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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

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THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2016



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Minister



Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (9.31 am): I rise on two matters of privilege. In the first instance, yesterday, in response to a question, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence said that I had said that 'DVOs are not worth the paper they are written on'. On 11 October 2016 in this House during a debate I said—

Domestic violence orders are not worth the paper they are written on if the consequences of breaching those orders are not enforced.

The minister has deliberately cut out the rest of the sentence as stated by me in what I believe to be a deliberate attempt to mislead the House and suggest that I am in some way trying to undermine the domestic violence system. The minister should have used the full statement instead of deliberately cutting this statement to fit her false claims against me.

In the second instance the minister in her answer to a question said that I had said—

She claims that the government has issued a directive to DVConnect about what shelters it can refer women to. That is wrong. Even DVConnect CEO Di Mangan has absolutely refuted these claims.

This is untrue, as the comments were made by two private shelter operators and noted in an email tabled from another operator in Bundaberg from DVConnect's Di Mangan. Mr Speaker, I believe that the minister's statements were deliberately misleading. *Hansard* confirms as such and I will be writing to you accordingly.

Tabled paper: Extract from *Record of Proceedings*, dated 11 October 2016, of a speech during debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill [\[2042\]](#).

PRIVILEGE

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



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 15 September 2016, the member for Everton wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Housing and Public Works and member for Springwood deliberately misled the House on 17 August 2016 in his ministerial statement and responses to two questions without notice.

I have circulated a ruling on this matter. Relying on the information provided by the minister, I am satisfied that the minister has made an adequate explanation for his statements. Therefore, I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Tabled paper: Correspondence from the member for Everton, Mr Tim Mander MP, and the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Hon. Mick de Brenni, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an allegation of deliberately misleading the House [\[2043\]](#).

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING OF THE HOUSE

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members,

On 15 September 2016, the Member for Everton wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Member for Springwood deliberately misled the House on 17 August 2016 in his Ministerial Statement and responses to two Questions Without Notice. In his Ministerial Statement, the Minister stated:

This represents a rejection of the risky and untested program that was to be the largest single privatisation of public housing assets in Australia's history. This decision represents a rejection of mass privatisation. I can inform the House that our plan replaces the former government's scheme that included a giveaway of up to half a billion dollars' worth of public housing—that is right, a giveaway of half a billion dollars' worth of public housing.

In his responses to the two Questions Without Notice, the Minister stated:

Their proposal was to sign this government up to give away 4,900 public housing dwellings and hand over for free up to \$500 million worth, and it gets worse: the plan was to replicate this 10 times across the state—\$5 billion worth of public housing assets given away.

And

It would have cost the government \$2 million a year to manage a privatised arrangement, up to \$500 million of taxpayer's property given away—not sold, given away.

In his letter to me, the Member for Everton contended that the Member for Springwood's statement that Logan Renewal Initiative program was 'mass privatisation' and a 'giveaway of up to half a billion dollars' worth of public housing was untrue and deliberately misleading. The Member for Everton claimed that the Logan Renewal Initiative involved transferring the management of social housing properties, and also involved the redevelopment and construction of social and affordable housing properties.

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

The Minister advised that the Logan Renewal Project Agreement involved the transfer of the management of public housing stock in Logan, the transfer of title of over 1000 public housing properties and 32 vacant land sites in Logan and the transfer of staff employed in the Woodridge HSC to the private provider, and therefore he believes his statements were an accurate reflection on the previous scheme and not misleading.

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.

Relying on the information provided by the Minister, I am satisfied that the Minister has made an adequate explanation for his statements.

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

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



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 29 September 2016, the member for Mudgeeraba wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and member for Waterford deliberately misled the parliament in her ministerial statement on 1 September 2016. I have circulated a ruling on this matter. I am satisfied that the minister has made an adequate apology to the House for her statement regarding the member for Mudgeeraba's correspondence. Therefore, I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence from the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, and the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Hon. Shannon Fentiman, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an allegation of deliberately misleading the House [\[2044\]](#).

I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING OF THE HOUSE

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members,

On 29 September 2016, the Member for Mudgeeraba wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and Member for Waterford, Hon Shannon Fentiman deliberately misled the Parliament in her Ministerial Statement on 1 September 2016 when she stated:

To give credit where credit is due, it seems that the LNP have finally found themselves a shadow minister for women. It seems that those opposite have finally joined every other state and territory and their federal counterparts and have finally created a women's portfolio in the shadow cabinet.

We all seem to have missed the announcement. When the opposition leader announced his shadow cabinet he missed the opportunity to mark the LNP's commitment to women's policy by leaving out the portfolio again. In fact, this was confirmed when the member for Clayfield tabled his new shadow ministry on 10 May. Now we see it has quietly crept into the title of the member for Mudgeeraba on the parliament's website, which claims it has been her appointment since 26 May. However, correspondence sent to me recently by the member for Mudgeeraba has no mention of this title.

In her letter to me, the Member for Mudgeeraba stated that the Minister had deliberately misled the House by claiming that the Member for Mudgeeraba was not responsible for the portfolio for women prior to 26 May 2016, that the portfolio for women had "quietly crept into" the Member for Mudgeeraba's title, and that the Member for Mudgeeraba had sent the Minister correspondence after her title was amended on 26 May 2016 that did not contain the updated title.

I sought further information from the Minister about the allegation made against her, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5). The Minister advised that her statement was based on the information provided by the Leader of the Opposition to the House on 10 May 2016 which included a list of the shadow portfolio titles, and that the letter tabled by the Clerk from the Leader of the Opposition requesting the change to the Member for Mudgeeraba's shadow portfolio title confirmed that the Member for Mudgeeraba was not always the Shadow Minister for Women.

The Minister also referred to an apology she made in the House on 13 October 2016 for stating that correspondence from the Member for Mudgeeraba did not reflect the change to her shadow portfolio title.

Standing Order 269(4) requires:

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

On the evidence before me, I am satisfied the Minister's first statement about the opposition leader's announcement leaving out the portfolio for women was not incorrect or misleading.

I am also satisfied that the Minister's second statement regarding the portfolio for women quietly creeping into the shadow portfolio title of the Member for Mudgeeraba was not incorrect or misleading as the statement was a characterization or opinion based on the lack of a public announcement of the title change and not a verifiable statement of fact.

Lastly, I am satisfied that the Minister has made an adequate apology to the House for her statement regarding the Member for Mudgeeraba's correspondence.

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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Speaking List

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, standing order 229 provides the general right of members to speak to questions before the House. As regards the Speaker's call to members to speak, standing order 247(1) provides that a member wishing to speak 'shall rise and address the Speaker'. Standing order 247(2) provides that the Speaker shall call upon the member who 'in the Speaker's opinion, rose first'.

I refer to a host of previous rulings on this point, including by Speaker Simpson on 5 June 2012 at pages 441 to 443 and Speaker Simpson on 20 August 2013 at pages 2571 and 2572. As Speaker Simpson stated in the latter ruling, standing order 247(2) makes it clear that the decision as to who has the call is at the complete discretion of the chair. However, standing order 247(3) provides the correct procedure for disputing the call of the Speaker, namely, a member may move that any member who has risen but who has not been called be now heard. This is a perfectly sensible procedure, because it provides an effective remedy and avoids relying on later recollections by members as to who jumped or who did not jump and seek the call.

I have informed Deputy Speakers that the member whose bill is being considered should not be called, thereby closing the debate, when it is apparent that other members are on their feet and seeking the call even if the member in charge of the bill should manage to rise first. But if no other member rises to speak then the member in charge of the bill can be called.

Speaking lists are produced by the whips, but these lists are only a guide and members must jump and seek the call in accordance with standing order 247(1). I note that the speaking lists for bills are notoriously unreliable, with members often not turning up for the debate in the order of the lists, or simply dropping off the lists. That being said, it has been my practice in private members' statements in the morning and at the adjournment debate to call members from the list, but if this causes members some confusion I am willing to desist from that practice.

TABLED PAPERS

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

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

[2045](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to an ePetition (2612-16) sponsored by Mr Crandon, from 982 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake the essential and necessary roadworks to upgrade Foxwell Road Coomera, between the Pacific Motorway at Exit 54 and Coomera Railway Station

[2046](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to a paper petition (2646-16) presented by Dr Rowan, from 56 petitioners, requesting the House to install a cement footpath from the RSL Care Fairview Retirement Community Pinjarra Hills to the new shopping centre being built at the old CSIRO development

MEMBER'S PAPER

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

Member for Hinchinbrook (Mr Cripps)—

[2047](#) Non-conforming petition regarding the stonewalling of missing QPS Senior Sergeant Mick Isles' family

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Trump, President-Elect of the United States

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): We will continue to work with our partners and the people of the United States. There is too much at stake not to.

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Surfers Paradise, you are warned under standing order 252.

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: That is a reflection on the chair. You are warned under standing order 253A.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Speaker, I apologise.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Major US companies already invest in Queensland, including in our LNG sector, and I want to see more of that. We are also working closely with the US Navy on a biofuels industry—something that will prove mutually beneficial for decades to come. We have forged strong partnerships with the Hollywood studios and Silicon Valley. We have established sister-state relationships with Texas and South Carolina.

In June, I met with Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper to forge closer relations between our governments and our businesses particularly in the fields of renewable energy, innovation and mining technology. In August, Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval and I signed an agreement between our states to progress cooperation across key industries and opportunities. The key industries our agreement focused on include mining, including mining technologies, health and safety and environmental and social sustainability in mining; higher education, including research and commercialisation partnerships; water management, including collaboration on water efficiency technologies; and technology and innovation, including pathways for market access for start-ups and established technology companies.

The US election campaign saw both presidential candidates put forward their views on a range of issues. There is no doubt in my mind that, on many of those issues, many Queenslanders, including me hold different views from those held by Mr Trump. For me, the personal views I hold, especially on equality and fairness, will not and will never be compromised. Queensland is an active player in a global market. We have been a willing partner of the US for over 70 years. Like all leaders hoping for shared prosperity and global stability, I wish President-Elect Trump and his incoming administration well. Donald Trump has said that he will be a president for all of America. We hope he delivers on that promise because a united, strong America can mean more opportunities for partnerships, investment and jobs for Queenslanders.

Back to Work Youth Boost

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): My government is focused on working with business to create jobs for Queenslanders. Since the last election more than 40,000 additional jobs have been created in Queensland. In addition to our own efforts to restore front-line services, we are working with other levels of government, businesses and communities across the state to create new opportunities for Queensland.

Prior to the state budget in June we held Working Queensland Cabinet Committees right across regional Queensland. We recognise the challenge for businesses in regional Queensland, particularly with the transition from the mining boom and the prolonged drought. One initiative the Treasurer launched in the budget was a \$100 million two-year Back to Work program to provide incentives for employers in regional Queensland to take on new staff and employ people. The Back to Work program

offers \$10,000 to employers for every employee they take on and \$15,000 if that employee has been out of work for 12 months or longer. I thank the Treasurer for the initiative and the Minister for Employment and regional members of the government for promoting this program. The response has been strong to date. Employer support payments have been paid to 336 employers for 678 new hires. Of those new hires assisted back into work, 252 were long-term unemployed.

On behalf of the government, the Treasurer and the Minister for Employment, today I can announce that we will provide an additional incentive for regional Queensland employers to take on young workers. The Back to Work Youth Boost will double the current \$10,000 incentive for regional businesses who hire unemployed youth. This is a \$20,000 incentive for businesses to hire, especially as school leavers start to look for work after Christmas. This offer applies only to unemployed people aged between 15 and 24 years of age and expires on 28 February 2017.

My government is determined to drive down regional youth unemployment and this program will do that. I now put a call out to businesses right across regional Queensland to hire a young Queenslanders. Give a young person an opportunity; give a young person a job. We know, as Deloitte Access Economics reported, that there are 'subdued economic conditions in northern areas. It is well known that Townsville and the Outback regions are still feeling the effects of the economic transition.' We are determined to get young Queenslanders into work and to ensure they help our regional businesses to grow. The contrast between my government and our predecessors could not be starker: we back Queenslanders; they sack Queenslanders.

Anna Meares Velodrome

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.43 am): This weekend, the Minister for the Commonwealth Games and I will have the great pleasure of officially opening the Anna Meares Velodrome at Chandler. The naming of this world-class venue after Anna Meares is a most fitting tribute. When you think 'Anna Meares' you think 'Queensland champion'. Anna's record as a cyclist speaks for itself. She has experienced both Commonwealth and Olympic Games glory and has held multiple world and national championship titles. Most recently, Anna won bronze at the Rio Olympics. We all know the story of her amazing comeback from a horrific neck injury, a story of courage and perseverance that inspired us all. Although Anna announced her retirement from cycling last month, signalling the conclusion of what was a remarkable career, I am confident Anna's legend will inspire our next generation of track cyclists to train, compete and excel.

The velodrome itself is a \$59 million investment in the future of cycling in our state. The Anna Meares Velodrome will host the track cycling events for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. It will also provide incredible development opportunities for the local community and elite cycling in Queensland for many years to come. The Anna Meares Velodrome is the second of our three new venues to be completed for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. This Saturday we look forward to seeing Anna Meares when we open the new velodrome in her honour. What a fitting tribute to a great Queenslanders!

Mr SPEAKER: It looks like the member for Hervey Bay is the centre of attention this morning.

Trump, President-Elect of the United States

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (9.44 am): I want to compliment the member for Hervey Bay on his shirt today. Yesterday Donald Trump was elected the 45th President of the United States. It looks as though the Republicans will continue to control the House of Representatives and Senate. The US election outcome surprised many around the world, particularly the markets. It is too early to determine what the medium- to long-term impacts will be. The immediate reaction yesterday in the Asia-Pacific saw a flight to deemed safe-harbour assets. However, markets rebounded strongly overnight as the president's more conciliatory acceptance speech saw the US equity market finish in positive territory. The markets were also encouraged overnight by the potential for accelerated real GDP growth next year due to the promises of fiscal stimulus in the form of lower taxes, including income tax rates, capital gains and corporate tax rates, less regulatory oversight and increases to Defence and public infrastructure spending under a Trump presidency.

While there is likely to be considerable volatility in financial markets in the near term, how the result plays out for the global economy and trade is likely to take years depending on what policies are actually implemented. What we do know is that the US is the world's largest economy, with GDP of US\$18,037 billion in 2015. The United States is Queensland's fourth largest merchandise trading partner and in 2015-16 our exports to the US totalled \$2.0 billion and our imports \$4.8 billion.

The US and Queensland have had a long and valued history as trading partners and we share close cultural ties. This all adds up to a very important strategic relationship between Queensland and the United States. We as a government will ensure that continues. Queensland's economic success is supported by a vibrant export sector and our continuing success is helped by keeping global trade open and free. I would like to reaffirm to the House and to our key international trading partners in the Asia-Pacific and beyond that Queensland remains open for business and investment. The government is committed to maintaining our strong international relationships and to exploring new opportunities to drive economic growth and jobs in Queensland. The government will continue to monitor impacts on the markets and impacts on our trade relationships for our trading partners.

Back to Work Youth Boost

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (9.47 am): As the Premier has announced, the government is extending the offer of financial support to regional business owners who hire previously unemployed people through our Back to Work initiative. The \$100 million program announced in the state budget offers support to employers of \$10,000 for taking on a previously unemployed worker or \$15,000 for a long-term unemployed person. These payments will continue. We will now have a time-limited offer of a \$20,000 Back to Work Youth Boost—double the existing payment—for regional employers who engage jobseekers aged 15 to 24 and keep them on for at least 12 months.

Applications for the new Back to Work Youth Boost will be open between 1 December 2016 and 28 February 2017. Everyone in our community should be concerned about young people being out of work and seeking new opportunities for their futures. This government is doing everything it can to ensure that another generation is not consigned to the unemployment scrap heap. Our resolve to drive down regional youth unemployment is unwavering. Some regions are showing a welcome downward trend in youth jobless rates compared with a year ago. Others, as we know, have been consistently high, including Cairns at 27.1 per cent in September and Townsville with a youth jobless rate of 16.1 per cent. The Back to Work Youth Boost delivers and is ideal for small business operators. If you are in tourism, hospitality, retail, or any other sector for that matter, then you should wear it as a badge of honour that you gave a local young person their first start in their working life.

So far 336 employers across regional Queensland have successfully applied for a Back to Work support payment. More than \$2.9 million has already been paid to them to employ 678 previously unemployed regional Queenslanders. Together with a further 230 applications received, there are up to 908 regional Queenslanders who stand to get jobs from this program with their employers receiving more than \$7.2 million in support payments. We are determined to support young Queenslanders in regions that are doing it tough as we transition to a post-mining boom economy. That is what the Back to Work program is all about. It is available only to regional employers and specifically excludes South-East Queensland because this is the part of the economy that we need to support, particularly in terms of employment growth. This latest initiative, the Back to Work Youth Boost, shows that, as we promised, we are the government that is about job creation; it continues to be this government's central focus.

Back to Work Youth Boost

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.49 am): I welcome the Premier's announcement and the comments of the Treasurer regarding the Back to Work Youth Boost. This is great news for young jobseekers and employers in regional Queensland and it is great news for regional economies. It means that until the end of February 2017, employers who hire 15- to 24-year-old jobseekers in regional Queensland will be eligible for support payments of \$20,000.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Member for Hinchinbrook, if you continue with that line of interjections, I will rule that you are disorderly. I give you notice.

Ms GRACE: That is \$20,000 for every new young worker directly hired under this program. Doubling the support currently available to regional employers is a great addition to our Back to Work program, which is already such a great success in regional Queensland. Back to Work is already supporting 908 jobs, which is up 32 from just yesterday and is 678 paid and 230 in the system. There are 176 jobs in North Queensland, 166 in the Far North, 115 in Wide Bay, 83 in Central Queensland, 80 in Mackay and Whitsunday, and 58 in North-West and South-West Queensland. As I said, there are a further 230 draft applications in the system, with more and more regional employers getting behind this fantastic program which is helping to get more regional Queenslanders back to work.

This government believes in hiring, not firing. The Premier has made jobs her No. 1 priority and I am proud to be her employment minister overseeing the great Back to Work initiative. I am pleased to inform the House that the existing features of Back to Work will be retained. Regional employers can still access \$10,000 support payments for hiring an unemployed person, rising to \$15,000 for a long-term unemployed person who has been out of work for 12 months or more. Our Back to Work regional package is clearly a hit with regional small and medium sized employers. The number of success stories is growing every day and so far they have shared in over \$3 million in payments within the program.

As the Premier said, the Youth Boost could not come at a better time as many school leavers start looking for work around Christmas. I will continue to champion this outstanding program with all of my colleagues on this side of the House, who are supporting jobs for Queensland, jobs now and jobs for the future.

Land 400

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (9.52 am): The Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland ethos of identifying the growth industries of the future and securing jobs and the economic prosperity of the state is hard at work. As we know, Queensland has a well-established defence industry that supports 6,500 full-time equivalent jobs and has generated over \$3.8 billion worth of Department of Defence contracts for Queensland-based companies in the last financial year alone. We have agile supply chain capabilities to address the needs of modern defence industries. Queensland is purpose built for land defence opportunities.

The Australian government's Land 400 project will secure the next generation of armoured fighting vehicles for the Australian Army and is the largest acquisition project in Army history. Phase 2 of the project is currently in a 12-month risk mitigation activity phase that not only tests the capabilities of the two final vehicles but also aims to maximise Australian industry involvement in the project. The Department of Defence recently invited Australian industry to apply for those opportunities. I am proud to say that 91 Queensland companies were successful in their applications. Ten of those companies are from the Townsville area. The Department of Defence will be hosting a series of Australian industry showcase workshops with those selected companies, providing them with the opportunity to pitch their capabilities directly to BAE Systems and Rheinmetall Defence, the two proponents, in one-on-one meetings.

Queensland companies will account for nearly one-quarter of Australian participants in this showcase. Prior to the showcase, my Department of State Development will be working closely with those companies to ensure that they are best placed to secure the opportunities on offer. To that end, my department is offering pitching workshops in both Brisbane and Townsville to assist companies tailor their presentations for the project and to ensure their deliveries demonstrate the very best that they have to offer. The pitching workshops will ensure that when those companies have their meetings, they will be able to seize this opportunity.

Queensland is well positioned to become Australia's land defence centre of excellence. The magnitude of the Land 400 opportunity is not lost on my government. I can assure the House that we are committed to ensuring that Queensland has a strong future in the defence industry, as it has a strong future with this government.

Sunshine Coast University Hospital Medical School

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.54 am): The Sunshine Coast University Hospital and associated health precinct will bring long-term and far-reaching benefits to the Sunshine Coast region, as well as for many other Queenslanders. Every hospital of its calibre, size and capacity across Australia has an associated medical school. To establish a medical school at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, 50 medical student places are required. Fifty is the magic number. Of course, the allocation of medical student placements is a Commonwealth responsibility. We have already secured the transfers of 35 places from an existing allocation, but we still require 15 more places.

On 4 November 2015, more than one year ago, I first wrote to the Commonwealth Minister for Education and Training, Senator Simon Birmingham, asking him to support this medical school. The Commonwealth health minister replied on 17 December 2015, acknowledging the request. Not only is the allocation of medical students a Commonwealth responsibility, so is the funding of medical student placements.

On 8 March this year, eight months ago, I wrote again to Senator Birmingham and offered to fund 50 per cent of the cost of those essential 15 new places each year during the four-year transition phase. I also advised the minister that we would guarantee a place to every one of the students graduating from the medical school in our state's intern training program, meaning more jobs for Queensland doctors. In May 2016, Minister Birmingham acknowledged that commitment, but six months later is yet to commit to the medical places. Once again I wrote to the minister, three months ago, on 3 August. I even offered to travel to Canberra to meet the minister to discuss this important proposal for the Sunshine Coast. I have received no reply; just silence. I wrote again last week and what I did get? Still no reply; just silence. Unless this matter is resolved, the Sunshine Coast University Hospital will be the only hospital of its type in Australia without a medical school.

Mr Dickson: Without a road to get there.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Buderim. He needs to stand up for the Sunshine Coast and stand up for Queensland. This issue can only be resolved with support from the Turnbull government. A local Sunshine Coast medical school has the support of the various local stakeholders such as the Sunshine Coast Local Medical Association and Councillor Mark Jamieson, mayor of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. This is a critical component in delivering the vision for this hospital to be a true tertiary teaching hospital. It will also have a negative impact on its ability to recruit the highest calibre staff, if we do not secure those places.

I urge the Turnbull government to support the Sunshine Coast by recognising the considerable partnership the Queensland government is willing to offer and by approving the necessary medical places immediately. Instead of interjecting and criticising, the LNP members in this House, particularly those representing the Sunshine Coast, can show they are putting Queensland first by joining with the Palaszczuk Labor government to get the Turnbull government to approve those 15 additional places to ensure the Sunshine Coast University Hospital is a world-class teaching hospital.

Biofuels Industry



Hon. MC BAILEY (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (9.58 am): The Palaszczuk government's pro-jobs biofuels mandate was introduced as a key element in the transition to a clean energy economy, to attract investment and create regional jobs across Queensland's biofuels industry. Queensland's agriculture industry will have a new market as biofuel demand increases along with the growth of our clean energy economy.

The biofuels mandate will assist in providing certainty so that industry can invest, innovate and create jobs. Already Queensland has two ethanol plants at Dalby and Sarina, plus a biodiesel refinery at Narangba. They use sugar cane and sorghum so the benefits of increased production will flow to farmers and regional communities as there may be an alternative buyer for their crops.

Already, the Palaszczuk government has landed a \$16 million advanced pilot biofuels plant which could become Australia's first commercial scale advanced facility at Northern Oil's Yarwun plant in Gladstone. If successful, the pilot plant will be expanded to a large commercial scale refinery producing 200 million litres of advanced biofuel annually, suitable for military, marine and aviation use. That will mean jobs in Gladstone and could also kick off a new wave of investment in job creation right across regional Queensland.

To get ready for the Palaszczuk government's ethanol mandate, which comes into effect on 1 January, we have launched the E10 OK consumer education campaign, led by E10 OK ambassador, V8 Supercars champion and Bathurst winner Mark 'Frosty' Winterbottom. Mark is a strong supporter of biofuels and uses ethanol blended fuels in both his high-performance V8 Supercar and in his road car, a Ford Mustang.

The key tool in this campaign is a compatibility checker—that is, where motorists can instantly check, via the web on their mobile phone, using their registration number or the make and model of their vehicle, whether their vehicle is E10 compatible or, as we say, E10 OK. We know that 85 per cent of vehicles in the marketplace are.

We have had a huge community response since the launch of the campaign on 26 September, with more than 200,000 E10 compatibility checks already. The government is working across our departments. I thank Minister de Brenni who has put in place a policy which requires the drivers of E10 compatible Queensland government vehicles to use E10 wherever possible. The policy will be available on the website of the Department of Energy and Water Supply from today. The requirement to use E10 applies to all drivers of QFleet vehicles and Queensland government agency vehicles that use

Queensland government fuel cards to purchase fuel—Queenslanders looking after Queenslanders. Minister de Brenni's Department of Housing and Public Works will communicate the requirement to all fuel card holders through procurement guidance and QFleet publications. I would encourage those people who have not already done so to search E10 OK to check if their vehicle is compatible and they can buy more product from Queensland.

Our support contrasts with the approach of the federal LNP government which removed its ethanol production grants program for local producers last year and started increasing the fuel excise on ethanol from July this year. This is despite the member for Dawson, Mr George Christensen, being on the record saying that 'substantial investment had been made in the development of the ethanol industry based on the knowledge that a lower tax rate would apply to biofuel until 2021' and that if Canberra bureaucrats had their way and increased the tax on ethanol and ethanol projects this might never see the light of day and he would have grave fears for the future viability of the Sarina distillery. While the LNP's federal colleagues went back on their word to hamstringing the ethanol industry, the Palaszczuk government will continue to back it in, expanding this Queensland industry and creating regional Queensland jobs.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Athletes Village

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.02 am): I rise to update the House on the Commonwealth Games village following reports in the today's *Gold Coast Bulletin*. As members will be aware, the Queensland government, through Economic Development Queensland, has a fixed price contract for the delivery of the Commonwealth Games village with an investment consortium led by the Abu Dhabi Investment Council. This contract was struck in November 2014 by the former LNP government.

Within government, management of the Commonwealth Games village project rests with the Department of State Development, through their Major Projects and Property unit. The investment consortium has contracted Grocon to build the village, and I am advised that construction remains on time and on budget. I am advised that Grocon has made variation requests to the investor consortium related to the cost of the project. Grocon indicated in their statement yesterday—

In the usual course of development and delivery there are matters that arise under commercial arrangements that give rise to requests for variations.

Importantly, I am further advised that any cost over-run in the project will not result in any additional cost to the state under the contract. Given the fixed price contract, the resolution of this is a matter between Grocon and the investment consortium. Importantly, Grocon yesterday confirmed that this will have 'no impact on the Parklands project'.

Some 98 per cent of construction work packages are let and a peak workforce of 1,200 workers is currently on site. On this side of the House, we are committed to ensuring this project is delivered as part of our commitment to delivering a world-class Commonwealth Games. The 2018 Commonwealth Games will see some 6,600 athletes and team officials from 70 nations and territories converge on the Gold Coast to participate in 18 sports and seven para-sports. The games will have a cumulative global audience of 1.5 billion. On this side of the House we are committed to ensuring that the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games is a spectacular event that delivers a tremendous legacy for the Gold Coast.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Athletes Village

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (10.05 am): I rise following the ministerial statement made by the Deputy Premier on the Commonwealth Games village site. Further, I can confirm for the House that construction of the Commonwealth Games village is on track and remains scheduled to be handed over to Goldoc in October 2017 and that 98 per cent of construction work packages are let and a peak workforce of 1,200 workers is currently on site.

Recently the Parklands project achieved a topping out milestone, signifying the roof level of all 18 apartment buildings has now been reached. Over the past 12 months, no less than nine cranes have risen on the site, signalling the development of one of the most significant urban renewal projects ever undertaken on the Gold Coast and providing a vista of construction from the nearby light rail stop. Now, as the project progresses, three cranes feature on the skyline. Scaffolding has begun to be dismantled, showcasing the construction progress and providing the first glimpse into the apartment buildings that will be home to Commonwealth Games athletes and team officials in April 2018.

To date, 2,500 workers have clocked up more than one million hours of construction since late 2014. Of the 99 contracts awarded for the Parklands project, 93 have been secured by South-East Queensland businesses and 51 of these have gone to firms based on the Gold Coast. Upon completion, this site will contain 1,252 new apartments and townhouses, which will become home to 6,600 athletes and team officials during the Games in April 2018. The permanent facilities will be enhanced by temporary infrastructure, provided by the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation, Goldoc, to meet the needs of both athletes and officials.

Following the games, the Parklands development will accommodate a mixed use residential and commercial development within the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct. The Parklands development will incorporate more than 18 new buildings up to nine levels in height with 1,252 permanent dwellings, including 1,170 one- and two-bedroom apartments and 82 townhouses.

Indigenous Wellbeing Centres

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.07 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to implementing the reforms of the 2013 Child Protection Commission of Inquiry. We are walking the talk when it comes to making our child protection system in Queensland as strong as it can be. We are rebuilding the department of child safety, hiring an additional 227 child safety workers and we have delivered a record investment in early intervention services for vulnerable families.

I am also proud to announce to this House today that we are creating 38 new regional jobs for Queenslanders with the delivery of our first four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing services. They are rolling out from today to deliver culturally responsive and community-led support for Queenslanders to safely care for their children at home. In the South Burnett we anticipate five new full-time jobs to help deliver services through the Cherbourg Regional Aboriginal and Islander Community Controlled Health Services. In Mackay we anticipate 7.5 new full-time jobs to help deliver services through the Girulda Community Cooperative Society. In Roma we anticipate another 7.5 full-time jobs to help deliver services for the south-west, including for the surrounding communities of Charleville, St George and Cunnamulla. In Moreton Bay we anticipate 18 new full-time jobs to deliver services for families through the Institute of Urban Indigenous Health.

This is just the start of the delivery of 20 new Indigenous wellbeing centres for Queenslanders, worth \$150 million, to better support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities. These vital community controlled organisations will put Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the driver's seat when it comes to making critical decisions around the safety of children and the health of families. This is part of a broader suite of reforms aimed at reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in the child protection system.

By 2018, we hope to have our Indigenous wellbeing centres delivering help and advice to more than 6,000 Queensland families. A fortnight ago I joined Matthew Cooke and Aunty Lizzie from the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council to announce the roll-out of our groundbreaking new First 1000 Days program at Townsville and Moreton Bay. This is an exciting and innovative new program to focus health support on young children from preconception to age two. We are partnering with the University of Melbourne to bring it to fruition.

Today's announcement is just another example of the Palaszczuk government partnering with our community leaders and stakeholders to deliver services that build family and community capacity. With communities and families at the centre of our innovative approach to addressing past injustices caused by harmful government practices, we are driving real and lasting change. This is the kind of change we need to keep our kids safe and our community healthy.

Advance Queensland

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerie—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.10 am): The appetite for the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland initiative across the state is enormous. Since launching the initiative just over 15 months ago, we have approved more than \$59 million worth of funding that has delivered 748 direct jobs for Queenslanders. Put simply, this government is getting on with the job of supporting innovative Queenslanders to turn their ideas into action, grow their businesses and create jobs.

Over that time, we have consistently seen massive oversubscription of applications for a large majority of the 20 programs that have been opened—with more than 1,800 applications being considered for funding. The latest example of this interest is the second round of our Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas funding program. The first round of the program attracted more than 340 applications, and I can inform the House that the second round has surpassed that number, with more than 450 applications from Queensland innovators.

Over the next few weeks, eligible applications will be examined by a panel of independent, external assessors. These assessors have deep experience in developing and investing in innovative companies and their products. To qualify for Ignite Ideas, a business must have fewer than 200 staff and a working prototype boasting enough features to support testing and further development.

Our first funding round identified a range of very innovative products emerging from Queensland start-ups and small and medium sized enterprises. Brisbane based SurgicalPerformance, for example, received \$100,000 of Ignite Ideas funding to further develop its innovative surgical audit software. The company supports more than 600 surgeons, mostly from Australia, to collect clinically meaningful data to directly improve patient outcomes. The company's software takes hospital data from the clipboard to a detailed, accurate and confidential database, which is accessible online and in real time. The software has strong global market potential, and this funding will help deliver more jobs for Queenslanders.

Another example is Toowoomba company Bayro No. 1, which secured \$250,000 to develop a world-first feeding device, RoseCup, for people who have difficulty swallowing—a condition called dysphagia that is associated with a wide range of medical conditions. Not only does RoseCup have enormous potential on global markets, leading to more jobs in the Toowoomba region, but it also has the potential to improve the quality of life of millions of people worldwide. Both SurgicalPerformance and Bayro No. 1 are great examples of how Advance Queensland funding supports businesses at a crucial point in the product development cycle.

Ignite Ideas support also ensures that founders can accelerate the growth of their companies without giving up too much equity in their early stages. The program delivers a vital boost to efforts to grow and diversify our economy. We know ambitious small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy and we are backing them. I am confident that, just as with round 1, round 2 recipients will also have the potential to deliver significant new exports and jobs for our state. The Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas program provides a clear demonstration of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to ensuring that Queensland really is the start-up state of Australia.

QCoast2100

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (10.13 am): I can today announce the first three local councils to benefit from the Palaszczuk government's \$12 million QCoast2100 fund to help coastal communities prepare for the impacts of climate change. Moreton Bay Regional Council, Noosa Shire Council and Whitsunday Regional Council have each submitted strong applications for a share of the funding, which is available to all coastal councils. The councils will now develop a coastal hazard adaptation strategy for their area based on an assessment of the specific local conditions and challenges which they need to meet.

By 2100 we can expect a projected sea level rise of up to 0.8 metres and cyclone intensity may increase and possibly track further south more often. That means accelerated coastal erosion, permanent inundation of low-lying areas and an increase in the areas impacted by storm surge and king tides.

The QCoast2100 program is being administered by the Local Government Association of Queensland, which is working with eligible councils to support their proposals and assist them in preparing potential projects. The emphasis for the QCoast2100 program is very much on helping coastal communities plan and prepare for coastal hazards such as storm tide flooding, coastal erosion and sea level rise.

Moreton Bay Regional Council has received a grant of \$500,000 to develop a coastal hazard adaptation strategy after an initial high-level assessment by council identified a number of urban coastal areas at risk from coastal hazards. These include Toorbul, Donnybrook, Beachmere, Dohles Rocks, Bribie Island and Redcliffe in the first instance, with more areas likely to be identified as the two-year project progresses.

Noosa Shire Council is looking to update and expand its previous work on developing a coastal hazard adaptation strategy, with \$490,000 over two years. In particular, the council has identified Noosa Heads, Noosaville and Tewantin as the focus of its project area. Together, these localities account for around three-quarters of Noosa's resident population.

Whitsunday Regional Council has been granted \$513,500 in QCoast2100 funding to develop its Resilient Whitsunday: Coastal Hazards and Response project. Whitsunday Regional Council has more than 500 kilometres of coastline with historical coastal hazards affecting Bowen, the town of Whitsunday and numerous smaller coastal communities. It is imperative that councils in affected areas take action now, and that is why we will work with councils and the LGAQ to deliver practical help where it is most needed.

TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Reports

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (10.16 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 29 of the Transportation and Utilities Committee, titled *Annual report 2015-16 Transportation and Utilities Committee*, as well as report No. 30 of the Transportation and Utilities Committee, titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 August 2016 and 30 August 2016*. I commend the reports to the House.

Tabled paper: Transportation and Utilities Committee: Report No. 29—Annual Report 2015-16 [\[2048\]](#).

Tabled paper: Transportation and Utilities Committee: Report No. 30—Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 August 2016 and 30 August 2016 [\[2049\]](#).

NOTICE OF MOTION

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (10.17 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for abandoning regional and remote Queenslanders and failing to appoint a replacement Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Small Business

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (10.17 am): Yesterday we saw the Palaszczuk government dismiss the concerns of small business. Small business said Labor's policies were actively working against them. They said they had no faith in the Palaszczuk government and no faith in the Treasurer, Curtis Pitt. The only response we saw from Labor was the claim that they were doing a terrific job—small business did not realise what a terrific job they were doing. They completely dismissed the concern of small businesses. That is the extraordinary situation we see where self-praise is no praise. Labor say they are doing a terrific job. Small businesses across Queensland say, 'Get rid of Labor. They are actively working against us.'

Let us have a look at this terrific job Labor is doing. Let us have a look at the latest business bankruptcy figures. In the September quarter, one-third of all business related bankruptcies from across Australia were from Queensland—one-third from Queensland. What a disgrace. What a terrible situation given the terrific job apparently Labor is doing. That is much higher than larger states like New South Wales and Victoria—one-third coming from Queensland in the last quarter. Over the last year, 2015-16, one-third of all business related bankruptcies from across Australia were from Queensland. That is an extraordinary situation. That is an appalling situation. That is a disheartening situation. All we hear from Labor is that they are doing a terrific job.

Why are they not listening to business? Why are they not listening to small business after the report we saw yesterday? We saw the NAB survey this week showing confidence was down, but Labor says it is doing a terrific job. We saw the Westpac survey come out yesterday which showed a drop in confidence last month in consumer sentiment, but we hear from Labor that they are doing a terrific job. We saw the CCIQ report yesterday. We have seen report after report. We saw the Deloitte's report which they cherrypicked from but which clearly said that parts of Queensland were being left behind by

this government. All we hear from Labor, from minister after minister, is self-praise. Labor is doing a terrific job. Why isn't small business listening to us? Labor is doing a terrific job. Why does small business think we are actively working against them?

That is the reality out there. Labor is not listening to small business. All they want to hear is their own rhetoric. They listen to the unions and their Labor mates, but they do not want to listen to small business. Business wants confidence. They want policies that encourage investment. They want policies that encourage business, but all they get from this Labor government is self-praise. They say they are doing a terrific job. Everyone else is saying Labor is letting them down. That is the reality. Labor is just not working in Queensland. We need the LNP to get Queensland back in business.

Small Business

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (10.20 am): We have seen a lot of upsets or unpredicted results in the last 24 hours. Can members believe what we have just heard this morning? We know that under the LNP leadership the Queensland economy stagnated. Growth was down to 0.8 per cent. That is what they did. We know what that did to small business in Queensland. We know for a fact that in my electorate and in George Street small business after small business closed. They turned their back on small business. When you stagnate growth of the economy to 0.8 per cent, the people who hurt the most are small business people. When people do not have money to spend because they do not have wages and they do not have job security, small business is the sector that fills it first.

Under the Premier's leadership we have been steadfast in our approach of growing Queensland's economy and delivering jobs for Queenslanders right across this state. What we have seen is a return to growth in Queensland. Our growth rate is now at 3.2 per cent. We are doing four times better than what the Leader of the Opposition could achieve when he was the treasurer of this state. In addition, we have delivered more than 40,000 jobs for Queenslanders right across this state. We are singularly focused on creating an economic environment that stimulates jobs and stimulates growth.

As the Minister for Education, I have absolutely been focused on how our spend—more than \$660 million on new infrastructure and upgrading our assets—can deliver jobs for regional Queensland. It is a powerhouse of jobs. Three thousand jobs are being supported through our investment in our infrastructure in our schools. We do not see education as a cost; we see it as an investment in our future. That is the stark contrast between us and them.

I acknowledge Kevin Bates, the President of the Queensland Teachers' Union, who is in the gallery today. He stood up against those opposite when they cut 500 teachers from Queensland's classrooms. We are restoring teachers in our classrooms. The Premier delivered an election commitment of 875 teachers above growth. Those opposite might say it is a waste of money; we say it is an investment in the future of our children. That is the stark contrast in the way that we deliver Queensland's economy and Queensland services. We are restoring jobs. We are restoring front-line services. We are bringing Queensland back. We never said that it was going to be easy fixing the mess left by the LNP, but just because it is tough does not mean that we will not fight. That is what we get up every single day to do. No matter where you live in Queensland, we will deliver jobs—40,000 jobs compared to the thousands of people they sent to the scrap heap.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (10.23 am): Another day and another disaster for the bumbling transport and Commonwealth Games minister, and today implicating the Deputy Premier. On Sunday the minister shamelessly announced that ticket sales for the Gold Coast Games would be up to \$15 million less than forecast. He then refused to rule out taxpayers footing the bill for the difference. That is all right, folks; it is coming from the Labor magic money tree.

Following this debacle we learnt that the Gold Coast Suns were going to be without a home for the preseason because CFMEU strike actions had delayed the finalisation of their training centre which forms part of the Carrara precinct. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition pointed out yesterday, there is no excuse for this given that we queried the games minister, the Minister for State Development and the Minister for Industrial Relations about this pending issue during estimates in July. What did we hear from the Minister for the Commonwealth Games at the time? 'Don't you worry about that,' he said, 'we have these games under control.' He did not even know the contents of the incoming brief that went to

the chair of Goldoc, Peter Beattie, which said it was all supposed to be finished by October 2016. He suddenly changed it to say that it will be ready a year before the Games. What did he say about the Games village? He said—

The Games Village, or the Parklands development, is a \$550 million project, with a state contribution of some \$264 million ... Again, I can assure the committee that the delivery of the games venue is on track for completion well ahead of the games.

In just three months the games village has crashed off the rails—just like the train timetabling, just like the ticket fiasco and just like the Carrara delays. \$50 million variations are blowing out the construction cost. This has become almost comical but the consequences are terrible. What is worse is that the 'shadow minister' and chair of Goldoc has thrown the minister under the proverbial bus and said that this is his problem.

There are serious questions for the minister to answer. When did Grocon first advise the minister of the cost blow-out? When did the minister first tell the Premier and the Treasurer? Why did the minister fail to mention any of this during any of his public statements? How many jobs will be lost as Grocon seeks to deliver the games village within the envelope? The minister needs to come clean on what he knew and when. More importantly, we need to see some leadership from the Premier to finally show this bungling minister to the door. The Gold Coast's reputation to deliver these Games is too important to risk on some factional favourites. Earlier this week the Premier said that she could not move the minister on because it would send a bad message to Games nations. I think the message is far worse if we keep this minister as we get closer to the Games.

Here are three variations which the people on the Gold Coast would like to see. We would like to see a new Commonwealth Games minister. We would like to see a variation to the laws that are going to allow criminal gangs back on to the streets. Finally, as the people of the Gold Coast said at the last election: we would like a variation; we would like a new LNP government.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Jobs



Hon. MC BAILEY (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.27 am): What an extraordinary performance from the member for Surfers Paradise! Three years and a record majority, and what did they do for the Gold Coast—absolutely nothing. They did not do a thing for the Gold Coast. Now they want more expensive ticket prices for the Commonwealth Games so Gold Coast residents cannot go. It is a disgrace.

The Palaszczuk government has created more than 40,000 jobs already. Contrast that with the record of the member for Clayfield, who gave us the highest unemployment rate in 11 years, at 7.1 per cent. Under the Palaszczuk government it is down to 6.1 per cent, and we have a solid growth outlook of 3.8 per cent going out to 2019. We have four times the growth rate under the Palaszczuk government compared to the economic basket case the LNP gave us for three years. Their economic record will be the albatross around the opposition leader's neck at the next election, I can assure the House. While they torched confidence and jobs plunged, all they did was build their tower of power. They were their economic priorities. Let us remember their economic priorities.

Why are jobs looking better and better under the Palaszczuk government? Because we are creating new industries such as the large-scale renewables industry started under the Palaszczuk government. We are expanding the biofuels industry—something they had three years to do and a record majority, and they did absolutely nothing. We are also doing road projects right across this state in contrast to the \$600 million worth of cuts across the state under the previous LNP government.

I will give the House some examples of things that should have done before. 'Bitumen Bruce' in Maryborough has so many road projects going on that it is difficult to get around his area. Projects include the Urraween Road and Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road intersection and the Tinana interchange. There is the Rocky beef roads in 'Beef Road Bill's' area. We have the Dawson Highway timber bridges in 'Bridge-building Butcher's' area. We have the Mackay ring-road coming in—a joint project in 'Get Things Done Gilbert's' area.

In Townsville we have the Townsville Ring Road, the Hervey Range Road and Riverway Drive, which are creating 300 jobs, 19 jobs and 60 jobs respectively. We also have the Eton Range realignment on the Peak Downs Highway. I also mention the western roads package, which is supporting communities in drought. Those opposite did nothing for three years in their own constituencies. Shame on them. We have the Warrego Highway upgrade and the TIDS upgrade, which we have brought forward to get jobs going. In South-East Queensland we have the Ipswich Motorway, the Gateway upgrade north, the Toowoomba second range crossing, the Bruce Highway and exit 54.

Those opposite did nothing for three years. For the Commonwealth Games, we have \$160 million of roads on the Gold Coast. Again, they did nothing for three years. I also mention the berth 4 upgrade at the Townsville port. We are delivering jobs against their shameful record of job cuts.

Trump, President-Elect of the United States

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.30 am): The great experiment in democracy continues and Australia wakes up today to a new president-elect, Donald Trump. Queensland, indeed our nation, has strong and enduring ties with the United States of America. We have stood shoulder to shoulder on battlefronts from Western Europe to the Pacific and all places in between. In Queensland, every May we commemorate the Battle of the Coral Sea, one of the seminal battles in the war in the Pacific, with services in Townsville, at Lyndon B Johnson Place in Newstead Park in Brisbane and at many places in between. We have long shared common bonds in defence and trade, and indeed some of Queensland's biggest investments are in the United States of America. The Queensland Investment Corporation, on behalf of its clients, many of whom are working for us in the Queensland government, invest billions of dollars, including One Times Square, the iconic scene of new year's celebrations where the ball drops on New Year's Eve down the spire.

Today I acknowledge Donald Trump's victory after a notably eventful election campaign. Last night he began the process of reconciliation, telegraphing his intent to govern for all Americans, to reach out to those who did not vote for him. The new president has acknowledged that he needs guidance and support from those who did not back him as much as from those who did, and I welcome that statement. While Mr Trump's campaign—in fact, his candidature—may have seen unconventional, he has clearly touched a chord with American voters that has resonated strongly, and perhaps there is something in that for us too.

I would also like to recognise the contribution of Hillary Clinton to public life of the United States of America. But, importantly, here in Queensland we must work to ensure that the ties of commerce and trade remain strong and that our great friendship with the people of the United States of America is not weakened or imperilled, especially by rash statements or intemperate remarks. The Queensland government has no vote in America and should respect the wishes of the American people and the office of the president, in the same way that we would expect Americans to respect our offices of governance. In this regard, it is important that we have someone leading our trade and investment mission who should build bridges rather than offend, who should accept the election outcome rather than prosecute old fights.

I was privileged to spend time in the US during the 2004 election campaign. What struck me starkly were our two nations' shared experiences and common values—a willingness to be frank and forthright, a belief in prospects and possibilities, a strong desire to do the best by our family and friends, our commitment to free enterprise and the desire to pass on to future generations more and even greater opportunities to create a fulfilling life. Long may those bonds endure.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will finish at 11.33 am.

Trump, President-Elect of the United States

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (10.33 am): My first question is to the Premier. Yesterday the Deputy Premier, who is responsible for managing Queensland's vital trade portfolio, took the extraordinary step of personally attacking United States president-elect Donald Trump by saying, 'I think America can do better than having a bigoted man as their leader,' and 'I think it will set the world back if Trump wins.' Has the Premier disciplined her trade minister for making such careless and intemperate comments?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I think all members of this House would have heard the very clear ministerial statement that I made about the election in the United States we all witnessed yesterday. What I said very clearly is that Donald Trump now has an enormous responsibility to bring America together. That is exactly what he said when he was elected as President of the United States.

Let me echo also what I said previously and join with the Leader of the Opposition in saying that we pride ourselves on our very strong relationships with the United States. That extends to our trading relationships, especially when we are expecting here later this month the Secretary of the US Navy to

talk about biofuels. That also extends to attracting more businesses here and our relationships with people in San Francisco, Nevada and Colorado. We will continue to build on those relationships now and into the future.

It is no secret that during the election campaign there were a lot of views expressed on both sides—the Republicans and of course the Democrats. I think there are some lessons in this for Australia as well; that is, when we all work together, we can achieve great outcomes, not just for Queensland but for Australia. That sentiment is also echoed in the United States. We will always stand up for equality and fairness, and that is why we will look towards the new administration about how they encapsulate all of those issues in terms of equality and fairness. Now it is up to the US President. Can I also say that we value our trade relationships. Only yesterday the Deputy Premier announced an international education strategy for Queensland, something that has been clearly lacking from those opposite. We are firmly focused on growing our trade relationships. That is what Queensland has prided ourselves on. I have every confidence in the Deputy Premier continuing to grow our trade relationships now—

(Time expired)

Trump, President-Elect of the United States

Mr NICHOLLS: My second question is to the Premier. Two-way merchandise trade between Queensland and the United States is valued at almost \$7 billion. Is it acceptable for the trade minister to threaten this vital economic trade relationship by personally attacking the United States president-elect, and doesn't this put at risk the government's biofuels agenda with the US Navy?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Once again, I have said very clearly that what we have seen with the outcome of the election in the United States is now a very clear commitment from the president-elect to unite Americans. A lot of things were said during the election campaign that do not hold true to our ideals here in Queensland and Australia of equality and fairness.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. You only have to look at CNN today and there are still a lot of concerns at the moment about what was said during the election campaign. That is why it is now up to the president-elect to bring the US together.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: It appears to me that the interjections from members seem to be more about trying to disrupt the minister or the Premier, who is answering the question, rather than raising an interjection.

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. The interjections are an attempt to get the Premier to answer the question. The question was about what the trade minister said, not about what the president-elect said.

Mr SPEAKER: It is not a point of order. I have made an indication as to my sentiments in relation to the interjections. If members want to continue I will certainly make rulings.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said, Queensland stands prepared to work with the United States. Everyone in my government is prepared to work with the United States. I am happy to talk about biofuels, which the Leader of the Opposition raised, because we are determined to create a new industry. It is disappointing that I have been told in conversations that those opposite—

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. The Premier has been asked two questions about what her trade minister said and she has not yet mentioned her trade minister or responded to the comments that she made.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: The Leader of the Opposition's question clearly went to matters that related to the trade relationship with the United States and specifically made reference to matters in relation to the biofuels agenda of the Palaszczuk government. I submit that the Premier is answering the question because she is addressing those matters.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. My ruling is—

Mr DICKSON: I rise to a point of order. I think very clearly the question was: will the Deputy Premier apologise to the president-elect of the United States?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. The member for Buderim's point of order was an attempt to state a different question. I think it would be appropriate for you, Mr Speaker, to counsel him about inappropriate points of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. Before I call the Premier my ruling is—if my recollection is correct, prior to the member for Callide rising on a point of order the Premier started to talk about biofuel. My understanding is the last question related to biofuel. I call the Premier. There are no points of order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am always happy to talk about creating a brand-new industry for Queensland. I am always happy to talk about it because it means jobs, jobs and more jobs. This new industry has the potential to create thousands of jobs in our regional communities right across this state, whether it is Maryborough, Bundaberg, Mackay, Townsville or Cairns. We will continue to grow our economy with a new biofuels industry.

As I was saying very clearly earlier, my understanding is that when those opposite were in government and the issue of biofuels was raised with them they closed the door on the United States. That is what I have been advised. They closed the door and said, 'Not interested in regional Queensland, not interested in growing a biofuels industry in this state.'

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I urge you not to debate the question. Do you have anything further you wish to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, I do because biofuels is very important. We have created 40,000 jobs in this state. We want to grow new industries. We want to attract new business to this region and we will continue to pursue trade options with all of our trading partners because that ultimately means jobs for Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Greenslopes, member for Albert, I do acknowledge you. You are warned under standing order 253A for your interjections. They appear to be designed to disrupt the Premier. If you persist I will take the appropriate action.

Turnbull Federal Government, Plebiscite

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Premier. I refer the Premier to the Senate's rejection of the Turnbull government's plebiscite for the legal recognition of same-sex marriage. I ask: will the Premier outline other uses for the \$160 million the Turnbull government has allocated for this plebiscite?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Greenslopes for that very important question. We know that in the federal arena they wanted to pursue a plebiscite which would have cost the taxpayers of this nation \$160 million. I firmly believe that decision should be made by the House of Representatives and the Senate in the Australian parliament. That is what they are elected to do: to represent their constituencies and to make that decision.

We know that \$160 million was put aside for that plebiscite that is now not happening. Queensland wants that money. We want that money; \$160 million could be used for so many purposes in this state. Let's run through a few of those purposes we could put that money towards. We could put some of that money towards our Back to Work program. We could in fact double our \$100 million Back to Work program in regional Queensland if we got that money that Malcolm Turnbull has tucked away and is now not utilising. We could actually expand our \$240 million Skilling Queenslanders for Work program that has already helped 11,000 people through that program. We could expand that and put more people through that program.

We could utilise some of that money for the M1—wouldn't that be great—because all we are getting is roadblocks from those opposite. We could get it built because that is absolutely needed for the growth corridor between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, and I thank the Minister for Main Roads for his great advocacy in trying to get the money out of Canberra for that.

We could meet the shortfall of the Northern Australia Roads Program for the beef roads as well which are also needed across regional Queensland. We could also use that money to make sure our national partnership agreements can go ahead in terms of health, education, skills and training, workforce development and, of course, housing and homelessness.

We know that we work best together when we work as one. We now need Malcolm Turnbull to put that \$160 million on the table and Queensland stands ready to spend that money. It is disappointing that the coalition and One Nation senators from Queensland believe that the best use of that taxpayers' money was for a plebiscite.

We are focused on jobs. We will put that money to good use because at the end of the day we stand up for Queenslanders and we stand up for jobs.

Trump, President-Elect of the United States

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Given her comments yesterday about President-elect Trump, will the Minister for Trade apologise or withdraw those comments?

Ms TRAD: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the question. Like many people right across Australia and around the globe, I witnessed the unfolding United States election campaign. Can I say as a mother of two young children it really did pain me to hear some of the statements being made by the now President-elect Donald Trump—statements about women; statements about his own daughter; statements about Hispanics, African Americans, Muslims and Mexicans. It pained me to know that my children would see and witness and understand that someone who sought the highest office, one of the highest offices in the world, could look at fellow human beings in that way. It pained me. As a mother and an elected representative, I seek—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, the minister's answer is relevant to the question.

Ms TRAD: I seek in my role as both a mother and an elected representative to set a different standard, a higher standard for my children. I have to say that higher standard—

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Hinchinbrook is not on notice yet, but if you persist you will be.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are now warned under standing order 253A. You have been persistent all morning with your comments. I find those disruptive. You are now warned under 253A and if you persist I will take the appropriate action.

Ms TRAD: Part of setting a higher standard is actually showing my children that people should speak out against those sorts of comments. They should call them for what they are. They should set a different standard because ultimately the value of humans, the value of each and every single one of us, should never be determined or prejudged based on race, colour, gender or who people choose to love or their sexuality.

I am enormously proud of the work that we have done in the trade and investment space, particularly after the previous LNP government—under the leadership of the member for Clayfield as trade minister—cut that agency by some 20 per cent. We have worked hard to build incredibly strong relationships with all of our trading partners including the United States, and that will continue under President-elect Donald Trump.

Townsville, City Deal

Mr STEWART: My question is of the Premier. Premier, what progress is being made on the City Deal agreement for the great city of Townsville and other initiatives in the region to get Queenslanders back to work?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Townsville very much for that very important question. I can advise the House that I have just signed off on Queensland's agreement to be part of City Deals in our state. It has been signed, it is off to Malcolm Turnbull, and now it is up to him whether or not he will match that. We know how important City Deals is for our state, because when we work together we can come out with some really good outcomes. One of the key things that is going to drive City Deals right across our state, and especially in Townsville, is jobs. That is what we are after on this side of the House: jobs.

Mr Seeney: Not on the Darling Downs.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I know that the member for Callide does not like me talking about jobs, but I am more than happy to talk about jobs every day when the parliament is sitting.

Ms Trad: He does not like it when you talk about charter flights either.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; he does not like charter flights. I will take that interjection. City Deals will formalise a partnership across three levels of government: Commonwealth, state and local. The City Deal defines priorities, actions, time frames and accountabilities for achieving joint goals, and of course the priority is to generate growth, jobs, housing and reducing travel time. Townsville will be the first city of the new system of investment coordination set up through the City Deals process. That is great news for Townsville, especially for our three members from Townsville. I want to thank the

Deputy Premier for her work in this area, because it is a great outcome and we know how much the people of Townsville are looking forward to it. Of course I want to pay tribute to the mayor, Jenny Hill, as well.

If we talk about our commitment to jobs in regional Queensland, of course there is no greater commitment to regional Queensland than our Back to Work program. Today, in another sign that my government is listening to regional Queensland—we know that we need to bring that youth unemployment rate down—our regional jobs Youth Boost is being launched today. This is great news for all regional members and regional Queenslanders. Let us get young people back into work, let us give them an opportunity and let us give them some hope.

Whilst I am on my feet talking about Townsville, I must once again talk about our new Townsville stadium. The progress that is happening under Dr Anthony Lynham—

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; I take that interjection. Where was the opposition when it came to the Townsville stadium? Nowhere. It is the Labor government that is delivering that Townsville stadium. Malcolm Turnbull had to be dragged kicking and screaming during the last weeks of the election campaign to come to the party on that.

Mr Cripps: Mercilessly took him out and rissled him last night in the parliament.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Hinchinbrook, that gives me an opportunity to warn you under standing order 253A. I find that your interjections are designed to disrupt the Premier. If you persist I will take the appropriate action.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I think he is just a little tired and grumpy. On this side of the House we will continue to fight for jobs, we will continue to back ourselves and we will continue to look at new projects. Working together, City Deals is another step forward.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Indooroopilly, I will give the member for Toowoomba North notice that if you persist you will follow the lead of the member for Hinchinbrook. I now call the member for Indooroopilly.

Trump, President-Elect of the United States

Mr EMERSON: My question is of the Premier. Has Trade & Investment Queensland contacted United States officials to explain the trade minister's comments about President-elect Trump?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Indooroopilly for his question. I have made it very clear that on this side of the House we are working with the United States. Nothing is going to change our working relationship with the United States. It is those opposite who want to close the door on investment in this state. We will not be closing the door. The US Secretary of the Navy is coming out here at the end of this month, and we will welcome him with open arms because it means jobs and investment for our state.

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

Mrs LAUGA: My question is of the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier inform the House of the importance of NDRRA to natural disaster recovery and reconstruction?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Keppel for her very important question. I also note that the member for Keppel has been an incredibly strong advocate in the space of natural disaster recovery arrangements and what they mean for her local community, particularly after Cyclone Marcia. The member for Keppel has also been instrumental in terms of achieving funding from the state government for iconic projects in Central Queensland, and I do note that the Yeppoon foreshore is coming along and it is supporting quite a number of jobs in Keppel. I hope that we get to enjoy it at its official opening sometime soon.

Unfortunately for Queensland, we have seen the federal government retreat from the NDRRA arrangement. We saw that in the state budget this year when, unbeknownst to us and without any warning, the federal government decided to delay the \$1.1 billion worth of reimbursement for natural disasters that had occurred in Queensland without notice and without explanation. That situation continues. What that means is that the money that Queenslanders have spent reconstructing communities in good faith based on the arrangements in place with the Commonwealth about recovery

and reconstruction is not coming from the Commonwealth, and that puts all arrangements with the Commonwealth under a cloud. What this says is that the Commonwealth cannot be trusted to meet its obligations under this very important national partnership arrangement, and it is very, very concerning. I have been in correspondence with the relevant federal minister, Minister Keenan, in relation to this.

I bring to the attention of the House the fact that we did go in to bat very heavily for councils in relation to them being able to use their day labour for reconstruction activities, and we won that fight in collaboration with local councils while those opposite remained silent. There is another issue in terms of plant and equipment, because plant and equipment arrangements were changed under the Newman government to disallow councils from including plant and equipment from reimbursement costs for reconstruction and recovery activities after a natural disaster. It was changed by the Newman government, retrospectively applied by the Keenan government and, quite frankly, what this means is that very small councils are now millions of dollars out of pocket because those opposite changed the rules midgame. Councils can rely on this side of the House to stand up and fight for them.

(Time expired)

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is of the Minister for the Commonwealth Games. As the Premier has said of the minister with respect to the rail crisis, 'He needs to fix the problem. That is what he is 100 per cent focused on,' can the minister confirm that Peter Beattie is actually responsible for the delivery of the Commonwealth Games and not the minister?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Surfers Paradise for the opportunity to explain to the House the role which Goldoc, the Commonwealth Games organising corporation, plays in the delivery of the 22nd Commonwealth Games which are being held on the Gold Coast from 4 to 15 April 2018. That will allow me the opportunity to explain that Goldoc, the Commonwealth Games organising corporation, has been established by government in cooperation with the partners we have in the operation and delivery of the 2018 Commonwealth Games—that is, the Australian Commonwealth Games Association and the Commonwealth Games Federation. That is established, as is always the case in instances of multisport events like this, as an organising committee or organising corporation that is the agency that delivers the games. Mr Beattie, as members of this House have become very well aware, is the chair of the board of the corporation. He plays a key role in working with the CEO and delivering on behalf of the whole of the board to support the delivery of the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

The corporation plays its role alongside the activities of government that are carried out by the Office of Commonwealth Games, which is a section of a part of a unit of DTESB, one of our government departments. It is another partner in the delivery of the Commonwealth Games. I meet regularly with the acting director-general—and I met with the director-general before that—of DTESB, with the senior officials of the Office of Commonwealth Games and with the chair and the CEO of Goldoc, Mr Beattie and Mr Mark Peters. Indeed, on occasion I meet with the board and attend board meetings and meet with other partners in the delivery of the 2018 Commonwealth Games, including people like Mr Sam Coffa, the President of the Australian Commonwealth Games Association.

All of these agencies play key roles in the delivery of the 2018 Commonwealth Games. I, as Minister for the Commonwealth Games, play a role in coordinating, monitoring and supporting the delivery. The most important role that government plays is the delivery of the resources. We are doing that.

(Time expired)

Business Confidence

Mr BROWN: My question is of the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer advise the House of steps the government has taken to boost business confidence in Queensland and any alternative policy approaches?

Mr PITT: I thank the honourable member for Capalaba for his question. Since day one in office, the Palaszczuk government has very symbolically opened the doors to business in this the people's house, welcoming back small business and all businesspeople to deal with a mature government—unlike the so-called grown-up government that Campbell Newman used to talk about that he apparently led.

We put in place initiatives such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which represents great value for money; the payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees, an election commitment we delivered in the first budget; and the First Home Owners' Grant to support the building and construction industry. These are all very important. Today we have heard of a fantastic boost to our Back to Work program—our youth boost of \$20,000 to hire 15- to 24-year-olds and keep them on for a 12-month period.

These are actual initiatives. These are real, hands-on initiatives by our government—not policy rhetoric like we hear from those opposite. That is the difference. We know that those opposite continue to talk about things they apparently were going to do in office but never got to, the payroll tax threshold being just one of them. Those opposite think this is a popularity contest, but this is about real policies that hit the ground, where the rubber hits the road, and deliver results. That is what our economic plan is doing.

Just yesterday we saw great figures out of the Westpac-Melbourne Institute in relation to consumer confidence. It reported that, on a three-month centred average, Queensland's rating of 105 is the highest level of consumer confidence since November 2013. This is the best consumer confidence rating in the nation.

We consistently talk about the National Australia Bank's Monthly Business Survey. Since I handed down my first budget we have been either leading or near the top of that survey—since 2015. That is in stark contrast to what we saw after the first budget of the member for Clayfield when we had the worst business confidence in the nation.

We have already heard from the great economic forecaster from Indooroopilly. He is always right in there behind his mate the member for Clayfield. What did he say about growth when he was acting treasurer? In a release in July 2014 he asserted that they would have the strongest growth in the nation in the 2014-15 financial year. What was the growth rate in that financial year? In 2014-15 they were forecast to have 2½ per cent growth, yet they achieved 0.8 per cent growth. They could not even get to one-third of the overall forecast Treasury had set for them—0.8 per cent compared to 2.5 per cent. Of course, our actual achieved was 3.2 per cent for 2015-16. It was a very good result—four times the result of those opposite.

We know that the member for Clayfield is big on rhetoric but does nothing. He had three years as treasurer to do something but he did not succeed. He loves coming into this chamber and dropping one-liners. I would love to hear a one-liner from the member for Clayfield. How about he tells us what he is going to do when it comes to asset sales?

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Athletes Village

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Minister for State Development. Can the minister confirm that the major cause of the \$50 million blowout at the athletes village is the CFMEU and its constant strike action?

Dr LYNHAM: I believe that the cost overruns are multifactorial in nature.

Dental Services, Federal Funding

Mr WHITING: My question is of the Minister for Health. Will the minister please advise the House of the consequences for Queensland of the federal government's decision to change the funding model for dental services?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Murrumba for his question and for his strong advocacy for properly funded public dental health services in Queensland. What a contrast he strikes with the federal LNP member for his area, Luke Howarth, who continues to fail the people of Petrie and continues to support the ongoing cycle of cuts to public health care implemented by the Abbott and Turnbull governments.

Members of this House will recall the many times the member for Southern Downs congratulated himself in this place on the reduction in the dental waiting lists in Queensland. Twenty times in this parliament he congratulated himself. He has patted himself on the shoulder so many times that I am surprised he has not thrown his shoulder out! I am delighted to say that, thanks to our specialist outpatient strategy, he will get treated much faster in a Queensland public hospital if he needs it.

What has been largely missing from this torrent of self-praise is any mention of the National Partnership Agreement on Treating More Public Dental Patients, implemented by the federal Labor government in 2013—the policy that was responsible for bringing down the long waits for dental care in Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition when treasurer was very happy to take the money and

very happy to take the credit for the reduction in the waiting list—I have heard him take credit in this parliament as well as the last parliament—but he is not willing to stand up to the Turnbull government about these cuts.

The LNP has not always been so quiet about the federal government. When he was the health minister the member for Southern Downs wrote to then Labor health minister Tanya Plibersek and said, 'Please don't disadvantage us under the national partnership agreement.' He wrote to her, and now the federal government has abolished the NPA altogether. The national partnership agreement has been abolished, yet still we have silence from the members opposite.

What did the Australian Dental Association say, the peak body representing dentists in this country? What did it say about the Abbott-Turnbull cuts? It said—

Let's see this for what it is. This is a budget saving resulting in a reduction of about \$200 million per annum for dental care ...

It also said that 'children will be left in limbo', yet we have still heard nothing from members opposite. They of course take the Sunshine Coast for granted and have done nothing to secure those places in the medical school and they have said nothing about these cuts.

Government members: Shame!

Mr DICK: It is a shame; I take the interjections from the member for Maryborough and others. It is a disgrace. The silence is deafening. It is about time the LNP stood up for Queensland. Queenslanders have returned all of these LNP members in the House of Representatives and the Senate to the Commonwealth parliament. It is about time they stood up for Queensland and ensured that public dental health services are properly funded by Malcolm Turnbull.

Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Rail

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Transport. I table page 10 of the final Indec report stating that the minister's Department of Transport and Main Roads was responsible for auditing Queensland Rail's training reports, and I ask: does the minister maintain that not only did QR not tell him but now his own department did not tell him as far back as February of the looming driver shortage?

Tabled paper: Extract from document, dated February 2016, by Indec, titled 'Train Service Delivery Review: Report', p. 10 [2050].

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Glass House for his question and his reference to the Indec report. I note that that report was one of the documents that I was not made aware of by Queensland Rail. It was one of the documents that demonstrates that there was unfortunately knowledge around the issues that have led to the train crew shortages that have damaged and degraded the capability to deliver the expanded timetable that, as the former CEO described it, Queensland Rail ambitiously sought to deliver starting from 4 October. I note that there is an extensive investigation that is being undertaken—an independent investigation—into all of these matters that the Premier has established with Mr Phillip Strachan, a very well credentialed person with private industry experience who is looking at all of these issues. I can assure the honourable member for Glass House that all of the documents that are available from my office, that are available from the Department of Transport and Main Roads and that all of the documents that are available from Queensland Rail will be made available to Mr Strachan.

What is not clear is this: will the Leader of the Opposition make the documents that are relevant to this issue that date from the time of the previous government available to Mr Strachan? What we need to hear is that that transparency that I, that the Department of Transport and Main Roads and that Queensland Rail are willing to undertake should equally apply to the former government and the former government should make the documents that relate to all of these issues available to Mr Strachan. What we should be making clear today is that I want to put the challenge to the Leader of the Opposition to step up to the level of transparency. I tabled these documents, the documents that the member for Glass House referred to in his question today. I tabled those documents in this House. I call on the Leader of the Opposition to step up and table the documents that relate to these issues that come from the period of the previous government.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Kallangur, I am informed that we have students from Hamilton State School in the electorate of Clayfield observing our proceedings. Welcome.

Turnbull Federal Government, School Funding

Mr KING: My question is directed to the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events. Can the minister confirm whether she has received any more detail from the federal government regarding future funding for Queensland schools?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for his question because I know that he is a very proud Pine Rivers State High School graduate and it is wonderful that he is asking and advocating on behalf of his community. I also welcome the students from Hamilton State School and I believe there are also students from New South Wales in the gallery today, so I want to welcome all of you. I want to assure every single student who is sitting in the gallery here today that, as the Queensland Minister for Education, my job is to fight to get Queensland's fair share of funding to deliver for every student no matter where they live in this vast state. As members would recall, we have the current arrangements in place with the federal government for school funding up until mid-2017. The Education Council meeting has now been called for 16 December and I am going to that meeting with one clear aim, and that is to finally get some clarity from Senator Simon Birmingham on what the funding arrangements for next year will look like.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms JONES: That is exactly right; I take that interjection. When I talk to principals in all of our schools—state, independent and Catholic schools—right across Queensland they are telling me that they want some funding certainty, because right now we are in limbo. What we are not getting from Senator Birmingham is any clarity about how he intends to distribute the funding to the states. This is making it very hard for schools and principals to plan beyond the funding arrangements that are currently in place and that cut out in the middle of next year, and we know that schools plan over a 12-month period.

Ms Davis interjected.

Ms JONES: What he is saying—and I take the interjection from the member for Aspley—is that he is going to cut funding. That is exactly what he is saying. What he is saying is that they are going to fiddle with the education index and bring it down to CPI in 2020 and I am advised that that is a cut of \$1.2 billion to Queensland schools—state schools, independent and Catholic schools across this state. Why I am concerned that those up the back, who are mainly regional members, are very silent is that in Queensland we have more than 1,000 schools that are outside Brisbane. We know that it costs more to deliver services in those areas, that they cost more to maintain and that they cost more to build and to deliver across all of Queensland. Even if the shadow minister wants to yell at me, I will unashamedly stand up for all of those students in the gallery because my job is to deliver good-quality schools, more teachers and good-quality classrooms. Delegates from the Queensland Teachers' Union are still here and I know that they will stand with me to get the best share—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms JONES: I am being political; absolutely I am being political. I was elected as a proud Labor Minister for Education who will fight for our fair share from the Malcolm Turnbull government. We know that Labor always values education. We know that we will always fight to get a fair share so they have good-quality classrooms—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Cook, the member for Everton and the member for Moggill are both warned under standing order 253A. I find your interjections designed to disrupt the minister in her answer to the question. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

Blair Athol Coalmine

Mr GORDON: My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines and Minister for State Development. In reference to unemployment in regional Queensland, which is much more significant than the Brisbane area, this week's *Courier-Mail* notes that the historic Blair Athol coalmine will reopen soon, creating over 100 jobs and generating \$1.5 billion in export earnings and over \$140 million in royalties to the state government. Can the minister update the House on actions his department is taking to swiftly approve the reopening of job-generating regional mines like Blair Athol while coal prices nudge record highs?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Cook for his question. He, too, is concerned about jobs in regional communities, which is extremely appropriate, and I thank him for this question. One of the things we saw with the resources downturn was that a lot of the multinational companies were divesting themselves of Australian assets. I have made many ministerial statements regarding the green shoots appearing in our resources sector, and it is pleasing to see the price of metallurgical coal is now well over A\$300 per tonne—great for the state and great for the royalties in terms of producing income for schools and hospitals. One thing with this divestment is that we saw Australian companies re-entering

the resources sector and getting some of these mining assets. One particular one to note was Isaac Plains, and the Premier and I had the pleasure to open Isaac Plains coalmine. That is an Aussie company that is now exporting high-value metallurgical coal.

With specific reference to Blair Athol, I can advise the member for Cook that the company, TerraCom, that is interested in the mine is a small Australian based and listed mining company. On 14 October this year, it announced to the Australian stock exchange that it had executed a binding sale and purchase for the Blair Athol mine. The purchaser of the mine is a subsidiary of TerraCom, which is Orion Mining Pty Ltd. Some of the details of the purchase have been made public. As with Isaac Plains, the purchase price was \$1. There has been a transfer of \$80 million from the Blair Athol joint venture to TerraCom to meet Blair Athol's coalmine rehabilitation liabilities determined by the Department of Environment and Heritage and Protection. It has made several releases to the ASX.

Over the past three years there has been a tremendous shake-out in the coal industry worldwide. Under the Mineral Resources Act, the sale of Blair Athol mine is contingent on Queensland government approval to transfer the mining lease. As part of this process, it has to be demonstrated to my department beyond doubt that it has the sufficient financial, technical and human resources that are necessary to safely and responsibly conduct the mining operation and also, importantly, to complete the eventual rehabilitation of the mine site. This must be demonstrated to my department before we can approve this sale process.

Queensland-United States Trade Relationship

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the House on Queensland's important trade relationship with the US and future plans to continue strengthening the relationship?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for that very good question. We are more than happy to continue to talk today about how much we value our two-way trade relationship with the United States. Our two-way trade relationship is worth over \$6.7 billion. This relationship works both ways. Our strong commitment to the US is also evidenced by the fact that I have been on two trade missions to the US. I have made a very firm commitment to the US ambassador that I will continue to promote Queensland's interests abroad to the US on a yearly basis, because we value that relationship.

Today, we heard those opposite talk about comments that were made during the most recent US election. It would be remiss of me not to talk about some of the comments that have been made, for example, by Christopher Pyne, the Minister for Defence Industry. He has called Mr Trump's success 'terrifying'. As recently as Tuesday night he implied that a 'Trump victory would be bad for Australia's interests'.

Today, I came across an article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. It appears that the member for Surfers Paradise had something to say. He said—

As a practitioner of the art of politics, watching Donald Trump makes me feel sick.

On national television, Josh Frydenberg, the Assistant Treasurer, called Donald Trump a 'dropkick'. They should be very careful about what they say, because we know what those on their side of the fence were thinking about Donald Trump and his views and his comments during the election campaign.

Today, I call on all members of this House, including the member for Surfers Paradise, to back in our trade relationship with the US, to stand together as one and also to come together as one to support our biofuels industry in this state. We want to see bipartisanship on this matter. We have seen it with the LNG industry and today I want to see a unity ticket when it comes to biofuels and the jobs that it will create across regional Queensland.

Health Services

Mr LAST: My question is to the Premier. I ask: under pressure from the *Queensland Times*, this week the government found \$5 million to reopen the paediatric wing at the Ipswich Hospital. Given that the same government has refused to find \$80 million to assist the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, which means that the new birthing suite cannot be opened, can the Premier explain this clear double standard between what happens in South-East Queensland and North Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. We on this side of the House value health services right across our state. Nothing is clearer than that. This week, we heard the Minister for Health talk about the injection of \$70 million for the Roma Hospital, delivered by a Labor government. We have also seen a record budget for Health delivered by my government. We know how important it

is that, no matter where people live, they get access to good-quality health services. This week, members also heard me speak about travelling to Mer Island and how the health minister and I worked together to deliver \$30,000 worth of equipment to Mer Island. We are delivering for all parts of the state.

Members have also heard my government talk about restoring front-line services after the savage cuts by those opposite. I always find it ironic that those opposite want to come in here and talk about the delivery of health services when—

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection—a lecture on front-line services. They cut thousands of positions from health services right across our state, including nurses and midwives.

When it comes to delivering, we understand how important paediatric services are. We will work very closely with the health services to ensure that we deliver what is in the best interests of Queenslanders and the best interests of families. We will continue to deliver record budgets for Health, no matter where Queenslanders live.

Child Protection

Ms DONALDSON: My question is to the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the minister please inform the House of the upcoming community services ministers meeting and what actions the Palaszczuk government is taking to keep the safety of children on the national agenda?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Bundaberg for her question. Tomorrow, I join interstate counterparts and the Commonwealth Minister for Social Services at the community services ministers meeting in Sydney. This meeting follows the COAG summit to tackle violence against women and children, which was hosted in Brisbane and attended by the Premier, the Prime Minister and me. At that summit, which was held to tackle violence against women and children, my interstate counterparts and I spoke about the increased need for awareness about the effect of domestic and family violence on children. We know that 80 per cent of domestic and family violence is witnessed by or experienced by children. The link between family violence and the safety of children could not be clearer. That is why I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is delivering record investment in child and family services and early intervention services, including our \$6.6 million investment in PPP parenting, making this world-renowned parenting program for the first time free to all Queensland parents.

Tomorrow, I will be pushing to bring the safety of children and the health of our families into the national spotlight. I will be calling on the Commonwealth to put our children and families first by extending early funding for intervention and prevention to help mums and dads be better parents. We need the Commonwealth to recognise the sacrifice made by our hardworking foster and kinship carers when they open their hearts and their homes to vulnerable children by extending the eligibility of family tax benefit part B until the youngest child in care turns 18. We also need a nationally consistent approach to tackling the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system. We need national leadership on this issue to improve information sharing across jurisdictions and to help keep our kids safe.

The federal coalition's 2015 budget confirmed that there had been a nationwide \$270 million funding cut to community programs across-the-board designed to help families and parents. Federal funding was cut to important services such as Phoenix House in Bundaberg, which work tirelessly to support child victims of sexual abuse and the prevention of sexual abuse. The impact of this was disastrous here in Queensland because the former LNP government, and the member for Clayfield when he was treasurer, cut over \$50 million in grants to child safety and community services funded organisations. The fact is we have not only been restoring the LNP cuts made here at a state level; we have also seen huge cost shifting from the Commonwealth as it abandons funding for community services. The impact of these cuts are still being felt today as we rebuild networks of services to better support families. I call on those opposite to help us lobby the Commonwealth government to help keep our families safe.

Advance Queensland Industry Accelerator Program

Mrs SMITH: My question is to the Minister for Innovation. I refer to the \$9 million Advance Queensland Industry Accelerator Program which was due to start in July and the failure to appoint a small business commissioner despite making the announcement many months ago, and I ask: given the government's so-called commitment to innovation, is the minister concerned that her failure to roll out this initiative on time will impact on businesses that may be interested?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. It has been six months since the member became the shadow minister for innovation. The fact is that we have just managed to get a question from her on the actual portfolio, the first question about innovation.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members.

Ms ENOCH: And a question about an incredibly important project that we have been able to roll out in this state, one of 20 programs under our Advance Queensland initiative. In terms of the question, I do not have any concerns about businesses missing out.

National Partnership Agreement on Skills

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills. Will the minister please inform the House about the coming expiration of the national partnership agreement and what this means for training and skills funding in Queensland?

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. One minute.

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. I know that he understands the value of investing in training and skills and TAFE. I acknowledge the QTU, Kevin Bates and the wonderful TAFE teachers they represent who do an amazing job every day. Many ministers have talked about the cuts that the federal government is planning or has already undertaken. We know that there have already been cuts in training programs including apprenticeships. We know the funding for group training organisations has been cut and we know that subsidies for training for child care have been cut. Come 30 June next year there will be no dollars at all allocated for the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform. This year alone that is \$105 million to our budget, yet come 1 July next year there are zero dollars in the forward estimates for this national partnership agreement and the feds are not even committing a dollar. We suggest that they step up and commit to the funding.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 3 November (see p. 4143), on motion of Mr Pearce—

That the House take note of report No. 33 of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee, titled *Consideration of the Auditor-General's report 17 for 2015-16: Results of audit—local government entities 2014-15*.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (11.33 am): I rise to make a contribution to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee's report on the consideration of the Auditor-General's *Results of audit—local government entities 2014-15*. I would like to thank the committee secretariat staff for the professional manner in which they have worked to prepare this report for the committee members. I would also like to acknowledge and thank my fellow committee members from both sides of the House for their input into this report prior to and following my joining the committee.

In May 2016 the Auditor-General's report 17 for 2015-16, *Results of audit—local government entities 2014-15*, was tabled in the Legislative Assembly and referred to the committee for consideration. The report states that the Auditor-General's view is that timely and accurate financial reporting is essential for effectiveness in decision-making, management of public funds and the delivery of public accountability. It is important to highlight some of the Auditor-General's comments in this report—

In 2014-15, 86 per cent of councils met the 31 October financial reporting deadline. This, the Auditor-General reported 'is the best result in the history of local government financial reporting in Queensland.'

Congratulations to the local governments and, in particular, their very hardworking staff right across the state of Queensland who work to ensure that they meet these time frames amongst their other position responsibilities within council and the other challenges they face when they are doing their day-to-day work in the council. I note that the Queensland Audit Office has acknowledged that it is difficult for some councils to recruit suitably qualified people to be on the local council audit committee and has made some suggestions as to how this can be done. This is a particularly relevant and valid issue in many of the smaller councils, one that is often very challenging for small communities, for instance, the Bulloo Shire Council, which is a fantastic area. I took the member for Burdekin out to meet with the council in my electorate. They have an estimated population of 376 people. Obviously there would be considerable family and business relationships between those who live in that council area

and it is difficult to find someone who is comfortable to sit on a local government audit committee because everybody actually knows everyone. In some cases everybody is related to everyone and they are also in business in some way with everyone. When you have a population of 376 people it is very difficult.

I note that the Local Government Association of Queensland has a panel of people who can be accessed if councils thought it was appropriate. I think that it goes without saying that the people from the LGAQ would have a very good understanding of the local governments across Queensland, the diversity of those local governments and the challenges that they face from Cape York right down to places like Cunnamulla.

In relation to financial sustainability, the report notes—

The Auditor-General's analysis of local government sustainability indicated an overall improvement in risk assessments in comparison to the previous financial year.

I think that is testament to the very hard work that our local government staff and our elected councils, councillors and mayors undertake to ensure that they do have that financial sustainability. They take very seriously their role in council. I commend Queensland local government mayors, councillors and their hardworking staff. I have seen some of the staff in my electorate—some of the CEOs—going to work on Anzac Day. They do an incredible job. They work very, very hard for their communities. I would like to thank all of those mayors, councillors and local government staff for the work that they do across communities in Queensland. I thank them wholeheartedly for their efforts and for the work that they are doing to make sure that they meet the Auditor-General's requirements.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): I acknowledge students from Boyne Island State School in the electorate of Gladstone in the gallery.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (11.38 am): I rise to make a very brief contribution to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee report on the consideration of the Auditor-General's report No. 17, *Result of audits: local government entities 2014-15*. I note and support all of the comments made by my colleague the member for Warrego. Ditto to all that she has said, so I will make a few brief additional comments. I thank the committee secretariat staff for their hard and timely work. I also acknowledge my fellow committee members for their contributions and for the effective functioning of the committee.

I note one particular point from the report, which is that 86 per cent of councils met the 31 October financial reporting deadline. That was reported as the best result in the history of local government financial reporting in Queensland. For all the challenges that local governments face, that is a good outcome and I commend them for it. I congratulate the councils for their work.

I make particular note of the Redland City Council, in the seat of Cleveland. I note the work of the Redland City Council and Mayor Karen Williams and acknowledge the good job that she is doing. She inherited a council in a bad budget position. By good leadership and strong economic management, she has been able to turn around our fortunes. The city is growing again in terms of development, investment and jobs. It is in an increasingly good position.

In relation to the Redland City Council and other councils, it is important that we continue to properly fund and support councils. It is important that funding is commensurate with shifting workload. From time to time, mayors and councillors point out that important balance to me. Local government is a critical level of government, as is the state and federal levels of government. It is important that we work closely together. With those few words, I simply conclude by saying that this is an important report.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

EDUCATION, TOURISM, INNOVATION AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (11.41 am): I move—

That the House takes note of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee Report No. 18 *Consideration of Auditor-General's report No. 11: 2014-15—Maintenance of public schools*.

I acknowledge the work of the secretariat staff and the members who served on the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee. The education department has 1,333 school campuses with 12,893 buildings on those sites, more than half of which were built before 1990. Schools

are allocated funding for maintenance. Generally, that funding is broken down into what they call planned maintenance, which is preventative maintenance, and unplanned maintenance, which is reactionary maintenance. Schools have received that funding over many years. As we know, it costs a lot of money to maintain old schools. Those of us who have owned an old Queenslander can attest to that. They seem to be a money pit, as can be the schools in our communities.

Each year, a school will undergo a BAS annual maintenance and audit process. A team of people will come into the school and pour over it, looking for defects. They will then report back to the school on what those defects are. In 2012, the department had backlog maintenance worth \$298 million, with 84 per cent of schools reporting that backlog being over 25 years old. At that time, the former Newman government decided it would fix the backlog and allocated an initial \$200 million for maintenance works. They decided to inject an additional \$100 million over three years to further reduce the total \$300 million backlog.

As a former principal, I know that schools had a choice to either use the Building and Asset Services, formerly known as QBuild, or go direct to market, DTM, which was fantastic for schools. It gave them the responsibility to make some great decisions. In my former school, we used direct to market. In the first year we were told that we had to organise that ourselves. I could have done it myself, but I chose to hand the job to my business services manager. As the Minister for Education has already highlighted, they are the hardest working people in our schools. We received feedback that we should work together to reduce the burden on business services managers by employing a project manager. We worked with a number of other schools to employ a project manager to work across the schools to get the outcomes that we needed.

The catch with fixing the backlog was that you could use the maintenance money only to fix backlog maintenance issues. That was good in theory, but in practice it did not work. We found that there was growing maintenance that had to be repaired out of additional money, usually school funds. Most schools simply let emerging issues sit, unless they are extremely urgent and need to be fixed. It is a bit like the old Queenslander house: you maintain the battles that you know need to be fixed. You do not necessarily fix the old problems first and then move to the next one; you repair the ones that you decide are the most urgent.

What was the outcome of all of that? On the one hand, principals were told to be autonomous, to step out and do creative things; then they were told that they had to fix the backlog of maintenance problems. When considering the \$300 million investment to fix \$298 million worth of backlog maintenance, the report indicates that a further \$232 million worth of maintenance grew because we could not fix the new maintenance issues and \$300 million of maintenance backlog remained outstanding. The end result was that the \$300 million investment equated to a \$35 million improvement in school maintenance. That is not a good return on investment given that the government spent \$300 million for a \$35 million return on investment. It was a good concept, but unfortunately it was not well thought out.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (11.46 am): I rise to contribute to the debate on this report. I join my colleague, the member for Townsville in acknowledging the work of the secretariat and fellow members of the committee. From the non-government side, I acknowledge the member for Buderim and the member for Albert. I acknowledge the contributions that they make to our committee. At the outset, I acknowledge the great work done by the member for Surfers Paradise when he was the minister for education in this state. The member for Surfers Paradise was very much committed to making sure that we continued the LNP's track record of investing in Queensland schools. I know that the member for Surfers Paradise oversaw a program that facilitated the building of new schools where appropriate, based on actual data.

In addition, we had a program that dealt with the maintenance backlog that was left by the Labor Party. When the LNP was in government, the member for Surfers Paradise and the former treasurer, the member for Clayfield, invested significantly in our Queensland schools. They invested hundreds of millions of dollars to make sure that, across Queensland, we were able to deal with the maintenance backlog that was a legacy of the failed Labor governments of the past. I am incredibly proud to have been a member of a government that invested in the maintenance that our schools desperately needed so that we could fix the backlog of former failed Labor governments, which included things such as broken toilets, broken windows et cetera. I am particularly proud of the autonomy that we gave to local communities and the power that we vested in local communities. Of course, Queensland is one of the great decentralised states. The LNP very much recognises the contribution that our regions make, not only to their own communities but also more broadly to Queensland. We recognise that, when it comes to making local decisions, you cannot always make those decisions in George Street. The LNP in

government had a fantastic track record of vesting power in local communities. The work that we did in dealing with Labor's backlog of school maintenance is another prime example of our commitment to vesting power and autonomy in local communities.

The member for Townsville touched on the fact that schools were given the opportunity to choose whether they used QBuild or whether they used local contractors. By having the ability to choose local contractors schools were able to make financially prudent decisions that might, in the long run, deliver more bang for their buck. The effect was twofold. The school, through its community based decisions, was able to keep money in the local community and, importantly, particularly in regional areas, it was able to make sure that jobs in those local communities were retained and maintained.

As I said, the LNP has an incredibly proud track record when it comes to infrastructure in schools in Queensland, whether it is the schools that we built over our time in government—whether under the recent government or previous governments—or whether it is investing in the infrastructure that our schools need. Ultimately, we need to make sure that our kids at school are best placed to learn. An education is the greatest gift we can give a child. If we do not have the right infrastructure and if we do not have the right environment within which our children can learn then we are failing them. That is why the LNP when in government was committed to making sure that we delivered the best possible environment for our children.

I again acknowledge the great work that was done by the former minister for education, the member for Surfers Paradise. I know that he was incredibly passionate about making sure that our schools had their maintenance backlog that was a legacy of the former failed Labor governments dealt with. As well, he was particularly keen on seeing local schools have autonomy around decision-making because ultimately the LNP believe that local communities are best placed to make these decisions, not bureaucrats in George Street. Local school communities were vested with the autonomy to be able to do that. The member for Surfers Paradise can be incredibly proud of the great work that he did when he was the minister for education in this state.

 **Mr WILLIAMS** (Pumicestone—ALP) (11:51 am): I rise to contribute to the debate on the committee report titled *Consideration of Auditor-General's report 11: 2014-15—Maintenance of public schools*. Firstly, I wish to acknowledge the secretariat and the other members of the committee.

The Queensland Audit Office's performance audit on maintenance in public schools confirmed that the former LNP government's promise to fix maintenance was a hollow promise and without any substance. The minister for education in the Newman government, John-Paul Langbroek, the member for Surfers Paradise, promised to fix school maintenance with a \$260 million spend on outstanding projects. Instead, what they did was build 1 William Street. Remember they had no longer term strategy for school maintenance than just to build 1 William Street.

In stark contrast, our Minister for Education, Kate Jones, is delivering with record investment into state school maintenance. Schools prioritise and identify maintenance at a local level and maintenance funding is delivered according to need. We are implementing a new approach to maintenance in public schools.

Looking at annual assessments, the department is adopting an annual life cycle assessment approach which correlates with the government's whole-of-government approach—that is, it looks at the 10-year life cycle of assets. We found that there were demountable buildings under lease with no maintenance program. No-one was looking after them.

Maintenance projects will no longer be considered in isolation but from a long-term whole-of-school perspective. This will lead to greater variances year by year but will also ensure greater value for taxpayer dollars in the short and long term. It will include proactive maintenance and not reactive maintenance. Under the new asset life cycle approach state schools will be able to plan more efficiently. On this basis, projects will no longer be outstanding but will now feed into the school's whole-of-maintenance program to ensure the efficient allocation of funds.

At the risk of living in the past, it is the Palaszczuk government that was left with billions of dollars of debt by the LNP Newman government. They demonstrated that they were fiscally devoid of financial understanding. I have to ask about the school maintenance programs and the school infrastructure builds over the three years of the LNP government. Where did they get to in Pumicestone? I can tell members. We got 1 William Street, Brisbane. Then after that we got 1 William Street, Brisbane. Guess what we got after that? We did not get any maintenance in schools; we got 1 William Street, Brisbane.

What a record to be proud of for the LNP. Even with the fiscal challenges faced by the Palaszczuk Labor government we are getting on with the job. Things are going from strength to strength here in Queensland. Standard & Poor's International have assessed our credit rating and are looking towards

moving Queensland back to a AAA credit rating while those opposite continue to navel-gaze, only raising their heads to criticise. The Queensland economy is forecast to grow by an average of 3.8 per year over the next four years whilst other Australian state economies are contracting.

Mr KRAUSE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. What the member is saying has nothing to do with the report.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Member for Pumicestone, you have 35 seconds left. I will ask you to stay relevant. I have been listening.

Mr WILLIAMS: It is relevant. Other economies are contracting. The government is displaying fiscal constraint which reduces debt. This leaves more money—

Mr KRAUSE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. What the member is saying has nothing to do with the report.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Pumicestone, I ask you to remain relevant to the report.

Mr WILLIAMS: The fiscal constraint will reduce debt and will leave more money available for school infrastructure programs across-the-board.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr WILLIAMS: I am coming to it.

Miss BARTON: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. With respect, Mr Deputy Speaker, you gave a very clear direction to the member for Pumicestone. The report specifically deals with school maintenance. The member for Pumicestone should be referencing the report. He has ignored your direction.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was listening to the speaker and he was referring to school maintenance. I am happy for him to continue.

Mr WILLIAMS: I encourage those opposite to watch and learn. Voters know what you did not do.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (11.58 am): I rise to make a short contribution to this report on school maintenance. Maintenance is very important for the electorate of Gregory. There are over 50 schools in the electorate of Gregory—starting with the Daringa State School on the eastern side of the electorate and stretching on the western side to Longreach State High School and Longreach Primary School. Of course, we cannot forget the Longreach School of Distance Education which does a fantastic job. The schools in the seat of Gregory are vast, from one-teacher and two-teacher schools like Tresswell and Mistake Creek to large schools such as Emerald State High School, Longreach State High School and Quilpie State College—a fantastic school. Maintenance is incredibly important to these schools. There are a lot of schools to keep the maintenance up to.

Travelling around the seat of Gregory, I managed to catch up with the local principals plus the teachers but also importantly the P&Cs who do a lot of fundraising to try to keep up the maintenance at those schools. I remember about 12 months ago going to the Capella State High School, where years of drought had seen much of the playing field very much in a state of disrepair because of the lack of getting a bore going. We were able to eventually get that bore going with a bit of pressure. I do thank the minister for funding that bore at the Capella State High School, but it did require me to jump the fence and take a photo and get it into the media to get the attention of the government.

One of the concerning things is that there are schools out there that do need to continue to maintain their maintenance. I call on the government to make sure that we maintain the maintenance for schools in the western part of Queensland. I visited a school the other day where we saw guttering which had come off, pipes leaking—even the electric water cooler was leaking. I think it is important that those schools have a maintenance budget so they can repair any damage to those schools.

The 50 schools in the electorate of Gregory are very important. They play a critical role in educating our future leaders. Certainly I pay tribute to all of the principals and the teachers who work hand in hand with the P&Cs and who work hand in hand with the community to make sure that those schools are maintained. We have to make sure that the maintenance budgets for schools in Western Queensland are maintained because some of those schools do not have the capacity like some schools in the south-east where they can have funding arrangements. Some of those schools in Western Queensland only have six or seven children at those schools, but the maintenance is just as expensive as at other schools which have more students. I call on the government to make sure that we maintain maintenance programs and maintenance funding for schools right across the seat of Gregory.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (12.01 pm): I rise today to talk about the Auditor-General's report titled *Maintenance of public schools*. I would also like to thank the secretariat and the members opposite and also the members from my side, the good side of the House, on the committee.

Congratulations go to the education minister because we are rolling out a huge maintenance program to 1,236 state schools providing quality learning and teaching spaces. The member for Broadwater got up and said that the greatest gift we can give a child is education. I do not see it as a gift; I see it as a right that we give everyone an education. It is not a gift. It is not like giving someone a scarf or a pair of sunglasses. It is about giving them a passage through life. That is what education does; it sets people up for life.

One of the things we can do is make sure that when the youth of our state go to school they go to schools that are up to standard—the air conditioning is working, the stairs are in good order et cetera. When we look at how many classrooms we have in Queensland—over 32,000 classrooms—that is thousands and thousands of dollars put into the local community. I hear bells—is there anyone in pyjamas?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): I did not hear any bells, member for Maryborough. That might have just been in your ears.

Mr SAUNDERS: When we talk about maintenance for schools, I would personally like to thank the education minister. Maryborough State High school is one of the oldest schools in Queensland. It used to be called Maryborough Grammar School. One of the great Labor premiers 'Red Ted' Theodore taught there. As a young child, I had a photo of 'Red Ted' Theodore hanging up in our house because he was an icon out west where I come from—and what a great man he was. Under the former government, the school had a lot of problems. Thanks to the minister, the member for Ashgrove—it is really good to say that now—we got the drainage problems fixed. This school was built in the late 1800s and it is very important that we maintain it.

With the extra spending on school maintenance, we were able to make sure that that building will be there for many, many years to come and for many more students to come. It is part of the heritage of Maryborough. As I said, it is one of the oldest schools in Queensland. It has a great history. Not only did the great 'Red Ted' Theodore teach there; we have also had Olympians go through the school. We have also had people like Duncan Chapman, who was the first person to step foot on land at Gallipoli in the war, go through there. We have had some really great people go through that school. As the Palaszczuk government, we are going to maintain that school.

It is not only Maryborough State High School. With this increase in spending on school maintenance, we are doing maintenance at Bauple State School, Mungar State School and Granville State School. Granville State School was home to another great member for Maryborough Brendan Hansen, who was a councillor and a state and federal politician. It is great to see this government putting money back into schools.

As I said earlier—and I will continue to say it—without education we are not putting children on the right path for life. Education breaks down all barriers. It puts people on the right path and gives career choice. They can go for jobs. It lifts the standard of living right across the community. That is what we have to do as a government. Not only the government but all politicians in the House have to make sure that we are setting our youths up for the future.

We are investing a lot of money in school maintenance. I noticed in the last few school holidays tradesmen working on the schools in my electorate. When I was driving around I saw tradesmen at different schools making sure that our schools were up to standard. That comes back to the education minister. I thank her on behalf of the constituents of Maryborough. We have a minister now who is absolutely looking after the youth of our state and who is really passionate about education. We cannot ask for much more than that.

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (12.06 pm): This is a great opportunity to talk about schools and the lack of maintenance that was occurring before the previous LNP government came into play in 2012. Maintenance at so many state schools throughout Queensland was not kept up to speed by the failed Bligh government. Not only did they incompetently run the state government into debt; they did not maintain the schools. They should have utilised that money.

I know in my electorate we have the brand-new Brightwater State School, which I was pleased to be at when the member for Surfers Paradise came and opened that new school. At many of the older schools—Buderim Mountain State School, Kuluin State School, Mountain Creek junior and senior—there were many things that needed to be fixed. They had leaky gutters, paint was peeling off and

fences were collapsing. It was like Beirut on a bad day. That was what Labor was all about. They really do not know how to care, maintain and look after too many things. I am sure that at the end of this Labor term there will be many things falling to pieces. We saw it with the racing industry. That was the beginning, and it is going to go from bad to worse.

Let us look at where we are today. There is an opportunity for this to get better. I know that the Brightwater State School that I have just talked about is growing in immense numbers. I do not think the government has taken into account that that population is growing so quickly. The next thing we will see is demountables popping up on site. Is that good enough for children? It is about planning for the future. It is about building relationships and caring for these children. We had this very strong point: we would make sure that no child was ever left behind. We want to make sure that these children are well and truly looked after.

When you look at these schools, they have picked up to a certain standard but they will fall back. That is the problem we are going to face. I do thank the former education minister for doing such an outstanding job. The challenge is now there for the new minister in Queensland to follow in his footsteps. I know that the minister does not have as big feet as he has, but I know that she will do the job. I know that she will look after the schools in my electorate. I hope and pray. That is yet to be seen. The challenge is out there to the education minister to see what she can do to maintain the schools in my electorate.

There are a few questions I would like to ask. Maintenance is all about fixing buildings and making sure that they are looked after and building things that children need at schools like playgrounds and so forth. I challenge the minister with this question. I did not realise—and this is information that has been leaked through to me in recent times—that P&Cs get charged for water and electricity so they can build playgrounds at local schools. I hope that that is not the case and, if it is, it should be stamped out immediately. If it is happening throughout Queensland, I think that would be a terrible indictment on the Labor government.

To return to school maintenance and safety, there were a couple of other things that the previous LNP government put into place which ties into maintenance in a way for state schools, and that is the solar powered signs to prevent speeding which were put up all over Queensland to protect the lives of children. They are such a wonderful thing for all schools. That was an LNP idea. How many children's lives have been saved as a result of those signs? Are those signs going to be maintained and looked after?

We need to talk about drop-off zones at schools. We have a major problem at the Buderim Mountain State School. It is traffic chaos every day, as it is at many schools throughout Queensland. I would love to talk to the minister at some stage about this. There is an opportunity to fix it. We have meetings with the local street committee in Buderim. They are very passionate people. The Main Roads department and hopefully the principal will come along. The principal of Buderim Mountain State School is a very good principal. We want the areas where these kids are dropped off to be the safest as possible. Our little preppies are small little tykes and we really have to keep an eye on them. We do not want them stepping out in front of a car. They do not really know where these dangerous spots are and we have to make sure—

Mr WHITING: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. Can the member address the committee report?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! Member for Buderim, I know you are talking about schools, but you are close to being irrelevant so go no further. You have 51 seconds remaining.

Mr DICKSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for your guidance. What I was talking about was the maintenance of car parks within the school boundaries. I am hoping that the minister takes this on board and that there is an opportunity to build more parking at the Buderim Mountain State School on the western side of that property. I challenge the minister to help me solve that problem. I would be very pleased to work with the minister to deliver a very good outcome that will save the lives of children at this important state school. I am sure the minister thinks all schools are important, as they should be, but this one is very important to me because I know that a child's life will be lost at some stage. The traffic is continuing to increase. We need to do something about the parking at the Buderim Mountain State School. I will leave that with the minister. I would appreciate an opportunity to meet with her at some stage about that issue.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (12.12 pm): I am happy to sit down with the member for Buderim at any time he would like to talk through some of the issues that he raised in his contribution today. I am very pleased to talk to this

report. I thank all members of the committee for their deliberations in regard to the Auditor-General's report for 2014-15 titled *Maintenance of public schools*. I note that none of those opposite really wanted to talk about the report in their contributions today, but I will talk to the report and then I will talk to what we are doing as a consequence of the report and our election commitments which were very strong about addressing the \$260 million backlog in maintenance that we inherited in government.

I know that they will talk about contrasting track records, but they went to the election very clearly saying that they were going to get rid of the maintenance backlog. What we saw, as per the comments made by the member for Townsville in his contribution which was directly relevant to the report, was that \$300 million was invested—and I welcome that—but it had only a \$35 million difference in regards to overall improvement. That was the key focus of the report—the recommendations of the Auditor-General and our government's commitment to implement those recommendations. I note that the committee has advised in its report that it is satisfied that the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Housing and Public Works have effectively implemented the recommendations. I thank the committee for acknowledging that.

In line with the recommendations contained in the report, the Palaszczuk government has committed to investing one per cent of asset replacement value towards school maintenance. This approach will ensure that at a system level there is an ongoing funding stream available to support the appropriate maintenance of Queensland state schools as part of our government's total infrastructure investment. A total of \$186 million has been allocated to maintenance in 2016-17 including the \$73 million investment in this year's School Infrastructure Enhancement program, which was one of our commitments. This SIE program aims to optimise asset performance by supporting more modern and functional facilities. The \$186 million investment in 2016-17 is part of the government's \$780 million commitment to maintenance over four years in state schools. That is where you see the stark difference between what LNP members say in the government and the reality for schools on the ground.

Mr Stewart: How much?

Ms JONES: I take the interjection from the member for Townsville—\$780 million. We recognise, as all members in the parliament have said here today, that investing in our schools and our school infrastructure is a key part of delivering excellence in education. It shocks me that none of them will stand with me when I call for more funding from the federal government. I call for them to stand with me in a bipartisan way to say that, as this report highlights, the more funding you put into schools, the better outcomes you can deliver. They all say that here when they talk about their individual electorates, when they go out to their schools and complain and say to the P&C how shocking things are, but why will members of the LNP not stand up when I need them? Why will they not stand up when the federal government is scrapping the education index and rolling it back? Why will they not stand with me to deliver real funding for our schools here in Queensland? We know that when funding is cut it hurts schools in regional Queensland the most, because it costs more to deliver these services in infrastructure upgrades in regional Queensland. While I stand here passionately advocating for their schools, I call on them once again to stand with me and do the right thing.

I do have to take umbrage with the contribution of the member for Broadwater when she said that they had a very proud track record as the conservatives in Queensland in delivering capital funding and maintenance for schools. I acknowledge at the beginning that additional money was put into maintenance. Unfortunately, the Auditor-General's report and the report of the committee found that it was not very effective in addressing the backlog which they promised Queenslanders they would address and failed to do. However, to come in here and say that they have a proud track record of delivering for public education in this state is outrageous. Everyone knows that the Joh Bjelke-Petersen government starved state schools of funding. That was one of the big election issues when the Goss government won in 1989. I remember that. I was very young and at school at the time, but it was such a political issue that even as a child I was awake to the conditions that we were seeing in our state schooling.

The Borbidge government then implemented a capital works freeze. That was its track record when in government. I find it very offensive for the member for Broadwater to come in here and try to rewrite history, because what she is rewriting is the advocacy and hard work of our teachers who worked in conditions that were appalling. I am very proud that I am part of a government that is addressing a historic backlog—\$780 million of maintenance. We are getting on with the asset life cycle assessment plan that will deliver on the recommendations of the Auditor-General and deliver better schools for our children.

(Time expired)

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (12.17 pm): If the minister wants to talk about the history of education policy in this state and what has gone on in the past, we need to point out to her that the only reason we are having this discussion about school maintenance in a large respect is that of the actions of the Nicklin government in the 1950s and, in particular, the education minister at that time, Jack Pizzey. As the minister for education, he built 66 high schools in 10 years. It was a massive expansion of state high schools in Queensland and it is the very reason that we are having this discussion. A lot of the facilities that were built by Pizzey in the fifties and early sixties are the ones that are in need of maintenance right now. I can speak to that from a local perspective because we have Boonah State High School and Beaudesert State High School, both schools that were built by Pizzey, in need of a lot of maintenance. When I came into this job and when the LNP came into office, there were serious maintenance backlogs at both of those schools and a number of other state schools in my electorate.

I want to talk to one of the recommendations of the Auditor-General which was to complete a comparative assessment of the benefits, costs and risks of the direct-to-market approach or the Building and Asset Services approach. Can I say that it is horses for courses in this respect. There are some schools that like using Building and Asset Services, but there are other schools, primarily larger schools, which really benefit from the direct-to-market approach. That is an option that they did not have available to them before 2012.

The benefit of the direct-to-market approach has been illustrated to me by principal after principal who have utilised it who say that they can get five projects done for the price that it used to cost to get only four done in the old QBuild days. It is a significant benefit not only to the schools but also to the local economy, because it injects money through local tradies and so forth who are engaged by those schools to do that work.

I support that recommendation of the Auditor-General to make an assessment. From my experience locally in my electorate—and I am sure it is the same in many other electorates—having that choice is a great benefit. There are great benefits from going direct to market. Some principals in my patch who are deadset Labor Party people recognise the benefits of going direct to market and cannot understand why it did not come into play earlier. The costs that were imposed on schools through QBuild before the 2012 reforms were simply prohibitive. Some small jobs would cost an awful lot of money to do, meaning there was less money left over for other jobs.

I have around 30 schools in my electorate and about 25 of them are state schools. There are a lot of old schools; some are more than 125 years old while others are not as old as that. Maintenance issues come up all the time, so we need to always be budgeting money for maintenance. It is an ongoing task. We also need to be cognisant, from a government point of view, of the fact that there is a need to build new schools and ensure that the maintenance budget increases in line with the new schools coming into operation.

I just wanted to make those few points. This is a great program that has given choice to principals and choice to communities. It has enabled more work to get done by having that choice to go to market as opposed to simply using Building and Asset Services all of the time.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (12.21 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Auditor-General's report on the maintenance of public schools. I was on the education committee back in 2012 and this was certainly a pressing matter which LNP members were very passionate about. When we were first elected and we saw the state of some of our schools, we were quite appalled. I wish to highlight some issues that my hardworking and passionate local principals were actually subjected to.

One of my first jobs after I was elected was to go to Pimpama State School. The principal took me on a tour of the school and he showed me paint peeling off the walls and holes in the doors. To put it simply, the school looked run down. The principal, Marius Marx, asked me how his 140-year-old school could compete with the brand-new schools just down the road. His school was run down and the parents questioned whether they wanted to send their children to a school in that state or whether they should go to Coomera Springs, which is only a short, five-minute drive down the road. His school was competing with these brand-new schools.

It is like the old saying, 'You can't judge a book by its cover,' but he was fighting a never-ending battle to prove that his teaching staff and his leadership in that school were as good as, if not better than, other schools in the district. It certainly was very heartbreaking for that man to show me around his school. Normally for a principal a school would be a symbol of pride, a symbol of prestige—this is his local community, this is what he has done—but having paint peeling off the walls was truly a disgrace and it was very upsetting for the students and the staff at that school.

That is why I was elated when the member for Surfers Paradise was the minister for education and he brought in this maintenance package. It made a huge difference to this school. The principal had coats of paint on the walls, those doors were fixed and the yard was cleaned up. That school now looks like a brand-new school and that is something that Marius Marx can be proud of because he well and truly spent that money wisely.

This is not just about Pimpama. At Gaven State School there was a toilet block that was out of commission after the ceiling fell in because water was leaking through the roof. They had it fixed but the people who fixed it did not do the job properly so the next time it rained it collapsed again. The principal there was very supportive of going out to market to save money for his school. He went out to market to support his local tradies, local businesses and local families in his area who are very supportive of him and his school. Therefore, it works two ways. That toilet block does not leak anymore; it is fixed.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: We can listen to the interjections from the member over there—

Mrs Smith: They hate small business.

Mr BOOTHMAN: They hate small business, and they hate my local businesses. Their idea of creating small business is getting a large business and making it small.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Member for Ferny Grove and member for Stretton, I think I heard some interjections from you and I note that neither of you are in your seats.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your protection from those individuals opposite. I would like to state in my last 12 seconds that Cedar Creek State School needs a new tuckshop. After 140 years it still does not have a tuckshop, and I ask the minister to look into this matter as a priority.

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (12.26 pm): I would like to acknowledge the children from Boyne Island State School in the chamber today listening to this debate. It is good to have them here. I move that the House takes note of the Agriculture and Environment Committee's report No. 24—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Stand by, member for Gladstone. We are still debating the education report. If there are no more speakers on this report, I will put the question.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): In accordance with standing order 71, the notice of motion relating to report No. 39 has lapsed.

Report, Motion to Take Note

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 71, the notice of motion relating to report No. 40 has lapsed.

EDUCATION, TOURISM, INNOVATION AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 71, the notice of motion relating to report No. 21 has lapsed.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member for Gladstone.

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (12.28 pm): I am back. I do get a little bit excited in the House after three hours sleep. I move—

That the House takes note of the Agriculture and Environment Committee report No. 24 titled—*Hendra virus EquiVac® vaccine and its use by veterinary surgeons in Queensland*, tabled on 21 October 2016.

The report presents the findings of the committee's eight-month inquiry into the Hendra vaccine this year. I thank the committee members for their work on this very difficult inquiry. I also thank the member for Mirani, who participated in several of our public hearings.

I would also like to acknowledge the assistance provided by the officers of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland Health and Workplace Health and Safety Queensland. We heard from many equestrian groups, horse owners and veterinarians during the inquiry. We sincerely thank everyone who contributed their views. We accepted 293 written submissions. Many of the submissions were detailed and quite heartfelt. In addition to these submissions, we received dozens of emails from horse owners and interested groups who tracked our work throughout the inquiry. We also thank everyone who took an interest in that inquiry.

Hendra virus remains a risk for horses and for the people who come into close contact with those horses wherever there are flying foxes in Queensland and New South Wales. A total of 77 horses and four people have already died from the virus since it was discovered. Of the 97 horses infected, 77 actually died from the virus; the other 20 were actually euthanased. All Hendra incidents have occurred in New South Wales or Queensland. There have been no reported cases in any other state of the country. Thankfully, so far this year no horse specimens have tested positive for Hendra virus at the Biosecurity Queensland lab at Coopers Plains. I am pleased to advise that no humans have been infected with Hendra virus in Queensland since 2009. Horses that get infected with the virus generally die. If people get the virus from infected horses, they will likely die, too, and there is no cure for this disease. Vaccinating against the virus remains the most effective option for preventing horse and human deaths according to all of the experts to whom we spoke. If people stop vaccinating their horses, we will again see deaths from Hendra virus in Queensland.

The committee made 11 recommendations from our examination of the submissions and the evidence given in our hearings on the inquiry. We have recommended changes to workplace health and safety laws to limit the liability of our veterinarians when treating horses that may have this virus. The committee has also supported the rights of veterinarians to refuse treatment of unvaccinated horses. The committee's other recommendations included: the revision of biosecurity guidelines for vets to clarify requirements to wear PPE equipment for low-risk and high-risk treatment of horses; a feasibility study to examine whether exclusion testing for the virus can be performed in North Queensland as well as Brisbane to give quicker test results for North Queensland samples; support from the government for development of a rapid stall-side testing of the virus; temperature indicators on vaccine packaging to show whether it has been stored correctly, reminding vets of their obligations to provide horse owners with information about the vaccine and risks of adverse reactions; more reporting of adverse reactions to the vaccine by horse owners to the regulatory body, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority; and a campaign by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to promote vaccination against Hendra virus. The committee also recommended the inclusion of the equine industry representatives in future meetings of the Hendra Virus Interagency Technical Working Group that provides technical advice to the government.

I have no doubt that some horse owners would be disappointed by the committee's inquiry and the findings from it. However, I do believe that the committee's recommendations are balanced and reasonable and will serve the best interests of everybody involved with horses in this state. I would also like to make mention of our trip to Townsville where the member for Gympie took time out to wear some of the equipment that is used by vets in those stages when a horse is suspected to have the virus but is not treated—

Mr Perrett: Cairns.

Mr BUTCHER: Cairns, sorry. I do take the interjection from the member for Gympie. I appreciate the effort that the member for Gympie went to in order to see what the vets in Queensland have to go through. I commend the committee's report to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Butcher, adjourned.

SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 13 September (see p. 3406).

Second Reading

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (12.33 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

On 13 September 2016 the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 was introduced into parliament. Parliament referred the bill to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for consideration and requested the committee to report on its consideration of the bill by Tuesday, 1 November. The committee tabled its report on 1 November 2016, which does not include any recommendations to the government. I thank the committee for its timely and detailed consideration of the bill. I also wish to thank all of the submitters and persons who gave evidence before the committee.

The bill before the House implements a new organised crime regime for Queensland to tackle serious and organised crime in all its forms. The regime is the response to three important reviews commissioned by this government: the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry, the statutory review of the Criminal Organisation Act 2009 and the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation. This government commissioned these reviews because it believes that Queenslanders deserve a well-considered response to the complex problem of organised crime. These three independent reviews drew upon the expertise and wisdom of senior members within Queensland's law enforcement agencies and the legal community. The government has used the findings from these reviews to create a response to organised crime for Queensland that is grounded in evidence and is both operationally strong and legally robust.

The key elements of the bill include:

- new offences and increased penalties relating to child exploitation material, sophisticated financial crimes, including boiler room frauds, and drug trafficking;
- extended powers for police and the Crime and Corruption Commission officers to require passwords or encryption keys to search computers and other electronic storage devices;
- a new offence of habitually consorting with recognised offenders under Queensland's Criminal Code;
- a new public safety protection order regime inserted under the Peace and Good Behaviour Act 1982, creating three new regimes: public safety orders, restricted premises orders and fortification removal orders;
- a new serious organised crime circumstance of aggravation applicable to a prescribed list of offences, which is punishable by a strong and targeted mandatory sentencing regime;
- a new sentencing order for Queensland to directly target organised crime including the organised crime control order under the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992; and
- a ban on the visible wearing or carrying of outlaw motorcycle gang 'colours' in all public places.

Amendments to occupational licensing legislation are also made under this bill to appropriately and fairly balance the rights of individuals, including the right to obtain lawful employment, against the need to protect the community. The changes ensure there are proper tests in place to promote public safety while managing the demands of the Queensland Police Service. The current occupational licensing provisions introduced by the Newman government lead to significant use of police resources as identified by the task force in its report. The task force, in recommending changes, stated—

The requirement that Chief Executives refer every application for a licence to the Commissioner of Police requires a deployment of QPS and government resources which is disproportionate to the risk posed by the potential infiltration of organised crime groups to the respective industry, and to community safety.

As the government has made it clear, our serious and organised crime legislation is designed to tackle all forms of organised crime, not just outlaw motorcycle gangs. The bill will make the following amendments in response to the increasing prevalence and seriousness of cold-call investment or 'boiler room' fraud and evolving threats in financial crimes, particularly identity crime, that may not be adequately deterred by existing penalties. It will provide:

- an increase in the maximum penalties for existing aggravated offences of fraud from 12 to 14 years imprisonment;
- the creation of a new circumstance of aggravation for the offence of fraud, carrying a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, where the property or yield to the offender from the fraud is \$100,000 or more;
- the creation of a new circumstance of aggravation for the offence of fraud, carrying a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment, where the offender carries on the business of committing fraud; and
- an increase in the maximum penalties for the offences relating to obtaining or dealing with identification information, from three to five years imprisonment.

The bill will enable police and Crime and Corruption Commission officers to apply for a warrant to require a person, either the suspect or a specified person with the necessary information, to provide information necessary, such as passwords, to gain access to information stored electronically. Police and the CCC officers will also be able to seek a further order if a person of interest has more than one level of security hiding relevant evidence.

One of the most worrying aspects raised in the commission of inquiry was the expansion of the child exploitation material market and the utilisation of technology to produce and distribute material. This bill provides new offences and expanded powers in response to the proliferation of child exploitation material over the internet and the increased use of technology to promote and distribute offending material as well as to conceal offending. The bill creates three new offences in the Criminal Code that target administrators of websites connected with child exploitation material. Each new offence has a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment.

The new offence will target persons who knowingly administer websites used to distribute child exploitation material, knowingly encourage the use of, promote or advertise websites used to distribute child exploitation material, and distribute information about how to avoid detection of, or prosecution for, an offence involving child exploitation material. The bill will also increase maximum penalties for the offence of involving a child in making child exploitation material and the offence of making child exploitation material from 14 to 20 years imprisonment.

In recognition that this market and these offences are prevalent on the internet, the bill establishes a new circumstance of aggravation for each of the existing child exploitation offences as well as the new offences that will apply where the darknet or a similar hidden network or anonymising service is used in the commission of the offence. The new circumstance of aggravation will increase the relevant maximum penalty. For the offence of involving a child in making child exploitation material and the offence of making child exploitation material, the penalty will increase from 20 years to 25 years imprisonment. For the remaining offences the penalty will increase from 14 years to 20 years imprisonment.

The bill also creates a new offence in the Criminal Code which will support the new child exploitation and financial crime offences and increase penalties by providing that it is an offence for a person to fail to comply with an order in a search warrant requiring them to provide access to information. This offence is punishable by a maximum of five years imprisonment. The bill also delivers key sentencing reforms for serious and organised criminals, whether they be involved in outlaw motorcycle gangs, child exploitation material, sophisticated financial crimes or drug trafficking.

The initiatives under the new organised crime regime will complement each other and work together to deliver a comprehensive, targeted and multifaceted approach to tackling serious and organised crime in Queensland. This is a regime which will deliver an effective and considered response to counter the threat posed to the community by organised criminals. A number of these measures are modelled on New South Wales laws and, where appropriate, have been enhanced to ensure that the Queensland Police Service is equipped with the powers they need to tackle organised crime and ensure appropriate oversight.

In identifying the benefits of using this scheme over section 60A and 60B, the task force stated that New South Wales police's 'consequence-based policing' also means that police resources are targeted at actual unlawful and antisocial behaviour rather than an entire genre or association: criminal motorcycle gangs. The latter is resource intensive and arguably not the best allocation of limited law enforcement resources.

The key provisions of the new regime are as follows: the introduction of a new habitual consorting offence and the repeal of the 2013 anti-association offence. The task force critiqued section 60A of the Criminal Code, participants in criminal organisations being knowingly present in public places, for a number of reasons. The report noted the difficulty in successfully prosecuting the offence, and the task force majority was of the view that it was unlikely that the offence would survive a constitutional challenge on the basis of the implied right to political communication and association.

The task force considered that the most appropriate measure to combat high-risk associations was through a conviction based scheme, including organised crime control orders and the introduction of a new offence of habitual consorting into the Criminal Code. I note that the task force also suggested a sunset clause after seven years for consorting offences, which the government will not be progressing. Importantly, the New South Wales consorting offence recently withstood constitutional challenge in the High Court of Australia—see *Tajjour v State of New South Wales* (2014) 254 CLR 508.

As noted by the task force, the New South Wales consorting offence is not only constitutionally robust but also fairer and more effective and efficient. The offence is arguably fairer in a number of ways. As stated by the task force—

They are not contingent on a declaration of criminality by the executive branch of government and are, then, less exposed to any risk of misuse; they are targeted at associations with persons who have proved to be guilty of criminal offending in a court of law; they target 'habitual' rather than 'one-off' associations; they provide for warnings about the offending conduct; they provide exceptions to allow all persons to participate in civic life (for example, lawful employment); and they are subject to review.

In outlining why the consorting offence is more effective and efficient the task force states that, between October 2013 and January 2016, 36 people were charged with the anti-association offence under section 60A of the Criminal Code. Updated statistics obtained confirm that up to August 2016 a total of 43 people have been charged, but of those 23 have already had their charge discontinued. There have been no convictions under section 60A, and that remains the case. In contrast, within 12 months of its introduction in New South Wales over 1,200 individuals have been subject to the consorting laws under the New South Wales consorting offence scheme. The New South Wales police Gangs Squad has successfully used a consorting regime against serious and organised criminals. Publicly released figures by the New South Wales Ombudsman show that in the three years between April 2012 and April 2015 the Gangs Squad issued 4,527 consorting warnings. Forty-two individuals have been charged with the actual consorting offence, with the majority of those charges being brought by the Gangs Squad. So far, in terms of the charges laid by the Gangs Squad, 22 of those charges have resulted in successful convictions.

A consorting offence makes it a criminal offence for a person to associate with two other people who have certain previous convictions. It is preceded by a warning to the person that continued association is a criminal offence. The new Queensland consorting offence is modelled substantially on the New South Wales offence but with a key variant. The threshold for the Queensland offence in the bill is higher in that the conviction must be for an indictable offence punishable by a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment or a prescribed offence. The higher threshold addresses the issues raised in the 2016 New South Wales Ombudsman's review of the New South Wales consorting offence regarding the potential for misuse of the offence in respect of people who are outside the purpose of this legislation; namely, targeting those involved in serious and organised crime. The new offence will only apply to adults, that is, people aged 18 years or over, and will not apply to young people. The person must consort on two occasions with at least two people who are recognised offenders.

A recognised offender is defined to mean a person who has previously been convicted of an indictable offence punishable by a maximum penalty of five or more years imprisonment or a list of prescribed offences where the maximum penalty falls below five years but which has been identified as being associated with organised crime, such as riot. The previous convictions cannot relate to convictions that are spent under the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986 and a conviction must have been actually recorded.

In relation to the issuing of warnings, the bill provides that a person must first be officially warned, and at least one of those occasions of consorting must occur after the issuing of the warning. The official warning can be given orally or in writing and must be given in relation to each convicted offender. If the official warning is given orally it must be confirmed in writing—which includes by electronic means—within 72 hours, otherwise the oral warning lapses and has no legal effect. Warnings can be given pre-emptively—for example, the official warning can be issued by police without any consorting ever having occurred—but the person must then consort with those persons on two occasions post receipt of the warning. Warnings can also be given retrospectively, for example, where there is video footage uncovered that shows consorting. The consorting can occur in public or in private and is not limited to physical association. The offence is sufficiently broad so as to capture any kind of communication; for example, over the phone, email or social media. There is no requirement that the consorting be linked to, or have any suspected link to, criminal activity in any way.

Provision is made to ensure that certain types of consorting must be disregarded if the person can satisfy the court on the balance of probabilities that the consorting was reasonable in the circumstances and that one of the following applies:

- consorting with close family members, which is defined to capture the concept of immediate family members such as parents, grandparents, step-parents, spouses, siblings (blood or marriage), stepsiblings, aunts and uncles but not necessarily extending past first cousins. The definition also recognises and includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural norms of kinship;

- consorting that occurs in the course of lawful employment or the legitimate conduct of an occupation, business or profession;
- consorting that occurs in the course of the provision of a legitimate and necessary health service or where they are obtaining health services for a dependent child, including managing physical and mental health including drug and alcohol counselling;
- consorting that occurs in the course of a person obtaining legitimate education or training or where they are obtaining legitimate education or training for a dependent child;
- consorting that occurs in the course of a person obtaining legal services; and
- consorting that occurs in lawful custody.

The onus of proving that the act of consorting is one that must be disregarded and was reasonable in the circumstance falls to the person. The offence is punishable by a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment or 300 penalty units, or both. The offence is indictable but may be dealt with summarily on defence election.

To accompany the new consorting offence, the bill provides for certain warrantless stop, search and detain powers for police under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. This is to give effect to the consorting offences and the warning provisions. To ensure effective enforcement of the new habitual consorting offence, part 21 of the bill amends the PPRA to provide police officers with the power to stop, detain and search a person they reasonably suspect has consorted, is consorting or is likely to consort with one or more recognised offenders. Where a police officer holds this suspicion they may also:

- require the person to provide their name, address and date of birth;
- take the person's identifying particulars if necessary to confirm their identification;
- where applicable, give the person an official warning for consorting; and
- require the person to move on from the place where an official warning has been issued.

Importantly, the powers provide police with a valuable tool to ensure the safety of officers when dealing with recognised offenders. Recognised offenders are persons with convictions for unspent indictable offences punishable by five years or more, such as the unlawful supply of handguns and robbery with violence, or a prescribed offence associated with organised crime. It is not unrealistic that persons with this background may be in possession of weapons or dangerous items with the propensity to use them to harm police officers.

The new section 53BAE of the PPRA provides that, where a police officer has given a person an official warning for consorting and the officer reasonably suspects the person is consorting at the place with the recognised offender, the officer may require the person to leave and not return within a reasonable time of not more than 24 hours. This allows police to ensure that multiple acts of consorting are clearly separated from each by a period of time. The New South Wales case of *Police v Klein* found that two observations of persons consorting in a motor vehicle were the one consorting event viewed twice and is an example of the need to clearly separate the consorting events by time.

This move-on power is balanced by a safeguard that provides that police cannot require the person to leave the place if doing so would endanger the safety of the person or someone else—for example, requiring the person to leave a vehicle in which recognised offenders are passengers in circumstances in which the person has no access to alternative transport.

Importantly, the bill provides for the proper review and analysis of the new laws. The effectiveness and use of the offence and associated police powers must be done by a retired Supreme Court or retired District Court judge as soon as practicable five years after the commencement of provisions. One of the lessons from New South Wales was the impediment that a lack of data can have in the proper review of the operation of the laws. Therefore, there is an obligation on police to collect antecedent data when issuing warnings to facilitate an accurate review. Further, the bill provides for further oversight and proper data collection.

The bill extends the statutory functions of the Public Interest Monitor, PIM, to include the monitoring of the giving of official warnings for consorting by police and to gather statistical information about the use and effectiveness of official warnings. The PIM must include details of the official warnings for consorting as part of his/her annual report, which is to be provided to the minister and thereafter tabled in parliament.

All amendments in the bill commence on assent with the exception of the following, which will commence three months post assent date:

- repeal of the vehicle impoundment scheme under the PPRA;
- repeal of the 2013 stop, search and detain police powers under the PPRA;
- establishment of a new consorting offence and associated police powers;
- establishment of the package of public safety protection orders and associated police powers, including the regulation prescribing the 2013 clubhouses; and
- Tattoo Parlour Act licensing reforms.

The following will take effect two years post assent date: repeal of sections 60A and 60B and the executive declaration of criminal organisations. That is, to allow for a smooth transition the bill provides for the temporary retention of sections 60A and 60B of the Criminal Code for a period of two years. For the transitional period, the bill significantly amends the offences under sections 60A and 60B by converting them to an indictable offence and removing the strict mandatory minimum penalties.

In relation to the repeal of the current clubhouse offence and replacement with a new public safety protection order scheme, currently section 60B, 'Participants in criminal organisation entering prescribed places and attending prescribed events', of the Criminal Code provides the offence for a participant in a criminal organisation who enters or attempts to enter a prescribed place, or attends or attempts to attend a prescribed event. The task force majority identified a number of issues with the section 60B offence, in particular problems attaching to successful prosecutions and constitutional concerns, and ultimately recommended that the offence be repealed.

The government is putting in place a more effective regime: a new public safety protection order scheme for Queensland. This consists of the restricted premises order scheme, public safety order scheme and fortification removal order scheme. This scheme as recommended by the task force is, in part, modelled around the New South Wales laws, with some specific modifications to strengthen those provisions even further to the benefit of the Queensland Police Service to ensure they have the most effective and efficient laws to tackle organised crime in this state.

The bill establishes the new restricted premises order scheme to enable a magistrate to declare a place to be a 'restricted premises' if satisfied on the application of a senior police officer—rank of sergeant or above—that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that any of the following disorderly activities have taken place and are likely to take place again at the premises and the court is satisfied that the making of the order is appropriate in the circumstances:

- drunkenness or disorderly or indecent conduct, or any entertainment of a demoralising character, or has taken place and is likely to take place again on the premises; or
- liquor or a drug is unlawfully supplied on or from the premises, or has been supplied on or from the premises and is likely to be again; or
- unlawful possession or supply of firearms or explosives at or from the premises;
- recognised offenders, or their associates, go to the premises, or have and are likely to again; or
- the premises is excessively fortified, which will be covered under the fortification removal orders.

A 'recognised offender' means:

- a person who is convicted of an indictable offence with a maximum penalty of five or more years imprisonment or another prescribed offence and whose conviction is not spent. This picks up the language used under new consorting provisions; or
- a person who is subject to the new organised crime control order; or
- a person who has been convicted of the new habitual consorting offence and whose conviction has not become spent.

An 'associate of a recognised offender' is a reference to a person who has been given an official warning under the new habitual consorting offence. The restricted premises order provides, inter alia, that disorderly activities must not take place at the premises, that recognised offenders or associates not be present at the premises and that the premises not be fortified. The latter is to ensure that police are able to properly execute their search powers. If these prohibited activities occur on premises subject to a restricted premises order and owners/occupiers of premises knew or ought reasonably to have known that the disorderly activity has taken place, they commit an indictable offence:

- for a first offence—150 penalty units or 18 months imprisonment, or both; and
- for a second or subsequent offences—300 penalty units or three years imprisonment, or both.

A restricted premises order lasts for at least six months and up to two years.

This bill also ensures that clubhouses currently declared to be prescribed premises under the Criminal Code (Criminal Organisations) Regulation 2013 will be grandfathered into the new regime. They will be automatically and legislatively deemed to be subject to a restricted premises order for a period of two years after the bill has commenced. A senior police officer may apply to the Magistrates Court to extend this order by a further two years. The bill provides that the magistrate must grant the extension if the court is satisfied that disorderly activities are likely to take place if the restricted premises order lapses. In making its determination the Magistrates Court is able to consider disorderly activities that occurred before the commencement of the bill.

The Queensland scheme has been modelled primarily on the equivalent in New South Wales, which is the only other Australian jurisdiction with a comparable scheme. Both the scheme contained in the bill and the New South Wales equivalent are court ordered. The task force, in recommending this scheme, noted that in New South Wales the 'police officers advised the New South Wales Ombudsman that the powers under the Restricted Premises Act have been used to dismantle 30 clubhouses in its first 20 months of operation'.

Debate, on motion of Mrs D'Ath, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

New Hope Acland Coalmine

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.30 pm): All of us in this House, I would hope, love our own communities. I love the 38-odd communities that I represent. I love the diversity and the people, and we all are elected in this House to do the right thing by our electorates. Last night in this House we saw the callous disregard for one community over another. We saw backroom deals that secure the future of one community at the sheer disregard of another community, and not just a small community—a large area of the Darling Downs. It is incredible to me that the community around the New Hope Acland coalmine proposal has just been delivered such a horrendous blow. After 700 people protested on Speakers' Corner pleading for this Palaszczuk government to do something about this proposal, their pleas have not been heard. The New Hope Acland proposal is the most scrutinised mine in Australia's history. Since 2007 this proposal has been through the wringer. Their employees have been through the wringer.

As a good community representative, as we are meant to be, the LNP scrutinised that mine as well. We put it out to public consultation and through that process it was amended by some 63 per cent. We also listened to the calls to not mine the actual township of Acland—tick, done! We listened to the calls to move the coal dump—tick, done! We listened to the calls not to move the creek and divert the creek. Of course, that was also done. This proposal that employs thousands of people and creates billions of dollars for the Darling Downs, Queensland and Australian economies has been trashed by this incompetent Palaszczuk Labor government that has a callous disregard for my community over another community. What background deals were done when this mine had been through the same approval processes to one in North Queensland? Of course, we do not begrudge North Queensland and Central Queensland for their mine. They deserve the mine as much as my community around the Darling Downs. I want to thank the community leaders such as Mayor Paul Antonio, industrialists such as the Wagner family, New Hope mine, all of the workers, TSBE and—

(Time expired)

Greenslopes Electorate, Domestic and Family Violence

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.33 pm): I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government that is implementing the 141 recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report and I am also extremely proud to be part of a parliament that is showing cross-party support for this. I want to update the House on how my community is responding to the *Not now, not ever* report. Over the last 12 months or so I have worked with the Mount Gravatt Community Centre to hold a number of domestic violence round tables for community leaders. I want to thank Minister Fentiman for attending the last round table we held—the third in fact—and for supporting that event. Over 50 people came along from organisations that support people affected by domestic violence—from schools, from P&Cs, from service clubs, from local sporting clubs, small businesses and government departments. The first couple of round tables

that we held had a lot of discussions and identified three key areas that should be focused on in domestic violence. One is the emergency response to support victims in the immediate aftermath. The second is the justice response to make sure that we hold perpetrators to account and seek rehabilitation for them but also to provide ongoing protections. The third area is to change the culture so that we build a culture where domestic violence is just not acceptable, and our group has chosen to focus on that third element and we believe that this is very much achievable.

If we think about sexual harassment in the workplace, when I started my working career 28 years ago or thereabouts sexual harassment was common. Managers did not know what to do about it. There were not very good policies in relation to it. If we fast forward to now, managers and workers know what to do about domestic violence. They know it is not acceptable and they have policies to support action on that. Therefore, we can change the culture. We can say that domestic violence will not be acceptable in our community.

Our third round table discussed a plan of action for our community in 2017. We are going to be asking local organisations to nominate a domestic violence resource person and we are going to embed that person in each organisation. The Mount Gravatt Community Centre will provide ongoing training and support for those people whose role is going to be to work in those diverse organisations I described to build awareness about what domestic violence is and what can be done if someone is affected by domestic violence or what can be done to help someone who is affected by domestic violence. The third point is to develop policies to promote respectful relationships. We really believe that by embedding people in organisations with a responsibility for these things we can go a long way towards not just eliminating domestic violence in those organisations but playing a role in the broader community of eliminating domestic violence. I am really pleased to report to the House that leaders in my community are committed to working together to create a culture that says 'not now, not ever' to domestic violence. I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government that is achieving great outcomes in this area.

Trump, President-Elect of the United States; Albert Electorate, Construction Industry



Mr BOOTHMAN (Albert—LNP) (2.36 pm): Firstly, I want to congratulate the newly elected President of the United States, Donald Trump, on being elected the 45th President. I hope all Americans get behind him to turn that nation back into a truly great nation.

Today I rise to once again speak about the greatest electorate in Queensland—the Albert electorate, positioned on the northern Gold Coast and southern Logan City. The construction industry is the lifeblood for many families in my region. It puts food on the table and pays the bills. Without a strong construction industry, Queensland's economy threatens to stall. This has deep ramifications for residents in my electorate and the small and medium businesses dotted throughout my electorate. The *Courier-Mail* of 4 November had an article titled 'Queensland construction industry downturn threatens thousands of jobs'. The article stated—

Masters Builders Queensland is calling on the State Government to boost spending on schools, hospitals and other public buildings to avoid job loss as the high-rise residential boom ends.

Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed building approvals across the state fell by 12 per cent in September.

Another *Courier-Mail* article titled 'Queensland construction firms head south in search of lucrative contracts' stated—

Queensland construction companies are headed south as big infrastructure projects in New South Wales and Victoria offer more work than their home state. New South Wales has emerged as the nation epicentre of civil engineering works, with major upgrades to the Pacific Highway among the infrastructure projects ... Queensland has fallen from a peak of more than \$40 billion during the mining booms to below \$20 billion.

Tradies in my electorate are sick and tired of hearing the buzzwords with no meaning and no job outcomes for them. They want construction jobs to participate in building this great state. They do not want hollow words, spurious rhetoric and spin whilst we embrace the word 'innovation'. There are many in my community who fear the word 'innovation' as they fear that they are going to be left behind. We cannot forget what Queenslanders are good at, and that is farming, resources, tourism and, especially residents in my electorate, construction. They are ready and waiting to build, but we need to get rid of this do-nothing Labor government that panders to the Greens and hates Queensland businesses but supports multinationals. This self-praising Palaszczuk government can only be classed as a mob of lemmings with little red books titled 'Innovation for Dummies' as they follow their fearless leader as they walk off the cliff.

Advancing Tourism in North Queensland

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.39 pm): I rise to give my strongest support to one of the fastest growing industries in Queensland, and certainly in my electorate of Keppel, and that is tourism. We know that creating jobs in the state's booming tourism industry is a key driver for economic growth. In fact, we know that tourism is a \$23 billion industry that supports 220,000 jobs and contributes to the economies of the towns and cities across Queensland, including those in the electorate of Keppel.

I am passionate about ensuring that the electorate of Keppel attracts more tourists, because I am acutely aware that tourism is good for my local economy as it grows local jobs. In last year alone in North Queensland, visitors spent \$4 billion, supporting jobs throughout the region. To the year ending March 2016, nearly two million domestic visitors, representing just under 10 per cent of all visitors to Queensland, experienced the southern Great Barrier Reef as their choice of destination. Also, in the 12 months to March 2016, international visitors to the southern Great Barrier Reef destination grew by three per cent—to 140,000 visitors—which is an increase of 4,000 international visitors. We know that tourism is the key to unlocking the north's full potential. That is why tourism is one of my priority areas in which to advance the economy of the electorate of Keppel.

We can also celebrate that, in the past year to June 2016, Queensland has seen record international and domestic visitation and expenditure. It is particularly worth noting the 31 per cent increase in the number of Chinese visitors to the state. The Palaszczuk government is putting North Queensland's iconic destinations centre stage in a new plan to boost tourism across the region. To win tourists, we know that we need more than just good destinations, beautiful beaches and great food and wine. We know that we also need world-class infrastructure and tourism product to meet the needs of a wide range of tourists—from backpacking, camping, glamping to five star.

North Queensland offers iconic cultural and natural destinations that draw visitors from all over the world. From the Great Barrier Reef, to an outback adventure, or a rainforest retreat, there is really something for everyone in my diverse region. The Advancing Tourism in North Queensland strategy aims to also build stronger relationships between North Queensland's cities and regions with emerging cities in Asia. This will help expand exponentially the number of visitors.

The Advancing Tourism in North Queensland strategy outlines actions to address the industry's key challenges, including improving water quality across the Great Barrier Reef, supporting cruise and maritime infrastructure, developing nature tourism and assisting Indigenous business capability. Confronting these challenges will position North Queensland to develop and deliver even greater infrastructure investment, creating more jobs for Queenslanders.

Recently, I met with the Consul General of China, Dr Zhao Yongchen, where we discussed trade and tourism and how we can encourage more Chinese tourists to visit the electorate of Keppel. We know that every dollar that visitors spend in the electorate of Keppel and in Queensland more broadly supports the creation of new jobs. The tourism industry is booming in Queensland. I want to ensure that the electorate of Keppel benefits.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to creating jobs in tourism in Queensland and in the electorate of Keppel. I am proud and pleased to support the direction of the Advancing Tourism in North Queensland strategy.

Mining Industry, Labour Hire Companies

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (2.42 pm): Firstly, I wish to commend and support the member for Mirani for lashing out at his own government, using the word 'gutless' to describe the actions—or rather inaction—of both the state and federal governments in doing nothing to help the men and women who have lost their jobs at the German Creek mine. The failure of all levels of government to take action has paved the way for multinational mining companies and labour hire companies to enforce ruthless tactics against their workforce.

Last week, the *Daily Mercury* reported that a labour hire contractor has advertised for workers at the Bowen Basin mine. I table the article.

Tabled paper: Article from the Mackay *Daily Mercury* online, dated 6 November 2016, titled 'Mining jobs advertised as German Creek braces for cuts' [\[2051\]](#).

On the same day, Anglo American confirmed that 83 positions would be made redundant at the German Creek mine near Middlemount. Since August, about 140 workers have been striking at the coalmine. This dispute was about securing local jobs and supporting local families and communities in the region.

Previously, I have detailed in the House the deplorable behaviour of the labour hire companies. These companies have been using the tactics of dropping the hours of workers' shifts from 12 hours to eight hours, which translates to a pay cut of \$36,000 a year. Labour hire employees are receiving less and less pay, with cuts of up to \$34 an hour. These labour hire companies that supply labour for mine sites have no compassion and no consideration for families or their long-term plans. There is no job security. It is apparent that the labour hire company employees are being exploited on every level.

The sacked employees from the German Creek mine have families in the local area. They have invested in their communities and contribute to local sporting groups, schools and small business. To replace these workers, the labour hire companies will suck in employees from all over the country on the pretence of job security, only to spit them out when they have questioned mine safety, pay, or the need to seek personal leave. These employees' contracts are terminated without compensation or consideration for the employees' families or the impact those terminations will have on local communities. Multinational mining companies and labour hire companies will stop at nothing to put profit before people. That is why I call on the federal and Queensland governments to introduce strong legislation and regulations to protect these employees from the exploitation and ruthless tactics of these companies.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I want to acknowledge in the gallery today Mr Bob Harper, who is the former member for Mount Ommaney.

Apiary Industry; Renewable Energy

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (2.45 pm): It is great to see Mr Harper in the gallery today. I rise to speak about an issue that is key for Queensland agriculture and that is the apiary industry. This industry is worth \$1 billion a year to Queensland. Unfortunately, I have had concerns raised with me by the Queensland Beekeepers' Association about the way in which they are being treated by this government. Over the past few years, beekeepers have had a number of blows dealt to them, not the least of which being tossed out of national parks in the future by this government. Over the years, there have been a lot of beekeepers and hives in national parks, but that is coming to an end. Part of the solution to that was for beehives to be moved to portions of unallocated state land with a permit to occupy being issued by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to enable beekeepers to continue to conduct their activity.

Beekeeping is a key part of the economy, not just for the honey that we get from bees but also for the pollination of other agricultural crops. Agriculture is one of the great stories for Queensland. At the moment, with a lower dollar and good conditions in Queensland, exports of agricultural product from this state are doing quite well.

The government is regulating these permits for beekeepers to occupy unallocated state land into nothingness. Even though permits to occupy unallocated state land have been issued, other government departments are putting in place conditions that render those permits almost useless. For example, it is almost impossible for beekeepers to get a permit to mow their block or clear a small amount of vegetation on that unallocated state land so that they can set up the facilities that they need for beekeeping. The government is drowning the beekeepers in red tape and not issuing permits to clear that small portion of land. In some cases I am talking about 100 square metres. Obviously, that is very damaging for those people. Another example of red tape that was given was the necessity for the beekeepers to have hives at least 30 metres away from any firebreaks on unallocated state land. These issues create more cost and make it harder for our beekeepers to make a living and support our agricultural industries.

I am calling on the government—when it gets a new minister for primary industries, or agriculture—to sit down with our Queensland beekeepers and, in order to address this issue, come up with a practical, workable solution so that beekeepers can have access to state forest or national parks or unallocated state land and they are not regulated out of business. We all need our bees. We all need our honey. Our agricultural industries need the pollination that goes with bees. We need to be supporting such an industry.

In the time remaining to me, I want to say that the renewable energy targets and the renewable energy policies that this government is going to be pursuing will also be a very big blow for Queensland's primary industries. There are estimates that these renewable energy targets and policies are going to result in households paying up to \$1,000 a year more for electricity. The impact of those targets and policies on farmers will be far greater than that. The government should scrap these expensive green policies.

Whitsunday Tourism Awards

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.48 pm): I rise in the House this afternoon to acknowledge some of the great work in our tourism industry over the past 12 months in the aftermath of the 2016 Whitsunday Tourism Awards. I was delighted to join with a who's who of the tourism industry in the place that I call paradise at Cape Gloucester Beach Resort on what was the night of nights for the industry in our part of the world. I particularly want to acknowledge those businesses and organisations that took out gold medals, starting with Abell Point Marina; the Whitsunday Regional Council; and Bowen Tourism and Business with their offshore superboat championships—I know that certainly floated the boat of the member for Burdekin. Speaking of vessels, the Steve Irwin Award winner for ecotourism went to the Tall Ship Adventures Derwent Hunter. Other gold medal winners were Airlie Day Spa; Bowen Information Centre; Events at Coral Sea Resort; Ocean Rafting; Whitsunday Jet Ski Tours—who were dual winners—BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort—Greg and Naomi McKinnon are terrific people who do a great job at the BIG4 and are very popular with the kids and families. Also winning gold were Whitsunday Escape; Pinnacles Resort; Mirage Whitsundays; Wendy and Corrie's Airlie Beach Map; Party Cakes Whitsunday—it was an emotional night for Vhari Kelly; our thoughts are with her and family. She is a three-times-in-a-row winner at these awards. Also well done to the Cruise Ship Ambassadors Program. The work of people like Judi Dunn and others in the community is legendary. About 40-odd cruise ships drop anchor off Pioneer Bay every year and the volunteers do a marvellous job of getting people to and from the attractions of the Whitsundays but, more importantly, putting on a great, warm Whitsunday welcome. Well done to our volunteers. Also winning gold was Magnums Backpackers; Whitsunday Segway Tours; and Angel Signs. The winner of the Bob Porter award for outstanding contribution by an individual was Greg Waites from Coral Sea Resort. It is a terrific resort and he is a very deserving winner.

It was interesting to hear the member for Keppel a moment ago talking about tourism in North Queensland. I have here the Palaszczuk government's *Advancing North Queensland—Investing in the future of the north*.

Mr Cripps: That's Coralee's work.

Mr COSTIGAN: I take the interjection from my fellow North Queenslander, the member for Hinchinbrook. It has the DNA of the member for Mundingburra all over it. It took 18 months. Airlie Beach did not get mentioned. The red army had the hide to turn up in my electorate. They gave me the big A at the Heart Hotel. Here is hoping the people of Queensland give this government the big A at the next election. The community cabinet fell flat. VMR is still looking for \$55,000 to get the repeater station fixed on Hayman Island. I see the member for Rockhampton. It was like talking to a brick wall. We are not talking sheep stations here. It was very ordinary to say the least. As for the ministers who came to the business breakfast, two of them were sending messages and ignoring the locals at the breakfast.

Northern Queensland, Roads

 **Mr WILLIAMS** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.51 pm): On 18 June last year the Turnbull government released a white paper in relation to developing Australia's northern roads which included \$600 million to improve the northern roads of Australia and \$100 million for northern beef roads, the cattle supply chain. The federal government has ripped Queenslanders off again. It has given us \$375 million of a promised \$600 million and \$62.5 million of a promised \$100 million for the beef roads. Those opposite would have us believe that they are the champions of grazing and farming people. Have any of the members opposite written to Turnbull asking for the money? This is about jobs. This is about tourism for the north.

An opposition member: When did you go bush last?

Mr WILLIAMS: I have been up there a lot.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! There are no conversations across the chamber, please. All comments are to be directed through the chair.

Mr WILLIAMS: The Palaszczuk Labor government put its 20 per cent on the table in the last budget. Was this promise about the beef roads just a hollow promise in the federal election? The government could have come up with an excuse and said it did not know how bad it was until it got into government—but hang on a second, it has been in government all the way. It knew how bad it was. It just made a hollow promise. Queenslanders have been ripped off \$156 million by the Turnbull-Joyce government. I wonder if the member for Glass House has written to the federal government. He probably has not. With the Flinders, Townsville, Cloncurry, Hughenden and Capricorn Highway through Emerald—

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Whitsunday and member for Hinchinbrook, please cease your interjecting.

Mr WILLIAMS:—and the Gregory Developmental Road out through Charters Towers, the Gulf, the Burke and the Karumba developmental roads and the Cook Highway, Queensland has some 186,000 kilometres of public roads, including just over 33,000 kilometres of state roads. We have more than any other state. These roads link Queensland's mining, agriculture, tourism and service industries. They are impacted on a yearly basis by cyclones and flooding. The Turnbull government will not honour its budget commitment. All it wants to do is cut, cut, cut—and as we have heard a lot around this chamber, that is what the opposition did. I will not mention the macro programs where we have a commitment of \$5 billion to the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility where we have been ripped off again.

Condamine Solar Projects, Jobs

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.54 pm): I would like to acknowledge my friend Bob Harper in the gallery. Great to see you, Bob! I rise to speak on a matter of public interest regarding the proposed construction of three solar farms in the seat of Condamine. My remarks today come in response to comments made by the Premier in this House during the last sitting week directed at me. The Premier, while extolling the virtues and benefits of solar projects across Queensland, stated that she would like to hear what the member for Condamine had to say about the jobs bonanza that is coming our way. Both the Premier and Minister Bailey have been quoted as saying there will be thousands of jobs created across Queensland as a result of the 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. This information may be accurate in the construction phase, but I have not heard the Premier or the minister quote the number of full-time positions that will remain after the construction phase is completed.

In the seat of Condamine there are two solar farm projects which have gained approval and one currently going through the approval process. Dalby is the site of Origin Energy's solar farm. This project will employ 90 workers during the construction stage and then that number will dramatically reduce to four full-time positions. The Oakey Canadian solar farm will be built in stages over the next 35 years. During this lengthy period of construction 120 construction workers will be employed as needed while building the farm. Full-time operational staff will then number three. The final solar farm proposed in Condamine is to be located at Yarranlea near Pittsworth managed by a company trading as Yarranlea Solar. During the construction phase it will employ 120 construction workers. Full-time operational staff once again will number only three.

As members can see, these projects, upon completion, will provide a total of 10 full-time positions in the seat of Condamine. I would suggest this is not exactly the picture being painted by the government to Queensland or investors. While I hope that our local construction firms win the tenders for these projects and employ local labour, this is at best a short-term employment boost. The residents of Condamine have witnessed this boom and bust cycle before with the CSG construction phase. There was the promise of thousands of jobs. However, once construction ceased the jobs disappeared and the local community and business sector were left to pick up the pieces. We have seen this government in action chasing its ideological dreams. We saw it in this House last night when the workforce of Oakey was cast to the wind. The Premier and minister need to be honest when providing employment figures to ensure communities are in receipt of the correct information to prepare for the future.

Barron River Electorate, Infrastructure Projects

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (2.57 pm): I wish to update the House on some infrastructure projects in the Cairns area. Construction is well underway on the new \$25 million Cairns State Special School being constructed by Hutchinson Builders. The first buildings will be the administration, information services and ancillary services buildings and will be handed over in December. Three junior learning centres, an early childhood development centre, senior learning centres, community hub and multipurpose skills centre will also be completed in December. Remaining facilities, including outdoor learning areas, staff centre and landscape, are on track for completion in January 2017. This project is supporting around 24 apprentices.

Construction is nearing completion on the new senior learning centre at the Tropical North Learning Academy, Trinity Beach campus, in the electorate of Barron River. The Tropical North Learning Academy is a strategic partnership between Trinity Beach State School, Smithfield State High

School and James Cook University. The new building will add an additional 12 general learning areas and is forecast to be completed in December. The project is supporting around 11 apprentices and is worth \$5 million.

The replacement Smithfield Fire Station is funded through the State Infrastructure Fund's \$180 million Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program. It will provide enhanced fire and emergency facilities to Smithfield and the surrounding areas of the northern beaches at an approximate cost of \$3.8 million and should support an estimated 10 jobs. Construction is expected to commence in the first half of 2017 and be completed in 2018.

There is one project that is neither underway nor progressing at anywhere near the pace it needs to. The Captain Cook Highway is the principal road connecting Cairns to the domestic and international airport terminals, the northern suburbs and major tourist destinations, including Palm Cove, Port Douglas and the Atherton Tablelands. The highway through Cairns's northern suburbs suffers from heavy congestion during peak periods. The intersection of the Captain Cook Highway and Airport Avenue experiences large queues and excessive delays, particularly during the morning peak period due to the high inbound traffic flow, with approximately 3,000 vehicles per hour and a right-turn demand to Airport Avenue. The intersection has a high crash history with 20 crashes, which rates higher than other sections of the highway.

The \$6 million airport access upgrade was eligible for funding under the Northern Australia Roads Program, or NARP. The project currently remains unfunded by the Australian government. It is consistent with the NARP criteria outlined in the government's NARP project submission template. It is a central hub between an airport that has over five million passenger movements annually and the booming tourist industry of Cairns and the northern beaches. The federal government has said a lot about northern Australia funding when it comes to road infrastructure. They have left Queensland out. It is time our federal representatives in Queensland stood up to their leaders in Canberra and stopped playing games with our motorists and tourists. If you are going to have a northern Australia roads package, make it count.

SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 4496, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (3.01 pm), continuing: As I was saying before the break, the task force, in recommending this scheme, noted that in New South Wales the 'police officers advised the New South Wales Ombudsman that the powers under the Restricted Premises Act have been used to dismantle 30 clubhouses in its first 20 months of operation'. This again ensures court oversight and can increase the public confidence in the legitimacy of the criminal justice system and minimise appealable error.

The COA review recognised that the current use of a Public Safety Order Scheme should be reworked from its current application to participants in declared organisations. In implementing this recommendation, the bill introduces a new Public Safety Order Scheme into part 3 of the Peace and Good Behaviour Act 1982, allowing police issued and court ordered public safety orders made against an individual or group if the presence of the individual or group at a premises or an event or within an area poses a serious risk to public safety or security. A public safety order can contain conditions prohibiting a person from entering, attending or remaining or doing a stated thing in a certain area or at a certain event.

A public safety order can be made by a commissioned police officer, rank of inspector or above, for up to seven days. If the order is longer than 72 hours, the respondent will have a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court. The police issued orders will ordinarily be written and served personally, if it is practicable. However, urgent police issued orders can be given verbally and a copy is to be made available for inspection at a police station or on the QPS website. Orders longer than seven days must be made by the Magistrates Court on the application of a senior police officer.

The ability for police to make these orders for up to seven days acknowledges that circumstances will arise where it is neither practical nor in the public interest to wait the time it may take to obtain an order via the full hearing process through the courts. However, recognising the importance of oversight,

the bill requires police to record the details of any police issued public safety orders and to report annually to the PIM, who will report to the minister. The reports will then need to be tabled in parliament, consistent with the approach to official warnings under the new consorting offence. A person who, without reasonable excuse, knowingly contravenes a public safety order will commit an indictable offence that is punishable by a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment.

All applications for public safety protection orders will be civil applications. All questions of fact in those proceedings other than a proceeding for a criminal offence will be determined on the balance of probabilities. The Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 1999 will apply to all applications made to the court to the extent the rules are consistent with any specific provisions. Further, the bill provides that decisions of the Magistrates Court with respect to the public safety protection orders will be appealable to the District Court. Public safety orders that are longer than 72 hours in length and made by a commissioned police officer may be appealed to the Magistrates Court.

The bill also creates the Fortification Removal Order Scheme. The scheme takes what is currently contained in Part 5 of the Criminal Organisation Act 2009, but modifies it so as to increase its utility and overcome the problems identified by the COA Review. All Australian jurisdictions, with the exception of the Australian Capital Territory, have an equivalent scheme. Of those schemes, all are court ordered except for Western Australia.

The Fortification Removal Order Scheme has two key aspects: first, the ability for police to issue stop and desist fortification notices; and, second, the ability to apply to the court to obtain a fortification removal order. The first element enables a commissioned police officer, rank of inspector or above, to issue an on-the-spot stop and desist notice stopping fortification of the premises if they have a reasonable belief the premises is being used for criminal purposes or habitually occupied by recognised offenders or participants in criminal organisations. The notice will be for 14 days. Police need to commence, not finalise, the court ordered fortification removal order process in that time. The court can confirm the notice pending finalisation of the actual order.

A breach of a stop and desist notice will be deemed to be evidence that the grounds for making a fortification removal order are met, unless the contrary is proven by the respondent. A breach of a stop and desist order will also be deemed evidence that disorderly activities are taking place on a premises, for the purpose of the Restricted Premises Order Scheme outlined above, unless the contrary is proven by a respondent. The court must be satisfied, on the balance of probabilities, that there are reasonable grounds to suspect the premises are fortified and habitually used by a class of people of which a significant number may reasonably be suspected to be participants in a criminal organisation. A requirement for notice of the application to be given to the respondent before the order is made and that the respondent have an opportunity to be heard is included in the scheme.

Once an order is made, the owner/occupier of the premises must remove or modify the fortifications in the period determined by the court. If the order is not complied with, police are empowered to enter the premises to remove or modify the fortifications using whatever force is necessary. A person who does an act or makes an omission with the intent to hinder the enforcement of a fortification removal order commits an indictable offence that is punishable by a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.

To allow for a smooth transition to the new Public Safety Protection Order Scheme, the bill provides for, as stated earlier, the temporary retention of section 60B of the Criminal Code for a period of two years, the reclassification of the offence as indictable and for the removal of the associated mandatory minimum penalty.

The government, and the task force, recognised the real and valid concerns of many Queenslanders, including police officers, about the wearing of bikie colours and similar paraphernalia. Those items exist for the purpose of intimidating others, especially when worn in public places. As such, the bill introduces a new offence prohibiting the wearing or carrying of a prohibited item in a public place. I should note that one of the consequences of the former government's laws, and the rhetoric and pressure that was associated with it, saw a lot of recreational motorcyclists inconvenienced and a sense that they were being tarnished and attacked as collateral damage. Our changes are aimed squarely at those prescribed items of organised criminals, not recreational clubs or their members. Indeed, we all have recreational motorcyclists in our electorates and some of those riders belong to recreational motorcycle clubs.

I am aware of clubs such as the Patriots Australia Moreton Bay Chapter, which is a military motorcycle club for regular, reserve and ex-serving members of the Defence Force. I wish to acknowledge their support for all serving and ex-service men and women across the Moreton Bay

region. Clubs such as those are not outlaw motorcycle clubs and, as such, their club colours and paraphernalia are lawful. Those clubs should not be tarnished with the brand that comes with outlaw motorcycle gangs. That is why, by getting outlaw motorcycle gang colours off our streets, lawful recreational motorcyclists should wear their colours without the stigma that has unfortunately come from those clubs that choose to engage in unlawful activity.

In addition, to address the concerns raised by the Court of Appeal in *R v Clark*, the bill will also amend the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to remove the minimum 80 per cent non-parole period that currently applies to the offence of trafficking and restore that offence to the serious violent offences regime under the Penalties and Sentences Act. Importantly, the bill amends the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to increase the maximum penalty for the offence of trafficking in dangerous drugs listed in scheduled 2 of the Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987 to 25 years imprisonment.

I also wish to advise the House that I will be moving some amendments to the bill during the consideration in detail stage of debate. These are amendments of a technical and/or consequential nature. The following is a brief overview of the amendments to be circulated for debate: an amendment to clause 50 of the bill to make a clarifying amendment to the heading of existing section 205 of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001; an amendment to clause 205 of the bill to correct a numbering error that has occurred during drafting of amendments to section 142ZO(5) of the Liquor Act 1992; an amendment to clause 267 of the bill to amend new sections 30 and 63 inserted under the Peace and Good Behaviour Act to ensure service of an application for, or order for, revocation or variation of a public safety order or fortification order can be done by a police officer of any rank; to insert a new clause into the bill to make consequential amendments to certain definitions under schedule 2, 'Dictionary', of the Weapons Act 1990, which were inadvertently overlooked during the drafting process; and amendments to clauses 182, 251, 348, 373, 391, 440 and 464 of the bill to clarify the application of the information-sharing provisions inserted by the bill regarding the occupational licensing legislation.

The amendments respond to a concern raised by the CCC during a public hearing conducted by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. The amendments will clarify that protections contained in the Crime and Corruption Act regarding information disseminated by the CCC to other agencies, such as the Queensland Police Service, are not overridden by the new information-sharing provisions under this bill.

I also intend moving an amendment to clause 269 of the bill relating to the list of prescribed places under new section 11A of the Peace and Good Behaviour Act Regulation 2010. The list of premises under the Peace and Good Behaviour Regulation mirrors that under the Criminal Code (Criminal Organisations) Regulation 2013. The Queensland Police Service has advised the government that one of the premises on that list—namely, unit 5, 27-31 Pound Street, Kingaroy—is no longer linked to declared criminal organisations and that there are no outstanding investigations or prosecutions linked to that address.

An amendment will also be moved to omit clause 6 of the bill so as to retain existing section 15A of the Bail Act. Section 15A provides for bail proceedings to be heard in an alternative court outside of the original jurisdiction of the charge. This, in turn, provides flexibility to the administration of the Magistrates Court and allows bail hearings to proceed without needless delay—in particular, over holiday and court closure periods and in relation to regional and remote courts where there are limited resources to hear applications.

Again, I would like to thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its consideration of the bill and acknowledge the contribution of those who have made submissions on the bill and assisted the committee during its deliberations. I would also like to thank Michael Byrne QC for his work on the Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry, Alan Wilson QC for his work on the Criminal Organisations Act review and as chair of the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation. I also acknowledge and thank the other members of the task force that consisted of senior representatives from the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Police Union, the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union of Employees, the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association of Queensland, the Public Interest Monitor, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

I would also like to take this opportunity to give a huge thanks to the staff at the Department of Justice and Attorney-General who have worked tirelessly over the last 18 months overseeing these reviews and working on the development of this extensive piece of legislation to see Queensland have the strongest laws to deal with serious and organised crime in this state. I thank them immensely for

the work they have done. I also want to acknowledge the Minister for Police, the Police Commissioner and the Queensland Police Service for working with my department to develop this legislation to ensure that it is not just legally robust but is operationally sound and will work. These are good laws that should have been in place many years ago but for those who sought to make this more about politics than about good laws.

The bill represents this government's commitment to protect the Queensland community. It delivers strong laws that are focused on community and police officer safety and wellbeing and that will be effective in disrupting and preventing the activity of serious and organised criminals. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (3.14 pm): I rise to address the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 on behalf of the LNP opposition. From the outset, I want to let the House know that the LNP will not be supporting these laws. That probably will not come as a surprise. We cannot support laws that significantly weaken strong laws that are in place to keep Queenslanders safe.

While there are a couple of provisions in this legislation that have some merit and which we may well have considered if they were brought forward in separate legislation—I refer to measures such as amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act and the Criminal Code relating to child exploitation over the internet—these provisions are heavily outweighed by the significant number of amendments that we believe take the state backwards and increase risk to the safety of Queenslanders.

Many of the amendments in this bill are justified because they were recommended either fully or in part by the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry, headed by Michael Byrne QC—the Byrne commission—or the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation, chaired by former Supreme Court judge Alan Wilson QC, which I will refer to as the Wilson task force. Both of these reviews came under some criticism. The Byrne commission came under fire for not holding any public hearings, despite their being promises to do so. Queenslanders were kept in the dark as to what evidence was given and whether that evidence was tested in any way.

It also drew criticism from Acting Police Commissioner Ross Barnett for comments that the police had dropped the ball when it came to child exploitation matters. In media reports Acting Police Commissioner Ross Barnett revealed officers were 'disappointed with a key finding from the organised crime inquiry that suggested sex offenders went largely unchecked while police chased bikie gangs'. Notwithstanding that comment from the report, Mr Byrne came to the very firm conclusion about outlaw motorcycle gangs and their involvement in organised crime in Queensland. He said this—

While the Commission therefore did not review the 2013 laws, it did endeavour to examine the presence of outlaw motorcycle gangs in organised crime. The Commission learned that outlaw motorcycle gangs play a major role in illicit drug markets in Queensland and are also involved in other illicit activity. Outlaw motorcycle gangs are increasingly exploiting their domestic and international connections, and using violence to extort money and assets from legitimate business owners, non-affiliated drug dealers, rival gangs and people operating in gang territory.

That is a significant negative assessment of the role of outlaw motorcycle gangs in our community. That commission found that outlaw motorcycle gangs played a major role in illicit drug markets in Queensland.

In relation to the Wilson task force, we have consistently said from day one that the terms of reference for this review indicate that this was nothing more than a closed shop review with a predetermined outcome. Again, there were no public hearings. The CCC was not represented on the task force nor were victims of crime groups. Not only were the terms of reference stacked in favour of the outcome, the membership of the task force was as well. Recommendations that came from those two earlier reviews should be seen in that context.

Let us look at the terms of reference of Mr Wilson's task force which clearly stated—

The Taskforce will note the Queensland Government's intention to repeal, and replace the 2013 legislation, whether by substantial amendment and/or new legislation ...

The terms of reference further state—

Without limiting the scope of any recommendations the Taskforce may make, the recommendations should:

- advise how best to repeal, or replace by substantial amendment, the 2013 legislation;

The clear point to be made was that this was not a panel of review that came with an open mind to these laws, to assess whether they are working, whether they were not and if changes were needed. This was, as it was properly called—and I will at least give the government credit for this—a task force and they were given a task. That task was to give legal advice as to how to repeal the laws. That was

pretty simple. As long as you understand and accept that that was the role of that task force—there has been no independent assessment of these laws. There has been no attempt to decide whether or not they were working. There has merely been the setting of a task by a task force to say: how do we repeal these laws?

We need to remember today the context in which the 2013 laws were necessary. Before we get into what happened at Broadbeach in September 2013, let us rewind further to 2009. That is the date of Labor's last effort to get tough on organised crime in Queensland. As it happens, the bill that we are debating here today repeals that effort, the Criminal Organisation Act 2009, introduced by the then attorney-general, Cameron Dick, after comments by the then premier, Anna Bligh, that Queensland would not get left behind in getting tough on outlaw motorcycle gangs.

The Wilson task force had the following interesting things to say about the Criminal Organisation Act—Labor's last go. This goes to Labor's poor record on organised crime legislation. They talk tough but they cannot deliver. They do not get it right. Mr Wilson said that the Criminal Organisation Act was not 'useful' and 'holds no promise of becoming so'. He said—

The COA procedure was cumbersome, slow, very resource-intensive and expensive (even without the interruption caused by the High court challenge) and, ultimately, frustrating for at least two reasons: First, it was arguably rendered futile because Finks members simply left that club, and joined another; and, second, the ultimate goal of COA proceedings (control orders, etc) did not seem a satisfactory or sufficient outcome (and grew less so) in light of that effort and expense.

Mr Wilson continues—

Every consultation undertaken for this review drew the same response about COA: That its processes do not appear, on final balance, to be worth the candle—ie that declarations and control orders offer an insufficient return for the cost and effort required under COA's required procedures to obtain them.

That is a summary of how Labor went when they last talked tough: 'We were not going to be left behind on criminal gang laws. We would not be trailing the Commonwealth; we would be leading the Commonwealth'—nothing happened. There were no declarations under that act, not one. The legislation proved so useful that gang crime flourished.

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr WALKER: The police minister is querying this. It was under this legislation that the Broadbeach brawl happened. That is how good it was. It was under this legislation that the Broadbeach brawl happened. Gang crime flourished, no criminal organisations were declared and the community safety in Queensland went backwards. In fact, it was these very ineffective laws that were in place when the Broadbeach brawl happened in September 2013. When Labor talks tough about organised crime—and we have heard it time and time again from the Premier, the Attorney-General, the police minister and other senior members of the government—we know what their record is, a record so bad that today they have to seek to repeal their own 'strong' laws.

Let us turn to that fateful night in September 2013 in Broadbeach. The scenes were frightening. We have all seen the police footage. Picture the scene, Madam Deputy Speaker. You are having dinner with your family at a local restaurant on a Friday night after a long week at work, enjoying each other's company and a night out with the kids. The next thing there is a commotion out the front and 50 patched criminal motorcycle gang members are pushing and shoving. A brawl breaks out, spilling into the restaurant. Chairs are flying, people are rushing to get out of the way and a turf war has begun. Does it sound like a scene from a movie or somewhere in another country? Of course it is not. That was the scene in September 2013 on the Gold Coast.

After police finally assumed control, the thugs were detained and gang members who were not arrested began a siege outside the local police station, demanding that their 18 'brothers in arms' be set free. The next day the *Gold Coast Bulletin* showed on the front page a bikie declaring, 'We run this town.' Enough was enough. People were scared for their safety and it was time to take action. Labor's strong laws had not worked.

We acted as quickly as the community was calling out for strong, swift action. Within three weeks we had consulted with legal experts and our law enforcement agencies, reviewed what worked overseas and put in place a regime of laws that we believed was the best response to what was an overwhelming public outcry for action, and we put a review mechanism in place—three years from the commencement of the legislation—a review that was due only last month, October this year.

I now want to turn to the significant number of measures in the bill that we do not support and which we believe are a significant weakening of the laws. The first is bail. The Bail Act is being weakened and removes the presumption against bail for members of criminal organisations. This

reversed the ordinary presumption in favour of bail for a person who has been charged but not yet convicted of a criminal offence. It should be noted that that same provision, the reversal of the onus, occurs for someone who is charged with murder. In those cases the presumption is against bail as well.

We believe that the change proposed by the government will have an impact on any witnesses coming forward. It is a big thing, particularly in a charge like extortion, for example. If the offender is released on bail, it is much less likely that the complainant will proceed with a complaint because they know that the person against whom they complain will be free again to put pressure upon them, whereas if the onus is turned around and the person is kept in custody it is much more likely that extortion will be reported. It is worth noting that, since the proposal for these laws has come forward, there has been a decrease in reported extortion in the latest annual crime statistics. It reduced by 16 per cent, including 46 per cent in the south-eastern region and 24 per cent in the southern region.

In relation to the issue of association, we believe the replacement of section 60A of the Criminal Code with a consorting model that focuses on arrests and police intervention after the fact is the wrong way to go and should not be supported. The Acting New South Wales Ombudsman made some scathing remarks about the operation of the laws in New South Wales only earlier this year. Not surprisingly, the government does not want to talk about this review and those comments which found several issues with the approach being taken in New South Wales. The Acting Ombudsman said in his report—

During the review period police issued more than 9,000 consorting warnings and 46 charges for the offence of consorting. Our review found qualitative evidence to support the effective use of the consorting law by the Gangs Squad to target high-risk Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs. However, this review also found evidence to indicate use by officers attached to Local Area Commands in relation to a broad range of offending, including minor and nuisance offending. The report details use of the consorting law in relation to disadvantaged and vulnerable people, including Aboriginal people, people experiencing homelessness, and children and young people. In addition, this review found an exceptionally high police error rate when issuing consorting warnings in relation to children and young people.

We found that although the NSW Police Force has used the consorting law to disrupt serious and organised crime and criminal gangs as intended by Parliament, it has also used the consorting law in a manner that, to some extent, illustrated public concerns about its operation.

I recommend that statutory and policy amendments are made to increase the fairness of the operation of the consorting law, and to mitigate the unintended impacts of its operation on people in circumstances where there is no crime prevention benefit, or where the crime that may be prevented is relatively minor.

I recommend the adoption of a new statutory and policy framework for use of the consorting law, to ensure its use is focused on serious crime, is closely linked to crime prevention, and is not used in relation to minor offending such as summary offending. This framework is consistent with the overarching intent of Parliament that the consorting law adequately equips police to combat serious and organised crime and criminal groups.

Unless these changes are made it is likely that the consorting law will continue to be used to address policing issues not connected to serious and organised crime and criminal gangs and in a manner that may impact unfairly on disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our community. My view is that the implementation of these recommendations is essential to maintain public confidence in the NSW Police Force and its use of the consorting law.

I acknowledge that the Attorney-General made the point that this legislation attempts—and I use the word ‘attempts’ advisedly—to narrow the focus of the consorting law to serious crime. The Acting Ombudsman’s report makes it clear that the consorting law is a very blunt weapon and one which in our view is not as effective as the association provisions under the existing legislation. Not only is it a blunt weapon, as the Acting Ombudsman has said, it is in our view a weapon which is far more difficult for police to use than the association provisions are.

The consorting regime is a very different regime to what we had in place under our laws. What we had in place ensured that criminal gangs would not gather in a public place and use this show of force as a sign of intimidation and fear to the community. There is no doubt that our provisions had an element of shock and awe tactics about them, but they were effective and they worked. There were no criminal gang brawls in public because the bikies were too afraid to associate. Let us remember these were laws described by South Australian Labor Deputy Premier and Attorney-General John Rau as the magic formula. At least he was a Labor Attorney-General who could put community safety ahead of playing political games.

In relation to police powers, I know that the shadow minister for police, the member for Everton, will want to speak about the reduction in police powers, but it is an important part of this debate and there are a number of points which need covering. In doing so, I turn to the submissions made to the Wilson task force by the Queensland Police Service and the Crime and Corruption Commission. In our view, these are the views of organisations that are significantly important to this issue because these

are the organisations that we trust to protect us from harm and that work day in and day out to prevent and disrupt crime and, in particular, organised crime in Queensland. In their submission to the task force, the Queensland Police Service stated—

Removing and reducing the existing suite of legislation provided to enable the QPS and others to respond to organised crime, without the introduction of improved and more effective legislative tools, will reduce the capability of the QPS to respond, a consequential reduction in public safety, with a flow through impact on community confidence in police and government.

We believe that is exactly what is happening with this legislation. They also responded to issues that the Premier has constantly raised about how workable the laws are and talking about convictions rather than eliminating crime. In our view, you only get more convictions if there is more crime. We contend that our laws clearly worked because criminal gangs fled the state and, in some cases, the country. The CCC supported this, and I will come to it later.

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr WALKER: It is all very well for the police minister to laugh. The CCC indicated that that occurred and that gangs were re-forming immediately after this government was elected and the weakening of the laws was floated. Criminal gangs fled the state and, in some cases, the country. As a result, crime reduced and the community felt very much safer. As the QPS contend in their submission to the Wilson task force—

The operational effectiveness of the legislation is not the only relevant consideration. For the QPS to be considered legitimate by the community, it must actually achieve the responsibilities as prescribed by legislation in a manner which is acceptable to the community.

They also addressed another constant criticism that has been made by the Premier, Attorney-General and other cabinet ministers of the government that somehow the former LNP government was obsessed with bikie gangs and that this clouded our view and response on other forms of organised crime. When we first introduced the legislation in 2013, we made the clear point that our laws targeted all forms of organised crime including underworld gangs as well as paedophile rings. This was confirmed by the Police Commissioner, Ian Stewart, in estimates 2015 when he was asked this question—

... can you confirm to the committee that, as has been placed on the record on a number of times by parliamentarians but also the Police Service, the legislation tackling criminal gangs does not just target motorcycle gangs; in fact with your help with the CCC's assistance it actually targets numerous organised crime gangs?

Commissioner Stewart responded, 'That is correct.' The QPS also addressed this issue in their submission to the Wilson task force. They stated—

Activity in Queensland in recent times has focused on the involvement of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs ... in organised crime in Queensland. The QPS considers that there are good reasons for this and this paper will put forward information in support of this view. OMCG reflect the traditional hierarchical model of organised crime, characterised by being easily identifiable in nature with a high profile public persona. However, OMCG are only one of a number of organised crime groups operating in Queensland and only one of a range of organised crime types or operating models creating a threat to the community.

The laws that were put in place cater for all forms of organised crime and the government's new laws cannot be distinguished from ours on that ground. Theirs do cover a broad range of organised crime. Ours covered a wide range of organised crime. The QPS in their submission make clear that OMCGs have been a focus of their organised crime response but only as part of the overall picture in Queensland. That is not our government saying that; that is the Police Service saying that that was the nature of motorcycle gangs within the organised crime framework. It is an important distinction to make and it completely busts the myths peddled by the Premier and ministers of the government that somehow the former LNP government was obsessed with bikie gangs.

As it happens, only today the Queensland Police Service have put out a statement with respect to the investigation of a drug and identity theft network with alleged links to the Hells Angels. The statement reads as follows—

As part of an investigation targeting a drug and identity theft network with alleged links to the Hells Angels OMCG, officers from Taskforce Maxima have arrested 16 people on 232 offences and seized drugs and stolen property.

Yesterday, officers executed 18 search warrants across the Gold Coast, Logan and in New South Wales (with the assistance of New South Wales police) as part of Operation North Outfield.

It goes on to state—

Police charged a total of 16 offenders on 232 offences including five counts of trafficking dangerous drug, 164 charges of supply dangerous drug, four counts of produce dangerous drug, 16 counts of possess dangerous drug, 10 counts of fraud, three counts of disqualified driving and one count of possess explosives.

The point I want to make is that, firstly, the threat is still current and, secondly, the alleged links to the Hells Angels relate not only to drugs but also to identity theft. There is broad concern and a broad need to keep our foot on the throat of these organisations and not weaken our approach.

One other issue that the QPS addressed was in response to public commentary from criminologists in Queensland, particularly the media. In referring to measuring the effectiveness of the 2013 legislation, they state—

The QPS considers that while court outcomes and reported crime statistics are important measures, on their own however, they do not provide a full picture and sufficient evidence base upon which to make informed decisions about the effectiveness of the 2013 suite of legislation.

Whilst the QPS gathers statistics on reported matters, not all crime is reported. Therefore, a lack of reported data does not necessarily lead to the conclusion that organised crime does not exist. Much of the information relating to the existence and activities of organised crime groups is the subject of reported statistics, prosecutions or academic research as well as much being intelligence based, most of which cannot be made available in the public domain. The QPS experience is that it is less likely individuals or groups already involved in serious criminal activity, including on the periphery, will report crime.

...

There is other information available which the QPS considers can assist the Taskforce to determine whether the 2013 legislation has been effective, including:

- the proportion of OMCG representation in offending and type of offending;
- perceptions of public safety and associated community confidence identified through community surveys and Crime Stoppers reports;
- the number of OMCG that have disassociated from clubs; and
- the reduction in public displays of violence by OCMG.

Both of those last points are important ones. Since the 2013 legislation there has not been the public displays of violence that we saw under Labor's failed Criminal Organisation Act 2009 and nothing of the kind that we saw in Broadbeach in September 2013.

I turn to the CCC submission. In its submission to the Wilson task force, the Crime and Corruption Commission outlined some trends that should be very concerning to all Queenslanders. They submitted—

It is clear from the recent developments that several clubs (including three of the major clubs) have been actively recruiting new members on the Gold Coast. The timing of the recruitment activities suggests that, following the change of government in January 2015, it is perceived by clubs that there is a softening of the stance against OMCG activity.

This was also clarified by Ms Kathleen Florian in testimony to the committee where she stated—

There are three outlaw motorcycle gangs in particular that we have under observation on the Gold Coast. One of them has gone to the Gold Coast in more recent times.

The point is that there was an initial working of the legislation in its strong form but, after 2015 and the perception when this government came to power that the legislation would be weakened, as we see happening today, the gangs started to move back and the CCC evidence is very clear on that point.

It is obvious to everyone, including the bikies, that Labor is soft on crime and the laws are set to be weakened, and that is exactly what is happening with this legislation. The Crime and Corruption Commission also raised concerns about amendments in the bill which will weaken their ability to hold emergency response hearings, particularly in the event of a terrorist incident or preventing such an incident happening. They are not my words; they are the words of the Crime and Corruption Commission in its submissions. In fact, according to the CCC in evidence before the committee, provisions of the bill could delay these urgent hearings by 'weeks or months'. They are the words that Ms Florian used before the committee. The member for Beaudesert, who was a member of the committee at that stage, rightly said that that would pretty much nobble the capacity altogether of the CCC with respect to emergency response hearings.

The Gold Coast was the epicentre of criminal gang activity. That is where a lot of the heat in this matter is, and the committee rightly went to the Gold Coast to hear from locals about that. Who better to hear from than the mayor of the Gold Coast who represents that community? Since the introduction of the 2013 legislation and the operations of Taskforce Maxima, there has been a general increase in public satisfaction with the way in which police are responding to OMCGs. There are some significant figures around in that regard. In April 2014 the Department of the Premier and Cabinet conducted a survey of business owners on the Gold Coast in relation to restaurants, cafes and other business owners. They found: 66 per cent said they felt safer since the crackdown by the LNP and no-one said

they felt less safe; 15 per cent of businesses noticed an overt reduction in drug dealing; 30 per cent said they noticed less crime; and 22 per cent said they were aware of standover tactics by criminal gangs before the 2013 legislation and just six per cent noted these same tactics after the legislation.

That feeds into the sentiments expressed to the parliamentary committee which considered the bill by Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate. His words are something that should echo in the backs of the minds of all of us as we consider how we vote on this legislation. I will quote extensively from his letter which he submitted to the committee. He said—

In late August this year I wrote to Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk MP and other Members of Parliament to express my very serious concern about repeal of the Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act (VLAD) and proposed “softer” laws to replace this legislation.

On my understanding of the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill, I am afraid City of Gold Coast will again be plunged into the climate of fear that accompanied the crime wave unleashed by outlaw motorbike gangs over the past decade.

I note that in introducing this Bill, Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath said it would provide “... a return to traditional criminal law approaches and well-proven methods of crime detection, investigation and prosecution.” Well, I'm sorry, but sad experience proves beyond argument that previous approaches simply could not remove the threat posed by outlaw motorcycle gangs to the Gold Coast.

No reasonable person can assess the level of criminal activity engaged in by motorbike gang members compared to the rest of society and not conclude that they simply despise the values the rest of our community holds dear.

Nor can any reasonable person fail to recognise that this criminal element is a grave and violent threat to ordinary citizens wanting to go about their daily business.

Time and again we see innocent people caught up in vicious assaults that wreck lives. Media continually report murders, other deaths and maimings caused by vicious thugs who deliberately intimidate others with their gang colours and their anti-social thundering machines.

The trail of devastation caused to thousands of families by the drugs peddled by these gang members is horrendous. How many more young lives are to be wasted by addiction peddled by motorbike gang members? Make no mistake, drug running is a core activity associated with most of these clubs. The evidence is irrefutable.

This is why they thumb their noses at decency and humanity to live their lives outside the law. They scorn our society. Why should we let them pretend once more to be honourable citizens?

Few people living outside this city can appreciate what it was like on the Gold Coast when bikies roamed without fear of the law. We were a city under siege.

For the police minister's particular attention, Mayor Tate said—

But the VLAD law stopped them dead in their tracks. Nothing else had worked but that did.

I repeat that. Mayor Tate said—

... the VLAD law stopped them dead in their tracks. Nothing else had worked—

and that includes Labor's 2009 laws—

but that did.

Mayor Tate continued—

Now, since the government has signalled its intention to weaken the provisions there has been a marked return of these outlaws to the Coast.

The police minister keeps implying that the bikies never left but Mayor Tate makes it clear that since the signalled intention of the government to weaken the laws there has been a return of these outlaws to the coast, and the CCC says exactly the same thing. We have the CCC saying it, and we have the mayor of the Gold Coast saying it—that they went but it was only with the dangling of the weakening of the laws in front of them that they have returned. The mayor continued—

The signs are there—and growing. Crime statistics associated with traditional bkie activities are on the rise. Nor is it simply petty crime: violent assaults have increased markedly.

As Mayor of this city I see the signs and I can feel their impetus building. Their stand-over tactics are an affront to decency but they tap into streams of underhand cash because their threats are so serious most business people targeted cannot see an alternative to paying for “protection”.

I know some people have real concerns about the social justice aspect of banning people from wearing certain clothes. But the prominent display of their colours is integral to the gang menace. There is a psychology behind it and it works.

Similarly, I know there are concerns about the severity of sentencing introduced under VLAD. But it worked. Tough sentencing was crucial to enable the Queensland Police Service to gather additional evidence to rein-in the activities of these organised criminals. And that is what they are; the evidence is overwhelming.

The harsh sentencing introduced by VLAD applied vital pressure to associates of these gangs. If you like, the weak link in the chain of their criminality. Faced with the prospect of lengthy time behind bars, those on the fringes supplied the evidence previously unavailable to judges and juries that enabled accurate assessment of the perpetrators of criminal activities.

The watering-down of the consorting offence undermines the effectiveness of this provision. It will materially assist outlaw motorcycle clubs to go about their criminal activities and recruit new members with far greater ease than under the VLAD regime.

It is also of deep concern that tighter scrutiny of tattoo parlours, tow truck operations and security service suppliers is to be wound back. The links between many of these businesses and outlaw motorcycle gangs is sufficiently strong to warrant maintenance of very strict controls on who can participate in these commercial enterprises.

Mayor Tate continued—

So, let's look at the big picture. As we prepare to showcase our beloved Sunshine State to the world with the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games™ we have our government potentially sabotaging our image and reputation by allowing criminal elements to undermine law and order.

The Rio Olympics just concluded surely demonstrated the disastrous publicity associated with crime during the event.

Sadly, despite the expenditure of many billions of dollars and the goodwill of an entire nation, the reputation of Brazil and its capital went backwards because of highly-publicised criminal activity during the Games. Can we really risk the global admiration Queensland enjoys being sullied by any similar scandal tainting the Commonwealth Games?

The eyes of the world will be on south-east Queensland in a little over 18 months. If we are to adequately guard against terrorism please do not tie our hands behind our backs by letting criminal gangs roam loose to do their dirty work.

I ask our state Parliamentarians to be strong and resist their pathetic media campaign that they are good guys. They are not.

That is the end of the quote from Mayor Tate. That is very powerful testimony. I think Mayor Tate has hit the nail on the head in so many areas. What was the response from the Labor Party and notably the chair of the committee, the member for Ferny Grove? He attacked the credibility of the mayor in one of the most disgraceful and partisan reports from the chair of a parliamentary committee that I have seen. I have real concerns about this, because how can we expect our parliamentary committee system to work when we have committee chairs taking aim at independent witnesses and experts who come along to assist the committee just because they happen to disagree with the views of the government?

I want to move on to clubhouses. Another issue that has been consistently raised is to do with bikie clubhouses. We know the importance of shutting these clubhouses—not only to the organisational structure of the criminal gang but also to put a major dent in the manufacturing and distribution of drugs, particularly ice, into the community. The current legislation guarantees that clubhouses are closed down—end of story. No-one can deny that. That is what has happened. The regime that is set to be put in place means that the clubhouses that we closed—some 41 of them—will only remain closed for up to two years and then after that no-one can guarantee anything. Clubhouses in new sites can open up immediately. The police minister himself acknowledged this and hit the nail on the head when he said that the legislation could see new clubhouses 'spring up'.

The Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry report, the Byrne report, outlined—

The Commission learned that illicit drug markets remain the most prominent and visible form of organised crime activity in Queensland. As at June 2015, indicative figures drawn from QPS intelligence revealed that 76 per cent of identified Queensland organised crime networks are involved in the illicit drug market, with 51 per cent linked to methylamphetamine, 30 per cent to cannabis and 12 per cent to MDMA/'ecstasy'. Over one-third of organised crime networks linked to the illicit drug trade are involved with multiple drug types.

I take honourable members back to the earlier quote from Mr Byrne when he said that bikies were heavily involved in the drug market. He here says that the illicit drug markets are the most prominent and visible form of organised crime. If we put that together, the bikies are involved in the most prominent and visible form of organised crime activity in Queensland.

In their latest drug intelligence, the Crime and Corruption Commission further outlined the links between organised crime and drugs and the very credible threat to the community that this link poses. The 2015-16 intelligence assessment report outlines the following key findings. Firstly, the demand for illicit drugs and the potential profits from supplying has made Queensland an attractive market for interstate and international crime groups. Secondly, since 2012 there has been greater targeting of regional areas such as Toowoomba, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Townsville and Cairns, especially by interstate groups. Thirdly, organised crime has a significant presence in the methylamphetamine, MDMA, cocaine, heroin and cannabis markets in Queensland and a limited presence in the new psychoactive substances, pharmaceuticals, and performance- and image-enhancing drugs markets, although their involvement in the performance- and image-enhancing drugs market is increasing.

Fourthly, methylamphetamine continues to be rated as the illicit drug market that poses the highest level of risk—very high—due to the high level of involvement of organised crime, its ready availability and the significant harms the drug causes to individual users and the community. Fifthly, following a contraction in the MDMA market from 2008 to 2011, the availability of MDMA in Queensland has increased since 2012. These are very real threats. While Taskforce Maxima has done an outstanding job—and as we see from today's release it is continuing to do so—in putting a dent in the drug market in Queensland, there is still a major issue in Queensland. We fear that re-opening these clubhouses or having new ones 'spring up' will only increase the risk of these hard drugs being peddled to our kids. That is no way to protect the community.

I will move now to crime statistics. In 2014, crime significantly decreased across the Gold Coast. Homicide reduced by 21.4 per cent, assaults by almost two per cent, robbery by 17.2 per cent, unlawful entry by 27 per cent, car theft by 18 per cent and drug offences increased by 29.4 per cent, meaning that there were more drugs off our streets. Across Queensland, assaults decreased by 3.7 per cent, robbery decreased by 24.8 per cent, unlawful entry decreased by 17.4 per cent, car theft decreased by 19.4 per cent and drug offences increased by 23.7 per cent. Putting all that into perspective, that means that almost 7,000 fewer homes and businesses were broken into, over 2,200 fewer cars were stolen, over 400 fewer homes and businesses were robbed and almost 700 fewer Queenslanders were assaulted. That was in 2014, the year following the strong legislation and during its term of strong enforcement and before the enticement of a weakening of the laws came to pass.

There were also many hundreds of submissions from individuals to the committee that made the following observations about Labor's laws that they do not support: scrapping the VLAD laws; removing important police powers, such as their ability to stop, search and detain a participant in a criminal organisation based on reasonable suspicion and removing the circumstance of aggravation for evading police; generally watering down a number of strong penalties—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Linard): Order! Can you pause for one moment? There is a persistent low-level noise due to conversations across the chamber. Can you take the conversations outside or can you please keep the noise low so I can hear the member for Mansfield.

Mr WALKER:—removing the fit and proper person test from certain industries that encourage criminal gang members to have an honest job; scrapping the anti-association provisions (60A) and clubhouse provisions (60B) in the Criminal Code; removing the same presumption against bail for criminal gangs that is used for people accused of murder; removing the mandatory one-year jail time for serious assault of a police officer if committed by a participant of a criminal organisation; making it easier for a criminal gang member to get a weapons licence; the clubhouses that were closed down by the LNP are guaranteed to remain closed for only two years and there is no guarantee that new clubhouses will not spring up; removing the segregation orders so criminal gangs can once again recruit members in jail; and watering down strong penalties for contempt of the Crime and Corruption Commission. These were the concerns raised by the hundreds of Queenslanders, who are the silent majority in this case.

However, they were not the only concerns. There were concerns raised by other stakeholders including the Queensland Law Society, the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties and the Queensland Hotels Association. Those submissions are a matter for the public record. I want to touch on three of the submissions as part of this debate. The Queensland Law Society raised concerns about the breadth of the proposed new consorting offence. They outline this in their submission to the committee. They state—

Under the proposed new Part 6A of the Criminal Code, there is no required nexus between the association and the commission of, or intended commission of, a serious criminal offence. As a result, the potential for the proposed consorting offence to criminalise associations that are unrelated to criminal activity is significant.

We all remember the criticisms about the LNP laws when everyone said that the local Lions Club or the golf club was going to be deemed a criminal organisation and all of the Lions and bowlers in members' electorates would be in prison. That never happened. It is clear that the current laws are working without that fear. The reality is, as the Law Society points out, that fear creeps in again under Labor's proposed new laws. The Queensland Law Society added—

We note that the proposed consorting offence is based on the equivalent offence in New South Wales under section 93X of the *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW). In the review of the NSW Consorting Laws, the NSW Ombudsman recommended several measures to narrow the scope of the consorting laws, including that the Attorney-General (for NSW) introduce, for the consideration of Parliament, an objects or purpose clause to the consorting law to clarify that the intent of the consorting law is for the prevention of serious crime.

We look forward to the Attorney-General addressing that issue in her reply to this debate. The Queensland Council for Civil Liberties raised similar concerns. They added—

The Council respectfully submits that the proposed provisions in the *Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016* do not reflect the far-reaching and detailed work leading to the Taskforce's Report. The failure to implement key safeguards proposed by the Wilson Report results in the continuation of harsh outcomes particularly with the 7 year mandatory minimum. Without the full force of the recommendations in the Taskforce's Report many of the unjust concerns that arose under the VLAD laws will continue to occur, especially in relation to the mandatory minimum 7 year extra sentence on top of the base offence for the serious organised crime circumstances of aggravation offence.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as you know, the Council for Civil Liberties is certainly coming at this legislation from a very different position to that of the LNP. However, it does point out weaknesses and concerns in relation to the laws that are being introduced. We know that when it comes to mandatory sentencing and this new offence, the Attorney-General was obviously rolled by cabinet because she stated on the public record a number of times her disdain for mandatory sentencing.

Finally, I want to touch on the submission raised by the Queensland Hotels Association and some key points it made. Its submission states—

The changes to the licensing regime proposed in the Bill represent a weakening of the existing probity process. The Bill repeals the requirement that all applications are referred to the Commissioner of Police for assessment; the Bill prohibits the use of police criminal intelligence in determining licensing decisions; and the Bill removes the requirement that an application must be refused if the applicant is alleged to be a participant in a criminal organisation.

It is difficult to reconcile the fact that the Bill identifies the criminality of criminal organisations and expands the offence of wearing colours to include anywhere in public, yet simultaneously weakens the existing licensing process to enable members of a declared criminal organisation to be deemed a suitable persons to hold a licence.

It did not take the motorcycle clubs long to work out how they could use this new provision that weakens the ability to obtain a liquor licence under Labor's proposed new laws. Mr Kosenko is the spokesperson for the United Motorcycle Council and he gave evidence to the committee when it travelled to the Gold Coast. He thought this through. This is what he said. He stated—

I think the solution with clubhouses would be to allocate a precinct where a clubhouse can be opened and it can be licensed under the Queensland licensing laws. They can sell alcohol and they can pay their taxes. The licensing laws should be very strict. The police could come in at any time and check that there is nothing going on.

The thought of motorcycle clubhouses not only springing up again but in fact applying for and gaining liquor licences, as raised there by Mr Kosenko himself, is absolutely possible now under your legislation; it was not possible under ours. Under our laws the clubhouses could not reopen and a member of a gang could not get a licence; under your laws both of those things could happen. These are but some of the key points raised by submitters to the committee, and there were many.

Queenslanders deserve a government that puts community safety and crime prevention ahead of politics; a government that protects the police so that they can protect us. If Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk were serious about having 'zero tolerance' to organised crime, she would show some leadership, listen to the views of our leading crime-fighting agencies and the public, and keep the laws that are working. We will not be supporting these laws for the reasons I have outlined because the Queensland community will be less safe as a result of them.

There is a fundamental question to ask: why would you change something that is working? What we have seen under the LNP legislation is clubhouses close and remain closed. We have seen no public brawls as per Broadbeach. We have seen bikies leave the state, only to re-congregate and come back when they knew that these laws were coming, and we have seen crime rates fall, so with those things behind these laws why would we change them? It really became clear to me when I heard the Attorney-General speak today. It was a workmanlike speech and it went carefully through all the provisions of the law—450 pages of them. We heard the Attorney-General go through them, every jot and tittle, and the first thing that comes to anyone's mind is the excess of complexity, of intricacy, of paperwork and reports that this new legislation brings forward.

I used to be a lawyer. I was not a criminal lawyer, but I know that if my criminal lawyer mates got 450 pages of legislation like this by breakfast, by the time lunchtime came around they would have six High Court challenges ready to go and 21 rolled gold defences to meet these new provisions. It happens every time you bring in new legislation. This is complex legislation, there are 450 pages of it, and I am sure the lawyers are working on it now. There is no reason to change and to take that risk. It is best to stick with what is working, and it is clear that the LNP laws were working. We will remind Queenslanders of that from now right up until the next state election, because they deserve better from a Premier who promised to lead a government for all Queenslanders but, as this case shows, has failed to live up to that expectation time and time again.

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (4.02 pm): I rise to commend the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 to the House. Firstly, can I say that hindsight is a wonderful thing, and I refer to the chair's foreword in the committee's report. As the chair of the committee I became privy to information that I was unaware of prior to writing the foreword, and I place on record that I regret any inference taken from the comments made relating to Councillor Taylor in the foreword and I regret those comments.

I begin by indicating that there is not enough time to go through this bill in detail. I think the Attorney-General quite competently went through the bill's format and covered every aspect before the chamber. Firstly, I would like to thank all the committee members for the work they did on this hearing. They are excellent committee members; I always enjoy their contributions and their deliberations. I also commend the secretariat, who were so helpful in putting this report together, and the other staff involved in making that happen. In addition I would like to thank all of the witnesses who appeared before the committee at its hearings and the submitters who supplied submissions to the committee.

This bill will deliver a new and comprehensive organised crime regime to tackle organised crime in all its forms. This bill draws on initiatives under the COA and makes crucial enhancements to ensure operational speed and simplicity. It reworks part of the 2013 laws or removes the parts which were excessive, disproportionate or unnecessary and addresses constitutional risks.

This bill essentially fixes the fundamental problems created by the LNP. This bill captures all types of serious and organised crime by casting the net broadly to capture all offenders; conversely, the LNP laws were narrow and captured only three offenders, none of which were outlaw motorcycle club gang members. The LNP laws were as useful as an ashtray on a motorbike. This bill will focus on achieving a legally robust and operationally strong approach to tackling all forms of organised crime.

The changes under this bill are that a person's criminality will be determined by their actual conduct, which is an approach that pursues groups of individual criminals instead of the failed approach of the LNP by going after the organisation itself. The new consorting offence and the new package of measures under the public safety protection order scheme are the centrepiece and will replace the 2013 anti-association offence—section 60A of the Criminal Code—and the clubhouse offence—section 60B of the Criminal Code. The new consorting offence is stronger than recommended by the task force and is modelled on the New South Wales laws, which are constitutionally valid and have been successful in securing 46 actual charges. The consorting offence will only have application to adults and specifically takes into account Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander norms of kinship.

Unlike the previous LNP government, the Palaszczuk government has put its serious organised crime bill forward for scrutiny through the normal parliamentary process. The committee conducted three hearings: two in Brisbane and one on the Gold Coast. The committee received an oral briefing from the Queensland Police Service and the department on 26 September 2016 with a further QPS oral briefing provided on the Gold Coast on 4 October 2016. Furthermore, the Palaszczuk government established a commission headed by Mr Michael Byrne QC to inquire into key organised crime threats in Queensland including the illicit drug market and online child sex offending, including the child exploitation material market, and sophisticated financial crimes such as cold-call or boiler room investment frauds.

Our government also committed to review the suite of 2013 legislation which was introduced by the LNP government. The task force was chaired by the Hon. Alan Wilson QC, and its membership consisted of senior representatives from the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Police Union, the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union of Employees, the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association of Queensland, the Public Interest Monitor, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet—a broad range of experienced stakeholders who provided this government with preliminary guidance in developing these laws. The Crime and Corruption Commission and the Director of Public Prosecutions were consulted on an overview of the policy proposals under the bill and were provided with extracts of a draft bill.

In relation to consultation on the bill itself, in response to a question from a committee member in a public briefing Commissioner Stewart said—

I have been involved right through, as the head of the organisation, in the consultation that has developed this suite of legislation. The Queensland Police Service was very grateful that we were consulted to the level that we were.

Mr Schmidt, the representative from the Queensland Police Union of Employees, said—

... the union was a member of the task force which reviewed the existing laws and was informed in formulating the report which underlies the current bill. In addition to being on the task force, the union has actively been involved in consultation with the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the police minister and the Attorney over the last six or so months in relation to the present bill.

In response to a question on notice, Ian Leavers, the general president and CEO of the Queensland Police Union of Employees—a highly respected union—responded to this question. The question was—

Whether QPUE agrees the [new] provisions [in the bill before the house] will allow the 26 currently prescribed OMGC club houses to re-open.

It goes to the threshold issue that the member for Mansfield claimed their laws were ironclad with respect to clubhouses reopening. He stated—

The question is flawed ... any of the OMCGs whose clubhouses are presently prescribed places can currently re-open 'new' clubhouses *at any time* ...

He went on to say—

The existing legislation means that currently OMCGs can keep moving the location of their clubhouse in order to stay ahead ...

He went on further to say—

The new ... proposed laws ... alter this cumbersome process as under the proposed legislation a different, faster, more effective and more dynamic approach is taken in the new introduced bill.

The proposed legislation in the new bill provides police with *additional* statutory tools they do not currently possess under the existing legislation ... officers will be able to instantly respond to emerging trends, including attempts to establish new clubhouses in real time, when they currently cannot.

They went on to say in respect of orders—

... orders will equip officers with the powers necessary to disrupt criminal activity in any 'new' clubhouse, including powers of entry and search without warrant.

...

Additionally, the reintroduction of anti-consorting laws means police will be able to prevent known and suspected members of criminal organisations, not just OMCGs, from contacting or interacting with each other.

The proposed amendments in the new bill will allow police to prevent crimes occurring by disrupting criminal organisations and preventing criminals from engaging in organised illegal endeavours.

It is the QPUE's position the proposed laws will allow for a rapid policing response to any new clubhouses, or any other gathering of people engaging in organised criminal activities, whether or not they are associated with OMCGs ...

This is a vast improvement on the current laws which require an amending regulation to be drafted and proclaimed.

I table that letter from the Queensland Police Union of Employees.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 1 November 2016, from the General President and CEO, Queensland Police Union of Employees, Mr Ian Leavers, to the Chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Mr Mark Furner MP, regarding a response to a question taken on notice at the committee's public hearing on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill [2052].

The committee also heard from Mr Steele of the Queensland Hotels Association, who said in response to a question from the deputy chair in regard to consultation on the 2013 LNP laws—

... we were heavily involved through consultation in the development of that legislation ...

The committee asked Mr Dunn of the Queensland Law Society whether the previous government had consulted on their laws. He responded—

Certainly there was engagement with the office of the Attorney-General at the particular time but there was not consultation on the package in any way.

The member for Mansfield referred to consultation and spoke about the United Motorcycle Council Queensland. In November 2009, in the second reading debate of the Criminal Organisation Bill Mr Springborg said—

In reaching the decision to oppose this bill, the LNP has consulted with the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, the Queensland Law Society, the Queensland Bar Association and the Queensland Police Union. We also had a meeting with members of the United Motorcycle Council of Queensland.

I wonder whether he met with Michael Kosenko, the president of the Rebels Motorcycle Club of Queensland, as the committee did at its hearing on the Gold Coast.

I now turn to the banning of colours. The bill does provide for the banning of the visible wearing of OMCG colours beyond the current Liquor Act offences prohibiting the wearing or carrying of defined prohibited items, known as colours, associated with identified OMCGs anywhere in public. During the hearing we heard from Inspector Carroll, who explained in answer to a question from the committee—

A public place under the Summary Offences Act would cover premises like cafes, licensed restaurants as well as public spaces like parks ...

In response to a question from Ms Pease, the commissioner indicated—

I am very grateful that we have in this suite of new legislation a specific piece of law that says that OMCG members cannot wear colours in public ...

With respect to colours, Mr Steele from the QHA indicated—

They have an image which is an image of violence and intimidation ... images of holding guns and knives and things like that, it is quite a reasonable, common-sense approach that there is intimidation of members of the public ...

The banning of colours was also supported by the Gold Coast Mayor, Councillor Tate. Councillor Taylor tabled a letter on his behalf at the hearing. It states—

I know some people have real concerns about the social justice aspect of banning people from wearing certain clothes. But the prominent display of their colours is integral to the gang menace. There is a psychology behind it and it works.

Assistant Commissioner Carless indicated at the hearing on the Gold Coast—

One of the things unique to OMCGs is that they advertise the fact that they are an organised crime group through wearing particular colours.

The bill provides new offences and increased penalties arising from the recommendations of the commission of inquiry into organised crime. Firstly turning to child exploitation material offences, the bill makes amendments to the Criminal Code in response to the proliferation of child exploitation material over the internet and the increased use of technology to promote and distribute child exploitation material as well as to conceal offending, and to address legislative gaps and limitations—for example, the creation of a new offences, each with a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment, that will target persons who administer websites used to distribute child exploitation material; encourage the use of, promote or advertise websites used to distribute child exploitation material; and distribute information about how to avoid detection of, or prosecution for, an offence involving child exploitation material.

In respect of drug trafficking, on 30 August 2016 the Premier stated that the maximum penalty for trafficking dangerous drugs will increase from 20 years to 25 years imprisonment. The bill delivers this commitment by increasing the maximum penalty for trafficking in dangerous drugs listed in schedule 2 of the Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987. This means the same penalty will apply for trafficking in all dangerous drugs, given the introduction of a maximum penalty of 25 years imprisonment for trafficking in all dangerous drugs. As can be seen, this bill provides a suite of initiatives and casts the net very broadly to capture all sorts of serious organised crime.

I refer to the question of whether OMCGs are really still around. There has been a lot said about whether the LNP's laws actually worked and about where the bikies had gone. I will relate some of the evidence given to us on the Gold Coast. Assistant Commissioner Codd said—

In talking to members of the community as I do on the Gold Coast, there have been views expressed to me of substantial relief not to be seeing outlaw motorcycle gang members present, and very overtly present, around their suburbs and business premises, particularly in numbers.

He went on to say—

I continue to be concerned by the activities of organised crime groups here on the Gold Coast, including outlaw motorcycle gangs, and I certainly do not think for one moment they have gone away.

This was backed up by evidence from Councillor Taylor. I asked—

Given that you are focusing purely on outlaw motorcycle clubs, do you know how many outlaw motorcycle club members have been convicted under the current laws?

He responded—

No, I do not.

I said—

Zero.

He said—

Okay, zero, but whether they have been convicted or not they are not in town—they do not seem to be in town anyway.

Obviously there is a difference in opinion between the police and professional people like Councillor Taylor, who came along to give evidence at the hearing.

At the public hearing in Brisbane, Associate Professor Lauchs identified that, although all 26 declared organisations have been focused on by the current legislation, it does not prevent new criminal organisations from being established in Queensland. He went to say—

... I was Skyping with the Dutch police last night and they were astounded that Satudarah are allowed to be in Queensland ... and Mongrel Mob are here from New Zealand. Were they to be examined in the same manner as any of the other clubs that are on the list—the other 26—they would actually exceed the criminality of probably at least a third of those 26 clubs.

The current VLAD laws are not working. There are criminal organisations on the Gold Coast still that have not been captured by the failed legislation of the LNP. This demonstrates that the current legislation has not prevented new bikie gangs from entering Queensland communities.

On the question of whether OMCGs commit much crime, Associate Professor Lauchs also gave some very interesting expert evidence. He indicated—

If we look at the arrests under Taskforce Maxima, over 90 per cent of the people arrested under Maxima were not participants or members of outlaw motorcycle gangs. The idea that Taskforce Maxima was concentrating exclusively on bikies is untrue. However, if we look at the proportion of the population who are motorcycle club members who have been arrested for serious crime, that would show that the rate that they offend is potentially between 10 per cent to 50 per cent—depending on how you want to calculate the figures—higher than the average person in the community and double the average convicted criminal's rate of serious offending.

I have already touched on consorting, so I now want to reflect on some comments made by those opposite during the second reading debate of the Criminal Organisation Bill in November 2009, in particular the member for Mudgeeraba's contribution which flies in the face of the evidence that Mr Walker provided here today on the effects of the VLAD laws. The member for Mudgeeraba indicated—

If implemented—

that is, the then Labor government laws—

these proposed laws could also apply to churches, sporting clubs and trade unions ...

This is an example of the disingenuousness of those opposite who consistently stand up and attack trade unions, yet in 2009 they were concerned about the effect of those laws on trade unions. Furthermore, the member for Kawana in his contribution indicated—

While the objective clause of this bill states that it is not parliament's intention that powers under this act be exercised in a way that diminishes the freedom of persons in the state to participate in advocacy, protest, dissent or industrial action, this bill may just do that.

Once again those opposite come in here talking about unions taking industrial action, but in the *Hansard* in 2009 they were concerned about the rights of people taking industrial action—quite disingenuous. How can they be trusted in formulating and putting laws together with respect to protecting our communities and our vulnerable people when it comes to being tough on crime? Clearly our laws demonstrate that.

In conclusion, I want to make some comments about media reports. There was a lot said during the hearings, both by certain people and particular papers on the Gold Coast. Councillor Taylor had some concerns with respect to the evidence he presented on the Gold Coast. He said this in response to a question from the deputy chair—

I was absolutely disgusted that was even put on the front of the *Gold Coast Bulletin* for a start. Why should it be put on the front of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*? Again, it sent a message not only to Gold Coasters but to the rest of Australia: 'Don't come to the Gold Coast. We are just a pack of criminals up here.' It was the press that did that.

I think the headline in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* was that these bikies run the Gold Coast, but I do not believe that for one moment. The Gold Coast is run by the good men and women of the Queensland Police Service. They protect our society; they look after us. In finalising this point about the media, I was mentioned in a couple of articles and, from memory, the *Gold Coast Bulletin* indicated that this bill will pass through this House with the assistance of the Greens. It is about time those opposite who are members of the Greens owned up, because there are certainly no Greens on this side! In conclusion, this government has the political will and makes the tough decisions when it comes to crime which demonstrates our commitment to making sure our communities are safe—

(Time expired)

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.22 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and report No. 42 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, of which I am the deputy chair. The bill was referred to the committee on 13 September 2016 with a report back date of 1 November 2016—the same report back date as the two bills relating to child sexual abuse that were dealt with by this House on Tuesday of this week. Three bills, very different issues to consider but only a very short time frame to do it in and, as noted by the member for Capalaba on Tuesday in his contribution to the debate on the child sexual abuse bills, they were toughies to deal with. On top of those two toughies, we had to deal with the 445 pages of the bill itself and the 179 pages of the explanatory notes. That is what we had to deal with in a very short period of time while also dealing with the very complex and difficult issue around the child sexual abuse bills.

We are focused on the job of delivering reports on bills referred to the committee. After all, it is part of our role here. That pertains to not just us, but our secretariat needs to juggle priorities between these complex pieces of legislation. Once again, that is their job and they do not complain; they do a wonderful job for us and do the best they possibly can. Having said that, with the time lines being as tight as they are, I wonder how others are meant to absorb it all.

I speak in this instance about the hearings on the Gold Coast where Gold Coast City councillor for division 10, Paul Taylor, gave evidence, having been invited the previous week. The councillor tabled a letter from the Gold Coast Mayor, Tom Tate, made an initial statement and then proceeded to answer questions. To clarify, the hearing was on Tuesday, 4 October—the day after the public holiday long weekend. I have seen correspondence regarding witnesses from the Wednesday before—28 September. I have been advised that Paul Taylor was asked to attend on 27 September and that he was away from his office until that Friday, so he had just a few days notice. Clearly in Councillor Taylor's case he is not giving any technical evidence, so you would not expect that he would have read this 445 pages in the few days leading up to 4 October and the 179 pages of the explanatory notes. However, the chair of this committee had every expectation that he should have done that, and that is attested to in the actual transcript of the hearings.

Councillor Taylor is not giving technical evidence; he is providing his views on several things based on his local knowledge and on behalf of his constituents—for example, what things were like prior to September 2013, what things were like following the implementation of the VLAD laws, what he fears will occur if the laws are watered down, what his observations are regarding the creeping back in of the bikies, what his concerns are for his patch, what his concerns are for his constituents and what his concerns are for the whole of the Gold Coast community. Other examples are his opinion on what the act of not wearing colours means and how easy it is to pick a group of musclebound, T-shirt-wearing, belligerent-looking bikies, whether they are riding motorbikes or not, whether they have tattoos or not, whether they are wearing colours or not. In support of the point I am making, in response to a question from me around the wearing of colours, Councillor Taylor said—

I do fail to see the difference, but the way I can see it over the years I have lived here and watched the previous gangs come into town, they do not have to have any identification on. When there is a group of people it is like anything: you get a group of people and there could be trouble. When we get people like the Vietnam vets who come down, we know they are Vietnam vets, we know they are there, which is great, but when you get a motorcycle gang come down where there is 10, 15, 20 of them ... there could be trouble here—'could be trouble' I am saying—and nine times out of 10—

with those motorcycle gangs—

there probably is.

Councillor Taylor was giving his views as a resident, as a local and as the local councillor. During proceedings the member for Capalaba asked Councillor Taylor a few questions about whether he had read the bill, and I alluded to that a short while ago, or the explanatory notes. The councillor confirmed he had not. The member for Capalaba asked if the councillor had told the Broadwater Alliance or the Surfers Paradise Alliance not to attend as witnesses. Councillor Taylor said that he had not. He further advised the committee that he was a member of the Broadwater committee—honest answers. First of all, he is giving his views and then he is confirming certain things for the committee. A little background now—

Mrs Stuckey: Being helpful.

Mr CRANDON: Being helpful; precisely. A little background: the committee had received verbal indications that council had told the Broadwater Alliance and the Surfers Paradise Alliance not to attend. Both of those entities are council entities.

Councillor Taylor has confirmed that he would not have a clue who said those things to those people. I have since got the impression from the member for Capalaba that he was satisfied with the answers that Councillor Taylor gave—that he believed Councillor Taylor. I was absolutely gobsmacked to read the member for Ferny Grove's personal contribution to the report, the chair's foreword, and the absolutely disgusting attack on Councillor Taylor, the mayor, Tom Tate, and the Gold Coast City Council.

Here is a member who constantly tells anyone who will listen of his experience in committees when he was a senator. How many times have we heard that? Without referring to the correspondence—or that is what he would have us believe—he has made an all-out attack on Councillor Taylor in particular. The chair's foreword states—

Government committee members are very concerned over matters related to evidence and events arising from the committee's public hearing on the Gold Coast on 4 October 2016 of the Bill.

Really? Government members? Not from the impression that I got after a meeting recently in this House with the other committee members. The chair's foreword goes on to state—

In the lead up to the hearing several Gold Coast witnesses decided to withdraw their attendance from such hearing. During the hearing the Member for Capalaba questioned Cr Paul Taylor whether he had made contact with the Broadbeach Alliance and the Surfers Paradise Alliance to not provide evidence at the hearing on 4 October. Cr Taylor responded 'No, I did not. I am also on the board of Broadbeach Alliance.'

The chair's foreword continues to state—

Government members—

there it is again—

remain cynical on whether Cr Taylor had any role in these witnesses decision to not attend.

The chair's foreword goes on to state that Councillor Taylor tabled a misleading letter from the mayor. Just a while ago the member quoted from the misleading letter from the mayor! It is amazing! The mayor has since refuted everything that the chair has said and referenced many media articles with dates and times, as I understand it, that confirm the mayor's position.

The chair's foreword goes on to criticise Councillor Taylor for not reading the 625 pages of the bill and the explanatory notes. Not only does he make these accusations in his chair's foreword, he continues—

Ms Pease: This is a disgrace.

Mr CRANDON: It is a disgrace. I take that interjection. The member continues to use the words 'government members' thus implicating the member for Capalaba and the member for Lytton in his tirade. I have been told they had no input into that foreword.

My point is this: the member for Ferny Grove, the esteemed ex-senator, failed in his duty as chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. He failed the committee in that he did not check his facts. He did not insist on seeing the evidence. He did not pick up the phone whilst he was writing his chair's foreword to ask for the emails and file notes to confirm what he was writing. He has brought embarrassment upon himself and, at the very least, the government members by implicating them in his blatant attempt to discredit Councillor Taylor by calling Councillor Taylor's good name into doubt. I have the evidence that the chair chose not to seek out—and I table copies—

Mr RYAN: I rise to a point of order. I have been listening to the member for Coomera. He seems to be making some pretty significant allegations against the member for Ferny Grove. This is not the place or the time for those allegations to be made. The proper process—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Order! Member for Coomera, that is unparliamentary. I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr CRANDON: I withdraw.

Mr RYAN: The proper way for those allegations to be made is by writing to the Speaker for his consideration as to whether those matters need to be referred to the Ethics Committee. This is a debate about the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill.

Mr WALKER: I rise to a point of order. The points that the member is making, while they go to the way in which the chair has acted as chair of the committee, also go to the weight that can be placed upon evidence given to the committee. The weight that can be placed on evidence given to the committee is a relevant matter for this chamber as it debates the bill. The member should be allowed to raise those matters

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Order! There is no point of order.

Mr CRANDON: As I said, I have the evidence that the chair chose not to seek out. I table copies for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Email correspondence, dated October 2016, regarding the attendance of the Surfers Paradise Alliance Limited at the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's public hearing on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill [\[2053\]](#).

The first document is from the Surfers Paradise Alliance. In an email to me, CEO Mike Winlow says—

Hi Michael

Please see email trail below with respect to correspondence with Greg Thomson.

My initial discussion with Greg Thomson regarding Surfers Paradise Alliance attendance at the hearing was undertaken without the knowledge that Cr Taylor would be presenting on behalf of the City of Gold Coast.

On receiving the program from Greg Thomson, I became aware of his attendance and post discussion with the Chair of the Surfers Paradise Alliance Board I advised Greg Thomson within 15 minutes of receiving his email that there would be no need to present formally or separately as an organisation.

I can categorically say that there was no discussion regarding attendance at the hearing with Cr Taylor either directly or indirectly and that our decision not to proceed was ours alone.

In an email to Greg Thomson on Friday, 30 September, he said—

Hi Greg

Apologies for late notice however Cr Taylor City of Gold Coast will address matters relevant to the Alliance and therefore we will not be needing to present formally or separately as an organisation.

I table a second email.

Tabled paper: Email correspondence, dated November 2016, regarding the attendance of the Broadbeach Alliance at the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's public hearing on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill [2054].

This second document is from Jan McCormick, the CEO of the Broadbeach Alliance. In an email to me Jan says—

Good morning Michael

Attached is the email you referred to. I mention in this email that I sought advice from council not councillor/s, which I did. I called the CEO's office and after discussion with them it was felt that this was an issue for the Mayor and the divisional councillors, it was in fact not our role as entities of the city to comment on such issues.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. The member for Coomera has continued to make a case and build a story that is not pertaining to the issues that are before the House in relation to the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill. The matters that he continues to raise relate to the conduct and operation of the committee. Mr Deputy Speaker, I encourage you to seek guidance and consider whether you might call the member for Coomera back to the substance of the bill and that, if he has concern about the operation of the committee and the activities of the committee in the consideration of the bill, which is a different matter, he would be aware of the appropriate processes and places in which he can raise these matters.

Mr WALKER: I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the House has just regurgitated the same point that you had raised before you a couple of minutes ago. The point is that this House has to assess the evidence given to the committee as it assesses this bill. The relevance of the matters raised by the member for Coomera is that the chair of the committee effectively cast doubt on the evidence given by Councillor Taylor and the letter submitted by Mayor Tate. The question of whether that was the right action or wrong is not what the member is raising. The member is raising evidence that allows this House to rely on the letter and the sentiments expressed by Mayor Tate and Councillor Taylor. It is extremely relevant to the committee's report and the weight that this House gives it.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Mansfield. Keeping in mind that the member for Coomera is talking about the committee report in regard to the bill, I will ask the member to also keep to the bill, but understand that he is talking about the committee report.

Mr CRANDON: The second document is from Jan McCormick, the CEO of the Broadbeach Alliance. In an email to me Jan says—

Good morning Michael

Attached is the email you referred to. I mention in this email that I sought advice from council not councillor/s, which I did. I called the CEO's office and after discussion with them it was felt that this was an issue for the Mayor and the divisional councillors, it was in fact not our role as entities of the city to comment on such issues.

In discussion with state government officers I re-iterated these comments and told them I felt, as I had no real contribution to these issues in the precinct, I was not able to comment and that the mayor was the person who should comment.

I was not aware Cr Paul Taylor was attending the hearings until one of the state government staff mentioned it and I did not discuss in any way the issues of the hearing with Cr Taylor prior to his attendance, and he absolutely did not sway my decision to attend as was stated in Parliament.

In an email to Greg Thomson she said—

Good afternoon Gregory

I have been advised by council that it is not appropriate that I attend the panel on Tuesday, please accept my apologies.

Remember, Jan also clarifies why she was not attending verbally as noted in her email to me. Today is 10 November. The report was tabled on 1 November. What has occurred in the meantime? We have seen the *Bully Boy* article on the front page of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. I table that for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Media article, undated, titled 'Labor MP Weak on bikies, tough on anti-gangs councillor, Bully Boy, Bikie law brawl erupts' [2055].

We have seen quite a bit of media on the Gold Coast. Following on from the first story in the *Bulletin* that calls the member for Ferny Grove a bully, we have these accusations, and the *Gold Coast Bulletin* then asked the Premier if she supported the member. The Premier has declined to answer. What does this tell us? Surely if she supported him she would say so. To recap, the chair of the committee has gone off and written his foreword. He has implicated his government colleagues. He has completely ignored the evidence that was there if he bothered to get it. This he has done in a deliberate attempt to disparage the name of Councillor Paul Taylor in particular, as well as Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate, to throw their evidence out as though it meant nothing, and then he has the audacity to come into this House and use quotes from that same evidence, having already put in the foreword that he did not believe the evidence. It is absolutely disgraceful. This has been done in a deliberate attempt to disparage both of those people.

We heard nothing from the member until today. How many sentences did he use to apologise to Paul Taylor? It was two, I think. He said nothing about the Gold Coast City Council, he said nothing about Tom Tate and he said a couple of weak words of apology to Paul Taylor. There was no direct apology or apology in the media. He waited 10 days to say something. Frankly, it is too little too late. As such, I call on the Premier, based on the evidence before us, to sack the chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order.

Mr CRANDON: The Premier forced a minister to resign for being dishonest.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Order! Member for Coomera, I have a point of order.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I was respecting your ruling that the member for Coomera was speaking, in effect, to the bill by speaking about the committee report. We are now going well beyond speaking about the committee report. The member for Coomera is making all sorts of reflections on fellow members and is certainly going well beyond the contention that you had in your ruling that by discussing the report and the committee process in relation to a particular report that he would be addressing the subject of the bill. He is now effectively disparaging a fellow member of a committee.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Debate on the second reading may address principles of the bill, the portfolio committee's examination and report of any amendments recommended by the committee. I call the member for Coomera. There is no point of order.

Mr CRANDON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Frankly, it is too little too late in my view and I am calling on the Premier to sack the chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. She forced a minister to resign last week for being dishonest. By his own admission, the chair of the committee has been dishonest in dealing with this matter. I put it to members that it is quite reasonable to assume that he chose not to see the evidence for his own interest. Had he seen the evidence he would have been unable to write what he did. He has withdrawn that in many ways here today. He so wanted to write it, I am sure. Sack him, Premier, or force him to resign for being dishonest in the way he did this and for bringing the committee system into disrepute. How can witnesses ever trust him again? How can witnesses ever trust our committee system when they know that the chair of the committee can at the very least be tardy in checking his facts and at worst be dishonest in the way he deals with the evidence before us? That foreword is the worst example of abuse of process I have seen in our committee system in the more than seven years I have been a member of this place. We, through the Premier, need to send a clear message to the people of Queensland that this sort of abuse will not be tolerated. Remove the chair from his role.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr CRANDON: I take that interjection. They do not like the truth. He had to back down today. Go back and read the transcript. He had to back down in the committee hearings as well. Through the Premier we need to send a clear message.

In relation to the bill before the House, as has already been suggested by the shadow Attorney-General, there is very little that we on this side of the House support in the bill. If those aspects that we do support were brought to the House in a stand-alone bill we would be in agreement. As there are so many aspects of this bill that water down and/or dismantle the current legislation, we on this side of the House do not support its passing. The summary of the 10-page non-government members' statement of reservation—

Mrs Stuckey: I bet none of them read it.

Mr CRANDON: Yes, none of those would have bothered. It is worthwhile all members reading it to find out the flaws in this 450 pages. It makes a lot of sense. I table the non-government members' statement of reservation for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Non-Government Members Statement of Reservation' [\[2056\]](#).

I thank the secretariat. They had a massive job with these three pieces of legislation on top of one another. Sometimes, sadly, we missed a few relevant points. I understand the pressure they were under and I do, from the bottom of my heart, thank them for what they did. I also thank Paul Taylor in particular and all of those other people who took the time to come along and either provide us with technical witness statements or their views having lived in the area for many years, as has Paul Taylor, the local councillor. He knows what is going on here. The member for Ferny Grove has obviously not been down there. He is too far away from the action to know what is really going on on the Gold Coast with these bikies.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Mudgeeraba, I remind members that when I stand or the Speaker stands the person speaking will please resume their seat.

Mr CRANDON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I do apologise. I was looking down and I did not realise you were standing; my apologies.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Coomera, but I am just reminding members when the Speaker stands please resume your seat.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.48 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. Here we have it: after almost two years of positioning and denying and reviewing, we have this Labor government proving once and for all that it is soft on crime. We have this Labor government throwing down the welcome mat for organised crime and criminal gangs in Queensland. We have this Labor government putting residents of the Gold Coast and my electorate at risk as they go about their daily lives. We must never forget that it was Robina Town Centre, in my electorate of Mudgeeraba, that was the site of a violent public shooting in broad daylight by a criminal gang member in 2012. This was a callous move by a violent criminal and a blatant display of disregard for the soft-on-crime laws we had seen for too long under successive Labor governments.

As we all predicted, with this government we see a retreat to the bad old days of crime under Labor. Innocent shoppers at a popular and crowded shopping centre were put at risk and someone was shot because of a culture that had been allowed to manifest for far too long. Of course, as other members have said, one Friday evening three years ago, 50 Bandidos bikie gang members stormed our food and entertainment precinct at Broadbeach, in front of men, women and children who were out enjoying dinner with their family and friends. Terrified onlookers were forced to either flee or watch on as a brazen public brawl unfolded in front of them, with our police working diligently to restore order at a popular night-life destination and arrest 18 perpetrators. However, it was not over there. We then saw the remaining gang members, outraged that law enforcement officers would ever dare step in to protect the public, march over to the Southport Courthouse and attempt to intimidate police, demanding their bikie mates be let out of the watch house. That night demonstrated that criminal gangs had no respect for the police, no respect for law and order and no regard for the community. They thought they could operate however they wanted, menace wherever they wanted and threaten, intimidate and endanger whomever they wanted, because for so long they had gotten away with it under Labor.

However, the LNP government knew something had to be done. We knew it was time to act. We knew that, to keep the community safe, swift strong action needed to be taken. What we did that day was draw a line in the sand and declare that enough was enough. We wanted to protect our community and make sure that they could enjoy a night out, go to a local restaurant, have a meal and not have to worry that the place would be stormed by criminal gangs. We wanted to protect our hardworking men and women in blue, who do such important work, day in and day out, to protect members of our communities across our state. We understood that those men and women deserve the backing of their government and that we needed to back them with laws they could enforce and the resources they needed to do so. We knew this was the only way to stamp out organised crime and we acted decisively.

Most of those opposite were not members of this House when those horrific events took place, but I was and many of my Gold Coast colleagues were here with me. We remember our constituents' shock at how this was allowed to happen. We remember the phone calls we received from our residents who wanted us to do something to help them, because they did not feel safe in our streets anymore. What we gave them were laws that worked. We gave them laws that were backed by their police and

upheld by the High Court of Australia. We gave them laws that were adopted by other states, including South Australia under a Labor government. We gave them laws that saw the crime rate reduced, criminal gang members charged and imprisoned, and bikie gangs fleeing Queensland. We gave them laws that saw the Nomad outlaw motorcycle gang clubhouse in my electorate of Mudgeeraba shut down and suburbs such as Carrara no longer meeting places for violent gang members. We do not see the Nomads lined up on the verandah at Wallaby Bob's every Saturday and Sunday, intimidating people. At the time of the last election, there was a raid on a Hell's Angels outlaw motorcycle gang premises that netted \$1 million worth of methamphetamine, six doors down from my home in Reedy Creek. That is what governments should do and it is how we kept our residents safe.

In the first year of these laws being in force, we saw a reduction of more than 10 per cent in reported crime. At the 2015 state election all 10 electorates on the Gold Coast, which was hit harder than anywhere by the criminal gang violence, put their trust in the LNP. Unfortunately for those voters who voted to keep themselves and their families safe from crime, a Labor government took office in Queensland. What we saw then was a blatant disregard for the will of the Gold Coast and the will of those who supported our laws and could see the difference they had made. We quickly saw an out-of-touch Labor government setting up a task force review to advise it on how to best repeal and replace the LNP laws. It was a blatantly closed-shop review with a pre-determined outcome.

During the election campaign, Gold Coasters and Mudgeeraba residents could see through the Premier's rhetoric about being tough on crime, because they had heard it all before from Labor premiers and attorneys-general of the past who had failed to keep them safe. Sadly, their fears were confirmed when we saw the Attorney-General crack under pressure during estimates and admit that there is a clear intention to repeal and replace the legislation by either amendment or new legislation.

Despite inaccurate claims by the Attorney-General and others opposite that our tough laws only focused on criminal bikie gangs, we then had the Police Commissioner confirm that those claims were wrong and that the laws apply to other forms of organised crime. As we now know, the first conviction under the VLAD laws was not of a criminal motorcycle gang member, but of someone on drug related offences. That is why even the president of the police union has publicly supported the laws, arguing before the election that they are strong and appropriate laws. He said—

These laws are good, they work and finally criminals are avoiding Queensland at all costs and the Gold Coast is once again a family-friendly Mecca, thanks to our lobbying for this legislation and the great work of police.

As he and the Gold Coast police know, you can have hardworking police on the beat, but you need to provide tough legislation to back them up.

Amongst the strongest supporters of the LNP's criminal gang laws has been an elected representative of the entire city, my very good friend Mayor Tom Tate. More than anyone's, the mayor's submission to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, which was supported and tabled by Councillor Paul Taylor during the committee's consideration of this bill, is telling of the sentiments of Gold Coasters. He said—

On my understanding of the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill, I am afraid City of Gold Coast will again be plunged into the climate of fear that accompanied the crime wave unleashed by outlaw motorbike gangs over the past decade.

...

No reasonable person can assess the level of criminal activity engaged in by motorbike gang members compared to the rest of society and not conclude that they simply despise the values the rest of our community holds dear.

Nor can any reasonable person fail to recognise that this criminal element is a grave and violent threat to ordinary citizens wanting to go about their daily business.

Time and again we see innocent people caught up in vicious assaults that wreck lives.

The trail of devastation caused to thousands of families by the drugs peddled by these gang members is horrendous. How many more young lives are to be wasted by addiction peddled by motorbike gang members?

The mayor's words echo the concerns being expressed across our city and yet here we stand today, debating laws introduced by this Labor government that will shamelessly water down our laws that work.

Today I would like to go on the record as saying that I am absolutely appalled that the member for Ferny Grove, as Chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, so publicly disparaged and called into question another good friend of mine, Councillor Paul Taylor. Councillor Taylor is a respected city councillor who represents the division that was shaken by the Broadbeach brawl more

than three years ago. He would have been remiss if he did not express his concerns about this bill, which so many of his constituents are outraged by. Shame on the member for Ferny Grove for his treatment of the councillor, who was a guest testifying before his committee and who was shamelessly targeted by an out-of-touch chair.

On this side of the House, we know what a difference the LNP's legislation made to the people of the Gold Coast and to people in my electorate of Mudgeeraba. Whilst those opposite can debate these laws, it is we on this side of the House who represented the Gold Coast community. When we speak in this House about this legislation, it is not a far-off concern affecting a different community; it is a very real issue affecting the safety of our neighbours, our families, our friends and our constituents. That is why I will be opposing this bill today.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (4.56 pm): Today I rise in support of the Serious and Organised Crime Amendment Bill. I start by thanking my fellow committee members, the secretariat and research staff. As the member for Coomera has alluded to, it is quite an extensive bill and explanatory notes and, during that period, we also had to scrutinise the limitations bills. I commend the secretariat for helping us through that process. I commend the work of the chair, the member for Ferny Grove, and his efforts in producing a detailed report. Before I go any further, I put on the record that I feel sorry for Councillor Taylor, because he was set up by Mayor Tom Tate.

An opposition member: Come on!

Mr BROWN: I feel really sorry for him. He is a good bloke who was set up by his mayor. I could tell he is a foot soldier for the mayor. I quizzed him. As the member for Coomera said, I asked him whether he had read the bill and the act. He said no, which I took on face value. I also acknowledge what the member for Coomera later said about time frames. I asked about the memorandum—

Mr Crandon: Less than a week.

Mr BROWN: I take on all of that. What the member for Coomera did not allude to is my last line of questioning, in which I said that the Gold Coast City Council is the sixth biggest city council in Australia and it would employ people to scrutinise legislation. I asked him if he was given a briefing on the legislation and the answer was, no. That is a set up. The poor bloke was set up. He was given a two-page letter from the mayor who said, 'Here you go. Get in there and just throw them that two-page letter and you'll be right. Just talk about the good old days of the VLAD laws.' We see this from the Gold Coast members opposite: it is all bluster. There is no detail. Poor old Councillor Taylor had to go to the hearing, table a couple of letters and give a bit of bluster. He had no briefing beforehand. That is an absolute disgrace and it reflects very poorly on Mayor Tom Tate.

I was looking forward to the scrutiny because I did believe the hype of the Gold Coast City Council that this is a real issue. That is until I was provided with the evidence from the Gold Coast City Council. There was no briefing and no evidence with regard to the bill. It was an absolute disgrace.

Obviously the Attorney-General has gone through the detail of the bill. I will not go over that. I will refer to my detailed questioning of the Queensland Police Union of Employees and the Queensland Police Service, particularly the commissioners who gave evidence to the committee. It is those people who are going to implement these laws. We can listen to the evidence that is put forward by the members opposite but they are not going to enforce these laws.

I will refer to the evidence provided to me during my questioning. I first asked about consultation. I asked Commissioner Stewart about the consultation. He said—

I have been involved right through, as the head of the organisation, in the consultation that has developed this suite of legislation. The Queensland Police Service was very grateful that we were consulted to the level that we were. There has been a lot of work in preparing this new suite of legislation. I think it should be commented on that it is a suite of legislation—and this is the advice given to us by New South Wales—which makes it quite powerful.

I also note the lack of consultation previously. It was amazing to hear from the head of the tattoo industry how the tattoo industry was not consulted before the Tattoo Parlours Act 2013 was introduced. There are 3,000 people employed in the tattoo parlour industry. I have more tattoo parlours in Redlands than I do McDonald's. We have an act regulating a whole industry and yet the industry was not even consulted but it was introduced. That is amazing.

Let us have a look at what the police union said about clubhouses. I refer to a letter provided by the head of the Queensland Police Union of Employees, Ian Leavers. He stated—

Under the current existing legislative framework—

being the VLAD laws—

an involved and cumbersome process is necessary to continue to introduce subordinate legislation to prescribe each new address. The existing legislation means that current OMCGs can keep moving the location of their clubhouse in order to stay ahead of any amendments to the Regulation.

The new introduced proposed laws only positively alter this cumbersome process as under the proposed legislation a different, faster, more effective and more dynamic approach is taken in the new introduced bill.

I want to move on to the evidence provided by the police union's barrister, Mr Schmidt, when I asked him about colours. Mr Schmidt said—

I can say that the union is very happy with that. That is certainly, in my briefings, the union's preferred position. We believe that it actually enhances public safety and it also enhances the perception of public safety. That is something that the union is quite happy about.

I now move on to the anticonsorting laws and see what the police union had to say about those. Mr Leavers stated—

Additionally, the reintroduction of anti-consorting laws means police will be able to prevent known and suspected members of criminal organisations, not just OMCGs, from contacting or interacting with each other.

The proposed amendments in the new bill will allow police to prevent crimes occurring by disrupting criminal organisations and preventing criminals from engaging in organised illegal endeavours.

Let us look beyond OMCGs for a second and look at the other parts of the bill that those opposite do not touch on too much. At the Gold Coast briefing I asked Assistant Commissioner Carless about financial aspects of the bill. Assistant Commissioner Carless stated—

Cold-call investment frauds are a difficult area of organised crime. I guess in this suite of legislation there are opportunities for us to disrupt or make it more difficult for people to operate cold-call investment fraud activities, particularly if they meet the criteria of recognised persons. There are definitely opportunities there for us to use this suite of legislation to address that. As was mentioned by Assistant Commissioner Codd, though, the nature of crime is changing to some extent where we are seeing a lot more use of the internet and the darknet to facilitate crime. We are seeing a significant shift in the way in which organised crime is occurring.

I pick up on the fact that the member for Coomera has said that no-one has read his statement of reservation to the committee report. I note that the opposition members on the committee only thought that two provisions in the bill had merit—that is, the provisions relating to the Drugs Misuse Act and the child exploitation provisions.

We all know that boiler rooms are a significant problem on the Gold Coast. We have Gold Coast pensioners being ripped off. We are talking about the hard-earned money of Gold Coasters. We had two members from the Gold Coast on the committee who did not care and did not realise that these provisions were in the bill. They did not know these provisions were in the bill. They are letting poor old pensioners and hardworking people lose their superannuation and lose financially. They did not think these provisions had merit. Only two of the amendments had merit according to those members. It did not seem like boiler rooms were an issue for the Gold Coast MPs. I will be happy to be corrected by those who follow me in this debate.

What we have to go back to with regard to this legislation is how the police and those on the ground are going to enforce this legislation. I go back to the letter from Ian Leavers of the police union where he sums up the legislation as a whole. He stated—

It is the QPUE's position the proposed laws will allow for a rapid policing response to any new clubhouses, or any other gathering of people engaging in organised criminal activities, whether or not they are associated with OMCGs, paedophilia, boilers room or the like.

I turn now to what Commissioner Stewart said when I asked him whether he felt that these new laws ensured that officers are ready and equipped. He said—

I think the laws certainly are much broader now in relation to organised crime than what we have previously had, particularly the issue around the new orders—the public safety order, for instance—that we have not had before.

He goes on to say—

That type of extra legislation and power I think will prove to be very beneficial to the community, particularly in aspects of public safety.

I note that the crossbenchers are not in the House at the moment, but if they are listening to this contribution—

Miss BARTON: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is common practice in this House not to refer to the absence of a member. I would ask that you direct the member for Capalaba to withdraw the reference to members not being in this House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Member for Capalaba, please do not refer to members not being in the House.

Mr BROWN: I referred to the crossbenchers. There is no member of the crossbenches here.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I stand corrected. He referred to crossbenchers. There is no point of order.

Mr BROWN: I thank the member for Broadwater for her point of order. I get back to the bill. If those on the crossbenches are not willing to listen to the contributions by government and opposition members, I suggest that they go to the submissions of the Queensland Police Union of Employees and the commissioner for—

Mr CRANDON: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member is referring to and criticising members who are not in this House on the basis that they are not interested in listening to this debate. He has no idea why those members are not here. It is unparliamentary for him to refer to them in such a way.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): I ask the member for Capalaba not to mention members who are not in the House.

Mr WILLIAMS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is a member of the crossbench in the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Mr BROWN: For clarity, Mr Deputy Speaker, can I hear your ruling again? Was it because I said 'if those on the crossbench'?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should not refer to members who are not in the House. I call on you to adhere to that, if you could.

Mr BROWN: Thank you for your direction, Mr Deputy Speaker. In summing up, the importance of the submissions from both the Queensland police union and the commissioner show that these are the men and women who are going to enforce these laws, not the members opposite. We should respect their submissions and respect the information that they have provided the committee and the House in their submissions about how these laws are going to work. I commend the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill to the House.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.11 pm): I rise to speak on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill, which was referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on 13 September 2016 for detailed consideration and reporting back to the parliament by Tuesday, 1 November. That is some 48 days from introduction to the committee tabling a report. If we take off a week or 10 days for final approvals, as a draft report is sent to the committee chair, the actual time for hearings and submissions is less than six weeks. That is a period of only 23 days for people to get their submission in on a bill of 445 pages and explanatory notes of 179 pages. Labor took 18 months to undergo its review, yet the committee only get a few weeks. On top of that, as members have heard, we had other bills to consider.

A public departmental briefing was held on 26 September and the closing date for submissions was 4 pm on Thursday, 6 October, yet the public hearing on the Gold Coast was held on Tuesday, 4 October—two days before submissions closed. A further public hearing was held in Brisbane on Wednesday, 12 October. I found it odd, and so did some of the people intending to provide submissions, that a public hearing was held two days before submissions closed. Government members were asking witnesses at the Gold Coast hearing if they planned to put in a submission even though they had given opening statements and answered questions from the committee. Two hundred and eighty-two submissions were acknowledged as received and some of those were form submissions.

Our committee secretariat were really pushed, with copious amounts of work to prepare in tight time frames—and on numerous occasions this was reiterated to our committee. I wish to thank our secretariat for their long hours and hard work. I also want to thank fellow committee members for their efforts. However, after reading the chair's foreword when the report was tabled on Tuesday, 1 November, I felt a sense of embarrassment and deep discomfort when I read the personal, nasty and false accusations levelled at Councillor Paul Taylor and Mayor Tom Tate. I had to read the foreword a couple of times because I was so stunned by the fury and rage expressed by the chair towards people who simply held a different view. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* labelled the public attack as 'bullyboy' behaviour, and many would agree.

Further, the LNP committee members were very disappointed in the humiliating belittling of Councillor Taylor dished up by some government members on the committee. The general tone of questions to some witnesses who opposed aspects of Labor's new legislation was crudely apparent. As I mentioned, the bill is 445 pages long and the explanatory notes are 179 pages.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Logan!

Mrs STUCKEY: It really is most unfortunate when political superiority is used on witnesses, witnesses invited with only a few days to prepare, I might add, who in good faith came to put forward their concerns with the proposed legislation. That is not what our committee system was designed for. No wonder some of the witnesses that I recommended were fearful of retribution and pulled out of the hearing. They were fearful of criminal elements who may have been present, but they were not expecting retribution to come from the committee. How can we expect people to come forward if they are going to be humiliated in this manner?

Dr LYNHAM: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The speaker is suggesting criminal activity of the committee in some respects in her speech.

Mrs STUCKEY: I am not.

Ms PEASE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As a member of the committee, I take personal offence to those personal innuendos.

Mrs STUCKEY: It is not a personal offence.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Were you referring to the member directly?

Mrs STUCKEY: No, I was not referring to any members. I was referring to the tone of questioning.

Ms PEASE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member was referring to the government members of the committee and I am one of them. I took personal offence to that statement.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. For some clarification, if members listened to what the Speaker—the real Speaker, no offence—said in this House the other day in terms of points of order about personal reflection, it has to be a personal reference. The member made no personal reference to any member other than committee members, whether they are government members or non-government members. It has to be a personal reference. Mr Deputy Speaker, there is no point of order.

Dr LYNHAM: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is a reflection on the parliament—the criminal activity of the committee.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will take your seat. There is no point of order. Unless there is a personal reflection on the member, there is no point of order.

Mrs STUCKEY: I can see that we are rattling a few cages here. It has become starkly clear to me that certain members over there did not want to hear opinions different to their own. However, I did not expect savage attacks on people's character with untruths and speculation.

Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate wrote a 2½-page letter which Councillor Taylor politely sought permission to table to the committee. The mayor wrote—

On my understanding of the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill, I am afraid City of Gold Coast will again be plunged into the climate of fear that accompanied the crime wave unleashed by outlaw motorbike gangs over the past decade.

I am the first to say that Mayor Tate and I have locked horns a few times over the years on various issues, but one thing is crystal clear—that is, his 110 per cent passion and advocacy for the Gold Coast and its reputation, and I share that. This letter was in essence a submission and it was delivered to us within the time frame of 6 October. I find it incredulous that the chair suggested it was misleading and chided Gold Coast City Council for not providing a submission. I do note that the chair has voiced his regret at the content of his foreword towards Councillor Taylor, but there is no mention of regret about referring to our mayor or our Gold Coast City Council. I am pleased he has done so, but the damage is done and it is pretty late in the day, on the afternoon of the debate on the bill, to be doing so. The editorial in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* on 3 November regarding the honourable member for Ferny Grove's comments summed it up when they said—

Labor's stance on bikies has been exposed for what it is—a political play that has nothing to do with protecting the people of Queensland from criminal gangs.

Labelling the member for Ferny Grove's personal attack on Councillor Taylor a cheap shot, the editorial acknowledged that Councillor Taylor had 'spoken out repeatedly about the need to maintain tough laws and keep these thugs in check'. Further, the editorial said—

Mr Furner on the other hand has experience with another type of thug. He's a former union official—and many unions have been consistent in their determination to do away with the current bikie laws. To protect the Gold Coast from the criminal motorcycle gangs we need more politicians like Paul Taylor and fewer like Mark Furner.

Mr Furner interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! If the member for Ferny Grove wishes to interject, he should do so from his own seat. The member for Currumbin has the call.

Mrs STUCKEY: The honourable member for Ferny Grove has discredited the committee process and lowered standards with his comments that dragged his fellow Labor colleagues into the cesspool with him. The Premier was clucking away at the Labor conference on 29 and 30 October that she is gunning for candidates on the Gold Coast. She would have been wise to warn her MPs not to insult the natives, especially when the issue that created the biggest impact on the Gold Coast was the LNP's tough criminal motorcycle gang laws.

Each term of government I offer local Currumbin residents the opportunity to have their say on various issues through an electorate-wide survey. Last year some 3,000 of them replied that law and order was the top priority for them and 92 per cent of respondents did not want the LNP's VLAD laws repealed or watered down. Let me say that again: 92 per cent of 3,000 respondents did not want the VLAD laws repealed. I, unlike those opposite, believe strongly in representing the views of the people whom I represent, and the good folk in Currumbin have told me loud and clear they do not want to see tough laws thrown out by a government that is soft on crime.

One glaring flaw about the government Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation, chaired by former Supreme Court judge Alan Wilson, was the direction given to it before undertaking the report which stated—

The Taskforce will note the Queensland Government's intention to repeal, and replace the 2013 legislation, whether by substantial amendment and/or new legislation ...

This is not in any way a criticism of the respected former judge. Rather, it reveals the truth that the Labor Palaszczuk government have nothing but revenge in their policy locker—no practical solutions. Instead, they arrogantly directed a task force towards specific recommendations. However, despite being told what to do, of the 60 recommendations to come from the task force, 23 were not unanimous, 18 of those who did not agree were from the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union of Employees and 12 who did not agree were from the police union. That is over one-third of the recommendations not being supported by all members of the task force.

Of course these officers have to show support for the government of the day and they have done so, but the fact that 20 per cent of the recommendations were not unanimously supported is very telling. The Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union of Employees noted a number of concerns with section 60A including a greater level of complexity and enforcement. In regard to section 60B they noted concerns about the difficulty in gathering evidence of disorderly activity and concerns about mandatory sentencing guidelines. They closed with 'hopes you may consider our submission to allow police to do their operational functions without impediment'.

Mr Schmidt, the barrister-at-law representing the Queensland Police Union of Employees at a public hearing on 12 October, was not aware that the union had not fully supported 12 of the recommendations in the Wilson task force report. I asked him—

Were there any of the recommendations that the union did not support?

Mr Schmidt replied—

To be perfectly honest, I cannot recall. There was obviously some robust discussion during the course of the task force meetings. At the end of the day, my instructions are that the union is supportive of the report.

I followed this up with—

So you are actually not aware if you did not support any recommendations?

Mr Schmidt replied—

I honestly cannot recall what the recommendations were in their final format, I am sorry.

I note for the *Hansard* record that the chair and government committee members did not chastise Mr Schmidt like they did Councillor Taylor for not being across the detail. The LNP cannot support the provisions in this bill relating to OMCGs and neither can the majority of communities in South-East Queensland—communities which are most affected by these outlaw clubs with members who believe themselves to be above the law—a bit like some of the people in here. We simply do not believe there is a justifiable case to toss the existing laws out. In fact, non-government LNP committee members felt there were so many shortcomings in this bill that we wrote a 10-page statement of reservation to be found at the end of the report, which is a much longer statement than the norm.

The objectives of the bill, as set out in the explanatory notes, are to implement a new organised crime regime to tackle serious and organised crime in all its forms drawing on the recommendations of the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry, the task force—with over 20 recommendations not supported—and the statutory review of the Criminal Organisation Act 2009. A further objective is to improve the clarity, administration and operation of particular occupational and industry licensing acts.

Key matters provided for in the bill include new offences for child exploitation material and maximum penalties for financial crimes. They increase the maximum penalty for trafficking in certain dangerous drugs but remove the minimum 80 per cent non-parole period for trafficking. There are new offences for the wearing or carrying of prohibited items. There is a new offence of consorting. It repeals the Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act 2013, the VLAD Act, and the Criminal Organisation Act 2009, and changes licensee requirements under the Liquor Act.

On the issue of clubhouses, there are genuine concerns that they will open up again and that our diligent police will be limited in stopping a proliferation of new locations springing up as bikies re-establish themselves. Only if complaints are made can the police search new premises that spring up. Provisions in the bill place a two-year ban on former clubhouses run by any of the 26 outlaw clubs prescribed in the 2013 legislation. As only one of those 26 is still owned by one of these clubs, it stands to reason that many, if not all, of the others will set up shop in new premises, which is why I asked Acting Inspector Carroll about this scenario. I asked him—

Just to get this straight, you are saying that, with clubhouses that were rented and have been shut down, if those premises actually reopened the two-year order would apply. However, if those very same clubs decide to open up in a totally different rented premises then you actually have to apply under this special order?

Inspector Carroll answered, 'Correct, yes. I understand your question.' To suggest that the new laws would be better than those under the LNP has been rebutted by many commissioned officers and by members of the police union if we look at the 23 task force recommendations I mentioned earlier. It sounds like back-peddalling to me and makes me very suspicious as to what was going on behind the scenes since the task force reported. Have any deals been struck, we should be asking? The LNP declared 26 clubhouses illegal. If a new one opened up in another location by one of the prescribed groups, the police would go back to government and apply for search orders. Intelligence based information was accepted.

Compare what happens now if you believe on reasonable grounds that premises are being used as an outlaw bikie clubhouse, which is that you can apply to search it directly via government, to police having to go through courts because these Labor laws will toss out intelligence based information in favour of only evidence based. Whilst that might sound like a good idea, in reality it is time consuming and not always practical. Clubhouses can open up right next door to old premises, but they will not be able to be searched without a lengthy brief of evidence required to halt activities. By the time all that occurs, these clubs will already have a foothold.

I want to commend the fantastic work of the Gold Coast RAP team under the skilled guidance of Superintendent Jim Keogh. Their efforts in combatting crime on the Gold Coast were recognised by many residents who were sick of living in fear of disruption and extortion. The deliberate removal of Keogh and then Holmes did not go unnoticed or unreported by media.

OMCG members went to extraordinary lengths patching over to another club—something that would have caused turf wars like Broadbeach prior to 2013 had they dared patch over—but they had to reinvent themselves quickly and adapt to new circumstances or flee over the border into New South Wales, which many did. The comments from the President of the United Motorcycle Council of Queensland, Michael Kosenko, certainly created discussion when he suggested a special precinct for bikie clubhouses. Another negative move is the segregation orders put in place by the LNP that kept bikies separate from other prisoners and quashed recruiting. This will now be overturned. Police tell me that numbers will swell as jails once again become a breeding ground for bikies.

This bill has created a lot of discussion in my electorate. Residents witnessed the rapid disappearance of outlaw motorcycle gangs in 2013. You could almost hear a collective sigh of relief, but if you listen to those opposite they do not believe that the people of Currumbin had anything to fear. They do not believe that the bikies were running the Gold Coast. They did not believe that at all. As a Gold Coast MP though, I understand their concerns. The OMCG Lone Wolf have owned their premises for over a decade in Currumbin's light industrial precinct. Club members were cleared out and the clubhouse closed under the LNP's tough 2013 VLAD laws. The club is apparently keen to hold onto the site.

Government members interjected.

Mrs STUCKEY: Those opposite should listen because it would be useful if they learnt something about how to stop crime in the future. The club is apparently keen to hold onto the site, which is close to the M1, close to the Gold Coast Highway, and has access to the Tomewin back roads. Bokie insiders said that the Lone Wolf gang were deliberately trying to outlast the Queensland government until the laws were tested in the High Court. Lone Wolf are notorious for recruiting youth into feeder gangs, most notably the Nomads, and they have been responsible for some really gruesome crimes. Labor's new consorting laws only take action against a piece of clothing. OMCG members will still ride in groups but without colours, and the general public will know no difference. Labor have always been soft on crime, and these amendments will lure citizens into a false sense of safety.

Changes to licensees under the Liquor Act in this bill enable the Commissioner of Police to notify the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming if a licensee is charged with an offence, and allow approvals to let or sublet licensed premises or enter into franchise or management agreements to be cancelled if a person becomes disqualified or is no longer a fit and proper person. These changes are strongly opposed by industry groups, such as QHA, who fear licensing relaxations could allow criminal outlaw motorcycle gang members access to hotel and gaming licences. When asked about these fears, Mr Steele from QHA replied—

It seems contradictory to me, as a layman, that the bill identifies the seriousness of colours and the intimidation, the fear and the criminality that projects so it has seen fit to retain that and seen fit to retain the 26 declared criminal organisations, yet it has opened the door to enable one of those members to now be granted a licence.

He said that these new laws have the 'potential to open up a pathway for members of declared criminal organisations to own hotels' and that they 'do not pass the pub test' for security and probity. The QHA recommends: the retention of the requirement that all applications must be referred to the police commissioner; that police criminal intelligence is able to be continued to be used in determining applications; and that membership of a criminal organisation precludes an application being approved. Tattoo industry witnesses cited health and safety as being compromised if poorly trained, low-skilled people are allowed to set up as tattooists. Undoubtedly, tattooing has become immensely popular in the past decade. Skilled, experienced artists are keen to defend the reputation of their industry and made some valid points. The submission from the Greater Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce, which is in my area, stated—

This Chamber represents businesses and commerce from the Tallebudgera Creek to the NSW border and beyond.

...

Since the implementation of the so called VLADS laws in 2013 this trouble has diminished greatly and the reputation of the Gold Coast has been restored to a great extent.

The Labor Party stood during the State Election in 2015 on a platform including the repeal of the VLAD Laws and was NOT elected to represent any seat on the Gold Coast. This is a reflection of the views of the people who were most affected by the Bokie troubles, that is;—Gold Coasters ...

Highly respected judge, Clive Wall, who retired recently fired off a few parting shots in relation to this government's 'weak' new consorting laws. Describing outlaw motorcycle gangs as 'ruthless' people who terrorised residents, Wall said that the Gold Coast had become lawless and these motorcycle gangs were part of organised crime. A newspaper editorial labelled Wall as a 'justice warrior'. It said—

His was a court where justice was meted out swiftly, and delivered with more regard for the court of community expectations than the vagaries of political correctness and progressive sensitivities.

He is not alone, as we heard from many other witnesses. As we have said, the LNP will be opposing this legislation. We do, however, believe that amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 and the Criminal Code in relation to child exploitation material have merit.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.34 pm): I rise this evening to speak to the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and follow the contributions of my colleagues in their very well articulated cases about our position on this bill and this issue. I will be speaking against the bill. I will be speaking from the perspective of my shadow portfolio responsibilities and issues that relate to the law enforcement of this state.

The starting point for me is questioning why this government is changing the laws that have been working to keep Queenslanders safe. When we left government, Queensland was a safer place than when we began. That was because of more police, better resources and better laws to help them get their job done. We backed the police and, not surprisingly, the community was safer as a result. We not only backed them with resources but also gave them the legal framework that helped them improve their effectiveness.

The QPS online crime statistics describe this well. In 2014, crime significantly decreased across Queensland: assaults reduced by 3.7 per cent; robberies reduced by 24.8 per cent; unlawful entry reduced by 17.4 per cent; car theft reduced by 19.4 per cent; and drug offences increased by 23.7 per cent, which meant that more drugs were off our streets because we had more convictions as a result of the fact that we resourced our police more effectively. On the Gold Coast in 2014, again, crime significantly reduced: homicide reduced by 21.4 per cent; assaults reduced by almost two per cent; robberies reduced by 17.2 per cent; unlawful entry reduced by 27 per cent; car theft reduced by almost 18 per cent; and, again, drug offences increased by 29.4 per cent, meaning there were more drugs off our streets. This is important because Queenslanders did not just feel safer; they were safer. Everywhere I go—but particularly on the Gold Coast—residents, business owners and the cops on the street tell us how good these laws have been and that we need to fight to retain them.

We have to remember the context that originally led to the introduction of these laws. The criminal motorcycle gangs in particular on the Gold Coast claimed that they were running the city; that they were the one per cent above the law. We had the riot in the Broadbeach restaurant where law-abiding citizens with their families were trying to have a peaceful dinner only to be totally disrupted by a criminal motorcycle gang brawl. Then when they were arrested a posse of bikies went to the police station and demanded that their fellow gang members be released. We later had an innocent woman in a shopping centre being shot in a gunfight that took place in those shops. The people of the Gold Coast and the people of Queensland demanded that we do something, and the police told us that the current laws were not effective enough, that the current laws would simply work around the edges, that they would not prevent and disrupt the activities of criminal motorcycle gangs.

The shadow Attorney-General has already mentioned a letter that the mayor of the Gold Coast submitted to the committee. In that letter the mayor stated—

Few people living outside this city can appreciate what it was like on the Gold Coast when bikies roamed without fear of the law. We were a city under siege. But the VLAD law stopped them dead in their tracks. Nothing else had worked but that did.

Now what do we have? We have a government that intends to water down these laws. Again, I will quote Mayor Tom Tate. He said—

Now, since the government has signalled its intention to weaken the provisions there has been a marked return of these outlaws to the Coast. The signs are there—and growing.

If members spoke to the police on the beat, they would be told the same thing—that the bikies feel emboldened. They know that this Labor government is soft on crime and is not serious about dealing with organised crime gangs. On that last point, this was an issue that was also confirmed by the Crime and Corruption Commission in their submission to the Wilson task force in December 2015. In their letter, Chairman Alan MacSporran said—

It is clear from the recent developments that several clubs (including three of the major clubs) have been actively recruiting new members on the Gold Coast. The timing of the recruitment activities suggests that, following the change of government in January 2015, it is perceived by clubs that there is a softening of the stance against OMCG activity.

If there was any doubt—and I do not think there was or is any doubt—that the LNP would retain the 10 seats on the Gold Coast, that doubt has been absolutely removed. We will also win the extra seat that no doubt will be created simply on this issue. The people of the Gold Coast have been happy with the laws and the effectiveness of the laws. They want no changes whatsoever.

Make no mistake: these laws are akin to rolling out the red carpet to bikie gangs in Queensland once again. The clubhouses, as the member for Currumbin has already mentioned, will reopen. The clubhouses that are the centre of criminal activity and drug distribution will open again. The new consorting laws will come into play only after the fact, meaning that crime has to be committed in order for the regime to kick in.

That was the big impact of our laws. Our laws were meant to be shock-and-awe tactics, and that is exactly what they were. 'Extraordinary laws for extraordinary circumstances', the *Courier-Mail* said. We were sending a clear message to the criminal motorcycle gangs to, 'Pack up. Get out of this state. You are not welcome here. You are not in control.' The lawyers who dealt with bikies said that they were absolutely petrified of the LNP laws. Now what do we have? We have the bikie gangs campaigning against the LNP in the federal government because of our tough laws. We are proud that they campaigned against us. We know that they do not want these laws remaining because they know how effective they have been. Our laws were all about—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr MANDER: Exactly right; I take that interjection from the minister. There were limited convictions because our laws were about preventing crime from happening, about stopping it, about deterring it. They cannot commit crimes if they are not here, and they were not; they left. Now they are coming back. The laws were working.

More convictions means more crimes. Our laws sent criminals interstate and overseas and the crime rates reduced accordingly. Now we are seeing how spectacularly Labor has mismanaged our prisons in Queensland and they want to put more pressure on that system with more convictions. Their laws are a smokescreen to look tough on crime when they are nothing of the kind. They are a weakening of the existing laws in so many ways.

The scrapping of the stop, search and detain powers are but another example of how these laws are being weakened. I believe it will lead to more dangerous situations for our hardworking men and women in blue because they will need to confront the criminal gangs head on with weakened powers. I wonder why these laws have a two-year phase-in period. It is because they want to kick the can down the road. Our laws work and members opposite know there is an election campaign coming up. They know the weakening of the laws will mean more crime which will show how weak their laws actually are.

This bill is nothing more than a political solution for a government that owes its very existence to the Independent member for Nicklin. This is not about protecting Queenslanders; it is about protecting the survival of their government. The parliament should not support laws that have no basis for their introduction and are not supported by the majority of Queenslanders. I urge members to stand up for Queenslanders—not criminal gangs—and oppose this bill tonight.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.43 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. On this side of the House we oppose this legislation due to the fact that a number of serious community safety concerns that have been raised with respect to Labor's proposed legislation have not been satisfactorily explained by the Labor government. The Labor government is proposing a number of changes that we believe both are unnecessary and will weaken the ability for law enforcement agencies to prevent and disrupt organised crime and keep all Queenslanders safe.

To fully understand the existing laws that were passed by the Queensland parliament on 16 October 2013 and are known as the Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment—VLAD—Act, we need to return to the very beginning and revisit the primary catalyst that brought about these changes. Criminal gangs, including criminal bikie gangs, in Queensland and particularly on the Gold Coast were causing, creating and contributing to increasing public safety issues and associated criminal offences at the time. Back then our newspapers and law enforcement agencies were reporting almost daily the latest increased activities and prevalence of criminal gangs with respect to lawlessness and general criminal activity.

On Friday, 27 September 2013 over 50 Bandidos bikie gang members proceeded to walk with apparent purpose, side by side, through the Broadbeach mall. Their conduct attracted the attention of members of the public and also the police, who were obviously aware of the unusually large number of bikies attired in their colours. These gang members entered a restaurant in Broadbeach where men, women and children were out enjoying dinner. In front of all of these diners and their families they approached a particular diner who was a member of another bikie gang. A brawl ensued and was taken outside of the restaurant by the Bandidos and another now outlawed motorcycle club. Police had to use stun guns to disperse the brawling gangs, and 18 members of these gangs were charged as a result of this disgraceful incident. We all remember the headlines in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* on 2 October with a Bandidos pictured. The headline attached to his photo was 'We run this town'. This sounds familiar and is very similar to a CFMEU official who said recently words to the effect that the union owns the Labor Party.

The time had come for the government to take a firm stance, and thankfully the LNP government rose to the occasion. Fast forward to 16 October 2013 and the Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act 2013 came into immediate effect. Associated legislation was enacted on the same day and included the Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) Amendment Act 2013 and the Tattoo Parlours Act 2013. These acts were to be reviewed by the relevant minister after three years. These laws have been labelled the toughest antibikie laws in Australia. These laws have worked and have had the complete backing of the Queensland Police. They were also upheld by the High Court of Australia.

It should be noted that both the Labor South Australian government and the Labor Victorian government have been favourably predisposed to such tough legislation. Results with respect to the VLAD legislation saw a 10 per cent reduction in reported crime in the first full year following their introduction. This speaks volumes and begs the question: why would any government want to implement measures to reduce their effectiveness? The mayor of the Gold Coast, Councillor Tom Tate, is on the record as asking that these laws remain in place and that they remain unchanged. Mayor Tate has said that either repealing or weakening these laws risks the re-emergence of bikie gangs in his city, undoing the great work of our police force in reducing crime. He has also said that such action will lead to irreparable damage to tourism and the image of the Gold Coast.

In June of 2015 the socialist Palaszczuk Labor government set up a task force to review the suite of legislation introduced by the LNP government in October and November of 2013. This task force was a closed shop review with a predetermined outcome, so it comes as no surprise that on 31 March 2016 a report was delivered which made 60 recommendations. On this side of the House it is very difficult to justify a case for change when crime rate statistics, including those in 2014 when the LNP were still in government, showed that crime significantly decreased on the Gold Coast as a result of the Liberal National Party's strong law and order legislation. Homicide reduced by 21.4 per cent; assaults reduced by almost two per cent; robbery reduced by 17.2 per cent; and unlawful entry reduced by 27 per cent. Crime also significantly decreased across Queensland. Assaults were down by 3.7 per cent; robbery was down by 24.8 per cent; and unlawful entry was down by 17.4 per cent, to quote but a few. Drug offences were also being dealt with in a more timely manner.

Both I and the LNP opposition believe that Labor's proposed legislation is flawed in that it adopts recommendations from two reviews that have come under significant criticism. One of our two law enforcement agencies, the Crime and Corruption Commission, was not represented on the task force that reviewed these laws. Also of importance is that 23 of the 60 recommendations of the task force were not unanimous, with 18 of those not being unanimous because of concerns raised by the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union and the Queensland Police Union of Employees.

However, I do believe that there are two components of Labor's legislation that have merit. These are amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 and amendments to the Criminal Code which relate to child exploitation material being accessed over the internet. However, the vast number of amendments in Labor's legislation that soften and weaken the existing criminal gang laws means Labor's laws will increase the risk to community safety from organised criminal activity and criminal gangs and will return us to a very problematic set of public circumstances in existence prior to the VLAD laws being enacted. The socialist trifecta of the Labor Party, corrupted unions and the antidevelopment Greens is supporting and empowering criminal gangs and criminals whilst also destroying our state's economic security.

Those in Queensland, Australia and the free world who will vigorously deal with crime, criminal gangs, lawlessness and terror related offences and will protect our democratic freedoms, our values, our flag and the importance of family will continue to do so. I stand united with like-minded conservatives to defeat Queensland's socialist Labor government. Queenslanders are further united each and every day to reject the insidious growth of Labor's biased political correctness agenda. Free speech should always be defended. Labor's Marxist slurs levelled at various community leaders will be rejected by the silent majority. Labor's clear social agenda to silence, isolate, destroy and undertake a formalised program of character assassination directed at Liberal National Party politicians and other political leaders will be defeated. Labor and the Palaszczuk Labor government are soft on crime. Labor are soft on border protection. Labor are the economic vandals of Queensland and Australia, and I oppose the legislation.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Before calling the next member I will just remind members that in addition to jumping they must also seek the call. If two members jump at the same time, the member who verbally seeks the call will receive it. I call the member for Lytton.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.51 pm): After hearing the contribution of members opposite, including the member for Currumbin, it is obvious that all their porch lights are burning very brightly at the moment. The member for Currumbin alluded to government members of the committee being linked to criminal behaviour. I would like to put on record that I find these statements personally offensive and I consider them to be an abuse of privilege. There has also been much said today by members opposite regarding the chair's integrity. I would like to say that the chair has integrity in bucketloads. He is collaborative and consultative with government and non-government members alike.

Now I am going to talk about the very important bill before the House: the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. That is what we are here to talk about tonight. I would like to thank the chair of the committee, the member for Ferny Grove, Mr Mark Furner MP, and my fellow committee members. I would also like to thank the secretariat for their work and support during the consideration of this important bill.

As a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, I recognise the threat that organised crime presents to our entire state. In the course of this inquiry the committee carefully considered what the focus of Queensland's response to organised crime should be, how it should operate in practice and what fundamental principles it should underpin. I will focus my speech on two critical issues that have arisen in the course of debate in this House and in the public more generally: the breadth of application of the government's bill to all forms, especially emerging areas of concern; and the statewide spread of the bill.

Evidence has emerged during this inquiry that organised crime presents a much broader concept and reality than the presence of outlaw criminal motorcycle gangs on the Gold Coast. I draw members' attention to the following extract from part 1, chapter 2 of the Wilson *Taskforce on organised crime legislation* report at page 12, which states—

Organised crime is constantly evolving. It exists in a dynamic environment 'not exclusive to certain geographical areas, to singular ethnic groups or to particular social systems'.

Family-run, Mob-style mafia groups like those made famous in *The Godfather* and *The Sopranos*, once thought of as the defining stereotype, no longer dominate organised crime.

The nature of the modern-day crime landscape is such that those old-style traditional groups are no longer so prominent.

Organised crime syndicates are now, in the main, more fluid in size, structure and make-up. They form, coalesce and dissolve, crossing environmental and social boundaries, infiltrating a diverse range of crime markets, adjusting to new technologies, and adapting to law enforcement interventions.

The threat that organised crime presents goes to the heart of our police and government's ability to provide for the safety and integrity of the communities that we serve. This understanding of organised crime in its current state is what informed the need for this bill. The government's commitment to evidence based policy and protecting all Queenslanders is our guiding action.

The parliamentary committee identified that there is no territorial limitation for organised crime. The rise of the internet and increased global exchange of people and ideas has given rise to increased opportunities for illicit and quasi-legal arrangements to facilitate illegal and unconscionable activities. Evidence suggests the need to be vigilant for organised crime in all parts of Queensland, from the far north to the Gold Coast. Resourcing for police, prosecutors, intelligence and other crime-fighting infrastructure is critical to the success of any effort to tackle the issues we are discussing today. A framework of law is not enough.

Over successive budgets the Palaszczuk government has provided additional resources to address the different manifestations of organised crime in our state. In April the Premier announced a \$37.4 million funding package to address the issues raised in the Wilson task force and other reports. Specifically, this included \$20 million over four years for the Queensland Police Service to specifically target serious organised crime and a further \$5.3 million over three years to establish an independent crime statistics body to collect data and monitor organised crime as well as impacts and trends across all crime types. This funding was delivered as part of the 2016-17 state budget.

I also note that in this year's budget the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions was allocated funding for an additional 26 permanent positions. This represents an allocation of \$12.1 million in base funding over four years commencing 1 July 2016, and the majority of these positions are allocated to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions' regional locations—17 out of 26 of them. These positions, both prosecutor and support roles, will play an important role in bringing justice for regional Queenslanders.

It is clear that there is a strong community interest in the debate over responding to organised crime. The committee received 282 submissions, some of which were accepted on a confidential or partially confidential basis, and I would like to thank those organisations and individuals who contributed to this important process. Laws that impact upon the rights and freedoms of individuals and reform the criminal law should be subject to the appropriate parliamentary and public scrutiny, and I am pleased to be part of a government that recognises this fact and sees such activity as a key component of our legislative role in the democratic process. I will now turn to the laws themselves in greater detail.

The bill creates a comprehensive new regime for Queensland to tackle all forms of organised crime. The bill introduces a new consorting offence punishable by up to three years imprisonment for a person to interact with a recognised offender. A recognised offender is a person with convictions for an indictable offence punishable by a maximum of at least five years imprisonment or some lesser indictable offences often linked to organised crime such as riot. However, a fundamental aspect of the proposed change is that a person's criminality should be determined by their actual conduct. The new offence prohibiting the wearing of colours and similar paraphernalia in public recognises the real and valid concerns of many Queenslanders, including police officers. These items exist for no other purpose than to intimidate others, especially when worn in public places.

The Public Safety Protection Order Scheme is comprised of three orders and is a multilevel strike against organised crime. It will replace the LNP's clubhouse offence. The three orders are restricted premises order, public safety order and fortification removal order.

A concern that was put to the committee was the accountability of officers and government regarding the police exercise of special powers, and I can assure these community members that accountability mechanisms are built into the exercise of these warnings by police. The bill creates a more robust, more targeted and more contemporary organised crime work framework for Queensland, protecting all Queenslanders against all serious organised crime. I commend the bill to the House and I encourage all members to support the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill.

Debate, on motion of Ms Pease, adjourned.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (5.59 pm), by leave: I rise to make a correction to an answer I gave in question time earlier today. In response to a question without notice from the member for Keppel I stated that changes to the NDRRA arrangements relating to plant and equipment arrangements were made under the Newman government. I wish to clarify that, whilst the Newman government was in office at the time the changes were made, they were in fact instigated by the Abbott government and applied retrospectively by the Turnbull government. To my knowledge, the Newman government did not seek to have the unfair arrangements changed.

MOTION

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.00 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for abandoning regional and remote Queenslanders and failing to appoint a replacement Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.

If ever we needed evidence that the portfolio of agriculture, fisheries and forestry was at the bottom of the food chain when it comes to this government, we need look no further than what has unfolded this week—a week in which we saw another CFMEU union hack fall by the wayside and the important agriculture portfolio shunted on to the police minister, to add to his bulging list of responsibilities. We only have to look at this week's *Queensland Country Life* and the headline 'I owe, I owe, out the door I go' to understand that this government has become a laughing stock of regional and rural Queensland. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Article from *Queensland Country Life*, dated 10 November 2016, titled 'I owe, I owe, out the door I go' [[2057](#)].

What a disgrace! What a blight on the agriculture industry in this state that the agriculture minister cannot pay her rates, drives around in an unregistered car and has to stand up in this place and resign. This is a position that represents the agriculture, fishery and forestry sectors across Queensland—the position at the top of the pyramid, the position that all sectors look towards for direction, support and guidance.

Rural and regional Queensland have a right to be outraged. They have a right to demand that the Premier sort out this mess once and for all. We do not want another lame-duck minister who has no clue about agriculture. We need a minister who is actually going to deliver for the rural sector and provide the direction we desperately need.

I draw the attention of the House to comments from the Queensland Farmers' Federation President, Stuart Armitage, in today's *Queensland Country Life*. He stated—

Agriculture is critical to the success of the Queensland economy. It is regional and rural Queensland's mainstay employer and importantly, it is a growing sector during the resources downturn.

...

Investment in the sector will provide a major boost for the state's economy and much needed jobs for regional and rural Queenslanders.

Here we are, a week after disgraced minister Donaldson resigned, still waiting for the Premier to appoint a new minister for agriculture and fisheries. Who will that person be? Who of those opposite has the runs on the board to step up and take on this vitally important portfolio? Who will it be?

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr LAST: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. I do not see anyone over there with the credentials to take on that important portfolio.

The failure by the Premier to appoint a minister to this portfolio shows this government's contempt for rural and regional Queensland and our primary industries. This is an industry that underpins our economy—an industry with an annual value of production of around \$17 billion, employing over 90,000 people including in first-round processing. Agriculture, fisheries and forestry support over 30,000 businesses, earn over \$5.4 billion in exports and are far too important to Queensland to be put in the hands of yet another dud minister.

The appointment of a new minister must be above gender rebalance and Left factional payback. Dare I say it, it should be on merit. I know that might be a foreign concept to those opposite. I say to the Premier: do the right thing by the bush, do the right thing for agriculture and please appoint someone who has some experience in the rural sector.

This is a critical time for agriculture, with a new US President and the ever-changing dynamics of international agricultural trade demanding attention. This is vital for the Queensland economy, regional prosperity and jobs, and it is about time the Palaszczuk Labor government gave this sector the recognition and attention it deserves.

We even have peak farm body AgForce highlighting the succession of ministers and failures that has led to instability that no sector needs. Is the message getting through, Premier? Our agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors feel abandoned. At a time when they need the government's support, it has let them down. The Premier should stop treating primary industries like the poor cousin and show this parliament and her fellow Queenslanders that rural and regional Queensland matters. Our primary industries sector deserves better, and the last thing our farm, fisheries and forestry industries need is another dud minister chosen by faceless ALP power brokers as payback. The Premier should show her commitment and appoint a new minister today who actually cares about the portfolio and has the ability to deliver.

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (6.05 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the member for Burdekin. At the last state election, regional Queenslanders used their vote to express their anger and resentment towards the LNP government, whose only focus was on the south-east corner of our state. The Newman-Nicholls government closed the door—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. This is not an opportunity for attempts to disrupt the speaker.

Mrs O'ROURKE: The Newman-Nicholls government closed the door on regional Queenslanders and opened its chequebook to Brisbane.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to your rulings in regard to appropriately naming members and former governments.

Mr SPEAKER: I did not hear the comments made.

Ms SIMPSON: The member wrongly referred to the previous government and under your previous ruling it is supposed to be appropriately named, not what this member did.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the minister.

Mrs O'ROURKE: The previous—

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Speaker, will the member withdraw her statement, given your ruling?

Mrs O'ROURKE: I withdraw. The previous LNP government closed the door on regional Queenslanders and opened its chequebook to Brisbane, ultimately condemning our communities to high unemployment and economic uncertainty. Some regional Queenslanders are still feeling the harsh effects of the LNP, but I want to reassure them that this government will not leave them in the dark; we will focus on all of Queensland, across all portfolios. Unlike the LNP, our government has a strong focus on building our regions—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, member for Toowoomba South and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, if you persist I will warn you under standing order 253A. In my view, your interjections are intended to disrupt the minister.

Mrs O'ROURKE: Unlike the LNP, our government has a strong focus on building our regions to ensure growth and economic opportunities are shared throughout the state. We understand the importance of regionalisation and decentralisation and the considerable contribution regional communities make to our economy. That is why we are investing almost \$4.8 billion in infrastructure across regional Queensland this financial year, in addition to the \$200 million Building our Regions program and the \$180 million Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program. We have also committed to the Back to Work regional jobs package. That is not all we are doing for regional Queenslanders. We have created thousands of regional jobs, increased exports, increased tourism and put a stronger focus on innovation and economic diversification.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

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

Mrs O'ROURKE: As the first dedicated Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland, I am working every single day to deliver positive outcomes for North Queenslanders with my cabinet colleagues in our regional communities. Earlier this year the government launched our Advancing North Queensland strategy which made significant progress across five priority areas—roads; water; research and innovation; tourism, trade and investment; and the North Queensland Stadium—and already this strategy is better connecting regional communities and creating jobs through investment in roads and is responding to stakeholder calls for more water infrastructure to develop our agricultural industry.

I am very aware of the vital role North Queensland agricultural industry plays in supporting our state's economy, and Queensland's agricultural industry is currently in the safe and experienced hands of the Acting Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Bill Byrne. Our agriculture industry is world renowned for producing high-quality, safe, clean and green food at competitive prices and is a key source of employment for the region, and that is why it is one of our highest priorities and will be supported by a number of priorities in our Advancing North Queensland strategy. As part of this strategy we have committed \$1.5 million over three years to stimulate research activity to progress the development of new agricultural projects in North Queensland, including through leveraging the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia.

This government also understands the serious impacts drought can have on Queensland's agricultural development, on rural communities and on primary producers and I have seen firsthand the low levels of dams like Palm Island and Townsville and the need for water security in our region. To help combat these harsh realities, we have committed \$77.9 million in this year's budget to support rural producers and communities. These are only a handful of initiatives put in place by our government to support the development of agricultural industries and people in the bush. We are a government that governs for all Queenslanders, not just those in the south-east—and this commitment is clear. The fact

of the matter is that the LNP failed regional Queenslanders and it does not deserve to have another go. The member for Burdekin is clutching at straws to suggest that we are neglectful. We are working every day to create jobs and opportunities in regional Queensland, and I oppose the motion.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (6.11 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Burdekin and say how good it is to have a shadow minister for agriculture and fisheries in the LNP shadow cabinet—unlike the vacant position in the Palaszczuk cabinet. It has been a week since the Labor government's former agriculture minister resigned and, true to form, the do-nothing, know-nothing Palaszczuk government has not appointed a new one. The agriculture and fisheries department is responsible for administering \$453 million of taxpayers' money. Until a new minister is appointed, valuable time is being wasted and—

Mr SPEAKER: I apologise, member for Warrego, for interrupting you. Minister for Police and Corrective Services and member for Southern Downs, I would urge you to take your conversations outside or you will be warned.

Ms LEAHY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Until the new minister is appointed, valuable time is being wasted and the department is on hold. We know the acting minister will do his best with his now super portfolio responsibilities. We on this side of the House worry: will the minister have time to deal with it all? Will he have the time to stand up and support 90,000 jobs in agriculture, fisheries and forestry? Will he have the time to stand up for a \$15 billion industry? We worry about you, Acting Minister. Agriculture supports 30,000 businesses and earns \$4.5 billion in exports for the state. This Labor government is not interested in these businesses or the export earnings. It does not even care enough to appoint an agriculture minister.

Yesterday we heard disgraceful comments from the Minister for Trade in relation to the President-elect of the United States of America. At the very least the Minister for Trade should apologise to the farmers and processors for her comments because this country's international trade relationships are vital to businesses across rural and regional Queensland, including in my electorate. For instance, the goat industry is a quarter of a billion dollar industry, with 70 per cent of goat meat being sold to America. That is an extremely important export revenue stream to my electorate and other parts of regional Queensland. It is outrageous to hear the trade minister potentially jeopardising our very important international trade relationships.

This government just does not care about regional and rural Queensland, and nor does it care about agricultural industries. It just wants to take the revenue produced by these industries. It does not want to give anything back. It does not want to invest in water infrastructure like the Rookwood Weir, the schools and the roads in particular and it ties businesses up in green tape. Let us take, for instance, Cross River Rail. Some \$50 billion was allocated in this year's budget before the legislation was even introduced for the establishment of the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority. One month's interest on this money could have provided enough funds to address the serious safety issues on the Meandarra Talwood Road in my electorate, one where there is a daily school bus run on that road. I will keep fighting for long-term funding commitments for this road that conveys millions of dollars worth of grain to market and cattle to market. I want more than band-aids for this road and the many other roads across regional and rural Queensland. They are the lifeline to our export industries and our ports, and they continue to be neglected by this do-nothing, build-nothing Palaszczuk government, which cannot even make a decision to appoint an agriculture minister. In relation to cluster fencing—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms LEAHY: I take the interjections from the member for Gregory and the member for Toowoomba South. The Premier announced an additional \$5 million on 1 May in Barcaldine for cluster fencing. Six months later, we are waiting for money to hit the ground in Western Queensland. Do we have to wait six months for a new agriculture minister as well? Six months seems to be the common sort of time frame with agriculture and this government. We know the acting minister is just as disappointed with the government dragging the chain on this promise. Minister, it is time to stop the delays and roll out the money and stop neglecting rural and regional communities. It is high time the agricultural industries in regional and remote Queensland were valued by this Labor state government and an appointment was made. I commend the motion moved by the member for Burdekin to the House.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.16 pm): It gives me great pleasure to speak against the motion moved by the member for Burdekin. The Palaszczuk government has a strong record in supporting regional communities. I understand what the member for Warrego was saying when she said that she was upset—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I apologise, member for Mackay. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are now warned under standing order 253A. Your interjections, in my view, seem to be designed to disrupt the speaker. They are disorderly. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

Mrs GILBERT: As I was saying, I certainly understand the member for Warrego's frustration with the lack of infrastructure in the regions. My community was very frustrated over the three years of the Newman government where we got nothing built in our region by that government, yet we see that building across the road in William Street. I certainly understand where she is coming from.

Today I was able to reflect on the record of Ministers Byrne and Donaldson. They were very successful ministers, so I can certainly understand why those opposite are so keen to see another agriculture minister because they will be excited to see how we are going to continue on with the great record that we already have. In October last year we saw the official commencement of the operation of the three-year collaborative arrangements with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. This agreement saw the establishment of the Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance in conjunction with industry. Industry and government are working together in a model for getting industry intelligence that can, among other things, provide clear identification of workforce supply gaps and best value for money of investment opportunities for training and skills expenditure. The Palaszczuk government has successfully established three net-free fishing zones in North Queensland and Central Queensland.

I am pleased to say that I had the opportunity to take the Premier and the Minister for Tourism to Cape Hillsborough when they were recently visiting Mackay. Cape Hillsborough is located in the net-free zone north of Mackay. During our visit, Ben Atherton reported on the early success of the net-free zone. This year, the area has seen approximately one-third additional turtles breeding on the surrounding beaches, dolphins have returned in the seas off the beaches, and there is good news for our dugong: the seagrasses have started to renew and thicken.

The Palaszczuk government has overseen the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges and Central Queensland University for the delivery of skill based training for the agricultural sector. The Palaszczuk government has overseen the establishment of the Animal Welfare Advisory Board. In early August, this board met for the first time.

We are all aware of the ongoing drought that Queensland is experiencing, with up to 80 per cent of our state drought declared. The Palaszczuk government is supporting the continuation of existing drought relief. In fact, as per our election commitment, arrangements are in place until 2018. If useful rain does not fall, these arrangements will be reviewed. The DRAS is assisting people on the land through monetary payments and relief measures, including financial counselling, mental health services, relief from electricity charges, the waiving of annual water licence fees and land rates rebates. There has also been a \$4 million community assistance package to help affected communities. The Palaszczuk government is supporting rural producers through these times of drought and natural disasters. When the drought ends, we want to see farmers emerge stronger and able to capitalise on opportunities that lie at their doorstep. It is this government's intention to have an industry that is both profitable and sustainable in the long term. That is why we are investing in measures to combat wild dogs.

It is also important for our rural producers to continue to develop new markets and trade opportunities. The Palaszczuk government has committed to trade initiatives to ensure that our food and fibre producers have new sources for markets. Our trade missions have been a great success. Minister Byrne has been to China. He has forged relationships with China and created new business opportunities for the beef industry. The government has developed relationships with investors in Queensland who both want to export and import.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.22 pm): If that was an audition to be the next minister for agriculture, goodness me! God help the agricultural industry in Queensland! I understand that the member lives in Mackay and at least represents a regional area. I hope and pray that, when she holds her first media conference with the camera in front of her, unlike the former minister for agriculture, the member for Bundaberg, she does not say that she once had a veggie garden. If that is the member's first comment, the industry is never going to respect her.

Mr Seeney: Tell them about your pot plants.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The member should not talk about her pot plants. She should not tell them that she goes shopping at Woolies and that is where she gets her vegies. The member should do a bit of research.

For the sake of the agriculture industry in Queensland, the members on this side of the House have been hoping and praying that we will get a minister to represent the industry sometime soon. I have worked it out. The reason we do not have an agriculture minister appointed yet is that those incompetents opposite have to swot up for the job. They need to learn their lines. They have to practise. They have to buy their RM Williams clothes. They have to understand the difference between a heifer and a bull. It is incredible what they have to learn to get up to speed. We know that the members opposite have no idea.

Queensland has had three agricultural ministers in 18 months. It is no wonder the leaders of rural and regional industries are shaking their heads. I know that they shook their heads over the last couple of appointments. Mr Maudsley of AgForce said, 'Honestly, I don't know how Labor Party politics plays out. I don't know if it's the most qualified person or the Left of the party, or the Right of the party, or what it will be.' It is whomever has done the most swotting. They may sit for their exam tonight. This week, the member for Keppel has been madly researching agriculture. The honourable member for Morayfield has been wearing checked shirts all week, trying to get the feel for it. Yet even if they think that they should be the minister for agriculture, every single member on that side of the House voted in this House for the vegetation management laws.

This side of the House enabled common-sense vegetation management laws to support the rural and regional industries of Queensland. Why do the members opposite hate farmers? Why do they hate anyone who has a little bit of get up and go and wants to make a dollar for themselves in rural industries? Those incompetents opposite do not go to the federal government asking for funding for dams. They do not want to build dams. Look at Rookwood Weir: the acting minister for agriculture has his head in the sand about that one. In relation to beef roads, the minister would not even apply for the funding. He did not even get the letter off his desk. When we debated the motion in relation to beef roads, he had no idea. There is no support at all for rural and regional Queensland from those opposite.

I would like to talk about the fact that it was the LNP that put together the department of agriculture. During the Beattie and Bligh years, the department was completely gutted. I heard the member for Mackay talk about the agricultural colleges. It was those incompetents opposite who got rid of the agricultural colleges. The Labor Party does not support agricultural education at all.

Most insulting is what the fishing industry thinks of those members opposite. As for forestry, those guys opposite did not even put the 'F' in DAF. They took it away. The viable forestry industry of Queensland does not even get represented. It is about time. It is a week later. When is this incompetent Premier going to appoint a minister for agriculture for this great state?

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (6.28 pm): I rise to speak against the motion moved by the member for Burdekin that this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for abandoning regional and remote Queenslanders in failing to appoint a replacement minister for agriculture and fisheries. I completely reject that proposition.

As to the appointment of a new minister for agriculture and fisheries, this is an important position in the Labor cabinet and, as such, it can be expected that our Premier is giving the appointment careful consideration and that the best qualified person will be appointed. When it comes to potential ministers, the Palaszczuk government is blessed with a wealth of talent.

As to the proposition that the Palaszczuk government has abandoned regional and remote Queenslanders, nearly every day Palaszczuk government ministers announce projects and programs that benefit regional and remote Queensland.

Earlier today the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business, Leeanne Enoch, announced funding for North Queensland technology innovators. Four technology innovators from Cairns and the Atherton Tableland have secured Advance Queensland funding to accelerate their development and growth and help them launch into global markets. Minister Leeanne Enoch congratulated the recipients who share in more than \$541,000 of the first round of Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas funding.

As well, the Premier and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, the Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport, Curtis Pitt, and the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Grace Grace, announced a \$20,000 Back to Work Youth Boost, a boom to regional businesses. Queensland employers will now have an additional incentive to hire local young people this festive season. This doubles the government's \$10,000 incentive, offering a \$20,000 incentive for regional businesses who hire unemployed youth.

On Tuesday night the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Anthony Lynham, introduced the Stock Route Network Management Bill, a bill that has been in the consultation phase since 2002. It is the Palaszczuk government that has brought this bill to fruition, something the Newman government could not achieve. This bill provides that the state government contributes to the state's stock route network infrastructure but local authorities will control how they are used and also retain all associated fees—a win for graziers, drovers and local authorities.

Just last night the parliament passed the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill that restored the right of third parties to appeal proposed use of groundwater by mining licence holders, a win for Queensland farmers and graziers, as well as rural communities affected by mining operations.

This government has also simplified and strengthened the tick line by removing the confusing control zone and in some areas aligning the tick line with stronger double fence boundaries. The new framework will provide greater flexibility for producers, reduce travel times, reduce costs for the industry and, most importantly, it will continue to protect the cattle tick free zone. The LNP did not have the guts to take action on the tick line, but the Palaszczuk government did.

The LNP has poor form when it talks about supporting Queensland agriculture. Under its regime the total employees of the department of agriculture fell by 615, from 2,589 to 1,073. It is hard to see how this supports Queensland's agriculture industry. The Palaszczuk government delivered on historical puppy farm legislation. As part of the Advance Queensland program in the recent budget it established the Technology Commercialisation Fund. These are just some of the examples of how the Palaszczuk government is supporting local Queenslanders. I only have five minutes. I wish I had more.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 42:

LNP, 40—Barton, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

NOES, 42:

ALP, 41—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

INDEPENDENT, 1—Gordon.

Pair: Fentiman, Bates.

The numbers being equal, Mr Speaker cast his vote with the noes.

Resolved in the negative.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.39 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 29 November 2016.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.39 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Teal Sock Day

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (6.40 pm): The Gaven and wider Gold Coast community recently rallied together to raise funds and awareness for survivors of sexual violence and domestic violence at the first ever Teal Sock Day. The event was held at Metricon Stadium, the home of the mighty Gold Coast Suns and also the home of the 2018 Commonwealth Games. This fantastic event was organised by the passionate team at Kiwanis Club of Pacific Pines. Kiwanis is a worldwide organisation that raises funds for youth at risk in their local community. The Kiwanis Club of Pacific Pines is only the second Kiwanis Club to open in Queensland and the first all-female board in Kiwanis International's 100-year-plus history.

The Kiwanis Pacific Pines committee of Natalie McMahon, Naomi Drew, Pam Gilbert, Maggie Harris and Victoria Sutton worked tirelessly to bring this event together and they have the gratitude of our entire community for their efforts. I would also like to note Steve Legg for his efforts towards this event. I hear that he is about to become the club's first male committee member. I offer my congratulations.

Gold Coast locals attending Teal Sock Day made the effort to be up bright and early for bacon and eggs at 6.30 am before heading onto the field—in teal socks of course—to attempt a Guinness World Record. Unfortunately, we did not have enough participants to take out the world record for the biggest massage conga line—which has been designed to promote safe touch, a term used to empower survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

I am sure that next year will be even bigger and better, but we do need nearly 2,000 participants to set the new world record. In the meantime, it is still not too late to purchase a pair of teal socks or make a donation. Just go to the Teal Sock Day Facebook page to find out how. Every cent raised goes to helping victims of domestic and sexual violence.

I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved, especially our supporters, Metricon Stadium, the Gold Coast Suns, 1029 Hot Tomato, Kool Kids childcare centres, Eximm Security Management, Gold Coast Cabs, Surfside Buslines, Seven News Gold Coast—and I make special mention of their fantastic coverage—and our brilliant local Queensland Police Service officers, who not only supported at the event but also helped us plan the whole event, including traffic and crowd management. It was a great event that was enjoyed by all.

Pine Rivers Electorate

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (6.42 pm): I rise to update the House on a number of recent events in the Pine Rivers electorate. The Pine Rivers Police Officer of the Year Award is an annual event put on by the Rotary Club of Pine Rivers. I mention some of the wonderful officers who were nominated this year: Constable Kelly Hague from the Petrie Police Station; Acting Senior Constable Lyndal Harvey, who is responsible for administering Project Booyah and does a lot of work with the network Youth at Risk in Pine Rivers; Sergeant Peter Long, who has had 42 years in the service; Senior Constable Tammy White, who does a lot of work at Petrie Crime Prevention and with whom I have had ride-alongs; Constable Shane Wilson, the Adopt-a-Cop at Eatons Hill; and also Senior Constable Jacqueline Riddell, who is the first response police officer at the Mango Hill/North Lakes station.

This year, Jacqui took out the award, which is absolutely wonderful. It was great to see Jacqui win the award and to see how humble she was in receiving it. Jacqui joins a number of outstanding officers who have taken out the award over the years, including Sergeant Shanelle Harris, Sergeant Ken Robinson from Dayboro and Sergeant Ty O'Connell, who continue to make a fantastic contribution to our local community. It was my pleasure to sponsor the event. A \$500 donation goes to the charity of choice of the Police Officer of the Year. Last year I had the honour of sponsoring it and again this year. They do an absolutely fantastic job. I congratulate all of those nominated, the winner and Pine Rivers Rotary for doing such a wonderful job.

Recently Pine Rivers Rotary Daybreak put on a mental health forum, which I had the honour of emceeing. It was the second forum in recent months. It ensures that the community is aware of available services. This comes with the announcement by the Palaszczuk government and, in particular, Minister Cameron Dick, who is in the chamber this evening, about a new bed-based extended treatment and rehabilitation facility close to Pine Rivers, in the Prince Charles Hospital. I commend the minister for his work there.

Finally, recently we had the Parliamentary Friends of Rugby League city versus country match. Unfortunately, I can report to the House that the country team was victorious, yet again. I commend the member for Broadwater, who has been taking lessons from the member for Callide, for dropping a

shoulder into the member for Glass House. I commend the efforts of the members for Murrumba, Capalaba, Everton and legend Scotty Prince, who got across the line. Also, I give a shout out to Petero Civoniceva, Peter Betros and Rachelle Wheeler.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (6.45 pm): Last night in this parliament we saw a sordid political episode where the Palaszczuk Labor government moved callously to pull the rug out from underneath hundreds of coalmine workers who are presently employed at New Hope's Acland coalmine on the Darling Downs. We should not be too surprised about the actions of the Palaszczuk government with respect to this project, because they have form in terms of interfering politically in the assessment and approvals process for this particular project. Previously I have drawn the attention of the House to the outrageous and ridiculous 'broccoli, broccoli' debacle that we saw in the parliament last year from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines.

However, in as much as we should not be too surprised about Labor acting for its own political self-interest in terms of its ongoing love affair with the Greens to stay in political power, I was shocked a few moments after we finished debating that particular underground water legislation to listen to an adjournment debate speech from the member for Mirani. The member for Mirani attacked a resource company at another mine site in Queensland. He made a complaint about that resource company making a particular workforce redundant and replacing it with another workforce. He lamented the impact that it would have on the families and communities of the people who worked at that mine site. Yet a few minutes earlier, the same member for Mirani had lined up with the Australian Labor Party and pulled the rug out from underneath several hundred coalmine workers who work at the Acland coalmine. He callously, maliciously and clinically voted to pull the rug out from underneath those coalmine workers.

This afternoon the member for Dalrymple came into the parliament and congratulated the member for Mirani on his speech. We saw the member for Dalrymple scratching the back of the member for Mirani and congratulating him, telling him what a fantastic job he had done. Yet last night in this parliament, the member for Dalrymple clinically, cynically and outrageously voted to pull the rug out from underneath hundreds of coalmine workers at Acland stage 3. The absolute hypocrisy of those two members astounded me last night and astounded me this afternoon. I do not know how they could make such outrageous comments in the parliament when last night they both lined up with the Palaszczuk government to place the livelihoods and the jobs of those coalmine workers in jeopardy.

(Time expired)

Borallon Correctional Centre, Graduation Ceremony

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (6.48 pm): On Wednesday, 26 October 2016, I had the privilege of attending the first TAFE Queensland graduation ceremony at the Borallon Correctional Centre, located in my electorate of Ipswich West, along with Mr Mark Rallings, the Commissioner for Corrective Services. Sixty-five graduates from the first cohort of 90 eligible students officially graduated, with qualifications in Certificate II in Automotive Underbody Technology; Certificate II in Cleaning Operations; Certificate I in Construction; Certificate IV in Engineering—welding skill set; Certificate II in Kitchen Operations; Certificate II in Horticulture; and units of competency in language, literacy and numeracy.

A number of graduates shared their future plans for their continuing studies. I was particularly delighted to hear that one student had already secured employment with their local council after completing the horticultural program. He was genuinely excited to be starting his new job the following month, as he positively transitions back into the community. The ceremony was a credit not only to the students who had successfully completed their training but to the dedicated staff of Queensland Corrective Services and TAFE Queensland who, in partnership, are actively working together to reduce the number of reoffenders through quality education and training.

The onsite TAFE Queensland campus in the Borallon facility offers an accelerated learning environment and a responsive delivery model to accommodate the student profile. The learn and earn model emulates a real 40-hour working week and is customised through individual learning plans. Language, literacy and numeracy is integrated into over 80 training program offerings, including year 10 to 12 studies, adult tertiary preparation, life skills, units of competency and certificate and degree

programs. The true success of the Borallon program will be the multiple competencies prisoners gain to be workforce ready upon release. Students prepare for employment in a broad or specific occupational area, whilst co-developing both functional and social skills.

The recommissioning of the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre in April 2016 is another example of the Palaszczuk government delivering on their promise to address chronic prison overcrowding and recidivism. Earlier this year, it was announced the Palaszczuk government will be investing a further \$88.5 million over the next five years towards the remediation of hanging points in the Borallon facility to reduce prisoner suicide, and will allow for a further 244 cells to be opened. This will alleviate overcrowding in other South-East Queensland correctional centres and, more importantly, provides an opportunity to effectively reintegrate more prisoners back into society through the education and training programs at Borallon.

The recommissioning of Borallon has created significant job growth for Ipswich West both through redesign and building the facility and the ongoing recruitment run by the operation as the prison expands. Borallon is boosting the local economy, while concurrently the youth crime cycle is breaking through education and training.

(Time expired)

Downs & South West Law Association

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (6.51 pm): The Downs & South West Law Association is one of 18 district law associations and it represents a vast area of Southern and Western Queensland. I recently met with Catherine Cheek, the president, and executive representatives to discuss a range of issues relating to their members and clients seeking timely and efficient justice.

Access to justice in regional Queensland remains a challenge, with lawyers and clients reporting a number of administrative difficulties. Three of Toowoomba's five courthouses are very small, with some courtrooms lacking video link capabilities. Court waiting areas are crowded and lack privacy, which is of particular concern when addressing domestic violence matters.

In 2016 Toowoomba has been allocated 28 weeks of District Court sitting time and approximately 10 weeks Supreme Court sitting time. This often results in more than one judge sitting at the same time—whether it be two District Court judges or a District Court judge and a Supreme Court judge sitting at the same time. This causes difficulties among the local profession and for the delivery of justice for their clients as Federal Court circuit and QCAT hearings, which compete for the same resources, are sometimes cancelled. Lawyers often find themselves scheduled to appear in two different courts at the same time, diminishing their clients' prospects of success as legal teams are required to be changed late in the proceeding.

The significant sitting time allocation would support the permanent appointment of a District Court judge in Toowoomba on the basis that the judge would also undertake circuit sittings in centres such as Dalby, Roma, Warwick and Stanthorpe. Other regional centres in Queensland displaying a similar or less workload have already been allocated a permanent District Court judge.

Over and above that, there are no higher court civil sittings allocated to Toowoomba, which substantially increases legal costs as litigants and lawyers spend an additional four hours on the road commuting to Brisbane. This is a particular problem when many litigants in civil jurisdictions come from west of Toowoomba, and a hearing in Toowoomba already involves an overnight stay. Such regional litigants find the trip to the big smoke of Brisbane daunting enough already and costly as it involves additional travel and accommodation costs.

The legal system in regional Queensland needs to be properly supported for the sake of the men and women who depend on it for protection or enforcement of their valuable legal rights. I commend the association for their ongoing efforts—Ms Catherine Cheek and her executive who do everything they can to represent legal practitioners in the area and advocate for the highest quality resources to be afforded to legal representation and to clients throughout rural and regional Queensland. I commend the association for their ongoing efforts.

Keppel Electorate

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (6.54 pm): I rise tonight to congratulate a number of community organisations and a school in my electorate and surrounds that are celebrating birthdays in 2016. Firstly, I wish the Yeppoon Scouts a very happy 90th birthday. Recently I presented the Scouts with a

new barbecue as a birthday present. It is great to see the new Doug Pease 'Emu' memorial shed, constructed with funds from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, is proving very useful for storing the canoes, a trailer and all of the Scouts' gear. Scouts is a great activity for young people. I was really impressed by the set-up, the Scout leaders and the den. Congratulations to Kaylene Williams and Trish Allardice for all of their efforts organising the anniversary celebrations.

Congratulations also to the Yeppoon Probus Club on their 30th birthday. It was an honour and a privilege to attend the birthday celebrations at Kanangra Heights recently, where the first changeover dinner was held 29 years ago. I was very pleased to present Yeppoon Probus President, Inge Pedersen, and the club with a commemorative clock as a birthday gift. The special guest was the President of the Probus Association Queensland, Judy Brockett, who gave an insight as to the future of Probus in coming years. The club's longest serving member, Bert Rialls, gave a history talk on the club's activities since he became a member.

As patron of the Emu Park Surf Lifesaving Club, I would also like to wish the Emu Park Surf Lifesaving Club a very happy 60th birthday. It was a delight to celebrate the club's birthday recently with president, Mark Wyer, secretary and Emu Park Surf Lifesaving Club stalwart, John Phelan, and friends. The Emu Park Surf Lifesaving Club was formed in 1956, with the clubhouse being built in 1960 and officially opened by then mayor, Rex Pilbeam. When the club was first formed, it had around 10 to 12 members and has grown to be one of the biggest surf lifesaving clubs on the Capricorn Coast with 65 lifesavers and 140 junior nippers. The Emu Park Surf Lifesaving Club's great history and success is as a result of the many decades of dedicated lifesavers this club has produced. Happy 60th birthday Emu Park Surf Lifesaving Club and thank you for everything you do for our community.

Congratulations also to the Cathedral College on their 25th anniversary. Congratulations to school community members, parents and friends, the college board, including chairperson Bridget Bongers, Principal Rob Alexander, Diocesan Director of Catholic Education, Leesa Jeffcoat, and all of the staff, students and school community who have worked tirelessly to make TCC the great school that it is, just 25 years young. I was very pleased to present the school with a book for their birthday recently.

Tomorrow night I will be attending the 10th annual Indigenous Awards Night for Schools which is being organised by Darumbal Community Youth Services. The awards night is a celebration of our young Indigenous students across a number of public schools within the Rockhampton and Yeppoon regions. Thank you to CEO, Nyoka Fetoa'i, for the invitation and best wishes to all of the nominees. I look forward to celebrating with you tomorrow night.

Rural Queensland, Education

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (6.57 pm): As of 2015 year 7 became the first grade in high school in Queensland. This negatively impacted rural Queensland. I do not think people realised the impact this would have. This was a result of a policy that was initially fed down from the federal parliament. It was trickled out through Queensland. Our rural towns were forgotten. For places like Camooweal, Doomadgee, Boulia, Georgetown and Julia Creek in my electorate that do not have high schools it placed an excessive burden on parents who have to send their kids away to boarding school a year earlier.

This is enormous cost for families. This forced families to leave the local schools earlier. It resulted in fewer teacher numbers in our schools. The schools became less variable. Some councils were very good. McKinlay and Georgetown manoeuvred and funded them themselves. I think it is a pretty perverse outcome that councils are funding education in Queensland. We have teacher aides delivering school of the air curriculum in those classrooms. The kids are still doing the same work in those classrooms to keep them in town a while longer. The council is funding that themselves and parents pay a fee. It makes it harder when the numbers are down for a year.

This results in excessive pressure on those kids. In terms of the school of the air kids, a figure given to me not so long ago was that the number of kids accessing the living away from home allowance over the last 10 years has gone from 2,000 to 900. That gives a picture of what is happening to our towns and our young people out in those areas. We are losing a lot of them. Those who are out there we want to give the best chance we can in terms of their education.

A lot of these towns have a high Indigenous population. It is very important to try to keep those kids in school. A lot of them fall off the wagon if we cannot keep them in school. Years 6, 7, 8 and 9 are critical. Removing year 7 from those towns has created a large burden.

I am pleased that the government has come to their assistance finally after that change with some commitments in some of these towns—Georgetown, Karumba and possibly McKinlay, where there is a teacher aide helping those kids and keeping those kids in school. I commend those councils for making the effort to try to do something for the parents and kids in those towns, taking matters into their own hands when they were left out in the cold like that.

I would like to make the House aware that there is an additional burden on those people in those areas. If things are not tough enough, they are still battling with that issue. Councils are picking up the slack. Finally, there is some assistance from the state that we are very appreciative of. I hope that can continue into the future.

Thuringowa Electorate, Crime

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (7.00 pm): I rise tonight to speak about the ongoing crime issues affecting Townsville City and my electorate of Thuringowa. I am acutely aware of the impacts this is having on residents who phone, email and contact me daily. With our work recently—and I am proud to have been involved in the Stronger Communities whole-of-government response that was recently launched—I have full confidence that over a period of time this will reduce crime rates in our city with its intensive case management targeting those recidivist offenders.

However, as the local member for Thuringowa, I wanted to send a message that I continue to make representations to ministers like the Attorney-General, the Minister for Police, the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland and, in fact, the Premier herself. We all deserve to live in a safe community. The bashings that we have seen in Kirwan in my electorate are unacceptable. We have more work to do. To that end, I requested a meeting today with the Premier. I was joined with the members from Townsville and Mundingburra. I am pleased to say that the Premier listened to our joint concerns as we look forward to seeing some short-term solutions being considered over the coming days and implemented as soon as possible.

I want a safe community in Thuringowa. My constituents deserve to live in a safe community and be safe in their own homes. I commend the police. I have run with the police on a Friday night just recently doing curfew checks. They are doing a great job. They need more resources. I have written to the police minister, and I hope we do get more resources over a period of time. In saying that, I know that that Stronger Communities program will have an impact. They are talking with the broader community—elders, victims and families—on the intensive case management of those offenders. Again, over time I know that that will have an impact.

I was able to go to the Transition 2 Success inaugural graduation of the Upper Ross PCYC where 15 young people in the youth justice system were graduating after a three-month course where they learnt a range of lifelong skills to get them back into education, employment and training opportunities—to get them back on track and to get them working in our community. I congratulate everyone involved. We had our local Cowboys co-captain Matt 'Thumper' Scott there who is also engaging with the kids. Like me, he is invested in making a real change in young people's lives.

I commend the program. I got to speak to some of the youths themselves. They told me that the three-month program had changed their lives. It is about turning their lives around. We will continue to work hard to address these issues in Townsville.

Southport Electorate

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (7.03 pm): I rise to speak about the luckiest electorate in Queensland—Southport—with stage 1 of the light rail transforming our CBD. It is great to see the next stage well and truly underway. The scale of the Commonwealth Games village and the associated rail network improvements initiated by the previous LNP government has been absolutely epic. On my way to the office each morning I get to drive past the new hockey centre, which is coming on amazingly. Last weekend I also had the pleasure of launching my jet ski off the new boat ramp that has recently been completed at the Broadwater Parklands. What an amazing facility. It was incredible to see so many families out enjoying not just the new ramp and facilities but also the Broadwater Parklands that the LNP government worked so hard to create in my time as part of the Newman government. Could you really ask for more? Probably not.

There is another project that I am very excited about—that is, the completion of the Titans high performance centre. If anyone had told me a few years ago when I joined the Titans board that one day they would be building a new multipurpose facility smack bang in the middle of Parkwood in my electorate, right next door to my favourite golf club, I would have told them they were dreaming—but here we are.

Mr Seeney: What happened to that old hospital site?

Mr MOLHOEK: It is still waiting for sign-off from the other side. I take that interjection from the member for Callide. The centre will not receive its official unveiling until Tuesday, 29 November, but it is being put through its paces from today with the commencement of pre-season training. I have to admit that I am absolutely delighted to see that that facility is well and truly underway.

I am also excited about the fifth annual Kids in Care lunch. This year the Titans and Parkwood golf course will be partnering with me and the member for Gaven to host the fifth annual Kids in Care charity lunch. We are hoping this year to raise significant money to support kids through the Labrador Child Safety Service Centre, the Nerang centre, FSG and the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence to assist families and kids over the Christmas season.

There is so much pride and community spirit on the Gold Coast and so much within my own electorate. A few weeks ago at the Paul Broughton awards, Paul Broughton, in presenting the Titans player of the year award, said—

The season has been duly praised and rightly so as the Titan organisation, the NRL, the sponsors and in particular the players and fans brought a city to an awareness that they now know that it's only a matter of time before the Gold Coast Highway from the Airport to Cbus will be lined with the community of a united city behind a team that [came home with their first premiership].

My hope is that we will see that dream come true sooner rather than later. I thank Paul Broughton and others for their inspiration in supporting the Titans and also the Commonwealth Games.

Ikea Logan

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (7.06 pm): Tonight it is my time to shine the spotlight on an important state asset. I speak, of course, of Ikea Logan based at Slacks Creek in the electorate of Woodridge.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: I thank the members opposite for their support. I am sure even they would not sell an important asset like Ikea Logan. Last year Ikea Logan was recognised as one of the top five Ikea stores in the world, alongside stores in Austria, Poland, the Netherlands and China. It was my pleasure to join the staff of Ikea Logan and other community leaders recently at Ikea Logan's 10th birthday celebrations. Ikea Logan is an important employer in Woodridge and in the City of Logan. It has conscientiously given back to the Logan community during its 10 years of operation.

Confidently led by store manager Renea Robson, and previous store managers Richard Harries and Katerina Bohlin, Ikea Logan employs more than 360 people. More than 70 per cent of the employees hail from Logan and from surrounding Brisbane suburbs. About a quarter of all co-workers at the store are 24 years or younger, making it the first workplace for many young Woodridge and Logan residents. Dozens of local residents have gone on to carve a career there. In fact, 50 of the store's staff have served there for more than a decade, together achieving more than 600 years of combined service.

Among them is Cornubia local Michelle Binch, who has served for 29 years in the Ikea Springwood and then the Ikea Logan restaurant, which has turned out more than 18 million meatballs in that period. Michelle is supported by Teresa Chuchla, who has served in the store for 14 years; Linda Steer, who has worked there for 12 years; and Yolanda Bachiller, who has worked there for eight years—all in the restaurant. I was delighted to meet Michelle, Teresa, Linda and Yolanda at the 10th birthday celebrations.

Ikea Logan has also developed a number of important community partnerships in the Woodridge electorate including at nearby Mabel Park State School through the Beacon Foundation. Of the 30 participants in this program, more than half have been recruited by the store. Ikea Logan also contributes to the government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, with half of the 30 participants in this program being recruited by this store. Tonight I congratulate Ikea Logan and all of its 360 co-workers for the decade-long contribution they have made to the electorate of Woodridge and the City of Logan and reiterate my support for this important business as it powers into its second decade.

I also wish to quickly acknowledge the work of Sandra Franklin, who was formally recognised at last week's Heart Foundation breakfast here at Parliament House. Sandra helps organise a working group in the electorate of Woodridge—the Woodridge Wanderers. I was delighted to see her dedication

to the cause recognised with a national and state Golden Shoe Award. I would like to extend my congratulations to Sandra and to thank her and the Woodridge Wanderers for their efforts in keeping Woodridge residents healthy.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 7.09 pm.

ATTENDANCE

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