comes to the crux of the matter: naming and shaming. They just want to name and shame. They want a headline in the paper. They want to rule by fear and division. That is all they care about when it comes to youth justice: fear and division through naming and shaming. They do not care about the victim. They do not care about the future of the young offender either.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Members on my left, I am finding it quite hard to hear what the member is saying. Please keep your interjections to a minimum.

Mr BROWN: The next point with regard to the 2016 bill is that it is obviously good to ensure that 17 year olds are not transferred into adult prisons until they are 18 with the ability of the judge to delay that for a further six months. I had caseworker after caseworker tell me story after story. Kids who were one day off from getting their senior certificates were transferred into adult prisons, so their futures are gone, they are denied the ability to get a senior certificate, denied the ability to get a future, in an adult prison and destined to probably stay in that cycle for the rest of their lives. This is about correcting that. It does not go all the way to what most of the submitters said, but it is a great step forward by the government.

The last point is the reinstatement of the court referred youth justice conferencing program. That not only helped with regard to the rehabilitation of the offender but was also good for the victim. It empowers the victim. I know the member for Beaudesert will be following me, and I note the member's one-page statement of reservation. I hope the member for Beaudesert gets up and gives a bit more evidence, because there was not much in his statement of reservation. The funny thing is that his one statistic actually helped the case for the government.

It just shows that all the previous government wanted to do was look tough on crime and take the easy political route with regard to this. 'Lock 'em up and throw away the key.' Naming and shaming and rule by fear and division—that is all they wanted to do with youth justice. They did not care about the kids. They just want to protect their own political jobs by ruling through fear and division.

I commend the minister for the work that she has done with regard to listening to the evidence and coming up with a proper policy platform. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (9.58 pm): I rise to speak in opposition to the bill tonight. As the member for Kawana and the member for Mansfield have already said, these bills are simply about reversing the LNP's changes to the youth justice system. This does not even introduce anything new

into the system; it simply reinstates the youth justice system which was in existence before the election of the Newman government in 2012, which was a system that had failed Queensland youth and had failed the victims of crime in Queensland as well.

What I want to say about these two bills is that even some of the supporters of some of the provisions in these bills acknowledge that the reforms that are being introduced by the government tonight will not actually make a difference to the issue of youth recidivism. There is a mountain of evidence in the 12 years or so leading up to the defeat of the Bligh government that the youth crime statistics in this state went downhill in a very bad fashion, and that is what the government is going back to tonight. I think even members of the government are ashamed of the reforms tonight, because let us consider what time it is. You are bringing this bill to the House for debate at 9 pm on Friday night of budget week, so how proud are you of these reforms? Why are you hiding these reforms, Attorney-General?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! This is not a conversation between two members. All members need to direct their comments through the chair.

Mr KRAUSE: Why is the Attorney-General ashamed of these provisions? Why are they bringing this to the House at 9 pm on the Friday of budget week? It is because they do not want anyone to know what they are doing. The government does not want people to know that they are winding back to the failed policies of the past which led to out-of-control youth crime here in Queensland.

As I said before, even supporters of the government's position acknowledge that the mechanisms being put in place through these bills will not reduce recidivism. Even supporters of the government's bills have acknowledged to the committee that they would have liked to see the LNP's provisions, instituted in 2014, continue—to give them more time to see how they were effective and to undertake a rigorous review. The 2014 reforms were never rigorously reviewed. They were not given enough time to allow the department or other people in the community to undertake a rigorous analysis of their effectiveness.

When I talk about supporters of the government's bill not being convinced that certain provisions being introduced by the government are going to work, I take the parliament to the 2015 amendment bill. In evidence provided by Professor Dawes, who supported youth justice conferencing, he conceded that conferencing will not reduce recidivism because there is a hard-core group of offenders who are on a path and will not change. I say to the parliament that those people who are on a path need to be dealt with in a way that protects the community. This bill takes away from the youth justice system options which will work to protect the community.

We heard a lot of evidence from people in Townsville who are sick and tired of being victims of youth crime. One was Ms Bannerman, who gave evidence to the committee in Townsville. She has suffered serious injury as a result of youth crime. She also suffered loss of business and loss of amenity in her life. The offender responsible for her injury was a youth offender who is still, as the evidence was given to us, part of the youth justice system.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Industrial Relations and member for Nanango, this is not your conversation. The member for Beaudesert has the call. Please cease addressing each other across the chamber and allow the member for Beaudesert to speak.

Mr KRAUSE: This bill repeals provisions put in place by the LNP without any new solutions. The president of the Childrens Court, Judge Shanahan, noted in his 2014-15 report that there was a decrease in the number of offences dealt with by the Childrens Court during the time in which the LNP policies were in place. Why would the government not give those measures more time and undertake a rigorous review of those policies? It is because this is not about good policy from those members opposite; it is simply about undoing measures that were put in place by the LNP. It is the 'de-Newman-isation' of all policy. In fact, it is what has consumed most of the government's time since they came to the treasury benches in March last year.

The KPMG report, about which some other members have spoken here this evening, was a rigorous report about the youth boot camp tendering process. Members opposite have taken that report and have misled people about what the report was about. It was about a tendering process. One of the recommendations of that report related to sentenced youth boot camp options. One of the recommendations was that the trial of the Gold Coast sentenced youth boot camp, which was the early

intervention youth boot camp, should continue until its completion. They could see, based on the evidence they saw and looking at the tendering options, that it had the potential to have positive outcomes.

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: It is in the report, Minister for Police. Again, the government has selectively chosen to use some elements of that report to its own advantage and closed down the early intervention youth boot camp on the Gold Coast, despite the fact that KPMG recommended it should stay open.

Mrs Frecklington: And Anna Bligh.

Mr KRAUSE: I take that interjection. It is true that the former government led by Ms Bligh actually engaged the party we were going for with Camp Kokoda. We will be opposing this bill.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister for Police, member for Nanango and member for Mudgeeraba are making plenty of interjections. Please allow the member for Beaudesert to speak.

Mr KRAUSE: I previously referred to the 2014-15 report of the Childrens Court President, Judge Michael Shanahan. That report notes that 10 per cent of youth offenders are responsible for 45 per cent of crime. That is a sobering statistic, because it means that there is a very small cohort of people—I think in the committee it came out that there are about 149 individuals in Queensland; if I misquote the statistics I apologise, but it was something like that—who are responsible for 45 per cent of crime in Queensland.

We need to balance the interests of victims with the interests of youth offenders. When you have a very small cohort committing a large amount of crimes, I think you need to take steps to deal with that small cohort. We received evidence in Townsville from a former councillor, Mr Eddiehausen. Mr Eddiehausen was a police officer for 39 years—

Ms Bates: What would he know!

Mr KRAUSE: I take that interjection. He dealt with a lot of youth offenders over that time at the coalface. He even dealt with them in a way to try to get them out of the cycle of reoffending. Mr Eddiehausen's evidence was that, in relation to that small cohort of kids who are offending and offending consistently, they need to be dealt with significantly. He said—

I always equate it to a light and moths. If you turn that light off, the moths go home. They do not do the crime. You need to make sure the victims are involved in the process, but these kids need to be dealt with harshly.

There are two points there. First, we need to address the issue of those youth offenders who are repeatedly engaging in crime and we need to involve the victims. Secondly, Mr Eddiehausen's view is that if we can address the core underlying offenders—the 10 per cent of people who commit 45 per cent of the crime—we will also address the issue of other youth becoming involved in crime.

I raise the issue of Indigenous youth offenders. I again take the parliament back to the committee's report on the 2015 bill. Evidence was given by members of the Indigenous community in Townsville that there needed to be other ways of engaging with Indigenous youth offenders. In fact, one of the bits of evidence received, from Uncle Smallwood, was that Indigenous youth offenders needed to be taught the law of the land and the sea. Other evidence was given to the effect that young Indigenous people needed to be taken out on the land and taught the traditional ways and brought back into—

Mr Costigan: Go bush.

Mr KRAUSE: Yes, go bush. They were the words that I was looking for because they were the words used by the witness; thank you member for Whitsunday. The evidence given was that they needed to be taken on a journey which was remarkably similar to an early intervention youth boot camp, which this government shut down. If you want to look for evidence about supporting the former government's position in relation to early intervention youth boot camps, you have it from people who gave evidence from the Indigenous community in Townsville. This bill is all about simply undoing reforms put in place by the former government. It presents no new options except a return to a system that clearly failed both youth offenders and the community in the past and we all should be vigorously opposing this bill.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (10.10 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 and the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. My focus will be on the proposed solutions for the issues that every jurisdiction has with regard to young people who find themselves in the youth justice system. The broader

community has expectations of our young people and, for the most part, remain tolerant of those who stumble. For the most part they are open to the idea of giving our kids a second chance or a third chance or possibly even a fourth chance, but tolerance wanes when they see repeat offenders being given slap-on-the-wrist punishments, and that is what this bill proposes again.

Those opposite have thrown out the programs that were implemented by the LNP without giving those programs time to see if they could work, and that is just wrong. That is just poor planning. That is just 'de-Newman-ising' the legislation out of spite, and that is a mistake. We have a situation where there are no plans to resolve the fundamental issues. All we are doing is reinstating something that did nothing for recidivism in the past, and reducing recidivism is what youth justice conferencing was designed to do. Having young people face their accuser means that they will understand the impact they have had on another person, but do they understand, act on that understanding and turn away from their past ways? The evidence does not support that. It may have an effect on a few, if we have caught them early enough, but what about the 10 per cent of offenders who represent 45 per cent of all proven offences? That figure can be found in the Childrens Court 2014-15 annual report. Do members really think youth conferencing on its own is going to turn them around?

The statistics provided to the committee for the 2014-15 financial year tell us the number and percentage of distinct young people with at least one proven offence that was finalised in that year. They are provided by age group and also the total number. There is no need to go into the different age groups here, but the totals are interesting. With regard to the comments made by the member for Beaudesert, in fact it is 10 per cent of one of the subgroups that he was referring to. There were two groups but, as I say, there is no need for us to go into the detail of the different groups at this point. However, they are interesting. The totals refer to young people from age 10 through to 16. The total number is 3,495 young people and the number of offences committed by them that were finalised was 23,350. That is an average of 6.7 offences per young person. Clearly, some offenders would have been responsible for one offence. Based on the earlier figure of 10 per cent being responsible for 45 per cent of offences, it means that around a total of 350 of these offenders were responsible for around 10,500 offences. That is 30 offences each. That brings the average for the other 90 per cent of the offenders down to around four each and of course, as I said a moment ago, if we delve deeper we would find that some were responsible for just one offence.

Looking across the spectrum, there would be some of them who may be persuaded by the youth justice conferencing concept but, given that there is no evidence that there was any measurable reduction in recidivism, they would be few and far between. By the way, yes, there are other benefits to youth justice conferencing. Evidence suggests that giving victims an opportunity to face their offender has, in some instances, had a positive impact on their wellbeing and that is a worthwhile outcome, but at what cost? What we can do? I think there is quite a bit that can be done, but it needs a complete rethink on the way we are doing it. We need to look at the fundamental causes and work on them with the young people who are coming through from younger ages and at the same time work with those who are in the system now.

What do we need to work on? What is the range of issues that we need to deal with? It is what I refer to as the AEIOU issues. If we just keep offering easy outs for our young people, particularly those who are already well entrenched in the system, without resolving the fundamental issues around their behaviour, we will just see so many of them repeating the offence or going on to bigger and badder things.

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr CRANDON: Why don't you just listen, Bill? This makes sense. Just have a listen to it. The Attorney-General is having a listen to it. You listen to it too. Recidivism in our younger generations runs at around 60 per cent. What do I mean by that exactly? When our young people first come to the attention of police and the courts, we quite rightly go easy on them and, as I said earlier, that is possibly where conferencing may be of benefit to them. We give them an opportunity to correct their ways. It is a first offence, so we are going to give them a warning. The reality is that we see many of them before the courts again for a second offence or several additional offences 60 per cent of the time within 12 months. In my view, we most certainly should not keep on giving them that easy out through conferencing time and time again. It just will not work with many of these recidivists, so we have to address the underlying issues or we will never reduce recidivism.

That is where the AEIOU that I referred to earlier comes in. The A stands for accommodation. In my research and discussion with people working in the prison and parole system and the people who work in the provision of programs, I found that this most basic need—accommodation—is perhaps the most important one to resolve. If these young people are in the wrong environment, then the chance of

them offending again jumps significantly. There is all manner of reason why where they live causes or contributes to their recidivism behaviour. They may be in a dysfunctional family environment. They may have been kicked out of home by parents who are at their wits' end or simply do not care about them anymore. As such, they may be physically homeless or be couch surfing with friends. Once they go through the justice system, they find it even more difficult to find accommodation and so the recidivist behaviour increases.

E is for education. Depending on how the measure is taken, and there are a few different tests used, somewhere between 15 per cent and 40 per cent of people in the prison system are identified as illiterate. It follows that similar results can be anticipated in the young recidivist group. I will talk later about an alternative education program that is making great inroads into turning young people's lives around.

The I is for integration. Some talk about reintegration into our community, but the reality is that many have never been properly integrated into society. They have never been taught right from wrong. They have never had a positive role model that stayed around long enough to make a difference. We see it in the way many young recidivist offenders act and act out.

The O is for occupation. Working in a part-time job when young and working for a living when you move into adulthood becomes more difficult for people with a criminal record, so we need to develop programs that assist young people into work—young people who have been through the criminal justice system. We need to develop training programs that provide them with basic skills. It is not as easy as it sounds because the first thing that needs to happen is a change of attitude in the young person. The saying that you can lead a horse to water but you cannot make it drink comes to mind. The idea that a young person can be forced to do a particular program or face a harsh penalty just does not cut it. Once again, I am aware of a program that I will talk about later if I have time that is motivating young people to take another road.

The U is for understanding. That was the basic purpose of the boot camp concept—not to punish but to give participants an opportunity to contemplate what could be a different road for them to take and to learn from others. By trialling various programs and ideas that have worked elsewhere, the boot camp concept could change lives. Putting young recidivist offenders through these sorts of programs gives society an opportunity to instil in them an understanding of how to act and react in certain circumstances, an opportunity to teach them coping mechanisms and problem-solving skills, to demonstrate to them what is acceptable and what society expects of them, giving them an understanding of what their choices—right and wrong—can lead to. There may be room for conferencing but surely not for repeat offenders and certainly not on its own. We have to back up conferencing by addressing the whole range of issues that affect young recidivist offenders.

The other night in my adjournment debate speech I made a brief mention of a program that is perhaps the answer to three aspects of the AEIOU, if not more. Members may recall that I talked about a school in my electorate that has a 98 per cent pass rate. It is a school with an 81 per cent attendance rate of students who could not manage to attend 10 per cent of the time in their previous schools. At the end of 2014 and 2015, 100 per cent of the university-bound students at that school were accepted into their university courses. These are second chance students. Forty-one per cent of graduating students re-enrol into the college to continue with further study.

This school has credentials that are the envy of many. In fact, members may recall me saying that just one week ago—on 8 June 2016—*School Improvement Review* was quoted as stating that the school review on this school was the best improvement review it had ever done. This school is Eagleby Learning Centre, which is now known as the South East Region Learning College. This is a unique school with unique qualities and dedicated educators. The school's vision statement, 'Success starts here' is based on the premise that everyone is entitled to an education. The South East Region Learning College—or SERLC—is leading the way in alternative education by challenging traditional methods of education delivery so that disenfranchised, disengaged and even formerly ineligible students have the opportunity to access education with real success.

SERLC has become the exemplar of an alternative education approach by delivering a range of quality state secondary education and certificate courses in a flexible manner and, most importantly, successfully to second chance learners. It uses what is termed the flexible learning alternative EQ model—yes, it is an Education Queensland school—that was developed right in the heart of Eagleby in the north of the Coomera electorate. In fact, the Eagleby Learning Centre has been around for many years annexed to the Beenleigh State High School. From my observation and feedback, I can say that the ELC bobbed along with minor success for some years before transforming into what it is today by visionary and dedicated educators who saw the need to develop the alternative model and dedicated

themselves to ensuring that it succeeded. This is just the beginning. With campuses now at Eagleby and Varsity Lakes, the 'Success starts here' vision, underpinned by the flexible learning alternative EQ model, is a resounding success.

I am keen to see other campuses develop as well—initially up and down the Gold Coast and then throughout Queensland. This flexible learning model could be rolled out for the types of young people we are talking about now—those who are in the youth justice system. In fact, there is a perfect opportunity to develop another campus at the Coomera marine precinct right now, with the old TAFE facility available and ready-made for the flexible learning alternative EQ model. The Coomera marine precinct is a working marina and is the largest in Australia, with a total workforce estimated to be around 3,000. The precinct is ready to employ school based apprentices. With a new boat manufacturing facility under construction, the need for apprentices there is soon to grow even further.

As for this alternative school model, I know that the need is there. I see it in my region, as I am sure others see it in their regions. What is the process that students undertake? This is where I see the school responding to most of those AEIOU issues that will benefit young people in the youth justice system: education, integration and occupation.

Upon enrolment, the students are introduced to the SERLC concept and understanding of success and grit and the vision statement, or motto, 'Success starts here'. In that regard, the school wants to impress on students that success is as individual as the student and individual students can succeed. Every student gets a one-on-one interview and a personal timetable that outlines their program. This process also helps to define the student's goals. Importantly, those goals may range from simply concentrating on attendance initially, then building to focusing on their individual pathway to further study or employment. The school stresses that what success means will be different for every student, but graduating with a pass will be one success that is part of the program's fundamental priorities. Students must be focused on passing.

SERLC staff have the luxury of a small school environment, allowing all staff—both non-teaching and teaching—to form meaningful relationships and build trust with students like no other education facility. This view has been expressed to staff by students and it has confirmed their ability to deliver meaningful, holistic outcomes with data to support the successful outcomes. All of that is important in changing the views of these young people. I am told that the entire staff at SERLC acknowledge the sheer grit and resilience that the students display on a daily basis simply to be there. Students face numerous challenges in their lives and often their education is not prioritised as they battle other obstacles for mere survival. That is what I alluded to earlier in terms of the AEIOU. Accommodation is very important to these students.

SERLC recognises the incredible feats that the students achieve despite the odds. In the event of an exceptional student who has achieved despite incredible odds, the college honours them with their True Grit award. This is an acknowledgement at the school graduation ceremony of the individual conquering incredible barriers to achieve their goals. For these people who have not been able to be at school for more than 10 per cent of the time in their previous schools, that is an incredible barrier to have conquered.

What do we have? We have second chance learners. They are the folk we are talking about who end up in the youth justice system, because they drop out, or they are kicked out of our mainstream schools—and, on many occasions, for good reason. They are taken out of the system, because of safety issues in relation to other students and in relation to people who are working at those mainstream schools. Learners from all walks of life who were disengaged, disenfranchised, or formerly ineligible—and that includes many recently released from custodial sentence and who are possibly on parole or on probation, or in the youth justice system—are determined to graduate with the help of teachers who care, recognise and acknowledge difference with advanced programs that have been proven with a 98 per cent pass rate. That is not a given to them. The students have to earn that 98 per cent pass rate. The students learn to step up to the plate, develop goals for themselves and ultimately find in themselves the resilience and tenacity to turn their lives around through an alternative education program.

In making the changes that the Attorney-General is determined to make, I ask the Attorney-General to make a change in the way in which she deals with young offenders. I ask the Attorney-General to develop programs that will provide answers to the AEIOU issues, which are the root cause of failure for so many young people, which are the root cause of them being on the recidivism merry-go-round. If the Attorney-General does that, she will be changing the lives and saving the lives of young people in the youth justice system, the lives of their families and other loved ones and the lives of others who love them. The communities they live in will also see a difference through less crime.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (10.28 pm): I rise tonight to contribute to this cognate debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bills. These bills are another example of the Palaszczuk government's election commitment being met. They will see the reversal of widely criticised youth justice measures that were instituted by the previous government in 2012 and 2014. I would like to begin my contribution by thanking the committee chair, Mr Mark Furner, my fellow committee members and the secretariat for the great work that they did on this important bill. I would also like to sincerely thank all of those who made submissions and presented at the public hearings and who sometimes heard some very difficult and tragic stories. The Palaszczuk government is committed to reducing youth crime in Queensland. That is why it is repealing the amendments made by the previous government.

The Palaszczuk government is adopting an evidence based approach to youth offending with these measures. The former government promised that its tough-on-crime approach would break the cycle of youth offending by targeting youth offenders. However, data shows that the number of repeat offenders did not decrease; rather, that since 2010-11 the proportion of young people who reoffended within six months of being found guilty had actually increased. This, I would argue, would indicate that the former government's amendments were not effective and did not provide a deterrent for offenders.

Evidence clearly shows that increasing the severity of punishment does not reduce offending. Submissions were received from legal, academic, community and youth groups and government agencies during the review of the bills. An analysis of responses showed that 81 per cent supported the measures being introduced by the Palaszczuk government and that only three per cent were opposed to one or more of the proposed measures. I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my speech.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): You confirm you have my approval?

Ms PEASE: I have.

Leave granted.

The Palaszczuk government has committed to moving away over time from treating 17-year-olds as adults for the purposes of the criminal justice system. As a significant initial step in this process, the bill will increase from 17 to 18 the age at which young people, who have at least six months to serve in detention, are to be transferred to an adult correctional facility. Furthermore, to ensure the developmental and rehabilitative needs of young people are taken appropriately into account, the bill will empower a court to delay a young person's transfer for up to six months. However, to maintain the safety of youth detention centres, the bill provides a statutory age cap for detention of 18 years and six months. Under the proposed provisions, a person who is 18 years and six months will not be able to enter a detention centre to begin serving or return to complete a period of detention.

Amnesty International supports these changes and states that the Government has a human rights obligation to hold children and young people in facilities appropriate to their age, separate from adults and with programs for their rehabilitation. The QLS also state that it is their firm view that there should be no transfer of 17 year olds to adult facilities.

The QAI state that early incarceration especially for young people has been found to compound anti-social behaviour through secondary labelling and ensures that young people become accustomed to prison culture and to low social expectations.

The bill also proposes to amend parts of the YJ Act to provide restorative justice processes. Evidence supports reintroducing youth justice conferencing. Conferencing is a restorative justice process and an effective diversionary strategy. Evidence shows that conferencing can have a positive impact on a young person's likelihood of reoffending. Evidence also strongly shows there are direct benefits to victims who are involved in a restorative justice process. These include a reduction in post-traumatic stress symptoms, a reduction in the desire for violent revenge and a heightened level of satisfaction. Research also suggests that restorative justice is most effective when it is legislated as a required consideration, rather than on an optional basis.

Amendments to youth justice conferencing reinstate and enhance the pathways for the court to refer matters to conferences and provide greater flexibility to deliver diversionary restorative justice interventions. Those diversionary interventions and conferences are not soft options for young offenders. But rather that young people are required to accept responsibly for their behaviours, confront their victims and undertake a restorative process, which can include community reparations of one sort or another. QAI submit that conferencing provides an opportunity for the young person to admit the offence and accept responsibility for their offending behaviour, to understand in a tangible way the effects of their actions, to repair some of the harm caused by their offending behaviour and to feel proud of their efforts to put things right.

These bills represent an important step in moving towards a more balanced and evidence based youth justice system. The Palaszczuk government is delivering a comprehensive youth justice policy and to set out to reform the youth justice system based on evidence of what works. This policy will have a priority focus on reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and reducing the impact of youth offending in our communities by supporting children and young people to make long-term positive changes in their behaviour.

Further, alternative education and vocational training programs are being delivered in a community setting to young people. Through this and other evidence based initiatives, the policy will drive action that ensures the community achieves better value from the investment in youth justice. This will include an increased focus on education, skills training, improved family relationships, enhanced resilience and social outcomes for young people. These bills will build a world-class best practice youth justice system. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (10.30 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 and the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. At the outset, if I could seek a momentary indulgence of the House, I would like to join both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in paying tribute to Jo Cox MP, the parliamentarian who unfortunately lost her life earlier this morning. I would like to extend my condolences to her family and her colleagues. All of us have an obligation, no matter what our politics and what it is that we stand for, to stand tall in the fight for the freedoms that each and every one of us hold dear. MPs across not only Queensland, Australia and indeed the world must be accessible to the people whom they seek to represent. It is quite distressing that an MP who was simply going about representing her community has been killed in her prime.

The response that we must take to ideas that we do not support and to ideologies that we fundamentally disagree with is to have a better argument. The response is to ensure that through argument and alternative proposals we can ensure a strong, open and participatory democracy. We as a society and a community must never, ever take for granted the freedoms and the liberties that not only each and every one of us in this House hold so dear but also our foremen and forewomen fought for and sacrificed their lives for. We must be strong in our resolve as we stand up for freedom of speech and freedom of expression. I thank the House for that indulgence.

In turning to the bills, as we have seen and has been highlighted by the shadow Attorney-General, this is another attempt by this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government to 'de-Newman-ise' the state of Queensland. This is another attempt by this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government to turn back the clock with no evidence and without seeking a mandate from the people of Queensland. As we know, more people in Queensland voted for the LNP than for the Labor Party. This is a continued track record of this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government to 'de-Newman-ise' this state and to turn back the clock.

This government is seeking to remove boot camp orders from not only vehicle offenders but from a range of sentencing options that are there for juvenile offenders. In 2013 I had the privilege of joining my colleagues, the member for Coomera, the member for Albert and the member for Burleigh to travel to the Scenic Rim—and I acknowledge the member for Beaudesert has been a strong advocate for this particular entity—to visit the Kokoda Challenge Early Intervention Youth Boot Camp. I had an opportunity to meet not only with those adults who are trying to make a difference in young people's lives but also with some of the young people who were participating in that program at that time. They said to me, the member for Coomera, the member for Albert and the member for Burleigh that they appreciated that this boot camp was giving them another opportunity. It recognised that, yes, they had made mistakes and, yes, there needed to be consequences, but where appropriate boot camps were a viable option to make sure that we could help young people and at-risk young people get back on track. I am incredibly disappointed, as I am sure the Townsville region is, that we have a government that, in its attempt to 'de-Newman-ise' this state, is removing the option of youth boot camp orders.

It is incredibly disappointing that, in its attempt to roll back what were very good reforms that were aimed at ensuring the safety of our community by having an appropriate and measured response to youth offending, this government has failed to acknowledge the wants and the needs of the Townsville community. I acknowledge the member for Burdekin, the shadow agriculture minister and a former police officer in this great state. I know that the member for Burdekin will touch not only on his experiences as a resident of the greater Townsville region but also in particular on his experiences as a hardworking Queensland Police Service officer. It is appropriate as well to put on the record my appreciation of the hardworking QPS officers across the state who do a fantastic job of keeping our communities safe each and every day.

In the proposal that is being considered by the House at the moment we see the determination by this government to close the Childrens Court. One of the things that is oft said and is particularly true is that justice must be seen to be done. If the broader community are going to have confidence in our justice system and how it reacts—particularly when we consider, as has been highlighted by my friend and colleague the member for Beaudesert, that a small proportion of people are responsible for a significant percentage of crimes—we need to make sure that people in our community are able to see justice being done and have faith and confidence in the system. It is absolutely critical that people have faith and confidence in the system. To that end it is also disappointing that we are also seeing the removal of the principle that detention is a last resort. Ultimately, when a crime has been committed, where appropriate and severe enough, a custodial sentence must be deemed appropriate. The community want and expect that. We have heard time and time again that the community is frustrated with how criminals are being leniently treated in this state. This is an asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government continuing to go weak on crime in this state.

It is very disappointing that a government that claims to be consultative, that says that it wants to listen to and talk to the people of Queensland, has not taken an opportunity to take on board not only the wants and needs of the broader Townsville region but also the wants and needs of Queenslanders who generally are saying that they do not think that the sentencing regime in Queensland is tough enough. As I said, we must keep in mind that sometimes detention is appropriate and there will be circumstances, and I acknowledge that, where detention may not be appropriate, but we should not take off the table this notion that at the first instance in some circumstances detention will be appropriate.

As I mentioned earlier in my contribution, we see that this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government is continuing to go soft on crime, whether or not it is their intention to repeal the sentencing boot camp option, whether or not it is their intention to repeal the provisions that provide for sentencing and suggest that a custodial sentence must be a last resort or whether or not—and this is particularly important for my community on the Gold Coast—it is their intention to repeal the very popular, very tough and working anti-criminal motorcycle gang and anti-organised crime legislation in this state. That is evidence that this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government is going soft on crime and is not listening to the people of Queensland. We have seen consistently that this government does not wish to listen to the people of Queensland. We have seen consistently that all they want to do is have a talkfest. They just want to sit down, hold hands and sing *Kumbaya*.

Mr Minnikin: Have a review, have a review, have a review.

Miss BARTON: They want to have a review into everything. However, the reality is that the time for governing has come. The time for hard decisions has come. Whether it is the youth justice legislation or the attempt by this government later down the track to weaken our resolve against organised crime in Queensland, we have seen that this government has squibbed it. It has squibbed it because this government is asleep at the wheel. They are not listening to the people of Queensland. They are not taking an opportunity to give them a say.

When the committee was going through its inquiry process into the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, it went to Townsville. As those of us who were in the last parliament would know, Townsville had been calling out for tough measures. They had had significant problems, particularly with respect to vehicle offences. The Townsville community was screaming out for action, just as the Gold Coast community had screamed out for action against criminal motorcycle gangs. We saw a government prepared to make a decision. It was prepared to take a stand and it was prepared to deliver not only for the Townsville community, which was struggling with juvenile offenders who were committing crimes against vehicles, but also for the Gold Coast community, which was dealing with criminal motorcycle gangs. The former government was prepared to listen and to take action. It is not the LNP who squibbed it in the face of crime in this state. It is not the LNP who squibbed it when the community asked the government to be tough on crime. As I say, it is this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government that has squibbed any opportunity to make sure that there is an appropriate response to the problem of juvenile crime in Queensland.

When young Queenslanders who might be vulnerable have taken a wrong turn along the way, it is appropriate that we give them a chance and an opportunity to restore their lives. If they can make a difference in their lives, they may have the opportunity to better themselves and to contribute to their community. I pay tribute to Project Booyah, which is a program that—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order!, I am finding it very hard to hear the member for Broadwater. Could members please keep their conversations to a minimum.

Miss BARTON: Thank you for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. Project Booyah is a program that the Gold Coast members of parliament would be very aware of and, indeed, have been very supportive of. Ahead of the 2015 election, I joined my Gold Coast colleagues to collectively send a message to the then treasurer and now Leader of the Opposition, the member for Clayfield, that we wanted to support this program because we wanted to be able to make sure that young people had an opportunity to turn their lives around. Project Booyah has done just that. It is appropriate to put on the record my thanks to Kenton Campbell from Zarraffa's. He has worked very closely with the Queensland Police Service and the Gold Coast Police Citizens Youth Club to provide an education for young Queenslanders who need someone to guide them and to tell them that they are valued, that they have a place in our society and that they really have an opportunity to turn their lives around. Project Booyah has been particularly successful in doing that. It is a prime example of how the community, the government and private enterprise can work together to make sure that young vulnerable Queenslanders have an opportunity to get back on the straight and narrow.

One of the other things that I am particularly proud of when it comes to the LNP wanting to make sure that young people have an opportunity is, of course, our plan to get young Queenslanders back into work. As we know, making sure that they have employment opportunities is a key and critical part of making sure that they not only feel valued but also have direction in their lives. We know that this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government does not think that it can do anything about youth unemployment. We know that this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government does not have a plan to address youth unemployment, unlike the LNP. I pay tribute to the former attorney-general, who was the architect of these great reforms when we were in government. Alongside the Leader of the Opposition, he was the architect of a genuine strategy to ensure that young people have an opportunity in this state. As a society and a government, we need to be able to do that. We need to say to young people that they are valued, that they are worthy, that someone wants to give them an opportunity to get back on the right path and that they can get back on the straight and narrow.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The volume is getting quite high. Again, I am finding it very hard to hear the member for Broadwater. I know it is getting very late, but could members please try to keep their interjections and conversations to a minimum.

Miss BARTON: Again, Madam Deputy Speaker, thank you for your protection. In the time remaining, I acknowledge the members who represented the Townsville region in the last government: John Hathaway, the member for Townsville; Sam Cox, the member for Thuringowa; David Crisafulli, the member for Mundingburra; Rosemary Menkens, the member for Burdekin; and Andrew Cripps, the member for Hinchinbrook. Those members stood up for their communities. Those members were prepared to stand up and say, 'In the face of a youth crime problem in our city, we want the government to do something.' Our government did not squib the opportunity to send a message, not only to the Townsville community but also to the broader Queensland community, that we were not going to be tolerant of such behaviour. We showed leadership, because someone needed to. What we have seen is this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government—

Government members interjected.

Miss BARTON: Just because they like it so much, I will repeat it: what we have seen is this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government failing to show leadership when it comes not only to responding to the wants and needs of the broader Townsville community in dealing with—and I know that the member for Burdekin will touch on this—a very serious and significant issue but also more broadly when it comes to being tough on crime and I again mention organised crime, which is relevant to my electorate on the Gold Coast. We made sure that we did not squib it. We showed leadership. We stood up for the people of Queensland and we stood tall in the fight against not only organised crime but also significant rates of youth recidivism.

One of the things I was particularly pleased about was that we were able to deliver for the Gold Coast region an early intervention youth boot camp. We have seen that it makes a difference in people's lives. It makes people feel like there is hope. It makes people feel like they have a chance. What this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government has done, by squibbing an opportunity to stand tall and show leadership, is fail to show the young people of Queensland that (1) they are valued, (2) they have an opportunity, (3) they have a future and (4) they have hope. That is what it is about.

It is not just about hope for those young offenders or those vulnerable young people who might be about to go down the wrong path. It is about sending the broader community hope that the government will stand tall in the face of the battle against crime—that we will not have a government that is soft on crime.

What we have seen time and time again is this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government squib any opportunity to show leadership when it comes to dealing with crime. They are weak on crime. They do not listen to the people of Queensland. They have failed to deliver not only for the people of Townsville but also for the people of Queensland more broadly when it comes to sending a message on crime, when it comes to saying to young people we think there is hope and opportunity and to the people of Queensland where someone has done the wrong thing we will respond appropriately and in the best of interests of all Queenslanders. This asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government has squibbed it.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (10.51 pm): I rise to speak against the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 and the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. As members of parliament we have a fundamental obligation to reflect the views, the issues and the concerns of Queenslanders. For that reason I have to oppose this legislation tonight.

This legislation is seeking to water down the laws that we currently have in place regarding juvenile offences. I will speak some more on that shortly. There is no quick fix for juvenile crime. It is a complex issue. It is an evolving issue. I will talk about Townsville tonight. The residents of Townsville

have had enough. They are sick and tired of these juvenile offenders breaking into their homes, stealing their property, damaging their property and stealing their cars. These are the cars that they use to take their kids to school, to do the shopping, to go to work. These are the cars that they then find wrecked and burnt out with no avenue for restitution or compensation.

I too attended the recent crime forum in Townsville and I have a different take on that to that of the Attorney-General. The message I received at that crime forum is exactly what I have said. That is that people are sick and tired of these kids breaking the law and committing offences and not receiving adequate punishment.

As a police officer for 25 years, the last eight as the officer in charge of the Townsville police division, as a former mentor at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre and as a former member of the northern parole board I think I am well qualified to stand in this place tonight and talk about youth justice. I want to share with members a story about one of the young inmates at Cleveland. We will call him Darcy for the sake of anonymity. During the time that I was Darcy's mentor at Cleveland he came in and out of that place three times. On two of those occasions within a week of being released he was homeless. On one of those occasions he was almost bashed to death.

That kid over that period of time forged a bond with me to the extent that I received a phone call from him last night in this place. I could not believe it. I said to him, 'Where have you been.' He said, 'I just got out of prison.' He had just finished a three-year term of imprisonment in an adult prison. The message here in terms of a lot of these juveniles is that if they are not rehabilitated and they are not supported adequately they will progress to a life of crime. In this case, that is exactly what has happened.

On the third occasion this kid was released from Cleveland we sent him out to Mount Isa and Colin Saltmere from Myuma. Some members may know Colin Saltmere. In effect, Colin was running a boot camp. This kid was operating machinery. This kid was learning how to get a job. I will never forget when he came back to Townsville in his new clothes and boots how proud he was that he had actually got himself organised and he was starting to get on the road to finding employment and actually doing something with his life. Unfortunately, whilst he was back in Townsville he got mixed up with his old mates and went off the rails again.

I highlight to the Attorney-General tonight that there are three things that I think we need to take into consideration. Firstly, we need to target these kids when they are young. We need to target those kids who are absent from school. How do I know that? I know that because I ran the remote schools strategy on Palm Island. We raised school attendance rates over there from below 50 per cent to 85 per cent and the crime rate went down. When kids are going to school they are not out there committing crimes. The kids who are regularly absent from school are the ones who need to be targeted. They are the ones we need to be pouring the resources into. If we capture them at that age then we are well and truly on the road to getting them on the straight and narrow.

Secondly, we need to do a lot more work at the point of release. A lot of these juvenile offenders—and I saw this time and time again at Cleveland—go into places like Cleveland, do all these programs, undertake training, counselling and rehabilitation, say all the right things about wanting to get out and get a job and do something with their life and they get out and the support falls away. They go back into home environments where there is domestic violence, where they are being sexually abused and assaulted and where there are drugs.

There needs to be a lot more work and a lot more resources at the point of release. That may very well mean that for some of these kids they have to go—and I hate using this term—to a halfway house, to a transitional accommodation facility where they are supported, where they have to be there at night time, where they can be driven to work, college, TAFE or whatever the case may be each day until they can get themselves organised to be able to take on that role themselves.

Thirdly, a lot of the programs that currently exist need to be reviewed and overhauled. There are certainly a lot of operators out there at the moment being paid a lot of money for very little result. They will tell people how good they are. They will tell people about the results that they are magically getting looking after these kids. At the end of the day, we start to question the results. I saw that firsthand on Palm Island as well.

I have a pretty simple philosophy with these kids. I certainly did not pull any punches. If they commit the crime they do the time. I think that is a reasonable expectation of most people in our community. That goes for removing breach of bail as an offence for children. If someone goes out and commits a crime then I think Queenslanders should be able to go to bed at time in comfort knowing that that kid is not back out on the street committing further offences.

I recently had two parents come in and see me in my electorate office in the Burdekin. They wanted to give me their 13-year-old son because he was out of control. That kid was out every night committing break and enters and damaging property. He was out of control. He was on bail. They came into my office and said, 'We cannot control this kid anymore; he is yours.' It was like what one would do with a stray puppy. They said, 'He is yours, Dale, take him home.'

That reflects the frustration out there in the community and the frustration for a lot of our parents of these juvenile offenders about what to do with their kids and the need to do a lot more work with them when they actually go to jail. When I was talking to Darcy last night, I actually asked him, 'What could we have done differently? What could we have done to stop you going into that adult prison?' He said to me, 'I almost had my life together. When I went out to Myuma, I was driving excavators, front-end loaders and dozers and I loved it. That's what I wanted to do but I needed someone to tell me that I had to stay there. If I had stayed there long enough, I would have got my act together and I would have ended up at Century Mine driving machinery.' It does not take much but you need to make that effort and that commitment.

Conferencing with juveniles for me has its ups and downs, its hits and misses, if you like. For a lot of these kids particularly in this day and age, they are hardened criminals at age 13 or 12, whether you like to admit that or not. I have seen some of these kids and I have seen some of their criminal histories. I will never forget a juvenile who came into the police station when I was in Townsville with a criminal history running to something like 27 pages. I am sure the Attorney-General has seen those types of criminal histories—where there were property offences and break and enter offences numbering in the hundreds. These kids know the legal system. This kid that I was mentoring at Cleveland was telling me the law. He knew what to say and he knew how to manipulate it. We should not stop and pretend for one minute that these kids are angels. We need to be serious about this. We need to take a holistic view of it. We certainly need to look at the bigger picture in terms of where we go to from here in managing this issue in our community.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (11.02 pm): I rise to add my contribution to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I start by acknowledging the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, the chair and the secretariat for allowing me to join them in Townsville during the public hearing into this bill.

History will show that the former Newman government went about implementing a safer streets crime action plan. The Newman government implemented the boot camp for motor vehicle youth crimes. I will say at the outset that this was a complete and utter failure from the start. These camps should be shown for the failures that they really were. The camps represented a gross loss of taxpayers' money, with the spend blowing out by millions of dollars.

I have to address the elephant in the room, the Lincoln Springs boot camp. Those operators were also known LNP supporters, donating funds to the LNP. I point out the fact that they were still awarded the boot camp against departmental advice to go to another tenderer, but that just shows the complete lack of transparency and lack of integrity. It is that same old rhetoric from the LNP. It was a complete waste of time.

The report from Queensland Auditor-General, Andrew Greaves—and I will table that in a minute—raised concerns about favouritism and cost blowouts after examining the Newman government youth boot camp program. The report, which was tabled in parliament—and I have an excerpt here—said the Fraser Coast and Lincoln Springs boot camp providers were chosen even though suitable, lower cost options were available. One of those options was Project Youfla that was run by Indigenous elders. They did not get a look-in. It is disgusting. In his report, Mr Greaves said that the former government was left 'open to accusations of favouritism'. The report said the trial was not fully costed, and the cost had increased from \$4.9 million to a whopping \$12.3 million over two years, and for what? Former attorney-general Jarrod Bleijie announced the new boot camp at Lincoln Springs and Beyond Billabong west of Ingham. The report also talks about the recidivism rates from those boot camps. It is right up there at 68 per cent. This completely wasted everybody's time.

The previous speaker, the member for Burdekin, talked about his time as a police officer. I acknowledge his 25 years, but I have to tell the House that as a 25-year veteran paramedic in Townsville I have also had to deal with a range of motor vehicle thefts over the time, and guess what? They also occurred in the Newman era; 2012 to 2015 was no different at all.

What are we doing as local members? I am passionate about addressing youth crime challenges in Thuringowa and Townsville. That takes a collaborative effort. I have got great working relationships with a lot of those police officers from my former career. We are getting on with the job of working with the community to address those issues.

It would be completely remiss of me when I talk about Lincoln Springs not to share with the House and put on record our own 'choppergate' in Townsville. The former attorney-general, the member for Kawana, took the former member for Thuringowa, Sam Cox, to Lincoln Springs for a site visit. I guess it was just too hard to hire a four-wheel drive and drive there, but who cares about the taxpayers? After the release of the Auditor-General's report into boot camps, I had plenty of media asking me, 'Have you hired a chopper in your time as the member for Thuringowa?' I had to confess that I had been on a helicopter many times, clocking up thousands of hours. I know how much they cost. I was on a rescue helicopter. It costs thousands of dollars an hour. What a complete waste of time. I say to the former members, 'Poor choice, old chaps. Poor choice, indeed.'

I note the other passenger—and we had some members over there looking at the notes from that public hearing in Townsville—was Torhild Parkinson, with whom I have great interactions and who certainly works with the police. She gave evidence at that parliamentary hearing. She got a helicopter ride, and she said that the boot camps did in fact represent a complete and gross waste of taxpayers' money. The previous Newman LNP government should hang their heads in shame. They failed the hardworking people of this state by creating these holiday boot camps and all the time not really addressing the problems of juvenile crime.

The LNP did even more damage. They withdrew things like the Sentencing Advisory Council, the Murri Court and court conferencing. I am glad the member for Coomera has spoken, because during his speech he said that court conferencing may reduce recidivism. Members will have to check *Hansard* for that. I must thank the member for Coomera because he did not say it once, he said it twice. I thank him for supporting the bill. We will get on with returning these important policies and legislation to address the issue.

We know that any repealing of the Newman government Youth Justice Act by our government reflects international evidence that increasing the severity of punishment is ineffective in reducing recidivism, particularly by children and young people. One of the hallmarks of this bill will be the reinstatement of the Childrens Court of Queensland sentence review jurisdiction and expanding the jurisdiction to include the magistrates' decisions in relation to breaches of the community based orders.

After the parliamentary hearing by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee in Townsville, I was taken aside by a well-experienced fellow, a solicitor, who told me that one of the best things we were doing as a government was reinstating the Murri Court. It is now back in place and I thank the Attorney-General for that because he told me that it worked. We have many well-respected Indigenous elders in Townsville who can now assist the magistrate in decisions affecting our Indigenous youth, who are sadly overrepresented in our courts.

The member for Beaudesert tried to talk about Uncle Alfred, and I could not quite hear what he was saying. I can tell him that it is Uncle Alfred's men's group. He has been around for a while and I have had several interactions with him. He came along to a private discussion before that youth justice forum and he talked about the importance of taking people back to country. He does it as a volunteer. He needs some local support, and we are doing that.

Court conferencing is where the victim gets to sit face-to-face with the young offender to articulate the effects of the intrusion and subsequent issues for that person. I was told reliably that this was entirely a good thing for these young offenders, with evidence showing a significant reduction in recidivism when they had to face their victims. The guilt often expressed by these young offenders was a telling factor in turning their lives around.

I commend the Attorney-General for reintroducing the Sentencing Advisory Council which I believe will further educate and inform the public in our community of appropriate sentencing when someone commits a crime. All in our community have an expectation to feel safe in our own homes and that when a criminal offence occurs appropriate sentencing is applied. I do believe the reinstatement of the Sentencing Advisory Council will address those expectations.

On 6 June we held a community forum in Townsville on youth justice. All three Townsville members have heard the community on issues surrounding youth crime. We asked the Attorney-General and the police minister to come to Townsville—

Mr Costigan: What was the outcome? List the outcomes.

Mr HARPER: The member will hear if he stops interrupting. We asked them to come and hear their concerns. Whilst there has been a recent spike in vehicle theft, all three members at that forum—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr HARPER: They do not like it, do they?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Member for Thuringowa. If the member for Everton and the Minister for Police wish to have a conversation, perhaps they can do so outside the chamber rather than across the chamber.

Mr HARPER: Of course, all agreed that Townsville is not, in fact, the crime capital of Queensland, and our communities' challenges were not helped by the LNP stripping away those legislative policies. It should not define us as a city because we know the biggest issues are job creation and education, which we are getting on with delivering.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr HARPER: Yes, we are. It is called a stadium. What that forum did do was bring together a community who spoke with emotion and a strong desire to address the recent challenges of youth crime in a collaborative way. So we had—

Mr Mander: What was the practical outcome?

Mr HARPER: I will tell you if you want to take the time because—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Thuringowa, I would ask that you direct your comments through the chair—not to either the member for Everton or the member for Whitsunday, but through the chair.

Mr HARPER: I turn now to justice and reinvestment. We are going to support things like Project Booyah. I am going to talk about Alice Lawrence, who got up bravely at that forum and talked about her 14-year-old son, Sonny, and the success of that great program. I am going to another graduation next Wednesday. We are going to get on with supporting community based programs to get our kids early, stop them going into detention centres, get them employed and go on to contribute as a great citizen in our community. We are getting the job done and undoing all the bad things that the LNP took away.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin* app, undated, titled 'Project gives positive direction: Role model life changer' [[1005](#)].

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.11 pm): After the tirade from the member for Thuringowa, particularly about helicopter rides, I will talk about the 53rd Parliament. The member was not here then when Vicky Darling actually spent \$1,000 on a toilet seat, a luxury loo in her ministerial office, which was 170 times more than what it would have cost for anybody else to fix the toilet.

I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 as well as the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. As the shadow minister for youth, I hold grave concerns about the impact of these bills on youth in Queensland. Once again, we see another Labor government introducing another Labor bill that at its core is soft on crime. After 18 months of this Labor government, Queenslanders know Labor is not serious about keeping our communities safe.

When the LNP came into government in 2012 we had a situation where youth crime was getting worse in Queensland. At the time we acknowledged that whilst there was not a higher percentage of youth offending, there was a concerning trend that young offenders were offending more often and their rehabilitation was not working. Put simply, young offenders were not learning their lessons. That is why, as the shadow Attorney-General has outlined, we introduced amendments to the Youth Justice Act in 2014 which provided an effective response to youth crime and which held young offenders accountable for their actions whilst deterring them from future offending. We wanted to break the cycle of youth offending so young people could see the error of their ways and make a meaningful contribution to society.

This followed the development of our crime action plan for youth justice, which sought community input into effective responses to youth crime. Our action plan was a comprehensive and broad review of this state's youth justice system. It was aimed at securing the rehabilitation and responsibility of young offenders and protecting our communities from repeat offences.

Out of this action plan came a range of proposals to stamp out youth crime in Queensland including a boot camp program, more effective sentencing, early intervention and better management of our youth justice systems and services. These suggestions resulted in the creation of our Blueprint for the Future of Youth Justice in Queensland, which provided a clear direction for a safer Queensland with fewer incidents of youth crime. Our pathway to reform was clear and came from significant

community and stakeholder consultations and our laws should have been given a chance to work. Instead, we have a 'soft on crime' Labor government come into this place and, without adequate consultation, turn back the clock on youth justice in this state.

These bills are nothing more than a return to the failed policies of the past. These bills are a remainder of this Labor government's broken promise to be a government of consultation with no review having been conducted of our 2014 amendments. No matter the political spin from those opposite as they attempt to justify their hastily cobbled together amendments, there is no doubt that our tough approach to the issue is getting youth justice back on track. In fact, based on the latest figures, there was a decrease in 2014-15 both in terms of the number of juvenile defendants disposed of in Queensland courts and the number of charges against juvenile defendants.

On the Gold Coast in electorates like Mudgeeraba, we saw boot camp trials that were a tremendous success. Amidst rising community concern for the level of young offenders in our city, the LNP's reforms provided peace of mind for Gold Coast residents. In Mudgeeraba we had the annual Kokoda challenge, a 14-month program that involves physical training and mentoring, and participation in endurance events. In a partnership with this program, we saw a program launched for young offenders to get back on track. It aimed to teach young people the Kokoda values of courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice, and incorporated both intensive training and community service.

In an independent KPMG evaluation of the LNP trial of youth boot camps, it was recommended that the Gold Coast youth boot camp be kept open as a trial site. Despite this independent evaluation, Labor closed the whole trial down, ignoring the independent evaluation for another illustration of cynical political revenge. I would like to put on record my heartfelt respects for Doug Henderson, who runs the Kokoda initiative and who was responsible for the boot camp until the trial was finished.

In regional cities represented by so many members on this side of the House we have seen city and community leaders coming out to express their concerns about the rise in youth crime. Their concerns are a reflection of the broader issue in regional Queensland where communities are grappling with youth crime and repeat offences from young people. In these bills today we have seen no alternative plan put forward by this Labor government to address youth crime or create a strong deterrent to ensure that young offenders do not commit more crimes. It is another 'soft on crime' bill from a 'soft on crime' Labor government who is asleep at the wheel which puts Queenslanders throughout this state and residents of my electorate of Mudgeeraba at risk.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (11.17 pm): I rise tonight to speak on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will be speaking against the bill. It does not matter what this side of the House says—

Mr Byrne: 'Soft on crime'.

Mr MANDER: I take the interjection from the police minister. Yes, they are soft on crime. He has admitted it himself that they are soft on crime. He knows it, the people of Queensland know it and youth offenders know it. Their reputation goes before them and now with the reversal of the reforms that we brought in, we are going to see the bad old days coming back.

Let us just go back four or five years. The laws that we are changing tonight will take us back to the laws that were in place four or five years ago, and what was the result of that? We had record crime, particularly by young offenders. The member for Broadwater, who is at the moment Madam Deputy Speaker, mentioned the fact that the biggest issue that the MPs from Cairns, Townsville and regional Queensland constantly reminded this House of was the repeat youth offenders. These are not the people who make one mistake, not the people who make two mistakes, but the people who have stolen a hundred cars before they are 18, people who eight, nine, 10 or 12 times have thumbed their nose at the law. They have gamed the system. They have no respect for the law whatsoever, and that is why we brought in those reforms.

Mr Byrne: Failed.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the police minister as well. They have not failed; they were never given a chance. These reforms were never given the chance to actually see whether or not they were successful, yet the Attorney-General and the police minister have both said that they are all about evidence.

Let us look at the evidence. The November 2015 Childrens Court's annual report talks about a decrease in the number of juvenile offenders disposed of in Queensland courts and the number of charges against juvenile defendants, and that can only happen because of the reforms that the LNP

brought in. There is evidence that youth crime was decreasing. It is only now, 17 months after the Labor government has come back into government, that we again have some problems, particularly in regional Queensland, with youth crime.

The Attorney-General also talked about the fact that we are not in tune with the public on this issue and that they have a mortgage on that. That is not what the people of Townsville think. In fact, the people of Townsville are so cheesed off about this that they have come together themselves to set up groups like the Townsville Crime Alert and Discussion Group. These are non-political law-abiding citizens, and they want to see the youth crime rate in Townsville addressed properly. Again, this is not for the people who make one or two mistakes, but the people who are before the courts and gaming the system constantly. In the committee hearing in Townsville Tracy Bannerman said—

This government deemed that these reforms—

that is, the LNP's reforms—

did not work. How can the current government say something does not work if it has not been utilised properly? The government have been in power for 12 months now and during that time they have repeatedly said they would get tough on crime. In those 12 months they have not introduced any new policies or reforms in regard to combating juvenile crime.

No truer word has been spoken, and this Facebook page has thousands of people who have subscribed to it and there are tens of stories being posted every day.

Mr Costigan: Horror stories!

Mr MANDER: Horror stories! I take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday. In parliament a few months ago I mentioned Gary. Gary is a law-biding citizen who was accosted outside by two juveniles who demanded the keys for a car that was not his—so he could not give them the keys, of course, because it was not his car—and he was hit over the head with the butt of a handgun. He has lived in the city for 20 years and he said he has never seen anything like it. They are afraid to go out at night-time. They are afraid to go to sleep at night because they are wondering whether their cars are going to be stolen from the garage.

What did we get from those opposite? Let us go back to the old ways that did not work. Let us go back to the system which was gamed constantly. They talk about youth conferencing, but these repeat offenders treat it as a joke. When they get in there they put on their 'nice' act, but we have heard from victims of crime that when they get outside they give them the finger. These repeat offenders make fun of the victims after they have gone outside, and that is who I am talking about. These repeat offenders need to be treated separately. They need to be treated differently, and sometimes they need to be treated as adults because they know exactly what they are doing.

There has been a lot of talk about boot camps, and that side of the House has decried the concept of boot camps. It was interesting, because when I went up to the Townsville forum the very first speaker who got up was a very genuine, sincere lady who had had some problems with her son. She was very open about this, and she praised the boot camps. She said it was the best thing that had ever happened, but the only problem was that it was not long enough.

The boot camps were meant to be a trial. We were trialling a new system, and when you trial things you have to tweak and change them. Even in the committee reports there was only one submission saying that we should get rid of the boot camps. The boot camps were all about getting these kids out of their environment, and if we needed to tweak things to acknowledge the cultural differences then that is what we had to do, but you never gave it a chance. You have never given it a chance. We realised that things had to change, we had to break the cycle and this was the only way that it could happen. We went to this forum, but I have no idea why the police minister went. He was there with the Attorney-General—

Mr Costigan: The Premier paid for him to go!

Mr MANDER: I will take the interjection. I think he may have made one comment but I am not 100 sure. It was a talkfest with no outcomes. 'Let's tick the box that we have spoken to the public', and there was not one genuine new outcome that came out of that forum. We spoke to this Townsville group of concerned citizens afterwards and they were just shaking their heads. Everybody who was there was simply lobbying for their program. It was a lobbying exercise for people who wanted funding for their latest program and it was a total waste of time.

No matter what they say—and they are repeating it themselves now—this government is soft on crime and we are going to see a range of changes to the law over the next few months which will prove that fact. The people of Queensland know this. They have great confidence in the LNP when it comes

to law and order. They know that we are serious about it. We know that repeat offenders deserve to be punished, and they need to be punished severely. We need to also break the cycle when the normal system is just not working.

I obviously speak against this bill tonight. When these changes to the laws come back in we will see absolutely zero change to the crime rate right across this state, and the only people who will be laughing is those repeat youth offenders who are just mocking the system at the moment.

 **Hon. LE DONALDSON** (Bundaberg—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries) (11.26 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the bills and in support of the reforms to the LNP's simplistic and damaging youth justice legislation. I have waited eagerly for a chance to restore common sense and reason to the way Queensland deals with young offenders. I spent two decades working with young offenders when I worked for the department of communities. I have firsthand experience and I have seen how youth justice conferencing has supported and assisted youth offenders to get on with their lives and to get off of the treadmill of the youth justice system into adult systems.

Perhaps the clearest distinction between the LNP and Labor members in this House is that those opposite believe that they always know best, no matter how strong the evidence is to the contrary. The evidence and the experts show that youth justice conferencing is a way that young people can take responsibility for their crimes, victims can be heard and be a part of the process and the recidivism rate is reduced.

Where Labor members are committed to consultation and the consideration of expert advice, the members opposite are arrogant in their dismissal of all opinions except for those that they believe match their own ideology. Nowhere has that distinction been more sharply drawn than in the kneejerk legislation introduced by the member for Kawana previously. He was never happier than when he was ignoring those far better qualified than himself and using his government's overwhelming parliamentary majority to ram through legislation that would never have been considered in a more equitable parliament.

These boot camps were an expensive failed experiment in conservative ideology and the evidence simply did not support them. Those opposite were told that spouting slogans and a tough-on-crime mantra would not make a difference around recidivism rates, and they just ploughed on regardless anyway. The result of their arrogance was predictable and it was inevitable. It toyed with people's lives and it did nothing to reduce youth crime. It also led to a massive cost blowout eight times the budgeted cost of \$2 million, and it did nothing to reduce youth offending. Seventy-five per cent of boot camp participants re-offended within six months. The average daily cost of their time in a boot camp was more than double the cost of youth detention—and they say they are worried about taxpayers' funds. They were told that increasing sentences for young offenders would be counterproductive and do nothing to reduce recidivism, but they did it anyway. True to form, they backed their own ignorant opinions against the advice of the majority of the legal profession. They simply always think they know better.

In stark contrast, the reforms we are debating this evening are based on expert opinion from those who study and work in the youth justice arena. They bring Queensland back into step with other states and territories and with accepted international best practice.

We are seeking to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the criminal justice system. We are seeking to make young offenders take greater responsibility for their crimes and antisocial behaviour. The return of youth justice conferencing and bringing offenders into direct contact with their victims will achieve that. I worked in the department of communities. I was a manager in an office when youth justice conferencing was introduced. I have seen for myself how victims can feel empowered in the process and how young offenders have to face up to their offences.

There is a substantial body of evidence that conferencing is an effective tool for changing criminal behaviour. The LNP's laws made youngsters who had started on the wrong path more likely to become an adult criminal. They targeted kids. They taught kids how to behave in the criminal justice system. They did nothing to reduce youth justice crime. Our reforms aim to help young offenders turn their lives around, gain skills, find work and become valuable members of our society. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (11.30 pm): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. I am speaking as a former member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and as someone who has had experience in attempting to deal with

youth offenders through the youth justice conferencing system. Any observant member of the community knows only too well that there are fundamental and ongoing youth justice issues in Queensland. In the 2014-15 annual report of the Childrens Court, President Michael Shanahan noted—

In 2014-15, ten percent of juvenile offenders were responsible for 45% of all proven offences.

I repeat—

In 2014-15, ten percent of juvenile offenders were responsible for 45% of all proven offences.

He also said—

... there are a number of persistent offenders who commit multiple offences. It is this identifiable group to which attention must be given in attempts to rehabilitate if a significant decrease in offending by them as juveniles and, later, as adults is to be achieved.

I have had personal experience dealing with the impacts on a community of youth offenders. As any parent knows, managing young adults or teenagers can sometimes be a frustrating experience. Managing youth offenders can be even worse, as we have to let them know the seriousness of their offence and to redirect them into acceptable behaviours so they do not reoffend. Unfortunately, there are some youths who, despite our best efforts, keep offending again and again.

The Labor Party's solution to the problem of youth offenders is to wind back any program implemented by the previous government. It really has no solution other than that it cannot be anything the previous LNP government implemented. It provides no measures which address the specific issue of recidivist youth offenders. It does not seek evidence on whether previous policies worked. It ignores evidence from the Childrens Court, which states—

The trend line in relation to the ten year comparison of the number of juvenile defendants ... shows ... in 2014-15 ... there was a 8.7% cent decrease from the previous year. The trend line in relation to the ten year comparison of the number of charges against juvenile defendants ... [shows] ... in 2014-15 there was a 4.9% cent decrease from the previous year.

This shows that the former LNP government's measures should be given a chance to work. It shows that there should be no changes without the completion of a proper outcomes based review into the youth boot camp initiative. It ignores advice from KPMG to keep the Gold Coast early intervention youth boot camp open, as it was showing positive signs of successfully steering youth away from the youth justice system. It provides no measures to help reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous juvenile offenders in youth detention centres, despite statistics showing that 'young Indigenous people accounted for 43 per cent of all young people ... and ... 64 per cent of the average daily number of juveniles in detention were Indigenous'.

This bill is yet another one in a long list of those put forward to this parliament based on the simple narrow-minded approach of winding back the clock. As a result, the government is winding back to a system that was clearly broken and not working. As I said earlier, I have had experience with dealing with youth offenders. In my previous role as a local government councillor I was a community representative on a youth justice conference organised by the local police. It was essentially a mediation or conferencing system where the offending youths were brought together with their parents or guardians, the police and community representatives and forced to face the full ramifications of their offence, which often involved gratuitous vandalism. Together with the Kilkivan branch manager of the Gympie Regional Council offices, I had firsthand experience of the difficult task of dealing with youth offenders. This is because in many instances offences have financial consequences for the local community to repair or re-establish the damaged property. There are also emotional costs for many hardworking community members and volunteers who are proud of their local area and feel violated by the wilful damage to community property.

I particularly recall a young offender who sat there insolently thumbing his nose at the community, the police, the legal system and the government. These offenders believed they were untouchable, and in many cases they knew they were untouchable. I am sorry to say, but the young gentleman I just referred to kept reoffending and is now incarcerated for repeat offences into his adult life. Repeat offenders know that the system has no teeth. It is a toothless tiger.

The situation before us was best summarised in evidence given by a Townsville resident, who said—

On 1 December 2015 the Palaszczuk government ... announcing youth justice reforms. This government deemed these reforms did not work. How can the current government say something does not work if it has not been utilised properly? The government have been in power for 12 months now and during that time they have repeatedly said they would get tough on crime. In those 12 months they have not introduced any new policies or reforms in regard to combating juvenile crime.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr PERRETT: I am quoting word for word. It continues—

Instead, they have been busy trying to quash the previous government's reforms which were put in place by the LNP government because the public had had enough. The public were sick of hearing about crimes happening and having little to no feedback if the offenders were caught. We have yet to see the courts use these reforms to their full and proper potential so that they are actually given a chance to work.

Townsville fought hard for these reforms ... because residents felt that something needed to be done ... People were frustrated by the lack of action against juveniles repeatedly committing crimes and hearing about them getting off with a slap on the wrist. Juveniles were using the court system like a revolving door.

As I said earlier, the only plan the government seems to have for youth justice in Queensland is to undo policies initiated by the previous government. The LNP's 2014 youth justice amendments should be given a chance to work until a proper review is undertaken.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (11.38 pm): I rise to speak in support of the youth justice amendment bills before the House. The question has been asked: why do we need to change the existing laws introduced by the former government? To better understand this we need to look back at why these laws were introduced by the Newman government. During the second reading of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 the then attorney-general and minister for justice said at 12.08 am—

The amendments introduced in this bill are critical to respond to the escalating seriousness and devastation currently being caused by young criminals. We are witnessing a changing pattern of youth offending in Queensland.

I agree with those comments made by the then minister as Townsville was suffering from a disproportionate number of youth offences breaking into the homes of everyday mums and dads, robbing the house of car keys, maybe a wallet or a purse but then stealing the family car and joy-riding through the streets of Townsville, putting themselves and other road users at risk. What we saw were visions of these stolen cars crashing at high speed into a semitrailer. Fortunately no-one was injured or killed. We saw other visions of stolen cars running red lights and crashing into defenceless drivers. Again, it was very fortunate that no-one was injured in that incident, but one of my former students was not so lucky. In a stolen family car with several other youths, the 17-year-old driver lost control at high speed, crashing the car into a power pole.

My young student, all of 14 years of age, suffered severe head trauma, required artificial breathing to keep him alive in the hospital and several broken bones. He will never be the same—never able to do the same things other 15- and 16-year-olds will be able to do. The 17-year-old driver in a promise made to her aunty over Facebook that very evening said that she would stop stealing cars and joy-riding as she knew it was dangerous. Several hours later, that 17-year-old young woman lost her life when she lost control of the car that she was driving. Something needs to be done. Something was done. As the former attorney-general said, we are witnessing a changing pattern of youth offending in Queensland, and we are. We have heard that the former LNP government's solve was to go hard on crime in a response to escalating youth crime in my city. We saw a boot camp introduced as a deterrent for repeat offenders, removal of youth justice conferencing and the introduction of naming and shaming of offenders.

I want to focus the remainder of my speech on the strategy of naming and shaming in the former legislation and outline why the amendments associated with this removal of that aspect of the legislation are so important. During the examination of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 and in the subsequent report No. 58 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, page 6 of that report states—

Submitters raised a number of issues in relation to publishing identifying information about repeat youth offenders, including issues relating to stigmatisation and labelling; the unintended impact the publication could have on third parties; the potential for increased recidivism and the impact the publication could have on the more disadvantaged youths in society.

The report later outlines further concerns in relation to naming and shaming and page 7 states—

Submitters also considered the publication of young offenders' personal details would stigmatise young offenders, making it more difficult for rehabilitation to effectively occur and making access to employment opportunities difficult for those who have been labelled a criminal.

The concerns of submitters were based upon a lack of evidence from studies around the globe that 'naming and shaming' of youths, was an effective strategy to reduce crime.

There was a lack of evidence from around the globe that naming and shaming was an effective strategy to reduce crime. It begs the question: where did this strategy to name and shame youth offenders come from and what was the purpose behind doing this?

During the public hearing into the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 in Townsville on 22 January this year the committee heard from Townsville Crime Alerts and Discussion leaders, and we have heard them mentioned from both sides of the House. These were two very passionate women who, out of sheer frustration, started the online discussion group after becoming victims of crime themselves. One of the women said during the hearing in relation to the naming and shaming aspect of the legislation—

I think one of the reasons we wanted the naming and shaming laws was not because we wanted to know who this child actually was, but we wanted to know what happened to him. Did he get three months jail or did he get another probation? I know for a fact one child we were following for quite a while there started offending when he was 15. I do believe he is now in the 'big house', but the first time he was caught in a stolen car was actually on my front lawn, hence why I followed his case for so many years.

What we have is the former government and the former attorney-general designing and implementing legislation that is not founded on any evidence from studies from around the world that this was an effective strategy but seemingly to implement this aspect of the legislation so that the public could determine if the youth's sentence was justified or not. I find this to be policy on the run or more likely to be popularity policy.

In that same report No. 58 from the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee into the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties stated on page 7 that being named and shamed would become a badge of honour. As a former high school principal I can clearly recall the day when a year 8 student saw me in the schoolyard and, with a smile the size of Texas, came up to me and said, 'Mister, my cousin's famous. Did you see him on the front page of the newspaper? He was named and shamed.' This 12-year-old boy was full of admiration for his cousin who was now 'famous' through the naming and shaming policy of the former LNP government. The prophecy had come true. Naming and shaming the offender had made him a hero and he was wearing it like a badge of honour.

The Australian Institute of Criminology indicated that peer influences impact heavily on young people's risk-taking behaviour and that not only does sensation seeking encourage attraction to exciting experiences but it leads adolescents to seek friends with similar interests who further encourage risk-taking behaviours. In other words, naming and shaming only builds the likelihood that more youths become involved in the risky behaviour. Is that exactly what we have seen in Townsville? Absolutely. In summary, naming and shaming is not founded on any research but was integrated in the former government's policy because members of the public wanted to know what the consequences were for those who offended.

The former Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee in 2014 was told time and time and time again that naming and shaming rather than fixing the problem only encouraged further offending in circumstances where the offender is part of a peer group which views this type of delinquent behaviour as admirable or the resultant publicity as a badge of honour. The removal of the naming and shaming aspect from the previous bill is pivotal to correcting the problems associated with the former legislation as are the other amendments outlined in the youth justice and other legislation amendment bills 2015 and 2016. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (11.46 pm): I rise to address the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 and the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. Before I do that, like the member for Broadwater I take this opportunity to pay my respects and offer my condolences to the family of British Labour MP Jo Cox given her shocking murder—a crime really of unspeakable evil not only against her and her family but also our democratic institutions. Regardless of our political persuasions in this House, we are elected to represent our communities as best we can, to cherish our freedoms and our values and to do good from how we view the world. It is unthinkable for a member of parliament to be going about their business on a daily basis and seeing constituents and to suffer that. It is certainly hard to imagine what her husband and her children are going through at this time and also the British public.

I oppose the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 and the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 due to the fact that the evidence based amendments made by the former LNP government in 2014 have not had a chance as yet to deliver to their fullest extent. Also an appropriate review of the 2014 amendments has not to date actually taken place. Mr Michael Shanahan, the President of the Childrens Court of Queensland, in his annual report of the Childrens Court of Queensland for 2014-15, noted that there was an overall decrease of 8.7 per cent in the number of juvenile defendants whose cases were disposed of in all Queensland courts in 2014-15, being down from the previous year's total of 7,134 to 6,515.

Given that the amendments were made by the former LNP government in 2014, it is reasonable to believe and conclude that this is the reason for the improved results in the 2014-15 annual report. In reading Michael Shanahan's annual report, I note that he states that 10 per cent of juvenile offenders were responsible for 35 per cent of all proven offences. This particular group of repeat offenders must be given particular attention if they are to be rehabilitated as juveniles and not continue to live a life of crime throughout their adult years.

Unfortunately, all that the Labor Party wants to do in Queensland is return to its failed policies of youth justice conferences, which did not work in the past. There is absolutely no evidence that they will work again in the future. There has been no proper review of the 2014 amendments. Given that that has not taken place, it begs the question why there is a need to go back to the failed policies of the past. The future of youth justice is far too important to make amendments for the sake of perceived political gain. The Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 was passed by the Queensland parliament on 18 March 2014 and here we are, some two years later—and before any of those amendments have been given a comprehensive chance to succeed. Instead, the Palaszczuk Labor government is opting to return to the old unsuccessful ways.

What can be more important than breaking the cycle of youth crime in Queensland and improving overall community safety? That was certainly a paramount consideration when the former LNP government introduced its evidence based amendments in 2014. Reforms in youth justice need to ensure that we create safer communities and give our young people the best chance in life. We should all want to hold our young people accountable for their actions whilst giving them and their families the opportunity to turn their lives around and not to descend into a life of crime as adults.

It is certainly a proven fact that there are groups of young offenders who exhibit patterns of repeat offending with interventions such as detention being ineffective at reducing recidivism. There is a real need to provide these young people with alternative programs. Considering all of these aspects, that was the reason the 2014 boot camp orders were added to the range of sentencing options. To remove this option without the introduction of an enhanced alternative and without an identifiable review for a replacement says to me that the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 is all about politics and is little about improvements to the youth justice system.

Youth crime issues in Townsville and North Queensland have been left unaddressed by the Labor government. Youth from North Queensland, who were part of the boot camp trial, would have been offered other supported programs to help them continue with positive behaviours and once again be part of their community and reduce the risk of future offending. The community of Townsville fought hard for reforms to be put in place, because the residents were in full support of something that needed to be done to alleviate the level of crime in their city. There are absolutely no proposals in these bills that will address that situation or the disproportionate overrepresentation of Indigenous juvenile offenders within our justice system. In fact, there is absolutely no mention of this issue to be found in the introductory speeches by the minister.

Juvenile crime is not the only symptom that suggests that, for some of Queensland's youth, something has fundamentally gone wrong. Another symptom is youth suicide. Unfortunately, high rates of youth unemployment and experimentation with illicit drugs leading to substance dependency, adverse health problems and crime can dominate the lives of many in our state. Eating disorders, volatile substance use and the abuse of prescription and synthetic drugs all feature prominently at increasingly younger ages in some communities. Other symptoms include rising rates of all forms of bullying and physical violence towards peers; the rejection of traditional sources of authority; the refusal to take personal responsibility; the denial of social obligations; increased hostility towards learning; school truancy and vandalism; and deficiencies in reasoning, empathy, compassion and understanding, as well as lower levels of literacy with poor educational outcomes. The signposts are many, all pointing towards a common denominator: they are all illustrative of antisocial behaviour and personally self-destructive impulses.

However, there is much that can be done, particularly with respect to our education system. I know the member for Townsville may be interested in some of these comments, given his role in the education system. Our school and educational system must be focused on unlimited achievement, and introducing a practical learning-how-to-learn methodology based on knowledge and epistemology of the highest order dating back to Socrates and Aristotle should be a priority. As a consequence, intellectual capital will be fostered, cherished and expanded for the benefit of business, industry and all communities. That approach contrasts sharply with the prevailing practice of accepting learning

disability as a legitimate outcome of school education in need of ever-increasing quantities of funding and staffing, with remedial and compensatory measures legitimised by new benchmarks of reduced average performance.

I conclude by stating that all governments face challenges posed by explicit and implicit tensions in trying to satisfy competing interests. Good governments seek to balance their budgets. Smart governments try to defuse or reduce likely tensions and issues before they emerge. Wise governments will make every dollar spent, every initiative commenced, or piece of legislation passed, produce a multiple return and positive effect in the present and into the future. It is for those reasons that I cannot support the objectives and reasoning of both the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 and the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.

We know that Labor is soft on crime. We are seeing evidence that Labor wants to empower criminal gangs. Certainly, Labor has been empowering illegality in many of our unions and union corruption. We have seen what has happened with the royal commission, chaired by Dyson Heydon. What about the Australian Building and Construction Commission? The member for Stafford, along with his state and federal colleagues, should be getting behind the ABCC and supporting it in cleaning up all of the corruption and illegality that is going on in the unions—the Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Federation, the ETU, the CFMEU.

Presumably, all the great work that the LNP did with respect to youth justice is the reason that some members of the Labor Party want to undo that great work and expand criminal gangs and foster union criminality. It is just a shame that they are fostering all of the union criminality, which seems to be going on here in Queensland—

A government member: You're the biggest union of all.

Dr ROWAN: I take that interjection from the honourable member opposite. In fact, that is not the case. Having been a member of a professional association and having headed a professional association, I inform the member opposite that there is a difference between a professional association and the corruption that exists in our trade unions.

(Time expired)

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (11.57 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. In doing so, I commend the Attorney-General and all of the cabinet ministers for their commitment to reversing the previous LNP government's youth justice measures. The Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 will reverse these measures, which were unduly punitive, lacked evidence based decision-making and, most importantly, were ineffective.

Repealing the reforms that were made to the Youth Justice Act in 2014 makes sense. These reforms were not supported by any of the submitters to the parliamentary inquiry, including the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association of Queensland, the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland, the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties and Amnesty International. Repealing these reforms and supporting the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will achieve real outcomes for the perpetrators and victims of youth offending.

We know that increasing the severity of sentences for young offenders is a blunt and ineffective tool for changing behaviour. We know that evidence based responses will always work better than populist rhetoric and gimmicks. That is why these reforms will work.

The reforms will make youth offenders take responsibility for their actions. They will do this by bringing back youth justice conferencing, which brings youth offenders face to face with their victims. Youth justice conferencing will empower victims and it is a proven and effective tool in changing the behaviours of youth offenders.

It is known that youth offenders are often vulnerable and seriously disadvantaged. Many of them have experienced significant trauma. That is an important point to remember. It is important that, as a government and as a society, we do not turn our back on them. In fact, we need to do the opposite. We need to support them and to help them back on the path of becoming productive, contributing members of the community.

The support systems are already in place and I am so pleased to say that the Palaszczuk government is continuing to support these systems. I commend the Treasurer for the \$325,000 commitment that he has made to the youth of Ipswich. This funding will be used by the Ipswich Community Youth Service to support young people and the community in Ipswich. It will provide information, advice and referral and case management services.

The ICYS does fabulous work in my electorate of Ipswich and in the Ipswich surrounds. It provides direct assistance to approximately 6,000 young people across the Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Somerset and Scenic Rim council areas. The information and referral program run by the ICYS helps young people navigate the complex and daunting youth support system and it helps Ipswich youth in our community to understand better the support that is available to them.

By continuing to fund programs like these the Palaszczuk government will assist youth in the community. These programs can assist youth offenders by supporting them back on the path to becoming contributing members of the community. We know from evidence based research that these programs reduce recidivism. By giving youth offenders skills and job placements it gives them skills to turn their lives around. That is what this bill is all about. It is about reversing harsh, harmful and ineffective youth justice measures. It is about replacing these measures with ones that are based on responses that will achieve real outcomes. It is for these reason and more that I support the introduction of this bill. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (12.00 am): I rise to contribute to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bills of 2015 and 2016. Whilst I acknowledge the time of the morning, I would like to take this opportunity to also place on the record my sincere condolences to the family of British Labor MP Jo Cox. Like most members, I read the tragic news overnight. I believe that she had two young children. A couple of hours ago I phoned my youngest son and wished him a good night. Sadly Jo Cox will not have that opportunity. I convey to her family and friends my deepest and sincerest condolences.

Unlike the LNP the Labor Party are soft on crime. When I was here in the 54th Parliament sitting in a chair over there was the former member for Mundingburra, David Crisafuli, who got up and repeatedly talked about the specific issue of car theft and more car theft every Friday night or thereabouts in Townsville. It was something that he was passionate about. It was not just the incidents of car theft in Townsville, but down in Broadbeach we also had the issue of vicious lawless motorcycle gangs. Whether it was at one end of the state or the other we responded to both. Admittedly, this soft on crime approach should not be a complete surprise because we have seen over the last 17 months Labor's approach not just to youth justice and law and disorder but pretty much to all of our decisions. When it is broken down, all those opposite have done is push forward with undoing what the former LNP government did in government simply based on ideological opposition. It is all part of their quest to simply airbrush the Newman LNP government from the pages of history.

The sign of a mature government is to take a measure of public policies and to cherrypick the ones that ideologically you choose to have the battles with, not simply undo them for the sake of undoing them. Instead of letting the changes made to the Youth Justice Act in 2014 have a real chance to work, the Labor Party are repealing the amendments based on simple ideological grounds to try to undo the reform work of the previous LNP government in the 54th Parliament.

Mrs Frecklington: No plans!

Mr MINNIKIN: I will take the interjection from the deputy opposition leader. They have no plan to reduce youth crime other than going back to their failed policies of the past. If these policies actually worked there would have been no need to make the changes that the LNP did back in 2014. That is a fact. Should this bill proceed to be passed we will see in no uncertain terms the removal of boot camp orders from the range of sentencing options for children, the removal of name-and-shame provisions, the removal of breach of bail as an offence for children, making childhood findings of guilt for which no conviction was recorded inadmissible in court when sentencing a person for an adult offence, as well as the closure of the Childrens Magistrates Court when hearing all youth justice matters under the Childrens Court Act 1992.

Based on the most recent figures found in the Childrens Court of Queensland 2014-15 annual report, I want to talk about evidence because I do note that the Attorney-General advised in her explanatory speech—

Reducing youth crime in Queensland is a priority for this government. That is why we are repealing these amendments and adopting an evidence based approach to reducing youth offending.

Running with that logic of an evidence based approach I will read for the benefit of the House what Michael Shanahan noted—

The trend line in relation to the ten year comparison of the number of juvenile defendants disposed of in all of Queensland courts shows a slight increase, although in 2014-15 there was an 8.7 per cent decrease from the previous year.

It is evident that the amendments made by the LNP in 2014 are arguably the stimulus for the results in the 2014-15 report. As I say, is this not an evidence based approach? Rather than letting these pesky changes stay and looking for statistically significant results from the perspective of the ALP, they have chosen to repeal the amendments without any proper review. I must ask how can the government state the legislation as it stands right now is not working? How can the government say it does not work if it has not been allowed the opportunity to be appropriately put to use? How can the government say it does not work if they have not even reviewed it? Furthermore, how can they claim to be getting tough on crime when they have not introduced any new policies or reforms in regard to youth crime in 17 months?

Instead they are doing what they do so well. They are recycling very old, very outdated, dusted-off policies. Then again, in their heart of hearts the ALP never really wanted these reforms to work. The KPMG evaluation of the LNP trial of youth boot camps recommended that the Gold Coast youth boot camp be open as a trial site. The report stated—

It is recommended that the Gold Coast continues as a pilot for a further period of time, with changes to the referral process to ensure a broader range of pathways into the program and potentially expanding the eligibility criteria to increase the intake of young people who have been subject to youth justice conferencing or a supervised statutory order.

It went on to say further—

There is a clear identified need for an intervention to help stop the 'revolving door' of offending for a cohort of young people, who are repeat offenders and who have been in detention a number of times with no discernible impact on their re-offending rate.

Rather than heeding the advice of a most reputable company, the ALP instead closed the whole trial down—they shut it down—ignoring the independent evaluation for another illustration of cynical, political revenge. I am gobsmacked at the disregard and disrespect the ALP have towards LNP legislation. I repeat: it is simply not good politics from any government to block and repeal decisions of a former government without first allowing them to have time to work. At least give them time to work. Prove the efficacy one way or another. The art of government is to pick the real issues and then maximise your differences. It would be impracticable and fiscally irresponsible of every government to simply use this playbook each and every time. I wonder if amendments put in by the ALP to other legislation would be repealed less than two years later without statistically significant data or a proper review.

Whilst in government the LNP had a four-point plan to address youth justice in Queensland. We believe young people should be held accountable for their actions and face consequences for their offences; Queenslanders simply deserve safer communities—one of the essential tenets of any government is to be fiscally responsible economically but to look after the safety of its citizens; the third precept is that young people deserve the opportunity to turn their lives around—a very important point; and, fourthly, we need to close the revolving door of detention centres once and for all.

One thing we share is the belief that youth crime is a truly serious issue. It needs to be seriously addressed. We took pragmatic steps to tackle youth crime in this state, regardless of where it occurred. Now the ALP is ignorantly repealing the amendments that we put in place in the 54th Parliament. It is one thing to repeal amendments if there is evidence of their failures, but it is another thing yet again to repeal them due to pressure from union donors. This time I will not say Labor is frozen at the wheel; I will say that they are stuck in reverse. It is for those reasons that I am unable to support these bills.

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.10 am): I am very excited to be speaking on these bills. Tonight what we have seen from the opposition is more slogans and blistering ignorance. Let us put some facts on the table. In the 2011 campaign, the Liberal National Party came out and talked about boot camps. I can remember the candidate in Rockhampton talking about boot camps. What were those boot camps? They were military style, heavy discipline, hit them with a bigger hammer, treat them rough, keep them keen. That was the sort of stuff that was going around during the campaign. This notion that in 2011-12 the Liberal National Party campaigned on boot camps with anything approaching evidence based attention to juvenile justice is a complete nonsense. Everyone across the table who worked on the 2011-12 campaign knows that full well. It was all revealed with the emergence of the then star from outside the chamber, because they could not find anyone inside the chamber to be the leader of the opposition. Do members remember that fellow's name? It was Newman. He was in Cairns when he launched the boot camp strategy. Do members remember that? We have had some road-smash press conferences in recent times. I see the member for Mansfield is not here.

A government member: There he is.

Mr BYRNE: He is here; I am sorry. Newman stood up in Cairns to answer the first question, which was, 'Can you give evidence or any example of where boot camps have worked anywhere in the world?' What was the answer from the leading light from outside the chamber who was then leading the opposition? He said, 'No, I can't do that, but my adviser, the bloke down the back there, he knows about it. Go and ask him.' That was pretty much what went on for the next two years. It is somewhat ironic that, having won government in a landslide, they announced \$2 million for a boot camp trial, but it was 2014 before they brought the issue into the House. It was 2014 before we could interrogate anyone at estimates. There was two years of doing nothing. What happened in those two years? There was an escalation.

What about the crime statistics following their intervention? It is a fact that the now opposition and then government would not even publish crime statistics. They hid the crime statistics. Jack sat over here, trying to defend a circumstance in which crime statistics would no longer be published while they were in government. Apparently, things were going so well that they decided not to publish crime statistics. No-one else could see them because it was going so well.

As a result of what was going on in Townsville, that group across the chamber were running around like chooks with their heads cut off, trying to craft something from a policy position that was a vacuum. They had nothing. They had won the election, but they had nothing except a slogan and they tried to craft a solution out of it. They said, 'How do we make the slogan "boot camp" work and fit into something that might actually deliver a result?' That cost \$2 million.

Let us journey a little further down the track. We ended up with \$16 million or thereabouts being expended. The \$2 million trial in their juvenile justice program was concluded, but there was no report, there was no evidence and nothing was put on the table. The trial was so successful that not a piece of documentation was anywhere to be seen, and on that basis they spent \$16 million. They ramped up the trial, even though there was absolutely nothing to support the trial being a success. There was no material whatsoever in the public domain. There was no report and no evaluation. There was zero, zip. They poured \$16 million into it and then we saw the roadkill that came out of that, which was the Auditor-General's report. I wish I had had that Auditor-General's report in the 2014 estimates.

Those of us who were here at that time would remember the 2014 estimates. They tried to run every committee virtually at the same time, to stretch the opposition. At estimates, the Attorney-General was unable to explain what had gone on in his tender process. In the end, to the shock of one and all present, he had his director-general throw the department under a bus, which is the only way I can describe it. Sosso was his name. He threw the department under a bus. I did not expect to see a director-general throwing a department under a bus, asking them to explain the boot camp tender process, but that is what he did. You should have seen the faces of the senior bureaucrats sitting behind the Attorney-General and his director-general! They showed absolute shock and horror. Their efforts had been to try to craft something sensible out of this nonsense sound-bite policy, which was a slogan that had all the depth that we see from the Liberal National Party. We have seen it tonight. They think it is funny. It is all 'soft on crime', 'hard on crime'. That is about all the attention span the Liberal National Party has on these issues.

The evidence about what needs to be done for youth crime, youth justice and the justice system is mountainous. There is about the same volume of evidence as there is for alcohol fuelled evidence, but evidence is not a strong point for the opposition. The Liberal National Party never distort a good story for the sake of a few facts, but that evidence is out there. This legislation is based on what evidence and experts say. Even though the member for Coomera opposes these bills, he stood in the House and tried to make a coherent position out of fact. Apart from the fact that he opposes the bills, his contribution was based in an element of reality. This evening, very few others on the other side of the chamber said anything that even vaguely approaches an appreciation of the issues at play here.

There are years and years of heavy-duty academic and practical work that demonstrate what needs to be done in terms of juvenile justice. I assure the House that a boot camp, in military-style jargon—a sound-bite philosophy, which is what we are seeing from those opposite—is not the solution. The solution is the evidence that supports these bills. When the Attorney-General says that this is evidence based, it is evidence based.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! Minister, I need to quieten down the House. Members are all getting a little excited at this time of night.

Mr BYRNE: I am excited, because of the level of ignorance demonstrated by those opposite. Newman put this argument in 2011 and 2012, but he could not explain it. After almost three years in government, finally in 2014 they put a bill before the House. They said they did not have enough time

to see whether or not the boot camp would work. They did not bother to do a report on the \$2 million trial. Do members remember that \$2 million trial? Where is the report? When we were in opposition, there was no report. Why did we throw \$16 million into this program? Because there was panic in the government! The numbers were going through the roof. They would not publish the crime statistics, they would not account to this House and they certainly would not account through the estimates process. In 2014, they tried to craft this thing. The then attorney-general threw mountains of money into it. Tonight, they come in here, oppose these bills and have the gall to suggest that they had some sort of plan.

They had no idea when they started. They had no idea throughout the process. They have no idea today. That is evidenced by those committee members who sat through the hearings. Members should have a look at the statement of reservation. It is sloganistic. It is not based on sense. It is complete and utter nonsense. People who understand the facts of this issue will look at the opposition's contribution and say it is shameful.

I heard unions mentioned a couple of times. I am not going to finish without this point. The member for Everton was in Townsville at that community meeting and did not say boo. He did not get up and make his contribution. He did not say anything like he said this evening—not a word. He sat down the back as quiet as a church mouse.

He is very keen to talk to somebody. He is very keen to talk to the unions. He is making approaches to talk to the unions about prisons. All of a sudden I find out that he is very keen about unions. I hope he gets to talk to a few more.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (12.20 am): I am delighted to rise tonight and give my two bob's worth in relation to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 and the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I extend a welcome to Super Saturday in this House as this debate drags on.

The Minister for Police has a hide talking about the member for Everton and shadow minister saying nothing. According to my spies at the youth crime forum in Townsville on 6 June, the Minister for Police—I do not know what he was doing; I am no Brad Pitt—must have been there as eye candy because he was mute. That is according to my spies in Townsville in North Queensland. Maybe he is auditioning as a crash test dummy for the Toyota corporation. He turned up under instructions from the Premier, according to the material that I have read, and did not say boo. It is interesting that I have the opportunity and privilege to follow the Minister for Police in this debate.

A lot has been said in this debate. It is a serious issue. That is one thing that all members in the House tonight can agree on. Where the argy-bargy comes in, like most areas of public policy, is how we get the right outcome. Like a number of members in this House, I have been in many regional communities where we saw, prior to the election of the LNP government, youth crime that was getting out of control. I have stood in this House before and lamented how it used to be.

I go back to Rockhampton, for example—exhibit A—and publican Will Cordwell. He put up with it for years and years. It was not until the LNP came to office and took the big stick approach that things changed. What was being done under successive Labor governments was clearly not working. Mr Cordwell, a long time publican in Rockhampton and former publican of the now defunct Causeway Hotel in Townsville—I remember it fondly—is no stranger to the pub game. He never saw it as bad as on Labor's watch. He was broken into time and time again.

In my own electorate of Whitsunday I think of Janine and Steve Muller. They have been victims of youth crime some months ago. I was in the Deicke Arcade on the day after or two days after they had been broken into. It was a financial impost of several thousand dollars. They were counting the cost of being done over by people who obviously have no respect for those people who are hardworking, decent and contribute to our community.

It is a difficult job for the police. We have heard in this debate comments attributed to my good friend and former councillor on the Townsville City Council Gary Eddiehausen. Gary has been a terrific member of the community over a long period. I see his former colleague the member for Burdekin and shadow minister for agriculture nodding. I have had the privilege of knowing Gary for 21 years.

He used to be on duty in the blue uniform at 1300SMILES stadium in the electorate of Thuringowa. He was there on the opening night when the Cowboys entered the competition and the member for Everton had a shocker. He has not had a shocker in this debate, but we will forgive him for that game after winning the premiership last year.

I will get back to Gary. What Gary does not know about youth crime is not worth knowing about. He has been very much at the forefront of this debate in the city of Townsville. What did Gary Eddiehausen tell the *Townsville Bulletin* on 30 August 2014? He said—

When you take repeat offenders off the street, the ones that hang around them don't tend to do the crimes. We need longer sentences for juveniles who continue to thumb their noses at society and the judicial system.

I will come back to what the member for Everton has said. They are exploiting the system. Some people just do not learn. We heard from the member for Chatsworth not long ago. What did the member for Chatsworth say? He went back in time to my old friend from Ingham, where he was educated and grew up, who served in this place as the minister for local government. I am referring to the former member for Mundingburra. What did David Crisafulli say at the same time? I see the Minister for North Queensland is in the chamber. Her portfolio was not even mentioned in the key budget paper. She is the minister for nothing. That has occurred twice in successive budgets. What did David Crisafulli say? He said, 'Some people cannot be rehabilitated.' We have heard the statistics of people coming back. They are coming back like boomerangs. They do not take the tip.

It was interesting to see the story written by Victoria Nugent in the *Townsville Bulletin* on 18 May. This was touched on by the shadow Attorney-General last night before we came to Super Saturday. What did she say in that story? She said that per capita Townsville is first when it comes to assaults and motor vehicle theft, second when it comes to robbery and unlawful entry and third when it comes to drug offences.

Let us get the member for Mundingburra, the member for Thuringowa and the member for Townsville to the Townsville sports reserve and present the gold, silver and bronze medals. It is their watch. They are the crime figures in the capital of North Queensland in the first four months of the year.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: I hear the interjections of the member for Thuringowa. I will pick him up from the Willows shopping centre and he can go and make the medal presentation. It is a very sad day when we can rattle off statistics like that. That is not something that any community wants to be proud of. That was reported in the *Townsville Bulletin* on 18 May this year.

There has been a lot of debate and a lot of discussion regarding the concept of youth justice conferencing. What did we hear at the public hearing on 22 January this year? We go to what former councillor Gary Eddiehausen said then. Gary was still serving then. He said that it was 'a waste of time and achieved an outcome here and there and on the odd occasion.' That is about it.

I would have liked to have gone to the hearing on 22 January, but where was I? I was in my electorate catching up with people from Neighbourhood Watch which received direct funding under the former LNP government. It was great to catch up with Superintendent McNab in the northern beaches of Mackay, which is in my electorate, and people who are passionate about curbing the scourge of youth crime, people like Ken Rehbein. It was good to catch up with people like Steve Smith from the QPS and his colleague Nigel Dalton in the northern beaches, at Bucasia, at the Hibiscus Shopping Centre on that day. I would have liked to have been in Townsville in my role as the shadow assistant minister for North Queensland because I care about North Queensland. It is not only Townsville that is hurting because of youth crime; it is many communities across North Queensland.

I am not going to continue for much longer because it has been a long week for all of us here. Everybody in the community knows that successive Labor governments are weak on crime—whether it is combatting the menace of criminal motorcycle gangs on the Gold Coast or indeed in Mackay, where we had the infamous bikie shootout in 1997, or whether it is youth crime, and on it goes. There is no doubt in the minds of many of my constituents that successive Labor governments have been not even soft on crime. I am not going to be supporting this legislation. They are not soft on crime; they are marshmallows.

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (12.30 am): I rise to speak in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. This is an issue that is very important to me and I have spoken about this previously in the House. While we know there are no quick fixes, the Palaszczuk government is dedicated to keeping our community safe by finding solutions that work to reduce crime. The former government promised its tough-on-crime solution would break the cycle of youth offending by introducing stronger penalties and harsher consequences, but a magnitude of research shows us that increasing the severity of punishment does not reduce offending nor does it reduce re-offending. It is simply a blunt and ineffective tool for changing behaviour.

Along with these harsher penalties, the former government created a scare campaign which struck fear into the heart of our communities by saying that crime was on the rise—but once again this was not backed by statistics. In Townsville, general offences have dropped by 20 per cent over the past 10 years and property offences have decreased by 35 per cent. These false claims by those opposite not only are incorrect but have the potential to damage our community's confidence.

I want people to feel safe while they go about their lives and for them to enjoy everything that our great city of Townsville has to offer. I have been working hard with the members for Townsville and Thuringowa and our local community to discuss ways in which we can address youth crime at the grassroots level. I have been meeting with schools, parents, community groups, Queensland Youth Services and the PCYC, particularly in regard to their successful SAS ME program, and I have been talking to local police about Project Booyah, with the sole purpose of addressing this issue.

Earlier this month we invited the Attorney-General and the Minister for Police to Townsville to attend our public forum on youth justice. This forum brought our community together to discuss the current situation in Townsville and the best way to move forward. It was a very productive meeting. Members of the community said they were very appreciative of the opportunity to be a part of the conversation. While there were differing views, the majority of the participants agreed a key part of addressing crime was to stop it before it begins. The majority of attendees also agreed that the most effective approach to reduce offending and avoid people being victims of youth crime was to employ early intervention and diversion programs. We know that young offenders are often vulnerable and seriously disadvantaged, with many having experienced significant trauma during their young lives. Instead of harsh, harmful and ineffective tactics, our government will support young people to get back on the right track by working together with the experts.

We are not saying that young people should not be punished for their actions, but we do believe imprisonment should be a sentence of last resort for children. Under the Palaszczuk government, the future of the youth justice system in Queensland is one that values and supports the future of young people and aims to reduce the impact of offending in our communities in the most effective way. At the same time it acknowledges that young offenders need to be held accountable. I believe that this bill gets the balance right and looks at the bigger picture to tackle this problem from the ground up. It is time to stop talking down Townsville and start focusing on solutions that work. It is for these reasons that I strongly support this bill.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.34 am): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate. I think everybody here is of the opinion that we have a problem with some of our youth and the amount of recidivism that exists in not only Townsville but other communities. The question is: what is driving that and what should we do about it?

We have a program that was implemented but, because the program was implemented by us, it seems to be getting torn down. I would be really interested to see and understand the evidence that says there was not one shred of anything useful in this, but that evidence has not been produced. The simple fact is that, if the government want to make a change because they want to make a political statement and they want to oppose the things the LNP did, that is fine. They are the government, albeit minority. I heard someone saying earlier that the people of Queensland voted, but they certainly did not vote for Labor in the majority because we got the higher vote. They are the government and the government's objective should be to make Queensland a better place, particularly for our young people.

What they really need are some jobs, some opportunities, some decent structure in their lives and some decent education. In Toowoomba we have the Toowoomba Flexi School which tries to catch some of these people before they start committing these crimes and before they get involved in a slippery slope that might lead to them being diverted off to a boot camp or into other programs. Instead of looking at everything that we did and saying that it was bad, the government should look at what we did that was good and enhance that. In that way, we will actually develop some decent legislation, as opposed to just a kneejerk reaction that is all about trying to show the various people out there that we have a different approach to crime. Some would say it is a soft approach on crime; others would say the Labor side is more caring.

The simple fact is it is not caring to leave these poor kids in desperate situations where they are searching around in their lives for some answers, some thrills, some excitement, someone to care for them or whatever it is. They need to learn some internal resilience. They need to understand that the community has some expectations of them if they want to participate in the community. They need to be taught that they have to take responsibility for what they have done. If they have done some bad

things that have caused other people problems, there is a consequence to that. At the same time, however, they need to be given some compassion and maybe some training and they need to learn some resilience and some understanding. We called that a boot camp. It is not such a strange and peculiar idea and it is one that could have been built on.

Instead of that, what do we get? We do not wait for any evidence. We do not look at any solutions. We simply turn around because they are the Labor Party and we are the LNP and whatever we did must be bad in their eyes. That is simply not the case. The facts of the matter are that there were some successes with this program, and I am sure given time the evidence would have been able to be gathered to show what they were and they could have been enhanced. As a conservative person, to be able to build on enhancement of legislation and enhancement of programs over a period of time is a sensible, logical way forward. Some arbitrary, kneejerk revolution every time they clutch on to power—albeit with the help of a few Independents—is not really going to lead to a long-term solution to this long-term problem that exists out there in our society.

This problem is not going to go away by having a few consultative meetings. This problem is becoming intergenerational. This problem needs individuals to learn some responsibility. This problem is going to need some serious resources put into it over a period of time.

In my opinion, simply going soft on the people who have done that is really unfortunate for the rest of the community. There are other people out there who are obeying the rules, who are leading their lives the right way. They are facing the struggles and taking responsibility. To start wrapping more and more resources around somebody to give them a better life than some of the people they have been committing offences against is grossly unjust. Some of the so-called holiday camps that existed for youth offenders when we came into government were outrageous. People were trying to get back into these places because they got some decent meals provided for them, they could ride bucking bulls and they could play the PlayStation and other things.

This was the best environment they had had in their lives. We cannot have people out there aspiring to commit crimes over and over so that they can get locked up and be in a better environment than the one they came from. We have to help them learn, understand and respect themselves and the responsibility they face in making something of their lives. Going soft on that is not going to achieve that. It is certainly disrespectful to the other people in the community against whom they have offended who are facing those same struggles and challenges but are dealing with them in a way that respects all of us and the laws that exist.

I say to the Attorney-General that if all she wants to do when she comes into this place is undo everything that was done before, then that is a sad indictment on our political system and one she really needs to think through. If her solution to everything is not to wait to see what works, find out what is good in it and then move forward, but to simply tear it down because it was someone else's idea and concept and not wait for the evidence to come in, I think that is bad policy and something that should not happen.

I will be opposing this legislation on the simple principle that the trials that were put in place really needed more time and more evidence gathered so that we could work out which bits will lead to a better outcome for our community rather than simply introducing kneejerk legislation and throwing around cheap slogans such as, 'We're caring; they're harsh.' All of these sorts of things will not solve the problem. There is certainly a big chunk of the community out there who would see this approach as being soft on crime. The reality is that if that reflects how the community feels, then they need to be listened to and that needs to be respected. That needs to be considered when the government are working out how they are going to treat and deal with this serious recidivism that exists. They cannot simply throw away the fact that the community think they are soft on crime by saying, 'That's because you have scared them into the slogan.' That is not the case at all. The reason they think the government are soft on crime is that the evidence is in front of them and the circumstances that are there. I would urge the minister to look for the good—

Mr Russo interjected.

Mr WATTS: The member asks, 'What evidence is it?' He should go and ask someone in Townsville what evidence is there of the recidivism in crime of young people in Townsville. Have you not been listening to the debate? I know it is late, but it has been going for a while.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I ask the member to please direct his comments through the chair.

Mr WATTS: Absolutely, I will put my comments through the chair. I am being asked by the member for Sunnybank as to what evidence is there. I would suggest that before his travel allowance expires he books himself a ticket and goes and walks around some of the streets in some of the suburbs and communities and he gathers some of the data firsthand for himself. He could go and do a ride along with some of the police. He should go and have a look at what is going on out there in the community and gather the evidence himself. He has been brought into this place with a responsibility, which is to make sure that the community is better with the legislation we pass in this place than it was when we came into this place. Simple kneejerk reactions without waiting for legislation that has been put in place to have an effect and to have that effect measured and then debated as to which elements were good is a naive way to go about drafting legislation.

We know that this was the government's kneejerk reaction to what we did. We know that they did not like the approach that we took. If they think that that kneejerk is going to lead to a solution, they are a lot more naive than I thought they were. They need to look for what has worked in legislation that was put in place. What were the elements of the boot camps that were good? What are the things that seem to have an effect? Go and gather that evidence and then enhance it by making the necessary changes to get a better outcome rather than simply throwing around a few slogans and saying, 'We've got all the solutions. Here's my brochure.'

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.44 am): As the Minister for Youth, I am proud to participate in this debate to support the important reforms in the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The Palaszczuk government values young people and recognises the unique contributions they make to our community, our economy and our state. This represents a refreshing change for young people in Queensland: a government that respects and listens to them. What they got from the previous government were ineffective and costly boot camps, draconian name-and-shame laws and a youth strategy that had absolutely no input from young people themselves. I am particularly pleased to see that initiatives that put already vulnerable children at additional risk are now being reversed.

Dealing with young people who commit a crime is a particularly sensitive policy area and must be approached with an abundance of caution with programs developed on sound evidence. Yes, young people absolutely must be held accountable. There is no doubt that there are some very serious crimes committed by very young people and they should be dealt with accordingly. However, many can turn their lives around if they are provided with support and early intervention. With programs achieving real outcomes, rather than blunt punishment tools, we can equip these young people, many of whom have never had an adult in their life who was willing or able to help them, with the skills they need to be positive contributors to our society.

The previous government's penalise, punish and imprison approach to young people went against every principle relating to the rehabilitation and protection of children. They made Queensland the only state not to follow the principle that a custodial sentence should be the last resort option. We are here to right that wrong. They went further, in fact, and allowed the publication of identifying information regarding children who are repeat offenders, ensuring children are labelled for life and are severely inhibited from turning their lives around. We are righting that wrong also tonight. The Palaszczuk government thinks we cannot ignore the internationally accepted principles such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration.

As part of my own efforts to strengthen connections with youth services and supporting vulnerable young people in our community, late last year I visited the Moreton Bay youth service Collaborative Action Group with the member for Murrumba. At that visit I met with Kyle, a young man who had been incarcerated since he was 17. He told me how helpful it was to have a range of services working together to support him when he was released, rehouse him, liaise with Child Safety Services but also provide him with a really strong sense of community. Kyle was very keen to see reform in the youth justice sector, telling me that after coming out of prison he also found it incredibly difficult to find employment. I now understand that, through the help of youth services funded by our government, he is training to be a youth worker.

I have been so inspired to meet young people right across Queensland who have done it really, really tough who have not only turned their own lives around but have gone back to help other young people who have had similar experiences. We are a government who stands with vulnerable young people.

It is so important that government work with services to support young people and not stand in their way or put further barriers in place. These reforms have the support of some very significant stakeholders in the areas of children's law and child protection from Protect All Children Today, the Anti-Discrimination Commission, the Queensland Law Society and the Queensland Family and Child Commission. They are at one in recognising the importance of the changes in this bill. I encourage those opposite to learn from their past mistakes and join stakeholders and support these reforms. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (12.48 am), in reply: I thank the honourable members for their contribution to the cognate debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bills 2015 and 2016. These bills deliver on the government's election commitment to repeal the 2014 amendment made to the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the Childrens Court Act 1992 by those opposite me, restoring balance and an evidence based approach to youth offending. The bills also make amendments to the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to statutorily recognise the common law principle that imprisonment is a sentence of last resort and that a sentence that allows an offender to stay in the community is preferable. The bills reiterate the government's future plans for the youth justice system in Queensland, a plan that allows courts and police to maintain their necessary powers to act swiftly in responding to offending behaviour by children and young people, a plan however that also allows for the necessary rehabilitation and diversion of children from further involvement in the justice system.

Our plan and these bills necessarily respond to the particular vulnerabilities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people who are disproportionately represented in the youth justice system. Getting this balance right is critically important and challenging; however, it is with much confidence that I believe these bills strike the right balance.

I will now address some of the matters raised by the honourable members during the course of this debate which were, it has to be said, entirely predictable. There were a few themes tonight; we have heard most of them before. One of the most curious was the constant reference to the words of the President of the Childrens Court, Judge Michael Shanahan. Members from Mansfield, Kawana, Beaudesert and many others have all referred to the annual report of that court published by the President. I am sure the President will be flattered to hear that his report is being referenced in this debate and that those opposite are relying on his expertise and recognising his authority in this area. Can I suggest that, when those opposite are reading the annual reports of the Childrens Court of Queensland, they might want to take a look at page 8 of the annual report for 2014-15. Under the section titled 'Legislative matters' the President states—

The new Queensland Government has announced that it will be reintroducing the Childrens Courts' power to refer a matter to Youth Justice Conferencing. As noted in the last two Annual Reports, such a mechanism is an extremely useful (and successful) diversionary mechanism as well as being a tried and tested method of restorative justice.

I could not agree more, and I again thank those opposite for recognising the President's authority on this issue. These comments follow on from the 2013-14 report. In that report the President detailed the recent changes to the Youth Justice Act introduced by the then LNP government. At page 6 he said—

Several of these changes cause me grave concern.

The principle that detention should be a sentence of last resort in relation to a child is of long standing in the common law and recognised in all other Australian States. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (to which Australia is a signatory) provides that, in relation to a child, deprivation of liberty should be used only as a measure of last resort and only for the shortest appropriate period of time. The principle is based on the recognition of the well established fact that the capacity of young people to regulate their behaviour and make decisions after considering consequences is not as developed as an adult. Child offenders are not little adults. That is why juvenile justice systems are developed separately from the adult criminal justice systems.

Sometime later he continued—

Rehabilitation is also a fundamental aspect of a juvenile justice system as it is clear that the earlier rehabilitative steps are taken, the better are the prospects of turning a person from a criminal path and particularly from developing into an adult criminal.

An overly punitive juvenile system poses the danger of placing rehabilitation behind punishment and retribution with the consequent risk of long term recidivism. In any event, the data in relation to the 10 year trends in relation to juvenile offenders and the number of charges against juveniles do not show a juvenile crime wave. The trend line in relation to the number of juvenile offenders is decreasing and, whilst the trend line in relation to the number of offences is increasing, it is probably a function of more offences being committed by a relatively small number of offenders. Also the trend line shows increasing detention orders over the last decade. In 2011/2012 the number of detention orders increased by 38.3% from the previous year, in 2012/2013 by 10.3% and in 2013/2014 by 4.9%.

The change was unnecessary in the light of the statistics and the principles of juvenile justice. It was argued against in almost all the submissions made to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's hearing into the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. It should be reconsidered.

Those are the words of Justice Shanahan. When those opposite quote a particular year in relation to crime stats, to try to say that that is evidence that their laws were working because crime was decreasing, without putting it into the context of what this judge said over two to three years of annual reports, is misleading. It is absolutely misleading not to put that information forward when they are quoting Judge Shanahan.

We talk about evidence based and what the community wants, but in relation to the 2015 bill that went before the parliamentary committee there were 25 submissions and all but two favoured the bill; for the 2016 bill there were 13 written submissions and all but one supported this bill. They say that their view is reflective of the community, but they completely ignore the submissions that were put forward to the committee. They talked about one particular group that gave evidence, the Townsville Crime Alerts and Discussion Group, and the member for Everton praised the group and said they have thousands of followers. He said they are a strong, good community group. Ms Parkinson gave evidence in the committee hearing about Lincoln Springs. She said—

Lincoln Springs boot camp was not one that we actually agreed with at the beginning. There was another proposal from a company called Youfla that we felt was a much better suited facility because it had a location, whereas Lincoln Springs did not.

She goes on to state—

Yes, I was invited along with the former attorney-general to have a look, because we worked so hard to get it he thought it would be important for the community to see what it was about. I have to say I was not overly impressed because it was a group of dongas with security put on them, very little infrastructure, a few horses. I just did not see where that gross amount of money could possibly be spent.

This is the group that the member for Everton relied on in support of his claim that this bill should not be supported, and those are their words in the transcript of the parliamentary committee hearing.

Judge Shanahan continued in a similar vein about the naming and shaming provisions, mandatory boot camp orders, the offence of committing an offence on bail and the removal of sentence reviews which, it is necessary to point out, was done over his objection.

In terms of the effectiveness of youth conferencing, offenders who appeared in court are 1.65 more times likely to reoffend than young people who are conferenced—information that was provided to the committee in the review of this bill. Those opposite, as we have come to expect, also love to cherry pick statistics. What the evidence shows is that there has been a steady decline over many years in the overall number of young offenders who commit a proven offence: 4,129 in 2010-11, 3,946 in 2011-12, and 3,500 in 2014-15, so let's see the bluff and bluster coming from those opposite for what it is. What we on this side are interested in is taking action based on what the evidence shows works. This is a serious issue that we are committed to, and we will not let those opposite treat it like a sick political plaything.

Tonight we also saw the member for Kawana come into this place and say that the most important way to reduce youth crime is to reduce youth unemployment through training. That is absolutely extraordinary. Here is the man who believed that the solution was to lock these kids up, take a tough-on-crime approach to these kids, and now he is the shadow training and skills minister. I have to acknowledge the brazen gall of the member for Kawana in suggesting that training is the most important way to address youth crime, when he himself as Attorney-General ripped training programs out from the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. I visited the centre myself and saw the fantastic training and skills facilities.

An opposition member: Bucking bulls!

Mrs D'ATH: They were almost brand-new—

Mr SPEAKER: Just one moment. What were those words I heard?

An opposition member: 'Bucking bulls.'

Mr SPEAKER: I thought I heard something else.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: With respect, the words I thought I heard certainly were not a laughing matter in the parliament at one o'clock in the morning. I am jolly glad I did not. I call the Attorney-General.

Mrs D'ATH: This trade training facility was a purpose-built, fully equipped trade training centre with a metalwork and woodwork centre, a kitchen and so on. These kids had been rebuilding outboard motors. Kids from Palm Island were learning how to fix outboard motors—great, important skills for

when they go home. Kids were doing woodwork, building tables. Do members know what the youth justice workers were doing? They were flat-packing those tables and sending them back to the remote community so that the kids' families could see what the children had done—so that they could be proud of what they achieved and the skills they learned.

When I was the shadow Attorney-General at the time I walked into this centre and it was locked up. I asked, 'What is going on? Why is this shut?' They said, 'Because the previous attorney-general ripped it all out. They have pulled the TAFE teachers out and we are not delivering the training anymore.' That was the view of the former attorney-general and the LNP on training when it comes to youth justice. The LNP cut more than \$3.4 million to training programs within detention centres and regional training programs. Some \$332,090 was cut from Cleveland Youth Detention Centre VET funding. Another \$400,000 in VET funding was cut from the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. Those are the facts.

The member for Kawana made reference to the bucking broncos and rides that apparently he thinks are a central issue to this youth justice debate, so I have to question what he was thinking when he spent \$15,000 of taxpayers' money hiring two helicopters to take some local MPs, a couple of local people, including the community person who gave evidence, and a cameraman to shoot a promotional video at Lincoln Springs. This picture shows the member for Kawana. That is what \$15,000 gets you. I am happy to table that.

Tabled paper: Photograph, undated, depicting the member for Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP [\[1006\]](#).

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, it is early in the morning. We do not want props, Attorney-General. We know the message you are conveying. I would urge members not to provoke the Attorney-General.

Mrs D'ATH: I know that many would like to go to bed, but I am determined to go through the important issues that have been raised in this debate because youth justice is an important issue in this state. Those opposite treat it as a political toy. They went out with their normal fear and scare campaigns. We have heard it all again in the debate tonight. Think of what that \$15,000 could do in youth programs. Theirs is a shameful legacy.

I heard many on the other side ask, 'Where is the evidence? We just needed to give it time to be reviewed.' What did they think the KPMG report was? In fact, I believe it was the member for Everton—I may stand corrected; it may have been the member for Mansfield—who said, 'We are the ones who started the review.' On the one hand we have a whole bunch of members saying, 'All you needed to do was wait and give it time and have a review,' but on the other hand others saying that they actually initiated the review. We have a comprehensive review with the KPMG report. We have another comprehensive review with the Auditor-General's report. I suggest that those on the other side should read those reports.

A number of people on the other side made some very good points. They talked about early intervention and prevention programs and flexible learning schools. I am absolutely committed to and passionate about flexible learning schools. Any one of us who has ever had anything to do with those schools knows the difference they make in those kids' lives. We need alternative pathways. I mention initiatives such as Project Booyah. I am so thrilled that TAFE Queensland signed a memorandum of understanding and we have Project Booyah across the state now to deliver training.

The members for Coomera, Toowoomba North and Burdekin made really good points about getting kids early, in the school system, when they start dropping out—grabbing them then and getting them into programs. My PCYC runs a great suspension program. The second they get suspended they are at the PCYC doing programs and not wandering the streets. But here is the kicker: you cannot do that when you tell the court that detention is the first resort. You cannot do that when you say to the court, 'We're going to take away all the diversionary programs and the ability for you to refer to those other initiatives.' Those opposite took the power to do that away from the court. They said, 'By the time it gets into the court you have one option: lock them up or send them home.' In terms of all those other programs and all these other benefits, they scrapped the court ordered youth justice conferencing, they got rid of all the diversionary programs and they got rid of the Murri Court. So many of the issues raised by many members in this chamber tonight rely on these bills passing.

We talk about being fiscally responsible. Those opposite said that we should have given the boot camp time to run, but \$16 million in 18 months is a lot of money. The other problem was that those opposite did not fund it. There was not one cent budgeted in the forward estimates to keep it going. It is a bit hard to give it time and see how it works out when you are not giving any money to keep it going.

The last point I want to address is the comment about why we are here doing this on a Friday night—now a Saturday morning—during budget week. We are here because youth justice is important and because we are elected to do this job. This is our job; this is what we do. Yes, it is budget week, but that does not mean that our other work does not continue, that important bills like this should not be debated. In the view of those opposite, this should be delayed another three months. I disagree. There are a whole lot of stakeholders—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, if you are going to be unruly I will start identifying people and they will be warned appropriately.

Mrs D'ATH: I make no apology for bringing on this bill this week. Those on the other side chose to use their full 20 minutes in the budget debate and not incorporate their speeches and now they are complaining that we are here on a Friday night.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. We will have silence. Members, this will take as long as you want it to take.

Mrs D'ATH: In conclusion, I would like to thank—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I have plenty more to take you to if you really want me to.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, that interjection has no relevance whatsoever to the bill we are debating at the moment. If you persist you will be warned under standing order 253.

Mrs D'ATH: Before I finish I would like to thank a few people. First and foremost, I thank the hardworking staff of youth justice right across this state who are at the coalface of caring for, training and protecting young people and trying to change their paths in life. I thank the youth justice staff who have worked so hard to get these important reforms to where they are now. I thank our partners across the legal profession, stakeholders, President Shanahan, those in the Magistrates Court and court, communities and legal staff who dedicate their skills and energy to youth justice. I also acknowledge the hard work of our police officers every day. They are out there on the front line ensuring our community's safety. I thank my colleagues on this side of the House, especially the member for Ferny Grove, as the chair of the legal affairs committee, and the members of the committee. I thank the members for Townsville, Thuringowa and Mundingburra for the great community forum they organised in their community.

In conclusion, I once again thank all honourable members for their contributions during the cognate debate on these bills. I stand in this House tonight proud of the reforms brought forward in these bills and proud to be part of this Labor government. I commend the bills to the House.

Division: Question put—That the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 be now read a second time.

AYES, 42:

ALP, 40—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

INDEPENDENT, 2—Gordon, Pyne.

NOES, 37:

LNP, 37—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Walker, Watts, Weir.

Pairs: Furner, Cripps; Miller, Stuckey.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

Division: Question put—That the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 be now read a second time.

AYES, 42:

ALP, 40—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

INDEPENDENT, 2—Gordon, Pyne.

NOES, 37:

LNP, 37—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seene, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Walker, Watts, Weir.

Pairs: Furner, Cripps; Miller, Stuckey.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—



Mrs D'ATH (1.21 am): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 8, lines 7 to 9—

omit, insert—

This Act commences on 1 July 2016.

I table the explanatory notes to the amendment. This amendment is just to change the commencement so that the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 will commence on 1 July 2016.

Tabled paper: Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes to Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendment [\[1007\]](#).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 69, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Clauses 1 to 37—



Mrs D'ATH (1.21 am): I seek leave to move amendments en bloc and outside the long title.

Leave granted.

Mrs D'ATH: I move the following amendments—

1 After clause 1

Page 6, after line 5—

insert—

1A Commencement

This Act commences on 1 July 2016, immediately after the commencement of the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act (No. 1) 2016*.

2 Clause 5 (Insertion of new s 20)

Page 7, after line 22—

insert—

(ga) the public guardian under the *Public Guardian Act 2014*; or

(gb) if the proceeding is a child protection proceeding under the *Child Protection Act 1999*—
the chief executive (child safety); or

3 Clause 5 (Insertion of new s 20)

Page 9, after line 7—

insert—

chief executive (child safety) means the chief executive of the department in which the *Child Protection Act 1999* is administered.

4 After clause 8

Page 11, after line 2—

*insert—***Part 3A Amendment of Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000****8A Act amended**This part amends the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*.**8B Amendment of s 474 (Destruction of identifying particulars)**

(1) Section 474—

insert—

(4A) If—

- (a) the person is a child; and
- (b) the *Youth Justice Act 1992* applies for proceeding against the child for the identifying particulars offence; and
- (c) the child pleads guilty before the court; and
- (d) the court dismisses the charge and refers the offence to the chief executive (communities) for a restorative justice process under the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, section 24A;

the requirement to destroy the identifying particulars under subsection (1) does not apply until the child discharges his or her obligations under a restorative justice agreement made as a consequence of the referral.

(2) Section 474(5)—

*insert—***restorative justice agreement** see the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, schedule 4.**restorative justice process** see the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, schedule 4.**8C Amendment of s 695 (Application for order in relation to seized things)**

Section 695—

insert—

(6) Subsection (7) applies if—

- (a) a proceeding started in relation to a thing seized is a proceeding against a child for an offence; and
- (b) the child pleads guilty before the court; and
- (c) the court dismisses the charge and refers the offence to the chief executive (communities) for a restorative justice process under the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, section 24A.

(7) For subsection (3)(a), the discontinuation of the proceeding is taken to happen on the day the child discharges his or her obligations under a restorative justice agreement made as a consequence of the referral.

(8) In this section—

restorative justice agreement see the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, schedule 4.**restorative justice process** see the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, schedule 4.**5 Clause 15 (Insertion of new s 24A)**

Page 15, after line 2—

insert—

(1A) In deciding the application, the Childrens Court may have regard to—

- (a) any cautions administered to the child for any offence; and
- (b) whether any previous restorative justice agreements have been made by the child.

6 Clause 15 (Insertion of new s 24A)

Page 15, line 7, 'starting'—

omit, insert—

restarting

7 Clause 15 (Insertion of new s 24A)

Page 15, after line 17—

insert—

- (5) If the court decides to—
- (a) make an order of dismissal under the *Justices Act 1886*, section 149 and give the child a certificate of the dismissal; or
- (b) give the child a certificate of dismissal under the Criminal Code, section 700; the court must not give the child the certificate until the child discharges his or her obligations under a restorative justice agreement made as a consequence of the referral.

8 Clause 16 (Replacement of pt 3 (Youth justice conferences generally))

Page 24, after line 17—

*insert—***41 Notice of successful completion of restorative justice agreement**

If a child discharges his or her obligations under a restorative justice agreement made as a consequence of a restorative justice process, the chief executive must notify the referring authority for the process accordingly.

9 Clause 17 (Amendment of s 74 (Chief executive's right of audience generally))

Page 24, line 20, '(e) and (f)'—

omit, insert—

(d) and (e)

10 Clause 17 (Amendment of s 74 (Chief executive's right of audience generally))

Page 24, line 22—

omit, insert—

(d) without limiting paragraphs (a) to (c),

11 Clause 27 (Amendment of s 245 (Court's power on breach of a community based order other than a boot camp (vehicle offences) order, conditional release order or boot camp order))

Page 35, lines 24 to 26—

*omit, insert—***community based order other than a conditional release order)****12 Clause 35 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 12)**

Page 45, lines 21 and 24, '12'—

omit, insert—

14

13 Clause 35 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 12)

Page 46, line 1, '368'—

omit, insert—

386

14 Clause 36 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))

Page 47, lines 28 to 30—

omit, insert—

intensive supervision order, conditional release order or restorative justice order.

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes to Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [1008].

These amendments ensure that the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 comes into effect on 1 July immediately after the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. The amendments also ensure that there are the consequential amendments in relation to renumbering owing to the No. 1 bill. There are consequential amendments to those who can be present in closed court owing to the recent passing of the Director of Child Protection Litigation Act 2016. The amendments amend the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to preserve evidence of an offence until a child discharges his or her obligations under a restorative justice agreement made as a consequence of the referral. The amendments also make amendments to section 24A to clarify the functioning of the referral by the court and at what point the dismissal and a certificate shall commence.

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 37, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (1.25 am): I move—

That the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, as amended, be now read a third time.

Question put—That the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (1.25 am): I move—

That the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, as amended, be now read a third time.

Question put—That the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (1.25 am): I move—

That the long title of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (1.25 am): I move the following amendment—

15 Long title

Long title, after '2006,'—

insert—

the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000,

Amendment agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (1.26 am): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 16 August 2016.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (1.26 am): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Pimelea

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (1.27 am): I rise to speak about the native plant pimelea, its prevalence in the Warrego electorate owing to the winter rains and the devastating effect that pimelea has on cattle producers in South-West Queensland.

Pimelea is a small native herb that is mainly found in the inland areas of Australia. Three species are usually associated with the disease: pimelea simplex, trichostachya and elongata. Historically, pimelea poisoning has been considered a regional problem, occurring mainly around the St George district in South-West Queensland. However, three poisonous pimelea species are now found throughout the beef cattle regions of Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory, extending over about one-quarter of Australia's pastoral lands. That gives an insight into the extent of this problem.

Recently, 150 primary producers met at Begonia in my electorate to hear from the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation experts on the symptoms of poisoning, effects, treatment options and future directions for research. One local producer has lost 150 head of cattle—breeders, calves and bulls. He is not alone. The value of stock losses would easily be in the millions of dollars in the St George district.

At Begonia, senior veterinary officer Louise Mullemeister clarified the common misunderstandings about pimelea, advising that poisoning was not a direct effect of the highly irritant chemical simplexin entering the lungs. Research suggests that ingested and inhaled plant particles that get stuck in the nasal secretions are swallowed and end up in the stomach to be absorbed by the digestive system. The toxin enters the circulation and causes constriction of the blood vessels in the lungs. Fortunately, some research indicates that simplexin is not residual in animal tissues, providing an assurance of the safety of meat products from areas affected by pimelea.

There is no specific treatment for pimelea poisoning of affected cattle except some management options and also some herbicide treatments. There are large areas involved. Therefore, herbicide is quite difficult. There is a need for more research to fully understand the chemical analysis and combine this with animal trials. That is not cheap.

I call on all levels of government—local, state and federal—and industry organisations for greater support of pimelea affected areas. I hope that they can find some solutions for cattle producers affected by poisonous pimelea.

National Fast Freight Rail Line

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (1.30 am): One of the negative legacies faced by eastern Australia since the time before Federation has been the lack of a national standard gauge rail line. After about 20-odd years of speculation and probably a degree of scepticism, it appears as though that is now much closer. In this year's federal budget, some \$600 million was announced to start the process of corridor acquisition to enable the national fast freight rail line, which will come from Melbourne all the way through to Brisbane. It is envisaged that it will take at least 10 years to complete.

I support that project absolutely and I believe every member of this parliament would also support it in principle. Now that we are starting to get to the stage of discussing possible corridor options and also property acquisitions, a range of issues needs to be considered properly by the federal government and the partners in this project. It also needs to be a consideration for the Queensland government as well.

This rail line will come across the border into my electorate, then it will go into the Condamine electorate, or pass through Toowoomba on its way over the range and then into the Port of Brisbane. Importantly, it is now up to those who are involved to make sure that they minimise the impact of this line on property owners.

From the reports that I have heard from the first public meetings on this issue, I am a little bit disturbed that the initial corridors are proposing to sever properties in two when there are other better options. It is very important to consider what those options are—whether that be running the line from Inglewood up through to Millmerran and then to Brookstead and then over to Toowoomba, or by and large using the existing rail corridor through Warwick and then up to Toowoomba. It is important to minimise as much as possible the impact of this line on landowners.

I encourage to the Commonwealth government to work with the state government where possible to make sure that that rail corridor can be acquired and can be properly put on state land. There is a precedent for that. In 1996-97, the then government put the electricity interconnector generally through state land, including state forest land, to minimise its impact on private property. If this line is in the national interest, if it is in the state interest, every effort has to be made to ensure minimal impact and that there is a proper, equitable distribution of its impact on land, whether that be state or private land.

Public Transport, Fares

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (1.33 am): Public transport patrons in Queensland will travel further for less following the government's response to the SEQ Fare Review announced by the Premier and Minister for Transport on Sunday. At the last election the Palaszczuk government made a commitment to improve our public transport fare system, address affordability and deliver fairer public transport fares. In August last year, the government appointed an independent expert task force to lead a comprehensive review of TransLink's fare structure in SEQ to deliver on that commitment. During the review, the government announced a freeze on the former LNP's annual scheduled 2½ per cent fare increase.

This week, public transport took centre stage in the budget, with the announcement of the government's Fairer Fares package in response to the recommendations of that independent fare review task force. The government's response ensures that the maximum number of commuters benefit, with fares slashed across SEQ from next year for all zones of travel. More than 93 per cent of public transport users across SEQ will save money. This will deliver real cost-of-living relief to public transport users.

With 12 train stations and 394 active bus stops in the Nudgee electorate, this is good news for commuters across my entire electorate. From 1 January next year, the existing 23 zones across the network will be streamlined into eight. The resulting reduction in the need for commuters to cross multiple zones means lower fares and fares that are more representative of the distance travelled by public transport users.

Regular weekly commuters will also benefit from half-price fares after making eight eligible trips. This 'eight and 50 per cent' was a recommendation of the task force and will result in a far greater number of people benefiting compared to the 'nine and free'. Families will benefit from the introduction of the children travel free at weekends initiative, and seniors will continue to enjoy free travel each day after two journeys with the retention of 'one, two, free'.

Jobseekers have raised with me the difficulty they experience in attending job interviews due to a lack of private transport and/or the cost of public transport fares adding up and becoming cost prohibitive. We understand that many jobseekers rely on public transport. The new fare strategy will allow those on Newstart Allowance to travel on a concession fare, providing some welcome relief to those trying to find employment in South-East Queensland. Concession fares will also be extended to one of the most vulnerable groups in our society, asylum seekers.

Simplification of the zoning system will result in savings to constituents in my electorate per year in the order of \$315 per passenger per year from Toombul station to the city; a saving of \$328 for a passenger travelling from the Chermiside Shopping Centre bus exchange to the CBD; and up to \$578 per passenger from North Boondall station or bus stop to the city. Not only will the government keep fares frozen until the changes take effect on 1 January next year; it has guaranteed that fares will not increase in 2017 when the major fare savings are passed on. The Palaszczuk government is delivering real cost-of-living relief to South-East Queensland public transport users. I thank the transport minister on behalf of all the commuters in my electorate.

Morris, Mr D

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (1.36 am): I rise tonight to pay tribute to a man who has made a massive contribution to his community and his sport. Over the last 48 years Des Morris has been closely associated with the mighty East Tigers. Des moved from the Booval Swifts to join the team in 1968. While his career would, for a short time, take him to the Wynnum-Manly Seagulls as a player and coach, his heart would always belong to the Tigers. For the last 10 years Des has been the CEO of the football club and, sadly, this year announced his retirement. I never had the benefit of seeing Des's work on the field, but by all accounts it was impressive. He was successful as a player and coach at club and state levels. He continues today as a State of Origin selector and has made a huge contribution to the golden age of Queensland in the State of Origin.

Des also had a brief stint as a political candidate. While our views might be different, there is no doubt that Des would have made a significant contribution had he been elected. Like the best people who aspire to serve the community as a politician, Des Morris demonstrated that elected office is only one way to render service to the community. His contributions to our local community have been significant and will be lasting.

I have been attending games at Langlands since 1997. It has always been a great day out for the whole family, and I would encourage everyone to come along. Over that time I have got to know Des. While others will rightly laud Des for his on-field and off-field achievements, for me it is Des the

person who supports the community who I really want to speak about. When I approached him to ask if we could arrange a fundraiser at a home game for our P&C, Des immediately said yes. He helped to organise the day, and when I arrived to set up Des gave me a hand to put up the marquee. He came back at half-time to make sure we were having a good time.

As we set up the marquee, Des told me about the State of Origin camp he had just left and his views on the capacity of his team to win on Wednesday night. It occurred to me that both things were important to Des—the pinnacle sporting event of his code and supporting the sport at the grassroots by encouraging community participation. It is said that Des has done every job at Easts. After a recent game, a friend and I were walking home after having a few beers in the club post match. An hour and a half after the final siren we bumped into Des in the car park, cleaning up and loading gear into storage. He stopped to have a quick chat about the game and thank us for coming.

This chance encounter reinforced for me the many great personal qualities that Des has instilled in the entire club. He works hard and he does every job to the best of his ability. No matter what he is doing, he carries himself with dignity. He is never too busy to be polite and treat people with respect. He celebrates success with humility and learns from the hard days. He makes everyone feel welcome and special at his club. He always finds time to have a yarn about the team and the sport that he loves. No doubt we will continue to see Des at games and at the club for many years to come. I want to thank him—and his family who have supported him—for the huge contribution he has made to our club and our community.

Member for Mudgeeraba, Shadow Ministry Responsibilities

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (1.39 am): Like so many of my shadow cabinet colleagues, I have well and truly hit the ground running in my first month as 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. This shadow portfolio spreads across two ministerial portfolios and is truly wide ranging and diverse. Already I have seen how this is a portfolio made up of wonderful people across a variety of sectors who contribute to making our Queensland community a better place to live.

I have been meeting with stakeholders, attending events, hearing different views and getting to know exactly what it is that we can improve from a policy perspective to make Queensland stronger, more inclusive and more understanding. The first Friday after my appointment, I attended the Queensland Volunteering Awards presentation and recognition ceremony at Brisbane City Hall—a terrific demonstration of the power of volunteering and the way lives can be shaped by the unpaid efforts of a dedicated few.

After that I visited the Post School Options Expo run by BigDog Support Services—a great organisation committed to ensuring that people with a disability have a choice and can live as independently as possible. The next day I was delighted to attend the Queenslanders with Disability Change Forum, which highlighted that people with a disability are leading, influencing and affecting change across different parts of our community. After this I attended the Queensland Young Achiever Awards gala presentation dinner which recognised and rewarded young people who are achieving great things.

The next weekend I was pleased to attend the DigniTEA fundraising event hosted by Share the Dignity in recognition of international Menstrual Hygiene Day, which falls on 28 May. The week after I attended the Domestic Violence Homicide Forum here in parliament. The week after that I was off to Ashgrove to visit Hear and Say and hear about the great work they do to change the lives of children diagnosed with hearing issues, speech, language or developmental delays.

As well as supporting these groups by attending their terrific events, I have also been inviting stakeholders to come and meet with me so they know they have a voice in the LNP opposition. I have met with the Isolated Children's Parents' Association; the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence; the Australian Christian Lobby; Taxi Council Queensland; Diversity with Harmony; the CREATE Foundation; Silky Oaks Children's Haven; BUSHkids; QCOSS; Star Community Transport Group, alongside their local member, the member for Redlands; National Disability Services; and Life Without Barriers. This morning I attended the QCOSS post budget breakfast. These are hardworking stakeholders who work every day to make our state more compassionate, more empathetic and full of more opportunities for our most vulnerable. As both a nurse and survivor of domestic violence, I am looking forward to ensuring that, even under this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government, these sectors have someone representing them in this place.

Hey YOUth Summit

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (1.42 am): I am extremely interested in the vision of local young people, their fears and concerns and their hopes and dreams. I held the inaugural Hey YOUth summit in June at the Rockhampton PCYC, because I want our young people to know that as their state member I am keenly interested in what they have to say and their ideas for the future of our region. Hey YOUth drew key speakers and 90 students from local schools including Emmaus, The Cathedral College, North Rockhampton High, Glenmore, St Ursula's, Rocky High, Project Booyah students and students from the local alternative learning spaces.

The Hey YOUth program of keynote speakers included environmentalist Dr John McGrath, CQUniversity's Kim Harrington and 2015 NAIDOC Youth of the Year and musician Chris Tamwoy. Students brainstormed and asked questions, and I loved hearing their ideas for the future of our region. The students' concerns included secure employment, money, the environment, friends, family and relationships, mental health including depression and anxiety, the cost of education, drug use in the community, bullying, peer pressure, uncertainty of the future, moving out of home, and leaving family and friends.

Despite being the most technological savvy generation, interestingly, multiple students said they are concerned about society's reliance on technology. Several students also raised concerns about the future if polarising, egotistical billionaire real estate mogul turned reality TV star US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is elected.

All of the students agreed that we must stop destruction of the environment and that climate change is a serious risk. Students discussed ways to save our environment including the importance of recycling, conserving energy, tree planting, stopping land clearing, reducing greenhouse gases through decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels, banning bottled water, and more awareness and education campaigns about climate change and a healthy environment. Banning plastic bags and introducing a container deposit scheme were two suggestions by the group, and I was pleased to inform them that the Palaszczuk government is already investigating these options.

I table a copy of all of the brainstorm sheets from the Hey YOUth summit for the interest and information of my parliamentary colleagues. Thank you to all of the teachers who attended, to PCYC Rockhampton, the department of communities, Headspace, CQUniversity, Rockhampton Regional Council, MRAEL and all of our sponsors. We received excellent feedback from the students, and I table a copy of the feedback received.

Tabled paper. Document, undated, relating to issues raised by youths at the Hey YOUth Summit [[1009](#)].

Tabled paper. Document, dated 1 June 2016, relating to feedback from youths on the Hey YOUth Summit [[1010](#)].

I thank School Captain of Yeppoon State High School, Georgia McDonald, who wrote in the latest Yeppoon State High School newsletter this week that Hey YOUth—

... provided an excellent opportunity to voice the concerns and ideas of our newly formed Student Parliament.

I thank Steven, a student who attended Hey YOUth, for his feedback. Steven said—

This is a good opportunity that has almost made me want to be a politician ... almost.

Thank you to Steven and all of the young people who attended Hey YOUth 2016. It was absolutely wonderful to spend the day with you and to hear about what matters most to you—our region's future.

University of the Third Age

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (1.45 am): It gives me pleasure to rise to inform the House about some recent celebrations in my electorate of Broadwater. I am sure that all members of this House would be well aware of the institution that is the University of the Third Age. On 27 May this year, it was great to join my friends from the north Gold Coast branch of U3A to celebrate their 25th anniversary. It was lovely to join my colleague in the Commonwealth parliament Stuart Robert MP, the member for Fadden, and more than 80 members of the very large Gold Coast north branch of the University of the Third Age.

The University of the Third Age is the opportunity for people over the age of 50 to expand their horizons, to learn new things, to understand new things—whether it is technology, history, dance or music. It was fantastic to be able to join the more than 80 members of the Gold Coast north University of the Third Age at Southport Yacht Club to celebrate the significant anniversary.

I pay tribute to the immediate past president, Sue Spicer, who had been instrumental in seeing the very significant growth that the Gold Coast north branch has had over the past few years and who was instrumental in making sure we were able to celebrate such a fantastic occasion. Equally, I put on the record my thanks and appreciation to new president, John Hudson, who not only welcomed me with open arms to the function but also has been instrumental in making sure that the Gold Coast north branch of U3A continues to grow. It was also lovely to welcome to the Gold Coast the State President of U3A, Julie Porteous, who was only recently re-elected at the state conference.

The other benefit that we have seen out of this is that my mother has decided to join the University of the Third Age. Having bought her an iPad for Mother's Day she is now embracing technology. She understands what email is. I look forward to members of U3A showing my mother just what it is that she will be able to do, like so many members of this Gold Coast community who are over the age of 50 are able to do, and she looks forward to communicating with not only the whole world but perhaps her family without needing to use me as an email intermediary. I acknowledge and thank the Gold Coast north branch of U3A and wish them well for the next 25 years.

Australian Labor Party

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (1.48 am): I rise tonight to support an important announcement made yesterday by the federal member for Rankin, Jim Chalmers MP, and the Australian Labor Party candidate for Forde, Des Hardman. Yesterday Jim Chalmers and Des Hardman announced that a Shorten federal Labor government would fund a \$10 million refurbishment of Logan Hospital's maternity and special care services facilities. Logan Hospital has a high demand for birthing services. The birth rate per capita in Logan is almost 20 per cent higher than the rest of the state, with 3,500 births at that hospital in 2014. A Shorten federal Labor government will ensure maternity related facilities at Logan Hospital are refurbished over two years. This announcement also demonstrates the importance that the Australian Labor Party places on health and health care.

Des Hardman has a strong interest in health care. He is employed at Logan Hospital. I know Des and I know he would make a fantastic federal member for Forde and a great champion for his community. Jim Chalmers has proved to be an outstanding hardworking local member of parliament. I know how hard Jim works in the community, having had the pleasure of working with him since my election as the state member for Woodridge in January last year. He is genuinely committed to improving the lives of the people of Rankin.

The people of Rankin, the boundaries of which encompass the state electorate of Woodridge, have a very clear choice available to them on 2 July. They can vote for Jim Chalmers, a passionate advocate for our community, someone who has a proven track record of success at the highest level. Jim is currently the federal shadow minister for financial services and superannuation, productivity and sport and would make a great contribution as a minister in a federal Labor government.

Alternatively, they can vote for an LNP candidate who previously served in this parliament as a member of the Newman LNP government. A candidate who was one of the strongest supporters of Campbell Newman's cuts to jobs and services, particularly to health care. She uttered not one word of protest against Campbell Newman's jobs cutting and cuts to services including to health care.

On 2 July the electors of Rankin have a clear choice. They can vote to save Medicare, vote to keep the cost of prescriptions down, vote for a better deal for Queensland public hospitals and vote for better maternity services at Logan Hospital. The only way they can do that is to vote for Jim Chalmers and Labor in Rankin in the federal election on Saturday, 2 July.

Voice, Interests and Education of Women Clubs; Moggill Electorate

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (1.51 am): I rise tonight to inform honourable members of the important work being undertaken by the Voice, Interests and Education of Women Clubs of Queensland and Australia. VIEW is a leading women's volunteer organisation and support network that empowers women to have their voices heard on issues of importance for the future wellbeing of Australian society.

As a valued part of the Smith Family charity for more than 50 years, VIEW members contribute significantly by fundraising and offering volunteer support to help Australian children in need reach their full potential through education. It is the only women's organisation solely focused on supporting and advocating for young Australians in need.

Recently I was honoured to be invited to the Kenmore Evening VIEW Club meeting as their guest speaker. The Kenmore VIEW Club supports eight students and VIEW Clubs Australia-wide support over 1,100 students. VIEW Clubs have some 18,278 members representing over 350 clubs nationwide. This community network provides the opportunity for women from all walks of life to meet regularly. VIEW members are able to connect with each other, support each other and reach out into their wider communities with the aim of supporting Australian children in need.

VIEW members contribute by: firstly, reading with local children to advance their literacy skills; secondly, helping students with school work at their after-school learning clubs; thirdly, mentoring students taking part in their support programs; and, fourthly, making library bags and donating school stationery packs to disadvantaged students. As Australia's largest national education oriented charity, VIEW Clubs support disadvantaged Australian children to participate fully in their education, giving them the best chance of breaking the cycle of disadvantage. Their learning support and mentoring programs help children in need to fit in at school, assist with keeping them up with their peers, and building aspirations for a better future for these children.

VIEW Clubs began in 1960. Nearly 22,000 women of all ages, and from all walks of life, belong to VIEW. The Smith Family's general secretary at the time, George Forbes, with extraordinary vision, determined that if women were to regularly meet with other women, many family concerns that were exacerbated by social isolation would be eased. While the role of women has changed significantly since 1960, most women, regardless of their circumstances—be they single, married, retired, divorced, a parent, widowed, pursuing a career or working from, or in the home—need and value female friends. VIEW Clubs also cater for the many and varied interests of their members and some examples of their special interest groups include walking groups, book clubs and quilting and craft groups. May I commend the work they do to the House and propose that, as a matter of principle, we encourage and assist VIEW Clubs in any reasonable way possible.

In the time remaining, I acknowledge the successful Moggill Creek Catchment Group Kids Environment Day held last weekend and also the collaborative effort of all with respect to the recently held 4069 Local Business Expo. I would also like to thank the Queensland Intercultural Society and the generous hospitality of Murat and Ulviye Guzel at a recent Iftar dinner that my wife, Jane, and I attended last Friday night. The food was terrific, the company was very much enjoyed and we appreciated the opportunity to do that.

Budget Week

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (1.54 am): At the end of budget week, it is important that we reflect upon what is very much a high point on the calendar of our parliamentary system. It is a week where we need to celebrate and appreciate the democracy that we share and enjoy in this state and in this country and the benefits that that provides to us for scrutiny of government. Budget week is really a litmus test for both governments and oppositions, especially for newly minted oppositions.

What have we seen this week? In a week where many people around the country and around the world are following the European cup, what have we seen? We have seen five own goals by the newly minted opposition. They failed the first key test.

The member for Surfers Paradise's exuberant hand gestures have resulted in him having to make a humiliating apology, completely overshadowing his leader's budget reply speech. We have had the member for Lockyer having to apologise for a disgusting attack and use of words that were very upsetting to the member for Maryborough. We have had the member for Burnett being held in contempt and having to apologise for his actions. We have had the member for Southport apologising for his misuse of confidential details of a committee proceedings. We have had earlier tonight the member for Callide's embarrassing own goal. He abused government members for incorporating speeches while having a replete and extensive history of doing it himself.

As we know from Elton John's song *Sorry seems to be the hardest word*—obviously, we heard it a number of times because of some people—it is certainly the hardest word for the Leader of the Opposition. He has failed to apologise in his budget reply speech for his first budget as treasurer when he sacked 14,000 public servants.

At the end of this highly important part of the parliamentary calendar, I want to pause and acknowledge—

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker. Are there not rules about the adjournment? There is at least an expectation—

Mr SPEAKER: This is not an opportunity to question me. There is no point of order. Resume your seat, member for Callide. In relation to the member for Surfers Paradise, if you find something offensive you are able to rise on a point of order and ask that it be withdrawn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 1.57 am (Saturday).

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