



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 23 March 2017

Subject	Page
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	831
Westminster, Incident.....	831
PRIVILEGE	831
Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contravention of the Parliament's Terms and Conditions of Broadcast	831
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Correspondence from the Leader of the House, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an alleged contravention of the Parliament's terms and conditions of broadcasting rules.....	831
PRIVILEGE	832
Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Minister	832
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Correspondence from the Member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, and the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Hon. Shannon Fentiman, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an alleged misleading of the House.	832
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	832
Error in Notice Paper	832
PRIVILEGE	833
Noncompliance with Standing Order 125 by a Minister	833
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	833
Westminster, Incident.....	833
Australia-China State and Provincial Leaders Forum.....	833
Drought.....	834
Queensland Audit Office, Strategic Review	834
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Strategic Review of the Queensland Audit Office, March 2017.....	834
North Queensland Regional Plan; Palm Island Town Centre	834
Council on Federal Financial Relations	835
Sunshine Coast University Hospital; Cheverton, Mr J.....	836

Table of Contents – Thursday, 23 March 2017

Advancing Clean Energy Schools.....	836
METS Sector	837
National Partnership Agreements	837
<i>Tabled paper: Letter, dated 14 March 2017, from the Australian Industry Group, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Business Council of Australia to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, regarding Australia's vocational education and training system.....</i>	
	838
Aurukun	838
Child and Family Support Services.....	838
Queensland Construction Code	839
Road Safety	840
Cluster Fencing	840
<i>Tabled paper: Map, undated, titled 'Qld Multi-property Exclusion Fencing'.....</i>	
	840
MOTION	841
Amendments to Standing Orders.....	841
NOTICE OF MOTION	843
Unions.....	843
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS.....	843
Westminster, Incident; Domestic and Family Violence, Legislation	843
Health Services, Federal Funding	843
Infrastructure Funding.....	844
Driscoll, Mr S	845
Queensland Rail	845
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT.....	846
School Group Tour.....	846
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	846
Queensland Rail	846
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Infrastructure.....	847
North Queensland, Investment.....	847
Infrastructure.....	848
Townsville City Deal.....	849
Gold Coast, Criminal Organisation	849
<i>Tabled paper: Article from Brisbane Times.com.au, dated 22 March 2017, titled "Extremely violent" Sydney gang emerges in Gold Coast'.....</i>	
	849
National Partnership Agreements	850
Unemployment	850
National Partnership Agreements	851
Weapons Licensing.....	852
Schools, Federal Funding.....	852
Bruce Highway, Safety Telephones	853
<i>Tabled paper: Article from the Courier-Mail on-line, undated, titled 'Bruce Highway roadside emergency phones out of order'.....</i>	
	853
Made in Queensland Program	853
Electricity Prices	854
Community Legal Centres	854
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Email Account	855
<i>Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Yahoo! website, regarding reactivating a deleted Yahoo! account.....</i>	
	855
DISTINGUISHED VISITOR	855
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	855
Community Legal Centres	855
Wicked Campers	856
<i>Tabled paper: Photo, undated, of a Wicked campervan].....</i>	
	856
Wynnum Outreach Service	857
Fraser Island, Dingoes.....	857
Regional Queensland, Penalty Rates.....	858
<i>Tabled paper: Flyer, undated, by the Queensland Nurses' Union document titled 'The slippery slope is happening'.....</i>	
	858
PRIVILEGE.....	858
Noncompliance with Standing Order 125 by a Minister.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<i>Tabled paper: Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to a paper petition (2707-17) presented by Mr Cripps, and an ePetition (2681-17) sponsored by Mr Cripps, from 1,002 and 98 petitioners respectively requesting the House to direct Ergon Energy to withdraw the requirement for the Tully Coastguard to pay to continue to co-locate its radio installation on top of Mount Mackay.....</i>	
	858
LIQUOR (RURAL HOTELS CONCESSION) AMENDMENT BILL.....	858
Introduction	858
<i>Tabled paper: Liquor (Rural Hotels Concession) Amendment Bill.</i>	
	858
<i>Tabled paper: Liquor (Rural Hotels Concession) Amendment Bill, explanatory notes.....</i>	
	858
First Reading	860
Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.....	860
DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT.....	860
School Group Tour.....	860

Table of Contents – Thursday, 23 March 2017

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	860
Report, Motion to Take Note.....	860
COAL WORKERS' PNEUMOCONIOSIS SELECT COMMITTEE.....	866
Report, Motion to Take Note.....	866
COAL WORKERS' PNEUMOCONIOSIS SELECT COMMITTEE.....	870
Reporting Date, Terms of Reference.....	870
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT	871
Electricity, Further Answer to Question	871
LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	871
Second Reading	871
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	873
Charters Towers, Dialysis Services	873
Mount Lindesay Highway; Beaudesert Electorate, Police Resources	874
Murrumba Electorate, Schools.....	874
Bundall Road, Night Works	875
Kirwan State High School.....	876
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Photograph, undated, depicting a school in Townsville.	876
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Nonconforming petition regarding funding for the Kirwan State High School Hall.	876
Burleigh Heads State School.....	876
Northern Gold Coast.....	877
Mackay Ring Road	877
Gregory Electorate, Airfare Prices	878
Local Government.....	879
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT	879
Gold Coast, Criminal Organisation; Weapons Licensing; Further Answers to Question.....	879
CRIME AND CORRUPTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL.....	880
Introduction.....	880
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.....	880
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, explanatory notes.	880
First Reading	882
Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee	882
Portfolio Committee, Report Date	882
COURT AND CIVIL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	883
Introduction.....	883
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Court and Civil Legislation Amendment Bill.	883
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Court and Civil Legislation Amendment Bill, explanatory notes.	883
First Reading	885
Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee	885
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	885
LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	886
Second Reading	886
Consideration in Detail	894
Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.	894
Insertion of new clauses—.....	894
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes to	
Hon. Anthony Lynham's amendments (resupplied 23 March 2017).	895
Amendment agreed to.	895
Clauses 3 to 10, as read, agreed to.	895
Clause 11—.....	896
Clause 11, as amended, agreed to.	896
Clauses 12 to 23, as read, agreed to.	896
Clause 24—.....	896
Clause 24, as amended, agreed to.	897
Clauses 25 and 26, as read, agreed to.	897
Clause 27—.....	897
Clause 27, as amended, agreed to.	898
Clauses 28 and 29, as read, agreed to.	899
Clause 30—.....	899
Clause 30, as amended, agreed to.	899
Clauses 31 to 41, as read, agreed to.	899
Insertion of new clauses—.....	899
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes to Mr Andrew	
Cripps's amendments to Hon. Anthony Lynham's amendments.....	901
Division: Question put—That the amendments be agreed to.	902
Resolved in the negative.	902
Non-government amendments (Mr Cripps) negatived.....	902
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.	903
Resolved in the affirmative.....	903
Insertion of new clauses—.....	903
Amendment agreed to.	904
Clause 42, as read, agreed to.....	904
Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.	904
Third Reading.....	905
Long Title.....	905

Table of Contents – Thursday, 23 March 2017

MOTION	905
Suspension of Sessional Orders.....	905
MOTION	905
Unions.....	905
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Cartoon, undated, titled 'The Closing Ceremony for the 2018 Commonwealth Games'	909
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Front page of the <i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i> , dated 25 May 2016, with the headline 'Bludgers: working flat out for Commonwealth Games success'	910
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.	911
Resolved in the affirmative.....	911
Division: Question put—That the motion, as amended, be agreed to.	911
Resolved in the affirmative.....	911
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.....	912
ADJOURNMENT	912
Sunshine Coast University Hospital	912
Gifted and Talented Children.....	913
Glass House Electorate, Events	913
2011 Floods	914
Centenary Men's Shed.....	914
Wavell Heights State School, Performing Arts Hall	915
Cairns Electorate.....	915
Lakeside Park	916
Kupai Omasker	917
Mount Lindesay Highway.....	917
ATTENDANCE	918

THURSDAY, 23 MARCH 2017

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



Mr SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone! I must say I needed an early morning wake-up call. I do not know how everyone else is.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Westminster, Incident



Mr SPEAKER: On a serious note, honourable members, this morning we heard on the news of the senseless attack on people near the Palace of Westminster. On behalf of the Queensland parliament I have today written to the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Lord Speaker of the House of Lords to convey our condolences and support. Our thoughts are with the families of those killed and the British people at this time. We continue to take advice from security experts to ensure the safety of our precinct.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contravention of the Parliament's Terms and Conditions of Broadcast



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 15 February 2017, the Leader of the House and member for Sandgate wrote to me alleging that the Queensland opposition media had published a photograph from the broadcast of the proceedings of the parliament of 15 February 2017 in contravention of the parliament's terms and conditions of broadcast. The photograph was included in a tweet from the Queensland opposition media Twitter account and was accompanied by the statement—

Deer in the headlights when it comes to youth detention and just about everything else really. Not across the detail.

In his letter to me, the Leader of the House stated that the author of the Queensland opposition media Twitter account has further published the broadcast of proceedings, that there were conditions imposed on the broadcast, that the further broadcast was in breach of these conditions and that the further broadcast was in contravention of a condition which amounted to a breach or interference with the powers, rights and immunities of the House. I sought further information from the Leader of the Opposition, on behalf of the Queensland opposition media, about the allegations made by the Leader of the House, in accordance with standing order 269(5).

The Leader of the Opposition indicated that he intended to apologise to the House at the first available opportunity. In addition, he advised that he had counselled his staff against the use of parliamentary broadcast images and had instructed for the tweet to be deleted. I note that the Leader of the Opposition offered an apology yesterday evening. Standing order 269(4) requires—

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

On this basis, I have decided that the Leader of the Opposition has provided an adequate apology on behalf of the Queensland opposition media and I have therefore decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence from the Leader of the House, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an alleged contravention of the Parliament's terms and conditions of broadcasting rules [\[491\]](#).

PRIVILEGE

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



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 2 March 2017, the member for Mudgeeraba wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence deliberately misled the House on 28 February 2017 in her response to a question without notice.

On the evidence before me, I considered that the minister's statement that the member for Mudgeeraba stated that 'foster carers are leaving in droves', was not factually or apparently incorrect or misleading as the minister has provided evidence of Facebook posts and news articles attributing these words to the member for Mudgeeraba. I also considered that the minister has made an adequate explanation in relation to her statement that the member for Mudgeeraba was wrong. Therefore, I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence from the Member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, and the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Hon. Shannon Fentiman, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an alleged misleading of the House [492].

I seek leave to incorporate the ruling.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members,

On 2 March 2017, the Member for Mudgeeraba wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence deliberately misled the House on 28 February 2017 in her response to a Question Without Notice when she said:

On the weekend the member for Mudgeeraba also said that foster carers are leaving the system in droves. Let me say that she is wrong again. We have more foster carers than ever before and more foster carers are joining every year, but we always need more because our foster carers take some of the pressure off our front-line child safety officers.

In her letter to me, the Member for Mudgeeraba contended the Minister failed to quote her directly and in doing so had misrepresented her statements made to the media.

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

The Minister refuted the claims and provided evidence for the quote she had used in her statement that the Member for Mudgeeraba said that 'foster carers are leaving the system in droves'. The Minister provided copies of Facebook posts and news articles attributing these words to the Member for Mudgeeraba.

The Minister also contended that her statement that the Member for Mudgeeraba was 'wrong' was based on statistics which show that carer family exits have remained stable over the last five years, and reflect a long term trend of carer commencements being larger than carer exits.

Standing Order 269(4) requires:

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

On the evidence before me, I considered that the Minister's statement that the Member for Mudgeeraba stated that 'foster carers are leaving in droves' was not factually or apparently incorrect or misleading as the Minister has provided evidence of Facebook posts and news articles attributing these words to the Member for Mudgeeraba. I also considered that the Minister has made an adequate explanation in relation to her statement that the Member for Mudgeeraba was wrong.

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

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT


Error in Notice Paper




Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I advise that the *Notice Paper* published on the parliament's website for today contained an error in relation to the terms of the notice of motion given by the member for Bundamba. The *Notice Paper* has been revised and republished.

PRIVILEGE

Noncompliance with Standing Order 125 by a Minister


 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (9.36 am): I refer to standing order 125 relating to petitions referred to a minister and responses being tabled in the House and published. Standing order 125(3) requires a minister to respond to a petition referred to them by the Clerk within 30 days and for that response to be tabled in the House and a copy forwarded to the member who presented the petition. Standing order 125(6) states that if a minister is unable to comply with the requirements of subsection (3) they must provide the Clerk with an interim response providing reasons as to why.

E-petition 2681-17 and paper petition 2707-17, both pertaining to the Tully Coast Guard radio station on Mount Mackay, have not been responded to by the Minister for Energy within the time frames nominated on the online register of e-petitions and tabled paper petitions on the Queensland parliament website. As the member who presented the petitions, I am unaware of any advice to the Clerk from the Minister for Energy, in accordance with standing order 125(6). Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to the apparent noncompliance of the Minister for Energy with standing order 125.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (9.37 am): Mr Speaker, I was made aware of this matter quite recently—this morning. My office is moving to rectify the matter forthwith.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Westminster, Incident

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.38 am): Queenslanders have awoken this morning to tragic news from London. An incident of barbaric violence outside the houses of parliament has left five people dead and around 40 people injured. The dead include a police officer and the apparent assailant. I also understand that some police officers are injured. This incident is even more disturbing because the name 'Westminster' sits at the very heart of our democratic institutions. Last week I travelled across the Westminster Bridge while the member for Surfers Paradise and I were in London for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games events. This bridge is utilised by so many locals, tourists and families.

I can inform the House that this morning the Police Commissioner has briefed me and the Minister for Police on the security situation in Queensland. While there is no suggestion of a need to elevate our threat level, he believes it is prudent to increase the security presence around certain parts of Queensland while assessments of the situation in London continue. I can also inform the House that the Police Commissioner will also be briefing the Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament in relation to security measures around this parliament.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the vigilance and dedication of Queensland's police and emergency services personnel right across our state. These first responders put their own lives on the line to ensure the safety and security of our community. The people of Queensland stand in solidarity and sympathy with our friends and colleagues in London after this appalling and shocking event. On behalf of all members of parliament and all Queenslanders, I convey our thoughts and prayers to the victims.

Australia-China State and Provincial Leaders Forum


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): Tomorrow I will join the Prime Minister and other state leaders for the Australia-China State and Provincial Leaders Forum in Sydney. This forum coincides with the visit of the Chinese Premier. Seven governors from China and a mayor will also be in attendance to talk trade and investment, tourism, education and culture and smart cities. The Queensland-China relationship is a strong and longstanding one. I am pleased to say my government has worked hard to strengthen that relationship and, in doing so, create more opportunities and jobs for Queenslanders. China is Queensland's largest export market. In the financial year 2015-16, Queensland's merchandise exports to China totalled \$11.2 billion and Chinese imports to Queensland totalled \$7.2 billion.

In terms of tourism, for the first time China has surpassed New Zealand as the country with the largest source of international tourists to Queensland. In 2016, 484,000 Chinese visited Queensland, an increase of 21.4 per cent on the previous year. These visitor numbers are only going to increase. I


wish the Minister for Tourism all the best on the delegation she is leading to South-East Asia this afternoon. Queensland was the first Australian state to sign an MOU with China Eastern Airlines, securing a new, year-round Shanghai-Brisbane direct service. China is also Queensland's No. 1 source of international students studying at all levels in our state. Last year we welcomed more than 22,000 students.

In terms of science and innovation, Queensland became the first Australian state to sign an agreement with the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology—China's key agency for science and technology development—in 2008. We also have forged strategic science agreements with prestigious Chinese research institutions. In partnership, a University of Queensland researcher and a Chinese researcher from Wenzhou Medical University invented a vaccine that is helping to save the lives of millions of women worldwide. This pioneering work of research colleagues and friends Professor Ian Frazer and the late Dr Jian Zhou led to the development of the world's first HPV vaccine, Gardasil. With more than 187 million doses of the vaccine administered across 130 countries, including China, the number of new cases of cervical cancer in women has halved. My government is deepening our partnership with China for Queensland industries, businesses and researchers.

Drought

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.42 am): With recent approvals by the agriculture minister, 87 per cent of our state is officially drought declared, yet significant rain has fallen across large tracts of Queensland this week. There are minor flood warnings current for the Macintyre and Moonie rivers as well as Baffle Creek, and initial minor flood warnings for the Connors, Isaac and Jordan rivers. There have been welcome inflows into our major dams, boosting supplies for irrigators, industry and households. Some of our storages, including Queensland's largest, the Burdekin Falls Dam, are at capacity. Much more soaking rain is needed in our state. We are closely monitoring the potential for a low in the Coral Sea that could develop into a cyclone over the weekend. It is important we remain prepared and our agencies will continue to monitor this weather system.

Queensland Audit Office, Strategic Review

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.43 am): Under the Auditor-General Act 2009, I advise the House that Ms Phillippa Smith and Mr Graham Carpenter have completed the 2016 *Strategic review of the Queensland Audit Office*. I table their review report for the information of honourable members.


Tabled paper: Strategic Review of the Queensland Audit Office, March 2017 [493].

Ms Smith and Mr Carpenter were appointed by the Governor in Council on 26 July last year to conduct a strategic review, with terms of reference also decided at that time. In accordance with the act, the strategic review focused on the Auditor-General's functions and assessed whether they are being performed economically, effectively and efficiently.

As required by the terms of reference, the reviewers' report was informed by extensive consultation with current and former QAO staff, including the former auditor-general, Mr Andrew Greaves, key government agencies and stakeholders including the Finance and Administration Committee and audit clients. The review was the first strategic review conducted since the QAO's audit mandate was expanded to include performance audits in 2011. I note the report concludes that the QAO's performance auditing is efficient. However, the reviewers have made a number of recommendations regarding resourcing, audit methodology, client engagement and strategic audit planning to further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of performance audits.

The review has also made a number of strategic recommendations relating to the QAO's financial audit services and the legislative framework for the QAO and the Auditor-General. The strategic review report is now referred to the Finance and Administration Committee for its examination. My government looks forward to giving full consideration to all recommendations made by the Finance and Administration Committee regarding these issues following the conclusion of its inquiry. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Smith and Mr Carpenter for their efforts in conducting the review. I also thank the QAO and audit clients for assisting the reviewers and providing input to the review.

North Queensland Regional Plan; Palm Island Town Centre

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.45 am): I am pleased to inform the House that the North Queensland regional planning committee gathered in Ingham two weeks ago to discuss progress on North

Queensland's first regional plan. I met with mayors and representatives of the five councils of Burdekin, Charters Towers, Hinchinbrook, Palm Island and Townsville as well as the north's fantastic local MPs, the members for Mundingburra, Townsville and Thuringowa.

Mr Cripps: I am the local member in Ingham.

Ms TRAD: Mr Speaker, I am happy to take the interjection. No-one asked and no-one cared that the member opposite was not there. This plan will focus on embracing the region's strengths, help maximise future job opportunities, respond to challenges and lay out clear planning directions for the next 25 years. Most importantly, it will reflect what the community wants for their future. We will soon ask North Queenslanders to share their ideas on the direction of the region before being invited to comment on the draft plan later this year.

During the visit I also took the opportunity to visit Palm Island with the member for Townsville. I am very pleased to inform the House that the community now has a new-look town centre, referred to locally as the mall, following a major facelift with new landscaping, improved shade shelters, pavement resurfacing and streetscaping. This was made possible through the hard work of the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council in partnership with Economic Development Queensland as well as the tireless efforts of the member for Townsville which I would like to acknowledge here in the House.

The Queensland government contributed \$220,000 as part of the Advancing Our Cities and Regions Strategy to help create a safe and comfortable place for the community to enjoy. This town square project was identified as an important community need after extensive consultation with the council, and I congratulate them on a job well done. The rejuvenation has made the town centre area a wonderful place to meet for locals and visitors to Palm Island, and the development also supported five local jobs during construction. Following the success in delivering this project, EDQ will continue to work in partnership with the council to identify other economic and community development projects including upgrading local sporting facilities.

Council on Federal Financial Relations



Hon. CW PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.47 am): Tomorrow I will attend the Council on Federal Financial Relations meeting in Canberra with the federal Treasurer and treasurers from states and territories around Australia. This meeting provides all treasurers with the perfect opportunity to work together and collaborate on innovative policy and service delivery solutions to improve the lives of everyday hardworking Australians. Following the Western Australia election, I had the honour of officially expelling Ben Wyatt from the 'Labor shadow treasurers' association of Australia', and I look forward to welcoming him to his first meeting. He is the first Indigenous Treasurer in Australia.

Since our election in January 2015 we have driven policy reforms to ensure the Queensland economy successfully transitions to a post mining boom economy. We are working closely with the business community to stimulate investment and growth and to generate jobs right across our state. Our economic plan is working to deliver those outcomes but we know challenges remain. Front and centre for us is job creation, with a special focus on tackling youth unemployment and unemployment generally in regional Queensland. We have rolled out a suite of initiatives including Back to Work, the Youth Boost, and the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund.

We know that more work is needed and that is why we want the Turnbull government to work with us on real incentives to step up and take a role in stimulating economic growth and employment. We know that facilitating infrastructure is essential to support long-term employment opportunities. That is why we need the Commonwealth to move forward on the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility, NAIF.

NAIF aims to tap the potential for developing the north of our state as well as the rest of Northern Australia in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. Everyone wants to see NAIF start moving and see dollars flowing out the door so we can have expanded industries, new exports and new jobs. We also expect the federal government and our Queensland based federal MPs to back Queensland in and ensure we get our fair share of funding. It is these sorts of issues that we need to be discussing in Canberra tomorrow.

We welcome a conversation on housing affordability where all potential measures must be considered. This includes tax treatment—negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount. The Palaszczuk government has been honouring its commitments to restore front-line services to ensure they are delivered across our vast state. The quality and sustainability of these services is determined partly by the adequacy and reliability of federal funding and the ability of our state and others to allocate

federal funds where they are most needed and most effective. Future planning and delivery could be improved through the provision of certainty around future funding arrangements, including the renewal of several national partnership agreements expiring in 2017 and 2018. These are issues we need to address and I look forward to the usual vigorous discussion in Canberra tomorrow.

I look forward to more than talk though—we really do need real decisions and real results for Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government will continue to focus on job creation, continue to work with business and continue to grow our economy, but we need a federal government that is committed to coming to the table and supporting economic and employment growth in Queensland.

Another key issue for Queensland and the states is the need for the federal government to review the restrictions it places on superyachts entering Australian waters. This is a sector with a lot of potential for Queensland tourism and jobs, but federal restrictions and cost impositions are holding it back. The superyacht industry has a significant presence in North Queensland, supporting thousands of jobs in the Cairns and Whitsunday regions. These federal chartering restrictions are impeding growth in the industry, sending the economic and employment benefits to other countries in the Asia-Pacific region instead of to Queenslanders. We look forward to this meeting being not a talkfest but something where we get real outcomes.

Sunshine Coast University Hospital; Cheverton, Mr J



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.51 am): On the northern access point to the Story Bridge in Brisbane there is a plaque which reads, 'This bridge was built by Queensland Workmen under the authority of the Queensland Labor Government.' The plaque provides a reminder to all who cross the bridge of two fundamental truths: the value of Queensland workers and the commitment of Labor governments to building Queensland. With that in mind, I am delighted to advise the House that Australia's newest hospital, the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, has started seeing patients this week. Approximately 1,000 outpatients have passed through the doors at the new facility, with elective surgery and new emergency department services due to commence in coming weeks. We are already seeing the impact that this facility is having on the local economy.

This is a hospital that has been worked on by so many in our Queensland community. It should never be forgotten that it was a Labor Premier that promised this hospital, it was a Labor government which properly funded the hospital and it is a Labor government that is safely commissioning and opening this hospital. Just as the Labor government transformed Brisbane through the construction of the Story Bridge, so too it is a Labor government that is transforming the Sunshine Coast through the opening of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital—a transformation that should be welcomed by those members opposite instead of being constantly criticised by LNP members on the Sunshine Coast who for years have taken the Sunshine Coast for granted.

The facility is being commissioned in a staged manner, closely and carefully managed by the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Board and drawing on the advice of the Clinical Readiness Advisory Group and an independent commissioning expert. We will continue to do everything we can—everything we can—to avoid the mistakes that happened when the Newman LNP government commissioned and opened the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital.

In conclusion, I also wish to note the passing of Jeff Cheverton, a valued professional in primary health care and in the mental health community. Jeff had a longstanding and influential career in health and human services. He had an abiding commitment to social justice and inclusiveness for which he will be remembered. Jeff also had a terrific sense of humour. Above all, Jeff was well liked and respected by colleagues, family and friends. I acknowledge the deep sadness felt by all who knew Jeff, particularly Jeff's parents, Don and Lee, his partner, Rod, and the extended Cheverton family. Jeff had been living in Victoria prior to his passing, but he made a lasting contribution to health care in our state. On behalf of the government, I pay tribute to him today.

Advancing Clean Energy Schools




Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (9.55 am): I am pleased to announce a new program to drive a clean energy future for Queensland state schools. Through our Advancing Clean Energy Schools program, we will work with the energy industry to develop innovative ways to reduce state school energy costs using solar and energy efficiency measures. A market sounding will begin on 3 April 2017 to canvass industry for advice on funding options, technology solutions, procurement approaches and delivery models.

We want state schools to be clean energy schools. We know right now Queensland state schools are among the government's largest energy consumers, spending close to \$57 million a year. Our schools are already doing their part, with more than 1,200 of our 1,239 state schools offsetting energy costs with solar PV systems. Energy efficiency measures at Beenleigh State High School have reaped savings of more than \$3,000 a month.

Ms Grace: Hear, hear!

Ms JONES: Hear, hear! Renewable technology has advanced in recent years, and we know there is much more we can do to embrace a clean energy future for Queensland schools. Through our Advancing Clean Energy Schools program, we will consult with the energy sector to look at how we can best use this new and emerging technology to deliver better and more efficient energy management in our schools and to save money. Advancing Clean Energy Schools has the potential to save schools millions of dollars in energy costs and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.


METS Sector

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (9.56 am): I am delighted to be able to announce the Palaszczuk government's latest initiative to drive jobs and business opportunities in our METS sector. Applications open soon for our new accelerator program which will be operated by KPMG and funded by the Palaszczuk government in partnership with METS Ignited. From July, Queensland METS companies will have access to financial, marketing, legal and technical advice to help turn their good ideas into commercial products. The late-stage accelerator program complements the early-stage METS technology accelerator program run out of the department of my cabinet colleague Minister Enoch. Together, these two programs give any of our 800-plus Queensland METS companies with an innovative idea a clear pathway to turn that idea into a commercial reality.

KPMG has runs on the board with the Energise accelerator they run for energy and resources start-ups. Energise has brought together top tier oil and gas companies and Australian start-ups to help them crack the sector, win contracts and grow their businesses. That is our goal here: supporting our METS companies to diversify; identify new markets, products and services; and grow jobs. My colleague the member for Bundamba would realise that there are opportunities for these METS sectors to help our workers. Real-time, wearable and safe dust-monitoring equipment would be a valuable tool in the elimination of occupational respiratory diseases in our state. I call on the METS companies to think of these innovative products that can improve the safety of our workers.

What is really important here as well is how this sector can benefit our regions. We will be holding two-day boot camps in our regional centres of Toowoomba and Mackay, where accelerator candidates will get intensive mentoring on how to get their ideas off the ground. The accelerator program will then run for 12 weeks and the successful companies will have the opportunity to present their product or service to industry participants and potential clients at a KPMG-led pitching event. The selection process will look at the research and development that each applicant has poured into their product or service and determine whether it is ready for further commercial development. What this means is that METS companies creating jobs and growth in our regions will get a leg-up on bringing their ideas to market. It means more than that. These METS companies can contribute to the safety of our valuable miners here in Queensland.

National Partnership Agreements

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.59 am): We are just over three months away from the expiration of the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform. Unfortunately, I must inform the House that the federal government still refuses to even commence discussions about an extension or a new agreement. It has now been nearly four months since state and Commonwealth skills ministers met in Darwin, and there is still no sign that the Prime Minister and his education minister, Senator Birmingham, or his assistant minister, Mrs Andrews, are willing to come to the table. It is time for them to end the uncertainty facing the entire VET sector by making a formal deal.

I remind the House that this financial year this agreement was worth \$105.7 million to Queensland and current projections are for a zero dollar figure come 1 July. This is an issue that is bigger than just the Palaszczuk government. It is with interest that I saw a joint release and policy position from the Ai Group, Business Council Australia and the Australian Chamber of Commerce &

Industry that called on the federal government to maintain the current level of funding to training and skills and, with it, negotiate a new national partnership tied to a new set of priorities. I would like to table that position paper that has now been submitted by those three business bodies.


Tabled paper: Letter, dated 14 March 2017, from the Australian Industry Group, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Business Council of Australia to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, regarding Australia's vocational education and training system [494].

In that position paper it is specifically stated that the Commonwealth government should commit to continuing its funding of \$1.75 billion over the next five years for reform of VET in the form of a national partnership. It talks about preventing the VET sector from being left behind in government investment. Queensland is leading the calls across the nation urging the federal government to make a move on this issue. I also want to make mention of my state and territory colleagues, who have also remained unified in our calls for action. This is a federal government that since 2013 has stripped around \$2.5 billion nationally from skills and training. In contrast, the Palaszczuk government continues to believe in and invest in the future of Queenslanders by funding quality training from both public and private providers.

It would be refreshing if those opposite would stand up for Queensland instead of sitting on their hands and saying nothing. If there were genuine concern for the future of training in this state, I would have thought that the shadow minister would pick up the phone or even make the drive down to Assistant Minister Andrews' office on the Gold Coast and make some representations.

I implore the federal government to listen to what industry and the community are telling them and negotiate in good faith a new agreement which provides maximum flexibility for states to implement state run programs that meet skills demand and focus on quality and innovation.


Aurukun

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (10.01 am): When I visited Aurukun I was struck by the same thing that many other people are struck by. Initially it was the remoteness and the heat but, as a member of this government, I was also struck by the importance of the work that our government does in this region. Wherever I looked I saw great people who are committed to Aurukun. They are our teachers, our nurses, our police and our housing officers. Those dedicated women and men, many of them young, all of them committed, are there because they want to deliver a better future for the kids growing up in Aurukun. They want to get them through school. They want them to enjoy good oral, mental and physical health and, ultimately, they want to help them find a job.

Unfortunately, though, in 2017 finding a job in Aurukun is still a difficult prospect; it always has been. We also know that those public servants rely on the government to provide them a place to live that is safe so that they can continue to deliver for the community. Last year a cloud was placed over much of that, but we did not walk away. Instead, we doubled down. We have met our obligations head on and this government has identified a significant opportunity before us. That is why today I am pleased to announce a strategic housing development in Aurukun in partnership with the department of education and Queensland Police Service. A construction delivery program valued at over \$33.5 million has been specifically designed to promote the employment of local apprentices and other workers. To enable this I have instructed my department to design a specific procurement methodology. Far North Queensland building companies who make a commitment to young local apprentices will be given a head start to win this work. The tender arrangements for this work will have a unique 'buy local, employ local' clause. Building companies who participate in programs that deliver local Indigenous employment outcomes will be preferred to win the contract. It is anticipated that this package of work will employ up to 90 construction workers over its duration, and I want to ensure that includes as many locals as possible.

Our commitment to service delivery in every corner of this state will create a legacy of better health outcomes, better education delivery, a commitment to community safety and, most importantly, the dignity of work. I invite tender submissions from today. We must continue to work smarter in remote and Indigenous communities or we will never close the gap. We are making these strategic decisions to do better because we must close the gap.

Child and Family Support Services

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.03 am): If we can give Queensland mums and dads the tools they need to be better parents then we can reduce the load

on our child protection system. That means investing in child and family support services that give parents the helping hand they need earlier. That is why I am so proud today to talk about our \$65 million investment in family support services right across our state from the Torres Strait to the Gold Coast. This extra investment gives parents a leg-up, but it also boosts our local economies, with 95 jobs to be created within the child and family support sector. This is hands-on, in-home support that can include anything from help in the home to make school lunches or establish daily routines to budgeting advice, parenting courses and counselling. Support for drug and alcohol use, anger management and domestic and family violence are all included in this package.


We want to let parents know that it is okay to ask for help and, better still, that help is available. No matter where mums and dads live, if they call our dedicated 13FAMILY hotline for parenting advice when they are struggling, we will connect them with the right support. We have already helped almost 6,000 families across Queensland and we will not stop there.

By investing in building stronger, more resilient families, we can create a safer and happier Queensland for our kids. That means reducing the number of children who come into the child protection system because we want them to be safe at home with loving and capable parents. If parents do better, kids do not need to come into the care of the department. That is why we are investing record amounts in early intervention and prevention for families—\$152 million this financial year alone—because we believe Queensland families are worth investing in.

Our focus on early intervention and prevention does not mean we are losing sight of rebuilding the statutory child protection system. This financial year we have invested a record more than \$1 billion in child and family services and, of course, hired 129 new child safety officers. We have invested more than ever before to support our hardworking foster and kinship families, covering the childcare payment gap and empowering them to make decisions about the kids in their care.

Child safety is absolutely everyone's business, but it does take strong leadership to drive reform in this difficult policy area. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government has the determination to tackle this issue head on.

Queensland Construction Code

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.06 am): I rise to update the House on industrial arrangements for the building and construction industry. Back in 2000 the Beattie Labor government introduced the Queensland building code of practice as a document that sets out principles and standards of best practice behaviour for the industry. The first point I want to make very clear is that the code continues in force.

The implementation guidelines for the building code were established by the Newman government in 2013. They were ideologically based and were aimed at penalising those contractors who entered into agreements with conditions that the Newman government did not like. Similar guidelines were introduced in Victoria and New South Wales. As a result of a 2012 Federal Court challenge to the guidelines in Victoria, in 2013 the Newman government deemed all agreements approved by the Fair Work Commission to be compliant with the Queensland guidelines. Effectively this meant that the guidelines have been largely irrelevant and unenforceable all along. The only additional work the guidelines did was to require contractors to provide a detailed workplace relations management plan as part of the tendering process. However, it is very important to note that the requirement for contractors to have an industrial relations management plan still applies under the Queensland building code of practice which, as I said, continues in force.

However, it is no secret that the national IR laws have moved on significantly since 2013. Given that the requirement for a workplace relations management plan is now part of the federal building code that came into effect in December 2016, the Queensland guidelines are obsolete and out of date. This is based on departmental advice and the fact that the private sector contractors in the building industry operate in the federal industrial relations jurisdiction, not the state jurisdiction, and are subject to federal regulations and laws.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: Members opposite do not like to hear the real point. There is a lot of talk over there. I wish they did the same when it came to penalty rates.

The Office of Industrial Relations has written to all industry stakeholders, including the Master Builders and the Civil Contractors Federation, advising them of the repeal of the obsolete guidelines. The Queensland government remains committed to a productive and safe construction industry in Queensland and will continue to work with all parties to achieve this outcome.

Road Safety



Hon. MC BAILEY (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.10 am): The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to improving road safety in Queensland. I am pleased to inform the House that on Sunday a new Easter road safety campaign will begin, urging drivers to rethink their speeding habits on Queensland roads. The campaign is called Let's change the way we look at speed and asks drivers to do just that. The campaign challenges the misconception that it is safe to speed at low levels above the speed limit.

Sadly, last year speeding contributed to nearly a quarter of the road toll, with around half of these happening at just 10 kilometres an hour or less over the speed limit. Unfortunately, too many motorists still believe they can speed safely. More than 250 Queenslanders lost their lives on our roads last year. They are not statistics: they are loved ones, friends and family. We know the Easter holidays are a busy time on Queensland roads, with many families driving to their holiday destinations. Unfortunately, when we see an increase in traffic on our roads we often see an increase in the number of crashes on our roads. I urge all motorists to put safety first every time they get behind the wheel, especially during the Easter holiday period. The new advertisement shows how anyone can be hurt by speed through one wrong choice on the road, often the wrong choice of somebody else driving another vehicle. The campaign will run for three weeks throughout the Easter school holiday period and again throughout the September school holiday and October long weekend period.

I would encourage all members to get behind this important road safety campaign and share this message with their constituents on their social media platforms. This campaign is part of the Palaszczuk government's Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan. Our plan aims to drastically reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on Queensland roads, with a long-term vision of zero deaths, and includes 57 initiatives totalling more than half a billion dollars to be implemented over two years. I remind everybody to stay safe on our roads over the holiday period: plan ahead to avoid driving after drinking; never use your phone, of course, while driving; stick to the speed limit; be well-rested before you drive because fatigue remains a killer on our roads; and always buckle up. I am still surprised at the number of people who do not do that simple thing which causes so much pain and distress. There are no excuses for speeding. It is up to all of us to take responsibility for our driving behaviour. We want to prevent these often avoidable tragedies.

Cluster Fencing



Hon. WS BYRNE (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development) (10.13 am): Today my department is publishing a map detailing the location of the cluster fencing constructed as a result of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to eradicate the threat of wild dogs. I table a map which shows that Queensland now has over 5,000 kilometres of exclusion fencing.

Tabled paper: Map, undated, titled 'Qld Multi-property Exclusion Fencing' [495].

To help put it into perspective, this is about the same distance as the return highway journey from Cairns to Sydney. By the time the projects currently underway are completed, more than 420 properties will be protected from just south of Hughenden to close to the New South Wales border. A lot has happened in a short period when it comes to protecting our producers from these feral predators. Our election commitment two years ago was to provide \$5 million over three years to tackle the problem of feral predators. At last count we have committed more than \$31 million in grants and loans to build fences that allow producers to effectively protect their stock. As a result, we are seeing a revival in the sheep industry in communities throughout the state's south-west and central west.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BYRNE: Yes, it is ironic in some ways. For the benefit of the House I would like to quote from an article in *Queensland Country Life* dated 10 March. The article is about a visit to Barcaldine of the National Wild Dog Advisory Group to inspect recently erected exclusion fencing. The chairman, Mr Geoff Power, said 'Queensland is definitely taking the lead on cluster fencing.' I would also like members to hear the opinion of producer Anita Dennis from Blackall, who is part of the cluster fencing project out there. She said, 'It will bring an expected additional 22,000 sheep to the area, which means \$285,000 in additional wages.'

I want to pay tribute to producers who have matched government funding with their own commitment to the fencing effort. They make a considerable investment in their own business when they partner with the government in this way. Funding is capped at approximately half the material

costs, and landholders must contribute the remaining costs. A thriving and confident sheep and wool sector will help revitalise some of our regional centres, bring more money into them and increasing employment opportunities. In conclusion, I am often told privately in those areas that Labor always does better for the bush than those opposite.

MOTION

Amendments to Standing Orders



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

That the amendments to the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly circulated in my name be agreed to, effective immediately.

Amendment to Standing Orders to be moved by the Leader of the House

1. 136. Portfolio committee reports

Omit, insert—

‘136. Portfolio committee reports on a Bill

- (1) A portfolio committee must finally report to the House on a Bill within six calendar months of the Bill being referred to it unless an alternative report date on the Bill has been set by the House or the Committee of the Legislative Assembly in accordance with (2) and (3) below.
- (2) The House may by order vary a portfolio committee’s report date on a Bill to a period of not less than 6 weeks.
- (3) The Committee of the Legislative Assembly may vary the time for a portfolio committee to report on a Bill provided that:
 - (a) the House has not by order already set the time for report under (2) above or SO 137 below; and
 - (b) the report date is not less than 6 weeks after the Bill has been referred to the portfolio committee; and
 - (c) the Committee of the Legislative Assembly reports its decision to the House at the earliest opportunity.
- (4) The House or the Committee of the Legislative Assembly may vary the portfolio committee responsible for a Bill (notwithstanding the nomination of the member who introduced the Bill in accordance with SO 129(3)(c)). If the Committee of the Legislative Assembly varies the committee responsible for a Bill it must report such decision to the House at the earliest opportunity.
- (5) If a portfolio committee has not reported within the time for report and no extension has been given, the Bill is discharged from further consideration by the portfolio committee and is set down for its second reading stage.
- (6) Following the tabling of a portfolio committee report on a Bill, the Bill is set down on the notice paper for its second reading stage in the House.
- (7) When a Government Bill has been set down on the notice paper pursuant to (6), at least one day shall elapse until the commencement of the second reading debate, unless the Bill is declared urgent.
- (8) When a Private Members’ Bill has been set down on the notice paper pursuant to (6), at least three calendar months shall elapse until the commencement of the second reading debate, unless the Bill is declared urgent.’

2. CHAPTER 24 URGENT BILLS

Omit, insert—

‘CHAPTER 24 URGENT BILLS

137. Urgent Bills

- (1) The House may by order in accordance with the requirements of section 26B(3) of the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*¹ declare a Bill to be an urgent Bill and:
 - (a) refer an urgent Bill to a portfolio committee to report to the House for a period of less than 6 weeks; or
 - (b) for a Bill declared to be an urgent Bill after it is referred to a committee, discharge the Bill from the committee less than 6 weeks after the referral in which case it shall be set down on the notice paper for its second reading stage; or

¹ *Constitution of Queensland 2001*, Section 26B(3) This section does not prevent the Legislative Assembly, by ordinary majority, doing any of the following under the standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly—

- (a) declaring a Bill to be an urgent Bill;
- (b) referring an urgent Bill to a committee for less than 6 weeks;
- (c) for a Bill declared to be an urgent Bill after it is referred to a committee—discharging the Bill from the committee less than 6 weeks after the referral;
- (d) deciding not to refer an urgent Bill to a committee before the Bill is passed by the Legislative Assembly.

- (c) direct that the Bill not stand referred to a committee, in which case it shall be set down on the notice paper for its second reading stage; or
 - (d) if the motion is moved by a Minister or Leader of the House, direct that the Bill be considered immediately or at another time set down in the order.
- (2) A Minister or Leader of the House may move that a Bill declared urgent be passed with unusual expedition through all stages and such motion may specify the time that shall be allotted to the various stages of the Bill.'

3. 177. Annual Appropriation Bills to portfolio committees

Omit, insert—

'177. Annual Appropriation Bills to portfolio committees

- (1) After the Annual Appropriation Bills are read a first time in accordance with Part 5 Chapter 22, the Bills are set down on the notice paper for their second reading stage in the House. Debate on the question "That the Bill be now read a second time" shall not commence until at least one whole calendar day has elapsed.
- (2) In accordance with s.26C of the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*², after the Annual Appropriation Bills have been read a second time the Annual Appropriation Bill stands referred to the portfolio committees (as set out in Schedule 6) for investigation and report.
- (3) The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill stands referred to the portfolio committee responsible for investigating the appropriations for the Premier's portfolio, unless the House otherwise orders.
- (4) Each portfolio committee shall consider the Appropriation Bills and the estimates for the committee's area of responsibility and any associated documentation tabled in the Legislative Assembly that:
 - (a) explains the appropriation the subject of the Bill; and
 - (b) includes estimates of the expenditure for the financial year to which the Bill relates.
- (5) The House is by Order to:
 - (a) allocate the dates for each portfolio committee's estimates hearing; and
 - (b) set the dates by which each portfolio committee is to report to the House.'

4. 177A. Estimates for the Parliamentary Service and the Legislative Assembly

Insert—

'177A. Estimates for the Parliamentary Service and the Legislative Assembly

In a portfolio committee's investigation of the estimates for the Parliamentary Service and the Legislative Assembly:

- (a) the processes and requirements on departmental units under this Chapter apply to the Parliamentary Service and the Legislative Assembly;
- (b) the responsibilities and rights on Ministers under this Chapter apply to the Speaker; and
- (c) the responsibilities and rights on Directors-General under this Chapter apply to the Clerk.'

5. 181A. Public Meeting Procedure

Omit

6. 187A. Content of Appropriation (Parliament) Bill report

Omit

7. Where the term "Research Director" appears in the Standing Orders—

Omit, insert—

'Committee Secretary'

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

² *Constitution of Queensland 2001*, Section 26C(1) The Legislative Assembly must ensure each Bill for an annual appropriation Act is referred to the portfolio committees for examination in a public hearing.

(2) The referred Bill must be accompanied by any associated documentation tabled in the Legislative Assembly that—

(a) explains the appropriation the subject of the Bill; and

(b) includes estimates of the expenditure for the financial year of the departments of government to which the Bill relates, or the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service, whichever is relevant.

(3) In this section—

annual appropriation Act means an Act that appropriates an amount from the consolidated fund for departments of government, or the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service, for a financial year.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Unions



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (10.16 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That this House:

1. condemns the comments by ACTU Secretary Sally McManus threatening the rule of law; and
2. supports the federal government's move to implement the trade unions royal commission's recommendations for criminal penalties for corrupting payments between unions and companies.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Industrial Relations, you will be warned if you persist. You might be the first on the list this morning.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Westminster, Incident; Domestic and Family Violence, Legislation



Mr NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.17 am): As you and the Premier have noted, this morning Queenslanders awoke—for those of us who were still in this place early this morning, some of us were awake—to the shocking and tragic news of the terrorist attack in London. It began on Westminster Bridge and ended at the houses of parliament—landmarks which are well-known to millions of visiting Queenslanders. Indeed, I walked across that bridge with my daughter only 14 months ago, and I note that the member for Ipswich and the member for Mount Ommaney will be there in a week's time at the cybersecurity and antiterrorism conference being hosted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. As Queenslanders and Australians our affinity with, and affection for, the great city of London is unparalleled. I am sure all members join me in joining you and my Liberal National Party team in sending our thoughts and prayers to the families of those innocent victims in this yet another act of senseless terrorism. We condemn terrorism in all its insidious forms, and this morning we stand mournfully but in upmost solidarity with our great and enduring friends, the people of Great Britain.

I would now like to turn your attention to a far more uplifting piece of history that occurred in this House just a few hours ago. Following the January murder of Gold Coast mum Theresa Bradford, the LNP worked around the clock to swiftly introduce a private member's bill that would drastically toughen domestic violence laws. Early this morning that incredibly hard and humane work paid off when this parliament passed new laws that will better protect victims of domestic violence and their families. This is what this parliament is about and this is what leadership is all about: vigilance and rapid action. It is not about doing nothing—it is not even about just doing something—it is about producing real workable changes that will keep families and communities safer, changes that will transform lives and changes that will indeed save lives. This legislation, the Bail (Domestic Violence) and Another Act Amendment Act, will: reverse the presumption for bail in domestic violence related crimes, and I note the amendments moved by the Attorney-General; introduce a DV system to alert victims and families when somebody who is subject to a DVO is being considered for parole; implement urgent appeal rights to the bail application process; and allow GPS trackers to be fitted to alleged offenders as a potential bail condition.

The only sadness is that the government failed to support the important provisions around a DV bail alert system. Nonetheless, I acknowledge that the legislation has passed. I pay special tribute to the tireless work of shadow ministers Ros Bates and Ian Walker. Of course, I pay particular tribute to the sterling efforts of Bonnie Mobbs, Dale Shales and Sonia Anderson—three brave women who have experienced firsthand the devastation of domestic violence and were here in the wee hours to see this through. The LNP has stepped up and delivered critical domestic violence reforms from opposition because Queenslanders could not wait any longer.

Health Services, Federal Funding



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.20 am): National partnership agreements have played a critical role in delivering better health outcomes for Queenslanders and were instrumental in reducing waiting lists for elective surgery and dental treatment. I know that is a view held by many members of this House. For example, in 2014 a member of this House said—

... we, as the Queensland government, have a problem with Canberra and that problem relates to the national partnership programs and agreements that have been unilaterally terminated as part of the Federal budget.

The member went on to say—

Without a doubt though, the most pressure relates to Health. The problem is serious ...

In a moment of rare insight the member went even further, saying—

From 2017-18 the Federal Government is turning its back on the challenges of health funding.

...

... the Federal Government thinks the States can survive with less. Their funding falls well short of what is required to meet the reasonable expectations of Queenslanders.

Who said those words in this House? It was none other than the then treasurer, the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Clayfield, in his 2014 budget speech.

What has happened to the member for Clayfield since 2014? Where is the fearless warrior standing up for cuts against Queensland? The bulldog has become a lapdog. The Leader of the Opposition is now an apologist for the Turnbull government—happy to run interference at every possible turn, silent when it cut public funding for dental services, saying not a word when it terminated funding for mental health services, missing in action when it slashed funding for aged care. The Leader of the Opposition could not care less about the Sunshine Coast University Hospital medical school. He is no longer a voice for Queensland but a yes-man for his LNP mates in Canberra.

A number of partnership agreements are up for renewal this June, and the signs for Queensland are not good. There is yet no commitment from the federal government to renew the national partnership agreement on breast screening—of all things! The Leader of the Opposition talks in this House about protecting the rights of women, yet he will not stand up to ensure funding for breast screening continues in Queensland. There is no commitment to funding in relation to rheumatic fever, which disproportionately affects Indigenous Queenslanders.

What a pity that those opposite chose 'Mr Strong Choices' and not 'Mr Strong Principles'. Apart from his pathological obsession with asset sales, he stands for nothing. He is a hollow man. Everyone knows it. The quiet members of the opposition know that. They know that they put a dud into the leader's chair. He will not stand up for Queensland. He will say anything and do anything to protect his political interests, and Queenslanders know the truth.

Infrastructure Funding



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.23 am): Today we see yet another report that illustrates the impacts of this Labor government's savage cuts to infrastructure. This is a government which in its first budget slashed \$2 billion from the state infrastructure program. This is a government which has cut almost \$3 billion from the forward program of capital purchases. Labor has starved regional communities of vital projects and cannot even get its pipeline dream—Cross River Rail—off the ground. This is a government which over the past two years has whinged, blamed others, picked fights and delivered absolutely nothing except dodgy laws designed to benefit its union paymasters. The 2017 Major Projects Pipeline Report, released today, sums up this Labor government perfectly. It states—

Despite promises and plans however, many major projects remain unfunded and the consequent outlook for major project work remains highly uncertain and volatile.

The report continues—


Overall, existing policies and funding settings have failed to deliver sustainable, long run growth in Queensland infrastructure investment to meet demand. Worse, current funding levels projected by the Queensland Budget and State Infrastructure Strategy will not even cover the public sector's pipeline projections outlined in the report.

The report shows that major projects work fell off a cliff under Labor's first year in office. That is the vote of confidence in this Labor government and its do-nothing, see-nothing, know-nothing head of state. Glossy brochures and heartfelt reassurances for the cameras do not get things built. They do not get the economy moving and they certainly do not deliver jobs for regional Queensland or anywhere in Queensland.

Queensland is screaming out for infrastructure of the future, whether it is in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay or Rockhampton—all regions that have been completely neglected by those opposite. No doubt mid-June will come and all the pork-barrelling will start, but Queenslanders are not that stupid. They will see it for what it is.

Labor still has not worked out that it is major infrastructure projects that create jobs, stimulate local economies and provide a flow-on effect for small, medium and large businesses. This Labor government could not even build a Lego set, let alone the infrastructure Queensland needs.

Driscoll, Mr S


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.26 am): On 10 March this year, finally the people of Redcliffe got some closure on a very long, sad saga: Scott Driscoll. Our community suffered considerably at the hands of this man. The Redcliffe community association closed its doors and staff lost their jobs. When those staff came and saw me that day, their concern was not their jobs and their wages; their concern was, 'What do I do tomorrow when the clients turn up needing support?'—the support for women who are victims of domestic violence, the child support and family reunification, the breakfasts for homeless people. They were concerned about the community. I still meet those staff at events and on the streets of Redcliffe, and I can say that they are still hurting.

This was a very sad occasion. The fact is: I do not blame the LNP for Scott Driscoll's actions, but it must take some responsibility for what it did to support his claims in relation to this issue. Not only did Scott Driscoll come into this place and claim there was a smear campaign orchestrated by the then leader of the opposition, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and me as the then federal member; that was backed in by Campbell Newman as premier and by the member for Aspley in *Hansard*. They were all saying that this was just a smear campaign by Labor, Annastacia Palaszczuk and Yvette D'Ath and that there was no substance to it.

This is a man who only two weeks ago pleaded guilty to 15 fraud related charges, yet those on the other side of the House have never retracted the allegations they made. We know that they accepted over \$50,000 in donations from Scott Driscoll and they have never given that to a charity or community organisation on the Redcliffe peninsula. There were many in the community, including myself, who knew what this man was like. I watched him spend thousands of dollars as the head of the Retail Traders and Shopkeepers Association week after week running half-page ads about himself and I said, 'This is a man who's lining himself up for politics and look at the money he's spending from this organisation and the community.' Then I saw he got endorsed and we were still saying, 'This is wrong. This man should not be in parliament,' and then he got elected and they backed him in. It is time they repaid the donation.

(Time expired)

Queensland Rail

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.29 am): Labor's Queensland Rail closed shop, which led to commuter chaos, is back. In truth, it probably never left. We know that Labor has already broken a key Strachan recommendation to bring in full external recruitment. By the government's own admission, that will not happen until late 2018. Now the Deputy Premier is claiming that she has only just found out that Queensland Rail will not even let all former Queensland Rail drivers apply for those jobs, just the ones that the union has picked out. Just the hand-picked union reps are the only ones who are allowed to apply, because the ones who left Queensland Rail when those opposite flogged off QR National in a fire sale are banned from applying. Are we being asked to believe that the Deputy Premier only just found this out? Rail advocates have been saying it for weeks. It is starting to sound increasingly ominous.

If you thought it could not get any worse than the minister who found out about train cancellations by tweets, this minister gives the member for Sandgate a run for his money! We now have ministerial memos by media. The Deputy Premier had to be told about flaws in her own plan to fix QR by the media. The Deputy Premier might put herself on a pedestal above her mediocre colleagues, but she is still just a know-nothing minister in a do-nothing government. This is the minister who was warned by a whistleblower back in October 2015 about the impending rail fail crisis.

Mr Walker: What did she do?

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Mansfield. What did she do? Nothing. A big NFA was the direction given from her office—no further action. The minister then wrapped that ticking time bomb up and handed it over to the member for Sandgate: 'Here's one that I prepared earlier.' When it blew to bits in the face of the member for Sandgate, the Deputy Premier swept back in, saying, 'Only I can wrangle the unions. I can wrangle my union mates into line,' she told the Premier to get back as the transport minister. It does not matter who from the Labor Party is the transport minister; the RTBU bosses are really in charge of the Queensland Rail closed shop. The member for South Brisbane might consider herself the alternative Premier, but if she thinks she can run a train service she is in an alternate reality.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tour

Mr SPEAKER: Before we proceed to question time, I am informed that we have students and teachers from the Bardon State School in the electorate of Mount Coot-tha observing our proceedings from the gallery. Welcome.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will finish at 11.32 am.

Queensland Rail



Mr NICHOLLS (10.33 am): My question is directed to the Premier. The latest report into Labor's rail fail reveals that, despite the Strachan report, the government has failed to break open the union enforced closed shop of train driver recruitment in QR and the Deputy Premier only found out about it when she was embarrassed by a media question, just like the former minister found out about cancellations on Twitter. Even though the Premier said no-one would get in the Deputy Premier's way, why has nothing changed and the trains still do not run on time?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition's question contains some imputations and I ask that you provide him with some guidance in order that he might rephrase the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Being Thursday and the first question, I might let the question go as a sign of goodwill amongst fellows.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question, and of course he is referring to an article that appeared today in the *Courier-Mail*. The Deputy Premier as transport minister has been tasked with the implementation of the Strachan report. She is doing exactly that. In relation to the issue of external recruitment, you actually need to have the training schools to put the drivers through, and that is exactly what the Deputy Premier is doing.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection, because the reason we do not have as many training schools operating at the moment is because those opposite closed the training schools. They sacked trainers and they closed the training schools.

Ms Trad: They stopped recruitment.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They stopped the recruitment. Through the Queensland Rail board and through the ongoing work of Phillip Strachan as the new chair, the Deputy Premier, the board and Queensland Rail are working night and day in relation to the issues around rail management in South-East Queensland. The Deputy Premier stood in this place on Tuesday and went through those issues. Obviously those opposite were not listening. We understand how important it is to get more train drivers driving our trains. That is why we are actively recruiting people as soon as possible. I say to those opposite: explain in this House why they cut the training schools and sacked trainers.

Ms Trad: And stopped recruitment.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And why they stopped recruitment. We know that they were trying to get Queensland Rail ready for sale. That is what those opposite were doing. They were getting ready to privatise Queensland Rail. They were stripping it back. They got Peter Costello in—the old mate of the LNP—because the then treasurer could not do the—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. We are not going to have a shouting match. Do you have anything further to add, Premier?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes. Because the former treasurer could not do the job himself, he needed the help of another former treasurer—Peter Costello—to come in wasting taxpayers' money on that great fiasco. They wanted to sell off the Citytrain service. That was clearly their agenda, and that is still their agenda. It is still their agenda to sell off assets in this state. They have learnt nothing. It is clearly their agenda. We still do not have the Leader of the Opposition stating categorically to the people of

Queensland that he will not sell our state's assets. We still have not heard that. We know it is their hidden agenda. We know it is still on his path. We know that that is exactly what they want to do, and the people of Queensland will never forget what they have done.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Leader of the Opposition for the next question, I remind members that if I form the view that members' interjections are designed to disrupt the person answering the question you will be named under 253A or whatever I feel is appropriate.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Infrastructure

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is directed to the Premier. I refer the Premier to the major projects pipeline report released today which states—

In particular, public investment fell to an estimated \$6.9 billion in 2015/16, but had been allocated \$8.6 billion in that year's Budget, an effective underspend of \$1.7 billion.

Premier, is it not a fact that this government's failure to deliver its infrastructure program, which it cut by \$3 billion, is because this government cannot make a decision?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I am very well aware of the major projects pipeline report that has been produced and distributed, but let me make a few points in relation to that. The Leader of the Opposition talked about the underspend, but let me make it very clear: under those opposite and under his leadership when he was treasurer, the underspend was \$2 billion. That is my understanding—

Ms Trad: More than \$2 billion.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It was more than \$2 billion. Let us get the facts on the table.

Mr Nicholls: So are you proud of your record?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will stand on my record as opposed to that of those opposite. Today, we have heard the Deputy Leader of the Opposition talk about picking fights. There is only one side of politics that picked fights with every Queenslanders across the state. They could not help themselves.

Ms Trad: Even themselves.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. They even fought among themselves. They are still doing it. I urge those opposite to have a good read of this report. I am more than happy to talk about this report. It says very clearly that over the past decade we have seen the decline from the peaks that we saw with the development of the LNG industry in this state. Who initiated that brand-new industry for Queensland? It was a Labor government. There was \$60 billion worth of investment into Curtis Island, which made Queensland and Australia the second largest exporter of LNG in the world after Qatar. That is what Labor governments have done. That is exactly what we are trying to do with the biofuels industry. We are looking at those new industries to create jobs across this state.

This report also talks about the need for more investment in regional Queensland. That is why I took with me to India eight mayors to sit down with the board to talk about how important the project is for regional Queensland. That is what I have been doing as Premier of this state. That is what leadership is about. It is about going out there and making sure that you get the investment into Queensland—unlike those opposite. While I am on my feet, let me talk about their infrastructure projects.

Ms Trad: But there was only one.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There was only one and we can see it: 1 William Street. It is a shrine to Campbell Newman and Tim Nicholls. How much did that cost taxpayers?

(Time expired)

North Queensland, Investment

Mr CRAWFORD: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier outline to the House what the Palaszczuk government is doing to ensure that the federal government invests in infrastructure, jobs and the economy in North Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Barron River for that question, because we recognise that we need to have more investment in the northern parts of our state—in fact, the northern parts of Australia. The major projects pipeline report also discusses very clearly the need for the NAIF money to get out the door. Who is in charge of administering that program? The federal government is in charge of that.

I also want to put on the record that I have offered my congratulations to Mark McGowan on his election as the new Labor Premier for Western Australia. I look forward to seeing him tomorrow with the Prime Minister and the other Premiers when we meet with the Chinese Premier in Sydney. What a great election it was! With the election of Mark McGowan and also Michael Gunner in the Northern Territory, I look forward to meeting with both of those leaders at the next COAG meeting to discuss how we can continue to develop Northern Australia.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you are warned under standing order 253A. You have had a pretty good go. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action. The Premier's answer is relevant to the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is very important that the three leaders get together to talk about what we can do together now as a bloc to urge Canberra to get the \$5 billion of the NAIF funding out the door. This is \$5 billion worth of projects, which means jobs for people in northern Queensland. Most of those projects would be in the north of our state. I will be convening that meeting at the next COAG meeting. I will be speaking with the leaders and sitting down with the Prime Minister to make sure we can do everything we can to get that money out the door.

The member for Barron River knows how important infrastructure is for his part of the state. This week, announcements have been made by the Minister for Education in relation to infrastructure for schools. We understand that the state government can do its bit by putting money into capital projects across our state to get people into work.

Those opposite offer no advice, no solutions, no policies and no plans. They have no ideas and they have nothing to offer. We will continue to work with all of the leaders across Northern Australia. I will fight very hard to get NAIF money out the door.

Infrastructure

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question without notice is to the Premier. The major projects pipeline report, which was released today, recommends that this government reconsider its market-led proposals policy and—

State Government to do more to identify where privately-led proposals can provide critical infrastructure.

In light of the Palaszczuk government's failure to progress only one proposal in two years, will the government now adopt the LNP's policy for market-led proposals that will build a better Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the question, because I am very proud that we have a market-led proposal policy for our government. It is about encouraging private enterprise to come to the government to say, 'We have an exciting new opportunity to create jobs in the state. We want to discuss it with you.' Unlike the federal government, which cannot get any money out the door, under this government the Logan Motorway project is about to get underway. I thank the Minister for Main Roads and the Treasurer for working very hard on that. We know that that is going to alleviate a huge bottleneck around Logan.

We also have many projects moving through the system. Within the next couple of weeks I am going to announce another project.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It will be great news for this state. I know the members opposite cannot hide their excitement. It is another project out the door. While I am on my feet talking about projects, I want to talk about Queen's Wharf. The cranes are up. The Minister for State Development is doing an excellent job in going around the state, talking about how other people can get involved in the Queen's Wharf project. There are further expansions to Star on the Gold Coast. That is more private investment in our state.

I look back on the past and what do I see? The only legacy of the members opposite is a building for themselves. The irony is that they are not even in it. My government will continue to drive private investment in this state. We will continue to invest in our \$10 billion Capital Works Program each year over the next four years. We will continue to inject vital funds to get people into work, because we understand that there is dignity in work. I notice that the Leader of the Opposition is starting to use my words in his little videos. He did not understand the dignity of work when he sacked 14,000 people. There was not one shred of dignity in that or integrity.

It is only my government that will drive the economy. We are moving forward, unlike those opposite who are stuck in the past. All they want to do is sell Queensland's assets.

(Time expired)

Townsville City Deal

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the Townsville City Deal?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Townsville for his question. He is an outstanding champion and fighter for his local community. In relation to the Townsville City Deal, an historic first not only for Queensland but also for Australia, in the negotiations one of the key areas of reform and activity that we as a state government but also local council and the federal government had to pay attention to was water security for the Townsville region. I am pleased to say that on 11 March we announced the water task force which was a key action item out of the Townsville City Deal. The water security task force will bring all three levels of government to the table to look at how we can secure water for the Townsville region going forward.

On the task force will be a number of people, but we are very pleased to announce that renowned local businessman Brad Webb has agreed to chair the task force. Also on the task force will be Mary Colreavy, the assistant secretary of the federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Paul Simhauser, the director-general of the State Department of Energy and Water Supply and Adele Young, the Townsville City Council CEO. I do want to thank the Minister for Energy, Biofutures and Water Supply for his efforts in relation to this as well.

The Townsville City Deal is an historic first. One of the key elements of the Townsville City Deal was the Townsville stadium and securing funding for it. That is a major infrastructure project that those opposite do not want to talk about because they have never supported it. They want to talk about the major projects pipeline report today, but one of the things that they will not quote from is the outlook for North Queensland, which I think is important given we are talking about city deals and infrastructure. The report says that northern Queensland is poised to benefit significantly from measures to boost regional economic growth through infrastructure investment, including the construction of gas pipelines, electricity generation, both renewable and baseload, as well as water pipelines and dams, ports and roads. That is what this government is doing. This government is setting the right conditions and attracting investment as well as our own public infrastructure investment in North Queensland.

That is the difference between us and them. We invest; we back regional communities. Those opposite knock them and they pull money out of regional communities so they can build towers to their own egos. That is their No. 1 infrastructure priority. They like to come into this House and talk about market-led proposals. Their No. 1 market-led proposal was the New Generation Rollingstock. How is that going? They like to talk about their record, but all of a sudden they are very quiet about New Generation Rollingstock.

Gold Coast, Criminal Organisation

Mr WALKER: My question without notice is to the Premier. I table a press report blowing the whistle that extremely violent criminal gang The Last Hour has recently emerged on the Gold Coast.

Tabled paper: Article from Brisbane Times.com.au, dated 22 March 2017, titled "'Extremely violent' Sydney gang emerges in Gold Coast" [\[496\]](#).

Is it not a fact that this news confirms exactly what the Crime and Corruption Commission, senior police and the Gold Coast mayor told us about this Labor government's soft-on-crime approach when it pigheadedly wound back the nation's toughest criminal gang laws and consigned Gold Coast residents to a life of fear?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mansfield for the question. I am happy to look at that media report. I am not aware of it. I will ask the police minister to give me some urgent advice. Let me say that our serious organised crime legislation that we introduced is the toughest in Australia.

Mr Bleijie: It is not!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, it is, because it deals with all aspects of serious organised crime. Mayor Tom Tate was mentioned. Recently the mayor and I caught up in London and he told me how impressed he was with my minister, Mark Ryan, who went down and briefed him on our serious organised crime legislation. Those opposite might want to get their facts right before they start coming in here and throwing rocks.

As I said, our serious organised crime legislation contains the toughest laws in the nation. I have requested that our legislation and issues around it be put on the agenda for the next COAG meeting because I believe we should have national uniform laws when it comes to tackling serious organised crime in this state.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I am having difficulty hearing the Premier over the noise.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is exactly what we will do because if we have national laws there will be none of this shopping around that people tend to do by moving state depending on the different jurisdictions. We will be putting it on the national agenda and I will be raising it.

National Partnership Agreements

Mr BROWN: My question is of the Treasurer. Many national partnership agreements with the Commonwealth will expire at the end of the financial year. Will the Treasurer please update the House about the impact on Queensland when the national partnership agreements expire and are not renewed?

Mr PITT: I thank the member for Capalaba for his question. He knows, as all members on this side of the House know, that Commonwealth funding is vital to our overall budget. National partnership agreements are a critical component of the budget. The expiring national partnership agreements provided \$484 million to Queenslanders in 2016-17. The total value of expiring national partnerships over the lives of the agreements, which vary between one and 10 years, is \$1.845 billion. These national partnership agreements are time limited. They often expire after one or two years. It is a significant point that we will be talking about at the Treasurer's meeting because we need more certainty than one or two years. We need far more than that.

We have seen consistent failures from successive conservative governments—the Abbott government and the Turnbull government—in not locking in consistent long-term funding agreements. We heard today some quotes that the health minister read out from the former treasurer. He understood it when he was Treasurer. He seems now to have forgotten, like he has forgotten so many other things, and he is not standing up for Queensland.

Nowhere do we see this more than in the significant cuts to the 2014 budget. Health and education were absolutely decimated. State and territory Treasurers, in Labor and non-Labor states alike, are saying the same thing. There will be no walking away from our position. The challenges associated with not renewing national partnership agreements will not go away. This is not a political point on party lines; this is about our state and delivering the services that we need and ensuring that we can do that in a way that Queenslanders can rely on.

For years now we have called on the Turnbull government and the previous Abbott government to provide us early notification of what is happening with national partnership agreements and we have not received it. I will give credit where credit is due: Joe Hockey, the former federal treasurer, did promise that he would provide that in his midyear update ahead of the budget—except he was not then the Treasurer so we never got to see whether it would work.

We have found out in recent years on budget night. That is simply not good enough. In the most recent MYEFO that came out, four expiring national partnerships out of the 20 were recommended for renewal. That leaves 16 agreements in doubt. That is unacceptable. These are areas like skills reform, \$356.9 over five years; remote housing strategy, \$1.126 billion over 10 years; we have heard about the expansion of BreastScreen Australia and the list goes on. It is sad that we are not seeing the support from those opposite. They need to stand up to their mates in Canberra for Queensland. This is what is at risk: we have more than \$1.8 billion worth of expiring national partnership agreements. The key word here is 'partnership'. This is meant to be a partnership between the Commonwealth government and the states as part of the Federation and we are simply not seeing it. It is not good enough and we will be fighting every step of the way.

Unemployment

Mr EMERSON: My question is to the Premier. The new ABS figures released this morning show the unemployment rate in Townsville increased yet again last month up to 11.6 per cent, the worst unemployment rate in that town's history. Is this not just more proof that the Premier is all talk and no action when it comes to delivering jobs for regional Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Indooroopilly for the question, which I find quite ironic when we look at what their government did for Townsville. What did they do? Where were the projects? Where was the investment in roads? Where was the investment in schools? Where was the investment in halls? Where was the investment in the Townsville stadium? Construction is due to commence on that \$140 million project in the second half of this year, which means jobs on the ground for Townsville.

In Townsville the other issue we had to deal with, unfortunately, was the collapse of Queensland Nickel, which is something that those opposite forget about. Queensland Nickel had been a vital industry for employment in Townsville. Unfortunately, Mr Palmer let them down. We brought forward an accelerated capital works project to get people into work. The Deputy Premier brought in the Works for Queensland program, which allocates money to councils. Where did that idea come from? Following the collapse of Queensland Nickel, we sat down with the council and said, 'What are some projects that will immediately get people into work?' That is what we have done.

As I have mentioned in the House today, Mayor Jenny Hill accompanied me to India where people are looking at huge opportunities for investment in agriculture across the state, benefitting regional Queensland. Only my government is delivering for regional Queensland. We acknowledge that the people in Townsville and the people in the regions are doing it tough. I know that more than anyone and the local members know it, because we are constantly there listening to people.

I look forward to the second half of the year when we will be in Townsville for the turning of the sod on the stadium project, getting hundreds of people into work. Where was the LNP in relation to that issue? It was nowhere to be seen! They did not support the stadium. They had to be dragged along, kicking and screaming, and the feds had to be dragged along as well. We will continue to invest in infrastructure, invest in roads, invest in hospitals and invest in education right across our great state of Queensland.

National Partnership Agreements

Ms LINARD: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister please update the House on the current status of national partnership agreements with the Commonwealth government?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Nudgee for her commitment to standing up for Queensland. If all members of this House stood up for Queensland, our state would be in a much better place. The implementation of the National Health Reform Agreement, signed by the states and the federal Labor government in 2011, represented the first real attempt to tackle the challenges of the rising cost of health care and to finally end the blame game when it comes to funding health care in our nation. Unfortunately, that ideal did not survive the election of the Abbott government or even its first budget. The rise of Malcolm Turnbull to the position of prime minister created a flicker of hope that was immediately extinguished.

The decision of successive federal coalition governments to walk away from the National Health Reform Agreement will take \$10 billion out of the Queensland public health system over the life of the agreement. National partnerships have been cut and cut by the federal government. Funding for mental health, aged care and dental care have either been slashed or abandoned. National partnership agreements have played a critical role in sustaining positive health outcomes in Queensland and were instrumental in reducing waiting lists for elective surgery and dental treatment.

To give members an idea of the money involved, between 2009-10 and the Abbott-Hockey budget of 2014, NPAs delivered on average \$334 million a year to Queensland. If that continues, we are on track to receive about one-tenth of that, that is, around \$40 million. As I said earlier, a number of national partnership agreements are up for renewal and they look like they will be cut again: breast screening, rheumatic fever, vaccination funding and the list goes on.

Where is the Leader of the Opposition on this? When the federal coalition started the cuts in 2014, he was happy to stand up for Queensland. He said—

From 2017-18, the Federal Government is turning its back on the challenges of health funding.

...

But the Federal Government thinks the States can survive with less.

We cannot. He said—

Their funding falls well short of what is required to meet the reasonable expectations of Queenslanders.

What his retreat from a fair deal for our health system in Queensland reveals, apart from his pathological obsession with asset sales, is that he stands for nothing. He is the hollow man. He is keen not just to distance himself from the legacy of the Newman government but also to distance himself from things that he said in this very parliament in the most important speech of his career, the budget speech, which he now abandons completely. Those national partnerships make a difference to Queensland. We need to have the funding restored and renewed.

I ask the Leader of the Opposition to revive his memory, track down his conscience, find his voice and live up to the commitment he made to Queenslanders in 2014 when he said 'this LNP Government will engage in a robust and vigorous debate with the Federal Government to protect' the interests of Queenslanders.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Everton, I am informed that we have another group of students and teachers from the Bardon State School in the electorate of Mount Coot-tha observing our proceedings. Welcome.

Weapons Licensing

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Minister for Police. I have received numerous complaints from firearm dealers that they are getting regular requests from Weapons Licensing asking about the whereabouts or status of individual firearms, information that should be available on the commissioner's register. Would the minister advise whether the government has lost any data regarding weapons licences and licence holders as prescribed under the Weapons Act or any other data forming part of the commissioner's register?

Mr RYAN: I acknowledge the member's interest in this matter. I have no information about the particular question that the shadow minister has asked. I am happy to investigate the matter and come back to the House with extra information.

Schools, Federal Funding

Mr WILLIAMS: My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister update the House on the progress towards the new federal funding deal for Queensland schools?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for his question. I was talking to him only yesterday about the exciting new manual arts facility being delivered to his local community from extra funding. That is going to make a difference.

I also acknowledge in the gallery students from Bardon State School. I had the privilege of being at their school on Friday of last week. They are doing a fantastic job. We welcome them here today. It is really important that we have young students here today, because this conversation is all about how we ensure that we deliver the best possible education for every student in Queensland, no matter what school they go to, whether it is a Catholic school, an independent school or a state school, and no matter whether it is in my backyard, elsewhere in Brisbane, in Far North Queensland or in Mount Isa. Every single child deserves the best possible education that our country can afford.

That is why it is so concerning to me that we are now in March and, even though the current schools funding agreement with the federal government expires in June, still we do not have an offer on the table from the federal government of this nation. The reality is that the Malcolm Turnbull government is in chaos. They will not come clean about the funding agreement going forward for the schools in our state. Queensland has more to lose than any other state in Australia. We have more remote and regional schools than any other state in this nation. Principals want certainty. They want to know what funding they can rely on to plan their curriculum and to plan for the allocation of support in their schools. We have never been in this situation when, so close to the expiry of the agreement, we still do not have a clear understanding of the federal contribution. It is shameful.

Ms Davis: Have you rung him?

Ms JONES: Yes, I have rung him. What is even more shameful is the deafening silence from the LNP here in Queensland. Instead of standing up for Queensland schools, they are supporting the LNP federal cuts to schools in our state. I call on all LNP members opposite to stand united with us in fighting for fair funding for all Queensland schools.

Ms Davis interjected.

Ms JONES: I take the interjection. I am glad she is passionate about it. I call on her to write to her colleague, Simon Birmingham, in Canberra—

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms JONES: I have and I will be going to the education ministers' meeting. I spoke to him in my Ashgrove election office not that long ago. I am calling on those opposite to stand up to their LNP mate in Canberra—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms JONES: You ring him! Member opposite should ring their Liberal Party mate in Canberra and tell him that it is not good enough to rip off the schools of this state. It is shameful that still we do not have the funding to go forward. I will fight for the principals in Queensland and I will fight for the schools in Queensland. I call on members opposite to do the same.

(Time expired)

Bruce Highway, Safety Telephones

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. Premier, I table a report today that shows safety telephones on the Bruce Highway are not functional and have been that way for some time. All the while, Minister Bailey has been distracted by the investigation into his possible corrupt conduct. Will the Premier direct Minister Bailey today to release the list of non-functional telephones across Queensland and undertake to erect signage warning motorists to take other precautions in the event of an emergency?

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail* on-line, undated, titled 'Bruce Highway roadside emergency phones out of order' [497].

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. The minister has actually been talking to me at length about this issue because he understands how important it is for people in South-East Queensland. Let me update the House. Telstra decommissioned their 2G network on 1 December 2016. That impacted around 100 of the 500 roadside help phones operating across South-East Queensland. I am advised that Telstra first notified the department in mid-2015 of their intention to decommission the network.

In the meantime, TMR upgraded six phones in areas with poor mobile phone reception. However, the minister rejected the recommendation. That is what he did. It is a complex issue as some people may not have access to mobile phones when they break down. He was concerned about the advice that he was given. Therefore, he instead asked the department to immediately progress a program to upgrade all of those affected phones. He took action to upgrade those phones. That work is underway. The first tranche is expected to be completed this financial year.

The department is looking at the remaining sites. However, many of these locations may require additional civil works for their safe operation, such as building wider road shoulders or installing additional safety barriers, due to progressive road changes over the time since the original phone installations.

Other jurisdictions are also addressing this issue. I am advised that VicRoads has been trialling the removal of its help phone network and is expecting the complete removal of all help phones in Victoria in the near future. I understand Western Australia is doing the same. The minister took action, he rejected the recommendation and he is upgrading those phones.

Made in Queensland Program

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Minister for State Development. Will the minister update the House on the progress of the Palaszczuk government's Made in Queensland program to help Queensland manufacturers be the best they can be?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for the question. I know she is very interested in this sector because of the number of manufacturing businesses she has in her electorate.

I am pleased to say that as of the close of business Wednesday our \$20 million Made in Queensland manufacturing program has now attracted registrations from 380 manufacturing businesses from around this state. That is 380 businesses that want to partner with government to innovate and grow their business and jobs for Queenslanders. We are reaching all corners of the state.

Just last week the first manufacturer in Kingaroy put their hand up to take their business to the next level through the Made in Queensland program. With all the knitting nannas of Nanango, if it is a haberdashery business they will be on a winner. This reminds me how deeply woven into the Queensland economy our manufacturing sector is and how manufacturers in every part of our state can benefit from this program.

Not only do registrations continue to increase, but the Department of State Development is working hard to turn the interests of these manufacturers into tangible outcomes as quickly as they possibly can because they know that that means more jobs for Queenslanders. The Department of State Development is getting people on the ground. We are visiting businesses. We are registering interest. We are working with them in a benchmarking process to find opportunities for growth and innovation. That benchmarking process is setting our manufacturing businesses up to be the very best they can. Indeed, we want to set them up to be world leaders.

Once again, I call on every manufacturing business in our great state to become part of this Made in Queensland program. I call on every member of this House—and I know the member for Pine Rivers is doing this—to continue spreading the word in their electorates. Any manufacturing business should make sure they get onto the Department of State Development website and register their interest. At the very least, the benchmarking process will help businesses identify their opportunities as a business in our state.

I look forward to continuing to update the House in coming weeks on the progress we are achieving with Made in Queensland: the businesses we have helped, the productivity we have gained and, most importantly, the extra jobs that have been created for Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Buderim, I am informed that we have Toowoomba Grammar School's debating captain, Jeremy Bazley, from the electorate of Toowoomba North, in the gallery observing our proceedings.

Electricity Prices

Mr DICKSON: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier advise if power generators have been lowering electricity production during times of increased demand leading to increased costs to Queensland consumers and large profits to electricity providers?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. It is quite technical. I am happy to get the answer to that and get back to him. I will take it on notice.

Community Legal Centres

Mr MADDEN: My question without notice is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Training and Skills. Will the Attorney-General provide an update on the future of community legal centres in Queensland?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Ipswich West for his question and for his absolute commitment to community legal centres and understanding the important role they play. I have spoken many times in this House about the looming funding cliff that is coming for community legal centres come 1 July. I have heard this cut described as modest. The reality is that the casual complacency of this comment is a sign of someone completely out of touch with Queenslanders and their needs.

Two million dollars might be seen as a drop in the bucket for some but it means getting services for the most vulnerable people right across Queensland, not just in our cities and suburbs but out in our remote communities as well.

Mr Dick: Including victims of domestic violence.

Mrs D'ATH: I take the interjection from the health minister—including victims of domestic violence. I have called on those opposite to support the call for these cuts to stop. They always say it is a stunt and all about politics. As the Minister for Health pointed out today, it was the Leader of the Opposition in his budget speech in 2014 who said they were going to take the fight up to the Commonwealth—that these cuts were going to impact Queenslanders and they were not going to stand for it. Where is the former treasurer today? Where is that leader and his leadership on this issue? They have gone quiet. When it comes to national partnership agreements not being funded, when it comes to cuts to key areas they are just not in it.

We are calling on Malcolm Turnbull to stop the Hockey-Abbott cuts. He has already said he is considering a backflip on the Medicare freeze. Now they have announced that they might move away from the childcare links with welfare reforms. Now is the chance to stand up for community legal centres.

Christine Smyth from the Queensland Law Society joined with James Farrell from Community Legal Centres Queensland and me on the weekend to call on the Commonwealth to stop these cuts. The Queensland Law Society has been very passionate and advocated very strongly on this. Christine Smyth said that the federal government appeared to be waging a war on the disadvantaged.

I have a suggestion for Malcolm Turnbull. We know that he was proposing to have a plebiscite on same-sex marriage. We know that that did not go ahead. They had funding set aside for this. I understand that funding of \$200 million minimum was set aside. From the savings Malcolm Turnbull made from not having a same-sex marriage plebiscite he could put \$2 million into our community legal centres and stand up for the most vulnerable in our community.

Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Email Account

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Minister for Energy. I table the terms and conditions of use for Yahoo! email accounts which state, under the heading 'Reopen your account'—

- Emails, contacts, and other account data may no longer be available, and can't be recovered.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Yahoo! website, regarding reactivating a deleted Yahoo! account [498].

Can the minister give a guarantee to the House that he has provided all of the emails he has sent and received containing official government business to the investigation?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for his question. It is, in essence, the same question that has been asked over the last two days. I have always said that I fully cooperate with the investigation. That is still the case. The answer is still the same as yesterday and Tuesday.

Interruption.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Kallangur for his question, I am informed that we have Mr David Daniel, Sergeant at Arms from the national Parliament of Vanuatu, in our public gallery. Mr Daniel is here on a two-day attachment under the Queensland parliament and Vanuatu parliament twinning agreement. Welcome.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Resumed.

Community Legal Centres

Mr KING: My question is to the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the minister outline to the House the impact of cuts to community legal centres on vulnerable Queenslanders who are experiencing domestic and family violence?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Kallangur for the question. I know that he is passionate about making sure that vulnerable Queenslanders, especially women and children escaping violence, have access to justice. The Palaszczuk government is tackling domestic and family violence head-on. We have invested a record \$200 million and completed 46 recommendations from the *Not now, not ever* report, with each and every other recommendation underway.

It is unbelievable at a time when we are investing record amounts into tackling domestic and family violence that the federal Liberal-National government is cutting \$2 million from our community legal services. As the Attorney-General has outlined, we know that already there are long wait times for our hardworking community legal centres and, if these cuts go ahead, tens of thousands of people across Australia are at risk of having no legal help whatsoever.

Attorney-General George Brandis and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull have refused the calls of thousands of workers across Australia who support some of our most vulnerable to reverse these cuts. On Monday we saw the law deans of over 30 Australian law schools call on the federal government to reverse these cuts. The CEO of The Advocacy Support Centre, Philippa Whitman, has said that their Ipswich office has already dropped from five days a week to three, despite demand for an office that needs to be run full-time.

We have hundreds of stories from our community legal centres of women and children who access these services—women like Lizzie and her three children who fled their family home due to domestic violence. Her husband changed the locks while they were gone and it was the South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre that helped her get her domestic violence order including an ouster order so that she and her kids could remain in the family home and it was the perpetrator who had to leave the home. It is women like Lizzie and her children who will have no access to legal support at all if the federal government cuts go ahead. I call on those opposite to advocate to the federal government to stop these cuts.

(Time expired)

Wicked Campers

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. This photo was taken on the Bruce Highway last weekend and shows a Wicked campervan with Western Australian number plates flaunting Labor's new laws. I table a copy of that photo.

Tabled paper: Photo, undated, of a Wicked campervan [499].

Is this yet another example of this incompetent and inexperienced Labor government—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, we have a procedure here that you do not interject when a question is being asked.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education, thank you. Member for Kawana, would you like to repeat your question?

Mr BLEIJIE: Is this yet another example of this incompetent and inexperienced Labor government leaving Queensland families at risk?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Kawana for the question. First of all, let me state that I am very proud that my government has made the changes to ban those vehicles from Queensland.

Mr Bleijie: It is not working. There it is!

Ms PALASZCZUK: No. I would like to see national laws so that they are applied to the other states where the cars are registered.

Mr Bleijie: They are all registered in other states.

Ms PALASZCZUK: He does not understand basic concepts.

Mr Bleijie: We told you this would happen.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You did nothing.

Mr Bleijie: You did nothing.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You did nothing!

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, everyone.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The minister has written to his counterparts in every other state, talking to them about the laws that we have introduced, seeking to ban these offensive vehicles from our roads. As the member rightly pointed out, that vehicle is registered in Western Australia. I am more than happy to speak to the new Western Australia Labor Premier tomorrow—tomorrow—about this issue. That is more than what they have done.

Whilst I am on my feet, it would be remiss of me not to state that tomorrow is in fact the fifth anniversary of the election of the Campbell Newman-Nicholls government—five years ago.

Mr Dick: And aren't they celebrating!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Are they going to have a party? Are they going to have a few champagnes?

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier. Pause the clock.

Ms PALASZCZUK: For three years we had one of the worst governments this state has ever seen, with the most incompetent former attorney-general.

Mr SPEAKER: No. Premier, I know you might like to talk about that, but I do not think that was the question that was asked. I move on to the next questioner.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Just a general reminder, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: No, that is not necessary.

Wynnum Outreach Service

Ms PEASE: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works. Will the minister please update the House on how housing services are being restored in my electorate of Lytton?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the honourable member for her question. I know how deeply committed she is to the issues of housing and housing affordability in the bayside. The member for Lytton has been active in reversing the previous LNP government's cuts to housing in her neighbourhood. Just the other day the member advised me that, when the member for Clayfield was treasurer, those opposite cruelly cut the Wynnum housing service centre for no other reason than to save rent. At the time, the member for Bundamba, who is a long-time supporter of Queenslanders in need, sponsored a petition in this House. It stated—

Your petitioners therefore request the House to see this planned closure stopped immediately to ensure essential services and housing services are maintained in our community.

Five hundred and thirty-three people in that community signed that petition. I wonder whether or not the then LNP minister listened? Let's have a look at his response to those petitioners. I quote from a letter addressed to the Clerk of the Parliament and signed by the then LNP minister for housing and public works. It states—

The department will save approximately \$76,000 per annum ...

...

I believe the decision to close the Wynnum Housing Service Centre is a good example of the manner in which savings can be made.

To save \$76,000 a year those opposite denied thousands of people living in thousands of homes on the bayside access to basic services. People were forced—we are talking about pensioners and people with disabilities—to trek to Capalaba, often using several different modes of transport on the trip, just to visit the housing service centre.

Unlike those opposite, this government has listened. As I have outlined before, this government has restored the outreach service at Wynnum. The Wynnum outreach service is based at the Wynnum Community Centre and operates every second Wednesday. I am pleased to inform the House that this service has so far assisted 163 people in the bayside area since it started in July last year to find better and more appropriate housing outcomes. It has helped people with lodging social housing applications. It has helped people make RentConnect applications, including accessing private rental products and reporting poor tenant behaviour.

I am also pleased to inform the House that, through the Palaszczuk government's Dignity First Fund, the government has been able to support a new community hub in that community centre, providing a one-stop shop for people seeking housing solutions, linking social, community and government services. These sorts of integrated services are all about to be at risk if the Turnbull government is preparing to take an axe to the national agreement on housing affordability. I call on those opposite to join with the Palaszczuk government and call on the federal Treasurer, Scott Morrison, to resist creating further instability by pursuing funding cuts for affordable housing and homelessness services in Australia.

Fraser Island, Dingoes

Mr SORENSEN: My question without notice is to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection. Can the minister provide an accurate tally of dingo breeding pairs left on Fraser Island following the strychnine poisoning around Orchid Beach last year and the euthanasia of dingoes by EHP staff this year?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for his question and for his interest in dingo conservation on Fraser Island. It is true that the dingo population has suffered—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Ms Trad: They want to kill them, not conserve them.

Dr MILES: Right. There have been a couple of recent euthanasia events. I am happy to get the member a recent survey of the dingo population. I can also provide an update at that stage of the investigation into the strychnine poisoning that the member mentioned.

Regional Queensland, Penalty Rates

Mr PEARCE: My question is to the Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the minister please advise the House how regional Queensland will be impacted by the recent decision of the Fair Work Commission to cut penalty rates?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Mirani for his question. Never a finer advocate for workers' rights has this House ever seen. The recent decision by the Fair Work Commission is a straight pay cut to the take-home pay of some of the lowest paid workers in Queensland. In particular, this will rip money out of regional Queensland economies. We are finding that up to \$150,000 workers are facing savage take-home pay cuts for working on Sundays and public holidays ranging from \$40 to \$127 a week—an annual pay cut of between \$2,000 and \$6,000.

All that Liberal governments are good for is cuts, cuts, cuts—cuts to jobs, cuts to funding in health and education, cuts to services, and now cuts to the lowest paid workers' take-home pay. They have an opportunity to redeem themselves because Labor has introduced a bill into the House reversing these penalty rate cuts. I was flabbergasted when Minister Michaelia Cash indicated that this would not flow on. How naive is that statement! Anyone who knows anything about industrial relations in this country knows that it is built on flow-on and precedence. Already we are seeing it in Queensland. The unions are bargaining and it is now hitting nurses. Already we are seeing companies coming forward proposing cutting nurses' Sunday penalty rates by 25 per cent. I table that for the record of the House.

Tabled paper: Flyer, undated, by the Queensland Nurses' Union document titled 'The slippery slope is happening' [500].

For a federal industrial relations minister to get up and say that there will be no flow-on and no precedence clearly demonstrates that she knows nothing about industrial relations—even less than the member for Kawana did. I urge the Malcolm Turnbull government to support Labor's bill to stop these penalty rate cuts to low-paid workers.

Mr DICKSON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would like clarification as to when the Premier will come back so I can be in the House to listen to the answer to—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! That is not a point of order. Resume your seat. That is the end of question time.

PRIVILEGE

Noncompliance with Standing Order 125 by a Minister



Hon. MC BAILEY (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (11.32 am): I rise in response to the member for Hinchinbrook's matter earlier. I have the matter now which I would like to table, and I apologise for the delay.

Tabled paper: Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to a paper petition (2707-17) presented by Mr Cripps, and an ePetition (2681-17) sponsored by Mr Cripps, from 1,002 and 98 petitioners respectively requesting the House to direct Ergon Energy to withdraw the requirement for the Tully Coastguard to pay to continue to co-locate its radio installation on top of Mount Mackay [501].

LIQUOR (RURAL HOTELS CONCESSION) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Mr KATTER (Mount Isa—KAP) (11.33 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Liquor Act 1992 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Liquor (Rural Hotels Concession) Amendment Bill [502].

Tabled paper: Liquor (Rural Hotels Concession) Amendment Bill, explanatory notes [503].

This bill relates to pub licence fees. The genesis of this bill was a letter to me from a pub in a small town in my electorate. About 50 people reside in that township and maybe 100 to 150 reside in the shire. The letter, which was written about three or four years ago, was handwritten and in scratchy writing said—

I made \$38,000 last year net profit including the manager's wage. I am paying 3½ grand or just above for my pub licence fees, which I understand is a flat rate that everyone else pays in Brisbane. The Normanby Hotel or the Regatta Hotel in Brisbane is paying the same fee that I am which is approximately 10 per cent of my annual net profit. My accountant has told me that there is no point keeping the place open for that level of profitability, but if you visit the pub in this town it is the only commercial building in the town.

There are always a few people in that pub. It would mean everything to the people in that town. It is a central place if there is a rodeo or if tourists are travelling through the town that is where you stop for directions. It provides the only internet service and the only accommodation in the town.

Without that pub, the town would collapse completely, along with the social fabric of the town. He is paying 3½ grand which is the same as what a pub in Brisbane pays. It never used to be the case. It used to be based on litreage or volumetric sales. It is something that has crept in and has been overlooked. This fee, as I understand it, is a cost recovery for the Office of Liquor and Gaming to recover the cost of their operations. The estimated administration cost to the Office of Liquor and Gaming is \$2,819. In 2016 the annual licence fee for a commercial hotel licence is \$3,507. I do not think there is going to be a massive shortfall for the government. We are looking at probably 110 licences across the state that would be affected.

What we have arrived at is that the best way to pull out these small pubs in these towns is to create a concessional fee for commercial hotel licences in very remote Australia. The area classified as 'very remote Australia' means the area under that name in the *Australian Statistical Geography Standard: Volume 5—Remoteness Structure, July 2011*. That is published on the ABS website. That was the most practical way to determine these pubs and I think it captures it best.

To get back to why we would do this, I think most western MPs here or anyone who visits those areas understands that a pub is the social hub of those areas. Without it, you do not have much at all. It operates a lot more like a community club. That is an interesting point to raise because clubs pay an annual fee of \$600 for the same type of activity. We are advocating a 90 per cent reduction for these small pubs, so that goes from about 3½ grand down to roughly \$350. We would come under some of these large commercial clubs that pay only \$600. I think that fits with the intent of what these fees are based on, because these pubs are as much a community club as they are a commercial enterprise. As I told the House before from that example in this small town, if someone is making only \$38,000 in net profit they are mostly doing that for love, not for the money.

I do not think that is unfair. If we look at the Regatta Hotel or other Brisbane hotels, they are a completely different commercial animal and they belong in larger captive markets. A completely different dynamic exists in those markets. There is zero competition in these areas. It is not like another one will pop up or be built. No-one will borrow money from the bank to start up a business that returns \$38,000 net profit a year. I can speak with some authority on this because I was a rural valuer for many years in North Queensland and I had the opportunity to value many of these pubs to see the viability and profitability of them. Usually you included the manager's wage because if you did not there was not much point to a lot of it.

I cast my mind back to a conversation I had with a publican in a small town in my electorate the other day. He is paying \$80,000 a year in insurance, about \$30,000 on electricity—and the electricity prices are a real killer—and \$7,000 for his water, and he said, 'Mate, I'm struggling.' Again, he had the only pub in that town. These people are under stress and we have put the notion of this bill to them and they are very excited by it. They have said that it would be pleasing if someone would help. We have been very lucky to have the QHA support this initiative. They also support rural bush pubs. It is great that they do not just look after their big guys; they have a lot of compassion and concern for the small pubs.

This is not an earth-shattering, all-encompassing bill, but it will make a difference and it will be appreciated. It will be a great signal from this parliament if we can save these small pubs and reduce their costs. If we can do anything like that, it will be very well received. The feedback has already been excellent. I ask members to engage with their local publicans in these remote areas. I am sure those publicans look forward to talking to members about this and getting some support for this initiative.

My final major point is that we want to market Queensland as a tourism destination because it is seen as a real strength in our economy. Part of that is outback tourism, but we simply do not have outback tourism if we do not have outback pubs. If mum and dad are planning to do a drive through the gulf or up through the western areas, they would go through McKinlay, Boulia or Einasleigh but what if there is no pub there? If those towns do not have a pub, there would not be much of a tourism package there. If we are going to sit here and do nothing and not try to help these people, eventually they will fail. If these people are making \$38,000 a year net profit, once they have finished there they are not going to keep going. That is not enough to keep these things going.

If this parliament can help these people in some way—and maybe this is just the start of something—then we would be doing a good thing, not just for the people in those areas but for tourism in Queensland. This would provide outback tourism. If people are driving through Einasleigh, they can

stop at the pub and get a cold soft drink and a cold beer, if it is in the evening, they can buy a counter meal and ask for directions, they can use the internet and they can ask for advice on what tourist destinations to explore. If those tourists meet a couple of the locals, that is the experience they want. These publicans provide a tourism service out there, and a lot of it is done by love.

This is quite a simple bill. We are just talking about 110 pubs in Queensland—it is not a big number. The cost to the government of delivering this would be just north of \$300,000. The initial feedback I have had from pubs in my area is that this would be fantastic. I was quite surprised by that, because I did not think \$3,500 down to \$350 would make that much difference but I can assure the House that it does. I challenge everyone to go out and engage with anyone they know who is in one of these small pubs in a remote area, and I am sure they would get the same response. On that basis, I seek the support of the House for this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Mr KATTER (Mount Isa—KAP) (11.43 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tour


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before we move to the next order of the day, I would like to welcome to the gallery students from Mudgeeraba State School in the electorate of Mudgeeraba.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 2 March (see p. 484), on motion of Mr Kelly—

That the House take note of Agriculture and Environment Committee report No. 29, tabled on 3 January 2017.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (11.44 am): I rise to speak on report No. 29 of the Agriculture and Environment Committee on the review of the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme, known as DRAS, which was tabled on 3 January this year. This was a review by the Agriculture and Environment Committee, of which I was formerly the chair, and administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. This report was conducted in accordance with the committee's public account responsibilities pursuant to section 94 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001.

This scheme has provided financial assistance to drought-affected farm businesses since 1969 and remains a key component of the Queensland government's package of assistance programs for drought-affected businesses, families and communities. The DRAS is an important scheme as it assists farmers to cope with the inevitable rises in the costs of carting water and fodder during drought and reduces the strain on families who are already struggling with reduced incomes on top of harsh and depressing conditions. The objective of the DRAS is animal welfare. Through DRAS, eligible claimants receive assistance with the costs of feeding and watering stock in drought-affected areas. The subsidies provided through DRAS are the only drought transactional subsidies that support the livestock component of farm activities.

In July 2015, the committee resolved to review and report on Queensland drought assistance measures administered by departments within the committee's areas of responsibility—the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and formerly the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. Its main purpose was to inform the House in relation to the design, delivery and opportunities for improvement of the scheme. For the review, the committee considered whether DRAS is well

designed to meet its objective and whether the scheme is meeting the needs of drought-affected communities, landholders and families. On the data available at the time, these drought programs received \$74.3 million in funding, which represented 79 per cent of the total Queensland government drought assistance provided during 2013-14 and 2014-15.

The Agriculture and Environment Committee's review of the DRAS included invitations to key stakeholders to make written submissions, it sought briefings from DAF and AgForce Queensland and it held public hearings in Cunnamulla, Tambo and Roma in November 2015 and in Brisbane in March and April 2016. The committee also sought further written advice from DAF on specific issues for the review. I want to thank the submitters, stakeholders and everyone who has contributed to the review for their support and assistance.

From the review, the committee has concluded that DRAS is well administered and responsive to claimants' requests for assistance. In fact, the number of claims processed by the department has been quite extraordinary. Despite concerns about whether transaction based subsidies may be the ideal vehicle for providing assistance, the DRAS is well appreciated by farm businesses and communities for sustaining key livestock in difficult times. The submissions and contributions from locals at the committee's forums highlighted the deep impacts of prolonged drought on producers and their families and praised the scheme for providing practical assistance and delivering value for money.

The committee also heard that, for farm businesses and families on drought-affected properties, DRAS provides a lifeline for ensuring the welfare of key livestock, such as breeders. Community leaders also told the committee that DRAS payments represent a relatively small but essential income stream for communities struggling through drought and during the years following drought when farm businesses are actively rebuilding.

To further enhance the DRAS, the review sought to identify opportunities for improving the scheme. Quite a few changes to the scheme were proposed. Most sought to broaden what the scheme can be used to fund. The committee has not supported changes to the scheme that are inconsistent with the primary focus of DRAS—which has always been, and remains, animal welfare. The first recommendation is that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, in consultation with AgForce, the Queensland Farmers' Federation and other stakeholder groups, develop an updated model for drought support to the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme that is consistent with the national drought policy, whilst also meeting a number of other good-practice policy objectives. This process must involve close consultation with rural stakeholder groups to ensure the assistance model developed will provide lasting benefits to rural and regional communities in drought prone areas.

In conclusion, the outcome of the evaluation of the DRAS is that it is a positive scheme supported by locals, community leaders, farm businesses and families. The committee endorses the government's decision to retain DRAS and other drought assistance programs until 2018.



Mr PERRETT (Gympie—LNP) (11.49 am): I rise to speak to the Agriculture and Environment Committee's report on the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme. Queensland farmers operate in a volatile business environment with the competing demands of the weather, the value of the dollar, trading relationships and the volatile international commodity markets. Their businesses negotiate all these variables while also dealing with the stresses of government policy, which is based solely on pandering to unproductive, affluent inner-city dwellers living in concrete jungles who demonise the work and practices of responsible farmers. Drought has always been a natural and constant theme for Queensland farmers. It places undue pressure on all sectors of rural and remote Queensland. The evolution of government assistance and relief for farmers means that the DRAS now represents only one means of providing support.

While the DRAS primarily focuses on animal welfare issues, it became clear to the committee that myriad other issues need to be addressed. I support the tone of the report and its most important recommendation that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries engage with AgForce, the QFF and other rural stakeholder groups to develop an updated drought assistance model which is consistent with the national drought policy. In addition to the DRAS, a number of additional issues were aired with the committee and unfortunately received little attention in this report. Consequently, the committee lost a golden opportunity to put these issues firmly on the agenda of ministers and departments on behalf of rural Queenslanders.

Two particular areas which need urgent attention are the lack of equitable educational opportunities for rural families and the impact that drought has on small businesses in affected areas. The Isolated Children's Parents' Association provided a variety of examples showcasing the plight of

families including rural landholders, wage earners who work on properties and small business owners in the towns. While families in the cities and larger towns may struggle to choose which school in their local area best matches their children's needs, in many drought-affected rural and remote areas there are no secondary schools at all. Families have to choose which of their children they can afford to send away to boarding school. In farm families it is not uncommon for wives and children to move to cities so they can access educational opportunities the children need but cannot access or afford back home. It is particularly hard for those who have special needs. The drain on family incomes during drought only exacerbates these difficulties. We need to do more to help rural families access good education opportunities for their children without having to split up and live apart. The ICPA said—

Whilst current drought subsidies ease the burden for graziers by way of assistance with livestock and primary production related subsidies, there is currently nothing available for all families living in these areas who are facing financially debilitating boarding school fees.

Its recommendation of an 'education subsidy package' for families in drought-declared areas warrants serious consideration.

Drought also affects local businesses and is not just confined to properties. There is less money to spend, local economies are typically flat and the small businesses that everyone depends on are hit. When these businesses close their doors the lifeblood of towns dies with them. The member for Gregory said—

The current drought in Western Queensland is driving small business into closure and even bankruptcy. This leaves two toxic legacies: the ongoing viability of many historic western towns is being drastically eroded and the population base for the delivery of government services such as education, health, safety and so on simply disappears.

The member for Warrego went further to propose the reinstatement of a small business debt assistance scheme in areas where drought has been severe and prolonged. I would like to commend both members for their submissions and participation in the committee's public community meetings.

Everywhere we turn people living in rural and remote Queensland are being placed under severe stress. There are some things that are out of our control. We should use every opportunity to correct and improve government policies which adversely impact business and families and intrude into their daily lives. We owe it to them to consider the submissions which were additional to the DRAS and look at the pervasive impact of drought on communities, on businesses, on workers and on families. We should design policies which are grounded in common sense and pragmatism and not a blind adherence to pedantry and ideological zealotry. I commend the report to the House.



Mrs GILBERT (Mackay—ALP) (11.53 am): I would like to thank my fellow committee members who worked on this report. It was a varying committee because there were lots of changes throughout the life of this review. I would also like to thank the parliamentary committee staff. They worked very hard on this report given the fact that there were so many changes and the amount of travel and organisation that it took to get this report together. I thank Rob Hansen and Paul Douglas.

The primary purpose of DRAS has always been, and remains, animal welfare. Eligible graziers receive assistance in meeting the costs of feeding and watering stock. As a committee we travelled to some of the drought-affected areas of the state including Cunnamulla, Tambo and Roma. We engaged in feedback sessions in each of these centres.

The communities were visibly wracked by drought and were doing it tough. The community members were forthright in their comments and expressed concern for all of their community. They were not just concerned about their properties and livestock; they expressed concern for the others living in their communities: the others who ran businesses who were not covered by DRAS. The people we meet must be commended for their community care and concern for everybody living within their communities. Many wanted to extend the scheme beyond its primary purpose of animal welfare, as the previous speaker alluded to.


The DRAS was established in 1969 and it is administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. It is Queensland's largest drought assistance program. Combined with the federal government funding, it totalled \$65.217 million over 2014-15 and 2015-16. Other drought assistance available includes land rent rebates and water licence waivers, electricity charge relief for water supply, transport concessions, the community assessment package, mental health programs, wild dogs and feral cat destruction initiatives and funding for additional rural financial counsellors.

The review of DRAS covered its design, whether the drought assistance is well designed and meeting the needs of drought-affected communities, landholders and families; its delivery, whether the measures are being administered effectively and efficiently by those departments and other entities to

meet their stated objectives while satisfying all legislative requirements and to provide value for money for the Queensland taxpayers; and also opportunities for improvements, whether the assistance measures can be enhanced to provide improved outcomes or efficiencies at no additional cost to the government.

The committee is satisfied that the delivery of DRAS is well managed by DAF and is responsive to claimants' requests for assistance. Because of the stressful time of drought with high levels of workload for farmers, AgForce expressed its concern that the six-month cut-off date after expenditure is incurred can conflict with the additional workloads on affected primary producers. They explain that obtaining statutory declarations from feed suppliers can be difficult, particularly when suppliers are faced with providing multiple declarations. The committee found that the rate of claims assistance rejected by the department is low. Half of the rejected claims were claims that were received after the specified six-month lodgement deadline from the date of transaction. We have noted that the minister, at their discretion, can intervene in matters regarding rejected claims. DAF reported that there were very few requests made through the minister to intervene. As a committee we recommended that the six-month window for lodgement remain.

Over the past 20 years the department has processed 57,494 claims for assistance and they have processed 95 per cent and 94 per cent of claims within 21 days of receipt. The committee heard from stakeholders requests for improvement to the scheme. The value of the transport subsidies has not changed in the last 27 years. As a committee we have recommended that this rate be looked at and considered for improvement. I commend the report.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (11.58 am): It gives me great pleasure to rise to talk on this issue. Of course we are now in Autumn. Failing a late cyclonic rain depression, it is clear that Western Queensland has had a fifth consecutive failure in the wet season. Cruelly, the failure comes after unseasonal winter rains that falsely promised to break the drought.

The drought grinds on. Winter rains do not grow pasture; all they do is tempt people to restock. People have to pay money for agistment. People have been walking their cattle on the long paddock for years. These are the same people who have not had an income for years. It is understandable that many are eager to come home. It is understandable that some have borrowed money to restock. The plight of the people in Western Queensland would move a stone to tears, and now we are all doing it again. I encourage people to continue donating to the Western Queensland Drought Appeal. I commend those people who have continued their donations for fodder, and I certainly plead with this government to continue extending drought assistance to all our rural producers.

The drought does not just affect primary producers; small businesses have been devastated, with no money circulating throughout local economies. That is what I focused on with regard to this committee report with DRAS, because the money stops at the farm gate and it does not go into town. Small businesses right throughout Western Queensland have been in drought for five years as well. They become the major employer in these towns. They are the ones who pick up the slack. When people on the land cannot afford to keep staff on, those people move into town. If they are lucky enough, they will pick up a job with the local mechanic or motorbike dealership. Of course they have plenty of cattle experience, and they had probably come from the stock and station game before going onto the property so they may be able to pick up a job at the stock and station agent doing something.


Mr Rickuss: Their businesses are normally down too, aren't they?

Mr MILLAR: Absolutely, and I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer: their businesses are down. My submission to the committee was about making sure that small businesses are included in future recommendations when it comes to extending DRAS. It is the input costs which are the real killers for these small businesses. It is the cost of electricity, registration and the continuing costs of running a business where the state government can play an active role in reducing the burden on these small businesses. We need to have a serious look at how we can make sure that small businesses in towns from Longreach to Barcaldine, Jericho, Alpha, Tambo and Blackall all the way down to Junda and Quilpie and all throughout Western Queensland to Winton are able to continue to employ people. These businesses are the economic lifeblood of these towns and they play a significant role in employing people.

As I said, the current drought in Western Queensland is driving small businesses into closure and even some into bankruptcy. This leaves two toxic legacies: the ongoing viability of many historic western towns is being drastically eroded; and the population base for the delivery of government services such as education, health, safety and so on simply disappears. When a family leaves a Western Queensland town it puts pressure on the school with regard to teacher numbers; it puts

pressure on local health services with regard to nurses, doctors and clinical practitioners; and it also puts pressure on government jobs in those towns as well. We have to keep the populations in those towns and we have to look at assisting small business to employ people in those towns.

We hopefully look to the Coral Sea to see a low coming across, but we have been promised those lows before this season and nothing has eventuated. Let us hope that this low does come across Queensland without any damage to the coastal parts of Queensland and puts a big rain event right throughout Western Queensland so that we can see our agricultural industry thrive in this state. We need them, and we need them to continue to boost the Queensland government's coffers because they pay their GST and they pay their taxes, and they deserve to be looked after.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (12.04 pm): I rise to speak on the Agriculture and Environment Committee report No. 29—*Review of the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme*. All of my electorate is drought declared. My constituents were hopeful that this would be a genuine review to address some of the long-term issues that are evident with the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme. Here was a great opportunity to genuinely improve the profitability of producers across Queensland. When agricultural industries are profitable they are more resilient and they are able to deal better with the future seasonal variations which will inevitably come. In some cases they have managed for generations.

I provided an extensive submission to the committee and I invited them out to my electorate. I thank the committee members for visiting Cunnamulla and Roma. The Cunnamulla district has been in severe and prolonged drought for several consecutive years, and it is very trying on those people in that district. I hoped the committee would take on board genuine solutions about how DRAS could be improved administratively and ensure that it was well targeted and effectively deals with drought-related animal welfare matters. I outlined a list of genuine solutions which constituents had put forward to the committee, and these were contained in my submission. I am very interested in what the report says about some of these genuine suggestions. The assistance for small business in drought-declared regions is noted in the opposition members' statement of reservations. I thank the member for Gympie for significantly highlighting this where he states—


I regret the committee did not consider this issue more thoroughly in our review report, and I call on the Palaszczuk Government to consider the Member for Warrego's proposal to support drought-affected small businesses.

Again we see another failure to address a genuine issue when given a solution that has a proven track record.

I now turn to Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate assistance for primary producers who agist breeding stock. This report is very disappointing for my constituents. Robert and Jenny Crichton met with the committee in Roma and made a submission specifically on this matter. Robert and Jenny have been to the minister, and I have a copy here of the response from the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Bill Byrne, who said that he was unable to support their suggestion. For the report to then encourage Robert and Jenny to write to the minister requesting a review is incredibly disappointing. Again, here we have a workable, genuine solution handed on a platter from landholders, who have much more experience with managing drought and animal welfare than the government, and they are again disappointed with the response, 'Write to the minister.' It is a brush-off. Writing to the minister was something they did months and months ago, hence they made a submission to the committee because they genuinely wanted to get a good outcome. They are disappointed—and rightly so—with this Labor government.

I turn now to the desilting of dams under the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate scheme. Under the current Queensland DRAS guidelines there is no permission for the desilting of dams. In January 2015 the New South Wales government announced an additional \$20 million under the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate scheme for the purpose of the removal of silt from dry dams as well as other emergency infrastructure works for drought-affected landholders who provide farm water when they are in a one-in-50-year drought. What a ludicrous situation we have along the border between Queensland and New South Wales: a farmer can desilt his dam in New South Wales, but he cannot do that in Queensland under the same scheme. This is another lost opportunity to help Queensland landholders during drought.

It is disappointing that the report did not make a recommendation for additional education assistance for those who are affected. Drought-affected landholders were hoping for a genuine review. This report does not deliver genuine outcomes for those drought-affected landholders. It puts it onto another review. How many more reviews do we need to have?

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (12.09 pm): I want to congratulate the Agriculture and Environment Committee, which has changed several times over the last couple of years. To finally have this report tabled and available for debate is very satisfying. Having been a member of this committee

at the inception of this review in July 2015, the inquiry into the drought assistance measures administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries was very exciting and fulfilling. I acknowledge the regional members, who consistently raised the concerns of many who are affected by drought and its devastating effects on Queensland.

Recommendation 1 is welcomed. We heard many times from those most affected that an updated model for drought assistance that reflects the National Drought Policy is needed. The department should be consulting with AgForce and the Queensland Farmers' Federation to develop this important reform. The many submissions and presentations to the committee clearly articulated the strong feelings and concerns that exist. Many issues, though serious, were not within the scope of the drought assistance scheme the way it currently exists. These issues do highlight that there is an opportunity to address the many areas that I feel need attention.

The payment of assistance under DRAS is linked to drought declarations. As we know, a drought declaration is official acknowledgement that an area is drought stricken. In recommending that a region be drought declared, local drought committees chaired by DAF consider rainfall and other factors. As we know, the focus of DRAS is animal welfare, and this needs to be expanded. A current example in my region is that problems associated with delays in making drought declarations effectively can be seen as abandoning farmers and irrigators. Our region is in crisis and we call for compassion. We thank the minister for finally heeding those calls.


As a result of drought declarations—especially when our region has had the lowest February rainfall in living memory—within declaration parameters we now have the opportunity to gain assistance in areas such as land rent rebates and water licence waivers; electricity charges relief for water supply; community assistance package; funding for additional rural financial counsellors and much more. As well as receiving the much needed declaration for much needed drought assistance, locally we are focusing on individual drought assistance. This is time consuming and frustrating for all concerned. These individual drought declarations are helping agricultural, horticultural and sugar enterprises.

The issues of DRAS were widely explored and the report canvassed many issues. The review was needed, considering it is now nearly 50 years since DRAS was conceived. I think it is important to state that DRAS is well managed by DAF within the frameworks provided, with a good participation rate. I know that all welcomed submitters' engagement and suggestions to improve DRAS. They include improving the scheme by increasing payment caps, reviewing the rates for transport subsidies, shifting emphasis to drought preparedness, making assistance conditional, extending eligibility to long-term agistment businesses, and expanding the role of local drought committees. Several further proposals involve expanding or modifying the scheme to provide much needed assistance and support for drought-affected rural communities, small businesses and local governments that is not related to animal welfare.

The issues of dam desilting works and educational expenses for remote regional families also need attention. I remember the submissions from the Isolated Children's Parents' Association highlighting the monetary disadvantage faced by many families in providing education for their children in times of drought. I believe that their calls for an education subsidy package for families in drought-declared areas through DRAS need further investigation. It is hard to support the position that desilting dams does not have a direct impact on animal welfare. The maintenance can only be carried out in drought, when dams are dry, and has a direct result on water management when the regions finally receive rain.

I also highlight the committee's response to the macropods issue. I attended several meetings in Western Queensland at which we heard about and witnessed the explosion in the numbers of kangaroos and wallabies. The effect on drought-affected areas is devastating, adding grazing pressures. While a lot of departmental advice on this issue was provided to the committee, the damage mitigation permits issue was the most frustrating for farmers as it is completely tied up in the Nature Conservation Act 1992. The issue needs to be simplified. I urge those involved to allow a self-assessment model. If anyone visited these areas they would find it difficult to understand why such a complicated permit renewal process exists. There is no threat to this protected species, particularly in drought, and we need to leverage the opportunities for kangaroo harvesting for meat for human consumption, for pet food and for skins as a method of managing the kangaroo numbers.

I acknowledge the important role of wild dog fences and cluster fences. This important infrastructure is essential in excluding wild dogs from areas and restricting movements. These fences also help manage kangaroo numbers and migration. I hope the committee's recommendations in appendix C are actioned. I again thank the committee for its results.

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (12.13 pm): I rise to speak to the report of the review of the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme, to which I made a statement of reservation. I thank the other members of the committee. I think government committee members gained some good insight and, by going out to the areas, learned a lot of things that are probably common knowledge for the members for Dalrymple, Gregory and Warrego. I think everything was done with the best of intentions, and I think everyone in the areas got a pretty good hearing. I commend everyone for their concern and for their application to those hearings.

I think there is a disconnect between the final report and the majority of submissions made. It really goes back to why drought assistance exists. There used to be exceptional circumstances supports in these areas, but DRAS has been a partial replacement of them. The stated objective of DRAS is 'to maintain as far as possible the livestock resource of a property during drought and assist in the return and restoration of that resource after drought'. I think if a drought scheme was brought into this House people would vote in support of it for many more reasons than that. There are many more aspects to drought assistance as there are many more drought related issues—social impacts, economic activity and a whole host of other motivations. I do not think livestock resourcing is the only driver, but it is politically saleable and panders to some interests in large voting areas of this state. That is why it is built in there. I do not disagree with it; I think it is good to look at sustaining through drought and maintaining proper land management practices. I think that is all well and good, but I think the reason we do it is far more broad.

I would like to see the assessment of economic support for rural activities take into consideration unique industry characteristics, including the accumulated knowledge within agricultural industries and the lack of alternative productive application of that knowledge. If there is a drought and we do not provide drought assistance, people go off the land. Rob Katter cannot just go and start cattle grazing. There is a lot of accumulated knowledge. We all think it is a fluid market whereby if replacement capital—an institutional buyer or a foreign investor—comes to drought ravaged areas it will be okay, but it just does not work. People who have worked that land know that you pull cattle off one part of the property at a particular time of the year because if you have good Mitchell grass in that paddock you do not want to stress it. They just know how to manage the land. If you do not have drought assistance, you will end up with foreign owners or institutional investors—they use employed labour; there might be 457 visa workers out there—who do not know the place and do not engage in the same land management practices. I think that important aspect should be taken into account.

Rural communities are dependent on a very small number of industries. Without drought assistance a lot of these small communities will either collapse or come to this parliament crying out for help—cash funding or some other way to stimulate them. I think a much more reasonable solution is to provide some drought assistance to keep producers stabilised so that they do not fall over and they can continue to provide all that economic activity.

I mention the flow-on social and economic impacts to small communities and the loss of agricultural industry and industry concentration. Again, there are very big social impacts. The dark side of the drought we had is very serious. We saw loss of life and loss of people's livelihoods. It is very dark. There are not too many alternative industries out in those towns. I think drought assistance plays a much broader role than just sustaining animal numbers.

The member for Burnett made excellent points with regard to macropod harvesting and education. A lot of issues were acknowledged by the committee in its report, but I think we can do more. The inquiry was carried out with the best intent and the subsequent chairs did a good job of trying to make this something workable. The members for Gregory and Warrego made strong, valid points in relation to dam desilting. The member for Dalrymple and I received many deputations on similar things. They were not included either, which is disappointing. There were still some—

(Time expired)

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

COAL WORKERS' PNEUMOCONIOSIS SELECT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mrs JR MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (12.19 pm): I move—

That the House take note of report No. 1 of the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee titled *Inquiry into the re-identification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis in Queensland—interim report*.


Coalminers are a tough breed. As a coalminer's daughter and granddaughter, I know this well. We stick together and, as we say, we do not bleed red; we bleed black. Unfortunately, that is so true of black lung disease. This inquiry has seen some of the toughest and bravest of coalminers reduced to tears and we as the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee, our staff and our Hansard reporters have cried with them. I wanted to place on record a post from Andrew Vickers, the national secretary of the CFMEU Mining and Energy Division, from the Miners at the Coal Face Facebook page. This has been fully endorsed by Steve Smyth of the Queensland division of the mining and energy part of the CFMEU. It states—

This is an excellent interim report. It is also clear that the more detailed report will incorporate recommendations aimed at providing redress to the failings identified. The 'Statement of Reservation' over the names of Committee members Kelly and Crawford is misguided and ill conceived however. While no one questions the sincerity of Minister Lynham, everybody knows Ministers do not draft legislation, that will be the responsibility of bureaucrats within the Minister's Department of Natural Resources and Mines. That is the same Department that the Committee itself has slammed for systemic failures that has led to 20 miners being afflicted with this insidious disease. That cannot be allowed to happen and Parliament must reject this notion and adopt the Committee's majority recommendation.

To date we have received almost 50 submissions, and counting. We have heard hundreds of hours of testimony and obtained more than 10,000 documents, all of which combine to paint an illuminating and often disturbing picture. None of this evidence has affected us more than those workers who have been affected by black lung.

There is one thing that I wanted to make clear in this parliament today: the fact about the families and the families' involvement of coalminers. This parliament needs to understand that I and many other people come from generations of coalmining families and we breed our own coalminers because it is in our blood—like the Vickers family whose father was a miner and with numerous relatives in coal, like Kim Smyth who spoke about her husband and her family and her sisters who are all married to coalminers, and there are many more examples like that. Being a coalminer is not just a job to us. It is not just like going to work; it is carrying on a generational heritage of what our families do. We cut coal. We look after each other and we rely on each other for our very lives, and that is what makes coalminers different to other people, to any other worker. I want that understood in this parliament. Our generational history is very important. It is our families. It is what we do. It is what we breed and what we will take on to future generations.

I turn now to talk about what has happened to some of our workers, our miners. Percy Verrall is in constant chest pain and struggles to walk. His wife, who is his carer who now looks after him, is now ill herself. Then there was the evidence that we heard from Chris Byron yesterday. He has caught pneumonia more than 50 times in the last 10 years and every day he fears that that could be his last day. Then there is Steve Mellor, who is victim No. 10, as he calls it. Do members know how he knew he had black lung? It was published in the local paper, the *Daily Mercury*, in Mackay. No-one had contacted him to tell him. It took four years for him to be informed that his 2012 chest X-ray showed signs of simple CWP. It is not on. We are not having it, and the industry is not having it either.

 **Hon. L SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (12.24 pm): It has been a great privilege to be a part of this committee and it has probably been one of the most harrowing but rewarding things that I have been involved in during my time in this parliament. I want to commend the chair for her passion and her conviction, as we saw yesterday and again today. I also want to commend all of the other members of the committee who have worked with great diligence and singularity of purpose on this and also commend our secretariat.

There is no disagreement between the members of that committee about what needs to be done. There is only a variance on how we seek to do that. This is not about politics and this is not about one political party because there is no evidence that any minister has failed with regard to this. In the case of the current minister, there is only evidence that he acted quickly, diligently, with concern and with integrity when it was brought to his attention. We have a system where, to try to understand what went wrong, it would be very easy to say it was a cover-up. There is also no evidence of a cover-up. It is incompetence. It is systemic failure and it is also denial that goes back over 30 years.

We have all laboured under the illusion—ministers included, the industry, workers and the public—that this disease had been eradicated in 1984. For some reason we competently moved from a situation where we could identify and deal with it in 1984 to the fact that no longer could we even identify and know it when it was before us, so the system attuned itself to the belief that black lung no longer existed. If it no longer existed, then no-one looked for it. Indeed, when on the rare occasion they actually looked for it and they saw it, they denied what they saw. That is the difficulty that we have in trying to come to any sort of circumstantial understanding about what has gone wrong with regard to this issue.

Many Queensland workers—indeed, possibly thousands of Queensland workers—have in some way suffered as a consequence of this, because the last time that there was a miners' population health study in 1984 there was a one per cent rate of suspected or confirmed CWP amongst our workers cohort. It appears today on the last X-rays we have that have been read that it is around about one per cent, so it has probably always been one per cent. Indeed, there were many opportunities to have addressed this much earlier, including in 2002 when there had been a review of the Health Surveillance Unit which did not do health surveillance! There were a number of recommendations—more than a dozen—which were made and only one was adopted. If those recommendations had been adopted in 2002, this would have been picked up much earlier—as would the case of a worker who was identified in a Queensland Health facility in 2004 but, because it was not a notifiable disease, no-one knew about it despite the fact that he was given workers compensation assistance in 2006 some 11 years ago. That has been the gross failure in what we have been dealing with.

The committee has also been obstructed in our investigations. We have had to find information through serendipity. Indeed, we actually found out what was going on in Queensland by going to the United States because things that were not volunteered to us here were told to us in the United States and we had to come back and ask the questions here. That is about a system which has failed and we need to do something about it. Therefore, I encourage those opposite who have reticence about the committee drafting legislation that there is good reason for this, because we now have a level of knowledge and oversight holistically that does not exist anywhere else. We are not saying that we are clinical experts even though we have been let down by clinicians, as have workers. We are saying that we understand how workers compensation and the issue of legislation and regulation in the departments need to be dealt with, including Natural Resources and also in Health.

We can assist this parliament, we can assist this minister to be able to finally address this issue, because we cannot take the risk that the culture that has allowed this to happen might come back and, despite the best efforts of this minister, it happens again. I am very confident that we will do something that would be transformational and positive for the future. I believe that this committee can be justifiably proud of its work, as should the parliament.



Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (12.29 pm): Black lung disease does not belong in the 21st century. As I have said many times, the government has not been idle; it has thrown the kitchen sink at this issue. We have made critical reforms to the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme, as recommended by an independent expert review, to protect the health of our miners. Let me detail them. Since July 2016, the chest X-rays of Queensland coalmine workers have been checked by a Queensland radiologist to the ILO standard—that is the International Labour Organisation standard—and then double-checked by a US based B reader. As of 17 March, almost 5,000 X-rays have been sent to the US. I ask members to remember that there are 5,228 underground miners in this state. By July, we will be phasing in a Queensland based system to read those chest X-rays twice. A tender is being called next month to source a Queensland based provider for radiologists to dual read X-rays to the ILO standard.


Since 1 January a number of changes have been enshrined in law. All underground coalmine workers must undergo a health assessment, which includes respiratory function testing and chest X-ray, when they enter the industry and every five years thereafter. All above-ground coalmine workers must undergo a chest X-ray and respiratory function test at least once every 10 years. Mining companies must provide dust monitoring data to the Mines Inspectorate every three months and the first set of results will be published online in June.

Black lung is now a notifiable disease, meaning that mining companies must report known cases to the Mines Inspectorate. Coalmine workers permanently retiring from the industry will now have the right to a full retirement health assessment, including a respiratory function and chest X-ray examination. A retired miner can have their X-ray checked through our dual reading scheme if they or their GP contacts my department. This will be a right as soon as I can bring legislation before the House and this is a priority.

Further reform to the scheme is imminent. By July, Queensland will have stringent guidelines in place that spell out what is required of people conducting spirometry tests—the lung capacity tests—that are a critical element of our screening regime. Next month I will have an agreed process for clinical diagnosis of CWP. This has been developed by medical experts, including US expert Dr Bob Cohen, and will give greater certainty to workers and their families. The department will have an electronic health records system in place by the end of this year. This will enable coalmine workers, current or retired, to access their own health records irrespective of where they live or work. It also means that

doctors will have better information and that contractors, working for multiple employers, no longer require multiple medicals or X-rays. A new health assessment form will be in place by midyear to ensure that we capture appropriate information for health surveillance.

I note the statement of reservation of two committee members acknowledging the reforms to date—reforms that flow, as I said, from an independent review into the medical and technical aspects, and I stress that, the medical and technical aspects, of the existing health scheme. However, it is clear that this committee's work has raised potentially very concerning issues in its examination of the adequacy of arrangements over a long period of time. I sincerely acknowledge and appreciate their work and note that these issues may warrant closer scrutiny so that we can learn valuable lessons from the past.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (12.33 pm): I have had the privilege of being a member of the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee and I endorse this report. As has been mentioned in this House today, in April 1984 the Queensland Coal Board published a report highlighting 75 suspected cases of CWP and no black lung disease was diagnosed for the following 33 years. This never struck a chord with anyone. Consecutive state governments never thought that it was strange that every other jurisdiction that had coalmines still had black lung, yet for some reason or another Queensland was exempt from black lung.

State governments tasked with protecting the health of Queensland miners neglected and ignored the very people whom they should have been caring for and supporting. There has been no regard for the medical records. As the committee has seen, they were stored in shipping containers and broom closets. Could members imagine the outcry of Queensland bureaucrats if their medical records were stored in shipping containers?

Today, the *Courier-Mail* says it the best when it reports—


... the catastrophic failure of every authority charged with keeping the state's miners safe from the preventable but deadly black lung disease.

This is shattering for the families of affected workers and embarrassing for the state government and its departments. The harrowing testimonies of victims of black lung and their families will stay with me and many others. The arrogance of mining executives and the complete incompetence of some of those departmental officials is astounding and virtually unheard of.

I fully support aspects of the motion that was moved yesterday, especially to extend the reporting dates and the terms of reference to include coal port workers, coal rail workers, coal-fired power station workers and other workers who have come into contact with coal dust.

I thank the chair of the committee, the member for Bundamba; the deputy chair, the member for Southern Downs; the research director, Jacqui Dewar; counsel assisting; and my fellow committee members, including the member for Mirani, who knows firsthand what it is like to get your hands dirty through real work in the coalmines, for their hard work. I also acknowledge the CFMEU for its passion and dedication and for never giving up on this issue.

Queensland coal workers deserve better than what they have received. Queenslanders deserve to be safe at work. It is time we stood up for them. I commend this report to the House.

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (12.36 pm): One fact that came out of the investigation by the committee into coal workers' pneumoconiosis was that in 1984 there were 75 cases of black lung in Queensland yet in the very next year—1985—there were none. Each year after through until 2014 there were no cases reported. Nothing in 1984 or 1985 changed. Black lung just went away—as everybody thought: the industry thought, the insurers thought, the health departments thought, the governments thought. There seems to be one person in the world who did not follow that thought and he was Bob Cohen from the US, who has certainly given us quite compelling evidence that black lung never went away; that it was here all along.

As a committee, on the very first day of hearings it was very disturbing for us to hear the departmental officials say that, up until 2015, there had not been any cases. Yet within minutes we had WorkCover tell us that it approved a case in 2006, but it seemed as though no-one told anybody about it. We had departments that were not communicating with each other. We found that out on the very first day of hearings. The member for Southern Downs summarised the situation very well by calling it a train wreck. I totally agree with him.

From that moment forward, the committee found itself going down a series of rabbit burrows. Each time the committee went down one, it seemed to find more systemic problems across large parts of the industry. The more we went down the rabbit burrows, the more we found areas that we needed

to examine. Certainly, the mining industry believed that black lung had gone. However, we noticed that most of the mines were very quick to adapt their procedures and put in place measures to try to reduce their dust emissions and also to try to get their staff appropriately screened. Obviously, the industry was quite alarmed about it and started to make changes. Certainly, we have seen some changes with some of the government departments.

We have had 30 years of a bungled mess that goes across the entire industry in Queensland. An issue that still has to be addressed in this industry is in relation to the X-rays. There are still departments and people out there who honestly believe that anybody can take a chest X-ray and as long as you are qualified to read a chest X-ray you can clear a miner of having pneumoconiosis. We know that to be completely untrue, but there are still some very senior people out there who somehow still believe that anyone who can read an X-ray can clear a miner of having pneumoconiosis.

Another issue is that miners do not know who to trust. They do not know whether they can trust their own doctors or the NMAs from their coalmines. They do not know who to go to. We found that there seems to be two people in the world they trust, and that is Bob Cohen and Bob Edwards, both physicians. We have here a very large systemic issue. It is across a range of departments. It is through WorkCover and the insurance industries, it is through the health industry and it is certainly in the department of mines. We have a Health Surveillance Unit, as the member for Southern Downs said, that was basically a records processing unit. There are more rabbit burrows that we need to go down, in particular with the ports, loading facilities and maritime staff who are working in those facilities and even, possibly, the coal-fired power stations.

I trust our current minister to draft legislation in respect to this. I believe that he has the capacity. I do not believe that the issues that we are talking about here are a problem of this government. This has been something that has been going on for 30 years. I have full confidence in Minister Lynham to draft legislation. I leave it up to the House as to how it wishes to proceed on that matter.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

COAL WORKERS' PNEUMOCONIOSIS SELECT COMMITTEE

Reporting Date, Terms of Reference



Mrs JR MILLER (Bundamba—ALP) (12.42 pm) by leave, without notice: I move—

1. The report date for the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis (CWP) Select Committee on its terms of reference approved by the House on 15 September 2016 be extended from 12 April 2017 to 29 May 2017.
2. That the terms of reference for the CWP Select Committee be extended ("first extended terms of reference") to include inquiry and report on:
 - (a) occupational respirable dust exposure for:
 - (i) coal port workers;
 - (ii) coal rail workers;
 - (iii) coal-fired power station workers; and
 - (iv) other workers;
 - (b) the legislative and other regulatory arrangements of government and industry which have existed in Queensland to prevent or reduce the harm caused by occupational respirable dust exposure to port, rail, power station, and other workers;
 - (c) whether these arrangements were adequate, and have been adequately and effectively maintained over time;
 - (d) the roles of government departments and agencies, industry, health professionals and unions in these arrangements;
 - (e) the efficacy and efficiency of adopting methodologies and processes for respirable dust measurement and mitigation, including monitoring regimes, engineering measures, personal protective equipment, statutory requirements, and industry policies and practices, including practices in jurisdictions with similar industries; and
 - (f) other matters the committee determines are relevant to occupational respirable coal or silica dust exposure.
3. The committee is to report to the Legislative Assembly on the first extended terms of reference by 29 September 2017.
4. That the terms of reference for the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis (CWP) Select Committee be extended ("second extended terms of reference") to monitor and review the implementation of recommendations made by the CWP in its reports on:
 - (a) the terms of reference approved by the House on 15 September 2016; and
 - (b) the first extended terms of reference;
 including the development of a draft bill for the consideration of the Assembly.


5. That the committee is to continue in existence on its second extended terms of reference until the Legislative Assembly is dissolved or the Legislative Assembly otherwise orders, despite reports by the committee.
6. The committee have power to call for persons, documents and other items on the original and extended terms of reference.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Electricity, Further Answer to Question

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (12.46 pm): During question time the member for Buderim asked the Premier a question about our generators and wholesale electricity prices. As the minister responsible, I rise to answer that question on behalf of the Premier. The wholesale energy market is managed federally by the Australian Energy Market Operator, AEMO as it is well known, and the Australian Energy Regulator. High price events and any concerns with generator behaviour are routinely investigated by the Australian Energy Regulator. For example, from mid January to mid February 2017 Queensland experienced heatwaves and a very high energy demand—two records, in fact. This resulted in high prices in the spot market. The Australian Energy Regulator investigated those events and released reports about spot market prices on 13 and 14 January.


Those Australian Energy Regulator reports confirmed that it was a combination of high electricity demand as well as heat related network and generation constraints that resulted in the wholesale price spikes. These heatwaves highlight that climate change is indeed biting. The LNP, the party that the member for Buderim represented until recently, would have us believe renewables are always the problem rather than part of the solution. They refused to support the renewable energy boom that the Palaszczuk government has started in Queensland and the regional jobs that come with it. In the last year we have seen the commitment of over 1,000 megawatts—that is a gigawatt—of new large-scale renewable energy projects primarily located in regional Queensland delivering around 2,000 direct jobs and more than \$2 billion worth of investment for our state. The LNP also refused to rule out asset sales and we are yet to hear if One Nation will indeed support the LNP's decision to sell off our power stations and our power assets.


LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 22 March (see p. 753), on motion of Dr Lynham—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (12.48 pm), continuing: Rural and regional Queensland would love a return to the days when rural reforms were made to boost our economy and inject some certainty and confidence into land tenure. Under the leadership of the member for Hinchinbrook, the former minister for natural resources and mines, and also the former deputy premier and member for Callide we had major reforms to Queensland's leasehold land system to provide greater security of tenure for leaseholders to help drive growth in agriculture and tourism. The member for Hinchinbrook and the member for Callide introduced the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 into the Queensland parliament. It slashed red tape, it reduced costs, it modernised tenure administration for leases and it boosted rural and tourism leases across this state. The LNP government was focused on growing agriculture, tourism and the Queensland economy.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (12.49 pm): I was nearly going to move an extension of time for the member for Gregory, because he was absolutely on a roll. I rise to contribute to the debate on the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill contains a number of technical amendments that focus on improving the administration of the Land Act and the Land Title Act by implementing a number of miscellaneous amendments. I thank the Agriculture and Environment Committee members for their consideration of the bill, especially the member for Gregory and the member for Condamine who appreciate how important the land tenure system is to rural and regional communities, jobs and agricultural profitability across Queensland.

In the explanatory notes for this bill, one of the first things I observed was that its amendments were consulted upon with the Stock Route Network Management Bill 2016. The explanatory notes for the stock route bill state that the consultation on the bill was undertaken widely across government and with key stakeholders. As the deputy chair of the committee that examined the stock route bill, I am aware of the consultation on that bill. It is not exactly clear what new or if any consultation was done on the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. That was further evidenced by the opposition members' statement of reservations on the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. In the statement of reservations, the member for Condamine advised—

Agforce, the peak body representing the State's agricultural interests noted in their submission that they only became aware of the Bill through the committee's alert once the Bill have been introduced and referred for consideration. It beggars belief that departments would not think it necessary to consult with peak industry bodies like Agforce.

Mr Rickuss: A half-truth.

Ms LEAHY: I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. Exactly: it is a half-truth, if not really a truth at all. The committee had to seek extra briefings from the department after eleventh-hour meetings with departmental officers and stakeholders to work out the amendments to fix the bill's significant shortcomings. There has been no shortage of amendments circulated in the House today and that is an indication of a lack of rigour and a lack of early and meaningful consultation. There is something wrong here. Perhaps a clear explanation of what the department did or did not do when it comes to consultation on this bill would be appropriate, because I get the feeling that the department may well be leading the minister up the garden path.

Further, the Local Government Association of Queensland is unhappy with this bill. The committee report states—

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) has stated in its submission that it believes that several of the proposed amendments will weaken the relationships between the State and local governments.

The committee report contains comments from the LGAQ that these amendments came out of left field, yet we have not seen any systemic issue to justify the seemingly heavy-handed regulatory response. The LGAQ has suggested that the current text of clause 24 be replaced by a provision inserting a requirement for a compulsory notice period to a resignation taking effect. The LGAQ told a committee hearing—

I do acknowledge that the department has recently had discussions with the LGAQ regarding the matters outlined in the LGAQ's submission ... Based on these discussions I do understand the intention of the amendments was to create a suitable transitional provision for resignations to occur; however, if this is the case I believe a sledgehammer has been used to crack a nut and I would encourage further options to be explored such as using provisions to provide for a notice of surrender period.

Organisations such as the LGAQ do not often make presentations to committees using language such as 'a sledgehammer has been used to crack a nut'. That is very unusual. Obviously they are extremely concerned. Those comments give an indication that the rationale behind this legislation has not been rigorous or widely consulted with the stakeholders who live and work in this space on a daily basis.

The bill amends the Land Act to clarify the rolling term lease provisions provided for by the former LNP government's rural reform initiatives. Something that many people in this House and across Queensland are probably unaware of is that approximately 60 per cent of the land mass in Queensland is leasehold land. Security of tenure underpins so much in today's communities and it should be held sacrosanct. One cannot have access to land without security of tenure. They cannot borrow funds and their credit risk increases without security of tenure. So much of legal and financial systems are underpinned by the security of tenure system in Queensland.

I wish to acknowledge the great work done by the former minister for natural resources and mines, the member for Hinchinbrook, and the tireless work that he did as minister to address the longstanding issues in the Queensland state land tenure system. The member for Hinchinbrook addressed issues that the Labor Party could not, would not and did not address for some 20 years. In the previous term of government, he knuckled down and did the heavy lifting for landholders in relation to tenure reforms. He implemented a landmark bill, providing greater security of tenure and certainty for leasehold landholders.

The LNP addressed a number of issues in the tenure system that drove investment for agriculture and tourism industries and, in turn, encouraged job creation right across Queensland, including in my electorate of Warrego. The centrepiece of the member for Hinchinbrook's long-awaited reforms were new rolling term lease extensions. That means that an eligible lease can be rolled over by extending the lease, generally by a term equal to the original term of the individual lease. For example, a lease that was originally issued for 30 years but has over decades had extensions will have its term extended

by the original term of 30 years, which is the maximum period a lease can be extended without affecting native title rights and interests. A lessee will be able to apply for an extension of time in the last 20 years of the term of the lease or at an earlier time if the minister is satisfied that special circumstances exist. Existing requirements for rural lessees to enter into land management agreements in order to renew a lease were also removed at that time.

The new provision for rolling leases contained increase certainty of tenure and a much swifter process than the complicated and bureaucratic lease renewal processes that had pages and pages of paperwork attached to them. They were imposed on leaseholders by previous Labor governments. Queensland lessees are generally good managers of the land. They do not need government regulation to manage the land responsibly. In fact, when you move around the areas of Queensland where there is leasehold land and lots of freehold land, often you find that the leaseholders are much better managers of that land than governments are. The amendments in this bill clarify that an extension application may be made once during each term of the lease: once during the original term of the rolling term lease and once during the term of each extension. No application to extend the rolling term lease may be made until the lease is within the last 20 years of its term.

I urge the government to adopt committee recommendation No. 4, which is a particularly sensible recommendation, that section 164C(5) of the Land Act 1994 be amended to permit holders of a rolling term lease to make one application for the extension at any point during the term of the lease. I am pleased that the government has put forward an amendment to take on board that committee recommendation, because currently in my electorate there are leaseholders who want to exercise that opportunity to renew their leases. I can think of one constituent who, at the moment, is trying to sell his lease but is finding that very difficult because it is towards the end of the lease. He needs to do the paperwork to gain an extension to make his property far more attractive to prospective purchasers. It is particularly important.

It is also important that leaseholders have certainty around the legislative framework. Often we find that it takes some time for these sorts of amendments to filter through into the regions, where a lot of leasehold land applications are processed. In his address to the House yesterday, the member for Hinchinbrook talked about how a lot of the reforms have been taken up across Queensland. It is an absolute credit to the member for Hinchinbrook as those reforms were necessary and are extremely attractive to people. We have to understand that a lot of people across Queensland are still in drought conditions. They have to raise cash.


(Time expired)

Debate, on motion of Ms Leahy, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.30 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Charters Towers, Dialysis Services

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (2.30 pm): Yesterday I tabled a combined petition on behalf of the residents of the Charters Towers district—a nonconforming petition with 1,332 signatures and a conforming petition with 646 signatures. The petitions read that the residents of the Charters Towers district draw to the attention of the House that the lack of a dialysis machine in Charters Towers forces patients needing dialysis to access this service in Townsville, 130 kilometres away.

Patients needing dialysis are very unwell and mostly elderly. The round trip by road takes about three hours. For patients who use walkers or need access to toilets, bus travel is unsuitable. Elderly patients who are unable to travel by bus have to find somebody to drive them to and from Townsville, sometimes necessitating a relative taking time off work to do so. Patients return exhausted. They may have to do that trip up to three times each week. The petition therefore requests the House to take immediate action to provide appropriate dialysis treatment in the public health system in Charters Towers, enabling all patients with dialysis needs to access this service without travelling gruelling distances.


We have been fighting for dialysis services in Charters Towers for a long time—for years. Sadly, some patients needing dialysis have since passed away or moved on. It is heartbreaking to think of the extra pain and anxiety they would endure travelling to and from Townsville so often. We are failing to take appropriate care of sick people in our community. We are getting caught up in the nitty-gritty details while people continue to suffer. We need appropriate services that meet the needs of patients in Charters Towers requiring dialysis.

Pauline Hedges is an 84-year-old from Pentland who is surviving on only one kidney. She has been told to travel the 500 kilometre round trip to Townsville from her home once a week. It is a crying shame that an unwell 84-year-old is taking it upon herself to fight for a dialysis machine by starting this petition.

Charters Towers resident Pam Jenkin has been travelling to and from Townsville three days a week for three years to receive dialysis treatment while she is waiting for a kidney transplant. She travels by bus and is so exhausted and in such a bad state when she comes home that it is heartbreaking for her family. She said that the travel was too much or impossible for some patients and they would rather die than put themselves through this.

We all know rural communities are disadvantaged, but this is unacceptable. Smaller places have access to these services. We call on this House to take immediate action to provide this vital dialysis treatment at the public health service in Charters Towers.

Mount Lindesay Highway; Beaudesert Electorate, Police Resources

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (2.33 pm): The Mount Lindesay Highway is the major road into the Beaudesert electorate. In government the LNP delivered many improvements—upgrades to the intersections at Millstream Road, Wearing Road and St Aldwyn Road and \$19 million worth of work on improving the road between Beaudesert and Jimboomba. I am proud of what we achieved in a very short time in office. Unfortunately, our time in government was cut short and with it the opportunity to implement longer term plans.


Strong growth continues in Beaudesert and Jimboomba, and the intermodal freight facility at Bromelton is operational now—all placing an increased number of vehicles on the highway. Mount Lindesay Highway needs a plan to improve it all the way from Park Ridge to Beaudesert. Past Labor governments simply approved more and more houses at Yarrabilba and Flagstone—state development areas that are now the major cause of congestion. Let us put that to the side for now because what we need is support at all levels of government to improve the Mount Lindesay Highway, especially now that Bromelton's freight facility is up and going and we are looking forward to when the Melbourne-Brisbane inland rail line will pass through Bromelton and its freight facility.

I again call on the government to put in place a plan to improve the Mount Lindesay Highway, backed by funding and a pipeline of projects along the road that can be delivered on a staged basis. The government and Logan City Council should tread lightly when it comes to having more dense residential development in the area. The road infrastructure is not there at the moment. Even if funding was approved for well-advanced plans today, the road infrastructure will take time to build. In particular, developments like that proposed on Cusack Lane at Jimboomba—where it is suggested higher density blocks will go alongside rural residential blocks, against the wishes of many in Jimboomba—simply add to this problem of the Mount Lindesay Highway.

We all have a role to play in this. I know our local mayors are fighting for funding in Canberra. Good on them for doing that. I am fighting for a better deal for the Mount Lindesay Highway here. Scotty Buchholz is fighting in Canberra for a better deal for the Mount Lindesay Highway. Scotty Buchholz is the member for Wright. In fact, he has already delivered \$10 million as an election commitment for the Mount Lindesay Highway. It is not a federal road, it is a state road, but we recognise the importance of it. He has committed \$10 million to improve the highway through that region. I look forward to seeing plans from the Queensland government to improve this highway.

In my remaining time, I want to make a quick point about the police resources in the Beaudesert electorate and an ongoing issue at Canungra and Tamborine Mountain. Both of these stations have eight officers, but there are only two police cars permanently based there. This is simply not good enough. The Logan police district has had a third police vehicle on loan to these two stations that they have to share. I call on the police minister and the Police Service to make that allocation permanent. Ideally, we need another vehicle as well. Having three vehicles for 16 officers in the area that the Canungra and Tamborine Mountain police stations cover is simply not good enough today. We need an improvement in resources.

Murrumba Electorate, Schools

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (2.36 pm): I rise to inform the House of the \$5 million new multipurpose hall at Bounty Boulevard State School, now funded as part of our \$200 million Advancing Queensland Schools package. After the announcement by the Premier and the Minister for Education I shared the good news with the school community. As members would understand, they were very happy indeed.

I have been campaigning with the Bounty Boulevard State School leadership team and the community for this hall ever since I was elected two years ago. Now they will have a fit-for-purpose venue to host assemblies, events and indoor sports. I congratulate the school leadership team of Bounty Boulevard State School, the P&C and the broader school community for those efforts in working with us to secure this funding. I also pay tribute to the advocacy of the Minister for Education, Kate Jones.

This is just one of the great education projects that the Palaszczuk government is delivering in our area. Some \$32 million of funding has been allocated for new and refurbished classrooms at schools in Deception Bay, North Lakes, Rothwell and Mango Hill. Some of the highlights of this \$32 million we have allocated includes the new \$15 million multistorey classroom block at North Lakes State College which is on the way. Mango Hill State School has finished a \$4.1 million classroom building for the opening of this year and straightaway had to start work on a \$7 million one. This will soon, we think, be the largest primary school in Queensland.

We also allocated \$3.8 million for the construction of additional classrooms at Bounty Boulevard State School. There is \$500 million for the refurbishment of Deception Bay schools. The Lakes College has received \$930,000 to assist with the construction of a new block. Some \$190,000 went to the great school St Benedict's.

Alongside this investment in our existing schools there has been a new school opened up—Griffin State School, which is a marvellous school. I am so pleased that we have achieved all of this because making sure that our kids get the best education possible is one of my highest priorities. Making sure all schools get the facilities they need to deliver that high-quality education reflects my values of an equitable education for all.

These projects also reflect the values that are displayed by this government. We see those values in what the Minister for Education said today. She said every child deserves the best possible education. Once again, we see those values in the scale of what we have delivered to education as a government. We have delivered more than \$1.3 billion in capital to build new schools, stages of schools and new classrooms as well. We will also deliver 875 extra teachers. These values I can say are also shared by people such as Dr Claus Jorgenson, associate professor at Aarhus University in Denmark, who is visiting us today. He is another great educator who believes in the values of education which are at the core of this government.

(Time expired)

Bundall Road, Night Works



Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.39 pm): I rise to speak about the Bundall Road night works in the electorate of Surfers Paradise and the impact that they are having on my constituents who reside in Boomerang Crescent, La Spezia Court, Binda Place, Rapallo Avenue and Salerno Street. With just over a year to go until the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, works are ramping up for much needed road infrastructure in our city. That includes six-laning Bundall and Ferry roads and three bridge widenings along the route. However, whilst locals understand that they might be somewhat inconvenienced as these works progress, we must not forget that residents living around the area where these night works take place must also be able to enjoy their amenity.

Unfortunately, the night works at Bundall Road have left residents who live around the Sorrento Shopping Centre sleepless for weeks. I must say that in my 13 years in parliament I have not come across a more distressing situation for a group of constituents. I stand here today to share a resident's story. Last month I met with Sue, who built her house in Boomerang Crescent nine years ago. She said—

Christmas before last I was diagnosed with CML—Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia. There is no cure, only control. There are many side effects from the drugs and they differ markedly from one person to the next, but the most common and debilitating thing is the abject appalling fatigue. And this is true for me.

The combination of the drugs and the disease leave me needing a good 12 hours sleep at night and a nanna nap after lunch.

When I have not slept I am nauseous and migraine lights flicker even if my eyes are closed. At the start of January, a letter was slipped into the letterbox, warning of NIGHTWORKS for the next 2 weeks. And we figured we could cope with 2 weeks of it, but then towards the end of the fortnight, another letter was popped into the letterbox, warning of another 2 weeks of noise. The noise from the road works on Bundall Road, whether it is in the Boomerang corner or La Spezia or Binda Place or sometimes even Salerno Street is just impossible to sleep through. It is not a constant hum which perhaps your mind could shut out, it is the incessant slurping of the Vac truck at an appalling volume and teeth gnashing pitch, and the sudden slapping of the Backhoe bucket on the bitumen or the screech of the Vibrating roller thing, that is the last to leave the site more often than not after 5am. This is not 'sleepable' noise.


So on occasion when energy has permitted and I am flung out of bed by some terrible din, I have wandered to the site, not to be greeted with an apology or a 'sorry ma'am', no instead I am greeted with outright hostility and hatred. They call the police. Of course if sleep was possible, I would not be awake and standing on the footpath at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning. If the noise was not so appalling, I would be asleep, allowing my body to do its best to control this insidious disease.

And if the complaints process was transparent and honest and rational and reasonable, then I would not be spending my DAYS stressing about the fact that I am not sleeping at night. TMR employees essentially told me to suck it up for ANOTHER 8 MONTHS. The 2 weeks of 24 hour a day screeching noise was the tipping point. If a truck goes by, my heart just breaks and I get up and look to see what is going on. We await the nights with dread.

I support the road improvements in my electorate and the efforts of the department, but a balance must be struck so that local residents can sleep and enjoy their amenity.

(Time expired)

Kirwan State High School

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.42 pm): I rise today to share the great news that the 2,300 students, staff, P&C and the broader Kirwan State High School community have been waiting to hear for the last 20 months since I stood in this House on 20 May 2015 and during my maiden speech spoke of the challenging situation of ensuring that the state's second largest high school—second only to Brisbane State High—got its hall that it has been asking for over the years. Yesterday I proudly joined the Minister for Education, Kate Jones, to finally announce that Kirwan State High School will get its multipurpose school hall that its current and past students have all thoroughly deserved, with \$6 million in funding.

To put this into context, I met with former executive principal, Mr John Livingstone, who served for 28 years at Kirwan State High School. I met him in the oncology ward of the Townsville Hospital in late 2014 as a then candidate whilst visiting one of our veteran ambulance officers who was also fighting cancer. Sadly, they have both passed away. I wish John could have seen what we have been able to achieve. I will not forget the words John said to me on one of those occasions. He said, 'Mate, if you get in, look after my school and build them a hall.'

In early 2015 I took a photo of those 2,300 students seated on the grass during an Anzac Day ceremony. I table that image now because this was simply never good enough for one of our state's major North Queensland schools that many a champion has emerged from, such as Sam Thaiday and Jason Taumalolo.

Tabled paper: Photograph, undated, depicting a school in Townsville [504].

I came up with a plan to work with the school community. I would like to pay special mention to Mr Des Morris, the Kirwan State High School P&C President, for his P&C's drive to help deliver this much needed hall. We started joint petitions. I tabled the Kirwan State High School 510 signatures in parliament on Monday, and today I table my 565 signatures in a nonconforming petition.


Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding funding for the Kirwan State High School Hall [505].

Together that means that we got over 1,000 locals to help support us and deliver this much needed hall. The education minister knows that I have been like a dog with a bone on this issue with multiple representations to the minister. This is a major asset for Kirwan State High School and I know the broader community of Thuringowa will also benefit from this major asset. It will also help create much needed local jobs.

No more will we see Kirwan State High School shell out thousands of dollars to hire private school halls for its annual graduations. Kirwan State High School can now have its very own hall. I must thank the 1,000 locals who supported us by signing our petitions. We could not have done it without them! I look forward to joining this year's students, staff and local families for their annual graduation ceremony in their very own hall, if we can get it built in time. I really cannot tell members what this means to Kirwan State High School. It is enormous news and I have given 110 per cent to help deliver it.

(Time expired)

Burleigh Heads State School

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.45 pm): On the weekend one of the stalwarts of Burleigh, the Burleigh Heads State School, celebrated its 100th anniversary—a state school that has been in existence for 100 years in a little place like Burleigh. It started as a very small school, I understand, in 1917 with 11 students. In the 100 years it has been in existence it has moved around Burleigh. It has moved from, I understand, out near the Stockland shopping centre, which is where it started, to its present location near the beach and the highway at Burleigh.

Over the years a number of wonderful students have attended the school. One of those is our very own member for Surfers Paradise, John-Paul Langbroek, and his sister, Kate. There must be something funny about Burleigh Heads State School because not only did Kate go there but Carl Barron went there as well. I have noticed that all of the students there have a wonderful smile on their face. They are all very happy, so I think there must be something in the water down there or at the school.


Over the weekend there were a couple of really great events held there. On Saturday night they had 200 people in the local school hall for a past students night. They served 200 people a smorgasbord meal. It was fantastic. We heard from some of the past students who had been there in the 1930s and 1940s. They told us what used to happen in school—things like bottled milk being provided to the students. I am sure there are a few members here—probably not too many—who will remember the occasion of getting flavoured milk at school. It was one of those stalwarts that we all really loved.

The present principal is Peter Tong. He has been there for nine years. I would particularly like to single out the deputy principal, Carol Brown. Carol has been there for over 40 years. She is known by everybody in the school. It was amazing on Saturday night to see all these people coming up to her and saying, 'Miss Brown, you were my teacher years and years ago.'

On Sunday they had their school fair. Unfortunately, Mr Deputy Speaker, if you were watching the weather radar on Sunday, you would have seen that it was a pretty miserable day. I think we had two inches of rain as we set up tents in the morning. I had an information booth there and talked to dozens and dozens of people. Unfortunately, I think I had an inch of water flushing through my tent at one stage, and I have completely lost a pair of shoes. It was a wonderful weekend. I thoroughly enjoyed it. The people of Burleigh Heads State School should be congratulated on the event they put on.

(Time expired)

Northern Gold Coast


 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.49 pm): It does not matter which way you look at it, the northern Gold Coast is experiencing massive growth. Since I came into office eight years and two days ago, the population has grown exponentially. If we look at the number for voters, for example, adding together the three electorates of Albert, Coomera and Gaven, back in 2009, there were under 88,000 voters.

Currently, as at 27 February, the latest figures according to the ECQ website were more than 122,000 voters—almost 35,000 additional voters on the northern Gold Coast. That has been confirmed by the number of new schools in a 10-kilometre stretch of the M1. Between 2009 and 2015 we saw seven new schools in that six-year period. Some of those schools are already overpopulated. They are bursting at the seams. We have two new schools coming online—a private and a public school—in the next couple of years so by 2019 we will see nine new schools in 10 years. Twenty-eight per cent of our population is under 15 years of age. Compare that with the rest of the Gold Coast at 18 per cent under 15 years of age. We have a real need for a whole bunch of infrastructure—things like sports parks and other types of entertainment for young people. We have the Coomera Town Centre now being built, having recently opened exit 54.

One of the things that we are lacking—and it does not matter which way you look at it or which statistics you look at—is police numbers on a per head population basis. For example, I have looked at the northern Gold Coast versus further down into the Gold Coast. In the northern Gold Coast there is one police officer for every 2,400 residents. When you go down further into the Gold Coast, into the Surfers Paradise area, there is one police officer for every 320 residents.

If we go further afield to the southern region of Ipswich, there is one police officer for every 612 people versus one police officer for 2,400 in the northern Gold Coast. We have seen some infrastructure coming into place with seven new schools in six years and more schools to come, but one thing we have not seen is a massive growth in the number of police. We need an additional 50 police officers in the northern Gold Coast to take care of that massive population growth. We need two new police stations in the northern Gold Coast between Beenleigh and Coomera.

Mackay Ring Road

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.52 pm): I would like to share with the House an update on the Mackay Ring Road. The Mackay Ring Road is the largest transport and roads project ever undertaken in the Mackay region. This is a \$560 million project which will create 603 jobs and provide a huge

economic boost to the region. The project is expected to take up to three years to deliver. The project will be approximately 11.3 kilometres long and will include the construction of 13 new bridges, off-ramps and dual-lane roundabouts. This project has begun with preparatory work last September to relocate services. The realignment of the Bald Hills Road commenced at the same time.

In January this year the contract administrator to oversee the main construction was awarded to GHD Pty Ltd. The procurement process for the main contractor is well underway. Stage 1 is already complete and successful short-listed tenders have progressed to stage 2. The contractors tendering need to be preapproved for tier 1 projects under the Commonwealth procurement procedures. Local contractors and suppliers will be needed to deliver the ring-road. That is why the Palaszczuk government is committed to maximising local content through business profile matching and supporting local businesses to understand the requirement to qualify for work packages, subcontract arrangements and supply opportunities.

Mackay contractors and suppliers are keen to secure work on this project. The member for Mirani and I want to see as many locals working on this project as possible. We have both written to the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and the Minister for State Development to coordinate workshops conducted by local staff of the Department of State Development and the Department of Transport and Main Roads. We have asked for the program to include opportunities awareness, including communications support, and potential supplier engagement so that all local contractors will know what they need to do to be part of this project. I have spoken to both of these groups and they said that workshops will begin as soon as their prime contractor has been awarded.

This afternoon I call on the federal member for Dawson to stop playing games with this project, stop interfering and stop making false accusations about the delivery in a timely manner of this project. Right from the beginning he has played interference. If he does not like the way the procurement process works, he needs to get in and change it at the federal level because that is what the state government is working by.

(Time expired)

Gregory Electorate, Airfare Prices



Mr MILLAR (Gregory—LNP) (2.55 pm): I rise to highlight some serious concerns about regulated air route travel for Western Queensland. Last month it was cheaper to fly from Longreach to Auckland than it was to fly to the Queensland capital city of Brisbane. On 27 February I could fly from Longreach to Brisbane one way for \$458 but I could fly from Longreach to Auckland, New Zealand at the cheaper price of \$429. The price schedule bears no connection to people's needs. It does not appear to reflect the traffic patterns either. Not many people would be travelling to Auckland compared to travelling to Brisbane. When they need to go to Brisbane a family of five will pay over \$4,500 for the airfares. This puts air travel out of the question for many Western Queenslanders including family groups, seniors and wage earners.


The unusual airfare structure raises questions about the oversight of the Queensland government's aviation contracts in the regulated airports of Barcaldine, Blackall and Longreach. I raised this issue in parliament in November and still nothing has changed. Brisbane is the key centre for people living in the central west. It is usually where our medical evacuations are sent and so loved ones often follow family members at their own expense so that they can be there to support them. A family of five may well be travelling at short notice to farewell grandma who has previously been taken to Brisbane as a medical evacuation.

People also need to travel to Brisbane regularly for business, education, banking and legal matters, and they are understandably fed up with the costs and the lack of transparency in the pricing structure. The Queensland government is supposed to ensure that a so-called resident's fare is available to people. This sets the fare for a flight from Longreach to Brisbane at \$170, but people say they can never get a resident's fare. The normal experience for residents is to pay just under \$500 one way per passenger. A lack of transparency is also the problem. It leaves people wondering what they have to do to get a resident's fare to Brisbane.

People would like to know how many residents fares are made available on the daily flight basis into and out of these airports and what they have to do to qualify. The Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport should investigate these outcomes for residents in Queensland's central west. Some of the questions the Deputy Premier could ask on behalf of Western Queenslanders is: how many seats per annum are available for the residents fare price? The Deputy Premier could also ask: what basis is

used to determine the size of this allocation? Does it fairly reflect the total number of flights in and out of these airports? Does it fairly reflect the population and its needs? How far ahead must a resident book to get this fare? Finally, why is it cheaper to fly to Auckland from Longreach than it is to fly from Longreach to Brisbane? It is simply not fair. We are supposed to be having residents fares because it is a regulated route. I call on the Deputy Premier and the government to investigate this so we can get a fair go at getting fair flights from Longreach.

Local Government

 **Hon. M FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.58 pm): Since becoming Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, I have made a concerted effort to touch base with as many of Queensland's 77 mayors as possible, including the mayors of our state's Indigenous communities. Mayors are often best placed to encapsulate the successes, aspirations and challenges of local communities. They have a finger on the pulse. They are on the ground hearing the issues that affect their communities the most. The recent historical cabinet meeting in Cairns was a unique opportunity to meet with not only the representatives of Indigenous councils but also the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils, covering a vast land area of 255,000 square kilometres. A common sentiment has emerged from those mayors.


There is a genuine appreciation of the partnerships the Palaszczuk government has established with local councils, particularly in regional areas, be it Toowoomba, the Far North or the Fraser Coast. It is a great credit to the work of the previous minister, Jackie Trad, who has engaged with councils for the benefit of local communities. Notwithstanding this, regrettably, the strong relationship local government had with the state became somewhat strained and fractured by the slash-and-burn approach of the previous Newman LNP government with Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield, as Treasurer. It is an all-too-familiar story.

I am committed to continuing the great partnerships—the mending of fences—instigated by the Deputy Premier and her focus on driving local economic and job opportunities. In the past two years, the Palaszczuk government has delivered more than \$55 million in direct funding to local government for community-building infrastructure projects through the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program. The Palaszczuk government has streamlined the assessment process and we are seeing the results of that initiative. It means money in the bank sooner for council infrastructure projects to deliver certainty and jobs. Councils have reported that the program has supported up to 2,350 jobs, with the majority of them in regional areas. That is wages for local contractors and their families who reinvest in the economies of regional towns and cities.

Another initiative that has been overwhelmingly endorsed by the mayors is the \$200 million Works for Queensland program administered by the honourable Deputy Premier. One local council I spoke to recently was over the moon—not because they could now rejuvenate the main street but because it meant jobs. I was told that there were 240 jobs for contractors in an area that has been doing it tough. I am proud to be part of a Palaszczuk Labor government that is investing in the families of regional Queensland resulting in jobs and infrastructure growth for Queenslanders.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gold Coast, Criminal Organisation; Weapons Licensing; Further Answers to Question

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (3.02 pm): I rise to make a ministerial statement. I refer to a question without notice asked of the Premier this morning by the member for Mansfield. With regard to this matter, the police have advised me that an alleged member of a Sydney based organised crime gang was arrested on the Gold Coast this week. Police advise that this individual is one of two persons with alleged links to a particular Sydney based organised crime gang. Advice from police is that this matter is strictly operational. Further, as this matter is before the courts, I am sure that all honourable members would understand that I am limited in what I can say at this time.


However, what I can say is that this recent arrest shows our new laws are working and it shows the resolve of dedicated members of Taskforce Maxima. This dedicated task force has been actively enforcing our tough new laws, and more so since the consorting component took effect earlier this month. As at 21 March—only two days ago—three verified consorting warning notices were issued to

individuals in the Gold Coast police district, with a total of 42 across Queensland. Police across the state continue to actively enforce the new offence of wearing or carrying a prohibited item in a public place. As at 20 March, nine people have been charged with a total of nine offences across Queensland, including two individuals charged with two offences within the Gold Coast police district.

The member for Everton asked me a question without notice about data in relation to weapons licences and licence holders. In his question, the member made reference to requests for information that Weapons Licensing had apparently made to firearms dealers. I am advised by the Queensland Police Service that officers from Weapons Licensing regularly contact weapons dealers about transactions with respect to disposals and acquisitions. On occasions, Weapons Licensing have identified inconsistencies in the paperwork received from dealers and seek clarification to ensure the accuracy of records. Weapons Licensing have a due diligence responsibility when it comes to firearms and they are exercising that responsibility.

CRIME AND CORRUPTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (3.04 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Ambulance Service Act 1991, the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1984, the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the Public Service Act 2008 and the Public Service Regulation 2008 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill [\[506\]](#).

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, explanatory notes [\[507\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. Prior to the 2015 election, the Queensland government committed to making a number of changes to the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 to restore the independence and integrity of the Crime and Corruption Commission and ensure that Queensland has a government that lives up to the highest standards of integrity.

Whilst a majority of these changes have already been implemented with the passage of the Crime and Corruption Amendment Act 2016 and the Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2015, today marks another important day in this government's commitment to ensuring Queensland has a robust integrity system that serves the people of this state.

The Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 has two core objectives. Firstly, the bill delivers on the government's election commitment to widen the definition of 'corrupt conduct'. On 25 February 2016, the government released an issues paper titled '*Corrupt conduct*' under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*. The paper was designed to canvass the views of all relevant stakeholders including the Crime and Corruption Commission, Public Service departments, key statutory bodies and non-government stakeholders as to the appropriateness of the current definition and any possible changes.

On the whole, stakeholders indicated general support for the scope of the current definition of 'corrupt conduct'. However, stakeholders did request some simple changes to provide greater clarity and assist units of public administration in their interpretation of the definition. In responding to this, the bill removes the requirement that conduct is engaged in for the benefit of, or detriment to, a person as well as the list of offences in section 15(2) which are not conclusive of 'corrupt conduct' but could constitute 'corrupt conduct'.

The bill also widens the definition of 'corrupt conduct' in section 15 of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 to capture the conduct of people outside the public sector that impairs or could impair public confidence in public administration, even where the actions of a public sector employee have not lacked, or could lack, probity. For example, this type of conduct might involve collusive tendering, fraud in relation to applications for licences or permits issued by government or where a person fraudulently obtains or retains an appointment within a unit of public administration. This enlarged definition is appropriate given the increasing degree of outsourcing and public-private partnerships in the delivery of government services as well as the increased potential for private citizens engaged in these service

delivery arrangements to engage in corrupt conduct. It is also consistent with recent changes made in both New South Wales and Victoria and has the support of the commission and units of public administration.

More broadly, the bill includes amendments which will expand the commission's investigatory jurisdiction. Specifically, the commission's corruption functions have been widened to allow the commission to investigate and otherwise deal with conduct liable to allow, encourage or cause corrupt conduct, and conduct connected with corrupt conduct. The commission will be able to investigate this conduct, as well as corrupt conduct, that may have happened, may be happening or may happen. The change will enable the commission to investigate and proactively address corruption risks. This new jurisdiction may be enlivened through a variety of methods, including: by way of a complaint, by the commission on its own initiative, or through a referral of a matter by the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, with bipartisan support.

In deciding what action to take when dealing with these types of matters, the commission will be required to have regard to the public interest principle in section 34(d) of the act which requires consideration of the nature and seriousness of the conduct, including whether it may be prevalent or systemic within a unit of public administration. If the commission decides to investigate the matter, it will be able to utilise all of the existing coercive powers available for a 'corruption investigation' under the act, including the power to hold hearings and require the production of documents.

The second core objective of the bill is to implement recommendations of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 97 titled *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission* and report No. 99 titled *Report on a complaint by Mr Darren Hall*. On 30 June 2016, the PCCC tabled its report into the operations of the commission conducted pursuant to section 292(f) of the act. The government's response to report No. 97, which was tabled on 16 December 2016, supported in full or in principle all 23 recommendations that were addressed to the government and noted the six remaining recommendations that were addressed to either the PCCC or the commission. A number of the recommendations which called for legislative amendments have been included in the bill, and I will turn to some of the main amendments now.

The bill lengthens the time frame for the commission or a prescribed person to seek QCAT review of a reviewable decision from 14 to 28 days. The extended time period of 28 days will provide parties with sufficient time to consider the original decision and whether a review is appropriate and aligns with the standard time afforded parties to seek a review by QCAT under the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009.

The bill streamlines the process that the commission must follow to commence disciplinary proceedings against current and former public sector employees in both its original and review jurisdiction. No longer will the commission be required to seek Governor in Council approval for a regulation declaring the employee's appointment be subject to QCAT's jurisdiction. The bill removes this unnecessary requirement and declares any person who holds an appointment in a unit of public administration to be within the jurisdiction of QCAT.

A further amendment will require units of public administration to keep appropriate records in relation to any decision not to notify the commission of an allegation of corrupt conduct. Currently, this information is not necessarily documented and prescribing this requirement in the act will allow the commission to more effectively exercise its monitoring function.

A number of other amendments will improve the operations of the commission. These include: addressing anomalies in relation to post-separation disciplinary proceedings so that the commission and other public sector entities may transfer a disciplinary finding or delegate the authority to make a disciplinary finding to one another when an officer changes employment; allowing the commission and public sector entities to share information relating to the disciplinary history of current and former commission officers in prescribed circumstances; and improving civil liability protections for the commission, its officers and Police Service review commissioners.

Recommendation 21 of the PCCC report No. 97 recommended the government review the disclosure provisions of the act. This review has been undertaken. The government considers it important that the commission is supported by a disclosure regime which enables it to meet its obligations to cooperate with other entities, as recognised under section 34 of the act. As a result, the bill includes amendments which will replace the existing disclosure regime with a single provision based on section 16 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 (NSW). This new provision will provide the commission with a broad power to disclose information to entities the commission

considers appropriate. For example, this may include a unit of public administration, a law enforcement agency or other Queensland integrity bodies like the Ombudsman or Auditor-General. As part of this review, consideration was also given to the current disclosure provisions in the Ombudsman Act 2001. The bill provides the Ombudsman with greater discretion to disclose information to Queensland and Commonwealth agencies when the Ombudsman considers they have a proper interest for the performance of their functions and liaise with the Commonwealth Ombudsman and state and territory equivalents when appropriate.

Finally, on 29 November 2016, the PCCC tabled its report into a complaint by Mr Darren Hall. The PCCC referred the complaint of Mr Hall, a former Queensland Police Service officer, to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner for investigation. The commissioner concluded that the principles of procedural fairness required that, prior to publishing adverse allegations about Mr Hall in its report headed *Dangerous liaisons: a report arising from a CMC investigation into allegations of police misconduct (Operation Capri)*, the commission should have provided Mr Hall with an opportunity to show why the contemplated comments should not have been made.

On 27 February 2017, the government response to report No. 99 was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The bill gives effect to the government's support for recommendation 1 by making it a legislative requirement for the commission to provide procedural fairness to persons who may be adversely affected by a commission report to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, or published to the public, under the act. This amendment is consistent with procedural fairness requirements placed on other Queensland bodies, including the Ombudsman, Public Advocate, Public Guardian, State Coroner and Auditor-General. To provide a sufficient implementation lead-in, the bill proposes that the changes to the definition of 'corrupt conduct', and associated transitional provisions, will commence on a day to be fixed by proclamation. This will allow the commission to work with units of public administration to provide education and guidance on the appropriate assessment of how and when a matter impairs or could impair public confidence in public administration. The remainder of the bill will commence on assent.

The bill is the product of close consultation with the commission as well as other key stakeholders and I would like to thank them all for their consideration and cooperation. This government never takes for granted the important role of the commission and all public sector bodies in the fight against corruption in Queensland. The bill draws together an assortment of amendments which, in their totality, reaffirms this government's commitment to an independent and strong Crime and Corruption Commission. This bill marks yet another milestone for this government delivering on its commitment to creating greater transparency, accountability and integrity in public administration and our political system. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (3.15 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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


Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Report Date

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (3.15 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report to the House on the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 15 May 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

COURT AND CIVIL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (3.16 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984, the Acts Interpretation Act 1954, the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, the Appeal Costs Fund Act 1973, the Civil Proceedings Act 2011, the Classification of Computer Games and Images Act 1995, the Classification of Films Act 1991, the Classification of Publications Act 1991, the Court Funds Act 1973, the Criminal Code, the Evidence Act 1977, the Information Privacy Act 2009, the Invasion of Privacy Act 1971, the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991, the Land Court Act 2000, the Legal Aid Queensland Act 1997, the Legal Profession Act 2007, the Magistrates Act 1991, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Professional Standards Act 2004, the Property Law Act 1974, the Prostitution Act 1999, the Public Guardian Act 2014, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009, the Retail Shop Leases Act 1994, the Right to Information Act 2009, the Succession Act 1981, the Supreme Court Library Act 1968, the Trusts Act 1973, the Vexatious Proceedings Act 2005 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Classification of Publications (Approval of Codes of Conduct) Order 1992, the Companies (Acquisition of Shares) (Application of Laws) Act 1981, the Companies and Securities (Interpretation and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Application of Laws) Act 1981, the Companies (Application of Laws) Act 1981, the Futures Industry (Application of Laws) Act 1986, the Land Court (Transitional) Regulation 2017, the Retail Shop Leases (Transitional) Regulation 2016 and the Securities Industry (Application of Laws) Act 1981. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Court and Civil Legislation Amendment Bill [\[508\]](#).

Tabled paper: Court and Civil Legislation Amendment Bill, explanatory notes [\[509\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Court and Civil Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. The bill proposes miscellaneous amendments to over 30 acts within the Justice portfolio and across a broad spectrum of subject matter. Some of the proposals were previously included in the lapsed Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. I will briefly outline some of the more significant amendments.

The significant focus of the bill is on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the courts and agencies and otherwise clarifying, strengthening and updating the diverse Justice portfolio legislation. Starting with the administration of courts and tribunals, the bill amends the Land Court Act 2000 to: ensure that the orders of the Land Appeal Court may be enforced in the Supreme Court; clarify the powers and jurisdiction of the Land Appeal Court; allow for the appointment of part-time or acting judicial registrars; strengthen the alternative dispute resolution processes in the Land Court; and incorporate the provisions of the Land Court Act (Transitional) Regulation 2017 in relation to the application of the act to the exercise by the court of its administrative functions such as the hearing of mining lease and environmental authority objection applications under the mining and environment legislation.

In relation to the administration of justice, the bill also amends: the Magistrates Act 1991 to increase the age limit for acting magistrates to 75 years; the Vexatious Proceedings Act 2005 to allow vexatious litigants' applications for leave to institute proceedings to be dealt with without an oral hearing and with or without the applicant's consent; and the Appeal Costs Fund Act 1973 to: remove redundant provisions relating to the administration of the Appeal Costs Fund; clarify, where a new trial is ordered, that the costs that are recoverable from the fund are those costs that the Appeal Costs Fund Board considers have been thrown away or partly thrown away and were reasonably incurred in the initial proceedings; and clarify that the circumstances in which a person convicted on an indictment is entitled to payment from the fund includes where an appeal succeeds on the ground that there was a miscarriage of justice.

The bill also amends the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to reduce the administrative burden on courts by removing the requirement for a specific order for domestic violence notations which reflect the context of criminal offending and instead allowing domestic violence notations to be automatically made on a person's criminal history or a formal record of conviction, provided the person is convicted of an offence for which the charge has been noted as a domestic violence offence. There will, however, be provision for the court to make an order that a notation not be made if it is not satisfied that the offence is a domestic violence offence. The amendment in the bill will also not affect the process for making domestic violence notations against a person's past criminal convictions in section 12A.

Amendments are also made to section 12A of the Penalties and Sentences Act to clarify that the prosecution bears the onus of proving that an offence is a domestic violence offence and that domestic violence notations do not apply to a person's traffic history.

A substantial part of the bill relates to amendments to the Classification of Computer Games and Images Act 1995, the Classification of Films Act 1991 and the Classification of Publications Act 1991—Queensland classification acts. These amendments are intended to align each of those acts with corresponding Commonwealth legislation and remove all references to classification officers. By way of background, the Australian National Classification Scheme is led by the Commonwealth under the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995. Under the national scheme, the Commonwealth makes classification decisions about content, and states and territories have enacted legislation to ensure compliance with Commonwealth decisions.

In 2014 a number of amendments were made to Commonwealth legislation to make changes to how classification decisions are made; create a number of additional exemptions for content under the national scheme; and make a number of other minor changes. The amendments in the bill will better align Queensland's classification enforcement legislation with the Commonwealth legislation following these amendments.

The bill also removes provision for the appointment of classification officers under the Queensland classification acts. These officers were previously appointed to exercise classification decision-making powers for content. These officers are no longer appointed, and their removal reflects that Queensland's role in the national scheme is focused on the enforcement of Commonwealth classification decisions. The bill also includes amendments to the legislation governing various statutory offices and entities and regulatory schemes within the Justice portfolio.

Importantly, the bill makes amendments to strengthen the Ombudsman Act 2001 following consideration of the recommendations made in the 2011-12 Strategic Review of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and subsequently supported by the then Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee in its 2012 report No. 15 titled *Report on the strategic review of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman*. These amendments include: requiring agencies to give the Ombudsman reasonable help in the conduct of informal investigations; strengthening the Ombudsman's ability to protect complainants and witnesses; improving the Ombudsman's ability to obtain and control the release of sensitive information; and enabling the Ombudsman to require the principal officer of a local government to table a report by the Ombudsman about the local government at a local government meeting.

In relation to strategic reviews, the bill clarifies that a corporation may be appointed to undertake strategic reviews of the Ombudsman Office and the Office of the Information Commissioner under the Right to Information Act 2009 and increases the interval between strategic reviews under the Ombudsman Act from five to seven years.

The bill also provides for governance changes under the Prostitution Act 1999 to: allow for the appointment of a member of the Prostitution Licensing Authority as acting chairperson; remove the chief executive as a member of the authority; and reduce the quorum for meetings of the authority. Other more significant amendments in the bill include: amendments to the Legal Aid Queensland Act 1997 to modernise the eligibility requirements for the Chief Executive Officer of Legal Aid Queensland and provide for the necessary arrangements where the CEO is not a lawyer; and clarify and strengthen the confidentiality provisions; various amendments to the Legal Profession Act 2007 to clarify its operation, strengthen the regulatory regime and remove unnecessary administrative requirements; providing a statutory indemnity from civil liability for members of the Supreme Court Library Committee under the Supreme Court Library Act 1968; and amending the Public Guardian Act 2014 to clarify that the functions and powers of the Public Guardian in relation to a relevant child can be exercised from the time an application for an order under the Child Protection Act 1999 is filed until the application is finalised and arrangements are no longer in place for that child.

With regard to the disclosure of information, there are amendments to: the Right to Information Act 2009 to prevent the release of documents associated with the administration of the judicial appointments protocol; ensure that the Information Privacy Act 2009 does not restrict the disclosure of personal information to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, ASIO, in appropriate cases; and the Invasion of Privacy Act 1971 to provide that no offence is committed by police or emergency services communications centre operators who record private conversations in circumstances associated with risk to the safety and wellbeing of a public safety entity officer.

The bill also includes amendments directed to clarifying and streamlining aspects of Queensland's succession, trust and property legislation. The bill amends the Succession Act 1981 to: clarify, for family provision applications, that the relationship of stepchild and step-parent stops when the civil partnership or de facto relationship between the deceased and the stepchild's parent ends; and provide for the effect of the end of a de facto relationship on a will, in line with the current provisions for revocation of a will, on the ending of a marriage or civil partnership.

The bill amends the Trusts Act 1973 to: remove the requirement for a delegation of the administration of a trust to be made by power of attorney executed as a deed; and provide transactional certainty by retrospectively validating any delegations of trusteeship made using the approved form for a general power of attorney under the Powers of Attorney Act 1998.

The bill also amends section 67 of the Trusts Act in relation to the publication of a notice of a proposed distribution of trust property or an estate. Where included in a notice of intention to apply for a grant of probate, it will be sufficient for the trustee to obtain statutory protection if the notice is published in a publication approved by the Chief Justice under a practice direction. Otherwise, it will be sufficient for the proposed distribution notice to be published in a newspaper circulating throughout the state and sold at least once each week.

The bill also amends section 57A of the Property Law Act 1974 to promote greater certainty in property transactions by prohibiting statutory instruments, other than prescribed subordinate legislation, from rendering void, unenforceable or subject to termination, contracts or dealings concerning property that are made, entered into or effected contrary to the statutory instrument.

The bill amends the Retail Shop Leases Act 1994 to give permanent effect to a transitional regulation clarifying that the act continues to apply to 1,000 square metre plus leases and employee/agent leases entered into before commencement of the Retail Shop Leases Amendment Act 2016.

The bill also corrects an inadvertent omission effected by that amendment act to provide for when a lessee can terminate a lease on the ground of a defective disclosure statement given by the lessor. This accords with the stated intent in my second reading speech that the status quo under the act continue to apply.

For administrative efficiency, the bill allows for website notification of various notices currently required to be published in the *Queensland Government Gazette* under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984, the Acts Interpretation Act 1954 and the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991. Finally, the bill amends a range of Justice portfolio statutes to streamline administrative processes, repeal redundant legislation, clarify various provisions and make amendments of a technical or drafting nature. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (3.30 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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


Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (3.30 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report to the House on the Court and Civil Legislation Amendment Bill by 15 May 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 873, on motion of Dr Lynham—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.31 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, now before the Queensland parliament. Before I address this legislation, I place on record my sympathies and offer my condolences to the victims of and the families of those affected by the brutal terrorist attack that occurred overnight in London. Certainly democratic freedoms, values and associated parliamentary institutions must be cherished, respected and defended at all costs.

The policy objective of the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 is to improve administration of the Land Act 1994 and the Land Title Act 1994 to allow for the designation of watercourses or lakes as reserves; to align Queensland's titles registry system with those of other jurisdictions; and to make minor changes to improve the operation of the acts.

It is important to note that this bill predominantly makes and only makes minor amendments with respect to streamlining the use of the Land Act and the Land Title Act. One of the amendments will provide both acts with the ability to grant executors of a will registered in another jurisdiction equal status to that of one registered here in Queensland. Although this can be classified as a minor amendment, it certainly does simplify the act.

This bill makes six significant other amendments to the two acts, a couple of which I will mention. Clauses 9 to 16 of the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 expand the purpose for which a rolling term lease can be designated and clarify the process for the extension of rolling term leases. This is an important change as it amends the provisions of a rolling term lease for a significant tourism development on a regulated island to include adjacent leases which are seaward of the tidal boundary, an example of this being a jetty or marina which supports the primary operation. This will enable the adjacent lease to be improved as a rolling term lease so as to align with and be tied to the existing rolling term lease so they can be managed in their entirety together. It also clarifies when a rolling term lease can be renewed and the term for which renewal may be sought. This is certainly important for adequate planning purposes.


The amendment with respect to the removal of ministerial consent to subdivide Indigenous DOGITs is important because it will allow such subdivisions to be regulated solely by the Aboriginal Land Act or the Torres Strait Islander Land Act. Again, it is important to note that we on this side of the House support these long overdue changes, given the lack of progress made by this Labor government in relation to the former LNP government's terrific initiatives. It should be noted that the LNP members of the Queensland parliament's Agriculture and Environment Committee have asked that their concerns about the very poor consultation by the Palaszczuk Labor government in relation to this bill be recorded. It has become common practice for the Palaszczuk Labor government to introduce bills into the Queensland parliament without prior adequate and proper consultation. This then leads to problems at the committee level which could have been resolved before the bill was progressed by the relevant minister.

AgForce, the peak body representing the state's agricultural sector, only became aware of this bill through the committee's alert process once the bill had been introduced and referred for consideration. Why, I ask, would the department overlook consultation with the peak industry body? AgForce subsequently contacted the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to seek information about the rationale for the bill, in particular the clause relating to rolling term leases, which is enormously important to pastoralists for both their operations and their sustainability.

With respect to those amendments being moved outside of the long title of the bill, I know that the shadow minister for natural resources and mines and shadow minister for northern development, the member for Hinchinbrook, continues to assess those, along with the LNP generally. The proposed amendments relate to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 in relation to a long-running commercial dispute in the Bowen Basin and relate to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, the Explosives Act 1999 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004.

I simply make the observation that for additional amendments proposed to be moved outside the long title of the bill often there seems to be an inadequate time frame for appropriate assessment and commentary, given some of the significant implications and potential unintended consequences. I

certainly reserve any commentary with respect to those amendments and what impacts they could have on the Queensland resources sector, although I am sure that the intent of those is to resolve and validate some oversights or gaps with respect to statutory office holder obligations. Certainly, that is my interpretation of the particular amendments the minister has circulated and the accompanying explanatory notes.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.37 pm): I, too, place on record my sincere condolences to the families and friends and all those affected by the tragic events overnight in London. It is too tragic for words. It just highlights the importance and frailty of democracy. We must join all other parliamentarians in the Western world to uphold its traditions.

I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate of the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 from two angles. Firstly, I studied property economics extensively literally next door and so have a keen interest in this particular topic. Secondly, I am now the shadow minister for, among other things, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships. I will specifically talk about DOGITs.

I acknowledge that the policy objective of the bill is to improve the overall administration of the Land Act and the Land Title Act. It will do so by implementing a number of miscellaneous amendments, which have been outlined by previous speakers. The bill makes a number of minor amendments to the Land Act and the Land Title Act to, importantly, reduce duplication, clarify existing arrangements, streamline administration, remedy where practicable any inconsistencies, remove redundant regulatory requirements and reduce red tape.

The bill will effectively deal with documents that impede or delay legitimate legal action taken by the parties, for example registered mortgagees. It will also go a long way to improving the registration of interests of trustees for sale and beneficiaries of deceased estates and the withdrawal of certain instruments from the register.

The bill will seek to implement in this state a nationally consistent priority notice in place of the current settlement notice. Furthermore, it will encourage the uptake of electronic conveyancing, or e-conveyancing as it is probably better known, by expanding the circumstances in which the Registrar of Titles may dispense with the production of a paper certificate of title.

There are a range of other amendments as well to the Land Act, but the one that I would like to predominantly make my contribution on is in relation to streamlining the subdivision of Indigenous deeds of grant in trust—DOGITs—and I will come back to that later in my contribution. There are a couple of other important points and amendments that I want to highlight in relation to the Land Act. Coming from a valuation background, I know that this is something of keen interest to practitioners in this particular area—that is, the granting of land by the state to the Commonwealth, clarifying the use of covenants over non-freehold land and simplifying the transfer of a road licence tied with freehold land. It also relates to reserves within non-tidal watercourses, but I believe the shadow minister made a very good contribution to the debate in this chamber yesterday.

In relation to clarifying the provisions of a very important term—that is, the provisions around rolling term leases—I note that the bill amends the Land Act to clarify the rolling term lease provisions provided by the former LNP government under our rural land reform initiative in 2014. These reforms were warmly welcomed, as other speakers have said, by particularly rural landholders. In fact, these amendments clarify what a rolling term lease is, when it can be renewed and the term for which a renewal may be sought by the landowner. These amendments immediately attracted our attention as a potential attempt to undermine our reforms from 2014. I noted with interest that LNP committee members pursued this matter through the parliamentary committee process. In fact, we are aware that AgForce also raised concerns about these amendments publicly and in its submission to the parliamentary committee.

I am also aware that throughout the process it has been clarified that the department had failed to consult properly with key stakeholders. That point has been raised by previous contributors from this side of the chamber in this debate, so it is rather galling when we hear the mantra from those on the other side of the chamber is about two things generally. The first is jobs, jobs and jobs. That is a story within itself, but it is outside the long title of the bill and I will not make any further comment on that in this contribution today. The other one, of course, is that old chestnut of transparency and openness. We have heard the example of the 18-minute notification, and we all know what that was about in relation to significant changes to the voting structure in terms of compulsory preferential voting. We also know that, when it comes to consultation, AgForce was left in the dark. As this pertained to rolling term leases, this was of absolute importance to it.

I now turn to something that is very dear to my heart that I thought was landmark legislation in the previous Newman government, and I have said that in the past and will continue to say it: the shadow minister and member for Hinchinbrook singularly did something that was fundamentally of huge significance to the future of this state as it pertains to the Indigenous—

Mr Power interjected.


Mr MINNIKIN: I am not going to bother taking the interjection. I love debating and I am quite happy to take interjections if they come from a quality source. On this occasion, though, I am afraid it is sadly, sadly lacking. I refer to the deed of grant in trust provision. For the benefit of some of the luminaries on my immediate left who may not know, deeds of grant in trust are DOGITs. Deeds of grant in trust is the name of a system of community level land trust that was established in Queensland in the eighties to administer former reserves and missions. They came about through the enactment of the Queensland government's Community Services (Torres Strait) Act and the Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984 essentially allowing community councils to be created and to own and administer former reserves or missions under deeds of grant in trust, hence the term DOGIT.

The trusts are governed by local representatives who are elected every three years to councils called incorporated Aboriginal councils. They work much like a local government but are different in character as they own the land they administer on behalf of the community. It is absolutely fundamentally important that the current government work towards using this particular area of government policy. I want to quote from the *Hansard*, and it is pretty fresh off the press. It was literally the contribution from the minister, the member for Stafford, when he made a ministerial statement on Torres Strait Indigenous land tenure on 22 March—yesterday. The minister stated—

Over the past two years, seven Indigenous communities have been working with government agencies on the freeholding legislative framework. I would like to thank the communities of Cherbourg, Napranum, Mapoon, Hope Vale, Poruma, Hammond Island and St Pauls for participating in this exercise. My Department of Natural Resources and Mines is now considering the lessons learned over the past two years. This will assist in their work going forward to support those communities who may choose to investigate or indeed pursue making freehold title available. It is their choice ...

I absolutely support those words. In fact, it is their choice.

The amendments in this bill will remove the need for ministerial approval under the Land Act to approve plans to subdivide Indigenous—DOGIT—land and enable such subdivisions to be regulated solely by the Aboriginal Land Act or the Torres Strait Islander Land Act. The lack of progress made in relation to the former freeholding initiative is something that we need to keep a close eye on. As the shadow minister on this side of the chamber I make a vow right here and now that I will work with anyone who is looking to pursue this area of public policy in the right spirit on that side of the chamber. In fact, I am aware that the mayor of Palm Island has recently called on the government to deliver freehold land on Palm Island and I look forward to meeting the mayor in the coming weeks with the member for Hinchinbrook and pursuing that particular offer. If there is anything we can do to make sure freehold title to Indigenous communities is expanded—there was great work done by the current shadow minister, the current member for Hinchinbrook—and if there is anything I can do to support the quest to continue this vital area of public policy in my role as the shadow minister, I would be pleased to do so.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (3.46 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Notwithstanding the proposed amendments that will be discussed in a later debate, it is important that we talk about the policy objectives of this bill. It is about improving administration of the Land Act and the Land Title Act by implementing a number of minor amendments to the Land Act and the Land Title Act to reduce duplication, clarify existing arrangements, streamline administration, remedy inconsistencies, remove redundant regulatory requirements and reduce red tape, and that is something we all should continue to work for in this place—red-tape reduction to make Queensland a better place. The bill will enable more appropriately managed state land by allowing for the dedication of non-tidal boundary watercourses for non-tidal boundary lake land as a reserve for community purposes in particular circumstances. Over the last couple of days there has been a lot of conversation around that because it is an important reform and we want to make sure that we get it right. The legislation improves the process for the resignation and replacement of a trustee of trust land; effectively deals with documents that impede or delay legitimate legal action taken by other parties; improves the registering of interests of trustees for sale and beneficiaries of deceased estates and withdrawing certain instruments from the register; implements in Queensland a nationally consistent priority notice in place of the current settlement notice; and encourages the uptake of electronic conveyancing by expanding circumstances in which the registrar of titles may dispense with production of a paper certificate of title, and again that is another important initiative that we will continue to look at in terms of how we can make this process better.

Other amendments to the Land Act relate to the granting of land by the state to the Commonwealth. That is important, because we need to understand the ramifications that this amendment may have. The amendments also clarify the use of covenants over non-freehold land, clarify the extension of rolling term leases, streamline the subdivision of Indigenous deeds of grant in trust, simplify the transfer of a road licence tied with freehold land, simplify standard terms of registrable documents, and streamline the continuation of an easement where a state lease has expired.

The bill amends the Land Act to clarify the rolling term lease provisions provided for by the former LNP government's rural land reform initiatives. Those reforms were warmly welcomed by rural landowners. These amendments clarify when a rolling term lease can be renewed and the term for when a renewal is sought by the landowner. These arrangements should always attract attention as they could potentially attempt to undermine our position in the 2014 reforms, which were important reforms for the state's economic future.

I note that AgForce also raised concerns about these amendments publicly and in its submission to the parliamentary committee. Through the committee process it was clarified that the department had failed to consult properly with key stakeholders and had failed to effectively communicate its intentions with these amendments. The amendments clarify that an extension application may be made once during each term of the lease, that is, once during the original term of the rolling term lease and once during the term of each extension. No application to extend a rolling term lease may be made until the lease is within the last 20 years of its term. This is consistent with the desires of these stakeholders. They are important desires and aspirations that we in this place should respect.

While I am on my feet, I will take this opportunity to remind the House of the attacks on the rolling term leaseholders and their ability to appeal a decision by a minister not to extend a lease. In reverting from rolling term leases to a term lease by way of sections 39 and 43 of the Nature Conservation Act, unfortunately, under Labor, there is always the potential of the rights and liberties of individuals, and particularly our farmers, to be adversely affected. In particular, it does not affect leaseholders of agricultural grazing and pastoral land within the nature conservation area of specific national parks, but it affects those people who had leases over state land. They are important producers of food and fibre for Queensland and the nation. We see amendments reverting rolling term leases to term leases, which will also see the appeal rights of leaseholders diminished. We also know that the decisions by the chief executive not to renew a term lease are not appealable—something that we fought against in this place only last year. It is noted that the committee recommended that the Land and Other Legislation Bill 2016 be passed. Among the other recommendations of the committee I note that section 164C(5) of the Land Act 1994 is recommended to be amended to permit holders of rolling term leases to make one application for extension at any point in the term of their lease.

I note that the LNP members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee in their statement of reservation stated—

Opposition Members wish to record our concerns about the very poor consultation by the Government in relation on the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.

AgForce, the peak body representing the state's agricultural interests, notes in its submission that the only way it became aware of the bill was through the committee's alert once the bill had been introduced and referred to that committee for consideration. Having heard about the bill from the committee, AgForce subsequently made contact with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to seek information about the justification for the bill and, in particular, clause 12, which related to rolling term leases. Rolling term leases are vitally important to the state's farmers and any changes affecting extensions or eligibility can have implications on their operations and viability. As AgForce explained in its submission, it was not consulted on the bill.

I would like to give examples in my own electorate of issues that were permitted as a result of changes to policy in relation to amendments to land legislation. It is why close scrutiny of amendments to land legislation is important, because we cannot allow the reversal of important reforms. A local farmer in my area—in Moore Park—was desperate to be able to clear a small section of vegetation. His property was already intersected by irrigation channels. Luckily, he has now expanded production and is providing jobs and opportunity. Another farmer from the Bucca part of my electorate wanted to expand operations on his property. This farmer was growing pineapples and had contracts with Golden Circle. Recently, he has tripled his production because he can utilise his large property. This has allowed him to keep his family on the same farm for generations to come because he is reaching his productivity targets.

In another example, remapping was done, which introduced reclassifications of land management of properties without any notification to the landowner. This happened in the Parklands estate, which is near Bundaberg. Fortunately, the mapping was able to be proven to be incorrect, at monetary and time cost to the owner. This is something that we should fight for so that in Queensland people's liberties are respected.


The assessment of PMAVs was always open to interpretation. Departmental assessment was inconsistent across officers and regions. The regrowth code and legislation state that, if vegetation had been cleared before 31 December 1989, it does not meet the definition of regrowth. We have had debates about this definition when debating other legislation that has been introduced into this place. Definitions need to be watertight and not open to interpretation. That is why there is a need for close scrutiny of legislation relating to land and vegetation and other management instruments.

The application process for landowners has tightened since it was first introduced. Applications are critically reviewed by technically suitable staff within the department for land suitability and code assessment and QRAA for financial viability. Once all of these things are done, we can look at vegetation and land management policy and instruments to make sure that the response is appropriate for those farmers who want to get on with the job, that there are no loopholes and that it is a transparent and rigorous process.

I also note the amendments to the Land Act that appeared in the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 in relation to the leasing of land within a functioning non-tidal boundary watercourse or lake to the state under the Land Act. In this bill, there is the capacity to dedicate land as reserve land within a non-tidal boundary watercourse or lake. That would provide further flexibility in the management of land for community purposes. The amendments allow for the establishment of reserves on non-tidal boundary watercourses or non-tidal boundary lakes owned by the state only with the consent of the adjacent landowner or the chief executive of the Water Act, which is consistent with the previous amendments.

We on this side of the House urge politicians and green lobbyists to refrain from attacking farmers and hindering their right to farm on land that governments have designated for crop and livestock production. We must engage with stakeholders. The LNP is committed to retaining existing farm and resource management regulations, which have proved effective in allowing Queensland farmers to produce high-quality food and fibre for domestic and export markets.

Under our laws, graziers are still able to carry out day-to-day farm management practices to maintain fence lines, pull fodder to feed stock and thin vegetation to maintain pasture and groundcover. We have laws that provide the farmers in my electorate a framework within which to manage their farms, their businesses, in a fair and common-sense way. If Labor has its way with land legislation, Queensland farmers will be regulated out of existence and unable to grow food and fibre for this state and nation. The LNP is committed to protecting landowners' rights, protecting farmers' rights and protecting farmers' rights to farm.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (3.57 pm), in reply: Firstly, I would like to thank all honourable members for their participation in this debate. The reforms proposed in the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 to the Land Title Act 1994 and the Land Act 1994 will deliver a range of benefits to those dealing with land, including state land. The amendments to the Land Title Act relate to freehold land and associated land transaction and conveyancing processes. The amendments to the Land Act relate primarily to the state land framework and include a focus on the management of leasehold land, reserves, grants to the Commonwealth, easements and covenants.

Firstly, I would like to respond to comments made by a number of speakers opposite in relation to consultation on the provisions of this bill. I can assure the House that, prior to the introduction of this bill, the department undertook consultation on a package of state land reforms. This package included the amendments made in the bill as well as stock route reforms. Information on these amendments as well as a confidential draft bill were, in fact, provided to AgForce, firstly by email in September 2016. During the subsequent consultation, AgForce did not raise any specific issues with the proposed amendments.

Consultation was also undertaken with other key stakeholders, including the LGAQ. Yesterday the member for Condamine in his contribution to the debate was very selective in quoting the LGAQ's contribution to the parliamentary committee's inquiry. From the contribution of the member for

Condamine, members could be forgiven for concluding that the LGAQ did not support these amendments. Nothing could be further from the truth. For completeness, I will quote what Mr Hannan from the LGAQ said at the public hearing of the inquiry into this bill. He said—

... may I congratulate the department for their open and positive discussions to date with the LGAQ and local government more broadly on land tenure reforms. It is, and has been, a pleasure to work with them.

That is hardly a quote from someone who was not consulted.

In relation to consultation on the Land Title Act amendments, firstly let me point out that at no stage did the Queensland Law Society say that they were not consulted. Again the Queensland Law Society did say that they broadly support the amendments. They simply suggested some clarifications to the legislation. During the parliamentary committee process officers from the department were able to explain to the parliamentary committee's satisfaction why the provisions were drafted in that way.

I would now like to address one of the issues raised by the member for Hinchinbrook, the matter of the dedication of a reserve on land within a non-tidal boundary watercourse or lake. This is a favourite topic of the member for Hinchinbrook and he is again asking as to whether or not a reserve in a non-tidal watercourse may imperceptibly over time encroach onto the property of the adjoining owner. He talks of potential issues that occur in terms of the interaction between the Land Act and the Water Act. Of course, the issue that he raises really has nothing to do with the practical and common-sense provisions that are proposed in this bill. It makes perfect sense for community purpose reserves to be able to coexist with watercourse land. Areas such as the Green Patch on the Mulgrave River, an area well known to the Treasurer in his electorate, is a perfect example of how these provisions will be used. It will allow the Cairns Regional Council to become trustee of a reserve over that part of the Green Patch area that is within the Mulgrave River. This will allow council to lawfully and appropriately manage public use of this very scenic and popular area.

For the benefit of the House, I will briefly respond to the member for Hinchinbrook's comments. The issue of the interaction between the Water Act and the Land Act in relation to ambulatory watercourse boundaries was addressed in 2010. The Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010 amended the Land Act 1994—

Mr Cripps: I was here.

Dr LYNHAM: You should have read it. It also amended the Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Act 2003 and established clear rules associated with establishing ambulatory property boundaries. The legislation also amended the Water Act 2000 to address longstanding issues associated with inconsistencies between the way watercourse boundaries were described and the way adjoining property boundaries were established. The member for Hinchinbrook should have paid more attention.

Nothing in this bill changes the arrangements that have been in place since 2010. Indeed, the concept of ambulatory boundaries has been around as long as there have been titles to land with boundaries defined by reference to natural features, for example watercourses. I repeat: nothing in this bill changes these rules governing ambulatory boundaries. I expect that the number of community purpose reserves that will be established under these provisions will be limited and the process detailed in the bill requires careful consideration by the chief executive of the Water Act 2000. A reserve under this provision cannot override the title of adjoining landholders. In fact, it can only be granted with their consent. There are a number of protections with this particular measure.

The member for Hinchinbrook last raised this very same issue when the topic of leases within non-tidal boundary watercourses was debated late last year as part of the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. As with the current bill we are debating, the bill made no changes to the arrangements that were put in place under the Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2010.

As the Treasurer advised at the time of the debate of the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, if the member for Hinchinbrook had any concerns in relation to ambulatory boundaries then he was welcome to raise them directly with the government. Our door is always open to the member for Hinchinbrook. Of course, he has never mentioned the issue to me as the responsible minister since the debate of that bill. If the member for Hinchinbrook was so concerned about ambulatory boundaries, as he seemed to suggest in his contribution to last night's debate, he had the opportunity to do something about it when he was the minister. He did not. Even now he can introduce a private member's bill.

Mr Cripps: Yes, but I wasn't granting leases and reserves in a watercourse.

Dr LYNHAM: You can introduce a private member's bill any time you want to propose legislative changes, but you still whinge and do nothing about it. To be clear, there are existing safeguards which ensure that the Registrar of Titles will not register a new lease under the Land Act or a new freehold title under the Land Title Act or, in fact, a reserve where the relevant survey plan indicates some uncertainty over local boundaries with adjacent parcels of land. Any uncertainty or overlap will need to be resolved before the Registrar of Titles will register the new survey plan and hence identify the boundaries of the new interest.

In response again to the comments of the member for Hinchinbrook, whilst a number of Indigenous communities have expressed an interest in the opportunity to offer freehold, with the most recent of these being the community of Palm Island, the pathway to freehold is not one that the trustee of the community occupies alone. I applaud the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council's interest in freehold but, as with all Indigenous communities, the pathway towards freehold is one that is shared. It requires not only the community's support but also the agreement of the traditional owners who hold native title, the traditional owners who have fought over many years to gain their rightful native title. It is a shared interest.

I take the opportunity to remind the member for Hinchinbrook of his own words when the freeholding bill was introduced in 2014 where he stated—

... freehold is voluntary. Freehold will not be forced on anyone. The bill itself does not create freehold. Rather, it provides the mechanism for the trustee, in consultation with the community, to decide whether or not to take up freehold and, if so, where and how freeholding will occur. In short, it is the communities themselves that will choose and decide the outcome.

This applies to Palm Island. I encourage the council, as trustee of the communal title land, to actively engage with the community and the Manbarra people, the traditional owners of the land, to establish their appetite to progress to freehold. These decisions are not expected to be taken lightly. Whilst freehold title may present opportunities for economic development, it also means that traditional owners, as I said before, will need to give up their precious native title rights. The member for Hinchinbrook is sadly misinformed if he is of the opinion that the Indigenous communities selected in the trial are not making progress towards freehold. The fact that some communities have decided not to seek freehold at this point in time goes to the heart of this issue. A decision not to progress to freehold is equally important as the decision to progress and the Palaszczuk government will not bully Indigenous communities into freehold land ownership. The Palaszczuk government will continue to provide support for those communities interested in exploring opportunities for freehold.

The government is aware that security of tenure is important for lessees, particularly when making significant investment decisions or trying to grow their businesses. Nothing in the bill, including proposed amendments to rolling term lease extension provisions, will affect security of tenure of leases. The rolling term lease extension amendments are simply clarifying the intent of the legislation as it currently stands. The amendments confirm that only one extension application can be made in each term of the lease and that this extension can be no longer than the original term of the lease.

Furthermore, the amendments do not impact on the number of times a rolling term lease may have been extended. The government acknowledges the committee's comment that the interest of leaseholders could be readily served by removing the restriction on when an application can be made to a rolling term lease. The current legislation states that an application to extend the term of the lease may only be made within the last 20 years of a lease term or earlier where special circumstances exist. For leases of 20 years or less this is not an issue as an application could be made at any time during the lease term. However, for longer leases—let us take a 30-year lease—an extension application could not be made during the first 10 years of this lease.

Mr Millar: That was not clear at the start.

Dr LYNHAM: It is clear now. As I outlined in my second reading speech in response to the committee's fourth recommendation, it is proposed to amend the bill to allow an application for an extension of a rolling term lease once at any time during the term of the lease. This would mean that rolling term lessees could apply to extend their lease at any time during their lease term, providing the flexibility to apply at a time which best fits their individual circumstances.

Mr Millar: Only once!

Dr LYNHAM: Only once. This change would not affect the overall operation of the rolling term lease framework and would benefit those lessees who wish to have the maximum number of years ahead of them or remaining on their lease. This is supporting the LNP's original legislation in 2014. The

government cannot support, as suggested by AgForce, the ability to make multiple extension applications within a single term as this would be inconsistent with the original intent of the original legislation. It would also raise broader implications in terms of lessee rights and native title.

Concerns were also raised by the Local Government Association in relation to proposed changes to the Land Act dealing with trustee resignation provisions. Those concerns do not relate to the overall objective of the reform but rather to the method in which it is proposed to be achieved. The government has taken on board those concerns and, through further consultation with LGAQ, has identified an alternative approach. That alternative approach will still achieve the policy objective of providing for a smoother transition from one trustee to the next while allaying local government concerns about potential limitations on the resignation of a trustee.

The reform will reduce the risk that important community-purpose reserves, such as parks, recreation areas or cemeteries, are left unmanaged without an appropriate trustee for a period. Under the proposal, a trustee notifies the minister that they want to vacate the office of the trustee. There is then up to 12 months to find an alternative trustee before the resignation takes effect. If a replacement trustee is found sooner, there is flexibility for the resignation to take effect earlier rather than later.

My department has worked closely with the LGAQ to improve the operation of the compliance provisions under the new prescribed terms framework. The government agrees with the suggestion made by the LGAQ and as recommended by the committee, recommendation No. 3, to expand notice provisions. This will ensure local government trustees as well as other affected underlying registered interest holders are provided with relevant notices under the prescribed terms compliance framework. This will also improve transparency and accountability in the operation of the prescribed term provisions.

As I have already mentioned, in relation to the proposed reform enabling reserves to be granted over functioning non-tidal watercourses and lakes, I can assure the House that safeguards have been built into the proposal to ensure that rights of water users as well as adjoining landholders are not adversely affected. This is a practical and common-sense reform that will rectify the current inability of local governments, in particular, to appropriately manage certain watercourse and lake land that is in need of such management. In conclusion, the proposed amendments to the Land Act and the Land Title Act will provide benefits to a range of stakeholders who deal in both state and freehold land.

As I have already flagged, some amendments to the bill will be moved during consideration in detail to address concerns raised during the committee process. The amendments will deliver further benefits to stakeholders and ensure that certain reforms operate as intended. To briefly recap, greater flexibility will be provided to rolling term lessees by allowing them to apply for an extension of their lease once at any time during the term of the lease and not just during the 20 years. In regards to resignation of trusteeship of trust land, an alternative approach has been identified through consultation with the LGAQ. That alternative will achieve the policy objective of providing for a smoother transition from one trustee to another. Finally, some practical improvements will be made to the compliance framework associated with the prescribed terms to address local government concerns.

Amendments are also proposed that will retrospectively validate the appointment of statutory office holders under the mining, petroleum and explosives safety legislation to remove uncertainty about the potential effect of procedural defects in the appointment process. These provisions will also retrospectively validate the exercise of statutory power by the relevant office holders and declare that any evidence obtained in the purported exercise of a power is taken to be and always have been lawfully obtained. These amendments will provide certainty in any ongoing prosecutions under the safety legislation. I will also propose amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 that will provide a solution to give certainty for QCoal and Glencore in relation to a long-running commercial dispute in the Bowen Basin.

I thank the members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee and its secretariat for their consideration of the bill, as well as those who made submissions to the inquiry and attended the public hearing in Brisbane. I also thank officers from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines for their work in developing this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Dr LYNHAM (4.15 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Dr LYNHAM: I move the following amendment—

1

After clause 2

Page 6, after line 11—

insert—

Part 1A Amendment of Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999

2A Act amended

This part amends the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*.

2B Replacement of pt 20, hdg (Transitional provisions and repeals)

Part 20, heading—

omit, insert—

Part 20 Repeal, transitional and validation provisions

2C Insertion of new pt 20, div 5

Part 20—

insert—

Division 5 Validation provision for Land and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016

305 Validation of particular appointments

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement, an officer or employee of the public service was purportedly appointed to any of the following offices (each a **relevant office**)—
 - (a) an inspector or inspection officer under section 125(1);
 - (b) for an inspector—the chief inspector of coal mines under section 125(2);
 - (c) an authorised officer under section 129A.
- (2) The person is declared to always have been validly appointed to the relevant office.
- (3) Anything done or omitted to be done by the person that would have been valid and lawful under this Act had the person been validly appointed to the relevant office is taken to be, and always to have been, valid and lawful.
- (4) Without limiting subsection (3), it is declared that evidence obtained by the person in the purported exercise of a power under this Act is taken to be, and always to have been, lawfully obtained.

Part 1B Amendment of Explosives Act 1999

2D Act amended

This part amends the *Explosives Act 1999*.

2E Amendment of pt 10, hdg (Transitional provisions)

Part 10, heading, after 'Transitional'—

insert—

and validation

2F Insertion of new pt 10, div 5

Part 10—

insert—

Division 5 Validation provision for Land and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016

147 Validation of particular appointments

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement, a person was purportedly appointed or designated to any of the following offices (each a **relevant office**)—
 - (a) an inspector under section 78(1);
 - (b) for an inspector—the chief inspector under section 78(2).
- (2) The person is declared to always have been validly appointed to the relevant office.

- (3) Anything done or omitted to be done by the person that would have been valid and lawful under this Act had the person been validly appointed to the relevant office is taken to be, and always to have been, valid and lawful.
- (4) Without limiting subsection (3), it is declared that evidence obtained by the person in the purported exercise of a power under this Act is taken to be, and always to have been, lawfully obtained.

I table the explanatory notes to my version 2 amendments resupplied on 23 March 2017.

Tabled paper: Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes to Hon. Anthony Lynham's amendments (resupplied 23 March 2017) [\[510\]](#).

Amendment No. 1 relates to the appointment of statutory office holders under the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Explosives Act 1999. Recently the Department of Natural Resources and Mines discovered that the appointment of statutory office holders under the safety legislation was invalid because of a procedural flaw in the appointment process. The appointing officers did not have the delegated power to make the appointment. Statutory office holders include inspectors, inspection officers and authorised officers who have the power to compel the production of documents and information on safety incidents that might incriminate the person producing them. Therefore, procedural defects that might affect the validity of such appointments have implications for several ongoing Department of Natural Resources and Mines prosecutions—two of which, unfortunately, involve facilities—and potentially for previous prosecutions that have resulted in convictions. The importance of this issue meant that once the invalid appointment was discovered the department started reviewing all appointments to statutory offices under the mining, petroleum and explosives safety legislation. The review identified several potential issues with a number of appointments, highlighting that other appointments are potentially affected by the same or similar procedural defects.

Amendment No. 1 inserts new validating provisions into the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Explosives Act 1999. Firstly, the amendments to those acts will retrospectively provide that the appointment of persons to statutory offices before commencement of the amendments is taken to have always been valid since the date of the person's appointment, despite defects in the procedure of the appointment. In addition, the amendments retrospectively provide that the exercise of powers by relevant office holders under the aforementioned acts are not nor ever have been invalid simply because of the defects in appointment.

These amendments do not interfere with judicial process or the institutional integrity of the courts, nor do they affect any exercise of statutory power that may have been invalid for a reason other than a procedural defect in an office holder's appointment. They merely resolve procedural defects potentially affecting the appointment of statutory office holders and confirm that any actions undertaken by those office holders, to the extent they are permitted under the legislation, are valid.

Mr CRIPPS: The amendment moved by the minister relates to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act and the minister intends to move other amendments relating to the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act, the Petroleum and Gas (Production Safety) Act and the Explosives Act as validation amendments to provide certainty regarding the appointment of office holders, and powers exercised by and information collected by those office holders under the aforementioned resource industry safety acts. I do not want to ask the same question of the minister every time he moves the amendments relating to those four pieces of resource industry safety legislation, so I will ask the relevant question once and he can take it as applying to all four of those industry safety acts.

As I acknowledged during the second reading debate on the bill, from time to time it is necessary for validation clauses to come forward at short notice to address an unexpected problem that suddenly arises. I note the explanatory notes accompanying the bill raise concerns about the potential for uncertainty to arise in this situation regarding some prosecutions and the evidence used in those cases. I would like the minister to reassure the House that, in asking for a validation clause to be agreed to, those statutory office holders were otherwise eligible to be appointed and competent to discharge the responsibilities in those roles but for the question of the validity of their appointment by the chief executive as an authorised officer.

Dr LYNHAM: I can inform the member for Hinchinbrook that that is in fact the case. These people had all the appropriate qualifications to exercise their responsibilities and roles. I asked the director-general of the department to make sure a thorough check was done of all appointments and, in fact, all their qualifications. It was simply the appointment that was the defect.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 10, as read, agreed to.

Clause 11—



Dr LYNHAM (4.20 pm): I move the following amendment—

2 Clause 11 (Amendment of s 164C (Making extension application or giving expiry advice))

Page 11, lines 27 to 29—

omit, insert—

- (1) Section 164C(5), from 'made'—

omit, insert—

made once during each term of the lease.

Amendment No. 2 to clause 11 of the bill is an outcome of the examination of the bill by the Agriculture and Environment Committee. During the committee's examination of the bill the operation of section 164C—providing for applications for the extension of rolling term leases—was highlighted. Section 164C forms part of the legislative framework for rolling term leases introduced in 2014. It provides the process for the making of an extension application for a rolling term lease. As it stands, subsection (5) restricts the making of an application to any time in the last 20 years of the term of the lease or at an earlier time approved by the minister if the minister is satisfied that special circumstances exist.

The committee questioned the Department of Natural Resources and Mines on the subject and was advised that the requirement to apply for renewal only in the final 20 years of a lease was not implemented in order to remedy any administrative issue or potential mischief arising from the introduction of the rolling term lease framework in 2014. That being the case, the committee recommended that the 20-year restriction on the making of an application for extension be removed and that rolling term leaseholders be able to make one application at any point during the term of the lease. The removal of the restriction addresses concerns that there be sufficient flexibility for landholders to make an application for the extension of a rolling term lease at any time of their choosing and which best suits their individual circumstances and prevailing market conditions.

Increased flexibility in the timing of applications for an extension was of particular concern to AgForce in relation to the rolling term leases used for agriculture, grazing or pastoral purposes. We certainly listened to AgForce. We certainly respected the committee's opinion regarding this. Amendment No. 2 will give effect to this recommendation and apply to both rural and tourism rolling term leases.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 11, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 12 to 23, as read, agreed to.

Clause 24—



Dr LYNHAM (4.23 pm): I move the following amendment—

3 Clause 24 (Amendment of s 50 (Vacation of office by trustee))

Page 19, lines 10 to 28—

omit, insert—

- (1) Section 50(1)(a), 'resigns by signed notice of resignation given to the Minister,'—

omit.

- (2) Section 50(1)(b)—

renumber as section 50(1)(c).

- (3) Section 50(1)—

insert—

- (b) the trustee resigns by signed notice of resignation given to the Minister and the trustee's resignation takes effect; or

- (4) Section 50(2) and (3)—

renumber as section 50(3) and (4).

- (5) Section 50—

insert—

- (2) For subsection (1)(b), a trustee's resignation takes effect on the earlier of the following days—

- (a) the day agreed by the Minister and the trustee;

- (b) the day stated by the Minister in a notice given to the trustee;

- (c) the day that is 1 year after the day the trustee's notice of resignation was given to the Minister.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines has been consulting with the LGAQ to address an issue raised in the committee process regarding the proposed amendments dealing with the resignation of a trustee of trust land. In particular, the LGAQ had concerns that clause 24, as drafted, which provided the circumstances in which the minister could accept the resignation of a trustee was both too restrictive and too onerous and may deter local governments from accepting opportunities to manage reserve land.

To address those concerns it is proposed to amend clause 24 to achieve the policy objective of a smooth transition from a resigning trustee to a new trustee in a manner less onerous on a trustee of trust land. Clause 24 will be amended to provide for a resignation of a trustee of trust land to take effect either on a date nominated by the minister or agreed with the resigning trustee when a replacement trustee has been identified or has accepted nomination for appointment or after 12 months from when the signed resignation was given to the minister.

This amendment will effectively allow a notice period within which the department and the trustee may begin the process of identifying and nominating a suitable replacement trustee. This approach better balances the interests of both the state and trustees of trust land. The amendment to clause 24 of the bill has been developed in consultation with the Local Government Association of Queensland.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 24, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 25 and 26, as read, agreed to.

Clause 27—



Dr LYNHAM (4.25 pm): I move the following amendments—

4 Clause 27 (Insertion of new ch 6, pt 3, div 3)

Page 23, lines 17 and 18—

omit, insert—

- (5) If the designated officer gives a notice to remedy under subsection (2), the designated officer must also give a copy of the notice to each person (each an **underlying interest holder**) who—
 - (a) holds a registered interest in the land over which the registered document creates an interest; and
 - (b) is not a person bound by the prescribed term.
- (6) A person who is given the notice to remedy, other than an underlying interest holder, may appeal against the decision to give the notice.

5 Clause 27 (Insertion of new ch 6, pt 3, div 3)

Page 23, line 20, after 'notice to remedy'—

insert—

, other than an underlying interest holder,

6 Clause 27 (Insertion of new ch 6, pt 3, div 3)

Page 23, lines 25 to 31 and page 24, line 1—

omit, insert—

- (1) If the Minister is satisfied a person has not complied with a notice to remedy given in relation to a prescribed term of a registered document, the Minister may give notice (a **notice of intention to cancel**) of the Minister's intention to cancel the registration of the document.
- (2) If the Minister gives a notice of intention to cancel under subsection (1), the Minister must give the notice to each person who is—
 - (a) bound by the prescribed term; or
 - (b) an underlying interest holder.

7 Clause 27 (Insertion of new ch 6, pt 3, div 3)

Page 24, lines 11 and 12—

omit, insert—

submissions to the Minister about—

- (i) the Minister's intention to cancel the registration of the document; and
- (ii) why the registration should not be cancelled; and
- (iii) any improvements on the land held by a person with an interest in land created by the registration and, if the registration is cancelled, whether or not the improvements should be removed.

8 Clause 27 (Insertion of new ch 6, pt 3, div 3)

Page 25, after line 18—

insert—

- (3A) In deciding whether to approve the removal of the improvements, the Minister must consider all submissions made under section 321G(3)(c) about the improvements and their removal.

9 Clause 27 (Insertion of new ch 6, pt 3, div 3)

Page 26, line 2, after 'effect'—

insert—

and is payable by the State

Amendment Nos 4 to 9 have arisen out of consultation with the Local Government Association of Queensland in relation to dealings affecting trust land, most of which is administered by local governments. The committee supported resolution of these outstanding issues with the LGAQ.

Clause 27 puts in place a framework for prescribed terms, which is a replacement framework for mandatory standard term documents. The framework also includes new provisions to be inserted into the Land Act which will allow remedial action to be undertaken in the event that a person bound by a prescribed term does not comply with that prescribed term. Under the proposed framework, the person who has not complied with the prescribed term will be provided with a notice to remedy to address the noncompliance. Where that noncompliance is not addressed, the minister may issue a notice of intention to cancel.

The LGAQ indicated concern that the proposed section, as drafted, may not capture local government trustees in all circumstances. Accordingly, with a view to ensuring that all relevant interest holders are notified of matters affecting land for which they hold an interest, clause 27 will be amended to allow any person with a registered interest in land over which the notices may apply—that is, persons bound by the prescribed terms, local government, trustees, mortgagees, sublessees—to be provided with the notices and, in relation to a notice of intention to cancel, allow those persons to make submissions to the minister.

Clause 27 will also be amended to ensure that submissions may be made in relation to matters the subject of the notice of intention to cancel, including how improvements on the land may be dealt with. These amendments recognise that underlying interest holders may be affected in some way by the remedial action or cancellation of an interest, that they should be aware what is happening and have the opportunity to have their say. The minister will be required to consider all submissions when deciding whether to cancel an interest or if the improvements should become the property of the state.

Clause 27 will also be amended in a minor way to explicitly state that where compensation is payable under proposed section 321K—that is, for improvements which become the property of the state—that compensation is payable by the state. This amendment is to address a drafting query raised by the LGAQ and it is considered appropriate that this matter be put beyond doubt by a minor amendment to the clause.

Amendment Nos 4 to 10 give effect to the committee's recommendation and overall will improve the transparency and fairness of the prescribed terms noncompliance framework. Amendment No. 4 inserts an obligation on a designated officer to give a copy of a notice to remedy to each person who is an underlying interest holder who holds a registered interest in the land over which the registered document creates an interest and is not a person bound by the prescribed term.

Amendment No. 5 ensures that a person not bound by the prescribed terms and who receives a copy of the notice to remedy as an underlying interest holder is not obliged to comply with the notice to remedy. Amendment No. 6 requires a notice of intention to cancel the registration of a document to be given by the minister to each person bound by the prescribed term. Amendment No. 7 allows a person who receives a notice of intention to cancel from the minister to make submissions to the minister about the intention to cancel registration of a document.

Amendment No. 8 places an obligation on the minister to consider all submissions made under new section 321G(3)(c) when considering an application to remove improvements from the land. Amendment No. 9 clarifies the drafting of new section 321K to be clear that, where compensation is payable for a lawful improvement that becomes the property of the state under that section, that compensation is payable. Amendment No. 10 inserts into the dictionary of the Land Act a definition of 'underlying interest holder' for the prescribed terms framework. The definition refers to new section 321E(5).

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 27, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 28 and 29, as read, agreed to.

Clause 30—



Dr LYNHAM (4.30 pm): I move the following amendment—

10 Clause 30 (Amendment of sch 6 (Dictionary))

Page 28, after line 11—

insert—

underlying interest holder, for chapter 6, part 3, division 3, see section 321E(5).

Again, amendment No. 10 simply amends the dictionary definition of ‘underlying interest holder’ to give effect to the intent of amendments Nos 4 to 9.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 30, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 31 to 41, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Dr LYNHAM (4.31 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Dr LYNHAM: I move the following amendment—

11 After clause 41

Page 37, after line 23—

insert—

Part 3A Amendment of Mineral Resources Act 1989

41A Act amended

This part amends the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*.

41B Insertion of new ch 12, pt 4B

Chapter 12—

insert—

Part 4B Grant of mining lease application 70460

334ZJH Definitions for part

In this part—

ML 70434 entity means the entity that is the applicant for mining lease application 70434.

ML 70460 entity means the entity that is the applicant for mining lease application 70460.

334ZJI Grant of mining lease application 70460

(1) This section applies to mining lease application 70460 for a mining lease for transportation through land under section 316.

(2) On the commencement, the mining lease applied for is, by operation of this section, granted to the ML 70460 entity.

(3) The mining lease granted under subsection (2)—

- (a) expires on 31 December 2032; and
- (b) can not be renewed.

(4) This Act, other than sections 286 to 287, applies in relation to the mining lease as if it had been granted by the Minister under section 271A on the day of the commencement.

334ZJJ Effect of grant on other applications

(1) The ML 70434 entity need not comply with section 248 for the following applications, to the extent the applications relate to land within the area of the mining lease granted under section 334ZJI(2)—

- (a) mining lease application 70434;
- (b) another application for a mining lease;
- (c) an application under section 275 for surface area to be included in a mining lease.

(2) Subsection (1) applies only while the mining lease granted under section 334ZJI(2) is in force.

334ZJK No compensation payable by State, ML 70434 entity or ML 70460 entity

- (1) No compensation is payable by the State, the ML 70434 entity or the ML 70460 entity to any person for or in connection with the enactment or operation of this part, or anything done to give effect to this part, other than as required under sections 279 and 280.
- (2) This section applies despite any other Act or law.

41C Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary)

Schedule 2—

*insert—***ML 70434 entity**, for chapter 12, part 4B, see section 334ZJH.**ML 70460 entity**, for chapter 12, part 4B, see section 334ZJH.

Given the recent public debate these amendments have garnered, I wish to speak about them in greater detail. The following amendments are the necessary and sad result of a failure of two mining giants of Queensland to be able to negotiate in good faith. The failure is putting hundreds of Queensland jobs in jeopardy. The Queensland resources sector is vital to the Queensland economy and the questions raised by the Land Court in this case may have repercussions for up to 1,500 projects across this state.

Later this year I plan to introduce legislation that will give certainty to all of these projects going forward. However, such a wide-scoping piece of legislation requires a much greater degree of consultation to ensure that everyone's rights and interests are protected. The project that these amendments are being introduced to protect cannot wait for this consultation to occur and need to be resolved now.

Amendment No. 11 relates to the grant of mining lease application 70460 to Glencore Coal Queensland Pty Ltd under the Mineral Resources Act 1989. There is a commercial dispute between Glencore and the QCoal Group. Both QCoal and Glencore have applied for mining leases over a specific tract of land between Glencore's Newlands and Suttor Creek mines. Glencore is seeking a mining lease for transportation to enable the transport of materials between its two existing mines—which currently provide revenue to the state and, most importantly, 450 jobs for Queenslanders—while the QCoal Group is seeking the rights to the mineral resources beneath this transport corridor.

According to documents filed with the Land Court, QCoal intends to mine the mineral resources beneath that land in the year 2043—approximately 26 years after the commencement of their project. Despite the fact that the uses of the mining leases are not in conflict and despite the assistance offered by the department to resolve this dispute, the two parties have been unwilling to negotiate a mutually agreeable outcome.

This issue has come to a head because the Land Court heard an objection to the grant of QCoal's mining lease application in 2015. During that case, QCoal alleged Glencore was unlawfully operating its haul road. Importantly, the Land Court did not make any findings that Glencore has been operating illegally.

Following the Land Court case, I sought advice from the department which informed me that the activities being undertaken by Glencore may be beyond what a strict reading of the act allowed for on a registered access. Hauling of minerals on registered access roads occurs on many, many mines across this state. I note that normal practice in a case like this would be to require Glencore to make an application for a transportation mining lease to put it beyond doubt that their activities are lawful. Glencore has made the application, but they have been unable to reach agreement with QCoal to allow that mining lease to be granted.

The Land Court asked me to take all of this information into account to find a way forward to allow both projects to continue. In the words of Member Smith, 'The public interest is best served by Glencore's mining operations continuing and Byerwen's project coming online.' The solution before the House allows both projects to proceed on the time lines that both have indicated in their mine plans. Neither project will be disrupted under this plan.

As the Land Court states regarding QCoal, 'Mining operations will not commence to the east of the access until 2043.' There is no logical reason both projects cannot coexist. Special legislation is required because the Mineral Resources Act does not grant me appropriate powers to resolve this situation in a way that serves the interests of the state and provides assurance to both proponents that they may proceed with their projects without risking interference from the other.

These amendments address this issue by granting Glencore's transportation mining lease application 70640 until 31 December 2032, with no possibility of renewal. The constraint on renewal will allow the QCoal Group to begin mining activities at the time and in the manner considered by the Land Court. This grant will allow Glencore to continue to use the existing haul road that links its two mines and to operate other existing essential infrastructure located in the corridor for which Glencore has sought the transportation mining lease. These amendments also ensure that granting Glencore's transportation mining lease application will not hinder the future grant of the QCoal mining lease.

I am aware that Mr Chris Wallin of QCoal has stated that he has referred the matter to the Crime and Corruption Commission. I have received no notice from the Crime and Corruption Commission. These amendments are not about picking winners or favouring a multinational company over an independent, locally owned company. They are not. They are about addressing the impasse that exists between two large Queensland companies—QCoal and Glencore—that does require urgent resolution.

The government is keen to progress approval of QCoal's Byerwen project. This will allow that development to get underway, providing hundreds of new and valuable jobs for regional Queensland. However, before I can approve this new mine, I want to ensure that it does not adversely impact on Glencore's Suttor Creek mine, which currently is a major employer for that region.

In terms of the other 1,500 registered accesses in Queensland, my department is progressing policy work around how to amend the Mineral Resources Act to make it clear what is and what is not allowed to occur on a registered access. These amendments will affect a number of mining tenure holders—big and small. Therefore, it is appropriate that these broader changes proceed through a parliamentary committee process later in the year. This will allow the department to work through all the issues and properly consult with all interested parties.

Mr CRIPPS: I move the following amendments—

1 Amendment to Minister's amendment no. 11 (After clause 41)

Proposed section 334ZJI (Grant of mining lease application 70460), after subsection (3)—

insert—

(3A) The Minister must—

- (a) review the mining lease at the end of each 5-year period after the commencement; and
- (b) decide whether the mining lease continues to be required for the purposes stated in mining lease application 70460.

(3B) Before making a decision under subsection (3A), the Minister must, by written notice, invite the ML 70434 entity to make submissions to the Minister within the stated reasonable period about whether or not the mining lease granted under subsection (2) should remain in force.

(3C) If the Minister decides under subsection (3A) that the mining lease is no longer required for the purposes stated in mining lease application 70460, the Minister may cancel the mining lease.

(3D) Section 308(3) to (5) applies to cancelling the mining lease as if the reference in section 308(3) to subsection (1) were a reference to section 334ZJI(3C).

2 Amendment to Minister's amendment no. 11 (After clause 41)

Proposed section 334ZJK (No compensation payable by State, ML 70434 entity or ML 70460 entity)—

omit.

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes to Mr Andrew Cripps's amendments to Hon. Anthony Lynham's amendments [\[511\]](#).

The purpose of the amendments that I have just moved are to provide for mining lease 70460 to be reviewed by the minister on a regular basis—I have nominated every five years from the date of the grant of ML 70460 to the date of its expiry in 2032, as outlined by the minister—to ensure that it continues to be used for the purpose for which it is granted and to allow the holder of ML 70434 to make submissions to the minister during that regular review of ML 70460 as to whether or not it should remain in force.

That amendment respects the recommendations of the Land Court in its decision of December 2015 and in no way interferes in the course of action proposed by the minister, but it seeks to ensure that the haul road is actively used for the purpose for which it is proposed to be granted. It is not wrong to say that granting the mining lease in this way is unusual and it is not in accordance with section 251 of the Mineral Resources Act. Section 251(1) of the Mineral Resources Act states—

Applications made under this Act for the grant of mining leases for the same land must be considered and decided according to the day on which they are lodged.

The onus is on the holder of ML 70460 to demonstrate that it is using that haul road for that particular purpose. As mining lease 70460 overlays ML 70434, the holder of 70434 is proposed to have an opportunity to make submissions to the minister during the proposed five-yearly review of 70460. The other amendment that I am moving is to remove section 334ZJK from the minister's amendment, thereby allowing any party involved to seek to have the question of compensation determined by the Land Court.

The government's amendment proposes to provide that no compensation is payable by any party involved in this particular situation, but, as I have already outlined, section 251 of the MRA makes it clear that it is a first in, first served situation for applicants for mining leases. The holder of mining lease 70434 is clearly being disadvantaged by this situation. It should not be for parliament to determine whether or not that particular holder of that mining lease has been disadvantaged. Those parties ought to have the right to have that question settled in the Land Court.

Dr LYNHAM: I wish to address the amendments from the member for Hinchinbrook. I appreciate that he recognises the situation that we are in. We want to promote jobs in Central Queensland and we have an impasse involving two major Queensland companies which must be resolved. The amendments proposed by the member for Hinchinbrook are unnecessary and are an attempt to add more red tape to the resource community. Both parties have had the opportunity to lay out their future development plans before the Land Court already. QCoal clearly stated that it would not be mining this area utilised by Glencore for its haul road for at least another 25 years.

We have to ask why would you introduce unnecessary red tape and create uncertainty for Glencore and its 450 workers with reviews every five years which no doubt would lead to endless judicial reviews, further tying up the Land Court at these various five-year marks. The amendments that the government has proposed are already in line with the outcome of the Land Court's extensive consideration of the positions of each party.

I will address the second amendment of the member for Hinchinbrook. The government does not support this amendment. All this amendment does is create ongoing uncertainty again for all parties. Why introduce the potential for yet another Land Court merry-go-round when the issues between these two parties have been well and truly ventilated in the Land Court already? I repeat: the proposed amendments that the government have introduced are totally consistent with the advice of the Land Court. The only parties that will benefit from the opposition's amendments are lawyers. By contrast, the government's position is about giving both parties the certainty that they need to create and protect hundreds of jobs for decades to come.

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

AYES, 39:

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

PHON, 1—Dickson.

NOES, 42:

ALP, 39—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

INDEPENDENT, 1—Gordon.

Pairs: O'Rourke, Costigan; Kelly, Stevens; Jones, Perrett.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendments (Mr Cripps) negatived.

Mr CRIPPS: I rise to oppose the minister's amendment given that my amendments to his amendment failed. My amendments did not offend the recommendations by the Land Court from December 2015. My amendments would not have prevented the minister's amendment from proceeding as he intends it to proceed. My amendment was proposed to the House to try to provide some safeguards to ensure that Glencore actively use the mining lease for transport infrastructure for the purposes for which it is intended to be granted for the next 15 years.

Members need to know that in the past Glencore has opened and shut the Suttor Creek mine in accordance with the vagaries of the resources sector. That is not an unusual thing for companies to do, but if they are not going to readily utilise a mining lease for the purpose for which it has been granted, for transport purposes, then there should be an opportunity for other companies to actively utilise the resource which will be prevented from being accessed by the fact that there will be a mining lease for transport services over that particular area of QCoal's mining lease.

Why do we have section 251 of the Mineral Resources Act to provide procedural fairness for resources sector participants when we are going to move amendments like this one to override the purpose of those sections of those pieces of legislation which say that mining lease applications ought to be considered and decided upon in the order in which they are received by the department? We are overturning section 251 of the Mineral Resources Act and we are providing no rationale to the House for doing so. That is my concern.

What we are doing by agreeing to this amendment, without the safeguards proposed in my amendment, is taking away the rights of people who participate in the resources tenure management framework in good faith. It is wrong to do so without trying to adequately address the reasons why we are acting in direct contrast to section 251 of the Mineral Resources Act. These types of actions by parliaments without adequately addressing the concerns raised give rise to questions about sovereign risk in the state of Queensland. Without the safeguards and without natural justice being afforded to seek compensation for the loss of property rights, the amendment is unacceptable to the opposition.

Dr LYNHAM: I obviously rise to support my amendment. What we are providing here is certainty. We are supporting the mining industry in Queensland. We are providing certainty to two mining companies to coexist. We are not interfering with the ability of QCoal to commence its operations, but we are also protecting 450 jobs. We are providing certainty where certainty is desperately required. The amendments by the member for Hinchinbrook simply put uncertainty back. They simply put it back into the Land Court where it has been for the past five years with no resolution. Sovereign risk is very important to this state, and that is why we are acting here today.

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

AYES, 44:

ALP, 39—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, Palaszcuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, 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, Bleijie, Boothman, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

Pairs: O'Rourke, Costigan; Kelly, Stevens; Jones, Perrett.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Insertion of new clauses—



Dr LYNHAM (5.00 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Dr LYNHAM: I move the following amendment—

12 Before part 4

Page 38, before line 1—

insert—

Part 3B Amendment of Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999

41D Act amended

This part amends the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999*.

41E Amendment of pt 20, hdg (Other transitional provisions)

Part 20, heading, after 'transitional'—

insert—

and validation

41F Insertion of new pt 20, div 4

Part 20—

*insert—***Division 4 Validation provision for Land and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016****281 Validation of particular appointments**

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement, an officer or employee of the public service was purportedly appointed to any of the following offices (each a **relevant office**)—
 - (a) an inspector or inspection officer under section 122(1);
 - (b) for an inspector—the chief inspector of mines under section 122(2);
 - (c) an authorised officer under section 126A.
- (2) The person is declared to always have been validly appointed to the relevant office.
- (3) Anything done or omitted to be done by the person that would have been valid and lawful under this Act had the person been validly appointed to the relevant office is taken to be, and always to have been, valid and lawful.
- (4) Without limiting subsection (3), it is declared that evidence obtained by the person in the purported exercise of a power under this Act is taken to be, and always to have been, lawfully obtained.

Part 3C Amendment of Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004**41G Act amended**This part amends the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*.**41H Amendment of ch 15, hdg (Repeal and transitional provisions)**

Chapter 15, heading, 'and transitional'—

*omit, insert—***, transitional and validation****41I Insertion of new ch 15, pt 20**

Chapter 15—

*insert—***Part 20 Validation provision for Land and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016****992 Validation of particular appointments**

- (1) This section applies if, before the commencement, a public service officer was purportedly appointed to any of the following offices (each a **relevant office**)—
 - (a) the chief inspector, petroleum and gas under section 735(1)(a);
 - (b) the deputy chief inspector, petroleum and gas under section 735(1)(b);
 - (c) an inspector, petroleum and gas under section 735(1)(c);
 - (d) an authorised officer under section 735(1)(d).
- (2) The person is declared to always have been validly appointed to the relevant office.
- (3) Anything done or omitted to be done by the person that would have been valid and lawful under this Act had the person been validly appointed to the relevant office is taken to be, and always to have been, valid and lawful.
- (4) Without limiting subsection (3), it is declared that evidence obtained by the person in the purported exercise of a power under this Act is taken to be, and always to have been, lawfully obtained.


Amendment No. 12 inserts provisions into the bill to amend the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 to validate particular appointments. The intention of these amendments is similar to those contained in amendment No. 1, which amended the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Explosives Act 1999. As with the amendments to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Explosives Act 1999, these amendments insert new validating provisions into the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 42, as read, agreed to.

Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (5.02 pm): I move—


That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (5.03 pm): I move the following amendment—

13 Long title

Long title, from 'Land Act 1994' to 'Land Title Act 1994'—

omit, insert—

Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Explosives Act 1999, the Land Act 1994, the Land Title Act 1994, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004

Amendment No. 13 amends the long title of the bill to include reference to additional amendments to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Explosives Act 1999, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004.


Amendment agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Suspension of Sessional Orders

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.03 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That, notwithstanding anything contained in the sessional orders, the private member's motion be brought on for debate immediately, to be followed by the adjournment debate.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Unions

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.03 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. condemns the comments by ACTU Secretary Sally McManus threatening the rule of law; and
2. supports the federal government's move to implement the trade unions royal commission's recommendations for criminal penalties for corrupting payments between unions and companies.

This is an important motion for the state of Queensland. As jurisdictions right around the world are introducing legislation dealing with governance and anti-corruption measures, the Attorney-General mentioned yesterday that she attended some integrity, transparency and accountability forum. Then members opposite come in here, and we have seen over the last couple of years all the issues associated with the dodgy relationship with the CFMEU and other unions and the Labor government. It is a dangerous relationship. It is a relationship on a slippery slope in terms of integrity, accountability and transparency.

We know that the federal government have reintroduced the ABCC to deal with union corruption on worksites. We know that this Labor government have got rid of the BCCB in Queensland. They have got rid of the guidelines. The Minister for Industrial Relations stood up yesterday and said, 'This is not an issue. No-one cares about it. I have consulted with everybody.' However, there is an editorial in the *Courier-Mail* today. She was then forced to rise during ministerial statements this morning to explain herself a little more. She said that everyone knew about it and people were consulted. Apparently not everyone was consulted as NECA have tweeted that they did not know about it, and they are a pretty big stakeholder on this issue. They have tweeted in direct contradiction to what the minister said yesterday; they did not know about it. The minister should explain herself. Who knew about it? Who knew the guidelines were going and who knew that the BCCB was being abolished?


Let's deal with Sally McManus. We know what Sally McManus said on ABC TV the other day. She looked directly down the barrel of the camera and said essentially that she does not care what the law is because if the union does not believe in the law they ought not follow the law. Colleagues in this place might want to do 120 kilometres per hour on the Bruce Highway but they do not because they know what the law is. They might want to do other things that the law prevents them from doing—

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Exactly. I take that interjection from the member for Beaudesert. The law is the law. Just because someone is in the CFMEU or the ACTU president does not mean that they do not have to abide by the law and that just because they do not believe in it they ought not follow it. We know this government is in a dangerous relationship with the union movement. Honourable members should look at the history over the past two years of what this government has done for the union movement. These are the questions that need to be asked because we know millions of dollars are put into the pockets of the Queensland Labor Party and the serious question has to be asked: why? I will tell honourable members why. They moved Labour Day back to May. Then they brought in the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which changed the IR act, undoing amendments moved by the LNP government. They made it easier for union bosses to access new Public Service recruits. Do honourable members remember that? They put in place those policies. It removed privacy of workers in the new union encouragement policy whereby unions can access public servants' details.

Then there was the mandatory requirement for water meters to be checked by licensed plumbers. That was payback to the Plumbers Union. Then we saw the Plumbers Union president do some work in the industrial relations department for the minister. We also saw the workers compensation rehabilitation amendments which rolled back reforms and let the unions back on site. It gave all unions representation on the review panel—the AWU et cetera. Then we saw the work health and safety bill, which rolled back the right-of-entry reforms that were previously put in place. It let unions have complete access to construction sites. Then we saw the whole IR bill repealed a few weeks ago based on union hacks in the review panel. Now we see Easter Sunday is a public holiday; that was given away for the shoppies union because they made \$70,000 in donations to the Labor Party. Now we see that credit card expenses have gone; they are not disclosed anymore. Then we see the police are no longer on the Australian Federal Police task force for union corruption. They are gone. Then this week we see that the guidelines have gone and the BCCB was abolished. This is because the Labor Party receives donations from the union movement.

If honourable members put all of that together they would find that that is the making of a royal commission. That is what royal commissions are held for: to get to the bottom of what discussions are had with the Minister for Industrial Relations and what dodgy deals are done with the union movement in relation to this type of legislation. It is about time the Labor Party started disclosing these dodgy relationships and supported the federal government in its moves to get rid of corruption in Australia. I suspect that we have not seen anything yet in terms of corruption between the Queensland Labor division and the union movement.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.09 pm): I move—

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

- '1. notes the comments by ACTU Secretary Sally McManus and supports the rule of law; and
2. notes the federal government's move to implement the trade unions royal commission's recommendations for criminal penalties for corrupting payments between unions and companies.'

Members opposite have to be desperate. Every time this parliament sits all we see from those opposite is continual motions on union bashing. It is getting so tedious that we just have to keep repeating and knocking the member for Kawana down. I thank him for the opportunity to wholeheartedly congratulate Sally McManus on her appointment as the first ever female secretary of the ACTU in its 90-year history. Having myself been the first ever secretary of the Queensland Council of Unions when I was elected in 2000, I acknowledge the significance of her appointment. Sally has been a tireless advocate for workers for more than two decades, leading the campaign for equal pay for community workers and being instrumental in the fight to stop the privatisation of Sydney Water.

I welcome some of the early priorities she has set out following her election to the position. These include: reversing the damaging and unfair penalty rate cuts in the recent decision of the Fair Work Commission; ensuring a decent minimum wage; and the need for stronger rights and protections for workers who are being exploited. I wish her all the very best at a time of significant challenges for Australian workers and the proud Australian trade union movement. I believe that her statement following her comments clarifies her position when she says—


Australian unions are committed to changing the laws at work because they are no longer strong enough to guarantee and protect workers' rights. We will do so through advocating changes to the laws and the rules that govern the workplace.

Congratulations, Sally; I wish you all the very best.

On this side of the House we clearly do not condone breaking the law under any circumstances. If the law is broken those who break it should face the full consequences, but let us remember that the rule of law goes both ways. Day in and day out we hear from those opposite about what unions are doing and what unions are not doing, but do we ever see them get up once to talk about the rules and laws that have been broken by employers every single day in the exploitation of workers and their entitlements? There has not been a word from those opposite in relation to that. We had the Fair Work Ombudsman's report on the 7-Eleven scandal, Dominos, Pizza Hut and the list goes on, particularly with labour hire firms, but do we ever hear any of those opposite talk about that breach of the rule of law? Never. It is always about union bashing and it always goes one way.

What we do support is changing unfair, unjust laws that are bad, and the best way to do that is to change the government. Those opposite would know how this feels. How many of them were there in 2012 and what brought them undone? Bad and unjust laws. The people of Queensland saw your bad laws and said a resounding no. Let's just go through some of them. The member for Kawana talked about reforms to the workers compensation system. They imposed a five per cent threshold for common law claims against the advice of their own parliamentary committee, and do you know what that means? That means that today workers suffering from coal workers' pneumoconiosis would not be able to claim common law damages for simple CWP. That is what those changes did for those workers in the coal industry.

The member for Kawana had to come in here and repeal unconstitutional laws that required unions to ballot members for expenditures of more than \$10,000 on political donations. They were the bad laws. Let's not forget the boot camps. Pink jumpsuits, anybody? Does anyone remember those? There were industrial laws that applied only to unions and not to employers in spite of the Scott Driscoll affair. What was going on when they were in government was a disgrace. Workers rejected their unfair and unjust laws. They were bad laws. We campaigned to change them, and now they are over there where they belong.

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (5.15 pm): I rise to support the motion of the member for Kawana. Not a week goes by that these good, wholesome unionists are not in the media for one corrupt reason or another. Week after week the vile, hideous activities of intimidation, thuggery or dubious financial practices are revealed, yet, as we have come to expect, Labor members continue to defend the indefensible. The minister calls our motion union bashing, but the only bashing that is being done is by the unions. Whilst those opposite come in here and try to excuse this appalling behaviour, we on this side of the chamber know that Queenslanders are awake to the union controlled government. Let's just have a look at today's *Courier-Mail*. This is just one example of what is in the *Courier-Mail* today. Page 7 states—

The luxury home that former union boss Dave Hanna allegedly accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars in free work for has been frozen under proceeds of crime laws.

I do not think that is the last we will be hearing of old Davo, is it? Old Davo is in a bit of trouble. Let us go to page 9, which states—

Transport Minister Jackie Trad has been forced to intervene in a new closed-shop jobs scandal at Queensland Rail.

Page 10 states—

Queensland builders have accused the State Government of failing to fully enforce rules to prevent militant unions causing costly blowouts and delays on major taxpayer-funded projects.

Master Builders yesterday insisted inspectors from the Office of Industrial Relations had been withdrawing from policing the rules since Labor won office in 2015.

Page 11 states—

Energy Minister Mark Bailey remains steadfast in his refusal to step aside amid a probe into his private email use.

Then, of course, we go to page 20. My point is that this is all about the unions in one day.

An opposition member: Very grubby deals.

Mrs SMITH: Exactly, those grubby union deals! Page 20 states—

Queenslanders pay for Labor's union cronyism. Queensland is the nation's undisputed capital of lawless industrial action.

You cannot dispute that. Page 20 also states, 'If newly minted transport minister Jackie Trad is serious about addressing the unions, then they have to act now.' That is just in today's paper, and that is exactly why we bring it up here in parliament. My question to you, Minister—and I really do want you to answer this question—is if the unions are doing such a great job, why do 85 per cent of employees choose not to join? Why do 85 per cent of employees reject the union movement?

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I apologise, member for Mount Ommaney, but I think that it might be challenging for Hansard to hear your contribution because of other comments being made. I would urge members to bear that in mind. I call the member for Mount Ommaney.


Mrs SMITH: Why do 85 per cent of employees choose not to belong to a union? What are your views on the 85 per cent of employees who reject the union? We would love to hear about that. We go back to the newly minuted ACTU secretary—

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Thank you, Leader of the House. I know that everyone is excited and willing, but we do not have far to go.

Mrs SMITH:—who was interviewed by Leigh Sales on the ABC, and it was staggering to hear the words that she used when trying to legitimise her comments. I find it interesting that Queensland was dead silent. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews came out and said that he did not agree with it. Even Bill Shorten said that he did not agree with her. Queensland was silent. We know that we will not see any condemnation of that in this parliament, because it was only 2015 when we saw the very loyal Deputy Premier, along with the Treasurer, turn up to support an illegal action at the Hutchison port.

I also support the second part of the motion moved by the member for Kawana with regard to the federal government. Only a conservative government will represent the workers in not being ripped off by the union bosses.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (5.20 pm): Labor in government believes that when bad laws exist it is incumbent upon us to change them. We hear much from the opposition by way of union bashing. In fact, one would struggle to find a sitting week in which this kind of stunt is not part of the opposition's bread and butter. Perhaps the problem is not the fact that those opposite care about corruption and wrongdoing. Perhaps the overriding concern here is the track record of Sally McManus in mobilising an army of volunteers to doorknock and call their community during election times. Perhaps it is her track record to generate a groundswell of community support through this grassroots campaigning. Perhaps it is the fear that such a groundswell of support for values based policy, ignored by narrow-minded conservative politicians, threatens not only the agenda of those opposite also but their very existence in this place. The contribution to this debate by the member for Mount Ommaney—a love letter to the *Courier-Mail*, if you will—certainly adds weight to this theory.

As Sally says, the job of the union movement is to lead a movement of people who share a vision about the kind of society they want. My community tell me that they do not want jobs with insecure employment—

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Toowoomba North and member for Chatsworth.


Ms BOYD: My community do not want laws that impinge upon basic rights. My community do not want to see big business get a tax break while the little guy suffers. Rather than tackle any of these issues in the time afforded to the opposition each sitting day, we find ourselves back here going over the member for Kawana's old favourite—union bashing—as he gesticulates madly like Lord Farquaad. I wonder if this is playing out just as he rehearsed it in the mirror.

The Fair Work Commission's decision, which will strip the take-home pay of some 700,000 of the lowest paid workers—workers who rely on penalty rates to make ends meet—is bad policy. Any system in which the government of the day backs that in demonstrates and screams out to us that the system needs fixing.

Our democracy provides for the opportunity to change unjust laws. In fact, it is based on it. That is what we as legislators must do. That is what has consumed much of the legislative reform of the Palaszczuk government. Time and time again we see Queenslanders stand up together to the things that are unfair and unjust and demand something better. Indeed, I believe that is how the LNP went from a record majority squarely to the opposition benches. Once again, the conservative side of politics demonstrates that it just does not get it.

Like Sally McManus, I have organised workers—predominantly low-paid, under-recognised workforces and female dominated workforces. I have organised with workers to take protected industrial action. I am acutely aware of the limitations that surround the framework. The right to strike is a basic, fundamental human right. Civil disobedience is based on respect for the rule of law. The United Nations has declared strike action to be one of the principal means by which workers and their associations may legitimately promote and defend economic and social interests. Our current laws in Australia put us at odds with international conventions and human rights. We are in breach and the International Labour Organization, the UN agency which oversees labour standards, makes sure we are reminded of that.

Australia's laws are out of step. They are flagrantly in breach of UN conventions. Going after workers and going after their unions is not the solution. The solution is a legislative one—one in the opposite direction to the one the conservatives are taking. We know that wages growth has stagnated. The divide between the haves and the have-nots is getting ever greater. People in my community are hurting. It is plain to see and it is tragic to hear. It is incumbent upon all of us as legislators to enforce the laws or repeal them. I urge the Turnbull government to put a stop to its dogged attack on workers and their unions. Australia has grown tired of it. I commend the minister's amendment to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (5.25 pm): Having heard the contribution of the member for Pine Rivers, I note with interest how far we have gotten away from the original motion that I rise to speak in support of, which relates to the comments by ACTU Secretary Sally McManus threatening the rule of law and supports the federal government's move to implement the trade union royal commission's recommendations for criminal penalties for corrupt payments between unions and companies.

We only have to look at the minister's amendments to see that those opposite do not support the federal government's move to implement these recommendations for criminal penalties; they just note them. They note the comments by ACTU Secretary Sally McManus and support the rule of law, but Sally McManus does not support the rule of law. It may be important for the sisterhood to laud Sally McManus as the first female ACTU secretary. That does not mean that we support the rule of trade unions. We do not have the rule of kings in this country; we have the rule of law. Sally McManus said very clearly that she thinks union members should act outside of the law.

Members opposite have come in here and said, 'We think you just need to change the government to change the law.' That is not what Sally McManus said. She said that union members should break the law to try to get the law changed. The rule of law has at its heart the concept that both the government and citizens know the law and obey it. Here we have those opposite commending the ACTU secretary for her edict that members should go out and break the law.

I want to speak about the specific issues we are dealing with—about what the CFMEU has done, especially on the Gold Coast over the past year and since this government has been in power for the past two years. It has walked all over Premier Palaszczuk and her ministers. It has decided to turn a blind eye to the illegal strikes and the standover tactics. I table a cartoon from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* which depicts the Minister for Industrial Relations with her hands over her eyes, ignoring the work of the unions, who were having daily two-hour stop-work meetings for months while they had a dispute with Hansen Yuncken, halving production.

Tabled paper: Cartoon, undated, titled 'The Closing Ceremony for the 2018 Commonwealth Games' [512].


They have had disputes with Grocon. They have had disputes with Boral. Of course, that is why the federal government is bringing up these issues of corrupt payments that are causing particular companies to get favourable treatment from the unions.

Gold Coast locals are proud to be hosting the Commonwealth Games in just over a year from now. We are excited about the infrastructure improvements. We know that the games will boost our international reputation as a city, a state and a nation. We are excited to project our city onto the world stage. There is a strong sense of optimism in the Gold Coast city, but locals have also felt frustrated, embarrassed and anxious in the face of CFMEU strikes which jeopardise the progress of key projects such as the Carrara sports and leisure precinct. Workers were lazing around on the grass, and I table a copy of an article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* that portrays them as bludgers.

Tabled paper: Front page of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 25 May 2016, with the headline 'Bludgers: working flat out for Commonwealth Games success' [513].

The Federal Court was told that as little as two hours of work was being done per day on the \$126 million site. They threatened other key sites. It cost \$700,000 and that means that Hansen Yuncken had to tender allowing for that \$700,000 to be built into the price, and it is taxpayers who end up funding that sort of thing. It drives up the costs for Queenslanders because it adds to the cost of buying a home or the cost of doing business because other businesses that may not be union members have a 30 per cent reduction in their productivity.

Bob Hawke as a former prime minister, Peter Beattie as a former premier and Simon Crean as a former Labor opposition leader have all said that the CFMEU should be reined in or that it would be better off not being in the Labor fold. The ABCC, the Australian Building and Construction Commission, shows that the CFMEU is the respondent in 56 current prosecutions, with 110 of its representatives facing 1,076 alleged contraventions. Queensland is the strike capital of Australia. The numbers of days lost in Queensland are almost double those of New South Wales and Victoria combined. We know that the CFMEU does not care about Queenslanders. It is evident that the Labor Party is more interested in ensuring that the CFMEU can bankroll it during the next election than in working for Queenslanders. Queenslanders expect better. Gold Coasters expect better. Justice Reeves in the Federal Court will sentence on 8 May having found the CFMEU guilty of what it did on the Carrara site. It is not good enough for the people of the Gold Coast or the people of Queensland.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.30 pm): I rise to support the motion as amended by the member for Brisbane Central. The original motion moved by the member for Kawana reveals once again the LNP's obsession with organisations that seek to represent workers—the Queensland unions. That is the attitude of those opposite. They think that workers are bludgers. That is their attitude.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr POWER: We see the evidence in that the member for Kawana says that Queensland workers are bludgers. We know that wage growth for workers is flat and falling as a share of national income. It is time for the LNP to reconsider its obsessive entrenched position on unions. This problem has been identified by the Productivity Commission looking at wage earners' share of growth and prosperity. We know that unions of employees that have a significant presence in society increase the share for ordinary workers. We know that they make work safer and make more stable forms of employment. We know that unions help provide a greater share of profits. We also know that where unions are weaker where conservative governments attack them work is more dangerous and workers are paid less and are often less productive. We know that in many economically developed countries the share for workers has been reduced even as the size of the economy has increased. Australia is not immune from this process. In the seventies wages as a share of GDP peaked at about 68 per cent. It was 61 per cent in 1990 but now, thanks to attacks from people like the LNP, it has fallen to just 56 per cent. It is no wonder that those who rely on wages look to this place to give them a fairer share for their hard-earned work.

The LNP's obsessive and destructive attacks on unions are not helping workers. Attacks on unions mean that there is not a voice for workers to get a fair share of rising national wealth. Unions are not as involved as they are in Germany or Japan to involve workers in upskilling and increasing both productivity and wages. Unions are not as much a partner in the discussion when faced with the global forces that maintain jobs, and we know that jobs are changing. Skilled workers are needed more and low-skilled workers are being pushed out. We need to involve workers in those skills. We also know that globalisation makes it tougher and effectively increases the supply of low- and middle-skilled workers, reducing job opportunities and changing our economy. We also know that when governments like the Newman-Nicholls government take an adversarial approach they hurt both business and

workers. Under the Newman-Nicholls period, days lost reached 24.6 days per thousand employees which was the highest of any state going back to 2004. Workers lost out and businesses lost out too, all because the LNP wanted to set up an anti-union, dog-eat-dog system of industrial relations. We cannot go back to those divisive days.

The other part of this motion is how society should act when presented with unfair bad laws put forward by LNP governments at a state and federal level, especially laws designed to stifle unionism and workers collectively acting to ensure safety, dignity and fairer economic return for workers. We in the Queensland Labor Party do not believe in breaking the unfair laws of the LNP; we believe in changing them. We on the side of this House support Bill Shorten. He said to all Queenslanders—

If you don't like a law, if you think a law is unjust, use the democratic process to get it changed ... We believe in changing bad laws, not breaking them.

So many of the new MPs on this side of the House saw a bad government in the Newman-Nicholls government—a government with bad laws, with unjust laws, with antiworker laws. We did not break the laws; we joined together to put forward fairer laws, just laws, laws that backed workers instead of attacking them, laws that recognise their work instead of calling them bludgers like the member for Kawana did earlier tonight. We said to Queenslanders: 'Come with us. Don't break laws. Come doorknocking. Sign a petition. Rally together. Campaign on the phone and online. Fight the injustice of the LNP the democratic way.' After three years of injustice we saw the results when the unfairness of the Newman-Nicholls government was ended. We can do the same thing federally.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Sorry, member for Logan, but there are a couple of members whose intention is to disrupt your contribution.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: No. We have 22 seconds to go.

Mr POWER: I urge every worker to reject the LNP's attacks on them—those that call them bludgers—and the unions that represent them. Do it the democratic way—through the ballot box and through convincing your friends and your family. We do not have to put up with a federal government that continues to attack the rights of workers, attacks the wages of workers and attacks the penalty rates and safety of workers. Join Labor. Make a fairer society.

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

AYES, 41:

ALP, 39—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, Palaszczyk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

INDEPENDENT, 2—Gordon, Pyne.

NOES, 38:

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

Pairs: O'Rourke, Costigan; Kelly, Stevens; Jones, Perrett.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

AYES, 41:

ALP, 39—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, Palaszczyk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

INDEPENDENT, 2—Gordon, Pyne.

NOES, 38:

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

Pairs: O'Rourke, Costigan; Kelly, Stevens; Jones, Perrett.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House:

1. notes the comments by ACTU Secretary Sally McManus and supports the rule of law; and
2. notes the federal government's move to implement the trade unions royal commission's recommendations for criminal penalties for corrupting payments between unions and companies.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.44 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 9 May 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.44 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Sunshine Coast University Hospital



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (5.45 pm): This morning in the chamber the health minister made the big announcement that the Sunshine Coast University Hospital would be starting to receive patients this week. He said that Labor promised the hospital. I have to say that that is all he can say about the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, because that is all it was for the Labor Party. The Labor Party did not deliver the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. It did not sign the contracts for the hospital, it did not get the workers in there, it did not start the construction; all the Labor Party did was talk about it. It set aside a block of land in the heart of Kawana and said, 'That is the future Sunshine Coast hospital.'

The Labor Party made a lot of promises to the Sunshine Coast. Who can forget years ago Paul Lucas, when he was transport minister, saying that by 2015 the Sunshine Coast would have the CAMCOS rail corridor. That CAMCOS rail corridor has not happened. Then, of course, we had the CoastConnect project, which is an unfunded project that is sitting in limbo—multimodal transport corridors sitting in limbo. The Labor Party has a big list of promises but, if we look through the list, we see that it never delivers for the Sunshine Coast.

It was the LNP government with its hardworking MPs representing the Sunshine Coast that made sure that the hospital was delivered on time. Not only that, construction was brought forward by six months. I thank the community campaign for the past eight years. In 2009 when I was elected to this place Andrew Fraser, who at the time was the treasurer, delayed the construction of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital by two years. Automatically, a community group was set up to fight the delay of the hospital—the Sunshine Coast University Hospital Action Group, which at that time was chaired by Jean Gleed and is now chaired by Maureen Mileham. I thank Maureen, Kerri Ricketts, Betty and Kevin Freebody, Jan De Vries and all the other people who were associated with the Sunshine Coast University Hospital Action Group. If it were not for that group and it were not for other members of the Sunshine Coast community, we would not have the hospital. We held a protest at the hospital site. Two thousand people showed up to protest against the Labor government's delay of the hospital.

We now have the health minister's abysmal treatment of nurses on the Sunshine Coast. He is still chasing nurses for overpayments. In an answer to a question on notice, the health minister will not disclose how many nurses the government is chasing for the Health payroll disaster, implemented by the Labor Party. A few weeks ago Krysten Harvey from my electorate, who is being chased by debt collectors, was down here. The Premier said publicly, 'I'm happy to look at the matter.' On 14 March I get an email from the 'Yours sincerely office of the Premier' that states, 'Dear Mr Bleijie, thank you, thank you, thank you. As the issue you have raised falls within the responsibility of the health minister I have referred it to him.' The whole point of me writing to the Premier was that, after four to six pieces of correspondence, the health minister has not responded to particular constituents in my electorate. The Labor Party does not care for the Sunshine Coast, it has never cared for the Sunshine Coast and it takes the Sunshine Coast for granted.

Gifted and Talented Children



Ms DAVIS (Aspley—LNP) (5.48 pm): Recently, I was delighted to receive an invitation from Tony Stevens, the president of the Queensland Association for Gifted and Talented Children, to offer the opening remarks at their 25th annual state conference. The conference focused on Queensland's gifted and talented students in the lead-up to Gifted Awareness Week, which ran from 12 to 18 March. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to meet such a diverse mix of parents and educators from across the sectors who were in attendance at the conference.

A month or so prior to the conference I also had the opportunity to have some preliminary discussions with QAGTC. I thank Tony and Lyn for their time and their insights. We spoke at length about gifted and talented students and their specific learning benefits from tailored learning strategies. We spoke about how these students thrive when they have an education that is supported by a challenging curriculum. I ask members to think about that for a moment: students who really thrive; students who are pushing for, who are wanting, who are asking for a challenging education in order to succeed and go further. Of course, the flipside is that, in the absence of such an environment or curriculum, gifted and talented students can become bored or even frustrated. An unchallenging classroom situation can lead to gifted and talented students losing interest in learning. They might develop bad study habits or, in some instances, become disruptive.

Training in the delivery of gifted education programs is important, because the research tells us that, in order to avoid underachievement, the presence of a perceptive, caring parent or teacher with the right tools to support the gifted child can really make a difference. It is simple. We want our children to reach their full potential. Whether the child is identified as gifted or talented—or not—we want them to grow and achieve their dreams. For the gifted and talented student, this often means providing an environment of acceleration.

We must recognise that these students have the potential to be our prodigious problem solvers and our great innovators of the future. If we are not alert to providing an appropriate learning environment for gifted students, all we stand to achieve is the very real risk of them not being challenged and possibly disengaging from education—and nobody wants that. We do not want a setting where, for these kids, it is a race to the middle.

Gifted and talented children sit in the top 10 per cent of students. They are not exclusively prodigies; they are children who have shown an advanced capacity to learn and to apply their learnings across a broad range of subject areas, including performance and fine arts. Once again, I would like to thank Tony and QTACG. I look forward to catching up and hearing about the learnings that came from their conference.

Glass House Electorate, Events



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (5.51 pm): This week, it was pretty special to stop to reflect on eight years as the member for Glass House and to reflect on the honour and privilege that it has been to represent this fantastic part of this great state. Tonight, I want to reflect on three more recent events. The first is the launch of Celebrate Glasshouse Country, which occurred late in February at the Glass House Mountains lookout. Celebrate Glasshouse Country has come together with one focus, and that is to take a regional approach to our tourism, our events and our festivals. When I talk about a regional approach, I am talking about the region of Beerburum in the south through to Mooloolah in the north. Celebrate Glasshouse Country focuses on the iconic Glass House Mountains.


The group set up a YouTube channel. If members want an informative presentation on how the Glass House Mountains formed and the history of the region, I encourage them and all of my constituents of the electorate of Glass House—and, indeed, Queensland—to have a look at that YouTube channel. Ivon Northage, one of the great locals, has pulled that together. The presentation talks about the geology and the history of the region. Celebrate Glasshouse Country has a Facebook page, which promotes events locally. I acknowledge the tireless efforts of particularly Judy Tomlinson and Roger Reilly in pulling that all together.

Last Saturday week the first ever Woodford pirate pool party was held. I acknowledge my pirates in crime, Woodford P&C president Lauren Keig and Councillor Adrian Raedel from the Moreton Bay Regional Council. The intent of the pirate pool party was to raise money for our great chaplains—chappy Nikki at Woodford P to 10 and chappy Lisa at Delaney's Creek State School. We had everything from jelly eating competitions, dance competitions—and, yes, that may have meant that you saw a certain state MP dressed as a pirate dancing to *Nutbush City Limits*—and plenty of splashing about as well. I thank Leanne Klein; Donna Grigor; Peter Ostman; Marlene and Andrew Clews and their amazing

employee, Brooke; Jai Boxsell; Chappy Nikki's husband, Scott; John and Gloria Power; John and Bruna Waldron; and, of course, the Woodford Lions, who fed us throughout the event and during the evening, led by their indefatigable president, Mike Curtis. The event was a huge success. We raised over \$1,000 for those two chaplains so that they can keep doing the fantastic job that they do in those two schools.

Earlier this week—on Tuesday—I tabled both a written petition and an e-petition on behalf of Maleny local, Rachel Fentiman, who is calling for improvements to be made to the intersection of Maleny-Landsborough Road and Maleny-Montville Road. I acknowledge that TMR has removed the grass and cemented the traffic islands to improve the visibility for drivers turning out of the Montville road on to the Maleny road, but more work needs to be done. I call on Minister Bailey to look at that petition, to take very seriously the concerns raised by Rachel and the other members of the Maleny community, and come back to them with some positive response in the very near future.

2011 Floods


 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (5.54 pm): It is now more than six years since the 2011 floods and their catastrophic impact on thousands of people who live in Brisbane, Ipswich and other affected areas. At that time in my seat of Yeerongpilly, 167 streets were flood affected and in many of those streets nearly every house was badly damaged, including in the suburbs of Fairfield, Yeronga, Rocklea and Salisbury. In the wake of the disaster, which of course is still all too strongly remembered by many people today, the Brisbane City Council commissioned an investigation by AECOM into the measures that could be employed to minimise flooding risk in those areas and across Brisbane. Within eighteen months, the AECOM report identified 51 locations for the future installation of backflow valves to prevent floodwaters backing up through the drainage system into local properties and homes.

Since that time, some locations have been funded and backflow valves have been installed, yet on the Southside a large number of locations have still not been funded or had valves installed, more than a half decade after the impacts of that terrible time. While backflow valves have been installed in suburbs such as Auchenflower, New Farm, Milton, Rosalie, the CBD and West End, there are a long list of locations in my constituency and nearby that remain unfunded and ignored by the Brisbane City Council. Those include Brougham Street, Mearns Street, Victoria Street and Sharp Street, Fairfield; Tuckett Road, Salisbury; and Ormadale Road, Ormonde Road and Ortive Street, Yeronga. Additionally, nearby locations in the current state seat of Indooroopilly are unfunded to date by the LNP Brisbane City Council: King Arthur Terrace, Tennyson; Victoria Ave, Chelmer; and Giraween Park, Graceville.

To the best of my knowledge, those locations have no scheduled date for funded anti-flooding backflow valve installations other than being beyond the current 2016-17 financial year. In other words, to be frank, they are on the never-never and my constituents deserve much better than that. This lack of commitment by the Brisbane City Council to the area I represent is simply wrong. I certainly acknowledge the strong and consistent advocacy on this issue to date by Independent Councillor Nicole Johnson, despite the deaf ears of the council itself over many years. Local residents in those suburbs deserve equal treatment and respect to other more high-profile suburbs of the city. Likewise, it has to be noted that the current LNP state member for Indooroopilly has not delivered to residents on King Arthur Terrace, Girraween Park and Victoria Avenue with his LNP colleagues in City Hall, before deserting them to run for a seat on the north side.

I will be writing to Lord Mayor Quirk to urge him to start taking the south side seriously in terms of backflow valve installations to the same degree as other Brisbane suburbs that have already received them. The 2016-17 Brisbane City Council budget is the perfect opportunity to do that and I will be urging the Lord Mayor to give the south side a fair go.

Centenary Men's Shed


 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (5.57 pm): Last week I was very pleased to join Lord Mayor Quirk and Councillor Matthew Bourke at the official opening of the Centenary Men's Shed. It was a great event. Our men's shed developed out of the sadness of the 2011 floods. A group of men got together as they felt that they needed to be doing something for the community. At that time there were five or six of them. They started out with just a little trailer and some tools. They went around to assist in the clean-up following the floods.

In 2012, the group had grown to about 15 people. They had a fantastic vision for their own shed. I acknowledge former presidents Gordon Plant and Rodney Metcalfe who were strong advocates for the shed from the start of the process to the shed opening last Wednesday, and David Cope, the current president. It was very special to see that the federal government, represented by Senator Barry

O'Sullivan, assisted in sourcing some sheds from the old Army barracks; the local LNP council helped in the provision of land; and my office was able to coordinate, with Senator Barry O'Sullivan, entry to the old Oxley state school site, which has sat vacant for 20 years, to access unwanted useable goods. We were able to access the old Oxley state school site to get much needed equipment that had not been used in 20 years.

I can honestly and proudly say that the Centenary Men's Shed is probably the Taj Mahal of men's sheds in Queensland. It is really important to acknowledge that the group has grown to over 100 members, which is terrific in such a short time. The possibilities of programs that they can run are endless. It is really important to acknowledge the importance of men's sheds. On the day, the men and their wives said that when they are transitioning into retirement a lot of men feel a little lost and question their usefulness. By being able to go along to a men's shed, they can feel part of the community and do practical projects for the benefit of the community. That has given those gentlemen a new lease on life, which lessens feelings of depression. As I said, to feel useful is so important. I am really pleased that the Centenary suburbs now have a men's shed.

Wavell Heights State School, Performing Arts Hall

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (6.00 pm): It is a pleasure to rise in this House to talk about the new \$6 million performing arts hall to be built at Wavell State High School, announced yesterday. Firstly, I congratulate Principal Jeff Major, P&C President Greg Rodgers and the many passionate teachers, parents and students who have worked so hard, for many years now, to secure funding for this needed infrastructure. I have been advocating strongly for this project since being elected as the member for Nudgee in January 2015.

In my local community, Wavell State High School has a strong and proud reputation of excellence in academic, cultural and sporting arenas. They pride themselves on offering a wide range of quality opportunities for their students to grow and to shine. They place great emphasis on encouraging values consistent with their school motto, 'Esse Quam Videri', meaning 'to be, rather than to seem to be'.


Following my election, the Wavell State High School community wasted no time in introducing me to their campaign for a new performing arts facility at the school. On my first official visit to the school, the principal and the P&C president took me on a tour of their facilities. I know it was not a coincidence that we spent much of our time viewing the existing performing arts and music rooms and the hall, one of which is affectionately or not so affectionately referred to as 'the dungeon'. The tour was very ably led by the head of the art department, Kate, whose enthusiasm for the project is undeniable.

Soon after followed the invitation to attend the school's 2015 musical production of *The Wiz*. I was tremendously impressed by the talent and professionalism displayed by the students. However, watching the musicians and performers trying to fit on a small stage in a facility that can only hold half the school community at any one time and that is hot, stuffy and tired, it was undeniable that their existing hall is limiting the students and the school. Next followed the letters and emails from passionate parents and students who wanted their voices to be heard in outlining what a new facility would mean to them.

The Wavell State High School community put their faith in me to deliver this project and I was determined not to let them down. Since 2015, I have held discussions with the Queensland Treasurer, the Minister for Education, their offices, their departments and my Education Queensland regional director to put on the record my unequivocal support for this project and to advocate for its inclusion in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 state budgets. In this House I have spoken about the need for this project and I have written repeatedly to the Minister for Education seeking a funding commitment. I have brought the principal in to parliament to meet with the minister and I have invited the education minister to visit the school to see the existing facilities firsthand, and I am tremendously grateful that she did.

However, all of my efforts are far overshadowed by the sustained efforts of the Wavell State High School community, which I again pay tribute to here today. Wavell, I know how important this facility is to your school community. It has been an absolute pleasure to work hand-in-hand with you, education minister Kate Jones and the Palaszczuk Labor government to see it delivered for our community.

Cairns Electorate

 **Mr PYNE** (Cairns—Ind) (6.04 pm): Over recent weeks I have been holding listening forums in the Cairns electorate, inviting people from the various suburbs to come along and tell me what their issues are. The main concerns of people in my electorate are issues around law and order, juvenile behavioural issues and unemployment, especially for our young people, as well as delays in health services—people have to wait a long time for health procedures at Cairns Hospital.

It is great to be able to listen to the people and to do something about it. I am very proud to have transitioned to become an Independent member in this House. I campaigned as a Labor member and, since elected, have voted for everything that was in the platform that I ran on. Now what I am seeking to do is consult with my community and take their issues to the next state election and get a mandate so I can be the sort of Independent that we have seen in Australia with people like Tony Windsor in the federal parliament and, Mr Speaker, you as the member for Nicklin in this parliament, providing strong representation for your local community.

The truth of the matter is that the ALP and the LNP are arrogant, out of touch and overwhelmingly focused on South-East Queensland. When the LNP was in power, they sacked 14,000 workers and wanted to sell our public assets. Since then, the ALP has done nothing to reduce the cost of living or the unacceptable level of unemployment in my city of Cairns. We all know that the major parties do not work for the people who vote for them. They work for the corporations who pay for them. I see the party leaders in this place fighting like children over every issue. Their actions divide Australian against Australian. Our job is not to divide. Our job is to bring people together. I want to work to bring people together, for policies that deliver for ordinary people, not just the corporate and political elite.

I will always be Cairns' representative in this parliament—Cairns' representative in Brisbane, not Brisbane's representative in Cairns. Mr Speaker, I need, as you do, to come as an Independent to fight for policies that people in our electorates want, as well as for projects that are so important and that so many of our communities miss out on in regional Queensland. At the next election I will be telling the people of Cairns that, if they want to send a message to people in this place, vote for me and their voice will be heard in this place.

Lakeside Park



Mr KING (Kallangur—ALP) (6.07 pm): I have some happy news. I rise this evening to let members know about a recent event that I had the honour of attending in my electorate of Kallangur and, more particularly, at Lakeside raceway recently. I know I have spoken about this great asset to our community in the past, but for the uninitiated I will give a little background to what I am talking about.


Lakeside raceway or Lakeside Park is one of Australia's classic racing circuits. It opened in 1961, built by volunteers and borrowed machinery. Prior to its temporary closure in mid-2001, it had hosted many Australian touring car rounds, GT races and the Australian Superbike Championship. The circuit has twice hosted grand prix for formula race cars, with Graham Hill winning the first edition with a BRM in 1966. The fast and challenging nature of the circuit has provided an education for a generation of Queensland's racing drivers and riders, including John French, Dick Johnson, Gregg Hansford, Tony Longhurst, Will Power and five-time 500cc grand prix motorcycle road racing world champion Mick Doohan. In fact, Mick Doohan once stated, 'If you can learn to race a motorbike at Lakeside, you can compete at any racetrack in the world.' I must say that it is a difficult track, so I agree with him.

During the seven years the circuit was closed, several organisations and activist groups made up of competitors, fans and driver training advocates campaigned to have the circuit reopened. I must say that in the years it was shut it was quite upsetting to see it unloved, with grass growing through the track. Two of these activist groups, Friends of Lakeside and Lakeside Motor Racing Enthusiasts, both comprise car and motorcycle aficionados from all age groups who hail from various motoring fraternities. In late 2007, the council and Queensland Raceway signed off on a 30-year long-term lease to operate the facility, including both driver training and racing. Racing has been limited by noise to 95 decibels and time constraints as a means of ensuring neighbourhood management.

Last weekend was an exceptionally special event at Lakeside. It was called 'A weekend at Brocky's'. Peter Brock's brother Phil Brock was there. He has held similar events in the southern states but this was the first time this event has ever been held in Queensland. There were Brock cars on display and driven. On Saturday night there was a session where Phil talked about what it was like to grow up with, work with and race alongside his legendary brother. No topics were off limits during the Q and A session. We heard the inside story on a lot of the highlights as well as the controversy of Peter's life, including the infamous Energy Polaris. This was a fantastic event and I thank the operators John and Amanda Tetley and Phil Brock for an amazing weekend of motorsport entertainment in my area.

Since being elected, I have been a great supporter of this facility, and I will continue to be so. I hope to see it embrace more driver training activities and continue to bring the huge numbers of people to my area to support the local businesses that it currently does.


Kupai Omasker

 **Mr GORDON** (Cook—Ind) (6.10 pm): Earlier today here in parliament I met with members of the Kupai Omasker working group, a group of Torres Strait Islander elders that was formed in, I think, the 2011-14 Bligh government. The group was formed to work with and guide the state government through a process to look at the legalisation of the traditional Torres Strait Islander practice of interfamily adoption. This is a very important cultural practice that has been happening for hundreds of years to this day. The focus of the working group has always been in the best interests of the children who have been culturally adopted throughout the years.

Identity is important to my people, knowing where you come from and having a strong sense of belonging is at the very core of our being. In today's meeting the working group expressed a deep frustration over the state government's commitment to put forward legislation to finally legalise and recognise this important cultural practice. In saying that, I do want to recognise and applaud the efforts of the minister responsible for her commitment, compassion and work to assist the efforts of the working group. They appreciate, just as I do, the support of Minister Fentiman. However, more needs to be done to deliver on this fundamental social justice aspiration.

It is now time for the Premier to show and match the compassion, the empathy and the commitment to the work of this working group that the minister has and that I have. I will continue to support the group in its aspirations to legalise and obtain formal recognition of this important cultural practice that has its roots in time immemorial. The Premier showing leadership in this space would be a great gesture of symbolism. The people of the Torres Strait Islands having recognition of interfamily adoption is a great step forward towards achieving reconciliation.

Mount Lindesay Highway

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (6.12 pm): The soccer season has started again for the Park Ridge Panthers. Recently when I took my son Jack to training I sat next to another father, but it was not the light conversation that we expected. Instead, he told me that recently he had been on the Mount Lindesay Highway when an accident had happened. He got out of his car and sat in the passenger seat next to a man as he was bleeding unable to get out of his car.

The Mount Lindesay Highway is more than a strip of bitumen to us; it is the lifeblood of my community. An accident is more than a statistic; it is a person—a local—missed by family and friends. I have been fighting for the road because we saw funding reduced from \$50 million under the former Labor government to just \$7 million under the previous LNP government. That was part of \$600 million in cuts statewide. We have reinstated some of that funding. Now we have over \$35 million in funding for the Mount Lindesay Highway.

For me what is especially important is Camp Cable Road. I know that the intersection upgrade there will save lives. I think it already has saved lives. Every weekend I am out at Olley's Orange Country Market asking people to sign my petition—we have over 800 signatures already—to fix up that intersection and the service road. I was really pleased when the minister came out to open the Beaudesert bypass that I could show him those intersections directly so that he could understand exactly what they are like and how safety could be improved.

I am fighting just as hard for four-laning between Rosia Road and Granger Road and Stoney Camp Road and I will continue to fight because it is vital. We are a growing community, with both Flagstone and Yarrabilba connecting through the Mount Lindesay Highway. I will fight and fight because it is more than a road; it is our connection.

Soon the Logan Motorway enhancements will begin. I know the minister will be out there to see these fantastic upgrades that will improve the intersection of the Mount Lindesay Highway and the Logan Motorway and the Wembley Road overpass. I know that he will be out there but he also knows that I will be talking about one thing. I will be saying, 'Minister, let's look again at the Mount Lindesay Highway because it is the lifeblood of our area.' We can make it safer, we can make it better and we can make transport and communications in the electorate of Logan better.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6.15 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, 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, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pyne, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams