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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 15 February 2017

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WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2017



The Legislative Assembly met at 2.00 pm.

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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Debate of Petitions



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 14 February 2017 the petition 'Say no to Queensland abortion law reforms that do not protect women, allow abortion to full term and limit free speech' was presented to the House. The petition gained 31,735 signatures.

Sessional order 2A(1)(c) provides that the subject matter of every petition tabled in the House and announced by the Clerk as having been signed by 10,000 or more persons shall be set down on the *Notice Paper* by the Clerk and that the House is to take note of the petition unless the Committee of the Legislative Assembly determines that debate of a petition would anticipate debate on another order on the *Notice Paper*.

At its meeting on 14 February 2017, the Committee of the Legislative Assembly resolved that the petition would not be set down on the *Notice Paper* as debate of the petition would anticipate debate of another order on the *Notice Paper*, namely the cognate Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill and the Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill. However, members should note that they are able to refer to the petition during debate of these cognate bills should they wish to do so.

Same Question Rule



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, yesterday the Leader of the Opposition introduced the Bail (Domestic Violence) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2017. After the bill was introduced and referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, the Leader of the House drew the attention of the Deputy Speaker to the Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, which is currently also referred to the committee, and the alleged similarity of content. The Leader of the Opposition subsequently wrote to me regarding the matter.

I have circulated a detailed statement on this matter. The statement makes it clear that any ruling regarding the same question rule would only be proper after one of the bills either received its second reading or was defeated at its second reading. I seek leave to incorporate the statement.

Leave granted.

MR SPEAKER Honourable members,

Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition introduced the Bail (Domestic Violence) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2017.

After the Bill was introduced and referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, the Leader of the House rose on a matter of privilege. The Leader of the House drew the attention of the Deputy Speaker to the Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, which is currently also referred to the committee. According to the Leader of the House, that Bill contains within it provisions that appear to be very similar to matters contained within the Leader of the Opposition's Bill.

The Leader of the Opposition wrote to me yesterday disputing the similarity of provisions.

I think it appropriate that I outline the procedure regarding Bills and the application of the same question rule.

Importantly, the introduction of a Bill, its first reading and referral to a committee does not enliven the same question rule as against other Bills that have been recently introduced. That is, two Bills with similar or inconsistent provisions can both be introduced, read a first time and referred to a committee.

There is no rule which restrains the presentation of two or more Bills relating to the same subject, and containing similar provisions. But if a decision of the House has already been taken on one such Bill, for example, if the Bill has been given or refused a second reading, the other is not proceeded with if it contains substantially the same provisions.

The same question rule in respect of Bills only arises where:

- A Bill has already either been passed or defeated in the Assembly in the same session that is the same in substance as a Bill sought to be introduced. In such an instance, the Bill could be discharged after introduction and first reading or referral to committee (Hollis (S), 15/3/2000 PD 437; Simpson (S) 02/05/2013 PD p1512); or

- Where two Bills are introduced that are the same in substance and one of the Bills receives its second reading, the second is likely to be discharged at that time, whether before the House or a committee (Simpson (S) 31/10/2013 PD p3777).

I can assure both the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition that I will give full consideration as to whether the same question rule would apply to the Bills or provisions of the Bills, but any ruling would only be proper after one of the Bills received their second reading or was defeated at the second reading.

PETITIONS

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

Safe Haven Enterprise Visa Zone

Hon. Miles, from 188 petitioners, requesting the House to designate Brisbane and regional centres as a Safe Haven Enterprise Visa zone [169].

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

South Sea Islanders, Apology

Mr Williams, from 368 petitioners, requesting the House to achieve a long overdue outcome and make a formal apology to the descendants of the original South Sea Islanders [170, 171].

Darra Railway Station, Car Park

Mrs Smith, from 171 petitioners, requesting the House to construct a new multilevel three storey car park on the existing car park site at Darra Railway Station [172, 173].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills (Hon. D'Ath)—

[174](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal—Annual Report 2015-16

MEMBER'S PAPER

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

Member for Pumicestone (Mr Williams)—

[175](#) Nonconforming petition regarding a formal apology for South Sea Islanders

NOTICE OF MOTION

Military Training Areas

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development) (2.04 pm): I give notice that I shall move—

That this House condemns the federal and state Liberal National Party members of parliament for abandoning graziers, meatworkers and small businesses of the Rockhampton and Charters Towers regions in their fight against the Turnbull government's planned compulsory acquisition of prime Queensland grazing land.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Action on Ice

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.05 pm): My government is committed to dealing with the scourge of drugs in our communities and the devastating effects of one drug in particular. Crystal methamphetamine—or ice—is like no drug we have seen before. Once drug abuse was seen as being an inner-city problem. No more. The insidious nature of ice and the criminals who deal in it has a disproportionately large effect on regional communities across our state.

Rehabilitation for drug users was once seen as a process that took weeks or, at worst, months. No more. The terrible toll that ice has upon a user's body, in particular their mind, can take years to undo. When I travelled to Central Queensland a fortnight ago I met with the brave mothers and

grandmothers of ice victims. I saw the pain and helplessness in their faces. Many family members I have spoken to have told me their personal stories. One was having to care for their grandchildren on a full-time basis because their addicted child could no longer care for their own children. Ice is ripping families apart. It is having a devastating impact on many communities across Queensland, and too often it does this damage in the shadows, behind closed doors. No more.

Today I am pleased to announce my government's strategy to tackle the evil of the drug ice. Action on Ice is my government's draft plan to address the harms caused by ice and demonstrate my government's commitment to tackle this serious issue. I table that action plan.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Action on ice—The Queensland government's draft plan to address use and harms caused by crystal methamphetamine, February 2017 [176].

Already we have committed an additional \$43 million over five years to increase access to specialist alcohol and other drug treatment services; \$6 million to fund targeted responses to ice across six hospital and health services, including new drug and alcohol intervention teams in the Rockhampton, Townsville and Logan hospital emergency departments; additional specialist alcohol and other drug treatment clinicians in Cooktown, Weipa, Rockhampton, Logan and the Gold Coast; and expanded access to support programs and services for Queensland families affected by ice and other drug use by funding family drug support.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Who made that interjection?

Mr Rickuss: Me.

Mr SPEAKER: I put you on notice. If you continue I will take the appropriate action.

Ms PALASZCZUK: This is a problem for communities across Queensland, and those communities deserve the opportunity to have their say and to be heard about what needs to be done. I am pleased to announce that our first summit on tackling ice will be held in Rockhampton on 27 April. We need to come down hard and with the full resources of our law enforcement agencies on the criminal groups producing this drug, be they outlaw motorcycle gangs, international syndicates or any other people.

We need to do much more than that. This requires a solution that addresses education, communities—including child safety—health and housing, among others. I am under no illusion about the huge task ahead, but I feel so strongly about this and have been personally touched by stories such as Debbie's that I will ensure that everything that can be done will be done to help the families and addicts of this life-destroying, addictive drug.

Tourism Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.09 pm): Stronger investor confidence in Queensland's tourism potential has seen the state's tourism infrastructure pipeline increase to \$13 billion over the past year. We have more than 30 significant infrastructure investment projects slated for development between now and 2022. These projects located across the state, from the Gold Coast to Cairns, will create thousands of jobs, inject billions into the economy and make us a more attractive destination for tourists. These are exciting times for tourism, but we need to be looking to the future and ensuring we have the right infrastructure and experiences to meet the needs of the millions of tourists who are coming here now and the millions more we expect in the years to come.

The tourism infrastructure investment pipeline includes: the \$3 billion Queen's Wharf development; the \$600 million Lindeman Island upgrade; the \$2 billion Laguna Whitsundays upgrade; the \$50 million Cairns Aquarium; the \$1 billion Jewel development; and the \$100 million proposed Brisbane International Cruise Terminal.

In Brisbane, more than \$4 billion is slated for future hotel and integrated resort development such as Howard Smith Wharves, Queen's Wharf, Mary Lane and the new Emporium at South Bank. Brisbane Airport's new runway has also entered its next phase of construction. This project will support more than 2,700 jobs.

We are also seeing strong investment in the Whitsundays. There is \$2.7 billion in infrastructure investment fuelling development at Lindeman, South Molle and Daydream islands. The member for Keppel and I recently had the opportunity to meet with Mr Iwasaki and had very positive discussions about his proposed \$600 million redevelopment of the Capricorn Integrated Resort. I know how important that issue is for the member for Keppel.

Investing in new tourism assets and improving infrastructure that supports the tourism industry drive real growth in tourism and jobs. Under my government we have seen double-digit growth in the number of visitors coming to our great state of Queensland. Over the last two years we have attracted an extra 500,000 seats on international flights, thanks to our attraction fund. There were 2.6 million international visitors in the year ended September 2016, an increase of 17 per cent in holiday travellers. Those international visitors like spending. They spent \$5.2 billion—the equivalent of \$100 million every week—around the state over the same period.

With this growth in tourism, my government has adopted in full the recommendations of the retail trading hours review to ensure we maximise the benefit of the increasing tourist numbers. We are determined to continue to do what we can to attract more investment to Queensland.

Infrastructure

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (2.12 pm): The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of delivering better infrastructure for Queenslanders. Through the 2016-17 state budget we are investing in infrastructure to deliver jobs for Queenslanders including more than \$4 billion for better roads and transport.

This morning I was pleased to join with the Gold Coast Mayor, Tom Tate, to inspect the \$163 million Coomera-Helensvale rail duplication project. There are now fewer than 500 days to go until the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, and the finish line for this critical project is now in sight. The Coomera-Helensvale rail duplication will not only support the Gold Coast region to host one of the world's largest sporting events; it will also cater for the region's growing number of residents and visitors. This major infrastructure project involves the construction of eight new bridges and the duplication of 8.2 kilometres of heavy rail track and is supporting more than 200 full-time jobs. Once completed, the Coomera-Helensvale duplication will mean increased peak-hour capacity on the Gold Coast line, enabling the operation of up to eight trains per hour in each direction. It will also deliver improved safety, efficiency and reliability of the network and a reduction in delays. Work is now underway on the bridge over the Coomera River, Hope Island Road and Saltwater Creek, representing the busiest and most complex phase of the duplication project. I look forward to inspecting the project again soon for the laying of the first tracks.

Work is also continuing on Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2, which will integrate light rail with heavy rail at Helensvale station to create a seamless, one-transfer journey between Queensland's two largest cities: Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Delivery of stage 2 is providing significant economic benefits to the state, with more than \$69 million already spent with local suppliers. As well, close to 90 per cent of the 1,092 workers inducted as at the end of January are from the Gold Coast and the South-East Queensland corner.

Major earthworks are close to completion, including the two new park-and-ride facilities at Parkwood and Helensvale, and over the coming months GoldLinQ and CPB Contractors will continue construction of retaining walls and the new light rail stations. To date, almost two kilometres of the 4.2 kilometres of noise barriers are in place. The reconstruction of the Napper Road-Smith Street and Olsen Avenue-Wintergreen Drive intersections to prepare for the laying of the rail has commenced and will be completed by June. Four additional light rail vehicles have been ordered, with the first two on schedule to be delivered in August 2017.

Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 will not only leverage the value from the investment in stage 1; it will also be ready to play a crucial role in the delivery of public transport for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. It is already providing an economic and employment boost to the local economy and will be a significant legacy for the community long after the Commonwealth Games.

Sugar Industry

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (2.15 pm): Queensland's economic success is dependent on our state being open for investment. An open investment environment means more jobs. Jobs are this government's No. 1 priority. This is especially so in regional Queensland.

I am sure that all members of this House would agree that sugar is a key industry for our state. About 95 per cent of Australia's sugar industry is located in Queensland by output. Most of that is in regional Queensland. In 2015, 33 million tonnes of sugar cane were crushed and 4.6 million tonnes of

sugar were produced in Queensland. This equates to about \$2 billion in value produced and \$1.5 billion of export earnings. The industry is an important employment generator, with about 4,000 canegrowers in Queensland and up to 16,000 jobs in the sugar-milling industry. I have the greatest respect for canegrowers, as I do for the local mills and those who operate them. I also understand that without mills many people in my electorate would not have trade qualifications and, of course, there would be no place for the cane to be crushed. This is a symbiotic relationship.

It is clear that the sugar industry's future prosperity depends on continued investment. The sugar industry is also on the cusp of realising economic gains and new sources of prosperity through the production of ethanol and bioproducts from cane. To realise these gains and jobs we must keep the investment flowing into the sugar industry in regional Queensland. This is why the government did not support the Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Act 2015, the sugar marketing bill.

The government concluded, after receipt of a regulatory impact statement from the Queensland Productivity Commission, that the legislation presented a serious risk to the long-term economic viability of the sugar industry, with potential impacts on output, costs, employment and investment. More generally, the legislation's philosophy ran counter to 30 years of Australian microeconomic reforms, including the sugar industry reforms in the early 2000s.

In terms of the current QSL-Wilmar dispute, the Queensland government position has been clear throughout: commercial solutions are needed. A further legislative intervention and the implementation of more red tape would be a backward step. The Commonwealth government's policy uncertainty is not helping matters. The arrangements in the sugar marketing bill are clearly at risk of being anticompetitive under the Competition and Consumer Act 2010. Accordingly, I wrote to Treasurer Scott Morrison in December 2015 and again in February 2016 to refer the bill to the National Competition Council for review. Treasurer Morrison declined to action Queensland's request.

In addition, the Australian government has yet to publically release the Australian Productivity Commission's report into agriculture regulation, despite the report being handed to it on 15 November 2016. The draft report of the inquiry called for the sugar marketing bill to be repealed, stating that it is likely to reduce the productivity and profitability of the industry by constraining investment and structural adjustment.

Despite our government raising this issue with the Turnbull government for over a year now, no action has been taken. The federal government's inability to take steps to ensure an open investment environment is damaging to the Queensland economy. From the beginning the Palaszczuk government has made sure Queensland is open for business and investment. When it comes to jobs in the sugar industry and jobs in the regional Queensland economies it supports, there is no other course of action we can take.

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.18 pm): It was a very great honour to join the Premier and my ministerial colleagues the members for Stafford and Brisbane Central to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital earlier today. As the son of a midwife who worked at the Royal, I know just how hard everyone at the RBWH works to care for some of the most vulnerable in our community. Today we celebrate their vital role in delivering life-saving treatment, compassionate care and world-leading research opportunities. This great hospital has been instrumental in saving lives not just in Australia but also around the world through pioneering medical research, education and training.

There probably is not a family across our state who does not know someone who has worked at the Royal or who has not benefited from the highly specialised care at the RBWH, and that has been the case for a century and a half. The RBWH is a hospital steeped in history since the very beginning; a hospital that has grown with Queensland. The hospital of 1867 was a far cry from today's bustling hub. Back then, only a handful of doctors and eight nurses were treating a few thousand patients a year. The RBWH has played a crucial role in shaping the history of Queensland and the moments that have shaped our state. In times of war to tending to those affected by the 2011 Queensland floods through to caring for burns victims of the Bali bombings and the Ravenshoe cafe explosion, this hospital has played an invaluable role in caring for Queenslanders when some of the biggest tragedies to rock our state unfolded.

Major events aside, on a daily basis all of the 6,000 exceptional staff who work at the RBWH provide world-class care to well over 500,000 patients annually, many treated in some of the nearly 1,000 beds at the Royal. The quality of care this hospital provides extends far beyond Brisbane. The RBWH is also the largest provider of telehealth in the state, connecting many patients across Queensland to the very best medical care. The RBWH pioneered health care in this country and, since its establishment, has continued to raise the bar in healthcare delivery. Institutions such as the RBWH embody the very best in our society. It serves as a beacon of hope in a time of greatest need. It does not discriminate or judge. It serves all Queenslanders on their journey through life, helping to start and save lives. Happy 150th birthday, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

Retail Trading Hours, Review

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.20 pm): Creating jobs is the No. 1 priority of the Palaszczuk government. As the Premier has said, for 20 years governments in Queensland have refused to act to reform trading hours, but this government will deliver reform. We have endorsed the most significant changes to Queensland's retail trading hours in more than two decades. The proposed changes have the potential to increase gross state domestic product by \$79 million and create nearly 1,000 jobs. Shop trading hour laws will now be amended to implement consistency driven by 13 recommendations of an independent reference group chaired by QUT School of Justice Associate Professor and former Speaker of the Queensland Legislative Assembly, John Mickel. The review considered the views of all stakeholders—consumers, workers and business owners. This is a balanced outcome for Queensland on what is a very complex issue made up of a patchwork of overregulation of trading hours that no longer suit our modern lifestyles. For example, under the current arrangements, some butchers cannot open on Sunday when a lot of people enjoy a barbecue. That just does not pass the common-sense test.

The Palaszczuk government has listened and will deliver a meaningful reform package which includes Sunday and public holiday trading which will be standardised across Queensland, with Easter Sunday to be an open trading day; regional towns that currently do not have Sunday trading will continue to be able to opt in through an application to the QIRC; and special tourist areas such as Port Douglas will have access to extended trading hours that meet the needs of domestic and international visitors. Other reforms include the fact that there will be provision for special trading hour applications to be made for extended trading around international events such as the Commonwealth Games; trading hours restrictions will be removed for butcher shops, special exhibitions and trade shows; all hardware stores can open on Sunday from 6 am; and the people of Queensland will be able to buy cars and caravans on Sunday. Let us not forget tourism. With double-digit growth in Queensland's tourism sector, these new trading hours will complement and support the growth in this important sector and we all know that that means jobs and more jobs for Queenslanders, especially in the regions.

There will be a huge reduction in red tape for businesses. A massive 99 trading hour provisions contained in over 40 pages of orders will be replaced by just six. The Mickel report also recommends a moratorium of five years be imposed on applications for the further relaxation of trading hours, with a full review to be undertaken at the end of that period. Importantly, no-one will be made to work any of the additional hours allowed by the changes unless they have voluntarily agreed to do so. More jobs, more choice and less red tape: that is what these reforms and the Palaszczuk government will deliver. The Mickel report is now publicly available online and I table the report for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Office of Industrial Relations: *A review of Queensland's Trading Hours (Allowable Hours) Act 1990*, December 2016 [[177](#)].

Aurukun

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (2.24 pm): I am pleased to update the House on our efforts to improve education for students in Aurukun. For example, stronger community partnerships are helping make a real difference to school attendance. Last week attendance was consistently at around 70 per cent compared to late last year when it was sitting around 50 per cent. There is still more work to be done to ensure students are attending school every day, but our attendance officers and our walking bus are helping to lift school attendance. Following our review of schooling into Aurukun last year, we relaunched the school's P&C. We want all parents, elders, family and community members to feel welcome at the school. I am very pleased to advise the House that more than 40 parents and community

members attended last week's P&C meeting. After much input from the community at the meeting, parents endorsed the learning approach presented by executive principal Michael Ennis. This is a great example of how the community has been brought back into the decision-making at Aurukun school.

I am also pleased to report that from next month we will start delivering the Wik language program in pre-prep and prep. I am pleased to advise members that the Prime Minister's *Closing the gap* report showed Queensland has made some of the most significant improvements in the country. In addition to the strong improvements I mentioned yesterday in year 12 with regard to QCE results, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students recorded some of their best ever NAPLAN results in Queensland. For example, the year 3 reading performance of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students has risen from 66 per cent of students meeting the national minimum standard in 2008 to 85 per cent in 2016. We will continue to deliver on our commitment to provide quality education for all Queenslanders no matter where they live.

Regional Queensland, Biofutures

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (2.26 pm): As members know, the Palaszczuk government is committed to innovation and fostering economic growth in regional Queensland. Many of these jobs will be in the biofutures industry, which uses sustainable organic and waste resources such as agricultural by-products and feedstocks to produce fuels, chemicals and textiles. The global market for industrial biotech and bioproducts is expected to be worth \$1 trillion by 2022 and Queensland is well placed to take advantage of this growing industry. We are positioning Queensland to seize its share of the world market as part of the Palaszczuk government's vision to create our own \$1 billion sustainable export oriented industrial biotechnology and bioproducts sector by 2026.

We have allocated almost \$20 million in funding over three years to realise this ambition and support the Queensland Biofutures 10-Year Road Map and Action Plan. This vision has already kicked a goal to bring in the new year. We have received 26 proposals for our Biofutures Acceleration Program expression of interest stage following more than 120 initial inquiries from national and international companies. The Biofutures Acceleration Program is about creating opportunities for private biorefinery investors to make the most of Queensland's many natural advantages. Queensland has enormous potential as one of the world's leading biorefinery locations as it offers an ideal mix of raw materials, a subtropical climate, established infrastructure and close proximity to international markets. This program has garnered international interest with proposals coming in from the US and European countries. Many have already identified specific regional locations to develop biorefineries and projected local job and investment opportunities.

It is abundantly clear that global movers and shakers are aware of Queensland's bio opportunities. What else is crystal clear is this government's passion for boosting jobs in the regions. The Palaszczuk government has already had success in attracting bioindustry companies to this state. We have established a partnership with the US Navy and attracted Southern Oil to Queensland to develop Australia's first complete renewables pilot plant in Gladstone. In addition to these achievements, another six major biofutures projects with a combined value of \$1.1 billion are progressing and looking to start construction in Queensland. The future looks bright for biofutures in Queensland.

Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Portfolio Responsibilities

 **Hon. M FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.29 pm): It is an honour to be appointed the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. I acknowledge and thank my predecessor, the Hon. Curtis Pitt, for his commitment to closing the gap of disadvantage in the mortality, incarceration, health, education and employment of our nation's first people. These are matters that I had also been deeply involved in during my time as a senator for Queensland. It is an area that I am passionate about. After all, we have the nation's second largest population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander citizens.

Yesterday saw the release the ninth national *Closing the gap* report. It showed that Queensland is making positive progress on early education to put Indigenous Queenslanders on the path to a lifetime of learning. Enrolments in preschool programs among Indigenous Queenslanders have increased to 85 per cent—up from 63 per cent in 2014. There are more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people starting and completing their education than ever before. It is a generational change.

Almost 95 per cent of year 12 Indigenous students are achieving their Queensland Certificate of Education. Queensland is also tracking above the national average for school attendance. I note in the midyear budget that the Treasurer announced funding support for the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation to provide scholarships to keep students at school to year 12. The Palaszczuk government knows that participating in education is crucial to improving life chances and closing the gap.

Under the Making Tracks program the Palaszczuk government is spending more than \$200 million over three years for services and programs aimed at closing the health gap. The report shows that there are improvements in mortality rates from chronic disease, including cardiovascular disease. We are seeing reductions in smoking, but smoking is still 2.7 times higher than it is for non-Indigenous Australians. The life expectancy gap is narrowing, although we have more work to do to achieve longer term targets, particularly with mortality rates for Indigenous children aged under five.

We are working to close the gap on employment disadvantage, with the Palaszczuk government's launch of Moving Ahead, a whole-of-government strategy to increase the economic participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through jobs, training and business development opportunities. Having a job and participating in the economy benefits not only individuals but also entire Indigenous communities. We all have a role to play in helping to close the gap. As the minister, I am committed to working alongside Commonwealth, state and territory governments and local communities to improve outcomes for the nation's first Australians.

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, Portfolio Responsibilities

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.32 pm): Two years ago the Palaszczuk government went to Queenslanders with a plan—a plan for a better way—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Chatsworth, you are warned under standing order 253A. Those actions are inappropriate and disorderly. If you persist, I will take appropriate action. That is your first warning.

Mr RYAN:—a plan to protect the community and, importantly, to listen to community concerns. Our priority was to create jobs, restore front-line services, build infrastructure and keep Queenslanders safe. That is why we have delivered more than 500 additional front-line police, firefighters, prison officers and probation and parole staff—more than ever before—to meet our commitment to Queenslanders.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, that is not an open invitation to try to disrupt the minister. If you have an interjection, make it relevant so that I can hear it.

Mr Crandon: Can we have 50 in the Coomera electorate, Minister?

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Coomera. You are now warned under standing order 253A.

Mr CRANDON: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I seek some guidance. You asked the members of the House to make it relevant. The minister is talking about 1,500 police officers. I said, 'Can we have 50 of them in the Coomera electorate?', which is what we have been calling for. I made it relevant.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Coomera. I am not going to debate the matter with you.

Mr RYAN: We recognise that the men and women at the front line of policing and emergency services need to be equipped with the best resources to do what they do best. That is why we have started a rollout of body worn video cameras and QLITE iPads to our front-line police. We have passed Australia's toughest, strongest, most comprehensive laws to tackle organised crime in all its forms, be it outlaw motorcycle gangs, child sex exploitation networks, fraud and boiler room scams. Over the past two months, Taskforce Maxima has made 133 arrests and laid 320 charges.

In news just to hand, today, Taskforce Maxima has arrested two men, one a confirmed member of the Mongols outlaw motorcycle gang. I am told that a police search of a stolen Mercedes SUV at Robina located Mongols OMCG patches in the front of the car and in the back a suitcase of 44 designer dresses with price and security tags still attached. I take this opportunity to thank Taskforce Maxima for taking strong, tough action on crime. We back Taskforce Maxima every step of the way.

We have also provided police with more resources to tackle child sex exploitation in a statewide blitz. We have passed stronger counterterrorism laws to boost the police response to major emergencies and provided more than \$16 million to improve police capability.

The Premier recently announced a \$200 million expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre to ease prison overcrowding and generate jobs in Central Queensland. That means 100 jobs during construction for Central Queensland and 70 ongoing, front-line jobs in the region. We also created 260 front-line jobs when we recommissioned Borallon as a tough, earn-or-learn training facility for young offenders. Then there is our national award-winning Project Booyah that is putting young people's lives back on track, turning young lives around.

I am told that the champagne corks were popping when we reformed the Public Safety Business Agency, which was set up by those opposite in a sneaky plan to privatise key parts of the Public Service. As the minister, my priority is to keep Queenslanders safe, restore front-line services and create jobs at a time when jobs and job security are more important than ever.

Ice

 **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) (2.37 pm): Many of us would know that the scourge of ice continues to tear communities and families apart. This morning, the Premier and the health minister were at the RBWH to launch Queensland's draft strategy to tackle this drug, which builds on our \$43 million investment in drug and alcohol support services.

We also know from listening to our hardworking front-line child safety staff that ice abuse is, sadly, a major issue for families known to Child Safety. The steep increase in ice in our homes has been described to me at child safety service centres in Ipswich, Maroochydore, Logan and North Queensland—in fact, almost all of the centres that I have visited recently. The latest data from my department shows that ice was more common than any other drug type in households known to Child Safety, including alcohol. It revealed that one in every three children coming into out-of-home care had a parent who was or had been using ice in the 12 months prior.

Ice is a growing issue confronting child safety workers on the front line, as well as Queensland kids who may be at risk of harm. That is why we introduced tough new measures requiring parents who want to care for their kids at home to be subject to mandatory drug testing. Since the announcement in November last year, I can report to the House that 170 tests have been conducted. This new policy is already keeping kids safe and giving our hardworking child safety officers another tool in their arsenal. I want to emphasise that my department works hard to link parents who want to clean up their act with support services.

Drug testing parents is just one piece in our multilayered approach to tackling this growing community problem. I want to acknowledge the Premier's commitment to hosting our first ever ice summit in Rockhampton, as well as the health minister's \$6 million commitment for ice intervention units based in Queensland hospitals.

We are getting the balance right in being tough on perpetrators, in protecting at-risk children and in making sure support services are funded and resourced to help. Stamping out this drug will create a safer, stronger Queensland community and help keep our kids safe.

Advance Queensland

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerie—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (2.40 pm): In the first two years of the Palaszczuk government, our Advance Queensland agenda has been delivering real results for the people of Queensland. Advance Queensland is a \$405 million whole-of-government investment in our state's future. The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering jobs now and, of course, preparing our economy for the jobs of the future. We are turning ideas into action by attracting new investment, building global partnerships and encouraging businesses to start, grow and employ, and investing in research and technology.

Just last week, along with Minister Lynham, the member for Stafford, I met with Dr Paul Giacomini at the Prince Charles Hospital to see firsthand his Advance Queensland funded research which is progressing human trials into coeliac disease in three Queensland hospitals. With our support, Dr Giacomini's work will create hope for sufferers of coeliac disease, as well as jobs for health workers as it enters the critical phase of human trials. This is a perfect example of how Advance Queensland is delivering tangible outcomes.

We have also appointed the Advance Queensland Expert Panel to provide expertise and independent advice to government in the implementation of these initiatives and programs. The experience of the panel ensures programs and funding provided through Advance Queensland are being effectively invested and targeted. Since launching the initiative in June 2015 my department alone has opened more than 20 funding programs, assessed more than 2,000 applications and approved 383 grant recipients. That is an overwhelming response to what Advance Queensland is offering. Most importantly, we are supporting jobs by encouraging innovation and collaboration in industry.

Today I can advise the House that as of 31 December last year our investment in Advance Queensland so far has supported and will support more than 1,400 jobs across the state. Advance Queensland is supporting jobs across a range of industry sectors right now and is ensuring our state is in a position to create jobs in new and emerging industries in the future. A great example of this support is the Ignite Ideas program, which is helping businesses take their ideas off the drawing board and turn them into a commercial reality. In the first round of this program, 39 businesses from around the state shared in over \$5 million of funding to accelerate their growth and help them launch into global markets.

Advance Queensland is not just good for our economy; it is also making people's lives better. We have funded 52 early and mid-career researchers through our Advance Queensland research fellowships and PhD scholarships programs. These are some of the brightest minds in our state and we are funding their research into key areas that impact thousands of Queenslanders, including early detection of cerebral palsy and world-first 3D technology which could deliver significant benefits for women who have had breast cancer.

In April last year we focused the eyes of the world on our state through the Advance Queensland Innovation and Investment Summit held in Brisbane. A revamped event, the Advance Queensland Myriad Festival, will return to Brisbane at the end of next month. International entrepreneur megastars, innovation experts and venture capital investors will converge on Brisbane to join with local talent as we position our state as a global innovation mecca. The Palaszczuk government and Advance Queensland is delivering for Queensland.

Dignity First Fund

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (2.43 pm): Homelessness is a complex issue. Addressing this issue requires a sophisticated response. Not only do we need to double down on expanding and improving our nation-leading housing system, we also need to encourage projects that provide immediate dignity for those people in communities doing it tough. That is why today I am pleased to announce to the House the second round of funding under the Palaszczuk government's Dignity First Fund. The \$2.5 million Dignity First Fund, launched in 2016, is designed to encourage innovative responses to homelessness. It will deliver initiatives that help Queenslanders experiencing homelessness live through that period of their lives with dignity. Sixty-six organisations submitted 79 proposals for funding in round 1, and 24 of those proposals were approved. This second round offers a further \$2.5 million in the funding pool, which will again fund grounded, practical ideas to help people experiencing homelessness through hard times.

My Labor colleagues have also asked me to ensure that the fund seeks proposals that address the special needs of Indigenous people, youth, women and children escaping domestic and family violence and older people across Queensland, including in regional and remote areas. I was joined by many members of this House, including at least one compassionate individual opposite, when I announced the fund's first round delivered a number of innovative projects—for example, café-style dining that also offers training and employment opportunities; establishing connected, integrated hubs that bring community and government services together; vending machines for women's hygiene products; and mobile laundry and shower facilities that are famous nationwide. These projects have made an immense difference in the lives of many, many Queenslanders already and it has been heartening as well to see so many skilled, committed and passionate people and organisations put their hands up and offer practical ideas to help us address homelessness in Queensland. Applications for the second round of Dignity First funding will open on 15 March so now is the time for organisations and individuals to get ready.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (2.45 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders, the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development will be permitted to move at 5 pm today the motion of which he gave notice earlier today, with time limits for speeches and debate as follows: 10 minutes for the mover; 10 minutes for the Leader of the Opposition or nominee; five minutes for each other member; the total time before the question is put to be one hour.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (2.46 pm): I wish to note the unavoidable absence of the Treasurer from 3.30 today by arrangement with the Leader of Opposition Business. The Treasurer is paired, but I wanted to give notice of that before question time starts.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Jobs

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.46 pm): I give notice that I shall move—

That this House—

1. notes reports that 43,200 full-time jobs were lost in regional Queensland in the past year;
2. notes that tens of thousands of people across the state have given up looking for work;
3. notes that regional Queensland is struggling with a jobs crisis; and
4. calls on the do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government to finally deliver an economic plan that works.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.47 pm): This is a government that stumbles from failure to failure and crisis to crisis. Nothing could exemplify that more than the protests of those opposite today as they tried to spruik their do-nothing efforts over the last two years. Yesterday marked two years since the election of this do-nothing government, a government that did not have a plan, a government that did not want to tackle the hard questions that Queensland faces, a government that has achieved next to nothing for the people of Queensland in the two years since it has been elected.

We have a rail crisis. We have a jobs crisis. We also have a child safety department in crisis. We have young thugs running wild not only on the streets of Townsville but also in the streets throughout regional Queensland. Today the Premier has suddenly discovered we have an ice crisis; she has just worked out that we have an ice crisis.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: You will all have a chance soon.

Mr NICHOLLS: This is despite the national ice summit being held in 2015 and also a 250-page report with more than 35 recommendations on how to tackle ice. Despite having signed up to the National Ice Action Strategy, it is only today that guess what the Premier has discovered? She is going to have another talkfest about ice! A CCC report for 2015-16 said that ice was endemic. Can members guess where that ice was coming from? It was coming from outlaw motorcycle gangs! What did they do? They changed the laws in relation to them!

The rail network is in crisis. Commuters have no confidence that trains will even show up and, when they do show up, they go down the wrong line. They cannot even get them on the right track. This year, 24,000 services have been slashed. There are 470 services a week fewer than there should have been and the commuters are paying the price. We know that they know that, because the member for

Nudgee put a petition on her social media page saying, '#rail fail, sign this petition to get better rail services in Queensland'. She threw the member for Sandgate under the bus because there was no train coming. Jobs are going missing in regional Queensland, young people are not getting what they deserve, we have a government that has done nothing and has no plan for the future, and Queenslanders are paying the price for its failures.

Sugar Industry

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development) (2.50 pm): Yesterday, when talking about sugar industry issues, the Leader of the Opposition looked like a tadpole in a teaspoon of water. This government has been completely consistent on sugar marketing since the ludicrous things—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members.

Mr BYRNE: This government has been consistent on sugar marketing. In 2015, we said that the legislation would not work, but those opposite backed it in and it has been costly to industry, just as we predicted and just as we said would transpire. I remind the House of a letter that I received from the foreign affairs minister, Julie Bishop, which I again table for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 9 June 2015, from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Julie Bishop, to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing, Hon. Bill Byrne, in relation to the Sugar (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Act 2015 [178].

At that time, she said—

... it is important that Australia continues to maintain a credible reputation for being an effective and reliable partner with an exceptional record of compliance within the terms of our current international agreements.

That is at the core of sovereign risk. We see nothing from those opposite that addresses the real issues associated with industry. Yesterday, the LNP was going back to the future on this issue. When reading a media release from the Leader of the Opposition, I had to check and make sure it was not 2015.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Hinchinbrook, I hear you louder than the minister. You are warned under standing order 253A for your disorderly interjections.

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. When the Leader of the Opposition was delivering his contribution, there were constant interjections from that side. There were constant interjections from the Deputy Premier.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, I have made a ruling. If you do not like it, you can take the appropriate action. I have ruled in relation to the member for Hinchinbrook. Resume your seat.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, if you do not like my ruling, you can take the appropriate action. You are warned, member for Hinchinbrook.

Mr BYRNE: Here we have an ex-Liberal Party leading figure acting like Malcolm Turnbull, selling out his principles to stave off pressure from his fruit loop National Party backbench. Is this part of the deal to get the member for Whitsunday to step off the ledge? That can be the only justification, because of the fringe-dwelling views on economics that come from some of the members of the National Party. When he was treasurer, the Leader of the Opposition seemed to be happy to sell off Queensland and now he is selling out his beliefs. He is a Liberal jammed by the ultra right of his own party. Liberalism, gone; anti red-tape beliefs, gone; small government, gone. I suspect that the Leader of the Opposition had firm principles, but where are they now? They have been completely eviscerated on the altar of his radical backbench. Yesterday, I told the Leader of the Opposition to be himself and to try to act according to his beliefs. We have seen no evidence of that, as evidenced by the sugar marketing enterprise.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BYRNE: I can assure members that they will have a chance to talk about this later on. In my 2015 speech, I made it very clear that there would be zero recognised Liberal members of parliament on the speaking list. My colleagues said that the opposition was deeply divided. In 2015, the recognised economic voices of that side of parliament did not speak to the bill. None of them stood up to speak. Here we see what a jam the opposition members are in, as they are standing up to prosecute an economic buffoon argument. They should be ashamed of themselves as a credible alternative.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Minister, I understand you used the term 'fruit loop' in referring to other members. Would you kindly withdraw?

Mr BYRNE: I withdraw.

Regional Queensland, Infrastructure

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.54 pm): Anastacia Palaszczuk, the Premier of this state, bangs on about listening to people in regional Queensland. That takes more than an Akubra, a pair of RM Williams boots and a cheesy grin. Country people can see right through this government.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, if you persist you will be warned. If you persist to the level of interjections that the member for Hinchinbrook made, you will be formally warned and put on the *Notice Paper*.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Country people have seen right through this government and country people have seen right through this Premier. Now we see that 67 per cent of people agree that the LNP's Royalties for the Regions project was the right policy for regional Queensland. That program was delivering real regional infrastructure projects and not projects that should be delivered automatically by the departments, which is what this government is doing.

All over Queensland, projects have benefited from the LNP's Royalties for the Regions program. That program delivered wonderful community projects such as the Karumba swimming pool, which allows local kids to swim in a swimming pool instead of swim with crocodiles. I want to talk about projects such as the Roma levee bank, which we were able to deliver to protect people such as Ann Leahy, the member for Warrego, from floods. Under a Labor government, the Charleville levee bank took 10 years to build.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I apologise. Member for Logan, you are warned under standing order 253A.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, but he does not need a cheer squad.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Not only has Labor watered down regional infrastructure projects; it has halved them. Worse than that, this Premier said she was going to accelerate her regional program. Guess what that acceleration did for the poor minister sitting over there? He was only able to deliver one per cent of the accelerated regional infrastructure project. One per cent of regional projects were delivered under this incompetent minister, because this incompetent Premier said that she was going to accelerate the program. I would hate to see it if she really did want to accelerate it.

We can talk about so many important projects that country people get benefit from. One of the most important projects was the Mount Perry Road. Deaths were occurring on that gravel road. Consecutive Labor governments refused to bitumen it but, thanks to the LNP, it was bitumened under the Royalties for the Regions program. That program worked and it did deliver for regional Queensland. It is about time this incompetent Labor government got it and started to deliver for regional Queensland.

Regional Queensland, Roads

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (2.58 pm): What a narcoleptic effort from the member for Nanango. Is that the best that they can do? Under Labor, we see a commitment to regional Queensland. Let us look at the record of the member for cosy Clayfield when it comes to regional Queensland. When he was the treasurer of this state, he cut \$600 million from regional roads. Every year, \$200 million was cut from the roads budget by the cosy member for Clayfield, who was very comfy over there in Ascot. When it comes to selling roads out in the regions, One Nation is out in LNP territory taking bites off them left, right and centre. The issue of regional roads is being raised because the LNP is splitting all over the place. Look at the member for Buderim.

What has Labor done in terms of regional roads? The first thing is that we did not rat on regional roads like the cosy member for Clayfield did. We restored the TIDS funding and worked with local government. We are undertaking the western roads upgrade, the Peninsula Developmental Road upgrade, the Bruce Highway upgrade south of Cairns, and the Bill Fulton Bridge upgrade in the member

Barron River's electorate. We started and finished the Townsville Ring Road and the Yellow Gin Bridge on the Bruce Highway. We have completed the planning for the Houghton flood plain that those opposite did not do. We have completed the Flinders Highway upgrade and the Sandy Gully Bridge. The Rocky beef road in Central Queensland is almost done.

Kawana Way on the Sunshine Coast is nearly done after those opposite did nothing for three years. We have undertaken the Bruce Highway upgrades on the Sunshine Coast. Anyone who goes to Maryborough along the Bruce Highway would know that there are roadworks everywhere. There is so much work going on, including at the Tinana interchange. Exit 54 on the Gold Coast has been completed. The LNP had a record majority and they did nothing. We started it and we finished it. We are also doing the Commonwealth Games.

The year 2017 is going to be a huge year on the regional roads front. The Urraween Road intersection is starting this month. The member for Hervey Bay did not achieve that in three years. The Dawson Highway will see timber bridge replacements. The Mackay ring-road project will see 600 jobs in North Queensland. We will also undertake the Vines Creek bridges replacement project that the member for Mackay got started.

The Riverway Drive project in Townsville will result in 60 jobs and will cost \$30 million. Other projects include the Eton Range realignment, Peak Downs Highway timber bridge replacements, the Cape River Bridge and the Gregory Developmental Road. We are continuing the Warrego Highway upgrade.

We are working with local government hand in glove on regional roads. The biggest complaint I got from them when I started as minister was how much was cut by the member for Clayfield. We are working with local government. We are not going to be cosy like the member for the Clayfield. We are not going to rat on regional roads like he did.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (3.01 pm): The tsunami of reviews from this do-nothing Premier just keep coming. In two years this Premier has called for 150 reviews—we have heard of another one now—task forces and inquiries. That is a rate of more than six a month. What a damning indictment of this Premier's feckless leadership. It is paralysis over progress. It is excuses rather than enterprise.

This is a Premier who would rather do nothing than embrace the risk and reward involved in doing something—anything. This is the very antithesis of what it means to be a Queenslanders. Those same Queenslanders are paying the price, with more than 30,000 jobs having disappeared in the last 12 months—the biggest job loses of any state—while almost 40,000 Queenslanders have just given up looking for work under this Premier and this Labor government. That is what happens when all one does is review instead of do.

Let us be very clear. Bobbing up and shaking a hand or cutting a ribbon hardly qualifies as doing. The business community, whom she has turned her back on, certainly does not believe that. The *Australian*—and I table the article—has identified her once distant, now closed-door approach as vice-regal. You might find the Premier at a soft opening near you.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian* online, dated 13 January 2017, titled 'Business savages Annastacia Palaszczuk as "a vice regal Premier"' [\[179\]](#).

Of the 266 meetings listed in her ministerial diary across a recent three months just 12—12 out of 266—were direct contacts with industry representatives. Queenslanders do not want a figurehead. They want a genuine leader and not somebody who declares they will never do a deal with minor parties and then does one. That is not someone who bleats about the member for Cook and then takes his vote. That is not someone who simpers an apology about the biggest rail fail in Queensland history while bending over backwards and kowtowing to the train unions.

Queenslanders do not want a Premier who just turns up for the good news but runs away from the bad, somebody who can be found at a ribbon cutting but is lost for the truth, somebody who broke Labor's pre-election promise not to sell assets, somebody who with a fresh tax on property broke Labor's pre-election promise of no new and increased taxes, somebody who swore she would never abuse the processes of this parliament but gave just 18 minutes notice before changing the state's entire voting system, somebody who is never across the detail, somebody who does not even know what the GST rate is. Queenslanders are forthright people. They do not want a government in absentia. What we have here is a Premier at a garden party while Queenslanders fall off the jobs and productivity cliff.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will finish at 4.05 pm.

Brisbane Youth Detention Centre

Mr NICHOLLS (3.05 pm): My first question is to the Premier. I refer to the September quarter inspection report into the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre which found 'CCTV coverage at the centre is inadequate to properly review all incidents involving force and/or assaults' and 'there is a complete lack of surveillance cameras within the incident-prone common areas of accommodation units and also program areas'. When did the Premier become aware of this quarterly report and why were the recommendations not acted upon immediately to ensure that the January riot in the centre, in which a staff member was taken to hospital, could have been prevented? I table a copy of the report.

Tabled paper: Department of Justice and Attorney-General: Executive summary to inspection report, Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, September quarter 2016 [\[180\]](#).

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that important question. To make sure that our youth justice centres are being managed well is of course a priority of this government. In fact, that is why we do have an inquiry being undertaken at the moment. The findings are due to be released very shortly. All those issues are of upmost concern to me, especially when it comes to the safety of our workers in youth detention centres and also the safety of our young people. That is why this Attorney-General has been absolutely focused on making sure that young people get training and opportunities. Rather than them come out of youth detention centres we want them to have employment options to get a job. The government will very shortly be considering the findings of the inquiry that was commissioned. We will be reporting on that inquiry fully to the people of Queensland. We will also be providing our government's response to that inquiry.

Let me say to everybody in this House and the people of Queensland that the absolute priority is to ensure we have adequate enforcement mechanisms in place at these centres and that we ensure the safety of the staff. We do know that in Townsville some staff members were injured. I know the Attorney personally visited the staff member involved. It is not acceptable. My government is determined to do everything we can to ensure that people are safe and the community is safe.

Cleveland Youth Detention Centre

Mr NICHOLLS: We might try for an answer to this question. What has the government done to improve safety at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition, in making a political flourish there, did not direct the question to any minister. I would ask that you ask him to direct the question to a minister.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the Leader of the Opposition for his question.

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Premier. What has the government done to improve safety at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre following the riot in November 2016, given the report into the riot has not been released and media reports that some staff remain on stress leave?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I know that as soon as that happened the following day the Attorney-General flew with staff to that detention centre and met with the staff involved. As I said, she personally went and visited that worker. I want our workers to be safe and we need to do everything we possibly can to ensure the safety of workers in our detention centres. I am sure that the Attorney-General has been speaking to the staff—

Mr Bleijie: You are not doing anything. You are just having a chat.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I know that the Attorney-General spent two days up there meeting with the staff, going through the security issues, and understanding what happened at that centre to ensure that it was not going to happen again. The people who are looking into that matter will be reporting to her by March. As I said, unlike those opposite, we are more than happy to release reports—

Mr NICHOLLS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Clearly the Premier does not have a clue. The question was: what has the government done to improve safety at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre? We have heard about talks and trips but we actually have not heard what the answer is. What has the government done to improve safety?

Mr SPEAKER: I ask the Premier to be relevant to the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Of course when there is an issue of this magnitude a full investigation takes place which is why the Chief Inspector of Corrective Services is undertaking the investigation. Then the investigation comes to the Attorney-General and then the government acts. That is what we are doing. That is the course of action we are taking. Let me say again, because here we are talking about—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will tell you what we are not doing: we are not sacking people like you did.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! No, we will not have a free-for-all. Premier, do you have anything further to add? Otherwise I will move on.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The final thing I want to say is that we value our workers who work for the Queensland government—our front-line service officers, our ambulance officers, our Corrective Services officers—unlike those opposite. We are going to continue to remind the people of Queensland what you did because you cut staff and when you cut staff you put people at risk.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. I think the Premier has answered the question.

Budget

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier tell us what the government's priorities are for the next state budget to be delivered on 13 June?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mackay for that very important question. We know that this is the time of the year that my government and my cabinet moves into the process of getting ready to hand down the budget in June this year. What I have said very clearly to my cabinet and what I will say to members of the parliament today is that this budget will be a jobs budget. It will be firmly focused on the people of Queensland, driving the economy, making sure that we continue to diversify and creating employment opportunities right across our state.

We hear a bit of criticism from those opposite today. My challenge to those opposite is: if you do not want the money coming to your electorates, please let me know. When we are talking about framing a budget, we are talking about putting in money for health and education. It is through my government that we have delivered record budgets in both health and education. It is through my government, through listening to people in Western Queensland, that we have been able to offer drought relief and money for western roads. It is through my government that we have been able to give \$70 million for the Roma Hospital—something that could not have been achieved under those opposite, something that has never been done. You only have to listen to the mayor out there to hear what he has to say about that.

From Torres Strait down to Coolangatta and out to the west, this budget will be framed and focused purely on the people of Queensland. The budget is going to be 100 per cent focused on people. We know those opposite do not like people because their record was sacking people. They sack; we hire.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I know they get a bit confused about what country they are talking about and where the roads are and where the roads lead to. I also recall the Leader of the Opposition criticising me for being in regional Queensland. He was critical: 'The Premier should be in Brisbane.' I will continue to travel the length and breadth of this state listening to the people of Queensland, delivering to the people of Queensland. I am prepared to stand up for the people of Queensland and deliver the best budget that they have seen, because at the end of the day it is the people of Queensland whom we are elected to govern for.

Rookwood Weir

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. In 2006 the then premier, Peter Beattie, announced funding to accelerate the building of Rookwood Weir by 2011. Given it is now 2017, why is the Palaszczuk government claiming that it needs more time to complete a business case despite the Commonwealth already committing 50 per cent for construction costs?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for that question because, as I recall, they were in government for three years and did not do anything about it—nothing, zero. They did absolutely nothing. Of course the business case is being done because it needs to stack up. I know that the Minister for Agriculture is doing everything he can in relation to this issue. We are talking to the federal government. It makes sense: get the business case done. That is exactly what we intend to do—get the business case done for the people of Queensland.

Action on Ice

Mrs LAUGA: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier please explain the reasons and the justification for the government's action plan to tackle ice?

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am not able to hear the member's question because of the member for Mudgeeraba's interjections. I would urge the member to allow the question to be asked in silence. Can you please repeat the question?

Mrs LAUGA: Could the Premier please explain the reasons underpinning the government's action plan to tackle ice?

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. You have had a pretty good go this morning.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Keppel for this question on a very important issue. If they want to laugh about it—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, honestly.

Mr SPEAKER: If JP said something funny, perhaps you should go outside. We will wait a moment. I am in your hands. I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I was very interested to hear the Leader of the Opposition's comments today when he was reflecting on the summit that we are having on this important issue, because it just shows once again how out of touch and still arrogant the LNP is when it comes to issues that are impacting on families.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you will have an opportunity to ask a question. That is your last warning.

Ms PALASZCZUK: My government has taken action by putting over \$40 million into addressing this issue. We are putting in new funding. When I go to Canberra for COAG, this is also on the agenda. What is very clear to me from listening to people's personal stories such as Debbie, who could barely speak to us when I sat down because it has completely destroyed her son—

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No. It has completely destroyed her family and her son.

What she is saying to me and what the community group is saying to me is that for too long this issue has been kept behind closed doors. People are afraid to talk about it. They do not know whom to turn to. This morning when the health minister and I were launching this plan there was another woman, Nettie, standing just to the side of us. Nettie was in tears. She said to the health minister, 'Thank you for raising this issue. My daughter has just spent 160 days in a rehab clinic.' Do not for a minute tell me that this is not impacting on families. This is having a huge impact. We have put extra funding in, but for families who have had no-one to turn to and who have had no opportunity to speak about it in public this is the opportunity to do so. It is my government that is delivering and listening to the people of Queensland. This is such an important issue that I want the whole parliament to be involved in this. It is too important an issue. I will be offering an invitation to the Leader of the Opposition to attend the summit.

(Time expired)

Capricornia Correctional Centre

Mr EMERSON: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier explain how she can justify spending \$200 million, or more than a million dollars per cell—something which has been called a prisoner's penthouse with jacuzzi—for an additional 164 cells at the Capricornia Correctional Centre when Labor scrapped the LNP's plan contained in the 2014-15 budget for an extra 650 cells created for only \$61 million?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the shadow Treasurer for the question. I find it hard to believe that they are not supporting extra cells for prisoners.

Mr Dick: Unbelievable!

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is unbelievable.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Everton, you are over the top. You are warned under standing order 253A. If you persist, you will go out.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They had three years in government to build a new prison. What did we get—nothing; zero.

A government member: We got 1 William Street.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; we got 1 William Street. They were too concerned with building 1 William Street than they were about building a prison, and the people of Queensland do not even own it. An amount of \$200 million is being spent in the Rockhampton regional area creating jobs. Not only are those opposite against prisons; they are against jobs. They are against jobs and they are against prisons. I do not know what else they are against.

A government member: They're against regional Queensland.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They are against regional Queensland. The option presented to government is that we could have done the expansion in Brisbane but we wanted to make sure we are creating jobs in regional Queensland. One only has to ask the mayor, Margaret Strelow, what she thought about it.

Mr Hart interjected.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Burleigh and member for Moggill, you are both warned under standing order 253A. Your interjections are over the top and unreasonable. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I have some interesting facts to add here. During the LNP government, prison numbers rose by almost 30 per cent in three years.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question was whether the Premier could justify the cost of \$1 million per cell. That is a legitimate question to ask in question time and the Premier has not attempted to answer it.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the Premier to make her answer relevant to the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: These correctional facilities are being built to the proper standards that are expected to house prisoners in this state. What the LNP is saying today is that it does not want any more prison capacity—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, it is not an invitation to debate the issue. I think you have answered the question.

Mr Seeney interjected.

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

Fairer Fares

Ms PEASE: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier please update the House on the community's response to the Palaszczuk government's Fairer Fares for public transport and how this policy compares to other policies on public transport fares?

Ms TRAD: I thank the honourable member for Lytton for the question. I know that she is very passionate about public transport. I am very proud of the fact that it was the Palaszczuk Labor government that—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. There is too much irrelevant discussion happening in the chamber at the moment. If you want to have a chat, go outside. I call the Deputy Premier.

Ms TRAD: I am enormously proud of the fact that at the last election this side of the House promised that we would review and reform public transport fares in Queensland, and we have delivered. On 19 December last year we cut fares, streamlined zones and made public transport far more affordable for commuters in South-East Queensland. The community has embraced it. In the seat of Lytton, people commuting from Wynnum into the CBD can save up to \$570 a year.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are outstanding in your interjections. You are now warned under standing order 253A.

A government member: Throw her out!

Mr SPEAKER: No, I am not going to throw her out. I might throw someone else out soon. I call the Deputy Premier.

Ms TRAD: Mr Speaker, I am happy to answer their questions about Queensland Rail—if only they had the guts to ask me, but they have not. This is the second day in this place and I am yet to get a question from those opposite about Queensland Rail and what we are doing to fix the trains—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I do not know what was in the coffee at lunchtime. We have until five minutes past four. I call the Deputy Premier.

Ms TRAD: South-East Queensland commuters are saving a million dollars a week because we have reformed the public transport fare system in South-East Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the Deputy Premier, if you have anything further to add.

Ms TRAD: I do, Mr Speaker. I have plenty to add. If only they would ask me a question, I could talk at length about this. Over 10 million trips on the South-East Queensland network have benefited from our Fairer Fares policy, and 93 per cent of commuters are enjoying far more affordable public transport here in the south-east corner. We are delivering on what we promised. We said that we would reform public transport fares and we have. Those opposite like to talk about trains. Let us talk about the train that they want to catch. It is the One Nation train, but the member for Clayfield does not know where he wants to go. Does he want to be behind the driver's seat?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I see you are primed, Deputy Premier, but—

Ms TRAD: He could be in the engine room, but I think it is first class that is more to Tim's liking.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I think we have had enough.

Mr WATTS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is clearly not relevant.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members, we will come back to the focus of question time.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr POWELL: There is no point of order, Mr Speaker. I am ready for the next question.

Ms TRAD: Mr Speaker, I have not—

Mr SPEAKER: No, I think we have had enough. Time has expired. I would like some decorum in the chamber or I will simply close down the chamber and we will come back later. I am in your hands.

Queensland Rail, Timetable

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier give Queensland commuters a guarantee that there will be no more cuts to the current Queensland Rail timetable, which has already lost 472 weekly services?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Glass House for the question. If he had bothered to read the Strachan report, he would have seen that it is very clear that the new chair of the board said that he wanted to stress test that timetable and report back within one month. That is exactly what is happening. There is the report if the member wants to read it. If he opens it up and reads through the pages, he will actually see it there in black and white. The Deputy Premier is focused on implementing the recommendations of the Strachan report. She is absolutely committed. She was welcoming the new recruits at the train driving centre on Monday.

Ms Trad: Sixty-five.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There were 65 there ready, willing and able to get trained. That is exactly what my government is doing. I want to publicly put on the record my thanks to Phillip Strachan for the work that he did in relation to this issue. As I have said—and let me say it once again—there is going to be a stress test and a report back within one month. It is in black and white there. It cannot be clearer.

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

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Economic Plan

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. I refer to the government's economic plan and its focus on promoting innovation, investment and infrastructure. Can the Treasurer inform the House about any initiatives being taken that fulfil these key aims?

Mr PITT: I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. I can very happily answer his question because he knows that our economic plan is built around the very things he talks about—innovation, investment and infrastructure. We know that encouraging innovation through our Advance Queensland strategy is very important. We are working with new businesses, including those from interstate and overseas, to attract new investment. We are doing the same when it comes to delivering our message around infrastructure—including a massive pipeline which has been outlined in the Deloitte *Investment Monitor*.

Today I am happy to announce an initiative that ticks all of the boxes in terms of innovation, investment and infrastructure. We will soon be boosting investment in environmentally friendly and responsible projects through a new green bond certification process. The Queensland Treasury Corporation will issue certified and independently verified green bonds, as is happening around the world, to domestic and international investors for use on projects funded entirely or in part by the Queensland government. They could be low-carbon transport solutions, such as electrified rail infrastructure and cycleways, or even smaller renewable energy projects, including solar energy. We had a debate in this House last night which outlined all of the jobs that have been created with our existing investment as well as those that are still yet to come. This is great news because QTC green bonds will assist the government's commitment to act responsibly and be very good custodians of our environment, not just now but for future generations.

In addition, and unlike those opposite, we want to ensure that we do not lose opportunities and lose those green jobs to other states or other countries, and that would even include Slovakia. We want to ensure that Queensland is at the forefront of the green economy. QTC will soon be briefing institutional investors on the green bonds. This is just another way we are working with the private sector to deliver new projects and new jobs.

Another recent example was the launch while we were governing from the region in Rockhampton of the \$130 million Jobs and Regional Growth Fund, which I announced at the Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review last year. This fund will focus on regional areas and any areas with unemployment rates higher than the state average. The funds will provide one-off financial assistance of between \$100,000 and \$10 million in grants or relief from state charges on a case-by-case basis. This package is part of a broader \$200 million package. It includes the \$20 million for the Made in Queensland fund to support manufacturers in this state. We are still working to see what the Queensland Productivity Commission will come back to us with in terms of the inquiry into manufacturing, and that includes efforts to look at reshoring. The package also includes the enhanced \$40 million Industry Attraction Fund which is about bringing new businesses or expanding those businesses in the state. The NAB monthly business survey yesterday showed that for 18 out of the past 19 months Queensland has had the highest level of business confidence of any state in Australia.

Cairns Hospital, Maternity Services

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Premier. As the Cairns Hospital's family birth centre was due to open nine months ago, will the Premier explain the cause of the delay and advise when this centre will be fully operational?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member very much for the question. I am happy to report in relation to the Cairns maternity unit that the Cairns birth centre was completed in February 2016. However, defects with the builder were not finalised until October 2016. I understand that staff working in the maternity unit have raised some concerns that should be resolved before the centre opens. I think that is only fair and right. If there are concerns, we need to get it right—

Mr Dick: Safety first.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take the Minister for Health's interjection that safety comes first. In response, I understand that the Cairns hospital and health service has been reviewing services and I am advised that appropriate changes are being made to address these concerns. Let me reassure the House that we will open the facility when it is safe to do so.

Whilst I am on my feet, I thank all of the staff at the Cairns Hospital, and I thank all of the nurses and midwives across our state for all the work that they do. The Minister for Health and I, along with Minister Lynham and Minister Grace, were today at the 150th celebrations of the RBWH. We are very fortunate in this state to have the calibre of dedicated professionals that we have. We will listen to the advice. We will get it right. We will continue to grow our front-line services across the state because that is what the families of Queensland expect us to do and expect us to deliver.

Sunshine Coast, Health Services

Mr WILLIAMS: My question is directed to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Could the minister update the House on the government's progress improving the health services for the community in the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Pumicestone for his question. We have heard a lot about the opposition saying that there has been no action from the government. I will give them a bit of action today on the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. I will give them a bit of action on a world-class hospital that I am delighted to inform the House is now currently scheduled to commence services next month. We will ensure that that hospital is opened safely. This is a hospital that was planned by a Labor government and it will be delivered by a Labor government.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DICK: I hear the whingeing from the member for Kawana, who for nine years I think, or maybe 10 years, has had nothing positive to say about the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. What he has not said anything about and what he is quiet about is the botched opening of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. What did we learn from that opening, which was presided over by the member for Kawana, the member for Clayfield and all of those ministers who were in government at the time? What happened when they opened a hospital? It was opened without adequate equipment or support services, it did not have enough staff and the staff it did have lacked appropriate training.

We are going to open a hospital safely. Why will we do that? We will do that because we are listening to staff. We will listen to the Clinical Readiness Advisory Group. They will give the final green light at the end of this month before we go live, and that is the appropriate thing to do. This will be state-of-the-art and it will deliver services on the Sunshine Coast that have never been delivered before, including advanced oncology and advanced maternity services. This is something only Labor governments can deliver.

The only thing missing is a university medical school. Not one of those members opposite, including those lazy, layabout LNP members on the Sunshine Coast, have stood up to deliver a world-class medical school. The date 15 February was the drop-dead date to ensure it could open by 2020. We have heard nothing from those members opposite. They are not willing to stand up to Malcolm Turnbull and say, 'Deliver it for our community.' Those LNP members have always taken the Sunshine Coast for granted. The member for Caloundra said, 'The people should be satisfied to have the hospital without a medical school.' That is what he wants. He does not want a world-class medical school in a university hospital. Imagine that, a Sunshine Coast University Hospital without the university component! That is not the future for Queensland and it is not the future for the Sunshine Coast.

Our government wants to deliver opportunities for kids on the Sunshine Coast. Let them be educated. Let them become the doctors of the future in their own community. That is what Labor governments will do. Then the member for Caloundra said that people would die. That is what he said: people would die because the Caloundra ED would be relocated not 800 kilometres, not 80 kilometres, but eight kilometres to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital—a scare campaign from someone who is desperately seeking relevance. It is the wrong thing to do. A new hospital on the Sunshine Coast, a new hospital at Roma—hospitals that would only be delivered by Labor governments because they are in parts of Queensland that have always been taken for granted by the LNP.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Burleigh, member for Kawana, can I counsel you? You have moved a motion for six o'clock. If you are warned and warned again you may not be here to speak to your motion. I would urge you not to push it, otherwise you will be warned.

Renewable Energy

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Premier. The terms of reference for the expert panel for the public inquiry into the 50 per cent renewable energy target state, 'The panel must publish a final report no later than 10 months after the expert panel is established.' Given the panel was established in January 2016 and the report was due three months ago, why has the government not released this report?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am advised by the Minister for Energy that that report will be published within the next couple of months.

Energy Network

Mr CRAWFORD: My question is for the Minister for Energy. Will the minister update the House on how Queensland's energy network handled the heatwave over the past week, given the extreme temperatures, and outline any policies that act on climate change?

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker—

Mr Nicholls: Why don't you answer the previous question as well while you're on your feet?

Mr BAILEY: I take that interjection. The opposition is pretending that it cares about renewable energy or a power system. What a joke! Forty-three per cent from the cushy member for Clayfield—that is their record, but I digress.

Mr Nicholls: Why don't you read what is in the report? Have you seen it?

Mr BAILEY: Listen to him bleating on. One would think he has something to hide. In reference to the question asked by the member for Barron River let me say that in the last month we have seen two records set for power output in Queensland. On 18 January we punched through the previous record by more than 250 megawatts, and with the heatwave on Sunday we again set a new record of 9,369 megawatts—a very robust power system in Queensland. We are blessed with a lot of traditional baseload power. Why? Because previous Labor governments invested in it. We invested in it. Under the Newman government, of course, we saw a traditional baseload closure at Collinsville. What did they do about it then? Absolutely zero! I digress once again.

In terms of the heatwave, what we also saw was that the second largest power station played a very important role in terms of us having ample power with headroom of 548 megawatts. What was the second largest power station? It was the combined solar PV of 450,000 Queenslanders, all contributing to the powerhouse of Queensland, the best power system in the country. It was a very strong performance and no doubt that is a performance that will continue.

Importantly, the Palaszczuk government is adding to the capacity in this state over the next two years. We are adding to it because we have a cascade, a clean energy boom, happening in Queensland. There are accusations that we are a do-nothing government. Let me table some documents relating to the Clare Solar Farm, the Mount Emerald Wind Farm, Kennedy Energy Park, the Lakeland Solar and Storage Project which is under construction right now, the green power station at Tableland Mill near Mareeba worth \$75 million, the Rollingstone Solar Farm, the Susan River Solar Farm and the Sun Metals \$182 million solar farm at Townsville.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents relating to various renewable energy projects in Queensland [\[181\]](#).

We are also seeing the Kidston Solar Project financial close with 50 megawatts in North Queensland. There is also the Ross River Solar Farm, the Kelsey Creek Solar Farm—I am running out of time because there are so many projects coming into our power system. What it means is jobs, action on climate change, taking our responsibility seriously and 1,900 jobs and \$2 billion of investment coming into Queensland.

(Time expired)

Choice Employment Services

Mr PYNE: My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Training. In the wake of the shocking revelations of the Smallbone report, can the minister explain why former Cairns Citizen of the Year Todd Hartley and the acknowledged Choice employment services have been repeatedly overlooked for training funding in the highly disadvantaged West Cairns area?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Cairns for his question. I am aware that that organisation had applied for funding under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative in previous rounds. The way the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiatives are considered is that we have regional committees set up across the state that are made up of representatives from business and industry in the local area as well as employers and union representatives. It is those committees that assess each and every application from that region and make recommendations to the Department of Education and Training as to whether they should receive funding in those particular rounds. As I understand it, on each occasion the committees at a regional level have believed that the applicant had not met the criteria to be recommended for funding.

My department has worked closely with that organisation to give them assistance, as they do with any organisation that has not been successful in previous rounds that have reached out to the department for advice as to what they can do to improve their applications and have likely success. My department has given considerable assistance and advice to that organisation to identify where any deficiencies are so that they can put in applications for future rounds. That is the proper course that should be taken. At the end of the day each and every organisation must meet the criteria that is set out. They must show that they have the resources and capabilities of delivering the outcomes that we seek under this program. They must have the financial structures in place to make sure that they can deliver on that.

The reality is that there are some organisations that do not necessarily meet that benchmark. As I say, my department is more than happy to work with those organisations. However, we must have accountability in relation to taxpayers' funds going out the door. Organisations must meet that criteria. We will always take the advice of regional committees in their recommendations, and that is what we have done in relation to this particular organisation.

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Resources

Mr PEGG: My question is of the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef. Will the minister please explain how the Palaszczuk government is resourcing the environment department and if there are any alternative approaches that he is aware of?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for his question. I know he is proud to be part of a government that in two years has achieved much in the environment, national parks and Great Barrier Reef portfolios. That is two years of achievement after three very painful years under those opposite. In those three years our forests, our wildlife, our air and our waters all suffered under the pain of the Leader of the Opposition.

All Queenslanders knew how much pain our environment was suffering, but yesterday we discovered that those opposite knew the pain they were causing. Not only did they know how painful it was, but they wanted it to hurt. Yesterday we discovered that their CBRC documents for the 2012-13 budget listed their cruel cuts according to a pain threshold ranking. How cruel and heartless to assess your policies according to how much pain they would cause. What have we heard from the Leader of the Opposition, who was the bloke who oversaw this process? He stood up yesterday and said, 'I know nothing.' Queenslanders deserve an answer. How was this pain threshold ranking determined? Was it the pain he was causing hardworking Queenslanders who were cruelly sacked, was it the pain for our environment and native wildlife or was it just the amount of pain the LNP was going to suffer for these terrible decisions? I think that, given what we know about the LNP, we can assume it was the latter.

Over Christmas the Leader of the Opposition was trying to soften his image. He took his shirt off and he got about on a dirt bike, but these revelations will remind Queenslanders just how cruel those opposite were and just how much pain he would cause if he ever became Premier. If he really wants to stand by his claim that he did not know anything about it I would suggest he ask the member for Glass House, because I am told this document was the cover page of his CBRC submissions. I table a copy from the ABC website just to jog his memory; he may want to have a look at it.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Cabinet Budget Review Committee, EHP summary of savings proposals' [182].

In two years we have managed to reverse much of that pain. We have made the Great Barrier Reef a priority. We have reinvigorated our agenda to address climate change. We have given the environment department the power it needs to reinforce our environmental laws. We have introduced the most pro-active crocodile management policy ever seen. We will recruit 31 new rangers. We have committed to a container refund scheme and—

(Time expired)

Queensland Rail

Mr MANDER: My question is of the Premier. Will the Premier confirm that the real reason behind her government's refusal to release the Citytrain patronage data from last year is because the RACQ is correct that more and more Queenslanders are giving up on Queensland Rail and getting back in their cars because of Labor's rail fail?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Everton for the question. My recollection is that under your previous LNP government it was not released, but I stand to be corrected. I will have a look. If there is—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: So rude, so arrogant and out of touch. My recollection is that when I was Minister for Transport it came out through TransLink. I am happy to look into the matter and the transport minister is more than happy to get back to those opposite.

Police Resources

Mr HARPER: My question is of the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services and I ask: will the minister please advise the House what action the government has taken to ensure that our police have the resources they need to keep our communities safe?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for his question and acknowledge his hard work, along with the efforts of the member for Townsville and the member for Mundingburra, in standing up for the people of Townsville.

There are more police in Townsville now than ever before. The government's resolve to maintain safety not just in Townsville but all across Queensland is backed up with new funding, new resources, new stronger, tougher laws and the collective will of our state's 11,800 sworn police officers. This is unlike those opposite, who say one thing and do another. They are all spin and no substance. They are full of rhetoric but they never fund their rhetoric.

Our resolve and our results are real and tangible. Yesterday's *Townsville Bulletin* is a testament to the combined hard work of our local members, the police, the community sector and the people of Townsville. The article said—

Townsville's crime rate has plummeted ...

It goes on to say—

... a plunge in break-ins, stolen cars, robberies and theft ...

Since the start of operation Oscar Merchant in September last year, police from across Townsville have made more than 1,200 arrests and laid nearly 3,000 charges. The people of Townsville support the police, the media supports the police and local Labor MPs in Townsville support the police. Yesterday I was disappointed to see the member for Everton take aim at the hardworking men and women of the Queensland Police Service who have been working tirelessly to keep Townsville safe. What the member for Everton read out during his speech was a direct attack on the police who work within the Operation Oscar Merchant team.

I have met these officers; I have been out on patrol with these officers in Townsville. Those officers deserve our thanks and gratitude for what they do, not the member's condemnation. Operation Oscar Merchant is a police operation, not a political operation. The member for Everton reveals time and time again that he is clueless about what is operational and what is not. Have they learned nothing from the pre-Fitzgerald era? We want Townsville to grow and prosper. We want the community to feel safe and be safe, and I say to the people of Townsville that we will not talk down your city like the LNP. We will work with you to make Townsville a safer, better place. I table the article from the *Townsville Bulletin*.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin* online, dated 14 February 2017, titled 'Crime rate in Townsville plummets with prolific crimes behind bars' [183].

Youth Detention Centres

Mr WALKER: My question is of the Premier. Given that this do-nothing government has lost control of the youth detention centres at both Cleveland and Wacol in the past six months with detainees injuring staff and destroying property—

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, there was an inference in the preamble to the member's question and I would ask that you counsel him to reword his question.

Mr SPEAKER: We have nine minutes to go. Before we finish, member for Mansfield, could you rephrase the opening part of your question.

Mr WALKER: Given that this government, which has been described as a do-nothing government, has lost control of youth detention centres at both Cleveland and Wacol in the past six months with detainees injuring staff and destroying property, will the Premier persist with the plan to add some 50-odd 17-year-old criminals to this volatile environment by November?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I think there are two separate questions there so I will deal with them in two parts. The first question relates to the two centres.

As I said at the beginning of question time, we will continue to ensure that we have the staff that are needed to operate those centres. We will ensure that, if security needs to be upgraded, it will be. My advice is that the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre is currently upgrading its security system, including the expansion of CCTV coverage, and that preparations are progressing well and building and installation will commence very shortly, so it is happening.

The second part of the question is very important, as it relates to 17-year-olds. Queensland was the only state in which 17-year-olds were treated as adults. My government changed that, because we knew it was wrong. Not only did we listen to what the stakeholders had to say; we acted. We legislated. The former lawyer who asked this question would understand that Queensland was different from the other states and we were merely bringing about a contemporary situation and it was the right thing to do.

The Attorney-General is working with other departments in terms of what is needed for the expansion of the centre to house the young people. Let us go one step further. We are also looking at getting these people into work when they leave prison—not returning to a life of crime. It is called early intervention and prevention.

Mr WALKER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My question was whether the Premier intended to persist with the plan to move. She has not answered that question. My point of order is on relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier has answered the question.

Royalties for the Regions

Mr PEARCE: My question is of the Minister for State Development. Will the minister outline how the LNP's Royalties for the Regions scheme failed to deliver for regional resource communities?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for his question on our Building our Regions program. I could not believe it when I heard the member for Nanango talking about the old, shamed Royalties for the Regions program. I did not know whether she was in fantasy land or simply misleading the parliament.

Royalties for the Regions was simply a slush fund that did not work. The proof is in the pudding. The Mackay statistical division is an area of the state that includes Isaac shire and contributes over half of this state's royalties. What did it get? It got only 12 per cent of the fund. As the mayor of Isaac said, the previous Royalties for the Regions system did not work for her community at all. Royalties for the Regions was a cheap and nasty copy of the Western Australian Nats' idea of 2008.

Ms LEAHY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the minister's comments personally offensive.

Mr SPEAKER: Did the minister refer to you?

Ms LEAHY: I was a flood victim twice, and the Royalties for the Regions program protected my community and 400 others. I find it personally offensive and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The rules are that it must be a personal reflection on you. I will check *Hansard* later. If there is a personal reflection I will ask for a withdrawal. We will wait and see.

Dr LYNHAM: I think the offence would come from the Auditor-General's report into Royalties for the Regions. The program was an abject failure. It was a program of the Nationals, led by the member for Callide, that the Liberal Party had to follow. It was an old 'Joh' sort of policy that those opposite were bringing back into the parliament. The member for Callide was simply using the program as a slush fund to pump money into then government held seats. I refer to the three airports for Callide.

We all know what the Auditor-General said. He said grant applications were a wasted effort by councils because their submissions were ignored. Grants were made to councils that never applied for one, and grants were made to the south-east corner instead of the regions. At least the Western Australian Nationals worked out that they needed to exclude Perth! Those opposite forgot to leave out the south-east and instead left out Gladstone and Rockhampton. They kept the south-east corner in but they left the regions out.

Our \$375 million Building our Regions program is delivering money from those royalties to regional communities—

(Time expired)

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Misleading of the House by the Premier

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.05 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I believe that, in answering a question without notice on patronage numbers, the Premier has misled the House. I will be writing to you on this matter, Mr Speaker.

WATER (LOCAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 13 September 2016 (see p. 3411).

Second Reading

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (4.06 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The local management arrangements project involves the potential transfer of up to eight channel irrigation schemes from SunWater to local ownership and control by the irrigation customers in each scheme. The concept of local management is not new, with it having been introduced in New South Wales and Western Australia over the past two decades. In fact, local management is not a new concept in Queensland, with Pioneer Valley Water, near Mackay, having been a locally managed irrigation scheme since its establishment in 1996.

The continuation of the local management arrangements project is an election commitment, and I am pleased to announce that significant progress has been made over the past 12 months in delivering on that election commitment. Local management arrangements empower irrigation customers to manage their irrigation water supply and develop local solutions that suit the needs of their communities—local people who know the most about their water supply.

The introduction of local management has the potential to provide a range of benefits including that it puts decision-making in the hands of the customers, giving them the choice in how the schemes should operate in the future. For example, the schemes may choose to modify scheme operations to provide a higher or lower service standard if that is what the customers want. There will be a better engagement with scheme customers on critical decisions concerning their water supply. Irrigators will have greater control over distribution costs and potentially be able to provide greater transparency of prices.

There will be more choice in relation to the modernisation of the schemes which can be tailored to deliver the service standards desired by customers. There will also be local employment opportunities with these schemes being owned, managed and operated locally with flow-on effects for local businesses. While local management has benefits for the customers and the regions, it also provides value for money for the taxpayers of Queensland if the benefits of introducing local management outweigh the costs to all participants, including the Queensland government. Currently, the government pays a community service obligation to SunWater because irrigation revenues from the scheme do not cover the costs. In addition to the cost, the risks associated with the schemes are underwritten by the taxpayer. By handing over the schemes to local control, local management reduces the cost to taxpayers by reducing the community service obligation payments, ensuring that those who benefit from the irrigation schemes are also responsible for managing the future risks such as future capital expenditure.

Stage 3 of the project is well progressed and I am pleased to inform the House of the following achievements for the transfer scheme thus far in the project. There has been the establishment of four companies for the Eton, Emerald, St George and Theodore channel irrigation schemes to provide a legal entity for the irrigators for this stage of the project. There has been the provision of proposed terms of separation to each of those companies for consideration by their boards outlining the overall conditions of implementing local management, the infrastructure to be transferred plus other conditions of the transfer. There has also been confirmation that the Eton, Theodore and St George schemes have considered the government's offer and have agreed to proceed to the final due diligence investigations. It is expected that the Emerald board will be providing its response later this month. Once the final due diligence is completed later this year, the next step is for the final contractual terms to be agreed between the government and each board and the formal contract to be executed. Once that contract is in place, the boards will then need to consult with their customers on those terms and if there is still strong support from irrigation customers for local management the schemes will start taking over operation of the schemes, with the final transfer of the relevant irrigation infrastructure taking place in the 2017-18 financial year.

In the Bundaberg, Burdekin-Haughton, Lower Mary and Mareeba-Dimbulah schemes—that is, the investigation schemes—investigation boards have been established to carry out further investigations into how local management could be implemented in those schemes. The investigation schemes are not yet ready to commence the transfer to local management and need to carry out further work to revise their business proposals to demonstrate that local management can work in their schemes, that the schemes can be financially viable under local management, and that customers support the introduction of local management. The investigation boards are on track to deliver revised business proposals to the government later this year. Once the government has considered those business proposals, a decision will be made on which of those schemes should also commence the transition to local management.

As I mentioned in my introductory speech, the bill currently before the House provides the legal framework to implement local management arrangements in the channel irrigation schemes should final agreement be reached on the terms of the implementation of local management. The bill does not implement local management but rather provides for the means to implement local management once the final terms are agreed and the boards confirm that customers support the final implementation of local management.

In addition to the transfer mechanisms, the bill also includes a range of powers to enable the government to deliver the project efficiently and in a cost-effective manner. At present, the bill only applies to the Eton, Emerald, St George and Theodore schemes that are considering the commencement of the transition to local management. The bill does not apply to the investigation schemes—Bundaberg, Burdekin-Haughton, Lower Mary and Mareeba schemes—as these are not yet ready to commence the transition to local management and are undertaking further investigations to review their business proposals to be submitted to the government for consideration. However, once the government has considered their revised business proposals and a decision has been made on which of those schemes should also consider commencing the transition to local management, the bill allows for regulations to be made to include those schemes within the bill at some future point.

The bill only applies to the business associated with each irrigation scheme. It does not apply to bulk water assets such as dams, which are outside the scope of the local management arrangements project. Apart from some irrigation weirs, which are integral to the operation of the irrigation schemes, bulk water assets such as dams and bulk water weirs will remain with SunWater. The key objective of

the bill is to introduce a transfer scheme which will allow for the transfer of SunWater's below dam irrigation infrastructure from SunWater to the new companies and then allow for the transfer of those companies from government ownership and control to customer ownership and control, noting that this only applies to those irrigation schemes which complete the final due diligence, reach agreement on the final terms and ultimately transfer to local management.

The transfer scheme contained in the bill is primarily machinery in nature, allowing for the transfer of the business associated with each irrigation scheme to the new companies established as local management entities. The bill is consistent with those used in previous infrastructure transfers and restructures. The provisions are tried and tested and have proven effective. The transfer scheme provisions in the bill will allow for the implementation of local management as follows. The bill will allow for transfer notices to be published in the *Gazette* providing for the legal transfer of all relevant irrigation infrastructure, granting appropriate land tenure, issuing all relevant licences and authorisations, and all SunWater rights and liabilities associated with the schemes. SunWater employees who work in the irrigation schemes will also be transferred via transfer notice, with all of their current rights and entitlements preserved. The bill also allows for simplified registration procedures for matters such as registration of land transfers, registration as a water service provider and other licences and authorisations which will be granted to the new companies to ensure the ongoing and uninterrupted operations of each of the schemes.

The bill also includes a range of provisions to ensure the effective delivery of the local management arrangements project. For example, the bill allows for directions to be given to SunWater, an irrigation entity or other government agency. This directions power will ensure that the project can be carried out as efficiently as possible and also ensure that the irrigators have access to all necessary information to carry out the final due diligence investigations. The bill also contains a number of provisions to ensure that the transfer can occur in a timely manner and provide the irrigation entities with commercial certainty surrounding the operations of the scheme. For example, the bill allows for the issuing of conclusive certificates, imposes limits on judicial review and allows for transitional regulations dealing with any issue which has not been adequately dealt with in the primary legislation. Those provisions, while inconsistent with fundamental legislative principles, are consistent with past legislation relating to transfer schemes and are justifiable in the circumstances of the local management arrangements project.

While significant progress has been made on the local management arrangements project, there is still further work to be done before local management will be implemented. This bill represents a critical step in the project and its passage through this House is a significant milestone for the project. I thank the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee for its consideration of the Water (Local Management Arrangements) Amendment Bill 2016. In particular, I thank the committee and the chair for their deliberation and report on the bill. The committee tabled its report on 8 November 2016. The committee received six submissions, all of which supported the bill. I want to thank those who took the time to make submissions to the committee. In particular, I want to thank the board of LMA Support Services Pty Ltd, the entity established to support irrigators during this stage of the local management arrangements project, for its submission. The committee made a single recommendation that the bill be passed, and I thank the committee for that recommendation.

In addition to that sole recommendation, the committee made a number of other comments for consideration by the House and my department when implementing the local management arrangements project. A number of the submissions from stakeholders included queries surrounding the bill and proposed in some areas that the bill could be amended for clarity and to address some technical issues. I note that the committee found that my department's response to the submissions did address the concerns raised by stakeholders and that in response my department accepted that some amendments should be made to the bill. I will turn to those proposed amendments shortly.

Before I do, I would like to respond to some of the other comments made by the committee. Firstly, the committee was satisfied that sufficient measures have been put in place to ensure that any scheme that transitions to local management will remain financially viable. In order to ensure that the schemes remain financially viable over the long term, the government will need to make separation payments to each scheme to provide them with sufficient capital to remain financially viable while they close the gap between irrigation revenues and operational costs.

Since the committee finalised its report, I am pleased to announce that the government has made formal offers to each of the irrigation companies, setting out the terms for the transfer to local management. That separation offer includes proposed separation payments totalling \$36.6 million to

ensure that the schemes have sufficient financial resources to remain financially viable while they increase revenues and decrease their costs. Three of the boards have agreed to proceed to full due diligence while one board is still consulting with customers before making a final decision.

The government's proposed separation payments are different for each scheme, which reflects the particular needs of each scheme, and takes into account factors such as the age of infrastructure, how close prices are to recovering costs and where each scheme is in their infrastructure investment cycle. However, based on the detailed analysis performed during the local management arrangements project, the separation payments provide each scheme with sufficient capital to remain financially viable while also representing a value-for-money proposition for taxpayers.

The committee also noted some comments surrounding the need to ensure that there is flexibility in how the schemes can operate under local management. In providing evidence to the committee, stakeholders noted that there is a need to ensure that the schemes have flexibility in how they might choose to operate the schemes in the future. Some of the issues raised concerned ensuring that the schemes can set their own prices, grant adequate land tenure and provide as much operational flexibility as possible.

In response to those comments, I note that the bill provides a transfer mechanism with the terms of the transfer to be agreed between each irrigation entity and the government. In addition, the irrigation entity will need to have sufficient support from its customers before the final transfer takes place. The government is committed to working with each scheme in good faith to ensure that local management can be delivered in a way that benefits scheme customers, benefits local communities and provides value for money for the taxpayer. There is a great deal of work to be done before any final transfer happens, but I would like to assure the committee and the members of the House that the government will work closely with each scheme to ensure that the schemes can transfer to local management, which can operate the schemes in a flexible and sustainable manner under local control.

The committee also considered the impact that local management arrangements may have on the 29 SunWater employees currently working in each of the schemes. I note that the committee was satisfied that the bill provides appropriate protection to employees and ensures that any employees who transfer to the new entities will retain all of their current rights and entitlements. I also refer to the evidence given to the committee by Mr Maughan, the acting chair of LMA Support Services and the chairperson of the Bundaberg investigation board, in which he indicated that there is an alignment of interest between the government and the schemes on the issue of the treatment of employees.

The committee also made a number of comments on the issue of the bill's consistency with fundamental legislative principles. I note that, although the bill departs from fundamental legislative principles in a number of respects, the committee concluded that those departures were reasonable in the circumstances of the local management arrangements project.

In response to the IPNRC report, I note that the committee has recommended that the bill be passed subject to a range of amendments agreed by my department in its response to the submissions made to the committee. I am pleased to advise the House that those amendments have been drafted and will be tabled at the conclusion of this debate when the House moves to consider the bill in detail.

The Water (Local Management Arrangements) Amendment Bill 2016 represents a critical step in the journey towards putting irrigators in charge of their future. Local management represents the opportunity to put locals in charge of their water supply. The people who know most about their water supply and appreciate the value of reliable water are, of course, the locals. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.24 pm): I rise to represent the LNP in this debate on the Water (Local Management Arrangements) Amendment Bill 2016. At the outset, I say that the LNP will be supporting the passage of this bill. Why would we not support the passage of this bill? After all, here we see a lazy, asleep-at-the-wheel government and a lazy minister handing in the LNP's homework. This is the LNP's homework and I am sure the minister is fully aware of that.

The local management of water schemes, similar to what is contained in the bill that we have in front of us today, has been introduced in other states, such as New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia in line with the National Water Initiative of 2004. Before that there was, in fact, the 1994 COAG Water Reform Framework. This initiative has been around for a long time and it is about time it came to fruition.

The LNP fully supports the intent of this bill. As I said, the process started under the LNP. In fact, stage 1 commenced in 2012 when a working group was formed to look into the concept of local management to see whether such a concept was viable. In stage 2, an independent project team looked at detailed financial, legal and engineering due diligence. Extensive consultation with irrigators determined that there were eight schemes that could immediately transition. Six of those had full local support with the Lower Mary and Mareeba schemes needing to do a bit more work to garner support to get across the line.

I note that the stage 2 report at page 4 indicated that the key reasons for support for local management were that it would provide around 3,000 irrigators across Queensland with an opportunity to manage their own operations, it would contribute to the ability to manage the cost to modernise and expand the schemes and that local management would increase scheme productivity and remove ongoing subsidy funding to irrigators from the Queensland government which, of course, would be good for all Queenslanders.

We have to commend the people who are involved in these schemes in the various areas around Queensland. They are willing to dedicate their time to the management and get involved in something that they think they can run better than, in fact, the government has run in the past. There is no doubt that many of these landholders, many of these irrigators and farmers would have felt that they were paying in excess for their water and that, if they had control of their local management schemes, they could do a far better job. The LNP agrees with that. That is why, when we were in government, we started this process.

Stage 2 of the process was finalised in September 2014—just before the change of government. The Labor government came to power at the 31 January 2015 election. It did not do anything at all about this process for nine months.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr HART: Take the minister's interjection. Stage 2 was concluded and a report was written in September 2014. Stage 3 did not, in fact, commence until October 2015. Almost a year has gone by before we move from stage 2—which gave a report that said that we are ready for this, this can happen now—to stage 3.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr HART: The minister has an opportunity to rebut this later. I am quite happy to sit here and listen to the minister's response at that time. I will listen diligently when he gets to his feet again. It is quite clear that this is not a Labor bill. One can tell that from the minister's introductory speech. From memory, it was of about three minutes duration. I am glad to see that the minister spent a bit more time in his second reading speech. This is a big issue. It involves millions and millions of dollars worth of state assets transferring to local management. This involves the livelihoods of many people throughout Queensland. These schemes are all over Queensland. We need to seriously look at this issue. I am glad that we have gone through this three-stage process to get to this point. This was started under the LNP. It has been slowed down by the Labor Party but, thankfully, it is finally coming to fruition.

A few months ago I was out in St George with the member for Warrego. I spoke to some of the people involved in these local management arrangements. They are excited. They want to see this happen. They are ready to take this on. They are willing to dedicate some time in their busy schedule to get involved in the management of these schemes because it is important to their livelihood. Let us not talk that down; let us, in fact, talk that up. Stage 3 has culminated in this bill that was tabled on 13 September 2016. We are basically looking at around a two-year delay from when we finished the second stage. It is a shame that it took two years, but we are here now and let us get on with it. As I said, the LNP will be supporting this bill.

This bill, as the minister has said, is enabling legislation. It puts in place the necessary legislation to enable local management arrangements to come into fruition over time. It also gives the opportunity for a fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth scheme under regulation to come to fruition when we get to the stage where those four schemes are happy with what has been negotiated and they are happy to take on the responsibility and move forward. While we have Bundaberg, Burdekin-Haughton, Eton, Emerald, St George, Theodore, Lower Mary and Mareeba-Dimbulah irrigation schemes initially, we hope to get all of them across the line over time. That is what the LNP opposition, and hopefully soon the LNP government, would like to see happen.

The bill amends the Water Act 2000 to restructure and transfer up to eight SunWater channel irrigation schemes to local management arrangements, otherwise known as LMAs. The government owned corporation, SunWater, owns and manages a regional network of bulk water supply facilities across the state supplying more than 5,000 customers in mining, power generation, industrial, local government and irrigated agriculture. SunWater currently owns and operates these eight schemes. They vary in size and complexity. As I said, I was out with the member for Warrego in St George and we went for a drive just out of town and I saw the scope of one of these irrigation schemes. It is amazing to see it. For a city MP—and I do class myself as a city MP; I have a bit of farming background, but I am a city MP—to get out and about in the country and to see these things is really amazing. We were taken around by a gentleman who is heavily involved in the irrigation scheme at St George. He showed us what the issues were, how the water came in off the river down from the dam. It was really quite amazing. He pointed out the issues that they were going to have with pump stations and the weir at St George. It was very interesting stuff. I would encourage all members of the House to get out and have a look at these things because they are simply amazing.

SunWater owns these schemes. They vary in size and complexity, the amount of water that is distributed, the range of crops grown and the number of customers. Some have many customers; some have a few. They are quite intricate because some of them require changes to land tenure, some of them have perpetual leases over part of the area and there is freehold land. The legislation needs to cover all of these things so that there are no issues going forward for the new proponents who have taken control of that freehold land or that leased land where their might be rights for people to cross over the irrigation scheme. There are access issues. All those issues need to be given great consideration over a period of time. Congratulations must go to the people involved.

The bill provides for a staged transition of those eight schemes, starting with Emerald, Eton, St George and Theodore, assuming that agreements can be reached on the final terms of transfer and support from those scheme customers. The minister told us that there were three schemes that had basically come to an agreement and one scheme had to go back to their board and talk through a few more issues to get it sorted to get those four schemes across the line. We are not reinventing the wheel here. This bill uses a process that is very similar to other asset transfers that have happened in Queensland, such as QR, LinkWater, the SEQ Water Grid Manager into Seqwater and, of course, the 2011 GOC generator restructure regulation to merge a number of energy generators. We have a process in place and this transfer follows that process.

I thank the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee for its deliberations on this bill. This was a committee I was a member of before I was shifted to the shadow ministry. They always do a great job. I congratulate the members of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee for the work they did on this bill. They did hear that the current scheme revenue does not cover the operating costs and that the gap is met by the state through a community service obligation. I think from memory the committee heard that that obligation is around \$4 million a year. There is a quantum of money that the government would be prepared to allocate to support these schemes moving forward in order to make them financially viable. We do not want to see these schemes transition to local management and not have sufficient funds moving forward to make them viable. We do not want to put them in danger of failing or we may need to look at taking them back. It is very important that the amount that local management entities receive as a separation payment, which is what we are talking about, gives them enough funding moving forward to carry on their business. It is very important that the quantum of that is right.

I am glad to hear that at least three of those groups have come to the conclusion that the money involved is satisfactory for them to move forward. In the committee, a concern was raised that the overall quantum that cabinet has approved is a fixed amount of money, that is, unless it goes back to cabinet it is not going to be changed. I am concerned that possibly it will be first in, best dressed and that there might not be any money left for others who become involved in the scheme. I would appreciate some guidance from the minister in his follow-up speech as to where we might be on that particular point.

The bill provides for an exemption for state taxes, fees and charges relating to any transfer of the businesses, assets and liabilities of SunWater to local management. Four interim boards have been established to undertake further investigations and to develop revised business cases into the viability of the four remaining schemes transitioning to local management. The minister said that 29 employees will move from SunWater to the local management groups. I would like to ask the minister about what happens with those employees. I note the explanatory notes—

Mr Bailey: I outlined it very clearly. Were you listening?

Mr HART: I take the interjection from the minister. Absolutely I was listening. I heard what the minister had to say. However, I have a further question for the minister. If he would like to pay attention, I am sure that he could take it on board and maybe come back to me. It might be a fairly simple question to answer. If the minister is across his brief, he might know what it is that I would like to know.

Mr Bailey: Ask the question, then.

Mr HART: If the minister would stop interjecting, I could probably get to the question. The explanatory notes—which are these green things here, for the benefit of the minister—at page 14 refer to the preservation of rights of transferable employees, stating—

The section also declares that the transfer does not constitute a retrenchment or redundancy or termination of employment and does not require SunWater to make payment in relation to an employee's accrued rights to annual, sick or long service leave.

In the bill, section 738B relates to the preservation of rights of transferrable employees and states—

The transfer of a transferable employee to an irrigation entity does not—

...

(f) require SunWater to make any payment in relation to the employee's accrued rights to annual, sick or long service leave irrespective of any arrangement between SunWater and the employee.

That can be taken a couple of different ways. I am hoping that the government intends that a transfer of employees to an LMA does not require SunWater to make any payment. I want to know whether the payment for those employees' long service leave, holiday pay and other accrued entitlements is part of the overall remuneration package or separation payment that the entities might be getting. Given that these things can happen quickly or may take another year or two to come to fruition, is that amount of money a shifting target? All of those entitlements are accruing. Let us say that one of the LMAs makes a deal and says, 'We will accept this quantum of money.' When an employee transfers with their entitlements, on that particular day will any adjustment be made to that amount of money? We may be talking about only a small amount of money, but it may make quite a difference to some of those local management schemes going forward. That is what I wanted to talk about in regard to employee expenses.

I preface my remaining comments by saying that we support this scheme, which was originally put in place by the LNP. We started the staging process in 2012. It went through the whole term of our government. We were starting to move towards stage 3, so that the LMAs could be transitioned into private hands. We understand that the LMAs feel that they can manage the schemes better than the government did. However, I want to talk about the hypocrisy of this government and this minister when it comes to things such as this. This is an asset of the government. I do not think anybody can argue about that. This government asset is worth millions of dollars and it earns income.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr HART: I take the interjection from the minister. He just said that it loses money. I have heard from every member on that side of the House and, in particular, the minister that they are keeping down government costs by keeping Queensland assets in government hands. I have heard that constantly from this minister.

Mr Bailey: Public hands.

Mr HART: I stand corrected: in public hands. This minister continually says to us that we are saving money by keeping these assets, which belong to the government and are worth millions of dollars, in public hands. However, here we are, moving public assets into private hands.

Mr Bailey: Community hands.

Mr HART: I take that interjection as well: we are moving them into community hands. That shows the hypocrisy. What we continually see from the other side of the House is that they say one thing and do something completely different. One has to ask oneself: if an asset does not make money anymore, is it the plan of this government to sell or shift that asset or to pay someone to take it off their hands? Is it the plan of this minister to run down Queensland assets in order to get rid of them? If so, I can tell the House that they are doing a fine job with our energy assets. The government is setting a 50 per cent renewable energy target that is going to mean an \$18 billion hit to the Queensland government. There is a \$10.8 billion subsidy required to get to that—

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order. I do not believe there is any mention of renewable energy in this bill. The member really needs to come back to the actual bill that is before the House for consideration.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Thank you, Minister. Member for Burleigh, I remind you that you need to remain within the long title of the bill. I think you have strayed from that. Please come back to the bill.

Mr HART: I am speaking about the local water—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you! Member for Burleigh, this is not a debate. I have given you a direction. Please follow it.

Mr HART: I think you can see where I was going with that. If you do not want me to continue, that is all good.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Members, can I ask you to please listen to the member in silence.

Mr HART: There will be a number of amendments moved to this bill during consideration in detail. I would like to thank the minister for the briefing on those amendments provided by the department the other day. As the minister said, most of them are technical in nature. The LNP has no issue with the technical amendments. I can assure the minister that we are happy with those particular amendments. However, I will speak to one of the amendments for which I would like a bit of clarification. When we get to consideration in detail I will raise that particular issue.

I conclude my remarks on this bill by saying that the LNP fully supports the movement of these particular water schemes into local management arrangements. It was something that we were very keen to see happen in our term of government, but we did not quite get to that stage unfortunately. We will fully support this bill.

I congratulate those people involved in these schemes because they are putting a lot of time and energy into something that—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr HART: The minister wants to take credit for that. I was actually talking about the people in regional Queensland who are putting their time and energy into this. I thank those people for the time and energy they are putting in. It does affect their livelihoods. This is not their core business. It impacts their core business but it is not their core business to manage these sorts of schemes. I congratulate them for being involved in the process.

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (4.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Water (Local Management Arrangements) Amendment Bill 2016. I do so because I have been involved in this issue for over 20 years. In fact, this bill has had a very long gestation period. This movement towards local management began over 20 years ago. At that time I was an irrigator. I was involved at the very beginning of the process. It was a process that I was able to drive in the years that we were in government.

The local management initiative had its genesis in the National Competition Policy back in 1992. Those of us who were around remember the Hilmer report and the National Competition Policy. That was a change in economic thinking that led to government seeking to maximise profit from its investments and move towards full cost recovery.

It was a style of economic thinking that led to the closing of a whole range of government assets in regional Queensland. A lot of railway lines were closed. A lot of courthouses were closed. There were suggestions at the time that some of the irrigation schemes that had been built by the government as regional economic development schemes would need to close because they could not achieve profitability. Obviously, for the communities that were involved and for the individuals who were involved that was an unacceptable outcome.

I well remember the debates in those days about the alternatives that were open to government and to communities. One of the alternatives that was identified very early was the option of irrigators operating those schemes themselves and in doing so overcoming some of the government inefficiencies that plagued not just the irrigation schemes but the railways and a whole range of other assets that the government owned and operated. All of those assets were operated very inefficiently. All of them had suffered from a lack of investment over time. The local irrigators saw an opportunity to own and operate those assets in a much more efficient way than the government.

In about 1994 or 1995 we started talking about local management and local ownership. I as an irrigator was involved in some of the very early discussions around that. This was one of the issues then that was still on my agenda when I was lucky enough to attain the position of Deputy Premier in 2012. The issue had stagnated in the years since then. It was an issue that had been supported or at least given verbal support by successive Labor governments that had never been able to progress the issue. It was an issue that we believed needed to be progressed.

Through the mechanism of the agriculture cabinet committee, which brought together a number of ministers whose departments were involved, we were able to progress this issue to the stage where, some 23 years after the idea was first floated, we now have a bill in the House. As the minister indicated in his contribution earlier this afternoon, this is a piece of enabling legislation. It will enable those irrigation schemes, I believe, to continue to provide the economic growth opportunities that they have done for regional Queensland.

That was always the important part of the argument. These assets were built as economic development initiatives. They were never built to show a profit. That, of course, presented a huge difficulty with the changes in economic thinking that took hold in the early 1990s. They were about providing economic stimulus opportunities and economic development opportunities for a range of regional communities, in much the same way as the Royalties for the Regions projects—a program that was described as a slush fund for regional Queensland earlier this afternoon and has been described as corrupt by the Labor Treasurer—were not projects that were ever going to demonstrate a profit or meet all of the criteria that economists would demand for investments. Things like the Kin Kora intersection and the Yeppoon bypass in the electorate of Keppel—projects that could never meet the criteria under the normal departmental programs—were funded out of Royalties for the Regions for the very reason that they could not meet those criteria and yet they were important to communities.

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr SEENEY: I say to the member for Rockhampton, 'Mate, you knock Royalties for the Regions every opportunity you get. Go out there and knock it every opportunity you get because every time you knock it my vote goes through the roof.' I have the surgeon from Stafford telling me that I had a slush fund for regional Queensland. Tell regional Queensland that every day of the week.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. As fascinating as the treatise is from the member for Callide about Royalties for the Regions, I do not believe it has any relevance whatsoever to this bill and I ask him to come back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I ask the member for Callide to continue, members I point out that there is too much noise in the chamber. I ask you to either take your conversations outside or stop them. We need to listen to the member for Callide. Please return to the bill.

Mr SEENEY: I was just responding to the interjection from the member for Rockhampton.

Mr POWER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I also add that the member for Callide should use members' correct titles during his speech.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Callide, can you use correct titles.

Mr SEENEY: After nearly 20 years in this parliament I am happy to take advice from the member for Logan. I am sure he has a lot to teach me. I am sure I can learn a lot from the member for Logan.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SEENEY: There are some absolute idiots who get elected to this place.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, can I just remind you that several members have already been warned by the Speaker this afternoon. That list will continue. There will be no further warnings for those on that list and if they persist they will be asked to leave the chamber for a period of time. Please listen to the member for Callide in silence. Member for Callide, please do not provoke those opposite.

Mr SEENEY: The relevant point is that the irrigation schemes that we are talking about were investments that were made by governments on non-commercial terms. They were never made to be profitable. The challenge for the people who are now going to take ownership of those schemes is to operate an asset that was never built to be a commercial asset on a commercial basis. That is a significant challenge. I was drawing the comparison with the Royalties for the Regions program because it too made investments on a non-commercial basis. It was designed to make investments for other outcomes rather than for the normal outcomes that are required for government investment.

This legislation before the parliament is a surprise to me because I did not imagine that the Labor government would be able to continue with it. It should have been here two years ago.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! It being five o'clock, I ask the member for Callide to adjourn the debate.

Debate, on motion of Mr Seenev, adjourned.

MOTION

Military Training Areas



Hon. WS BYRNE (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the federal and state Liberal National Party members of parliament for abandoning graziers, meatworkers and small businesses of the Rockhampton and Charters Towers regions in their fight against the Turnbull government's planned compulsory acquisition of prime Queensland grazing land.

This House needs to lay down a marker on these matters. It is clearly evident that the process to date and the interventions made by the federal coalition have been nothing short of a shemuzzle. The record stands just for the scale of the dislocation of a community. It is important to reflect on the journey. It was announced shortly before the last federal election in a highly contested region, particularly in Capricornia, which I am familiar with, that there was going to be a \$1 billion-plus investment in both locations of Townsville and Central Queensland—Rockhampton and Shoalwater Bay. That announcement was widely received. In fact, it was the No. 1 announcement that went forward in the LNP campaign to secure Capricornia.

The only problem with all of that is that, in retrospect, it turns out that there was not a full and transparent picture put forward in the debate about what that money was supporting. What we heard was a very deliberately crafted set of language put forward to befuddle and confuse communities about what was really occurring. What we saw was a very specific set of Senate estimates questions being asked by then Labor senators prior to the election. I looked at those Senate estimates questions during the federal election campaign to try to get a handle on exactly what a billion dollars was going to be spent on, particularly in Shoalwater Bay because you could build an international airport and three or four five-star hotels and probably still have change left. I am particularly familiar with that site, so I am able to make specific comments. I was intrigued about how a billion dollars would be spent—the point being that not once was acquisition of land mentioned and certainly not compulsory acquisition of land.

The LNP sailed through an entire federal election campaign exploiting the billion dollars and saying what a great achievement it was for Central Queensland, which no-one was going to contest, but they deliberately left out that there were going to be up to 60 grazing properties acquired as part of those expansions in Townsville and Central Queensland. That was deliberately kept out of the debate.

We move forward. No-one is the wiser. In October, an MOU was signed between the Singapore Armed Forces and the DoD. That MOU—and I have seen them in the past—is substantially an administrative document that talks about commitments and responsibilities of parties to the agreement. There is no strategic or international security element associated with it. It talks about environmental obligations, commercial obligations, the number of troops rotations. It is an administrative document which today remains hidden by the federal coalition in Canberra.

That document was signed and that feeds into the starting point for when this tripling and massive expansion of Singaporean presence will occur in those training areas. That is the formative document. What happened then? On 25 November landholders in all of those areas received a letter in the mail from the defence department. That letter lit the fuse. That letter indicated to those landowners that they were going to have their properties acquired and, if necessary, by compulsory acquisition. This came as a complete and utter shock to everybody involved and, landing at the end of November leading into the Christmas period, perhaps deliberately so.

It has been proven as recently as the last couple of weeks that federal members of the coalition, particularly senators, knew precisely what was going to transpire. They knew precisely that there would be land acquisitions, as revealed by Senator Payne, the defence minister, under questioning in the Senate recently. They knew that there would be acquisitions. They left it until late November to inform landowners. What happened then was that the momentum built. Once people started to talk to each other leading up to the Christmas period people started to become very, very concerned. That is when I was first alerted to this matter—because I did not receive any letter. I was first alerted to this matter by the local member for Mirani, Jim Pearce. Jim Pearce was the first political figure to come out and

make the call on this. He was the first person to stand up in his electorate and represent the people of Marlborough saying, 'This proposal is going to have very considerable consequences for my community and for the people in my electorate.' I give all credit to Jim because he lit the fuse and he started this process.

This move rapidly ended in some town hall meetings. Pauline Hanson, the One Nation leader, attended one of those meetings. That was an intriguing event—400 graziers and their families, local business people and people representing the supply chain in one town hall meeting at Marlborough. Pauline Hanson got up and, while she expressed concern about the process, her entire speech could have been described as that of an LNP backbencher, which I found extraordinary. It became quite clear to me that she was not going to do anything of any substance to shift the dynamic on this proposal except to have a chat to the Prime Minister.

There was no contribution from One Nation to any effect to drive this proposal forward. That is where the member for Keppel, the member for Mirani and I decided to make sure that we would put pressure on this process, and that is exactly what we did. We established what the success conditions would be—that is, walk away from compulsory acquisition and give the people of Central Queensland and Townsville exactly what was promised during the election campaign. We wanted the \$1.1 billion or \$1.2 billion of investment in each of those locations but we wanted the removal of compulsory acquisition, because it was such a blatantly unfair thing to do, particularly when you are pulling potentially 100,000 cattle out of the supply chain. This was all going on, of course, while in Townsville JBS meatworks remained closed for that entire period because there was a problem with the supply chain, as we all know. Anyone who understands the industry understands this problem.

The amount of support that this movement generated was unbelievable. The local organising committee in Marlborough and the graziers, AgForce, NFF and the graziers in Townsville were all very vocal. Do not forget that all of the businesses in Central Queensland rely on cattle. Do not forget every one of them standing up—the meatworks, the meatworkers' union. That is what we saw. We saw a rally in Central Queensland where all of those interests were represented, all of them speaking up in protest, in community response, to the fundamental failure of the process and the intent. After all, the intent of all of this is not about ADF training. The only issue the ADF has is that it will be jammed out of its own training areas by a tripling of the number troops that Singapore has been allowed to bring into Australia and has been allowed to bring in under the banner of a free trade agreement. I have never heard of anything so ridiculous than a free trade agreement that ends up with subsets that are negotiating Defence agreements over a 25-year period. It is an extraordinary legacy that Andrew Robb has left Queensland and Australia in particular and says much about the intellect that supports some of those agreements—but I digress.

As the pressure built, what was ironic and predictable was that the LNP's federal member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry, indicated that she had no idea whatsoever of what this was about—none at all—until the graziers got their letters. What sort of member of parliament, when a billion dollars is being spent in their electorate, does not ask the first question about what is involved with that? 'What are we spending a billion dollars on? What are we going to do? What is this about?' She pretends that she knew nothing about it, and that is an indictment on her.

I do not want to criticise her any further in this House because it is the equivalent of strangling a dead cat. Her credibility in Central Queensland is eviscerated. She is completely and utterly laid bare as a noncontributor in the federal government and completely ignorant of all of these things. It backs in when she announced \$20 million to go on the back of our beef roads. The first question she was asked was: what is the \$20 million for to back in the Queensland government's investment? She said, 'I don't know. I'm just giving you a cheque for \$20 million for beef roads.' This pretty much backs in a consistent disconnection on all of these issues.

The disappointing part of all of this—I am sure we will hear it here today—is the personal attack that will come. A number of things will be represented. The first is that the vegetation management issues in Shoalwater Bay are driven by the Vegetation Management Act of Queensland. That is false. The second is that the implementation of the expansion is a legacy left behind by—guess who influences international defence policy?—Bill Byrne. That is false. The third is that the vegetation management issues can be fixed by fixing the Queensland laws. That is false. The fourth is that this is in the national interest. That is false. Every single deception, personal attack and allegation put by the LNP is false and they, along with members opposite, should stand totally condemned for what happened.

(Time expired)



Mr NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.11 pm): I move—

That all the words after 'House' be deleted and the following words inserted:

'acknowledges the strong and effective representation undertaken by LNP members that ensured that the rights of Queensland graziers, landowners, meatworkers and small businesses in and around Rockhampton and Charters Towers were protected and that no landowner would be forced to sell their land to the federal Department of Defence.'

I have listened with some interest to the comments made by the member for Rockhampton—the 'member for jumping on the bandwagon' as he might otherwise be known in respect of this matter. This was a matter that was brought to the attention of the LNP last year by the member for Hinchinbrook, the member for Whitsunday and the member for Burdekin who were all alert to this issue. They had been contacted by people who were concerned about the impact of the potential acquisition of land for the Australian Defence Force—I know the member for Rockhampton cannot help it when he says it is for the Singaporeans, but let us be clear that it is for the Australian Defence Force—to be able to carry out manoeuvres on their land.

When those representations were known and when those concerns were known, members started making representations. They made them locally to the defence forces in the towns where they were concerned and they also made them to the federal members, as is the normal course of events. It is a federal issue. You would expect that the first port of call would not to be alarmist, not to jump up and down and grab all the TV space you possibly can because you know your vote is going over the edge of a cliff in Rockhampton. The \$200 million for a prison will not be enough. A week of cabinet being up there will not be enough. You have to look for some other issue to save your bacon when you are the member for Rockhampton and things are not working out so well.

We know that the motivation of the member for Rockhampton—and he probably did learn it in the army—is self-preservation. One other thing we know is that there are no atheists in foxholes. We know that as well. He became a believer. The only other person who became a believer is the Premier of Queensland. She stood up and said, 'We want Pauline Hanson to help us.' Do members remember that? Perhaps she rang up Evan and asked for the phone number. Bereft of any ideas of her own, bereft of any other ability to make a difference, they stand up and make a scene and put themselves front and centre of it.

The Shoalwater Bay issue and that of Harvey Range in North Queensland and Central Queensland are clear examples of effective action by the LNP to protect the interests of Queensland graziers when this lazy Labor government would not. It was the LNP that was prepared to stand up and make it clear to our federal colleagues that the defence department had dropped the ball on this issue. Clearly, the defence department had dropped the ball on this issue. It was a cack-handed attempt. The letters sent out that contained the implication that there would be compulsory acquisitions should not have been sent out. If that was not the intention, if that was not what they were going to do, it should not have happened. It is all too easy for the mandarins in Canberra to make a decision to issue letters and then to say, 'Hang on a second, it is not our problem. We will let those poor people wherever they might be in the country deal with the issues.' I made the point abundantly clear in all my comments that the defence department had badly handled this issue.

It was as a result of increasing concern after discussions with both state LNP members and federal LNP members that I sent a message to the Prime Minister asking that he immediately intervene in the acquisition of rural properties in Central and Northern Queensland. I sent that message to him. I did not call out and say, 'Pauline, please save me.' It was not a matter of traipsing up and down the countryside in futile self-aggrandisement; it was about taking effective action. I spoke to the Prime Minister on Monday night and I informed him of the difficulties that people were facing and the way that the defence department had handled the matter. I asked him to immediately intervene in the matter and to take steps to ensure that proper process was followed; that the defence department did not leave the matter in the hands of bureaucrats; and that Queensland graziers, landowners and businesses were not put in the situation it looked like they were facing.

There was equally a need to preserve the business opportunities that come from the investment. There were many businesses which said, 'We need this. We want this. We are not getting anything out of state Labor. We are not seeing any action. We need this money. We need this investment in the region. We want to see jobs here.' I have spoken to mayors and councillors who were adamant that this still needed to go ahead. It needed to go ahead in the right way, with the right process and without any landowner being forced to sell their land should they not wish to. I made that point particularly clear to the Prime Minister.

It was in that week after I spoke with the Prime Minister and made a number of statements about that that we were able to see a resolution of the matter that worked in the best interests of landowners and the local community. That is what proper and effective representation is about. It is about making sure that people who can make a decision or influence a decision are aware of the problems. It is about raising it to the level where someone will do something about it. Then it is about coming up with a solution and a solution that is working, and that is exactly what happened. It was as a result of those representations and after a lot of hard work by the member for Nanango, the member for Burdekin, the member for Hinchinbrook, the member for Whitsunday and federal member Michelle Landry that this matter was absolutely resolved.

Mr Byrne: There was only one public statement.

Mr NICHOLLS: I hear the member for Rockhampton saying 'only one public statement'. The member for Rockhampton measures his success by the number of public statements, not by the effectiveness of what he actually achieves. It is no wonder the people in the agricultural industry in Queensland scratch their heads—because all they get is statements out of this government, not action. He has just confirmed what we were saying three hours ago—that they do their very best to say as much as they can but they do little to effectively drive results.

I did have a discussion with the Prime Minister, and it was a forceful discussion. It was about the fact that it is important to maintain good relations with Singapore. That is important—the member for Rockhampton notwithstanding—but that did not excuse the confused, muddled mess the defence department had made of their dealings with hardworking grazing families. Let us not forget the role the then federal government played in bringing North Queensland's cattle industry to its knees with its 2011 live cattle export ban that shut down a critical market. It shut them down. The government members here can talk about the uncertainty—and it was bad—but when it comes to the cattle industry, that party over there stands condemned for taking the backbone out of the cattle industry. The same fellow who was advising Joe Ludwig was advising that fellow over there when he got into government. We remember him, and it is the same piece of brilliant advice. When it comes down to saving the rights of Queenslanders, the LNP stands shoulder to shoulder with those hardworking Queensland families, graziers and landowners to protect it. I urge the House to support the amendment to the motion.

Speaker's Ruling, Amendment Out of Order

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Dalrymple, I have taken some advice in relation to the amendment that has been moved by the Leader of the Opposition. When government members intend to move amendments that they seek clarification of, they seek advice from my office and the Clerk in relation to ensuring they comply with my rulings about not being direct negatives. I have taken advice and, unfortunately, I am going to rule that the opposition amendment is out of order; it is a direct negative.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (5.21 pm): I support the motion moved by the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries. That motion states—

That this House condemns the federal and state Liberal National Party members of parliament for abandoning graziers, meatworkers and small businesses of the Rockhampton and Charters Towers regions in their fight against the Turnbull government's planned compulsory acquisition of prime Queensland grazing land.

I was one of those proud people who was fighting very strongly against this decision because I thought it was one of the lowest acts I had ever seen. One of the biggest issues we had faced in the Charters Towers region was the uranium mine spill with Ben Lomond back in the eighties, where the people of Charters Towers rose up and said that this mine needed to be stopped. All that we heard as a result of that uranium mine spill and the Ben Lomond uranium mine was 'jobs, jobs, jobs', but the only thing we got out of that uranium mine was contamination. It was exactly the same when we saw Senator Macdonald come up to the Charters Towers region and tell the graziers, 'This is so important. You must accept this because this is about jobs, jobs, jobs,' but the Singapore army does not send their children to the Charters Towers state schools, private schools and primary schools, they do not go in there and buy a lawn mower and they do not go in there and spend money on hay or molasses. They do not contribute to that community.

It is very important to acknowledge that this proposal was backed by the federal government. This proposal to force 22 graziers out of the Charters Towers region—and I believe another 50 or more down at Shoalwater Bay—was completely un-Australian and it goes against the Australian way of life. It was not just the graziers who were taking a stand against this. The whole Charters Towers Regional Council community and people right across Queensland, if not Australia, felt this was a very unjust, low

act. I am very pleased that I was one of those who was able to stand up and fight and take on the federal government, working with the graziers and the local communities, because we could see that this was unjust. This was not only unjust; this would impact on our region because there are three major river systems that run through that area where they were going to acquire that land. One was the Burdekin, which is prime grazing land and agricultural land, another was the Fanning and the other was the Star River and Keelbottom Creek. They all run into the Burdekin. That was all going to be lost and wiped out as a result of this government's position.

The federal government did not think this was a great move because they wanted to work with an overseas defence organisation and because it was all about protection; this was about getting the votes going into the federal election. They thought it sounded good because this agreement was going to create thousands of jobs for our community—'Vote for us and you'll get jobs and ensure that these shopfronts that have closed will reopen.' The only thing we got out of this was heartache and frustration. I am very proud to be able to stand up for those landowners. John Brownson said the other day that now he can plan, he can buy stockfeed, he can buy cattle, he can get loans and he has a vision in front of him. It is the same for Blair Knuth and all of those landowners in that area.

We want to ensure that there is legislation so this does not happen again. We need to protect these landowners and these families. I am very proud and greatly honoured to be able to stand up for our community, our kids and our grazing industry and ensure that cattle goes through our saleyards and our meatworks. We can now plan for the Hell's Gate Dam and the Big Rocks program. We now have something, because all we heard about was acquisition of land. We can now start planning.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.26 pm): It is obvious from the debate today that there is a huge amount of grandstanding going on from the member for Rockhampton, the Hon. Bill Byrne. It is obvious as well that it was the Queensland LNP that took action when this do-nothing, incompetent Palaszczuk government sat back. We saw a lot of grandstanding by the member for Rockhampton. The ultimate outcome that was facing those 40-odd landholders has been the right one—that is, that the Prime Minister came out and reassured those graziers and landholders that there would be no forced land acquisitions. That was the right decision to be made. I have an email from one of those landholders who saw it for exactly what it was, and I will get to that email later.

We need to look after our graziers and landholders. We need to protect the beef industry in Queensland. There are several questions that need to be asked. Where was the Labor Party when the Labor Party shut down the beef industry with the live cattle trade? Where was the member for Rockhampton at that stage? Where has the member for Rockhampton been in all those years since? Where has the member for Rockhampton been standing up for the graziers of Queensland against the vegetation management laws? Where was the current Minister for Agriculture then? A sigh of relief went through the grazing industry in Queensland when the Minister for Agriculture was made the Minister for Police. They all thought they should sigh with relief until they were all accused of being gun-toting lone cowboys. That is how much respect this person has for the beef industry in Queensland. Then when this incompetent Labor government got rid of another incompetent minister, who does this Palaszczuk government relegate to the bottom of the chain when it comes to agriculture? As always, poor old Bill gets put at the bottom. Agriculture and the grazing industry should be up the top of the ministry.

Mr Byrne: Agriculture was elevated. That is why I am sitting here and not down there.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Thank you, Minister. Thank you, members.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Even though the minister is sitting on the front bench and ministerial portfolio contains the words 'regional economic development', he should not be so proud given that he supports the Labor government that has got one per cent of regional funding out from their so-called Building our Regions fund. He should know that the people of regional Queensland, particularly those in Central Queensland, are laughing at this government. One per cent—and they say that they are a government for regional Queensland! There is only one party that stands up for graziers in Central Queensland, that stands up for rural and regional Queensland, and that is the LNP.

The LNP raised this alarm with the Prime Minister. It took the Leader of the Opposition to make a call to the Prime Minister, and that is what he did. Where was the Premier on this issue? She had to ring Evan Moorhead and say, 'Excuse me, Evan. Can I please have Pauline's number?'—this is the Premier—'because even though I am the Premier of Queensland, I know nothing.' We have heard that again. What has this Premier ever done for rural and regional Queensland? She has appointed

someone who calls graziers lone cowboys the Minister for Agriculture. She has appointed Minister for Agriculture someone who obviously supported the closing of the live beef cattle export industry. That is diabolical for the grazing industry of Queensland.

I am proud to be part of the LNP government. I will read this email from Kirstie Olive. It states—
THANK YOU SO MUCH!!! ... I can't begin to explain how relieved I am ...

I look forward to celebrating the LNP back in government next year!

 **Mr PEARCE** (Mirani—ALP) (5.32 pm): The people in Central Queensland would think that the contributions that have been made so far by the LNP in this House are as useful as a bucket under a bull. They know what they are talking about in Central Queensland. They know their land, they know their cattle and they know that this action that was initiated by the federal government is absolutely unacceptable, and they will continue to fight the battle.

I was invited to visit the landowners impacted by the compulsory acquisition just after Christmas. It was really worrying for me as the local member and one who has been through depression and things like that to talk to some of these people and to understand how they were feeling at the time, how this announcement made just prior to Christmas was impacting their lives. It is impossible to describe the level of ineptitude achieved by the federal government on this occasion. It is hard to imagine how they could have caused more anguish or despair for landowners and communities. These people in this area are some of the most professional, skilled, talented breeders of livestock who build on the quality of their herds.

Now we know that the defence minister knew all about the plan for land to be acquired and she knew about it during the election campaign. In common with the landowners in Central Queensland, it did not take long for me to smell a rat. What was the extent of the agreement? Who knew about it? That is the big question. What was the content of the agreement? A lot of questions remain unanswered. In my opinion and the opinion of many others, it was a deception to keep the details hidden from those who would be impacted for a further number of months.

Bill Byrne's involvement was something that the people of Central Queensland, in Shoalwater Bay, really appreciated because Bill Byrne knew what he was talking about. They were very impressed with his input; they knew exactly where he was coming from. I know that people voted for Michelle Landry because of the promise of \$1 billion investment in her electorate. They probably would not have voted for her if they had known the truth about what the government was planning. It was a secret well kept. The big question is: did Michelle Landry know about it? She insists she knew nothing, but she posted a video on Facebook in which she was shaking hands with the Prime Minister of Singapore thanking him for bringing soldiers into the area. How much did she know? Who decided to keep her in the dark? In fact, I asked the question: was she kept in the dark? Only a few people know the answer to that. Did they think she would not be able to handle the truth? That is a big question, and there are a number of issues in Central Queensland about the truth. Were they afraid she would kill their chances of winning the federal election, and we all know that particular seat went down to the wire. There are a lot of unanswered questions—questions that need to be answered.

Once the truth emerged we saw the federal government's messaging change almost by the hour. Why did that change? Because the people of the Shoalwater Bay-Marlborough area had shown again what people power can do by getting together, working as one and involving the right people. They saw that they could make things change.

What was happening up there was confusing for everybody. Matt Canavan would say one thing, Michelle Landry would say another, Defence Minister Payne would say something else and Barnaby Joyce with his smiling face and half-funny jokes would have us believe he knew nothing about compulsory land acquisitions. I would like to have a quid on that because I am sure I would win. He knew, but he does not have the intestinal fortitude to tell the people that he knew. I ask: is that a man who would spend most of his time sleeping through a mess such as that?

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (5.37 pm): I rise to oppose the motion before the House. This just proves that you do not need to be swanning around in front of a TV camera and big-noting yourself to achieve an outcome for this state. Whilst this minister was out there barking like a mad dog, those on this side of the House were working behind the scenes to ensure the right outcome for our farmers. It was the combined efforts of those members on this side of the House that got this decision overturned.

I am on the public record as saying that this decision by the federal government was ill-conceived and needed to be overturned. I worked with the Deputy Prime Minister, staff in his office and two LNP senators to make sure that this decision was reviewed and overturned. I was never going to support

the compulsory acquisition of 23 properties at Charters Towers and 37 at Shoalwater Bay, running a combined herd of up to 100,000 head of cattle and covering an area of land comprising 167,000 hectares at Charters Towers and 152,000 hectares at Shoalwater Bay with the potential expansion area of 46,000 hectares. I know the land around Charters Towers intimately, having lived and worked in that area for four years. Yes, it does comprise prime agriculture land—fattening country, as they call it in the industry. Whilst there are two confirmed property owners that have signed up to sell, namely Lyndon and Glenprairie, this is a decision for those property owners to make and it is a decision that should be voluntary, not forced.

I will always support our graziers. There was no way I was going to sit back and watch this prime agricultural land be de-stocked and locked up forever for use by Defence. As I said then and I say again now, there is plenty of marginal country in this state which is better suited to the needs of the Defence Force. I know of one 287,000-hectare block of marginal country south of Pentland better suited for this purpose and which the owner wants to sell. We have also heard of land on Cape York Peninsula. If the Defence Force is required to drive some distance to access these training areas, then so be it.

Of course we welcome the Singaporean Defence Force to train in Australia, but not at the expense of our prime agricultural land. The Australian Defence Force needs to go back to the drawing board and identify marginal land that will have a minimal impact on our cattle industry. Let me remind the minister that in 2011 it was the former federal Labor minister for agriculture, Joe Ludwig, who destroyed the live cattle export industry in Australia, costing the industry hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs. It was a decision which decimated the entire northern cattle industry and sent property owners bankrupt overnight. Many of these graziers are still recovering to this day.

Mrs Frecklington: They are still hurting!

Mr LAST: That is right. Those on that side of the House have a hide claiming the high moral ground on this issue, when the skeletons in their closet clearly show their absolute disdain and contempt for farmers and their pathetic record when it comes to looking after our people on the land. We need look no further than the vegetation management laws, which were so vigorously opposed in this place last year and which the Deputy Premier has stated she will overturn if they are returned to government.

Those on that side of the House do not care about our rural communities. They do not care about the future of agriculture in Queensland. It is nothing short of hypocritical for this minister to come into this place and try to make out that the red left is suddenly the farmer's friend. There is a huge difference between those on that side of the House and on those on this side of the House. This issue highlights that we can get the job done and we will stand up for our farmers come hell or high water. That is exactly what we have done in this instance. We achieved an outcome whilst you were out there grandstanding and we got the work done behind the scenes. Who do you think got the Deputy Prime Minister to Rockhampton? Go and ask him.

There is no question that the LNP is the friend of the farmer; we always have been and we always will be. This case has highlighted that when it is necessary we will stand shoulder to shoulder with them and back them all the way.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Agriculture, I urge you to be careful in your interjections or you may join the list of members with warnings.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.42 pm): The LNP is no friend of the farmer. I rise this evening to contribute to the debate regarding the federal government's proposed compulsory acquisition of land at Marlborough. This move by the federal LNP completely disregards the livelihoods and history of generations in that region. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, the member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry, and Senator Matthew Canavan have caused incredible stress, anxiety and heartache to the people in Marlborough and the entire Central Queensland region by declaring that they would take their homes and livelihoods without any consultation. I am proud to have moved quickly to take up the fight on behalf of these graziers and businesses. I stood at the community meeting in Marlborough and I promised that I would be there in the trenches with those people of Marlborough until the death, together with the member for Mirani and the state Minister for Agriculture. None of those people opposite were there at that meeting; none of those people opposite stood in the trenches with the people of Marlborough.

In January the Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, Treasurer Curtis Pitt, Minister for Agriculture Bill Byrne, member for Mirani Jim Pearce, local meatworkers, graziers, business people, unions and concerned locals joined us to lead a vocal and powerful rally of some 400 attendees at the Lakes Creek Hotel in Rockhampton calling on the LNP to stop this compulsory acquisition. None of those members opposite joined us. That rally and our display of people power proved strong and shows that this is what

the Labor Party does best. We stand up for people in their hour of need, and I am proud to have stood side by side with the landholders, businesses and local people of Marlborough and Rockhampton there in the trenches fighting with them until victory.

What of the member for Capricornia and those opposite? As we now find out, the member for Capricornia was elected on a lie. The LNP spruiked \$1 billion of Singaporean investment prior to the 2 July federal election but neglected to tell anyone about the proposed compulsory acquisition. This advertisement from the *Morning Bulletin* is case in point. The advertisement states—

I have helped secure an agreement that will secure \$1 billion for a massive expansion of new defence infrastructure at the Shoalwater Bay training area.

There is nothing about the compulsory acquisition of 215,000 hectares of prime grazing land and nothing about the loss of 50,000 head of cattle from our local supply chain. I table a copy of the advertisement and a media release from 14 June 2016 in which the member for Capricornia is spruiking the \$1 billion deal and the expansion of Shoalwater Bay.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 14 June 2016, from the Minister for Defence, Hon. Marise Payne, and the federal member for Capricornia, Ms Michelle Landry MP, titled 'Defence Investment to Drive Jobs and Growth in Rocky and Coast' [\[184\]](#).

After weeks of dodging the question about when the member for Capricornia knew of the compulsory acquisitions, it now turns out that the LNP knew of the proposal well before the last federal election. We all know that if the LNP had been honest with those in Capricornia—and in particular those people of Marlborough—no doubt there would have been a very different result and Michelle Landry would not be the member for Capricornia today. Now the local people are calling on her to resign.

Not only was the compulsory acquisition of land immoral and a kick in the teeth to people who have worked there all their lives but the state department of agriculture says that at a minimum it would remove 50,000 head of prime beef cattle from the local beef supply chain, which would equate to at least three months work and scores of local jobs at our meatworks. Rockhampton is supposed to be the beef capital of Australia, yet the LNP and the member for Capricornia were prepared to sell us out at the expense of hundreds of local jobs with subsequent significant cost to service companies associated with local agriculture like Danni McKenzie and her husband at Marlborough Motors. How can a business stay open when its client base is decimated?

Let us also not forget about the stress and anguish caused by Mr Turnbull's blundering decision to steal land, homes and properties from the people who have lived and worked there for generations. One afternoon I spoke with one of the local graziers, and the wavering in this grazier's voice really got me right to the core. She was so concerned about a friend who had followed her husband around the paddock one afternoon because she was so afraid he would not come home due to the stress and anxiety this compulsory acquisition had caused. That is the kind of effect this compulsory acquisition by the LNP had, and I am so proud that we actually won—

(Time expired)

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (5.48 pm): I rise to speak against the motion moved by the agriculture minister and the member for Rockhampton. I have watched and listened to the state Labor members with some amazement as they lined up one after another to cry crocodile tears for the landholders at Shoalwater Bay. I could not help but wonder where this concern was for the landholders of the Marlborough and Charters Towers areas when the vegetation management debate was happening in this House. I did not notice the Premier or the now agriculture minister exhibiting the same level of concern for the agriculture sector.

When the Palaszczuk government passed legislation to kick graziers out of national park grazing leases I did not detect the same level of concern. When the federal Labor government shut down the live-export trade overnight and plunged the cattle industry in the north into crisis, the then Labor government was silent, as has been this government. This government has never publicly slammed that reckless action—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I am having difficulty hearing the member for Condamine. Minister for Industrial Relations, if you persist you will be warned and you will join the list.

Mr WEIR: This government was left wanting on every one of those issues. Indeed, it was the architect of some of the legislation I have mentioned that represented a direct attack on the landholders of this state. One would like to think that the conga line of Labor members, from the Premier down, who rushed to the scene were there as they had had a sudden revelation as to the importance and value of

agriculture to the region and the state as a whole. The true story, we all know, is vastly different. The Labor members in nearby seats are feeling the hot winds of discontent with their performance and are nervously watching the polls slide, so they have rushed to seize on this emotive issue.

I watched this frenzy of activity from the seat of Condamine with some amazement and could not help but reflect on the hypocrisy of this Labor government. There is a town in the electorate of Condamine called Oakey. I presume that members opposite have heard of it. This town has been battling with the defence department over a water contamination issue for two years, with no help from those opposite. All members in this House have heard me speak of this matter in this place. I have asked all ministers across whose portfolio this issue has an impact questions both with and without notice. On all occasions those responses have been less than adequate. This includes the Minister for Agriculture, who has moved this motion tonight. Members might be interested to know how many ministers or state Labor members present here tonight have rushed out to meet with the local Oakey community, as happened in Marlborough and Charters Towers.

Opposition members: How many?

Mr WEIR: None—not one. I can include the Premier. The Premier has never come out to speak to the people of Oakey.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I am having difficulty hearing the member for Condamine.

Mr WEIR: The health minister has never come out to speak to the people of Oakey. The agriculture minister has never come out to speak to the people of Oakey. The previous agriculture minister also did not. The racing minister—there is a large training centre in Oakey—has not been there.

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister for Agriculture, you are warned under standing order 253A.

Mr WEIR: The environment minister has never come out to meet with the people of Oakey.

The member for Rockhampton talked about rallies. There have been many rallies in Oakey, but no-one has seen fit to come out and talk to those people. Maybe it is because there are no marginal seats in the area. The member also talked about a lack of credibility. I can say that there is no credibility on that side of the House when it comes to showing concern for the people of Oakey.

I know what it is like to try to deal with the Defence Force. The process in Shoalwater Bay was absolutely terrible. That is not surprising, going by my experience with the defence department. It was Tim Nicholls who went and spoke to the Prime Minister and had that decision overturned. It is a great result for the people of Shoalwater Bay, but what about the people of Oakey? Will members opposite show any interest in those people? Housing prices have been impacted. There are health concerns. There are mental health concerns. A large abattoir wants to employ another 400 or 500 workers. None of those people will live in Oakey until this has been lifted. Some support from members opposite would be much appreciated. They have been conspicuous in their absence.

Dr Miles: It is the Turnbull government.

Mr WEIR: You are the environment minister. You have a part to play in this. It goes across your portfolio and that of the Minister for Health.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Environment, if you have something to say, get on the speaking list.

Mr WEIR: I totally oppose this motion. I think it is hypocritical. I think those opposite are condemned by their own hypocrisy on the situation in Oakey. I oppose the motion.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (5.54 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries. This is an incredibly important issue for the families impacted by the federal government's cruel and heartless decision to compulsorily acquire their property. Tonight I pay tribute to the Minister for Agriculture and the members for Mirani and Keppel, who have been talking to the people in the region about this cruel and heartless decision.

Let me tell the House how people were told about this decision. Just before Christmas they received a letter in the mailbox. The letter told them that their property was about to be compulsorily acquired. They received this letter in their mailbox just before Christmas, at the same time they were receiving their Christmas cards. How disgraceful is it to treat the people of that region with such contempt?

I stood proud at the Lakes Creek Hotel with the Minister for Agriculture and the members for Mirani and Keppel and spoke to the graziers, standing side by side with the meatworkers of the region. We know that the beef industry in the Rockhampton region contributes hundreds of millions of dollars to the Queensland economy. This decision, resulting from a secret deal prior to the federal election—we are still yet to see the full details—was hidden from the people in terms of what the government was going to do to their properties.

Just yesterday I had the opportunity to sit down with Lara and talk about the impact on her community and her family's property. Some of these families have lived in the region for 140 years, and they were told by a letter. There was no phone call. What is so alarming is that they have still not received any letter confirming that the deal is off. They have not received a letter confirming what they have heard from the federal government. If the Prime Minister is true to his word he will write to all of the affected people. He should meet with these people and tell them to their faces whether or not their property will be compulsorily acquired.

What did we hear from those opposite? We heard absolutely nothing when it came to dealing with the people whose livelihoods and homes were going to be destroyed by the decision of the federal government. Prior to the last election it promised over a billion dollars in investment in this area, yet after the election people were told, 'Sorry folks, but your property is going to be acquired.' We have seen this in the past. The LNP has form on this federally and at the state level. When they were in government they treated Queenslanders in exactly the same way—cruel and heartless.

I raise the issue of the personal trauma the families have been feeling. My government has put in place counselling services because I know the impact this is having on them. My government is making sure the families are receiving the necessary support.

This is not the way you treat people. This is about people power. This is about the power and the voices of families in this state—to be able to stand up to the might of the federal government and say, 'My home is worth more to me than you are trying to give me when you take it away.' It is people power and the efforts of our hardworking members in this region that contributed to the Prime Minister changing his mind—not Tim Nicholls, who was down in Brisbane playing with the toy train set, but the people in the central region of this state who stood up to the federal government and said, 'You will not take our property under any circumstance.' Tonight I take my hat off to those families. I say: well done for standing up and fighting for what you believe in. We will back you every step of the way.

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (5.59 pm): I want to associate myself with the contribution made by the Leader of the Opposition earlier this afternoon. He made a series of valid points, first and foremost the view of the LNP opposition here in Queensland—that is, that the approach of the Australian Defence Force in relation to its communications with those property owners who were going to be potentially affected by this proposal was wrong. It was inappropriate, it was unprofessional and it failed to communicate effectively why it was putting this proposal forward and it did not give the respect that those landowners deserved when they were being approached in relation to the proposal that was being put forward. When you move a motion like this one that the Minister for Agriculture has moved tonight, you ought to bring to the House a shred of credibility in terms of your track record as a government of how you treat landowners in Queensland. My friend the member for Gympie, who interjected a moment ago, mentioned one of the great travesties of public administration in Queensland when the government of Peter Beattie, a former premier, compulsorily acquired 500 properties in the Mary Valley for the Traveston Dam and wasted half a billion dollars of taxpayers' money in Queensland as a result.

The Minister for Agriculture coming in here and trying to cloak himself in some sort of credibility when dealing with Queensland landowners is an absolute disgrace. The Minister for Agriculture's contribution to the debate tonight had two things in it. He mentioned principles and he mentioned his concern about the beef supply chain in Queensland. Where was the Minister for Agriculture's concern about any impact on the beef supply chain in Queensland last year when that government tried to railroad Queensland farmers and graziers with its vegetation management legislation to effectively pinch land off people so they could not use it anymore for productive purposes? He is in here tonight

squealing about the potential impact on the beef supply chain, but he was dead silent last year when that government was attacking Queensland's graziers and compromising the beef supply chain in Queensland.

We are talking about proposed resumptions of grazing land in Queensland. The other thing that the House ought to know about and that needs to be drawn to the attention of the House is the diabolical policy of that government over there in relation to the Delbessie Agreement in 2007. This is what used to happen to graziers in Queensland that had pastoral leases coming up for renewal: the government would wait until that lessee was coming to the end of their occupancy of the land and then little people from the Minister for the Environment's department would come out with their clipboards and trample all over their property and they would take the best stuff—they would take the stuff that had been looked after by those graziers—and then the department would put them over a barrel and say, 'If you don't agree to cede part of your property to us so that we can turn it into a national park, we won't renew your lease.' Those people over there used to put graziers over a barrel as a matter of course, as a matter of public policy—and here is the proof! The Target Delivery Plan 2011-12—Toward Q2—on page 11 of that document, which I will table, under the heading 'Delbessie process' states—

The Delbessie agreement facilitates the acquisition of lands of strategic importance upon lease expiry ...

Page 11 of that document continues—

Long-term estimated impact—this will be a major component of purchases between 2012 and 2020, with total estimated land being 1 million hectares that may be suitable for protection.

Tabled paper: Queensland government: Target Delivery Plan 2011-12: Green target to protect 50 per cent more land for nature consideration and public recreation' [185].

Three times the land that was proposed to come out for the Shoalwater Bay and Charters Towers resumptions was going to be taken in a matter of eight years by Labor governments opposite by putting landowners over a barrel and threatening them with not giving them a lease renewal if they did not cede part of their property for a national park. You are rank hypocrites! You are a bunch of disgraceful hypocrites and I cannot believe that you would come out and move this motion tonight with a track record of hypocrisy that is beyond belief. You have to have a shred of credibility to move these motions, and those opposite have none!

(Time expired)

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 45:

ALP, 40—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Dickson.

INDEPENDENT, 2—Gordon, Pyne.

NOES, 38:

LNP, 38—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Blejje, Boothman, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir.

Pairs: Miller, Springborg; Pitt, Walker.

Resolved in the affirmative.

MOTION

Jobs



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (6.10 pm): I move—

That this House—

1. notes reports that 43,200 full-time jobs were lost in regional Queensland in the past year;
2. notes that tens of thousands of people across the state have given up looking for work;
3. notes that regional Queensland is struggling with a jobs crisis; and
4. calls on the do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government to finally deliver an economic plan that works.

This motion deals with the jobs crisis that we have in Queensland at the moment. Let us all be clear about one thing: the only jobs that the members of the Labor government are interested in are their own jobs. We see the hustle and bustle, the positioning and faction meetings right around the parliament. Recently, we saw it when the members opposite had to appoint a few ministers. I feel really sorry for the poor member for Gladstone, because last year he did that really good deal to move factions so that he could become an assistant minister. He left one faction to become an assistant minister, only now to have another faction appoint a minister. He completely—

Mrs LAUGA: I rise to a point of order. I understand that this motion we are debating is about regional jobs, not about the factions of the Labor Party.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will get to the member for Keppel in a moment. I was talking about the member for Gladstone. He switched factions to become an assistant minister. Unfortunately for him, the last two ministerial appointments have been from the faction that he left. I feel really sorry for him.

I feel sorry for the member for Logan, who is sitting up there. The other day, I would have liked to have been a fly on the wall in the factional meeting of seven where he put his name forward. Believe it or not, he was beaten by the member for Ferny Grove, who filled the ministerial position. It is Valentine's week. I feel for all of these members. I feel for the member for Ferny Grove, because he will not be able to spend as much time sitting in the red chamber at night in his long johns reminiscing about the good old days in the red chamber now that he is a busy minister.

The fact is that the members of the Labor Party have spent two years talking about their own jobs, their own positions in this place. We have seen 43,000 full-time jobs lost from the regions. Regional Queensland, rural Queensland, is suffering because of this do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government. I only have to talk to some of my fellow members who represent areas in the bush and hear some of their stories about job losses in their regions. I reflect on some comments one of my colleagues made when QNI in Townsville went into liquidation. A few hundred jobs were lost and the members of the Labor Party all rushed to up to Townsville. They had emergency strategy meetings—

Mr Mander: Offered counselling.

Mr BLEIJIE: They offered counselling to all sorts of people because of the job losses. We feel for those people who lost their jobs. When we lost over 10,000 jobs in the Bowen Basin because of the mining downturn, they did not lift a single finger. We have lost jobs in Emerald, Blackwater, Capella, Clermont, but we did not hear a word, and there was not a visit to those areas from the Labor government. The members opposite rushed to Townsville to fix a political issue, but throughout regional Queensland jobs have been lost.

The members opposite say they have this big plan—Jobs Queensland—to fix all of the problems. I have said before that the Minister for Employment talked about youth unemployment and said that it was not really much of an issue, that it was more of a statistical matter. She said that it really was not much of an issue. I table a comment from the member for Ipswich, Jennifer Howard. Members ought to know that the member for Ipswich is the Assistant Minister of State Assisting the Premier. The *Queensland Times* states—

... Jennifer Howard said Mr Bleijie didn't understand what Jobs Queensland was.

This is a \$40 million organisation. Then the *Queensland Times* stated the following—

"Jobs Queensland is not a jobs generator," she said.

That quote is from the assistant minister to the Premier saying that their jobs body, their jobs council, with its sole focus to create jobs in Queensland, is not a jobs generator. Therefore, we can clearly see that the Labor Party has no interest in regional Queensland. I table a copy of that editorial.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Queensland Times* online, dated 24 September 2016, titled 'LNP will get Ipswich back to work: Bleijie' [186].

As I said, it is clear—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Everton. No doubt, with those sorts of comments the Labor Party will make her a minister soon. She will get promoted. That is sort of the silly nonsense stuff that members of the Labor government say. No doubt, for those wonderful comments, rather than being booted to other areas of this place, she will go straight to the front bench.

The reality is that the members opposite have no interest in small business, they have no interest in jobs in rural areas. They go down to the Queen Street Mall, buy their Akubras and their shiny RM Williams, then jump on the government jet and go out and speak about regional jobs. It does not work. People can see through it.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (6.15 pm): There is nothing quite like being lectured about how we do not know what we are doing in regional Queensland from some bloke who is not really from regional Queensland. He is trying to say that, in terms of regional Queensland, he has more authenticity than me. I know where I live. Certainly, it is not Slovakia.

To hear the members opposite speak to any motion related to unemployment is quite galling. I have said this a number of times and I will say it again tonight. The member for Kawana asked where were we in supporting people who had lost their jobs in various parts of the state. My question to the members opposite is: who was going to stand up to Campbell Newman and the now opposition leader when he was treasurer when they were axing the jobs of tens of thousands of people? Some of the job losses that we have seen have been in the private sector owing to the transition of the economy. Let us be really clear: the members opposite made deliberate decisions to sack people. Tens of thousands of people went as a result of a deliberate decision of those opposite. Yet they come in here and ask what we are doing to support jobs.

If the members opposite had moved a fair and decent motion that talked about the challenges in regional Queensland in terms of job creation and the fact that the economy is in transition, we would have supported the motion. It is true that the economy is in transition. It is true that parts of Queensland are doing it harder than others. Yet the members opposite come in here and, yet again, politicise everything—using terms like ‘do nothing’ and ‘finally delivering an economic plan’. Guess what the economic plan of the members opposite was? To sell everything in Queensland that was not tied down. It was to sack everyone, cut every service and sell off everything. The members opposite want to challenge us with two budgets that have been in surplus, reducing debt and making sure that we have unemployment lower under this government than it was under the previous government. It is truly galling to hear from those opposite.

Again, tonight, I am going to be setting the record straight. We certainly oppose the motion that has been moved. We have implemented policies that have increased business confidence in this state. This morning, I talked about the NAB Monthly Business Survey, which has Queensland at plus 12, ahead of New South Wales at plus six. We have gone up three points in the last month, coming off the back of very good retail trade figures over the last two months. Of course, there was also the announcement that we made this week to increase employment through additional trading hours across the state. All of these things bode well for where we are headed.

As we know, when we have an economy that is in transition, we have to make sure that we do our best to fill the gap. No doubt, the Minister for Employment will speak about the Back to Work program that we are very proud of, because everyone who finds out about this program says, ‘This sounds like a great offer.’ People have been very impressed with the Youth Boost, which we started in December last year. It is tracking very well. We know that the more people find out about this program, the more they will take it up.

We are more interested in creating jobs than cutting jobs. As I said, that was the hallmark of the members opposite when they were in government. It was all about cutting, slashing, burning and making sure that they could sell everything that was not tied down. We know that the trend unemployment rate in Queensland is at six per cent. That rate is 0.6 per cent lower under this government than it was under the last government. That is a stark difference. We know that the ABS figures and the data shows that, in the first 23 months of this government, we created more than 28,400 net new jobs. That is something that those opposite could not talk about under their watch. They had month-in month-out job losses. They were in negative territory. We are in positive territory in amongst a transitioning economy which those opposite were not experiencing at the time. It was pre the significant wind-down of investment and construction related to mining and resources projects.

It is galling to hear from the member for Kawana, who was himself the architect of many different program cuts working very diligently under the former premier Campbell Newman and the now opposition leader Tim Nicholls. Based on verified and published ABS figures, full-time employment in regional Queensland fell by 22,100 people over the year to December 2016. This 43,000 figure is a propaganda exercise by those opposite. This is a political motion that clearly shows that the conservatives are quite rightly now earning the reputation as being lost at sea. They have no identity.

We do not know what they stand for. In particular we do not know what the member for Clayfield stands for. We know he stands for asset sales—he just will not admit it. We know he stands for cutting and slashing—he just will not admit it. Those opposite have a track record of racking up the cuts and spending to get to an \$8 billion hole that they are yet to explain how they will fund because they do not like the way we have done it. Our \$200 million Jobs and Regional Growth Package and the Back to Work—Regional Employment Package are positive signs that we are doing great things—

(Time expired)

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (6.21 pm): It is always a pleasure to follow this Captain Risky of a Treasurer. He has a new name now: he is the 'Treasurer for Alternative Facts'. We heard another one just then. He came out and talked about the NAB figures in terms of confidence. He did not mention the seasonally adjusted figures for confidence. He said they were up. In fact, the seasonally adjusted figures were down. That is the reality. He is the Treasurer for Alternative Facts because he tells Queenslanders all the time that the Labor Party is in and they have never had it so good. Tell that to the 13,700 Queenslanders who lost their jobs in December. Tell that to the 34,000 Queenslanders who lost their jobs over the last 12 months. Labor tells them they have never had it so good, but there were 34,000 jobs lost in the last 12 months. It is the worst result in Australia and this Treasurer for Alternative Facts tells them they have never had it so good.

It gets worse. When those figures came out—13,700 jobs lost in December, 34,000 jobs lost in the last 12 months—what did the government describe them as? In a media release they stated that these figures are reassuring. That shows the lack of compassion in Labor. That is the hypocrisy of Labor; they tell those people who have lost their jobs that these figures are reassuring. The government also states in its release about these figures that it is an encouraging sign—34,000 jobs lost is an encouraging sign; 13,700 jobs lost in December alone is an encouraging sign? That is how this government describes the worst job loss record in Australia. That is the reality.

Let us look at youth unemployment. Do not forget this is reassuring; this is an encouraging sign. In Townsville one in five young people cannot get a job, but Labor claims that is an encouraging sign, a reassuring figure. Townsville is not as bad as Cairns. In Cairns—in the backyard of the 'Treasurer for Alternative Facts'—one in four cannot get a job. That is an encouraging sign, a reassuring number apparently. That is not as bad as outback Queensland. In outback Queensland the youth unemployment rate is 34 per cent. One in three young people in outback Queensland cannot get a job and this Treasurer and this government describe that as an encouraging sign, a reassuring figure. That is the result and legacy of Labor. That shows their lack of compassion. Tell those parents whose kids cannot find jobs that that is an encouraging sign, a reassuring sign.

The employment minister says there is not much we can do about youth unemployment. These figures show those opposite have given up on youth unemployment. One in five people in Townsville, one in four people in Cairns and one in three people in outback Queensland cannot get a job. That is the reality. The employment minister claims on ABC Radio that the participation rate is going down and that is good news. She has no understanding about the participation rate. No wonder we have a government that is incapable of doing anything about unemployment. A government that says in its response to the worst job loss record in Australia that it is a reassuring sign, an encouraging sign, is a disgrace. Those opposite should be ashamed of their performance. Those opposite are not up to it. This Treasurer is not up to it. The reality is that this government is not up to solving the unemployment problem. Only the LNP will get Queenslanders back in work, back on track and back in business.

Mr SPEAKER: I now call the member for Mackay for her contribution.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are warned under standing order 253A. The member for Mackay does not have a loud voice, so I urge members to show her courtesy so I and Hansard can hear her.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.26 pm): I rise to speak against the motion. Those opposite have to resort to smoke and mirrors figures for their hysterical rhetoric. I am proud to support the amendments to the more accurate figures based on a 12-month average. Again we have the hysterical LNP trying to erase memories from their time in office: mass sackings, deep cuts to front-line services, the talking down of the Queensland economy in pursuit of asset sales—shameful! The people of regional Queensland do not forget. We do not forget the cuts to front-line services and the jobs that were the lifeblood of many regional communities. Those opposite love proclaiming that they are the

only representatives of regional and rural Queensland and the industries of the regions. Those opposite love proclaiming how much they support mining. They were very loud in their platitudes to the mining regions, but they had no idea what to do when the resource price fell. They had no plan, no clue—just clueless. They never understood the end of the mining boom. They knew it was coming. They knew that the mining construction boom had ended. Did the LNP have a plan for the end of the mining boom? No!

What we inherited in Mackay when the Palaszczuk government came to office was an economy in decline. We inherited a region where unemployment had risen from four per cent in July 2014 to 6.1 per cent in February 2015. It was on the rise; it was unstoppable. It peaked at eight per cent. How shameful! The Palaszczuk government has rolled up its sleeves and gotten to work, unlike those opposite. Some of the projects that have kept our tradies in work, and the tradies come to see me quite often—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, your interjections are repetitive. You are now warned under 253A.

Mrs GILBERT: I would like to share with those opposite what a government that knows what to do can do to start getting tradies back to work. They are very grateful in my region for the work that we have given them. We have helped with a \$2 million joint project with the council and the Show Association to rebuild the showgrounds, delivering 86 jobs; \$28 million for the Vines Creek bridges rebuild which will provide 90 full-time jobs; building new classrooms at the Mackay Special School; rebuilding of the Mackay Fire Station; a joint project with the federal government to build the Mackay ring-road which will mean 605 jobs; \$50 million for upgrades of the Bruce Highway; \$5.15 million for the upgrade of the Bowen Police Station; \$6.75 million for material offloading facilities at Abbot Point and Hay Point; and \$1.1 million for the Mackay Harbour East upgrade of intersection and port road. There are lots of upgrades for schools, such as refurbishments to the Mackay State High School gym, manual arts block and home economics area. There are lots of refurbishments happening in our schools. Those opposite did not have a plan, so Mackay missed out on all of that infrastructure and upgrades.

As a result of the actions of the Palaszczuk government, today in Mackay the unemployment rate is 5.8 per cent. It is coming down. Those opposite did not have a plan; they did not have a clue. In the past year, 3,200 full-time jobs have been created. That is what happens when you have a positive economic plan. The LNP has never had a plan for creating jobs, either in metropolitan or regional areas. They had no plans before they won office, they had no plans when they were in office and they have shown us no plans since being kicked out of office more than two years ago.

We can all recall that, before the 2012 election, the Leader of the Opposition was part of the deal to invite Campbell Newman to lead and later destroy the LNP. The Leader of the Opposition and Campbell Newman looked Queenslanders in the eye and said that they had a plan for statewide unemployment to head towards a trend of four per cent over six years. What did the then treasurer do after that? Nothing! It was soon apparent that—

(Time expired)

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.31 pm): It gives me so much pleasure to follow the member for Mackay. People in the gallery were probably wondering how in heavens we could sit quietly through that speech. It is because we have all been warned! Because of the sheer incompetence of those others we had to sit through the last motion and we were warned, so I have been very good.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I will urge you not to show disrespect for the chair. I urge you to come back to debating the motion that is before the House, please.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I was just explaining to the gallery that I so wanted to interject, but I was not allowed to. We had to simply sit and listen to that unbelievable speech from the member for Mackay. In Queensland 43,000 full-time jobs have been lost because of this incompetent government; because of her incompetent government. The member for Mackay listed projects, but where is the justification for the \$80 million—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. One moment, members. I urge the Treasurer not to interrupt. I am trying to hear the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Just this year, \$80 million of infrastructure spending has been cut from the Palaszczuk Labor government's budget and the budget of the year before that was savagely cut as well. Despite that, the member for Mackay tries to justify why 43,000 full-time jobs have been cut from the Queensland economy. Rural and regional people are hurting, but those opposite have no idea. The Treasurer's own region has seen a severe slashing of funding for infrastructure. He is the Treasurer of Queensland and he is not even able to stand up to the Deputy Premier in cabinet and say, 'We should spend some money on infrastructure in Cairns.' The figures speak for themselves: in this year's budget, \$120 million has gone from Cairns; in last year's budget, \$150 million less was spent on infrastructure in the regions around his electorate. Those opposite say that they can justify it, as if reassuring the 43,200 people who have lost their full-time jobs. Those people have lost their full-time jobs because of their incompetence, their lack of an economic plan and the fact that they are all too busy grandstanding to concentrate on what it is that they have been put there to do, which is to govern for the people of Queensland.

One thing they have done is to slash the Royalties for the Regions program. I have spoken about the Royalties for the Regions program in this House. It was delivering jobs for Queensland and it was saving lives. I have talked about the Mount Perry Road and the projects for Warrego. I have talked about projects that helped the member for Gregory and the member for Gladstone, who needs to retract his statements on behalf of the good people of Gladstone around the projects that we built under the Royalties for the Regions program. Some of those projects languished for years and years under previous Labor governments.

Those opposite are a joke in the bush. I think it was the honourable member for Kawana who said that when they first get elected they all wander in to the RM Williams shop. I know for sure that when the member for Bundaberg was the minister for agriculture she polished up her ag. boots, but she did not do anything for the 43,000—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. We will take a breath for a moment. Thank you. I can now hear the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is clear that the incompetent Palaszczuk-led Labor government is not doing its job. It is not looking after the people of Queensland and it is certainly not looking after the people of rural and regional Queensland.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.36 pm): We can always rely on the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to not let the truth stand in the way of a speech. It takes a lot of front and some audacity for those opposite to come into this place and talk about regional unemployment. Who left us with a job crisis when we came into government? It was those opposite! On the opposition front bench we have someone whom I could not even remember was an employment minister and that is the member for Surfers Paradise. It is interesting that, having left us with a job crisis, today they come into this place and condemn the work of the Labor government in turning around the figures that we inherited. The Treasurer went through the true figures for the unemployment rate in this state.

I rise to oppose the motion moved by those opposite. This opposition formed a government with the biggest majority that this state had seen and they did nothing but destroy jobs. Having sacked 14,000 public servants, it takes a lot of front to come in here and talk about the unemployment rate. It takes a lot of front to do that in this House tonight. It takes a lot of front to talk about jobs in this state when they guaranteed front-line services had nothing to fear, but what did they do? They sacked nurses, midwives and doctors. Here they are today, crying crocodile tears because they are worried about the unemployment rate. They are not fooling anyone. They are not fooling us on this side of the House and they are not fooling those in the gallery, about whom the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was so worried.

We bought in the Back to Work program in the last budget. It is a fantastic program and I will go through some figures in terms of what is being delivered. The member for Kawana asked me a question in estimates. Do you know what his question was? He was so concerned about regional unemployment that he asked me about a fictitious person who lives in my electorate and their concern about maybe not being able to get a job. That is how concerned they were about regional unemployment.

I answered the question. I said at the time that the unemployment rate in inner Brisbane is 3.5 per cent. It is a little bit higher in the regions because this government understands that the regions are doing it tough. This government understands that there has been a resources downturn that no

government would be able to stem. No-one is to blame for that. It is just happening. The Treasurer and this government are turning the economy around. We are changing the situation. We are bringing in new industries with the Minister for Innovation. We are changing the situation through tourism and infrastructure and by building better cities.

Do members know what we are doing? The member for Mackay went through what we are doing in her area. She has fought for programs that are creating jobs in Mackay. That is what this government is all about. Our Back to Work program—a regionally based program—has been ridiculed by the member for Kawana. That is how concerned he is about regional jobs in this state. It takes a lot of front to get up and talk in that manner when deep down they have no interest in creating one job in this state. The only legacy they left us was the destruction of jobs.

Ms Fentiman: And 1 William Street.

Ms GRACE: And 1 William Street. I will take that interjection. We have the member for Kawana who wants to be the alternative employment minister—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! If I am having difficulty hearing you, Hansard will certainly not be able to.

Ms GRACE: The member for Kawana—the alternative, possible, never-to-be-seen employment minister—believes that giving an apprentice a \$500 voucher gets them a job. It is absolutely ridiculous. It makes no sense whatsoever. With the Back to Work program there are 1,557 real jobs, real employers, real opportunities and real workers. That is what we are delivering.

There are another 422 applications in the job pipeline. There are 200 youth employed with another 200 applications being processed. Nearly 2,000 real jobs, direct jobs are being created in the regions. That is what we deliver and we will continue to do so.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: I remind members that for the rest of the evening the members for Gregory and Kawana and the Minister for Agriculture are on first warnings under standing order 253A.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 39:

LNP, 39—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir.

NOES, 41:

ALP, 40—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

INDEPENDENT, 1—Gordon.

Pairs: Miller, Springborg; Pitt, Walker.

Resolved in the negative.

Mr SPEAKER: In relation to the announcement I made, the other members who were on the list as having been warned are now in the clear. You can start again.

Sitting suspended from 6.47 pm to 8.00 pm.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Correction of Answer to Question; Sunshine Coast, Health Services

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (8.00 pm): I rise to make a ministerial statement. Earlier today in the House in answer to a question without notice about the Sunshine Coast University Hospital I said that the date of 15 February was the drop-dead date to ensure the Sunshine Coast University Hospital medical school could open by 2020. In fact, 15 February was the date to ensure that the Sunshine Coast University Hospital medical school could open by 2019. I am advised that, if the federal government does not immediately make a decision about allocating places to the medical school, as many honourable members know, the 2019 opening date will be lost and the medical school will not open until 2020, to the manifest detriment of the hospital and the Sunshine Coast community.

MOTION

Order of Business



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (8.01 pm): I move—

That government business orders of the day Nos 1 to 3 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Revocation of Protected Areas



Hon. SJ MILES (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (8.01 pm): I move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council, in accordance with section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992, to revoke by regulation the dedication of parts of protected areas as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today viz—

Description of the areas to be revoked

Lamington National Park	An area of 0.1849 hectares described as lot 99 on SP274809, as illustrated on the attached "Lamington National Park: sketch A".
Hays Inlet Conservation Park 2	An area of 0.0069 hectares described as lot 10 on SP285607, as illustrated on the attached "Hays Inlet Conservation Park 2: sketch B".
Palmview Conservation Park	An area of 0.7793 hectares described as lot 100 on SP284502, as illustrated on the attached "Palmview Conservation Park: sketch C".

2. That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef for submission to the Governor in Council.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to a strong and expansive national park estate that represents and protects Queensland's unique flora and fauna. This is reflected by a draft Queensland Protected Area Strategy I released for public consultation in January this year. I am pleased to inform the House that all Queenslanders are being given the opportunity to have their say on the future of Queensland's protected areas through a discussion paper. I also encourage members to have a look at this strategy themselves and provide their feedback by next Friday.

Queensland's protected area estate is very important to our conservation efforts, so the decision to revoke land is only taken as a last resort where no other alternative is available. The three revocations being debated here tonight demonstrate this principle. The proposed revocation of part of Lamington National Park will allow for the alignment of the Lamington National Park road reserve with the actual constructed road. Due to historical surveying and construction errors, the Lamington National Park road reserve lies in the Green Mountain Campground while the actual road and drains are located in the national park. By 'opening' the existing road and 'closing' the area reserved for a road in the Green Mountain Campground, Lamington National Park will actually gain 1,396 square metres.

We also propose to revoke parts of Hays Inlet Conservation Park 2 for a drain culvert for the Moreton Bay Rail Link. After completing the construction of a drain culvert for the Anzac Avenue-Rothwell train station intersection, the transport department established that stone pitching from the drain had extended into Hays Inlet Conservation Park 2.

Finally, the proposed revocation of part of Palmview Conservation Park will allow for the upgrade of Pignata Road as part of the Bruce Highway upgrade. Pignata Road serves as an off-ramp to the southbound lane of the Bruce Highway for access to the Aussie World tourism precinct. The Department of Transport and Main Roads requires part of the Palmview Conservation Park for this upgrade.

Whenever revocations occur, compensation is payable to the management of the protected area estate. While these areas are only small, the compensation arrangements reflect the importance of our national parks and protected areas, with revocations only made where necessary and where no alternatives are available. I urge all members to support the motion before the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (8.04 pm): I rise to address the revocation proposal and associated regulation. The LNP is also committed to environmental conservation and takes any proposal for revocation of conservation areas very seriously. The Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, the Hon. Steven Miles MP, the member for Mount Coot-tha, has proposed via the Governor in Council under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 that a regulation be made requesting the revocation of specified and declared areas of the Lamington National Park, Hays Inlet Conservation Park 2 and the Palmview Conservation Park. The Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, in introducing this proposal to the Queensland parliament last year and with what he has just said now, offered a rationale based on the most appropriate course of action to resolve some road issues of significance.

The proposed revocation of part of the Lamington National Park will allow for the alignment of the Lamington National Park road reserve with the actual constructed road. The proposed revocation here is 0.1849 hectares. The proposed revocation of part of the Hays Inlet Conservation Park 2 will ratify the construction of a drain culvert for the Moreton Bay Rail Link Anzac Avenue-Rothwell train station intersection. The proposed revocation for this is 0.0069 hectares. The proposed revocation of part of the Palmview Conservation Park will allow for the upgrade of Pignata Road as a component of the Bruce Highway-Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway upgrade project. The proposed revocation for this is 0.7793 hectares.

The LNP will not be opposing the proposal under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 requesting the Governor in Council to make a regulation revoking the relevant areas. I know that a number of Sunshine Coast LNP members will make specific comment about the importance of the Sunshine Motorway upgrade project to their region which relates to one of the revocations. There is no doubt that the Sunshine Motorway upgrade project is vital for the Sunshine Coast.

I conclude by saying that overall here in Queensland infrastructure investment is vitally important as well. What we are still continuing to see with this Palaszczuk Labor government is a real and present danger to our economy. Combined with thousands of job losses across Queensland, falling participation rates and spiralling regional unemployment, what this means is that this government will be remembered as one of the most incompetent in Queensland's history.

I look forward to the contributions of my fellow LNP colleagues. I reiterate that the LNP will not be opposing the minister's proposal with respect to the proposed revocations.

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (8.07 pm): I rise to stand in support of this revocation motion. Like many members who will speak tonight, I do know these areas—Palmview, Hays Inlet and Lamington National Park—where these small revocations are going to be. As we have heard, it is a case of correcting anomalies or taking small steps to facilitate better road infrastructure.

For Lamington National Park, it is clear that it is a case of correcting anomalies of where the road is and where the actual road reserve is. In one bend, the asphalt road pavement and the drains are constructed within the boundaries of the national park. It is not on the actual road reserve. So we revoke the national park and turn it into road reserve and we give the original road reserve back to the park. As we have heard the minister say, we end up with more park as a result. These are only small revocations but they are all very important steps. As we know, Lamington National Park is a wonderful playground for South-East Queensland, Queensland and internationally as well.

Mr Rickuss: It's a long way from the north side of Brisbane.

Mr WHITING: We move everywhere.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr WHITING: I take the interjection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order, member for Murrumba and member for Lockyer! Please direct your comments through the chair.

Mr WHITING: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I have taken my family up there for a long weekend at O'Reilly's, and it was a wonderful experience for the kids as it was their first time rugging up. They absolutely loved it. It is where I took the children for their first bush walk.

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr WHITING: I did take caucus there and they loved it. It was my children's first experience with bush animals—quolls, sugar gliders and birds of prey. It was their first experience of bird feeding. These are all unique experiences. It is a wonderful park and it holds special memories for my family. It is a

special environment. As the member for Beaudesert knows, it is 1,000 metres above sea level. It is five to eight degrees cooler there. Driving there is an experience in itself. It is not just driving through the forest and its views, but one can certainly appreciate the engineering that went into making this road.

I want to talk about the important parts of this revocation, and that is the value of national parks like Lamington which are the bedrock of our industry. It is very clear that this is one of the steps we need to take to protect those values. At the same time we need to keep improving the infrastructure into and out of our national parks—improving access for people who want to experience the wonders of Lamington and our other national parks so they can see the wonders for themselves. As we know, Lamington will form a very important part of the experience of many of our Commonwealth Games visitors. It will host probably thousands of visitors during that time. They will not only experience Lamington but also tell many other international visitors about the beauty of our natural environment in Queensland and the Gold Coast. It will hopefully encourage them to experience nature in one of the world's safest countries.

Before they can do that, we do have to get the roads right. The national park is over 100 years old. It started about the same time that the O'Reilly family started to move into that area and they developed that park into a tourism industry. There have been a range of acquisitions over the years to expand and improve the park. We have inherited a range of infrastructure over the time that was developed by a number of private citizens, and one of those is roads. As I have said, the roads up there are notoriously difficult and we can really appreciate the people who first engineered those roads. They may not have got it right first up, but today we can fix that problem, improve the experience and improve the infrastructure to this park.

Members of the Sunshine Coast who will be talking to this motion tonight, or anyone who has travelled up and down the Bruce Highway to the Sunshine Coast, will know the intersection at Palmview that we are talking about and the need for improved roadworks there. We all know the area next to Aussie World. When my family goes up to the Sunshine Coast on holidays, we stop there for supplies and pies—maybe not in the near future. In recent times access northwards onto the highway has had to be improved. The merge was horrendous in years past. That has been improved and is now a safer merge. For those travelling from that area southwards, you have to go onto the highway and turn right, and that certainly needs some work. For those people who know the area, there are a lot of commuters who park there to catch buses up and down the highway. It is often be a crowded shoulder. Adding to that is a new residential development on the western side of the highway which uses that exit to go southwards. There is a good reason for adjusting the road in this area, getting the national park adjusted and doing those roadworks to make it a safer area.

I have digressed. What I really want to talk about tonight is the revocation in my area in Hays Inlet which will formalise construction of part of the Redcliffe Peninsula rail line. It is a sensitive area. It is very low. Those who have driven past there will know that. It forms part of Hays Inlet, which is a very sensitive area. This part of the road is surrounded by mangroves and is tidal. It is not very far above high tide. The construction that we have heard the minister talk about today is part of the road that has been newly constructed and leads into Rothwell station. This road continues past the station, connects into Anzac Avenue and is called Stubbins Street. It has been recently opened and gives Redcliffe residents access to Rothwell station. It has a really good bike path and shared pathway. This is part of the works that we have done for the Moreton Bay Rail Link.

I want to take this opportunity to talk about the overall construction of the Moreton Bay Rail Link. This has really transformed the economic and social life of our communities in this area. I want to talk about some of the key features. There is the 12.6-kilometre dual track passenger rail between Petrie and Kippa-Ring; six new rail stations; 2,850 car-parking stations; a three-metre wide shared path—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! Member for Murrumba, can you try to stay on the revocation motion?

Mr WHITING: Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. I was going to say that it is one feature which is delivering a reliable, economical and faster alternative to driving to the Brisbane CBD. Every new full train on this line takes 600 cars off the road.

Mr King: What a great line it is!

Mr WHITING: It is an absolutely fabulous line. It is attracting investment to the area and acting as a catalyst for growth along this alignment. This revocation forms part of the wonderful new infrastructure we have in this area. These are only small revocations but they form a very important part of constructing the infrastructure we need in our area.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (8.16 pm): The part of the revocation motion that I will speak about tonight is the Palmview conservation element, which is the third element of the revocation notice. The reason I will speak to it is that it has been a matter of debate on the Sunshine Coast for some time with respect to the development of the Palmview development which will add 14,000 additional residents in my electorate over the next 10 to 15 years and that Palmview development is progressing.

The debate around the Palmview development started in 2009, shortly after I was elected, and the community has put forward great submissions to get the development where it is now. Of course, with any development comes a responsibility for additional road and infrastructure around the area to ensure that additional traffic will not clog the current traffic particularly in the Sippy Downs area. On that note, I thank the Sippy Downs & District Community Association for the tireless efforts it has put into getting the Palmview development where it is today. This particular conservation park that is being revoked allows the Bruce Highway to the Caloundra Road-Sunshine Motorway upgrade to take place but it also allows for people leaving the new Palmview development access to the Bruce Highway rather than clogging up the Sippy Downs community. On that note, I again thank the Sippy Downs & District Community Association for all their efforts. I thank the Save Exit 190 Group for the campaign they have run recently with respect to these particular developments and the highway upgrade. I also thank the highway action group that was set up a few years back that fought for the inclusion of an exit from the Palmview development. The revocation of this particular part of the conservation park will allow that to happen.

I am very familiar with this part of Pignata Road because my uncle and aunty were the original owners of the Ettamogah Pub, now Aussie World. I lived out there. I caught a bus under the underpass. I waited for the bus to Buderim Mountain State School every morning so I know the area around Aussie World very well, and I lived at the pub so I certainly know the issues. I have certainly seen the growth in the area and the congestion that has happened. I know my honourable colleague the member for Caloundra, who represents the Caloundra electorate, will talk about that as well. He has seen the growth in that particular area. With that growth comes more pressures on our road infrastructure.

I understand the department's perspective and the government's perspective. When you are in government—and this applies to all types of government—you try to have local traffic off the highway and hence the western service road is being developed. I do know the area well. In the old days when I was a young fellow, I would wait under the bridge for the bus to Buderim Mountain State School, and that was not that long ago. In that short period that has come since, we now have a lot more traffic on the road. The fact is that the Bruce Highway and that area around there is not coping at the moment.

When the Palmview development was planned as a greenfield site originally and announced by former premier Bligh, there was major contention within the Sippy Downs community. Unfortunately, it was a community that was built with one way in and one way out, and what came with that was additional traffic congestion. When the council put out the master plan for the Palmview development, they were going to divide the Sippy Downs community with this big greenlink. The Sunshine Coast council at the time believed that everyone was going to put their cars away and jump on a pushbike and travel around the Sunshine Coast, which was not going to happen. We fought in government to get rid of that greenlink and I acknowledge the work of the member for Callide, who is in the chamber tonight and was deputy premier at the time. He may not recall this, but he wrote to the mayor of the Sunshine Coast at the time saying that the state development department would not approve that master plan with that big greenlink going straight through the Sippy Downs community. That did not proceed, which is good. The phasing of the Palmview development with the assistance of the Sippy Downs & District Community Association took place, and we have ended up with a situation where everyone in the community is happy.

The billion dollar project, which is the Bruce Highway upgrade, will be invaluable for the Sunshine Coast community and commuters. The particular revocation of the access road is something that I fought for very strongly in terms of having access from Palmview development on to the Bruce Highway. We wanted to save the residents of the Sippy Downs community the frustration of additional congestion with the 14,000 additional residents going through their already congested roads in Sippy Downs. We fought for that with those three community groups, as I said, and we were successful in the plan released at the end of last year by council in having a future road on to Pignata Road from the Palmview development. That was common sense and it was a good solution, but it would not have happened without the fabulous members of the Sunshine Coast community groups and so forth who campaigned, as well as the representation of the Sunshine Coast MPs who acknowledged that this particular

revocation might be in my electorate. The Sunshine Coast MPs work very well in the community together. The member for Caloundra, Mr McArdle, and I have attended many rallies and community events with respect to this particular development.

The highway upgrade starts this year—hence, the revocation tonight. I acknowledge the former federal member for Fisher, Mal Brough, and the work he did in getting the \$800 million from the federal government to have this upgrade put in place. I also acknowledge my federal colleagues Andrew Wallace MP and Ted O'Brien MP, who continued to fight for that \$800 million. When it was announced last year, it was fantastic for the Sunshine Coast community. Again, I thank the Sippy Downs & District Community Association, the Save Exit 190 Group and the Bruce Highway Action Group. We have managed to get a situation where we have a billion dollar upgrade to our roads and infrastructure around this particular development and everyone in the community now seems content. There might be some issues we have to iron out, but it seems like we have managed to get to a situation where everyone is happy, and that is great.

The other issue is when you exit Pignata Road back on to the highway. We were successful recently in having a commitment from the department of main roads in relation to the current residents in the Palmview area around Pignata Road, particularly the strawberry fields opposite the Aussie World precinct. They can exit straight on to the highway at the moment in a southbound direction. Under the new plan, that was going to be closed off but we have recently had success because Main Roads have confirmed to us that they will leave that road open for emergency issues in the future. Therefore, they will use the underpass at Aussie World and go over the western service road, but if there is a fire or other type of emergency—for example, flooding, as it does back on to the Mooloolah River—they will be able to access an emergency exit straight on to the highway. That is what we should be doing because we should not have communities where there is one way in and one way out. They should not be approved on that basis.

I support the revocation. This has been years in the making. Community groups have fought for this road and access, particularly from the Palmview development. We are very pleased that the final council plan with respect to the Palmview development actually has the future road from the Palmview development into Pignata Road which will link people. This will be better for commuters, better for our local residents and safer.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): I call the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (8.24 pm): Most importantly, for the purpose of this debate, I am the member for Redcliffe. I rise to speak on the revocation of state areas, specifically in relation to my electorate of Redcliffe. I intend to limit my comments to that particular part of the order. As it is stated in the order, it seeks to revoke a parcel of land in relation to the Redcliffe rail line. The Redcliffe Peninsula line, as everyone in this chamber knows, features a 12.6-kilometre dual track passenger rail line between Petrie and Kippa-Ring connecting our community to Brisbane city. After more than 100 years of promises, in 2010 we finally saw commitment from every level of government to fund this project. It took state and federal Labor governments to deliver it by investing in this essential piece of local infrastructure.

Last year I was incredibly proud to attend the official opening of the rail line at the brand-new Kippa-Ring station in my electorate. I saw hundreds of community members attending this historic opening—one which many thought they would not see in their lifetime. From the youngest child to those who have seen over 100 years of promises, the excitement they showed in riding the first trains to leave from Redcliffe was inspiring. This transport infrastructure provides an essential link with Brisbane's CBD, allowing for easier, faster and more economical access to the city centre. This link provides the next generation in Redcliffe with better opportunities to access tertiary education and training and employment opportunities both within and outside of the Moreton Bay region.

This infrastructure upgrade also attracts investment to the area and provides better opportunities for business partnerships in the region. It has acted as a catalyst for growth in the region, with stations becoming hubs of new development in our region. Providing rail access to the peninsula also reduces congestion on the road network, including the Bruce Highway. It is clearly very important to my local community and to the broader Moreton Bay region.

We have heard from others who have spoken tonight about how this is all about making sure we make way for essential infrastructure investments in our local communities. We know that that sometimes comes at a cost because we have to claim land to do that. I want to acknowledge the minister, who has stated that this decision is not made lightly when they do choose to revoke some parkland and conservation parks for this important infrastructure investment.

This rail line runs alongside a very important conservation area for the Moreton Bay region and for the state of Queensland. This area is known as Hays Inlet. Hays Inlet is one of the wonders of Moreton Bay and my electorate of Redcliffe and I know many other electorates on the north side. Redcliffe is a very beautiful part of Queensland and I am proud to represent such an idyllic area. We have many areas to be proud of—from the beaches at Suttons and Margate, to the red cliffs of Scarborough and Woody Point, to the gorgeous ocean views—but one of the first things we see when we drive home to Redcliffe over the bridge is beautiful Hays Inlet. Hays Inlet is a unique ecosystem and a picturesque natural environment, forming a green fringe surrounding most of the western edge of the peninsula. It has a thriving ecosystem of flora and fauna, with a mangroves forest, saltmarsh, an open eucalypt forest and a wide variety of animal life, including kangaroos, koalas, flying foxes, numerous species of fish, including significant fish habitats, and a significant number of birds. In fact, Hays Inlet includes an area that is recognised as a Ramsar site, an internationally significant wetland habitat for migratory species as well as a conservation park. This is an area that is significant not just for Moreton Bay or for Queensland but also for the nation and internationally.

That is why a thorough environmental protection plan was implemented during the construction of the Redcliffe Peninsula line to protect this very precious ecosystem. Managing the impacts of the construction on wildlife was a major focus of the project team. The team engaged with local environment groups throughout the life of the project using the local knowledge from these groups to shape the environmental management plans developed by the project team. In this process the team prepared a koala action plan to safeguard the welfare of the large population of koalas in the area. The team used monitoring collars on more than 500 koalas, which assisted in finding the koalas as radio tracking allows koalas to be located relatively easily. This may be very important for koala safety during construction works. More than 50 joeys were born from tagged koalas as well, making it the largest native animal tracking program ever undertaken in Australia. The team used data to determine the most appropriate location for new fauna underpasses and more than 25,000 new koala habitats were planted to offset lost foliage. These efforts were highly successful and have led to a vibrant koala population in the area.

I want to thank the Moreton Bay project team, who were committed to consulting on this project from day one. When they consulted with me as the federal member when we made this announcement, I said that one of the most important things along this corridor was to get the environmental groups in early and work with them and bring them with us. I thank them for their commitment in acknowledging not only that this was a very sensitive corridor along a Ramsar site and a conservation park but also the very important benefits of having public transport and getting cars off the roads. I want to acknowledge the member for Murrumba because this particular area that we are seeking to revoke is in the electorate of Murrumba. When in opposition, as the member for Redcliffe I had many meetings with residents in Rothwell on this very issue.

In conclusion, I am proud of the great work that has been done to protect the local ecosystem. It is wonderful that the beauty and diversity of Hays Inlet is being preserved for the benefit of future generations. I know how much I enjoy the beauty it has to offer. Seeing it on the approach to Redcliffe truly makes Redcliffe residents feel like they have arrived home. With local, state and federal protections we can be sure that it will be thriving for many years to come. It is great to see that we can enjoy all that Hays Inlet has to offer while still allowing Redcliffe to continue developing into a more modern and connected city than ever before. While this revocation order will see part of the Hays Inlet area transferred to the rail corridor, offsets have been made throughout this project to ensure the long-term viability of the area and the protection of our environment. This was done in direct consultation with the local community, and I thank them for their input. This is balanced with the need to expand public transport to get more vehicles off the road, which in itself is an important environmental initiative.

I support this revocation order and the efforts of the Moreton Bay rail project team and the local and environmental groups. I want to particularly acknowledge my local group the Redcliffe Environmental Forum, which works to get the best outcomes for the Moreton Bay region.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! Before calling the member for Caloundra, I remind honourable members of the standing orders that relate to people standing in corridors and speaking in the aisles. If you have to have a conversation, please take it outside.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (8.33 pm): I rise tonight to speak to the revocation motion but only in relation to the Palmview Conservation Park and Pignata Road. As other members have made clear, the area that we are talking about is quite small but the impact is quite significant. I also agree with the shadow minister that we do not take these steps lightly, but we do take them when we need to cater for the growth in population in an area and also to put in place infrastructure and for other planning purposes. The area we are talking about abuts the Bruce Highway, Caloundra Road and the Sunshine

Motorway upgrade, and it is that point I want to talk about tonight. Firstly, Pignata Road services the Aussie World tourism centre. That tourism centre is a very important economic driver for that region: Palmview, Glenview, Mooloolah and the like. It comprises small businesses that have been there now for quite a number of years.

There was quite a battle in relation to the upgrade of the Bruce Highway involving exit 190. Steve Amos, who is the owner and operator of the petrol station at the Aussie World complex, fought a long, hard battle to ensure that exit 190 on the western side of the Bruce Highway remained open and thereby preserved the businesses that operate from there. Steve Amos began this battle about four or five years ago, if not longer. As I said, he fought hard to ensure that his business and those in that precinct remained viable. That was one of the battles fought by Sunshine Coast residents in relation to the upgrade of the Bruce Highway.

The second battle involved the size of the interchange of Caloundra Road and the Bruce Highway and the third one was the Beerwah State Forest. I put on the record that the various organisations, both environmental and economic, worked very hard to make sure that the outcome that is now going to be delivered on the Sunshine Coast was the best possible. In fact, the interchange on Caloundra Road with the Bruce Highway has been reduced in size significantly, saving large portions of the Beerwah State Forest. Also the area of the Beerwah State Forest that has been saved is an important remnant in relation to the growth across the Sunshine Coast. Organisations such as SCEC, Sunshine Coast Environment Council, work very well with the local community. I make the point whilst the minister is in the House that Mr Doug Wass from Main Roads on the Sunshine Coast ensured that his staff worked hand in hand with the local residents.

The reason for the need for the upgrade in this area is quite clear. Aura, or Caloundra South, is producing 25,000 homes in the foreseeable future, 15,000 to 20,000 homes are going in at Palmview and also up to 15,000 homes in Beerwah East if that area goes ahead. We are seeing a massive increase in population both on the ground and in motor vehicles using this section of road, accessing the Aussie World tourism complex and accessing Caloundra Road heading down towards the best beaches on the Sunshine Coast—well and truly above Noosa. There is no doubt that this infrastructure is well and truly needed and overdue. The cost is around \$900 million, the bulk being paid for by the federal government and the balance by the state government. I want to place on record my thanks to the federal government and also the federal members on the coast, Ted O'Brien, the member for Fairfax, and Andrew Wallace, the member for Fisher, for the work they have done in ensuring that funding has come through in recent times.

The Sunshine Coast is, indeed, a growing area. It is an area in which the population will start to burst at the seams. This upgrade is only one of the issues that we need to address in relation to roads across Caloundra, Palmview, Kawana and the like. The other area that is going to become the longest car park on the Sunshine Coast is Caloundra Road. Caloundra Road will draw all those people from the Bruce Highway upgrade down to, as I said, the best beaches on the Sunshine Coast—better than Noosa by a country mile. That upgrade and the area around Caloundra Road will need to be looked at in the foreseeable future. The fact that Aura is now well and truly underway and people are building in Aura and moving into Aura as we speak highlights the growth of the population, the speed of the population growth and the necessity to ensure that the infrastructure is put in place effectively and efficiently.

As I said before, the Sunshine Coast residents fought hard to get a fair and effective outcome. The Beerwah State Forest has been greatly reduced with regard to the size of the land to be taken away, the interchange at Caloundra Road and the Bruce Highway will be shortened and, importantly, the small businesses at Aussie World will be saved. That is a very important issue because the Sunshine Coast is an area of small businesses. We live in, and our economy is driven by, in large measure, small businesses. Aussie World has been there for many, many years. It would have been a great tragedy to see that complex close or at least the access to the complex be reduced to the point that over time it would have almost become non-existent economically. The work of the Save Exit 190 Group was instrumental in keeping those organisations alive and those businesses operating effectively and, as I said, Steve Amos worked very hard for that.

I will conclude by saying that the revocation is one that we certainly agree with. It is a piece of conservation park that we have taken, but a piece of a park that is essential if we are going to grow and cater for the needs of residents either living on the Sunshine Coast or moving to the Sunshine Coast or indeed for tourism.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (8.39 pm): I rise to speak in support of the revocation motion moved by the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef which involves three revocations: one at Palmview near Caloundra; one at Lamington National Park; and one at Hays Inlet, which is work required for the Moreton Bay Rail Link.

At Pignata Road, Palmview near Caloundra, the Department of Transport and Main Roads has proposed a revocation under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992. The Palmview revocation presents the only feasible solution to allow safe access to the western service road and Aussie World complex.

The Lamington revocation corrects historical surveying and construction errors when the road was constructed. The result will be a small overall gain to the Lamington National Park, and I am sure the member for Beaudesert will be interested in this. The revocation involves taking 1,849 square metres from Lamington National Park and approval for an addition of about 3,245 square metres to the national park. The Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing proposes this revocation under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 to ratify the road reserve boundary from Lamington National Park Road with an ungazetted road currently within the Lamington National Park. Due to historical construction and surveying errors, the Lamington National Park Road reserve alignment lies over a portion of the Green Mountain Campground, while the actual constructed bitumen road and drains are located within Lamington National Park. This action will correct this historical error by opening the existing road and, in a separate action, closing the gazetted road which currently lies over a portion of the Green Mountain Campground and adding it to Lamington National Park.

The Hays Inlet revocation addresses tenure issues created by the intrusion of stone pitching from a drain culvert into the Hays Inlet Conservation Park 2. The Department of Transport and Main Roads proposed this revocation under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 to allow for the existing road infrastructure currently encroaching on Hays Inlet Regional Park 2. An area of 0.855 hectares was previously approved for revocation for the Hays Inlet Regional Park 2 for road infrastructure associated with this project. While there was a revocation in 2014, on completion of the physical construction of the road DTMR realised that stone pitching for the drain culvert extended into the area of Hays Inlet Regional Park 2 that had not been revoked for the project.

The Moreton Bay Rail Link was a major project in the Palaszczuk government's State Infrastructure Plan announced in March 2016. This was the first such plan announced for three years. The long-term State Infrastructure Plan also outlined significant reforms to the way Queensland plans, prioritises and invests in infrastructure and follows the establishment of Building Queensland as an independent infrastructure adviser to government and market-led proposals to encourage new private sector investment.

The State Infrastructure Fund included an initial investment of \$500 million to deliver major projects such as the Moreton Bay Rail Link across the state that will grow jobs, productivity and the economy, including in regional areas, and deliver over 1,000 jobs. The plan delivered on a commitment made by Labor when in opposition to ensure that Queensland once again had a statewide infrastructure plan. The government's initial injection of funds targets projects that have clear community need and will help address important regional economic priorities, including jobs for Queenslanders.

The big ticket items included in the project include the Moreton Bay Rail Link, New Generation Rollingstock, Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2, Commonwealth Games venues, Gateway Upgrade North, Sunshine Coast hospital and Energex augmentation and asset replacement. Mr Speaker, I commend the revocation motion to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (8.44 pm): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and good evening members one and all. It is great to be speaking on this revocation motion tonight which, as the member for Ipswich West has noted, is correcting an historical anomaly by correcting the roadway through Lamington National Park. Of course, Lamington National Park is one of the great natural treasures of South-East Queensland and indeed the whole of Queensland. It contains one of the portions of Gondwanaland, which is a very unique section of our ecosystem along the Border Ranges with New South Wales. I know that a lot of members in this House have been to O'Reilly's resort and visited the Lamington National Park, so they would have driven along the road that we are talking about here tonight. I think the revocation notice is a sensible measure, and we obviously support it in order to correct a past administrative error.

I should also talk about some other parts of Lamington National Park, in particular the road that leads up to the very successful O'Reilly's resort. I would particularly like to mention that in recent times there has been funding announced for a section of Lamington National Park Road near Canungra to

fix a section of road that is just a single lane. It is very narrow and very dangerous for buses and cars travelling along there. It is something that I have been campaigning for ever since I was elected to this place, and it is great to see that funding has been announced. When you think about the amount of traffic that goes through Lamington National Park Road I think it is important that we have the alignment all correct, because people go up there to experience the natural environment and to look out over the gorges at the Python Rock lookout.

When we were in government the LNP allocated \$750,000 towards fixing up that lookout because after 14 years of the ALP government it was in quite a dilapidated state, so \$750,000 is a very good allocation of funding to fix that lookout so that people can really enjoy what national parks have to offer. Python Rock lookout is just one of the many attractions they have on offer at Lamington National Park. Other members have spoken about the fact that people have taken their children there to have the birds land on their shoulders. You can feed the birds that come and land on your hands, and it is quite a unique experience only about an hour or so away from Brisbane and the Gold Coast. To have the road upgraded down near Canungra and to have the alignment put right through this revocation notice here tonight is a great thing to correct that historical anomaly. When we talk about national parks, Lamington National Park must be the premier national park across the whole of Queensland.

Mr Bennett: Really?

Mr KRAUSE: Absolutely. I have been to the Great Barrier Reef and the Great Barrier Reef is fantastic as well, but Lamington National Park was one of the first national parks declared in Queensland and it is certainly one of the premier national parks. It is in the Beaudesert electorate as well. In our area we are all rightly proud of our national parks. The LNP when in government went a long way towards promoting ecotourism in national parks, and that work should continue. That work needs to continue, because if the Labor Party and the Greens had been in power 100 years ago we would not have had developments like O'Reilly's which allow people to get into the natural environment and enjoy it.

One of the worst things this government did when they came into office was ban zip-lines in national parks. It was a specific policy that banned zip-lines, but when you talk about ecotourism in national parks there is no need to single out issues like zip-lines. It just goes to show the attitude that members opposite have towards ecotourism in national parks. There is always a conflict between the greens in the environment department and the people in the tourism department who want to promote growth in tourism. There is no doubt that LNP members support responsible development of ecotourism in national parks. We do not want it to be all-out tourism. We know that those environments need to be conserved and preserved for future generations. Providing for the road realignment through this revocation motion is just one way of doing that.

I am very proud of Lamington National Park. One of the reasons is that I have a unique family link to Lamington National Park. Members may have heard me speak about this before but I will say it again, because it is worth pointing out how Lamington National Park came into existence. In the late 1800s or early 1900s a member of this place by the name of Robert Collins, the member for Albert, ran a very strong campaign to have this area, now known as Lamington National Park, set aside as a special place for the conservation of the natural environment. He did that because he appreciated the natural environment. He had visited Yellowstone National Park in the United States—I am sure Yellowstone National Park had very good access routes as well—and he knew that we needed to do something similar in the Border Ranges around New South Wales. He ran a very strong campaign and in 1915 the state government declared Lamington National Park. I do not think it was the first national park. I think Tamborine National Park may have been the first national park—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! Member for Beaudesert, I have given a little bit of latitude, but if we could move from 1915 to 2017 and speak about the revocation motion, that would be excellent.

Mr KRAUSE: I am being relevant, because the road we are talking about would have been built in around 1915, when O'Reilly's started developing their tourism development at Lamington. The road alignment probably got out of kilter way back in 1915, when Robert Collins was campaigning for that area to be set aside as Lamington National Park. The reason I raise that is that Robert Collins was my wife's great-great-grandfather—a very distinguished gentleman who campaigned for the conservation of nature as the member for Albert. Unfortunately he did not live to see the park set aside, but he did campaign for much of his life for it to be done.

We need to make sure we get these things right into the future. I do not know what happened in the past to allow that road to be built in the wrong place, on the wrong alignment. Perhaps it was just that the national park resources were not adequate. That remains an issue today. There are many

hectares of national park in South-East Queensland. They need to be adequately resourced. I call on the government to look at that on an ongoing basis to make sure that issues like this do not crop up in the future—where roads or other infrastructure is built in the wrong place. The revocation motion is addressing this deficiency of the past. It is always necessary in debate of these motions to get the full context of what has gone on in the past and where we are going in the future. I support the revocation motion, as we all should.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (8.53 pm): I never thought I would rise in this House and agree with the member for Caloundra. I have spent a lot of time heading into Caloundra because there is a good racetrack there. I am very happy with this revocation motion as it will make it easier for me to get to the Caloundra races.

I spent a bit of my misspent youth heading up to Lamington National Park. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I concur with the honourable member that it is a great national park. In later life I have found that there is nothing better than to slip up to O'Reilly's. As you get older you look for those comforts and to take it nice and easy.

The revocation that impacts on the Aussie World turn-off is very important to me because I use the highway a lot. I go to Caloundra and the Sunshine Coast a fair bit. This will improve safety on the road. This is not a paid advertisement, but people who know me know that I do not mind a meat pie so I call in to get a meat pie at Beefy's at Aussie World. I know that some people will be upset that we are taking land away from the national park, but we should do anything we can to ensure the safety of road users. I refer to the alignment of the road in Lamington National Park and the road improvements on the Sunshine Coast.

Mr Rickuss: I do not think there will be a campaign against this.

Mr SAUNDERS: Exactly right. Anything we as a government or as a parliament can do to improve road safety is, I believe, a fair thing, even though it takes land away from the national park. This revocation to enable the realignment of the road in Lamington National Park and affecting Aussie World is a good move because it will improve safety for road users. Aussie World is a great tourist attraction. It would be nice if it was in the great electorate of Maryborough, but it is a tourist attraction used by thousands of people. I support the motion.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (8.56 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their thoughtful and passionate contributions to the debate tonight. I thank the staff in the environment department, the national parks department and the transport department for their work on these important boundary adjustments. Although we never take a decision to revoke our protected area estate lightly, sometimes there are some very important reasons for doing so.

I thank the Attorney-General for pointing out what a positive change the Redcliffe peninsula line has been in connecting the Redcliffe community to Brisbane city. Thanks to state and federal Labor governments, this transport infrastructure is allowing for easier, faster and cheaper access to the city centre. She rightly pointed out that this is the kind of infrastructure that attracts investment and provides better opportunities for businesses in her region. It has also reduced congestion on our road network including the Bruce Highway.

That brings me to the Palmview revocation to assist with the Bruce Highway upgrade. The revocation of a small part of Palmview Conservation Park will allow for the upgrade of Pignata Road, which is part of the Bruce Highway upgrades. The member for Murrumba well pointed out that Aussie World is a big attraction and has a big impact on traffic. The Pignata Road works will help by improving the access to and exit from Aussie World. A new residential development on the western side of the highway that uses this southbound exit to go to Brisbane and Caloundra will also benefit from the upgrades.

Finally, I thank the member for Murrumba for pointing out that our national parks are the bedrock of our tourism industry and that, although we must protect them, we must also provide the infrastructure for people to visit and experience our protected areas firsthand. I agree with him that Lamington National Park will undoubtedly form a part of the experience of the Commonwealth Games for the thousands of visitors who attend. We want them to recommend it and encourage their family and friends to visit, too. It is for all these reasons that these small revocations will make a big difference to these important projects that improve our transport infrastructure. I commend the motion to the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (8.58 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Royalties for the Regions

Mr SEENEY (Callide—LNP) (8.58 pm): Earlier today we saw another absurd attack by the government on the Royalties for the Regions program. The government is desperate to discredit the Royalties for the Regions program, because it knows that it was one of the best things that happened to regional Queensland. It knows the popularity of this program in regional Queensland and the success of the projects that were delivered.

It speaks volumes for the Labor Party's attitude to regional Queensland that it called this a slush fund for regional Queensland. It has called it a crime to invest in regional Queensland. The member for Mulgrave says it is corrupt to invest in regional Queensland, but Royalties for the Regions invested \$500 million in badly needed infrastructure right across regional Queensland. We built roads. We built roads in places that had wanted roads built for 30 years. The Yeppoon council had tried to get a bypass of its CBD for 30 years and it was built by Royalties for the Regions. The Toowoomba ring-road was built by Royalties for the Regions. The Kin Kora roundabout caused huge traffic jams in Gladstone—and Gladstone had a member of the government for as long as I can remember—but Royalties for the Regions fixed that problem.

We built airports—17 airports across Queensland from Lockhart River in the north to Birdsville in the west and all across Queensland. We built 17 airports so that the Flying Doctor and other aeromedical services could get into those communities and evacuate people who were sick—17 airports, and three of them were in my electorate and somehow or other the government thinks that that makes the whole program corrupt. It knows that this program was a huge success. We built water and sewerage projects right across regional Queensland—in Roma, in Chinchilla, in Baralaba, in Theodore. Many little towns now have water and sewerage services so people can live there.

There were of course people who did not get what they wanted from Royalties for the Regions, and the mayor of the Isaac Regional Council stands out amongst them. I know that she whinges to the Labor government that she did not get what she wanted. The Isaac Regional Council has been suckled by Labor governments for as long as I can remember and it found that it had to compete on a fair basis with communities across the rest of Queensland and it was displeased about that. The Royalties for the Regions is hailed across regional Queensland as the best thing that has happened because it provided infrastructure that the communities wanted—extra money, not money from departmental budgets but extra money to provide the things that regional communities needed.

Maryborough Electorate

Mr SAUNDERS (Maryborough—ALP) (9.01 pm): I just listened to the member for Callide talk about Royalties for the Regions and he did not mention Maryborough once, because we got left out!

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. I find those comments offensive. There were intersections funded in his area that he took credit for, and the member for Hervey Bay has addressed that in this House. His comments are offensive because they are dishonest and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Callide. Member for Maryborough, will you withdraw?

Mr SAUNDERS: Look—

Mr SPEAKER: No, just withdraw.

Mr SAUNDERS: I will, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: It has been two years since we were elected as the government and what a great—

An opposition member: When will you withdraw? That's not a withdrawal.

Mr SAUNDERS: I did.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough, will you withdraw please? Just say, 'I withdraw.'

Mr SAUNDERS: I withdraw, Mr Speaker. They are being a bit precious tonight because maybe they are getting a bit toey about the good—

Mr SPEAKER: No. Pause the clock. Please just say, 'I withdraw the comments the member for Callide found offensive.' Please.

Mr SAUNDERS: I withdraw the comments—

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Callide found offensive.

Mr SAUNDERS:—that the member for Callide found offensive.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr SAUNDERS: It has been two years since the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected and the Palaszczuk government is delivering for regional Queensland when I look at some of the projects that have been delivered in the Maryborough electorate in those two years. In my maiden speech—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: Mr Speaker, I do not need your protection from lightweights tonight. In my maiden speech I quoted President Obama that one voice can change a room, a room can change a city, a city can change a state and that state can change a nation, and that is exactly what has happened in my electorate in terms of some of the projects that have been delivered by this government. This is the Palaszczuk government delivering for regional Queensland. We were forgotten—absolutely forgotten—under the LNP. It has been two years and people in my electorate have not forgotten that. Those opposite are still struggling to find a candidate in Maryborough because the people have not forgotten what those opposite did to this magnificent city and electorate. They have not forgotten it and they will never, ever forget what the LNP did to Maryborough. I will make sure that I never let those opposite forget either, because they brought that great city to its knees.

The Palaszczuk government has delivered great services to regional Queensland and particularly to my electorate. We have roads and spending in schools we have never had before. It beggars belief that for three years the electorate had a member of the government who could not get a dollar. The member for Callide talked about an intersection, and I note that the minister and member for Yeerongpilly is in the chamber. The Urraween Road and Maryborough intersection was delivered within 14 months of the Palaszczuk Labor government. There will be 120 jobs in Maryborough city from a solar farm, and I thank the minister for that once again because this has been a very big boost for our economy. There are many more jobs in the pipeline from this company. How many jobs did the LNP deliver in Maryborough? It took plenty of jobs away—heaps and heaps of jobs away—but the Palaszczuk government is delivering for regional Queensland, especially the Maryborough electorate. 2017 is going to be a great year for the Maryborough electorate.

Lockyer Electorate; Electoral Redistribution

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (9.05 pm): The local mayor in Lockyer Valley has started a conversation about a hospital in the local area. I realise that Mayor Milligan was only elected recently and she is a bit inexperienced, so it is good to see that she has started this conversation. However, I am a bit disappointed that she did not start it with me; she just started it in thin air. The only thing I could say about that is that I have several really dear rates notices sitting on my desk at home that need to be paid very shortly. I do not know whether this is a bit of a diversion, but I would be being cynical if I highlighted that fact.

Mr Power: Not you!

Mr RICKUSS: No, I would not be that cynical. There are two great hospitals in the Lockyer Valley—one in Gatton and one in Laidley. They are excellent and fit-for-purpose hospitals that are servicing our community. We have a community of 40,000 or 50,000 people with Toowoomba just to the west and Ipswich just to the east. We have these two great hospitals. Laidley Hospital has a helipad for evacuations if required. Unfortunately, in Gatton the Lockyer Valley Regional Council ignored the recommendations of a consultant and put the Gatton helipad about 10 kilometres out of town. That is totally inappropriate because the helicopter still has to land on the school oval. I am sure the mayor will take this on board to see whether that helipad should be placed closer to the hospital—within a couple of minutes—for better service, and I note Dr Christian Rowan nodding his head. These are the sorts of things that are important for our area. When we have two major hospitals that close, we have to ensure that they are servicing the area extremely well, and I will continue to ensure that that is the case. The Gatton and Laidley hospitals are good hospitals as a first port of call and they really do need to be there.

Another issue I want to raise is the redistribution. I am somewhat surprised that the redistribution has not been put in place. It has been virtually finished since December and I am sure that the member for Ferny Grove will have a five per cent margin when the redistribution comes out because he won an appointment to a ministerial spot. It is time that this happened. This is a redistribution for Queenslanders, not a redistribution for parliamentarians. Let us make sure we have a look at it and ensure that it is out in the public domain so that everyone can see what is going on. Given it is a draft redistribution, we can have some decent input into it. This seems to be a stalling tactic. I do not know why it has been held up for so long. We do have computers these days that draw maps fairly quickly!

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.08 pm): The Palaszczuk government is getting on with what should be the central focus of all governments—job creation. Through programs like the government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, the Palaszczuk government is putting people first in helping them obtain gainful employment and making better lives for themselves and their families.

As we all know, with work comes dignity. As part of the government's \$240 million investment in Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which aims to get 32,000 Queenslanders into work, my electorate of Ipswich West has been the site of many of this program's success stories. I have been delighted to see firsthand the contribution that has been made to the Ipswich community through projects like that undertaken by Apprenticeships Queensland at the Allawah Road scout camp, with state government funding of over \$1 million. This project saw a group of 28 local jobseekers convert three former Bremer State High School demountable buildings into dormitories as well as installing an abseiling tower. These improvements will allow the scout camp to become a nationally recognised training facility.

At the scouts thankyou function, held on 19 January, I was joined by Ken Millers, the regional commissioner of Moreton region scouts, and representing Apprenticeships Queensland were Paul Hillberg, general manager; Matthew Costello, corporate services manager; Jamie Robinson and Martin Guffogg, construction trainers; as well as Kevin Scheffe, client manager; Careers Australia and Councillor Wayne Wendt, an Ipswich City councillor and former member for Ipswich West.

A number of the trainees have since obtained full-time employment or full-time apprenticeships. I am looking forward to seeing the commencement of the next round of projects in Ipswich West, with a Skilling Queenslanders for Work grant of \$856,300 for two new projects run by Pastor Fred Muys of Tivoli Social Enterprises under the Work Skills Traineeships program. Participants in these programs will be eligible to receive either a certificate I in business or a certificate I in construction. Pastor Muys has long been one of the leaders of this initiative in Ipswich, having already delivered a number of outstanding projects through Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

These projects have delivered real results in terms of new infrastructure for my community and new full-time employment opportunities for participants. I cannot tell members how much I enjoy getting out in my local community and seeing for myself the positive impacts that Skilling Queenslanders for Work is having in my electorate of Ipswich West, particularly for the young people in my electorate. With work comes dignity. That is why job creation will always be the central focus of the Palaszczuk government.

Cleveland Electorate, Transport Infrastructure

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (9.11 pm): I rise to speak to two transport issues in the Cleveland electorate that I have spoken about in the House before. The first issue is the Cleveland station redevelopment. Late last year I informed the House that I was withdrawing my support for the redevelopment of Cleveland station in its present form. I reiterate that this withdrawal of support was owing to car parks, which were planned for the Cleveland and Birkdale stations, being transferred—or stolen—from the Cleveland electorate and given to the neighbouring Labor electorate of Capalaba at Thorneside station in a blatant act of Labor pork-barrelling.

Through a question on notice on 11 October, the then transport minister advised that the Thorneside Railway Station had received 47 new car park spaces. These spaces came from the spaces that were reallocated to the Birkdale station and the reduction in the number of spaces at the Cleveland station redevelopment to 17 extra spaces only. Many local residents and commuters are frustrated by the loss of the promised car parks. I stand with the local residents and the rail commuters and demand that the government reinstate these stolen car parks.

The second transport issue is the intersection of Shore and Wellington streets. I again raise the issue of the signalling of the Shore and Wellington streets roundabout in Cleveland in the hope that this project can be progressed sooner rather than later. For many years the roundabout has needed upgrading and, under successive state and federal Labor governments, nothing has been done.

After fighting for Labor to do something for years, it was the intervention of the federal LNP government via Andrew Laming that has kickstarted the project, with an investment of \$3.5 million for a no-frills, basic intersection upgrade or, as another option, a shared approach with other levels of government in a bigger project. Sadly, the initial response of state Labor via the local member for Capalaba was to talk down the project. Recently, I called on Labor to be more positive about this important project and for the minister to support it.

I am pleased to be able to report that Minister Bailey has finally ignored the negativity of the member for Capalaba and his attempts to freeze Cleveland out of all state funding and has admitted that this could be a worthwhile project. Further, the minister contradicts the statement made by the member for Capalaba that Transport and Main Roads had no plans for the intersection. The minister admits in a letter dated 8 December to the mayor of Redland City Council that previous preliminary planning was undertaken by his department.

After I raised the matter in the parliament and after Redlands mayor, Karen Williams, wrote to the minister, I am glad to report that the minister has written to the mayor and now seems to see that allowing the LNP federal government to invest \$3.5 million into a state road is a good idea. Discussions have commenced between the state government and Redland City Council. The options exist for the federal government and the council to go it alone or for the state government to partner in a better solution. The state government has the options. I ask the minister to continue to be constructive so that the people of the Cleveland electorate get a fair go.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (9.14 pm): I thank the Minister for Main Roads for rescuing a failed federal government promise and, in that regard, continuing the goodwill. Tonight, I rise to talk about the first two years of the Palaszczuk government and what it has meant for the people of the electorate of Capalaba and the Redlands area more broadly. One thing I am happy to say is that we have not had the need to measure the term of this government with a pain ranking. It is quite the opposite. This government has lowered unemployment, increased growth and delivered two budget surpluses.

In terms of public transport, I heard the member for Cleveland say that there was pork-barrelling. We added an extra 46 car parks—

Dr Robinson: Forty-seven.

Mr BROWN: Forty-seven. I will be corrected. It is one extra—delivering even more for the commuters at Thorneside Railway Station. For the workers in my area who catch the train from Thorneside into the city, or the bus from the Capalaba park-and-ride, the Fairer Fares policy means an extra \$800 in their pockets every year. We are delivering for those workers.

We have also delivered in the area of Health. I am pleased to announce that this government has delivered six extra doctors and 40 nurses for the Redland Hospital. That has meant that, last week, 25 new graduate nurses started their careers at Redland Hospital. I wish them all the best in their careers. In terms of education, since Labor came to government the people of Redland City have not missed out either, with 24 extra teachers and a massive 12,000 new teacher aide hours. We have rescued the Alexandra Hills TAFE from the LNP chopping block, with more students, more courses and enhanced facilities. I am pleased to announce that the Alexandra Hills TAFE will, for the first time, offer a diploma course in early education next month. We have also gone into partnership to deliver Queensland's first School for Autism, the Sycamore School, which opened earlier this year on the Alexandra Hills TAFE campus.

One thing that is holding up jobs in my local area is the inept federal Liberal government. Not once, not twice, not even three times but five times the federal government has delayed the Toondah Harbour project. The good work of the member for Callide is being ruined by an inept federal Liberal government through its delay of this project. Two thousand construction jobs and an ongoing 600 jobs at the site have been put in doubt because we have an inept federal government that cannot approve Walker Group going ahead with the project.

Dr Robinson interjected.

Mr BROWN: I implore the member for Cleveland, who is interjecting at the moment, to pick up the phone to his colleagues Josh Frydenberg and Andrew Laming to get this project to go ahead. The delay is costing jobs in our local area and it is having an impact on business.

Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (9.18 pm): On 22 November 2016 the first weekly Cathay Pacific freight flight left the Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport at Toowoomba bound for Hong Kong. Recently, I was fortunate to spend time with the Wagners group chairman, John Wagner, looking through the aircraft as it was being loaded. I can tell the House that there are a multitude of possibilities that can arise from this development.

In the week before Christmas, the weekly flight carried our heavy equipment from the mining sector bound for Houston via Hong Kong. Infant formula has been on every flight, with more to come once the dairy processing plant at Wellcamp is launched in the very near future. Nationwide, China is destined to be our No. 1 beef market by 2021. Food Leaders Australia CEO Ben Lyons notes that there is no greater concentration of large-scale prime cattle finishing feedlots and properties than from Toowoomba, west to Roma and beyond. We can load up those aircraft with beef, strawberries and blueberries from Stanthorpe and even horses off the back of Toowoomba's local thoroughbred horse industry.

This is just the beginning of the next stage of Toowoomba's incredible boom—a \$13 billion investment and project boom that sees Toowoomba and the region at the leading edge of Australia's economic development. The first episode of *Landline* for 2017 was a 90-minute feature on China, Shanghai and TSBE's—Toowoomba's local economic enterprise board—AccessChina trip of late last year. Shortly, experts from across Australia will converge on Toowoomba for the Toowoomba Transport and Logistics Symposium that will be highlighting changes and opportunities that are brought about by road, rail and freight changes in our region.

Aside from our international airport we have the second range crossing currently being built, thanks in large part to the member for Toowoomba North, that will link the three national highways that run through Toowoomba: the Warrego, the Gore and the New England. The proposed inland rail, to which the federal government has committed considerable funding, will open up regional Australia for the century to come. We have the capability to be Australia's largest inland port with developments such as that of InterLinkSQ which is kicking off its \$230 million rail transfer project in the very near future. The Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise chairman Shane Charles is hosting a function here tomorrow night and I encourage all members to visit to learn more about the opportunities opening up in the Toowoomba region. I pay tribute to the vision, confidence and positivity displayed by so many Toowoomba family businesses, small and large, community leaders and private citizens across the city as we continue to put our mark on the world stage.

Owens, Mrs FC

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I now call the member for Gladstone.

Mr Seeney: It's about the Kin Kora intersection!

Mr BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (9.20 pm): I am not speaking about the Kin Kora roundabout, member for Callide. This is a serious speech I am doing here, if you don't mind.

I rise in parliament tonight to pay tribute to an amazing lady, Fay Owens OAM, who passed away in Gladstone on 9 November last year at the age of 87. Fay was born in Emerald in 1929, the first year of the Great Depression. When she was just four years of age her mother died of tuberculosis at the age of 34 and Fay was raised in the home of a loving aunt and uncle and their family. She left school at 13 and commenced work as an apprentice tailoress—I do not believe there are too many of those today—for which she was paid 10 shillings and sixpence for 40 hours work. Fay married Dudley Charles Owens in Rockhampton in 1949 and at the time of her passing they had celebrated 67 years of married life. Together they raised three children, Larry, Cathy and Bruce, and in time Fay became a loving and dedicated grandmother to seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Fay had boundless energy and was a tireless volunteer worker for every community in which she lived. She gave of herself to the lonely, the ill, the needy and the marginalised at every opportunity and never expected recognition or reward. She was feisty when she needed to be and never shied away from taking up a challenge, but every battle she faced for those she helped was fairly and respectfully fought.

During her 87 years she received many accolades and numerous awards. Every compliment by way of word or deed was humbly accepted and quietly treasured by Fay. These included the Commonwealth Award for Citizens 1981; a Queensland Spastic Welfare Society Board appointment from 1982 to 1992; the Distinguished International Achievement Nobility Award, commonly known as the DIANA—ESA Women's International; and on Australia Day in 2008 she was presented with the Order of Australia Medal for Service to the Community by the Queensland Governor, Quentin Bryce. It is also of note that during her time as a resident in Emu Park, Fay was elected to the Livingstone Shire Council three times between 1991 and 1999.

Fay shared every success in her life with her adoring family, all of whom she equally and unconditionally loved. In an interview several years ago she described her life partner, stating—

My husband Dudley is the love of my life, my soul mate, fellow traveller and a wonderful supporter and advocate.

Tonight I extend sincere condolences to Dudley and the Owens family at the loss of a wonderful, generous lady who dedicated her life to others. May she rest in peace.

Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Public Transport

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (9.24 pm): I agree with the member for Gladstone. I was not aware that Fay OWENS had passed away. She was a remarkable woman.

I rise tonight to call upon the Minister for Transport to correct an impending public transport bungle and make provision for the residents in my electorate of Noosa to access the new \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital via an adequate public transport service. I call upon the Minister for Health to take heed of my advice and join with the Minister for Transport to prevent a health crisis, particularly for seniors, and to prevent what will certainly be a public relations disaster when the new hospital opens its doors and a proportion of the community has enormous difficulty even getting on site. I have written to both ministers alerting them that action should be taken immediately to correct an appalling oversight in planning. I have also met with the Minister for Transport's representatives, along with Noosa councillor, Ingrid Jackson, to express concern and call for action. I call upon the new Minister for Transport to make good on the previous minister's statement made on 26 January that TransLink would 'take another look at the Noosa patronage demand to determine the potential viability of alternative services'.

When the new hospital opens people travelling from Noosa to visit loved ones in hospital or who themselves need to access day procedures or to attend review appointments will endure a 3½-hour round trip on four different buses each day they visit. This level of service would not be tolerated in Brisbane and is far from an appropriate level of service for a community that lives just 45 minutes from Queensland's flagship public health infrastructure. What will the ministers have to say for themselves when a person suffers a medical event while waiting for a bus that seemingly never comes or enduring a journey that even a young and healthy person would struggle to comfortably complete?

I call upon the ministers to either introduce a new direct service from the heart of Noosa to the new hospital or, at the very least, introduce an express service from Noosa to connect with the altered services from Maroochydore to the hospital. The cost of public transport services is not the issue here. Public services by their nature are part and parcel of a social justice system for which both ministers should be most aware. This impending planning bungle must be rectified. The residents of my electorate deserve to be treated with the same respect and value as their Sunshine Coast counterparts and they deserve to have access to their new hospital via an effective, efficient and affordable transport service.

Logan Electorate, Flashing 'Road Flooded' Signs

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (9.26 pm): On 1 May almost two years ago we had hours of intense drenching rain that in some areas of Logan represented a one-in-100-year event. Quickly the headwaters of Norris Creek began rising, the various inlets adding together and the dams filling up. A family found themselves in Norris Creek bobbing up and down in their car as it began sinking. A young girl, Caitlin, thinking first of her sister, reached out to pop her seatbelt and push her through the window to the rushing waters outside. Her mother grabbed the toddler and clung to a tree and then, to her relief, young Caitlin also surfaced and they all clung to a tree in the darkness with the water raging below them.

Luckily, a neighbour checking the rain saw the car and called emergency services. The officers of the Beenleigh swiftwater rescue team arrived quickly. They could see nothing of the car and the family still clinging to the tree. The neighbour directed them to where they were. The story once again

is extraordinary. The neighbour told me the emergency service worker instantly transformed—she said—into a superhero, locking the cord to a tree, then powerfully running then swimming to the tree where Caitlin and her family were clinging, relaying the tired, frightened family to the shore and safety.

Some time later I stood with local councillor Laurie Smith. The sun was shining and Norris Creek just a trickle. Councillor Smith, who had himself in his youth experienced being in a car being swept away by a flood, committed to look for a safer way to ensure people would not drive into a flooded creek. Amongst other steps that were taken, council has developed a new way of warning motorists. Council engineers and workers, along with the tinkers and innovators of substation 33, developed a system using off-the-rack items—Arduino processors, float switches, recycled laptop batteries, steel from the roads department and solar panels—to develop an automatic flashing ‘road flooded’ sign. It is a low-cost option and will be installed at 25 priority sites crossing fast-flowing creeks. Logan council will also allow the idea to be used by other councils.

This is an example of governments working together—\$375,000 from the state government and \$250,000 from the Logan council—along with community groups and council adding expertise and innovation to protect the community. If there is a dark, rainy night this May there will be a bright light for motorists—a bright flashing light letting Logan locals know the message we all say: if it’s flooded, forget it.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.29 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, McArdle, McEachan, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O’Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pyne, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams