



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 9 May 2017

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TUESDAY, 9 MAY 2017

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.



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

For the sitting week, Mr Speaker acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land upon which this parliament is assembled.

ASSENT TO BILLS



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from His Excellency the Governor a letter in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letter will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letter for the information of members.

The Honourable P.W. Wellington MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of Her Majesty The Queen on the date shown:

Date of assent: 30 March 2017

A Bill for An Act to amend the 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 and the Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016 for particular purposes

A Bill for An Act to amend the Bail Act 1980, the Criminal Code, the Criminal Proceeds Confiscation Act 2002, the Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1984, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the Evidence Act 1977, the Jury Act 1995, the Justices Act 1886, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Recording of Evidence Act 1962 and the Telecommunications Interception Act 2009 and the Acts mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

A Bill for An Act to provide for mediation for farm business debts and related purposes, and to amend this Act, the Biological Control Act 1987, the Biosecurity Act 2014, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 and the Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994 for particular purposes

A Bill for An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Evidence Act 1977, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 and the Youth Justice Act 1992, and to amend the legislation mentioned in schedule 1, for particular purposes

A Bill for An Act to amend the Bail Act 1980 and the Corrective Services Act 2006 for particular purposes

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

30 March 2017

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 30 March 2017, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 30 March 2017 [[574](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Parliament.TV



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, the live online broadcast of Queensland parliamentary proceedings commenced on 5 June 2007, meaning that we will mark the 10th anniversary of this significant achievement next month. However, today we see the launch of Parliament.TV, our new and improved online broadcasting system for the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and committee public hearings.

Parliament.TV has been developed in order to better serve the people of Queensland by making our broadcast more accessible. Parliament.TV is compatible across a range of viewing platforms such as smart phones, tablets, PCs as well as on different operating systems such as Android and IOS. Parliament.TV also allows for the archiving and replay of committee public hearings for a period of 12 months after the proceedings.

I congratulate all of the parliamentary staff who have been involved in the development of Parliament.TV over the past year. I am very proud to launch Parliament.TV today.

PRIVILEGE

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



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 2 March 2017 the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition and member for Clayfield deliberately misled the House during his introduction of the Sugar Industry (Arbitration for Mill Owners and Sugar Marketing Entities) Amendment Bill 2017. On the information before me I considered that the Leader of the Opposition has made an adequate explanation in relation to his statement. 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 and I seek leave to incorporate the ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members,

On 2 March 2017, the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition and Member for Clayfield deliberately misled the House during his introduction of the Sugar Industry (Arbitration for Mill Owners and Sugar Marketing Entities) Amendment Bill 2017 on 28 February 2017, when he said:

The LNP has been as clear as possible with our intentions. Unlike Labor and unlike the mealy-mouthed words we heard from the Minister for Agriculture this morning, we have remained in constant contact with canegrowers and their representatives, millers and the Australian Sugar Milling Council and QSL. Indeed, we offered them twice in the last two weeks voluntary mediation. That was rejected twice in the past two weeks. The minister's announcement today is nothing more than a stale and last-minute attempt to try to salvage something out of a situation that he has totally failed to address.

In his letter to me, the Minister contended that the Leader of the Opposition's statement was deliberately misleading because the Minister's office had received correspondence from Wilmar Sugar Ltd and the Australian Sugar Milling Council informing him that they were not offered mediation by the Leader of the Opposition or his office in the past two weeks.

I sought further information from the Leader of the Opposition about the allegation made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Leader of the Opposition refuted the claim, referring to the statement he had made on 1 March 2017 to clarify that the offers of mediation were made to Wilmar Sugar Ltd. The Leader of the Opposition also included a statement signed by Mr Bruce Mills, employed as an advisor to the Leader of the Opposition, who advised that he made offers to Wilmar's Executive General Manager Strategy and Business Development to organise mediation on 15 February 2017 and again a week later.

There are three elements to be established when it is alleged that a member has committed the contempt of deliberately misleading the House:

- first, the statement must, in fact, have been misleading;
- secondly, it must be established that the member making the statement knew at the time the statement was made that it was incorrect; and
- thirdly, in making it, the member must have intended to mislead the House.

The Minister and Leader of the Opposition have presented contradictory evidence on the issue as to whether offers of mediation were made to Wilmar Sugar Ltd at the relevant time.

Accordingly, further examination of issues of fact would need to occur to establish whether or not the Leader of the Opposition's statements were factually or apparently incorrect or misleading.

However, the fact that the Leader of the Opposition has provided evidence confirming that he had advice that such offers were made would make it extremely difficult to sustain an argument that the Leader of the Opposition knew that the statement was incorrect at the time he made it, and that he intended to mislead the House

Standing Order 269(4) requires:

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

On the information before me, I considered that the Leader of the Opposition has made an adequate explanation in relation to his statement.

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.

Tabled paper: Correspondence from the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development, Hon. Bill Byrne, and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an alleged misleading of the House [\[635\]](#).

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Failure to Comply with Standing Order 114(5)

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 30 March 2017 the member for Hinchinbrook wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and the Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef failed to supply a copy of the answer to a question on notice to the Table Office within 30 days as required under standing order 114(5). On the evidence before me I considered that the minister has made an adequate explanation for his response to the member for Hinchinbrook's question on notice. Therefore, I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH STANDING ORDER 114(5)

MR SPEAKER: Honourable members,

On 30 March 2017, the Member for Hinchinbrook wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef failed to supply a copy of the answer to a Question on Notice to the Table Office within 30 days as required under Standing Order 114(5).

The Minister's answer supplied to the Table Office in response to the Question on Notice was:

This matter falls under the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines' portfolio. I refer the member to the relevant Minister.

In his email to me, the Member for Hinchinbrook contended the Minister had failed to answer his Question on Notice by referring it to another Minister. The Member for Hinchinbrook argued that the Minister should have taken responsibility for answering the question because it related to the content of the Queensland State of the Environment Report 2015, which was tabled by the Minister and prepared and published by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

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

The Minister advised that, while the State of the Environment Report is required to be prepared under acts which are his responsibility to administer, the report draws on data and information which is held by other organisations. The Minister then advised that the Question on Notice related to matters covered by the Vegetation Management Act 1999, which is administered by the Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham, hence the question being referred to that minister.

On the evidence before me, I considered that the Minister has made an adequate explanation for his response to the Member for Hinchinbrook's Question on Notice.

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 Hinchinbrook, Mr Andrew Cripps MP, and the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, Hon. Steven Miles, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an alleged failure to comply with standing order 114(5) [\[636\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Cystic Fibrosis Month

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that the month of May is the public awareness month for cystic fibrosis known as 65 Roses Month. This campaign aims to raise awareness and much needed funds for people who suffer from this debilitating and incurable disease. Cystic Fibrosis Queensland has invited members to show their support this month for those affected by cystic fibrosis by wearing a rose pin on their lapel.

Heart Week

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, as part of the Heart Week and Australia's Biggest Blood Pressure Check campaign, I advise that today in parliament the Heart Foundation and Stroke Foundation are raising awareness about the dangers of high blood pressure. The event is hosted by the member for Greenslopes, Mr Joe Kelly MP, who invites all members to take the pressure down in parliament by visiting the Dandair Room between 11.30 am and 2.30 pm for a free blood pressure check and to receive information to assist them to raise awareness of this silent killer in everyone's electorate.

One Million Stars to End Violence Project

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that the One Million Stars to End Violence project aims to raise awareness about the need to reduce all forms of violence in our community. Over 200 groups from all over the world have joined this global project which will culminate in a public display of one million woven stars during the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. Each star will represent an individual person's commitment to inspire peace, hope and solidarity to end violence in our community. To raise awareness of this initiative, the Office of the Commonwealth Games has organised a star-weaving session for members in the red chamber today at 1 pm. I invite all members to participate in this activity.

Members of Parliament, Births

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I am informed that two members have recently taken on additional responsibilities. Congratulations to the member for Morayfield and his wife, Holly, and the member for Capalaba and his wife, Mel, on the arrival of their babies.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Gray, Mr PR

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.36 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Philip Roy Gray, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Philip Roy Gray was born in Brisbane on 20 April 1947 and was educated at the Woollooin and Eagle Junction state schools and the Kedron State High School. After secondary school, Phil gained a Certificate of Teaching from Kedron Park Teachers College and later attained a Bachelor of Educational Studies, a Graduate Diploma of School Counselling from the University of Queensland and a Master of Public Policy from the University of New England. I note that in Phil's first speech to this parliament, he described himself as a lifetime learner, and this list of postgraduate qualifications attests to that.

Phil spent 38 years as a member of the Queensland Public Service. He worked as a primary and secondary school teacher, a guidance officer, a counsellor in a TAFE college and university, a principal education officer and in other policy and project officer roles. Phil also spent six years as vice-president and four years as president of the Queensland Public Sector Union and was granted life membership of that union.

Phil lived in the Gold Coast suburb of Helensvale from the mid-1980s and during that time worked in many unpaid capacities for local community groups. For instance, he formed the Helensvale Residents Association in 1991 and served as its president. He was also president of the Studio Village Community Centre Association and the Helensvale Community Centre Association and was a member of the Nerang Community Association. Phil also served as deputy chair of the Gold Coast Institute of TAFE Council. In January 2001, Phil was awarded the Centenary Medal by the Australian government in recognition of his outstanding service to the community.

Mr Speaker, as you might recall, in February 2006 the then member for Gaven resigned from the parliament and Phil was selected by the ALP to contest the by-election. During his term in this parliament, Phil served as a member of the members' ethics and parliamentary privileges committee, including with me while I was chair of that committee from November 2006 to November 2008. From 2006 to 2009 he served as a member of various ministerial legislative committees of the Beattie and Bligh governments.

I do recall one story I want to share with members of the House. Phil was tired of his hair colour. He arrived in parliament one day and the member for Ipswich West, who was sitting next to him, said under his breath, 'Mate, what have you done to your hair?' After that, Phil Gray was known as 'Phil Black'!

I know there are some members in the parliament who served with Phil. He was always courteous and he was a gentleman. I was saddened and shocked when I heard of Phil's passing just before his 70th birthday. I know that in his final years he lived with his wife, Astra, in Tasmania, where they were very happy. It is always sad to lose a colleague. He served his constituents very well, he served this parliament in many capacities and, as I have mentioned, he will be sadly missed. I pass on our sympathies to his wife, Astra, his family and his friends.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.41 am): I rise to add my personal support and that of the entire opposition to the condolence motion moved in respect of the late Phil Gray, the former member for Gaven. Phil was a passionate advocate for the Gold Coast and Gold Coasters in his time in this place. I knew him from 2006 onwards. As an erstwhile primary and secondary teacher he was also particularly strong on education and community issues. He was involved in a number of community associations, as has been outlined by the Premier. He was a somewhat engaging orator and he had the people's touch. He was willing to speak his mind, and my recollection of him is that he frequently did so. He had a unique style in this place, and those of us well remember that unique style. Phil was often a favourite of the media, providing choice quotes and statements that found favour and were readily reported as well.

As the Premier reflected on his changing hair colour, I have to say that my recollection is that it went from grey to black and then to orange at some stage in the proceedings, which was somewhat unusual. Once while giving a statement to the media I was asked whether I had any comment to make in relation to the then member for Gaven's changing hair colour. That left me somewhat stumped, other than to say that black was not the new orange.

Phil Gray made a contribution to this parliament and he made a contribution to his community. On behalf of the opposition I support the motion and extend our condolences to Mr Gray's family.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.43 am): I rise to speak in support of this condolence motion. Phil was the president of the QPSU when I worked there. In fact, I was part of the team which helped get him elected as president, and that was a great thing to be a part of. He was a great bloke and he was a good unionist. Sadly, he abandoned the cause of grey hair but I have long since forgiven him for that.

As a unionist, Phil built consensus. He was able to chair huge union council meetings with delegates from many different departments and occupational groups. He did that effectively and he always brought people with him in good spirit. I had many opportunities to work with Phil in negotiations, and he always wanted sensible outcomes for the members and for the organisations. He was never a winner-takes-all type of unionist: he was someone who was there for the long haul. He always built good relationships. He realised that good relationships last long beyond any dispute or disagreement.

He had many passions, and one of the things he taught me in his run for the presidency of the union—and something that no doubt he carried in his election campaign—is that if you are passionate about something then you have to talk about it over and over again, and he did that about four key things in my time at the union. He was passionate about the Public Service and the role and value of the Public Service in our great Westminster system of democracy, and he never tired of educating young delegates about why it was important to stand up for that independence. As the Premier has mentioned, he was passionate about education. He was also passionate about road safety in Western Queensland. He had a near miss early in his career, and he was always a strong advocate for improving travel safety for public servants. No doubt there are many people who have benefited greatly from this.

Finally, he was really passionate about the regions. He was the first person I heard who stood up and spoke strongly about the regions in Queensland. He was based on the Gold Coast. There are many members of this House who may have occasionally received a bit of a dig in the ribs from members of the QPSU, or the Together union as it is now known. You can thank Phil Gray for that, because he is the man who went out there and made sure that our regions had good representation. He is certainly the first person I ever heard who spoke passionately about the Gold Coast. He never failed to stand up at public gatherings of the QPSU and remind us that it was the seventh biggest city in Australia and it was on its way to becoming bigger and bigger.

Over the last few weeks I have spoken with a few of my former workmates, delegates and members of the union, and they all agree that Phil was a really decent bloke. He supported and cared for the members. He was really great to those of us who worked in the union. After he moved to Tasmania we certainly missed him on Labour Day, and we will certainly miss him at future Labour Day marches. On my behalf and on behalf of the members of the QPSU and Together union, I offer my condolences to his family.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (9.46 am): I rise to add my support to this condolence motion. We have already heard from fellow members of the class of 2006—the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition—who, like me and others, came to this parliament with Phil Gray. That was a very eclectic group, and Phil was a colourful politician. He demonstrated that in his time in the parliament between 2006 and 2009 as the member for Gaven. In common with the member for Greenslopes, I pay particular tribute to the roles he served in the community through his union involvement and also through the very broad array of community organisations about which he was passionate and in which he was actively engaged.

Community life was what brought him to political life, and I saw that from a very young age. Mr Gray, as I knew him, was the P&C president of my primary school on the north side of Brisbane. Around the same time he also became the ALP candidate for Aspley in the 1977 election. I do not recall that as well, and neither would he probably want to remember that because of the result, but it attests to Phil's commitment to community life and to education during his whole life. As the Premier mentioned, he did have a commitment to self-education and education for all, and I know that is the thing he would like to be remembered for the most. Like Phil, let us all reflect on the role that we can play to inspire people to be good for communities and good for community causes like education.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

PETITIONS

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

Rededge Convenience Centre, Australia Post Box

Mr Crandon, from 69 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure an Australia Post post box is provided at the Rededge Convenience Centre, corner of Finnegan and Celestial Ways, Coomera [\[637\]](#).

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

Enoggera, Wardell Street and Samford Road, Land

Mr Mander, from 167 petitioners, requesting the House to transfer the ownership of the land located at the corner of Wardell Street and Samford Road, Enoggera to the Brisbane City Council to enable the council to create a community focal point with reference to the Australian Defence Force, first Australians and local pioneers [\[638, 639\]](#).

Tateyama Maru, Removal

Mr Costigan, from 219 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the ship 'Tateyama Maru' is removed from its current position in the Gloucester Island National Park to avoid any further visual pollution and further environmental damage [\[640, 641\]](#).

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

Macleay Island State School, School Zone Flashing Lights

Mr McEachan, from 34 petitioners, requesting the House to install flashing school zone lights at Macleay Island State School [\[642\]](#).

Workplace Health and Safety Representatives, Training

Mrs Lauga, from 61 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Workplace Health and Safety Act section 72 to ensure Workplace Health and Safety representatives have the training required to support their workmates [\[643\]](#).

Nerang Fire Station, Exit

Mr Cramp, from 144 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure adequate safety measures are put in place for Queensland Fire and Rescue Service vehicles exiting the Nerang station on Beaudesert-Nerang Road, Nerang [\[644\]](#).

John Muntz Bridge Connection Road, Repairs

Mr Boothman, from 1,608 petitioners requesting the House to prioritise repairs to the John Muntz Bridge Connection Road, Upper Coomera as a matter of urgency [\[645\]](#).

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

Blackall, Hospital and Medical Centre

From 22 petitioners, requesting the House to proceed with the redevelopment of the hospital and medical centre on the site behind Ram Park and the police station in the township of Blackall [\[646\]](#).

Lawnton State School, School Hall

From 338 petitioners, requesting the House to fast track the approvals and planning process for a new school hall for Lawnton State School [\[647\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

24 March 2017—

- [514](#) Pioneer Valley Water Board—Final Report 1 July 2014 to 24 March 2016
- [515](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 29, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled from 2 November to 29 November 2016
- [516](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 30, 55th Parliament—Early childhood education: Implementation of the recommendations in the Auditor-General's Report 19: 2015-16
- [517](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 51, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 2 November and 29 November 2016

27 March 2017—

- [518](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to a paper petition (2722-17) presented by the Clerk, and an ePetition (2687-17) sponsored by the Clerk from 942 and 1,119 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to refuse a proposed major amendment to the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014 and to remove the Twin Waters West land from the urban footprint during the SEQ Regional Plan to prevent future facilitation of a development on this important part of the Maroochy River floodplain
- [519](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 45, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 9 November 2016 and 14 February 2017
- [520](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Hon. Dr Miles) to an ePetition (2688-17) sponsored by Mrs Lauga, from 165 petitioners, requesting the House to engage with local government about introducing compulsory debris traps on storm water and other drainage outlets to reduce the amount of waste entering Queensland waterways, including the Great Barrier Reef

30 March 2017—

- [521](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills (Hon. D'Ath) to an ePetition (2686-17) sponsored by the Clerk, from 23,041 petitioners, requesting the House to commit to a new referendum on daylight saving to give Queenslanders the opportunity to have their democratic say on this matter. Ideally, the referendum should be preceded by a trial of daylight saving across the State
- [522](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 12: 2016-17—Biosecurity Queensland's management of agricultural pests and diseases

31 March 2017—

- [523](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 52, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 30 November 2016 and 14 February 2017
- [524](#) University of the Sunshine Coast—Annual Report 2016
- [525](#) University of Southern Queensland—Annual Report 2016
- [526](#) Griffith University—Annual Report 2016
- [527](#) Central Queensland University—Annual Report 2016
- [528](#) Queensland College of Teachers—Annual Report 2016
- [529](#) Queensland University of Technology—Annual Report 2016
- [530](#) University of Queensland—Annual Report 2016
- [531](#) University of Queensland—Financial Statements 2016—Volume 1
- [532](#) University of Queensland—Financial Statements 2016—Volume 2 subsidiaries
- [533](#) Brisbane Girls Grammar School—Annual Report 2016
- [534](#) Board of Trustees Brisbane Grammar School—Annual Report 2016
- [535](#) Ipswich Girls' Grammar School and Ipswich Junior Grammar School—Annual Report 2016
- [536](#) Ipswich Grammar School—Annual Report 2016

- [537](#) Rockhampton Girls Grammar School—Annual Report 2016
- [538](#) Board of Trustees of the Rockhampton Grammar School—Annual Report 2016
- [539](#) Townsville Grammar School—Annual Report 2016
- [540](#) Toowoomba Grammar School—Annual Report 2016
- [541](#) James Cook University—Annual Report 2016
- [542](#) Queensland Theatre Company—Annual Report 2016
- [543](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to a paper petition (2721-17) presented by Mr Williams, from 81 petitioners, requesting the House to urgently approve the construction of bus stops on both sides of Bribie Island Road, near the Shell service station
- 3 April 2017—
- [544](#) Response from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham) to a paper petition (2719-17) and an e-petition (2690-17) presented and sponsored Mr Dickson from 3,792 and 879 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to recognise there is an overriding public interest for alternative use of land and refuse the application for amendment to State Planning Policy for approval of Key Resource Area 162 Eudlo Creek
- [545](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 29, 55th Parliament—Review of the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme, government response
- 4 April 2017—
- [546](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 13: 2016-17—Local government entities: 2015-16 results of financial audits
- 13 April 2017—
- [547](#) Response from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan) to an e-Petition (2717-17) sponsored by Mr Springborg from 22 petitioners, requesting the House to make Category D weapons available to sporting shooters
- [548](#) Response from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan) to a paper petition (2718-17) presented by Mr Saunders from 491 petitioners, requesting the House to facilitate the acquisition of a second police vehicle for the Howard Police Station to assist in the protection of the communities in this region
- [549](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 33, 55th Parliament—Sustainable Queensland Dairy Production (Fair Milk Logos) Bill 2016
- 18 April 2017—
- [550](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to a paper petition (2730-17) and an ePetition (2678-16) presented and sponsored by Mr Crandon from 76 and 24 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to ensure an Australia Post post box is provided at the Rededge Convenience Centre, corner of Finnegan and Celestial Ways Coomera
- 20 April 2017—
- [551](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a Trade Mission to Singapore, United Kingdom and India by the Premier and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Palaszczuk), 8-19 March 2017
- [552](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Hon. Furner) to an ePetition (2689-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 100 petitioners, requesting the House to take all action possible to ensure that the Deputy Premier and Minister for Local Government immediately exercise ministerial powers under s.113 of the Local Government Act 2009 to direct remedial action be taken within the Fraser Coast Regional Council
- [553](#) Response from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham) to a paper petition (2733-17) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) and an ePetition (2679-16) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4) from 356 and 3,230 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to reverse the Adani Carmichael coal mine approval and withdraw consent for use of the site for extractive resources
- [554](#) Response from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham) to a paper petition (2731-17) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) and an ePetition (2684-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 173 and 649 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to require as a condition of the Queens Wharf development that the new bridge to be built between South Bank and the Queens Wharf precinct allow bicycle access and incorporate a landing at street level in the CBD
- [555](#) Queensland Family and Child Commission: A systems review of individual agency findings following the death of a child
- [556](#) Response from the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport (Hon. Mick de Brenni) to a paper petition (2725-17) presented by Mr Costigan, from 2,060 petitioners, requesting the House to deliver a youth facility, including a skate park, for the youth of Mackay's northern beaches

- [557](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Jones) to paper petition (2727-17) presented by Mr Harper, from 510 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the construction of a multi-purpose hall for Kirwan State High School
- [558](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills (Hon. D'Ath) to a paper petition (2732-17) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), an ePetition (2670-16), an ePetition (2600-16) and an ePetition (2533-16) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4) from 167, 226, 289 and 284 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to seek a mandate to advance Eastern Standard Time in Queensland by 30 minutes
- [559](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to a paper petition (2728-17) presented by Mr Madden, from 92 petitioners, requesting the House to implement a 514 bus service which operates on Sundays and public holidays
- [560](#) 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 (2726-17) presented by Mr Whiting, from 804 petitioners, requesting the House to expedite the installation of an overpass at the signalled intersection of Anzac Avenue and Hercules Road, Kippa Ring
- [561](#) 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 (2729-17) and an ePetition (2692-17) sponsored by Mr Powell, from 92 and 146 petitioners respectively requesting the House to immediately upgrade the intersection of Landsborough-Maleny Road and Maleny-Montville Road, Maleny

21 April 2017—

- [562](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. CR Dick) to petition (2735-17) presented by Mr Knuth, from 642 petitioners, requesting the House to take immediate action to provide appropriate dialysis treatment in the public health system in Charters Towers enabling patients with dialysis needs to access this service without travelling gruelling distances
- [563](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 24, 55th Parliament—Hendra virus EquiVac® vaccine and its use by veterinary surgeons in Queensland, final government response

26 April 2017—

- [564](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 14: 2016-17—Criminal justice system—reliability and integration of data

27 April 2017—

- [565](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 31, 55th Parliament—Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017

28 April 2017—

- [566](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 15: 2016-17—Managing the performance of teachers in Queensland state schools
- [567](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a Tourism Mission to China and Hong Kong by the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Jones), 23 March-1 April 2017
- [568](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 53, 55th Parliament—Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017
- [569](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 37, 55th Parliament—Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017
- [570](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 38, 55th Parliament—State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Bill 2017

4 May 2017—

- [571](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 36, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 4 November 2016 and 14 February 2017

8 May 2017—

- [572](#) Public Works and Utilities Committee: Report No. 36, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 2 November 2016 and 14 February 2017
- [573](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 39, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 12 October 2016 and 14 February 2017

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994—

- [575](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Farm Management Grants) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 37
- [576](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Farm Management Grants) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 37, explanatory notes

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) (Offensive Advertising) Amendment Act 2017—

- [577](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 38
- [578](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 38, explanatory notes

Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994, National Injury Insurance Scheme (Queensland) Act 2016—

- [579](#) Motor Accident Insurance (Fees and Levies) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 39
- [580](#) Motor Accident Insurance (Fees and Levies) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 39, explanatory notes

Education (General Provisions) Act 2006—

- [581](#) Education (General Provisions) (Dajarra and Camooweal State Schools) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 40
- [582](#) Education (General Provisions) (Dajarra and Camooweal State Schools) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 40, explanatory notes

Drugs Misuse Act 1986—

- [583](#) Drugs Misuse Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 41
- [584](#) Drugs Misuse Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 41, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

- [585](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Model By-laws for Trust Land) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 42
- [586](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Model By-laws for Trust Land) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 42, explanatory notes

Legal Profession Act 2007—

- [587](#) Legal Profession (External Examinations of Trust Records) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 43
- [588](#) Legal Profession (External Examinations of Trust Records) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 43, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

- [589](#) Transport Operations and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 44
- [590](#) Transport Operations and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 44, explanatory notes

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994—

- [591](#) Taxi and Limousine Industry Assistance Scheme Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 45
- [592](#) Taxi and Limousine Industry Assistance Scheme Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 45, explanatory notes

Financial Accountability Act 2009—

- [593](#) Financial and Performance Management Amendment Standard (No. 1) 2017, No. 46
- [594](#) Financial and Performance Management Amendment Standard (No. 1) 2017, No. 46, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

- [595](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management—Communications and Water Supply Facilities) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 47
- [596](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management—Communications and Water Supply Facilities) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 47, explanatory notes

Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016—

- [597](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 48
- [598](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 48, explanatory notes

Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016—

- [599](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2017, No. 49
- [600](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2017, No. 49, explanatory notes

Major Sports Facilities Act 2001—

- [601](#) Major Sports Facilities (Prescribed Events) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 50
- [602](#) Major Sports Facilities (Prescribed Events) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 50, explanatory notes

Aboriginal Land Act 1991—

- [603](#) Aboriginal Land (Bromley) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 51
- [604](#) Aboriginal Land (Bromley) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 51, explanatory notes

Coroners Act 2003, Justices Act 1886, Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991—

- [605](#) Criminal Practice (Fees) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 52
- [606](#) Criminal Practice (Fees) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 52, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[607](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2017, No. 53

[608](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2017, No. 53, explanatory notes

Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act 2016—

[609](#) Proclamation commencing all provisions, No. 54

[610](#) Proclamation commencing all provisions, No. 54, explanatory notes

Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982, Sustainable Planning Act 2009—

[611](#) Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements and Other Legislation (Cross River Rail) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 55

[612](#) Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements and Other Legislation (Cross River Rail) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 55, explanatory notes

Fisheries Act 1994—

[613](#) Fisheries (Coral Reef Fin Fish) Quota Amendment Declaration 2017, No. 56

[614](#) Fisheries (Coral Reef Fin Fish) Quota Amendment Declaration 2017, No. 56, explanatory notes

Disaster Management Act 2003—

[615](#) Disaster Management (Extension of Far North Disaster District) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 57

[616](#) Disaster Management (Extension of Far North Disaster District) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 57, explanatory notes

Mental Health Amendment Act 2017—

[617](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 58

[618](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 58, explanatory notes

Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998—

[619](#) Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Government Precincts) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 59

[620](#) Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Government Precincts) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 59, explanatory notes

Penalties and Sentences Act 1992—

[621](#) Penalties and Sentences (Penalty Unit Value) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 60

[622](#) Penalties and Sentences (Penalty Unit Value) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 60, explanatory notes

Legal Profession Act 2007—

[623](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Notice 2017, No. 61

[624](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Notice 2017, No. 61, explanatory notes

Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991—

[625](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Farm Fencing) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 62

[626](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Farm Fencing) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 62, explanatory notes

Aboriginal Land Act 1991—

[627](#) Aboriginal Land (Birriah B USL) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 63

[628](#) Aboriginal Land (Birriah B USL) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 63, explanatory notes

Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Act 1999—

[629](#) Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming (Prohibited Prizes) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 64

[630](#) Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming (Prohibited Prizes) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 64, explanatory notes

City of Brisbane Act 2010, Local Government Act 2009—

[631](#) Local Government Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 65

[632](#) Local Government Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 65, explanatory notes

Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016—

[633](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 66

[634](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 66, explanatory notes

MEMBERS' PAPERS

The following members' papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Gaven (Mr Cramp)—

- [648](#) Nonconforming petition regarding the absence of adequate safety measures for Queensland Fire & Rescue Services (QFRS) vehicles exiting the QFRS Nerang Station on Beaudesert Nerang Road, Nerang

Member for Mount Ommaney (Ms Smith)—

- [649](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a visit to London by the Member for Mount Ommaney (Ms Smith) to attend the International Parliamentary Conference on National Security and Cybersecurity Day hosted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) UK, 27-31 March 2017

Member for Surfer's Paradise (Mr Langbroek)—

- [650](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a visit to London by the Member for Surfers Paradise (Mr Langbroek) to attend the official launch of the Queen's Baton Relay for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, 10-18 March 2017

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

- [652](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad), pursuant to section 424 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application to carry out operational work for the construction of a flood levee at 216-218, 230, 234, 236, 238-256 and 258-262 Edwardes Street, Roma

- [653](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad), pursuant to section 424 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application to carry out operational work for the construction of a flood levee at 216-218, 230, 234, 236, 238-256 and 258-262 Edwardes Street, Roma—Annexure A

- [654](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad), pursuant to section 424 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application to carry out operational work for the construction of a flood levee at 216-218, 230, 234, 236, 238-256 and 258-262 Edwardes Street, Roma—Annexures B-F

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

- [651](#) Report pursuant to Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by His Excellency the Governor, viz—

Criminal Law Amendment Bill 2016

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

'Criminal Law Amendment Act 2016'

Insert—

'Criminal Law Amendment Act 2017'.

Farm Business Debt Mediation Bill 2016

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

'Farm Business Debt Mediation Act 2016'

Insert—

'Farm Business Debt Mediation Act 2017'.

Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

'Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016'

Insert—

'Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017'.

Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—*Omit—*

'Land and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016'

Insert—

'Land and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017'.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**Tropical Cyclone Debbie**

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.51 am): It is just over six weeks since severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie made landfall on the Whitsunday coast and left a trail of destruction that in Queensland alone would eventually stretch more than 1,000 kilometres. Seldom has a visitor to Queensland been less welcome. Debbie brought our state its strongest ever recorded wind gust—263 kilometres an hour on Hamilton Island—during a 24-hour period in which sustained wind speeds stayed over 100 kilometres an hour. Onshore, Debbie dumped over 1,000 millimetres of rain in less than two days, particularly in areas south-west of Mackay.

From Bowen to Beenleigh, homes were torn apart by wind or rain. At Debbie's peak, 270,000 homes and businesses were without power—a number that plummeted every day thanks to the tireless efforts of Ergon and Energex crews right across our state. In total, 2,300 homes were damaged. Almost 900 of them remain uninhabitable. A major landslide on the Sarina Range has changed the topography so extensively that the road will take months to rebuild. Communities have been split in two, with neighbours now hours apart by road, and the Swayneville State School has set up a second campus to serve the needs of students and teachers. Not content with the damage she wrought across Queensland, Debbie also brought flooding and tragedy to northern New South Wales before crossing the Tasman to cause record flooding and evacuations in New Zealand.

Queensland's location means that we will always be at risk from the wrath of cyclones and storms, but we possess a defence that is the envy of others: the resilience of Queenslanders. It has been one of the great privileges of my career to meet so many brave and dedicated Queenslanders from all walks of life through the course of this disaster. In Proserpine I met Sergeant Mark Flynn, who showed astonishing selflessness as Debbie raged overhead, putting his own life at risk to go to the aid of a severely injured man who likely would not have survived without his intervention. Logan SES crew Chris Holloway, Claire Browning and Jim Ferguson demonstrated enormous bravery coming to the aid of Helen Gallo and her family. After their courageous efforts, the home that had sheltered Ms Gallo's two children, their grandfather and pet dogs was washed away, leaving Chris, Claire and Jim in no doubt about the lives they had saved.

Also in Proserpine I met Eve and her children, whose firsthand account made for harrowing listening as they described what it was like to go through the seemingly endless hours of the cyclone. At Airlie Beach, hospitality workers from Hayman Island told me of enduring a day and a night of gale-force winds but equally of their desire to return to the jobs they love. Farmers such as Carl Walker near Bowen and Ross McInnes in the Scenic Rim faced the heartbreak of watching a year's crop and a decade of topsoil wash away, but they and so many others are already getting on with the job.

Sadly, people did lose their lives in Queensland, and today I pay tribute to and extend my sympathies and those of the House to the families and friends of Joannah Cordes, David Heidemann and Nelson Raebel.

As Debbie bore down on the south-east we took the unprecedented decision to close schools for two days. I thank the tireless, composed and unfailingly expert advice from all our emergency services personnel—those in the face of the storm and those working endless hours at Kedron. The dedicated efforts of Queensland government staff, essential service providers, the Australian Defence Force, non-government organisations and many volunteers, often working around the clock, have delivered support and assistance to Queenslanders in need right across our state. I pay tribute to the mayors and staff of our councils, whose preparation and willingness to heed expert advice made the management of this disaster a case study for future events. I also say thank you. I also thank my ministerial colleagues and their offices and departments for doing everything they can to lessen the impact of and hasten the recovery from Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Queenslanders and Queensland businesses have also been very generous, donating money to assist families. I stress that donations are still open to the Red Cross, the Salvos, Vinnies, UnitingCare or Givit. My government will be with you every step of the way.

Tropical Cyclone Debbie, Recovery

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.56 am): Today I am pleased to release Operation Queensland Recovery, the plan that will be a blueprint for our state's recovery efforts for the tens of thousands of Queenslanders impacted by severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. This plan details the government's commitment to get individuals, businesses and communities affected by Debbie back on their feet as soon as possible. The plan will focus on ensuring Queenslanders rebuild Queensland. This plan builds on the strong partnership we had with local councils during the immediate response to Debbie and the severe flooding. The plan incorporates local recovery plans for the Whitsunday, Mackay, Isaac, Rockhampton, Livingstone, Scenic Rim, Logan and Gold Coast councils.

I also acknowledge the hard work of the Deputy Premier, Jackie Trad, working with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority alongside Brigadier Chris Field as State Recovery Coordinator. Brigadier Field has had assistance from Chief Superintendent Kevin Walsh of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services in the north and Superintendent Charysse Pond of the Queensland Police Service in the south-east.

Recovering from natural disasters is something Queenslanders have more expertise in than they could wish for. We will work in partnership with local councils to ensure that infrastructure is built back better and that communities become stronger and more resilient because of this experience. We will ensure local workers get a fair go and secure the jobs that will rebuild their communities. We will also work closely with the federal government to ensure the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements for Queensland communities are streamlined.

My government will stay focused on helping communities recover and rebuild. We will continue to ensure they do not get left behind and are open for business as soon as possible. As a result, 35 Queensland local government areas are receiving assistance under these arrangements, with more than \$26 million paid out to more than 100,000 Queenslanders to address personal hardship. Initial hardship payments have been vital to help Queensland individuals and families cover the initial cost of essential items such as food, clothing, medicine and accommodation. There is also a range of assistance available to affected small businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit organisations including category C funding for those most affected by the cyclone.

There is no doubt that Queensland's tourism industry was hard hit by Cyclone Debbie and the widespread flooding that followed, but I am pleased to report that the industry has acted swiftly to get back on its feet. A \$2 million joint state-federal government marketing campaign will also go a long way to achieving this goal. We want all Australians to know that taking a holiday in Queensland is one of the best ways to help our state recover. Similarly, we are encouraging people to support businesses in the affected areas through our Go Local campaign. Local businesses are the backbone of our communities, and this new website is designed to help them get back on their feet faster. My government's Go Local campaign will help businesses bounce back and support Queensland's long-term social and economic recovery efforts.

Debbie and the severe flood that followed have had a devastating impact on Queensland but, as I said, Queenslanders are resilient. By bringing together the three levels of government and our communities, we can ensure that Operation Queensland Recovery sees Queensland bounce back bigger, better and stronger. I table the report.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: State Recovery Plan 2017-2019 [\[655\]](#).

Federal Budget

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.59 am): The Turnbull government needs to deliver for Queensland in its federal budget tonight. On behalf of the people of Queensland, my government expects the federal government tonight to confirm continued assistance in the recovery from severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie; to support our growing economy by investing in the infrastructure our state needs and not what the federal government wants; and to show the federal government's commitment to providing fair funding for essential services such as health and education across our state. We all know that Queenslanders were short-changed in last year's federal budget. It failed to restore federal funding for our schools and hospitals. It failed to invest in key infrastructure

projects. It failed to provide certainty for 21 national partnership agreements. The agreements are worth more than \$1.7 billion and support important social and economic services for Queenslanders. Without these agreements, there are major implications for our state budget in meeting the funding gap for essential social services. In addition, my government will continue to lobby the federal government to ensure our schools and families are not worse off. We will also continue to lobby for the federal government providing long sought and much needed skills funding.

Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie crossed the coast on 28 March, wreaking havoc on Queensland's coastal communities. The destructive winds and the widespread flooding that came after has caused significant damage to towns and cities and to regions and local communities. Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements between the states and the federal government are designed to provide relief to communities impacted by such natural disasters. It is important that the federal government not delay these funds for communities devastated by Cyclone Debbie and associated flooding. I also call on the Prime Minister to commit to investing side by side with my government to advance Queensland's economy through nation-building infrastructure. Delivering critical infrastructure is a shared responsibility. It creates jobs and contributes to economic benefits that extend beyond our state. The federal budget must deliver for Queensland.

Tropical Cyclone Debbie, Recovery

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.01 am): It is indeed a cruel reality that as Queenslanders we are all too frequently impacted by natural disasters and consequently well versed in preparing for and responding to Mother Nature's wrath. This was again on display around six weeks ago when severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie struck the Queensland coast at Airlie Beach as a category 4 cyclone and then continued as a tropical low, causing significant flooding over many parts of our state, northern New South Wales and then on to New Zealand. Under the leadership of the Premier and through the Queensland Disaster Management Committee and the State Disaster Coordinator, our uniformed personnel, voluntary SES officers and local council mayors, Queensland once again prepared for a significant severe weather event in the hope of keeping people safe and alive.

As we know, Tropical Cyclone Debbie caused significant damage in Airlie Beach, Bowen, Proserpine, Hamilton Island, Collinsville and surrounding areas. Over the next two days, ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie continued to deliver heavy rainfall and destructive winds across southern Queensland, with 890 millimetres reported at Upper Springbrook and significant rain falling in the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Mary, Upper Condamine, Brisbane and the Albert and Logan catchments. A week after the destruction in the Whitsundays, the Fitzroy River in Rockhampton flooded, reaching 8.9 metres in the early hours of 7 April. As a result, 35 local governments have been activated for relief and recovery assistance under the NDRRA.

On 28 March the Premier announced that Townsville based Army Brigadier Chris Field would lead Queensland's recovery efforts and develop a state recovery plan to ensure disaster impacted communities would recover, reconnect and rebuild. Brigadier Field has been supported in the north by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services's Acting Assistant Commissioner Kevin Walsh and Queensland Police Service's Superintendent Charysse Pond in the South-East region. The state plan for 2017 to 2019, Operation Queensland Recovery, developed by Brigadier Field and his team and tabled by the Premier this morning, reflects extensive planning and consultation with impacted communities. Local recovery plans, developed by those eight local councils most impacted, are an important part of Operation Queensland Recovery as they provide a road map to recovery tailored specifically to each impacted region. At a state level, five functional recovery groups will coordinate, link and manage the recovery for the state based on local recovery plan priorities to ensure that all aspects of impacted communities recover—from people and places to infrastructure, business and industry.

I want to place on record my thanks and gratitude to Brigadier Field for agreeing to lead the recovery effort and develop the recovery plan. I know that many councils and communities have gained confidence and found comfort in Brigadier Field's efforts and presence to date. As minister responsible for the Queensland Reconstruction Authority—Australia's only state based permanent disaster recovery organisation—I want to acknowledge the great work the QRA does to help our state recover and rebuild disaster after disaster. Since its establishment after the 2010-11 floods, the QRA has worked with local governments to oversee \$11 billion worth of repair after some 50 events have wreaked damage across our state. I give special acknowledgement to QRA CEO Brendan Moon, who led the QRA through the Tropical Cyclone Debbie event and worked with Emergency Management

Australia to ensure prompt activations of NDRRA assistance so Queenslanders had support and assistance immediately, when they needed it the most. The QRA will continue to work across state agencies and with local councils to ensure their communities are able to recover, reconnect and rebuild.

I also want to acknowledge the great work done by DTMR and QR on the morning of Thursday, 30 March to boost public transport services after peak hour to clear out the city and ensure people got home safely before the weather intensified across the South-East Queensland corner in the afternoon. In conclusion, I also want to particularly acknowledge the great local leadership shown by mayors in response to Tropical Cyclone Debbie and the associated flooding. I particularly want to mention Andrew Willcox, Mayor of Whitsunday; Greg Williamson, Mayor of Mackay; Anne Baker, Mayor of Isaac; Margaret Strelow, Mayor of Rockhampton; Luke Smith, Mayor of Logan; and Greg Christensen, Mayor of Scenic Rim. When visiting their communities in the aftermath, there was lots of weariness, sometimes a little teariness but mostly an overwhelming love for their communities and a determination to get on with the job of rebuilding after yet another natural disaster.

Tropical Cyclone Debbie, Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.06 am): I advise the House that the preliminary economic impact of Tropical Cyclone Debbie and subsequent floods is estimated at this stage to be up to \$2 billion, with a financial impact on the state budget of \$1.5 billion. Economic losses will flow from impacts on our export coal industry, tourism activity in hard-hit areas and impacts on agricultural producers. We will recoup some of these financial costs through the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements but the state needs to pay the money up-front, which is why there will be an impact in our budget in June, before reimbursement. I want to take this opportunity to pass on my thoughts to those still recovering from this major natural disaster and again thank all those who responded to it. As a general statement, government, emergency services professionals, NGOs and insurers have clearly learned much since the last major weather event in preparation and in response.

The Insurance Council of Australia advises that insurers have received more than 56,000 claims so far worth an estimated \$897 million, including 28,000 domestic home policies and 17,000 home content claims. At the time of the disaster I met with Insurance Council CEO Rob Whelan as well as representatives from individual insurance providers and was very pleased at the level of responsiveness on issues that were raised with me or my office and by my cabinet colleagues, including their responsiveness in ensuring local tradespeople have the best chance of undertaking repair work. Despite the costs generated by Cyclone Debbie, our economic plan is still to see a budget in surplus. That is because our state economy is diverse and robust and capable of withstanding shocks such as the impacts of cyclones and floods. Since the last time the House sat, a number of analyses have been handed down in terms of our economy which has seen an upturn under our economic plan. Ratings agency Moody's has affirmed Queensland's Aa1 credit rating—equivalent to AA+—and revised its outlook to 'stable' from the 'negative' outlook applied in the wake of the 2012 state budget. Moody's notes that its decisions reflect Queensland's disciplined financial management and other elements of our economic plan such as our Debt Action Plan.

The December quarter 2016 Queensland State Accounts showed gross state product rising 2.6 per cent compared with the same quarter in 2015 and compared with 1.8 per cent across the rest of Australia. Business investment, which is a major component of gross state product, rose 0.5 per cent—its second consecutive increase after 11 quarterly falls. Despite the cyclone hitting some export industries, the diversity of our economy still sees us posting record results, currently \$59 billion for the year to the end of March.

Those export industries and the cyclone affected roads, rail lines and ports they rely on have recovered well and will continue to help fuel growth. The state accounts show that our domestic economy is experiencing an upswing. State final demand, which, unlike GSP, does not take into account our trade performance, was 1.6 per cent higher over the year. After eight consecutive negative quarters, it grew for the fourth quarter in a row. The latest Deloitte Access Economics *Investment monitor* showed us that Queensland is one of the nation's leading investment states. The value of known projects in Queensland totalled \$156 billion—higher than in New South Wales and Victoria.

The outcomes of our economic plan would not be possible without stronger business and consumer confidence, which is vital for making investment decisions that create jobs in this state. Even with the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Debbie, confidence is stronger. The NAB Quarterly Business Survey has ranked us highest or second highest on business confidence for 26 of the past 28 months. The Sensis Business Confidence Index for SMEs has us at our highest level in seven years. The

Westpac-Melbourne Institute Consumer Sentiment Index places us at the top of all mainland states. To build on this, our third budget will have a clear focus on Operation Queensland Recovery. It will continue to strengthen our state economy by lifting business confidence, encouraging more investment and creating more jobs across our state.

Tropical Cyclone Debbie, Hospital and Health Services and Ambulance Service

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.10 am): On Tuesday, 28 March, Tropical Cyclone Debbie crossed the Queensland coast near Airlie Beach as a category 4 system. In times of great adversity, front-line Queensland Health staff once again delivered outstanding care to our fellow Queenslanders in the most challenging conditions from the Whitsundays to the New South Wales border. The Department of Health deployed 183 staff and Community Recovery Ready Reserve volunteers to help residents in areas affected by the cyclone, particularly at Bowen and Proserpine. About 2,000 staff of the Mackay Hospital and Health Service, particularly at the Mackay Base, Bowen and Proserpine hospitals, worked tirelessly to support their local communities. The Townsville Hospital and Health Service, along with hospital and health services in the south-east of the state, dispatched over 70 clinicians and health workers to support the hardworking Mackay Hospital and Health Service staff.

One hundred and eleven Queensland Ambulance Service staff were deployed to the cyclone and flood affected communities. QAS specialist state operations vehicles from Brisbane were deployed to provide assistance to affected communities and a QAS tactical medical centre was set up at the Rockhampton evacuation centre in preparation for flooding. The response was also strong in the city of Logan, part of which I am privileged to represent in this House. Staff at Logan Hospital faced significant challenges with access to the hospital due to flooding.

The Queensland Health, QAS and Mackay HHS social media accounts were an important source of information for those affected by Tropical Cyclone Debbie. The department's Twitter account posted and retweeted more than 200 health messages and alerts, while the Facebook account posted over 40 health messages as well as sharing content from HHSs across Queensland.

There were some great stories to come out of these challenging circumstances. A healthy baby girl was born at the Whitsunday Ambulance Station at Cannonvale. Baby Billiana was delivered by her mum with the support of her dad and assistance from graduate paramedic Pamela Price, advanced care paramedic Peter Gleeson, critical care paramedic Anthony Fletcher, local GP Dr Melissa McCann, and midwife Demelza Griff. Another healthy baby girl was born at the Nebo Ambulance Station. Her mother was assisted by advanced care paramedic Joy Cooper with help from QAS volunteer driver Kara Miller and a local police officer.

An amazing story of survival was the man who suffered very serious injuries after a wall collapsed at his Proserpine home. After communication with the local ambulance coordination centre, Proserpine officer in charge Gavin Cousens, together with police, helped save this man's life by safely reaching him, treating and transporting him to Proserpine Hospital where he was stabilised during the eye of the cyclone. I had the privilege of meeting Gavin Cousens when I travelled to the region to thank staff. Paramedics regard Gav as a legend and I recognise his courage and dedication to duty in the House today.

When faced with very challenging circumstances, the dedication and commitment of Health staff across the state shone through. It shows that they genuinely care for the health and wellbeing of their fellow Queenslanders and for that we are truly indebted.

Tropical Cyclone Debbie, Schools and Tourism; NAPLAN

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (10.13 am): As we have heard from the Premier, Queenslanders put in a heartfelt effort to repair community infrastructure following Tropical Cyclone Debbie. This was no small work, with more than one quarter of Queensland state schools damaged by the extreme weather. Throughout the Easter holidays the education department worked with Building and Asset Services to assess damage and carry out urgent recovery works. In all, Tropical Cyclone Debbie caused more than \$7.5 million in damage to 364 state schools and 34 kindies.

Clarke Creek State School, in the Mirani electorate, was inundated with floodwater and suffered significant structural damage. Education and BAS crews worked around the clock to ensure that students and teachers could return to school for the first day of term 2. I also want to recognise and thank the Nebo Sarina Range Branch of the Queensland Country Women's Association for their help.

Some Swayneville State School students were cut off from their school after landslips destroyed sections of Marlborough-Sarina Road. In particular, I would like to place on the parliamentary record my sincere gratitude to CWA president Margaret McFadzen, who worked closely with the department and principal Roslyn Waldron to help us set up a temporary school at Colston Park CWA hall while the road is being repaired.

I want to thank all staff and school communities for the part they played in the recovery for our schools and for their dedication to the safety of our students. During times of crisis, our schools also become community hubs and it was great to see firsthand the good work being done at the community recovery centre at Proserpine State High School. I want to thank not only the principal, Don McDermid, but also all of the staff and teachers of Proserpine State High School who gave up their time during the school holidays to support the community recovery efforts.

As the Premier said, we are also getting behind our tourism industry in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Tourism in the Mackay-Whitsundays region is worth more than \$3 billion to the Queensland economy and supports more than 13,000 jobs. That is why we moved quickly to deliver a \$10 million tourism recovery package jointly with the Australian government to help keep our tourism industry strong. Our package includes money for domestic marketing as well as \$1 million for media and trade visits and a \$7 million tourism infrastructure recovery fund and to create new tourism experiences. I also want to put on the record my support and thanks to the Tourism Whitsundays organisation and the mayor of the Whitsundays, with whom we work very closely in partnership.

Finally, I want to wish Queensland students taking part in NAPLAN this week all the very best. A record 255,000 students from across Queensland in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in NAPLAN this week. Last year, Queensland students delivered the best ever NAPLAN results that we have seen. Year 3 students ranked first in the country for grammar and punctuation for the first time ever. My strong advice to all the students' parents is to be calm about NAPLAN. We say very strongly to all students to just to treat it like any other day, make sure you get some good sleep, have a good breakfast and just try as hard as you can.

Tropical Cyclone Debbie, Energy and Transport Services



Hon. MC BAILEY (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.17 am): I would like to inform the House of Queensland's unsung heroes who worked day and night across large parts of our state to restore electricity, repair our road network and manage our dams during and after Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

On the electricity front, across Queensland nearly 270,000 Queenslanders lost power. The effort to restore electricity involved more than 1,300 workers from Ergon, Energex, Powerlink and also some field crew from New South Wales Essential Energy. For the first time, hundreds of power workers with their equipment were pre-deployed north, south and within the impact zone ready to respond to the emergency. When I inspected North Queensland, I saw power workers swarming all over North Queensland, getting the work done in repairing our smashed power system as quickly as possible.

Just 14 days after Tropical Cyclone Debbie made landfall, all power had been restored to affected customers where it was safe to do so. This was the first significant coordinated response since Ergon and Energex merged under Energy Queensland. Whether it was through that predeployment or the use of our mobile generation units to get power back on swiftly and safely, all the workers did us proud.

On the roads and highways, Tropical Cyclone Debbie caused significant landslips and road damage, particularly in North Queensland, Logan, on the Gold Coast and in the Gold Coast hinterland. Over 600 Transport and Main Roads and Roadtek staff worked around the clock to undertake emergency repairs and reopen roads as quickly as possible. In the days following I witnessed firsthand some of the extensive damage. Major landslips on the Sarina and Eton ranges were so extensive that repairs will take some time, with one lane open at Eton Range. The Sarina Range will be closed for some time yet.

I inspected the John Muntz Causeway where significant reconstruction work commenced very quickly and is expected to be completed by mid this year. There is also ongoing work in the Gold Coast hinterland where we saw extensive damage. On Pine Creek Road there was a five-metre-by-five-metre washout and staff from the Department of Transport and Main Roads had that open within 36 hours, which was a fantastic effort. This was also the first time that the Yeppen south and north bridges in Rockhampton were truly tested under an extreme weather event since being funded by the previous federal and state Labor governments. They proved their worth, keeping access in and out of Rockhampton 24 hours a day for the first time, making a world of difference to everybody living in that region.

During the event our dams were closely monitored by staff from SunWater and Seqwater, who worked very hard providing updates to the community. With all dams in the Mackay region spilling, two of them experienced events of record in terms of rainfall, including Kinchant Dam. That is why I have asked the Chief Scientist, Professor Suzanne Miller, to undertake an assessment into the operation of Kinchant Dam and warning systems for communities downstream. I was very happy to visit Kinchant with the member for Mirani very soon after the event.

I would like to pay tribute to the hard work of the member for Mackay, Julieanne Gilbert, who did magnificent work supporting her communities during such an extreme impact. Fifteen out of 23 of our ungated dams spilled and added six months supply to our drinking water. A post-event analysis demonstrated the most recent upgrade of the Hinze Dam, funded by Labor governments, was a major contributor in reducing the risk of flooding for thousands of downstream Gold Coast homes.

I thank crews across all of my departments and agencies for their magnificent and tireless efforts during the cyclone period and for their continuing work to restore services and infrastructure across Queensland. I would also like to place on record my thanks to all local government staff, mayors and leaders who worked so closely with Queensland government agencies. I also pay tribute to the work of the military, in particular the Army and Navy, which played a key role in restoring services and worked closely with local and state government to deliver such an effective response.

Tropical Cyclone Debbie, Police and Emergency Services



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.22 am): Queensland has once again been forced to meet head-on another violent storm season, one that has left families grieving for lost loved ones and homes and businesses destroyed. From Bowen, Mackay and the Whitsundays, down to Logan, the Scenic Rim and our most southern border, Cyclone Debbie and the flooding aftermath cut a devastating path down our coastline over a miserable and prolonged period of time.

While the dedication and resourcefulness of our hardworking police, emergency services, SES volunteers and Corrective Services teams have never been in doubt, the 2017 storm season truly demonstrates the agility and swiftness of their expertise, skill and courage. During this time of uncertainty they exhibited a world-leading response to the ever-changing emergency situation, moving without hesitation to adapt as necessary the well-tested procedures that have made Queensland's disaster expertise renowned, not only nationally but also internationally. Their professionalism shone through no matter where they were stationed: on the front line to the disaster response, working behind the scenes or doing overtime to maintain the safety of our entire state.

There is no doubt that their unparalleled preparation and rapid response saved lives and saved property. More important than this was their highly skilled professionalism, which they demonstrated time and time again. I saw firsthand their compassion. Despite being hot, exhausted, dirty, wet and often heartbroken by the distress of their fellow Queenslanders, the sensitivity with which they approached each situation will stay with me forever. Many left their own homes at risk to join their colleagues on the front line. Many more put on the overalls after the national disaster event to help with the clean-up of their fellow Queenslanders' properties. I want to particularly thank our emergency services volunteers and our emergency services staff for what they have done to assist Queenslanders in our time of need, but I also want to thank their families for giving us the time that they should have been spending with them.

It is widely acknowledged that Queensland's emergency preparation and teams are the best in Australia because with each natural disaster that confronts our state we learn something new. Queensland is the best at preparing for, responding to and recovering from disasters because we have to be, but, more specifically, Queensland is the best during these times of crisis because of the great people of our police and emergency services. On behalf of all Queenslanders I thank them.

Review of Youth Detention Centres, Report



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.25 am): The independent review of youth detention centres in Queensland was initiated in 2016 by the government in response to the allegations of potential abuse of youth while at either the Cleveland or the Brisbane youth detention centres. The reviewers, Kathryn McMillan QC and Professor Megan Davis, had full access to the youth detention centres, the staff, the young offenders and all the material and documentation relating to the alleged incidents going back a number of years.

The report provided to government in mid December 2016 was a comprehensive report into not only the alleged incidents referred to in the terms of reference but also the context in which youth justice has evolved in Queensland and also nationally and internationally.

In January Crown Law were instructed to consider the report in the context of any impediment to releasing the report in full as provided by the reviewers. Crown Law advised that the document would require redactions before it could be released and that this work would need to occur in consultation with multiple agencies. Although Youth Justice were consulted in relation to the report and operational issues, Crown Law were the decision-makers in relation to the final version for release. This was important to ensure that Youth Justice, which was the subject of the review, were not also the decision-makers in relation to the release of the report.

Crown Law provided me with the redacted report in mid April. The government believed that it was important to get this report released to the public as soon as possible, which is why the report was released on Wednesday, 26 April after cabinet's consideration on Monday, 24 April. It is fair to say that Crown Law's approach to the redacting of this report has been very cautious. Crown Law's advice relied on various statutes as well as advice on the safety and security of the centre, staff and young offenders. Following public queries around the need for specific redactions, particularly around operational elements of the report, I formed the view that it is in the public interest to have the report further examined by an independent officer from Youth Justice. I have asked the Chief Inspector of Corrective Services, Mr Samay Zhouand, who undertook the investigation into the November 2016 riot at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre, to identify whether any further information that appears in the report can be released. It is particularly important to have someone who has the knowledge and expertise in relation to the safety and security of centres around detention and correctional service centres to undertake this task. The chief inspector will have access to further legal advice, including a QC if needed, in considering that report. If, on the advice of the chief inspector, there is additional information that can be appropriately released it will be released. I have asked that this work be completed as a matter of priority.

This government follows through with its commitment to ensure that we release the information from reviews that we initiate. This government initiated the investigation into these important allegations and we want to ensure that as much information as we possibly can release will be released to the public.

Tropical Cyclone Debbie, Agricultural Infrastructure



Hon. WS BYRNE (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development) (10.28 am): Producers across a large area of Queensland were heavily impacted by Tropical Cyclone Debbie and the associated flooding. From Bowen down to the south-east corner, the damage to crops, stock and agricultural infrastructure is estimated to be around \$450 million. My department has been there every step of the way to help producers get back up and running as quickly as possible.

After Debbie passed, resources were quickly mobilised. At the peak of the disaster and in the immediate aftermath, 85 departmental staff worked on the recovery response and 28 were directly allocated to impact assessment. Department staff inspected more than 350 properties and worked with key industry stakeholders and producers to establish the totality of the damage. That personal interaction was key to determining what levels of assistance could be provided to producers under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, the NDRRA.

In the aftermath, we established the Agricultural Coordination Group of peak agricultural industry organisations such as AgForce, Canegrowers and the Queensland Farmers' Federation, and they helped to determine the appropriate recovery assistance for producers. Fourteen regional council areas have been activated for NDRRA Category B assistance, which provides freight subsidies of up to \$5,000 to help with the recovery and concessional loans of up to \$250,000 at an interest rate of 1.16 per cent. The most severely impacted areas have also been activated for NDRRA Category C assistance, which provides access to recovery grants of up to \$25,000. Category C assistance has been approved for primary producers in Whitsunday, Mackay, Logan, the Scenic Rim and parts of Isaac, Livingstone, the Central Highlands, Woorabinda, the Gold Coast and Lockyer. It is important to note that eligibility for all categories is set by the Commonwealth. For a region to be approved for Category C assistance, a community must have at least one-third of producers impacted, with the impact on the total value of agricultural production to be at least 20 per cent. Category C exceptional disaster grants are not given to compensate producers for lost stock or crops and do not replace insurance.

To date, QRAA has received a total of 216 grant applications from primary producers, is processing 140 and has approved 62 grant applications worth \$314,000. In total, including claims from small businesses and not-for-profit groups, QRAA has received 387 applications, is processing 232 of them and at this point has approved payments of \$590,000. Additional staff have been drafted in to process applications. Our priority is to ensure prompt service and processing and, to that end, 11 dedicated staff in Brisbane and five in the regions are processing clean-up grants and assisting producers with their applications. Five temporary staff have commenced work and a further four will be brought in from 15 May, when we expect demand to increase further. DAF staff also provided recovery advice from DAF mobile offices, which were deployed across the impacted regions.

We will continue to work with our producers to ensure they recover as quickly as possible. The closing date for natural disaster recovery loans is 13 October 2017.

Tropical Cyclone Debbie, Recovery

 **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) (10.32 am): Tropical Cyclone Debbie hit many Queensland families hard from North Queensland to the Gold Coast, including in my own community at Logan. I am proud to say the Palaszczuk government was there to help people get back on their feet in record time. We have supported more than 114,000 Queenslanders with hardship assistance grants totalling more than \$26 million. We were able to do this only because the Palaszczuk government took the lessons learnt from previous disasters and invested in new systems to make it even easier for people who need a helping hand.

This was the first community recovery response where Queenslanders could access financial support over the phone and online through our new community recovery portal. The results speak for themselves. Payments of hardship grants were made at a rate 7½ times faster when compared to what happened following past natural disasters such as tropical cyclones Marcia or Yasi. As an example, on day 3 we had distributed \$4.4 million in hardship grants, compared to the same time after Tropical Cyclone Marcia when we had managed to distribute only \$87,000. Importantly, this means that staff at our recovery centres could focus on outreach and support, rather than filling out paperwork. Our dedicated community recovery teams made more than 9,700 visits to people in their homes and communities to provide assistance face to face.

None of that community recovery effort could have been possible without our ready reservists: more than 780 public servants volunteered to go to disaster affected regions and lend a hand. For the first time, 142 public servants from other states and territories headed north to assist Queensland families. That support was matched by ordinary Queenslanders, who have donated more than \$196,000 and 22,800 items for impacted communities through Givit. The impact and scale of Tropical Cyclone Debbie means the need for support is ongoing. We still have outreach teams in the field and our call centre continues to follow up with individuals and families who need help. We will continue to work with communities and families impacted by the cyclone and the flooding that followed for as long as it takes to help get them back on their feet and into their homes.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Resource Projects

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (10.35 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for its secret support of attempts by extreme activist groups to block the jobs and investment opportunities associated with Queensland resource projects.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Tropical Cyclone Debbie

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.35 am): Tropical Cyclone Debbie was indeed a brute of a storm. From North and Central Queensland to Wide Bay in the south-east, it smashed, it battered and it flooded. It took out homes, roads and bridges. It took with it farms and animals. Tragically, it did take human life. The devastating toll was eight dead. Our thoughts remain with those who lost loved ones. There is a damage bill of more than \$1 billion—and perhaps even more, as the Treasurer has indicated today—and a physical and emotional recovery destined to take years.

Natural disasters are not a time for politics or politicking, which is why I was pleased to join the Premier in travelling to some of the worst hit areas in a united front of support, compassion and, of course, assistance. I also joined Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, federal opposition leader Bill Shorten, the federal member for Dawson, George Christensen, and Brigadier Chris Field on the ground in the wake of the destruction in Proserpine, Airlie Beach, Mackay and Bowen. We were staggered by the scenes that we witnessed, but equally unsurprised by the mettle of the many families and business owners who shared their stories. Queenslanders are an inspirational, resilient bunch and north Queenslanders are as tough as they come. They have rolled up their sleeves and got on with the job. Indeed, they were getting on with it even as the storm was still rolling south; it is as simple as that.

Our thanks and admiration go to those dedicated and fearless military and emergency services personnel, as well as the flying squads of workers, particularly the power and energy workers, who toiled in often dangerous conditions to restore essential services. I acknowledge the tremendous work of the mayors who worked tirelessly and without much sleep over many days: Andrew Willcox, Ann Baker from Isaac shire, Greg Williamson, Luke Smith, Greg Christensen and Margaret Strelow, among others. I also acknowledge the members of my team whose electorates were primarily pummelled in that maelstrom: from Jon Krause at the Scenic Rim and Mark Boothman in Albert to Jason Costigan in the Whitsundays and Dale Last in the Burdekin, as well as Ros Bates in Mudgeeraba, who dealt with the issues up in Springbrook. I know how hard and tirelessly they worked. They spent days away from family, helping their local communities to recover. They are still very much out there, assisting their local communities and ensuring that they are not forgotten.

Tropical Cyclone Debbie was a monster, slow moving and unforgiving. However, Queenslanders stood up to her and, long after she has blown her last breath, it is the extraordinary stories that count. In the Scenic Rim I met an SES worker who was away rescuing others while his own house flooded. Jeff McConnell is one of those blokes who makes you proud to be a Queenslanders. To Jeff and all those Queenslanders who have lost and must now rebuild, I want you to know that we will not forget you. We will not forget you over the weeks and months ahead. As you recover, we will be with you every step of the way.

Federal Budget

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.39 am): Tonight the Turnbull government will hand down the federal budget and Queenslanders will be rightly asking, 'What is in it for us?' Queenslanders want fairer school funding not Turnbull's cuts. We want better funding for our hospitals to meet the demands of our growing and ageing population. We want our fair share of infrastructure funding because for too long we have missed out.

We have had to fight tooth and nail to make sure we are not forgotten by this Sydney focused government. First it was Abbott and Hockey and now it is Turnbull and Morrison. They are building a new airport for Sydney and they are funding major road projects like WestConnex and NorthConnex and rail projects like Sydney Metro, but we have had to fight for projects like Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 and the M1 upgrade—and still no real investment for Cross River Rail. That is not really a surprise when we find out that the federal Treasurer has not set foot in Queensland this year. He has made it to Germany twice, but he has not come to Queensland. Talk about the wrong priorities!

The numbers do not lie. Direct spending by the federal government on capital in Queensland has plummeted. When the Newman government was elected in 2012 and with a Labor government in Canberra we were getting \$612 per person in gross fixed capital expenditure—\$50 more per person than in New South Wales thanks to federal Labor. Under the Turnbull government this has fallen to \$519 per person, representing an almost 20 per cent cut in infrastructure funding on a per capita basis to the state of Queensland.

At the same time, direct spending by the federal government in New South Wales has gone up, surprisingly. It has gone up by more than seven per cent to \$603 per person. There is less for Queensland and more for New South Wales. This all adds up. If Queensland got the same treatment as New South Wales it would mean an extra \$400 million annually for our state.

Those opposite really do not seem to care, do they? They really do not seem to care. I recall when the member for Clayfield became the Leader of the Opposition he said that he would be prepared to stand up to an LNP government in Canberra for the sake of Queenslanders—to get a better deal for

Queenslanders. Since then what have we heard? We have heard absolutely nothing, proving that when it comes to the member for Clayfield what he says and what he does are two different things. How can Queenslanders trust him?

(Time expired)

Cross River Rail

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.42 am): That comes from someone who could only be described as one of the most incompetent infrastructure ministers this state has ever had. That comes from an infrastructure minister who has slashed \$3 billion out of the state infrastructure spend in the last two budgets.

In the last budget under the Palaszczuk government—supposedly an infrastructure budget—what did this infrastructure minister deliver or do for Queenslanders? She did big fat zero; nothing. While we talk about what the federal government has done up here, it was those opposite who were all too quick to get a selfie with the Prime Minister at the announcement with regard to Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2. We saw the Premier getting a selfie with the Prime Minister.

We also have the Gateway merge project. Those opposite completely forget that it was only thanks to this side of the House—the LNP—and the federal government that we saw the delivery of the vital infrastructure money for the Toowoomba second range crossing. What about the Bruce Highway upgrade and the Yeppen flood plain outside of Rockhampton? That was a vital piece of infrastructure that helped through the floods after ex-Cyclone Debbie.

We have an infrastructure minister who is so deluded that her only plan for her supposed No. 1 infrastructure project is to go cap in hand to the federal government. There is absolutely no plan on the other side of the House. We have always known that the secret business case has the Labor Party saying that they are going to slug property owners—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We have also heard the rumours coming out of the Premier's office that now they actually want to spent some of the \$800 million the Deputy Premier squirreled away, supposedly for Cross River Rail, on regional infrastructure. What a surprise that would be. After two years this incompetent infrastructure minister does not even have the state approvals to build her pet project. She does not even have the Coordinator-General's sign-off on that project. How embarrassing for a minister sitting over there to go cap in hand to the federal government. This is a minister who does not have her own ducks in a row. The Deputy Premier is worse than the member for Inala when she said that this project was shovel ready.

(Time expired)

Queensland Liberal National Party; Federal Budget

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.45 am): Only the truly mediocre are always at their best. Those opposite are very lazy. The member for Nanango is a case in point. If it is worth saying once, it is worth saying again: when the Leader of the Opposition was Campbell Newman's treasurer he actually bragged about cutting the capital expenditure budget. In his 2012-13 budget speech he said, 'The capital program needs to return to more manageable levels. Apart from reconstruction, the capital program will be smaller than in previous years.'

We saw last week the latest effort from those opposite to claim infrastructure spending in the Queensland state accounts was not at its peak. As we know, capital spending is outlined in the state budget in financial years. What did the lazy, opportunistic opposition do? They attacked us based on calculations on calendar years. They used figures that included state and local government capital spends. Why mislead people like that? That is the very, very lazy opposition led by the very, very lazy Leader of the Opposition. It starts at the top and it goes down from there.

We know that the federal budget is being delivered tonight. Why are they not trying to make a case for the federal government to do more in terms of Queensland infrastructure? What they are saying is that the federal government is doing more than we are—really. What they are doing is covering up yet again for their political masters in Canberra in terms of what they are expecting not to be in the budget tonight. We know that they are apologists for those who continue to short-change Queenslanders and they are going to do it again tonight in the budget. The Leader of the Opposition waved on through Joe Hockey's cuts. He said he would stand up to them, but did he? No, he did not; far from it. They have a very good track record of not standing up for Queensland.

When it comes to today's contributions—and the shadow Treasurer will be on his feet next; talk about those people always being at their best but being very mediocre—we will hear another episode in their long-running serial drama which is the LNP's campaign to talk down Queensland. They have been doing that since 2012 and before. They have a very easy tactic. It is: No. 1, talk down Queensland; No. 2, talk down the Queensland economy; No. 3, talk down confidence in Queensland. All the while, they are hoping to take the easy and lazy way of sliding into office without doing any work.

Have we seen any policies from those opposite when it comes to the economy? Have we seen any policies from those opposite? No, we have not. That is really the question here. The member for Indooroopilly will be on his feet next. What is he going to say? Let us hope he is going to say, one, that he is going to stand with us and fight for federal government funding and, two, if he cannot mouth the words that the LNP will not sell our income-generating assets then we cannot believe a single thing that they say.

(Time expired)

Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Email Account

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (10.48 am): The Premier has lost all trust. Her claims about a commitment to openness and transparency are nothing more than a cheap and nasty con job. Yet another Labor minister has been caught out using a private email account for government business. This is not just a practice that involves some questionable dealings of the member for Yeerongpilly, who was under investigation for potential corrupt conduct by the Crime and Corruption Commission; it is a scandal that has now widened to include the member for Stafford.

The member for Stafford would have us believe that his use of private email for government business is entirely appropriate, but his words are clearly not in keeping with the Premier's commitment that all ministers only use Queensland government provided email accounts for government business. The member for Stafford went on to make the fanciful defence that his use of a private account would pass the pub test. Let us consider the facts. The member for Stafford also moonlights as a lecturer at the University of Queensland. The minister actively uses his private UQ address to liaise with ministerial staff about the business of his ministerial office. An opposition right-to-information request discovered this. The RTI response reveals that this account is 'used by the minister to conduct his lecturing work at UQ' and also 'to help keep his ministerial work progressing'.

The opposition has also been advised of about 8,000 emails currently in the UQ account and that 'regular deletions every six months or so have been required to comply with the UQ email account size policy'. It is clear that the member for Stafford uses the account for government business and actively deletes emails from the private account. What we do not know is just how many official government records have been deleted from this private email account. Queenslanders expect that when a minister emails staff or stakeholders about government business an official government account is used. Apparently this is also the expectation of the Premier. Yet now we have a second minister who has been caught out doing government business via private email and hitting the delete button on public records. The Premier refuses to come clean on how many ministers have committed possible corruption by using private email to conduct official business. There now needs to be a full inquiry by the Crime and Corruption Commission to get to the bottom of this very important question.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude at 11.51 am.

Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Email Account

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (10.51 am): My question is to the Premier. I table an email from the director of ethics of the Department of State Development showing that Minister Lynham has also deleted ministerial record emails in a non-Queensland government email account. Doesn't Minister Lynham's comments reported on Sunday that his conduct was 'entirely appropriate' completely undermine the Premier's claims of openness, transparency and high standards under the Premier's watch?

Tabled paper: Email, dated 28 April 2017, from Jim Meyers, Director Ethics and Governance, Department of State Development to unknown correspondent, in relation to a right to information application and the UQ email account of Minister Lynham [\[656\]](#).

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I have to have a look at that piece of paper but let me say a few things. First and foremost, I have made it very clear to my ministers that I expect work related matters to be done on work related phones. Secondly, I will put this man's integrity—Dr Anthony Lynham's integrity—against anyone sitting on that side. What the minister has advised is that he has a UQ email address because he still supervises students—this is my understanding—at UQ. Here we have the gutter tactics of those opposite. They are gutter tactics—

Ms Trad: Because they refuse to fight for Queensland.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. What is the biggest issue facing Queensland today? Whether or not we get our fair share of funding from the federal budget. That is the biggest issue facing Queenslanders today, not—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Premier, I am having difficulty hearing you.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I have said, Dr Anthony Lynham came into this House as a man of integrity who still undertakes some supervision roles at UQ. He has made that very clear not just to me but to the public. In fact, it was all revealed in that 'secret' paper called the *Sunday Mail* just recently.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No. Let me put it clearly on the public record that we are facing tonight a federal budget to be handed down by the federal Treasurer and we have heard nothing from those opposite—nothing about education, nothing about health—

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—nothing at all.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier has answered the question.

Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Email Account

Mr NICHOLLS: My second question without notice is also to the Premier. Twice this year the Premier has refused to guarantee that no other ministers besides Minister Bailey had deleted ministerial record emails. Did the Premier refuse to give that guarantee because she knew Minister Lynham was also up to the same thing and, if so, why didn't the Premier formally inform the House?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe the Leader of the Opposition's question contains an imputation about motives. I ask that you reflect upon the wording of the Leader of the Opposition's question.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I understand the intent of your question. Could you please rephrase your question?

Mr NICHOLLS: Certainly. Twice this year the Premier has refused to guarantee that no other ministers besides Minister Bailey had deleted ministerial record emails. Is the reason for the Premier's reluctance to give that guarantee because she was aware of other emails?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The answer to that question is no.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

Ms FARMER: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier outline the government's efforts to rebuild front-line services, and can the Premier outline any alternative approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Bulimba for that very important question. When we went to the last election I promised the people of Queensland that I would restore front-line services across this state. My government is delivering on that because we know how important it is to have the necessary health services and education services no matter where you live, whether it is the Torres Strait, Cairns, Townsville, out west or Coolangatta.

I would like to update the House that between the December 2014 and the December 2016 quarters the number of additional full-time-equivalent positions employed by my government included 4,007 extra teachers and teacher aides; 3,274 extra nurses; 1,199 extra doctors; 295 extra ambulance

officers; 212 extra sworn police officers, with an additional 94 recruits sworn in this year; 122 extra Fire and Emergency Services officers; and 71 full-time-equivalent child safety officers, with an additional 129 officers to be appointed this year and more committed earlier this month.

Mr Speaker, as you can see, we are delivering on our commitments to Queenslanders, and Queenslanders are saying thank you to my members and my government for doing that. In fact, in a recent newsletter—it is really good to see this coming from a member of this House; let me read it out—

We have achieved a lot together since you re-elected me at the last state election. We have improved front-line services, built better roads and infrastructure, continued to get our schools the funding and resources they need and kept our community strong.

Mr Speaker, wouldn't you expect that to come from a government member or perhaps a crossbench member? No. It is the member for Burnett singing the praises of the Palaszczuk government restoring front-line services and building the infrastructure that communities need.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There is more. What does the Leader of the Opposition want to do? He wants a 'more flexible' Public Service. Here it is—a 'Public Service of excellence'. We know what happened the last time the LNP promised something to the Public Service—14,000 jobs were lost. That is their record—14,000 jobs lost. You cannot trust this man, Mr Speaker. I did not think I would be able to say this but this Leader of the Opposition is worse than the former one we had—worse than Lawrence.

Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Email Account

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question without notice is to the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy. Has the minister sought advice from the State Archivist on Minister Lynham's comment that it is entirely appropriate to delete ministerial record emails? If so, what action is she taking in response?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. The Queensland State Archivist is aware of some of the issues in relation to Minister Lynham that have been addressed this morning. Under the Public Records Act 2002, ministers and their senior staff are responsible for ensuring ministerial records are captured in their ministerial record-keeping systems. The Public Records Act, however, does not prevent the usage of personal email accounts by ministers. Minister Lynham's actions in ensuring emails identified as potential ministerial records are forwarded to his office to be logged would appear to be in keeping with the QSA's guidelines. That is the advice that I have received from the State Archivist. I am happy to provide that information to the chamber.

Energy Industry

Mr STEWART: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier please advise the House of the government's actions to help ensure energy security for Queensland? Can the Premier outline any alternative approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Townsville for that very important question, because we know that there is a very clear difference between my government and those opposite when it comes to energy security in this state. We are a government that looks to the future, and we know that, to move towards a renewable future, gas is an important component of that mix. It is not just my government saying that. We only have to look at the Finkel report which states very clearly that gas is the key. What my Minister for State Development has done is open up more tenements for domestic gas use.

We also know that there is an opportunity in the north of our state to develop infrastructure in relation to raising the Burdekin Falls Dam and putting in a hydrosystem which would produce a clean energy source for the north of our state. My government is very keen to see this progress. However, I am very concerned about reports I am hearing that those opposite, backed in, I recall the other day, by the Leader of the Opposition, are seeking to support the federal government in a push for a brand-new \$2 billion coal-fired power station in the north of this state. Let me make it very clear: a new \$2 billion coal-fired power station is not the answer. The last thing I want to see is power prices driven up because of ill-thought-out policy by those opposite.

The people of Queensland want to see clear direction when it comes to energy policy in this nation. The other Labor premiers around Australia and I are more than willing to sit down with the Prime Minister of our nation and work out a comprehensive national energy security policy, but unfortunately that COAG meeting was cancelled. That COAG meeting will now not happen until after the federal budget.

There is a very clear divide in our state when it comes to a renewable future. We clearly have existing coal fleets that will be maintained, but as we move towards a renewable energy future Queensland is the energy powerhouse of the nation. We export our surplus energy to the rest of the eastern coast. Let me tell the House that I was not too happy to see Malcolm Turnbull, the Prime Minister, turn up in Queensland wanting to rob Queenslanders of our LNG royalties. It was absolutely shameful and absolutely disgraceful. There was no discussion whatsoever with me or my government.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Everton, you will have a chance soon.

Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Email Account

Mr EMERSON: My question is to the Minister for Innovation. With reference to her previous answer, what did the State Archivist say about Minister Lynham's deletion of ministerial emails prior to 23 January?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. In terms of Minister Lynham's actions in ensuring that emails identified as potential ministerial records have been forwarded to his office to be logged, according to Queensland State Archives' guidelines there is a requirement that agencies have policies and procedures in place for capturing public records where their organisation allows the use of devices and accounts outside their normal agency provided systems. The State Archivist has indicated that from the information available there does not appear to be a potential breach of the Public Records Act 2002 in regard to the actions of Minister Lynham.

Cross River Rail

Mr KING: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how Cross River Rail would benefit my constituents as well as the broader region and whether Queensland's federal representatives are supportive of the project?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Kallangur for his question. He understands that Cross River Rail is important for his community and for the whole of South-East Queensland. Cross River Rail will benefit commuters in the north of Brisbane in his electorate by shaving up to 10 minutes off their rail journeys to the CBD. That is more time each and every day spent at home with their families. The project will also facilitate an additional 19,000 seats during peak hour, enabling more people to use public transport and a 22 per cent reduction in train crowding by 2036.

It is time for the federal government to put their money on the table, like the Palaszczuk government has, to get this critical, nation-building piece of infrastructure built. The Turnbull government has had the full Cross River Rail business case since June last year—more than 45 weeks ago. That is ample time for them to consider the project and all the benefits it will bring. Let us be clear: this is the second time they got it. They got it back in 2012 as well.

If the federal government does not start showing its commitment to building the infrastructure that Queensland needs, then it is time for Queenslanders to show the federal government what they think of them. The federal LNP members of parliament for Queensland should also be standing up for Cross River Rail and demanding that Malcolm Turnbull deliver funding to make it happen, but all we hear is silence from federal LNP members like Peter Dutton, Luke Howarth and Jane Prentice—even though their constituents will all directly benefit from this project.

In Logan and on the Gold Coast Bert van Manen, Stuart Robert, Steve Ciobo and Karen Andrews are all missing in action, even though Cross River Rail would save people in Logan and on the Gold Coast up to 15 minutes travel time each journey. On the bayside, residents could save up to 14 minutes off their journey to the CBD, but that is not enough to get Ross Vasta and Andrew Laming out of their seats to stand up for Cross River Rail. On the Sunshine Coast we have not heard a peep out of Ted O'Brien and Andrew Wallace. Clearly they do not care if their communities benefit from faster journey

times. It is time for these LNP federal MPs to stand up for Queensland, to stand up for their communities and to ensure that the people of Queensland get their fair share from the federal government's budget being handed down tonight.

Ms Jones interjected.

Ms TRAD: I take that interjection from the education minister. They are too busy doing numbers for the federal leadership. That is what they are busy doing. They are doing some numbers; just not budget numbers. It is time for Malcolm Turnbull to stand up and deliver on Cross River Rail.

(Time expired)

Member for Pumicestone, Tow Truck Companies

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. The Premier has said that she is again furious, this time about tow truck operators gouging customers. I table a stack of documents including numerous complaints by consumers in relation to the tow truck business run by the member for Pumicestone. Will the Premier now investigate the member for Pumicestone?

Tabled paper: Series of documents, released under right to information DTMR regarding complaints in relation to tow truck operators [\[657\]](#).

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question around what has been happening with people in relation to their vehicles being towed. Honestly, everyone is really upset by it. There have been a lot of complaints. In fact, I want to thank Minister Bailey for acting so quickly on this issue. He gave cabinet a comprehensive update yesterday. There was a lot of discussion at cabinet; I am more than happy to say that. He immediately set up an 1800 hotline so people can report any complaints they have. Next week cabinet will be discussing the results—

Mr Nicholls: What about the member for Pumicestone?

Mrs Frecklington: What about the member for Pumicestone?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Once again they do not want to talk about the budget. They do not want to talk about what is happening tonight.

Honourable members interjected.

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

Mrs Smith interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will stand up for the people of Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Just one moment, Premier. I remind the member for Mount Ommaney when I am on my feet to not continue your comments.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I once again urge members of the public to contact that 1800 number to report the instances that they have—

Mr Powell interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—so we can have a comprehensive policy to deal with this practice that—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock, please. Member for Glass House, you have had a pretty good go. We understand your question. Premier, do you have anything further you wish to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I look forward to hearing what the members of the public have to say.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Ipswich West, I am informed that we have students from the Emmaus College, Jimboomba in the electorate of Beaudesert observing our proceedings. They are joined by students from the Woodcrest State College in the electorate of Bundamba who are also observing our proceedings. Welcome.

Federal Budget

Mr MADDEN: My question without notice is of the Treasurer and the Minister for Trade and Investment. The federal budget will be handed down tonight, and I ask: will the Treasurer advise the House of the type of initiatives the Palaszczuk government has been asking to see in the federal budget that will benefit Queenslanders?

Mr PITT: Like the member for Ipswich West, I will be very, very keen to watch tonight's federal budget to see just how Scott Morrison tries to dud us yet again. Since the LNP were elected federally, Queensland has been duded. We have been duded by Sydney based Treasurers Joe Hockey and Scott Morrison. While we have seen the Melbourne Metro, the Sydney Metro and the Western Sydney

light rail score billions of dollars in investment, Malcolm Turnbull and Scott Morrison have not handed over funding for critical projects, particularly something that deserves funding, and that is Cross River Rail. Critical infrastructure in Queensland has not been funded by the Turnbull government or the Abbott government before that. None of this should be surprising as we have heard the federal Treasurer has been to Germany twice this year but not once to Queensland. The Turnbull government have said that this budget would be 'firm and fair'. While the federal coalition has been plenty firm, we would like them to be just a little bit fair. That is all we are asking of them. We want to see those opposite join us finally, as I said earlier, and be on team Queensland instead of being on team LNP. Ultimately, that is exactly where they have been.

If the federal Treasurer is unsure how to set an economic agenda, he certainly should not ask those opposite, who do not have an economic agenda or any economic policies. They might want to look over at this side of the House to see just how our economic policies are working in terms of growing the Queensland economy. Labor has shown the tenacity required to work very hard on our economy and our finances to make sure that we are in good shape. Business confidence, as we said, is at its highest level. It is higher than other states and we have been second or top for 26 of the last 28 months. Business confidence is really important. The latest Sensis Business Index survey—

Mr Emerson interjected.

Mr PITT:—and the member for Indooroopilly is talking about it—has shown that confidence among small and medium business owners is at its highest level in seven years.

Mr Emerson: Despite you, despite the government.

Mr PITT: The member for Indooroopilly really needs to read the documents. Members opposite should not take our word for it because there are others who believe that our economic plan is working including its elements. They have some advice for the federal government. The Warwick Chamber of Commerce's Vice-President, David Martin, said today in the *Daily News*—

The (State Government) Youth Boost was a good incentive for our own business and allowed us to put more people on so I think something like that at a federal level could be beneficial.

I think that is a really good grassroots endorsement of what those policies are doing versus what those federally are not doing. We do have a list of things we want to see from Scott Morrison. Number one, we want infrastructure spending on major projects like Cross River Rail, including additional spending into regional Queensland; two, we want to see an end to the funding uncertainty. The importance of national partnership agreements cannot be understated to give us the certainty we need so we do not get a surprise on budget night like we did in 2014 when Joe Hockey cut \$12 billion from Health and \$8 billion from Education. We want to see a focus on housing affordability. All of these things are things that those opposite can help us deliver if they would only stop being puppets of Canberra and be on team Queensland.

(Time expired)

Member for Pumicestone, Tow Truck Companies

Ms DAVIS: My question is to the Premier. I refer to pages 65 and 66 of the RTI document tabled earlier showing the member for Pumicestone's holding yard for towed vehicles. Can the Premier guarantee that the member—

Mr SPEAKER: Do you want to table that?

Ms DAVIS: Yes.

Tabled paper: Photographs released under right to information DTMR of vehicles in holding yard [\[658\]](#).

Mr WILLIAMS: I rise to a point of order. I find the member is misleading the House. I do not have any holding yards or tow companies or any such thing. I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: You find the comments not true and offensive and you ask that they be withdrawn?

Mr WILLIAMS: I ask for them to be withdrawn, please.

Mr SPEAKER: Will the member for Aspley withdraw those comments, please?

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order. This is question time; it is a question. It is not a statement in that sense. It is a statement of an allegation made in this House. If that were the case, then every question in this House could be found to be offensive and withdrawn and it would make it a farce. Mr Speaker, I simply ask you to consider in those circumstances the nature and meaning of question time.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, the member for Pumicestone is disputing your question as a matter of fact. Would you like to rephrase your question and I will consider the matter and report back to the House later?

Ms DAVIS: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier guarantee that the member for Pumicestone was not charging exorbitant fees to customers?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. My point of order goes to the point of matters pertaining to the minister and the Premier in relation to their portfolio responsibilities. I want to get clarity from you, Mr Speaker about how this question is a matter that the Premier has portfolio responsibility for and whether this is an appropriate question for the House at all.

Mr SPEAKER: I am going to call the member for Pumicestone for his point of order. Member for Aspley, I would like you to rephrase your question; you have one last chance. Member for Pumicestone, do you have a point of order?

Mr WILLIAMS: I rise to a point of order. I ask that this question be withdrawn; it is quite clearly misleading the House.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr CRIPPS: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I seek your advice. Under the standing rules and orders there is a clear process when a member has a question about whether or not a member has misled the House, and asking for a withdrawal on the basis that it is offensive is not that process.

Mr SPEAKER: Members are free to write to me concerning matters they feel aggrieved about or speak about a matter in the House. I am going to consider this matter later. We will move on unless the member for Aspley has redrafted the question.

Ms DAVIS: My question is of the Premier. In view of the government's inquiry into the tow truck business, can the Premier guarantee that the member for Pumicestone was not charging exorbitant fees to consumers?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, it is hard to thank the member for that question. I am more than happy to look into that matter. In relation to their question, there are 120 pages here. At first glance there is nothing that I can see in here which refers directly to the member for Pumicestone. I am more than happy to go through this document and have a look at it. It is a bit rich to come in here and make an allegation against someone without substantiating it with clear evidence. As I said, I am more than happy to have a look at these documents and get back to the House about it, but I cannot be expected to read 150 pages before I deliver an answer to the House. That is unreasonable. This is the sort of information that should be put into a question on notice to give us time to deal with it more comprehensively.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind members that I have made rulings in the past in relation to the need for members to be able to authenticate the basis of their motions and their questions; I have made that very clear. I call the member for Maryborough.

Federal Budget

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister please advise the House of the potential impacts of tonight's federal budget on the Queensland health system?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Maryborough for a question that is relevant to Queensland. The member's question deals with the big issues facing our state, including how we are going to fund our health system going forward and whether the federal coalition government is going to fund its fair share. That is what matters to Queenslanders because, when it comes to health funding, of course Queenslanders are justified in being sceptical about what tonight's federal budget will hold for Queensland. Queenslanders are all too aware of the damage that has been done to Queensland's health system by successive federal coalition governments which have cut and cut and cut again—

A government member: Shame!

Mr DICK: That is a shame; I will take the interjection—when it comes to funding Queensland's health system: \$10.4 million has been cut from mental health for Queensland by federal coalition governments and \$216 million over four years has been cut from aged care. Of all areas that need to be funded, \$216 million has been cut over four years, which is a cut of around \$1,670 per Queensland

resident per year. Let's not hear that the LNP stands up for senior Australians, because they do not. The people of Mareeba are waiting for the \$2.1 million that was cut by the federal coalition government to be reinvested back into the Mareeba Hospital. Queenslanders know that \$10 billion has been ripped out of Queensland's public hospitals because of cuts by federal coalition governments.

The email that we on this side are waiting for is an email from Malcolm Turnbull to our Premier which says that health funding is restored. The other emails we are looking for are those from Peter Coulson, the Leader of the Opposition's senior adviser to James Ashby, about the dirty deal that the LNP wants to do with One Nation. Let's hear about those emails!

Queenslanders are cautious because they have been burned before. They are suspicious because they have been misled before. There has not been an LNP government at either a state or federal level that does not want to cut health care because they see it as a burden on the budget as distinct from a signifier of our values, which is funding good public universal health care. It makes the difference to people's lives, it creates a better society and it creates a stronger economy. We are looking for those funds to come back to Queensland—not another smash and grab raid on public funding for health care in Queensland—so that we can provide the services in the future that Queenslanders need.

Tow Truck Industry

Mr MANDER: My question is of the Premier. A constituent of mine wrote to Minister Bailey complaining about the alleged illegal towing of her vehicle on private property in early March. His department responded to this letter on his behalf, and I table a copy.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 15 March 2017, from the General Manager (Transport Regulation), Mr John Wroblewski, responding to a letter from an unknown correspondent to Minister Bailey, regarding the removal of a car from private land [\[659\]](#).

Clearly, Minister Bailey was aware of this issue prior to recent media reports and yet he did nothing. Did Minister Bailey inform the Premier that he had failed to deal with this issue only weeks before feigning ignorance when responding to media reports on Sunday?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. If he has written a constituent's letter in to Minister Bailey—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sorry, a constituent wrote in and not the member. I am advised by the minister that there have been relatively few complaints coming in about this matter. However, what we have been able to ascertain from the expose that we saw on the weekend is that a lot of members and minister have since then spoken to me about their personal issues and about what they have been hearing. In fact, the media report highlighted that this issue is very much widespread. I want to thank the minister for acting swiftly on this issue. He went out and tackled it on the day and briefed cabinet.

Whilst I am on my feet, I want to highlight to the general public that that is why we have this hotline and they should contact it. The number is 1800 681 636. We want to hear from people. We want to hear their complaints. We want to hear their issues so that we can deal with this as we need to. We want to stamp out these dodgy practices. We want to get to the bottom of it and we want to fix it. The question is: does the LNP support what the government is doing? Those opposite can sit there and throw rocks; they are good at that. They are not good at standing up for Queensland and talking about issues concerning the federal budget. There has not been one question on that.

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

Schools, Federal Funding

Mr HARPER: 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 Turnbull government's new federal funding offer for Queensland schools?

Honourable members interjected.

Ms JONES: I take the interjection and the 'here we go' from my colleagues, because that is exactly right. I will always fight for a fair deal for Queensland, unlike those opposite.

Mr Mander interjected.

Ms JONES: I take the interjection. It is great to hear from the member for Everton. I will fight for the Catholic schools and state schools in the Everton electorate, some of which were previously in my electorate. I will absolutely fight for them.

What I can say—I have said this publicly—is that we welcome the fact that the Turnbull government has walked away from its deep cuts to education and is just going through with some cuts in education.

Mr Mander: The fantasy cuts? The make-believe money?

Ms JONES: I take that interjection. When we look at the funding agreement over the next 10 years and compare it with how we are funded now, we see that there will be a \$300 million reduction in the amount of funding going to state schools in Queensland.

Mr Power: He doesn't get it.

Ms JONES: I take the interjection from the member for Logan, because I know how passionate he is about all schools in his community. The member for Logan and I have had discussions about the fact that the Catholic schools in Queensland still have no clarity about their funding arrangements into the future. In fact, we have seen the federal government walk away from the system weighted average for Catholic schools in Queensland. This will significantly disadvantage Catholic schools and regional and remote parts of Australia. Most of those are in our state of Queensland.

I say to the member for Everton that this is not a laughing matter or a trivial matter. This is about the reality of funding for schools across Queensland. We fight so hard because we know that a third of state schools in Queensland are in rural and regional parts of this state, which the LNP is meant to represent. We also know that we educate more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Queensland, at 33 per cent. We deserve fair funding to ensure that every student, no matter where they live in our state, gets access to the best possible education. I will continue to stand up for Queensland. We still do not have any understanding about what strings are attached to this funding.

Ms Davis: Well, ask them.

Ms JONES: Oh, my goodness! She is unbelievable! We did. I went down to Hobart—

A government member: She can't ask a question but she can interject.

Ms JONES: That is right. She will not ask me a question about this key issue. I assure all members and, indeed, all Queenslanders who are watching on Parliament.TV—all two of them—that we will fight hard to ensure we get a fair deal for all schools in Queensland. Mr Speaker, I have just one question, if you do not mind—

Mr SPEAKER: No, this is not a chance for a question. You can resume your seat. Your time has expired.

(Time expired)

An honourable member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: It might be early to bed for you, too! I remind members that question time will finish at 11.51 am. We still have time on the clock.

Rail Freight

Mr KATTER: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning. Given that a number of mining users on the Mount Isa-Townsville rail line have started to shift freight from rail to road, will the Deputy Premier acknowledge that competitive rail freight costs are a key industry enabler in the north-west minerals province? In doing so, will the government commit to reducing the prices it charges customers on this line to support industry and jobs in the region?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Mount Isa for the question. He has been very vocal about this issue and has been through my door on a number of occasions to express his deep concern in relation to modal shift away from rail to road for commodity transportation.

For the benefit of the House in answering the House, I advise that Queensland Rail's access charges for the Mount Isa line cover the operating, maintenance and capital renewal costs of providing this service and that the costs are necessary to ensure the ongoing financial sustainability of the system. Queensland Rail's provision of rail access, including pricing principles, is regulated by the Queensland Competition Authority. Importantly, Queensland Rail cannot provide different prices to different operators for the same commodity in the same geographic location unless there are differences in the costs or the risks of providing the service. The charges cover the cost, and there is no unreasonable profitability being charged on this line as it is regulated.

We know that if those opposite—today they have distinguished themselves in their puerile behaviour and their pathetic strategy—had been in charge, this rail line and the Port of Townsville would have been sold. I am advised that Queensland Rail has not increased the intermodal freight charge on the Mount Isa line since June 2010, except in line with increases in the Consumer Price Index.

I am aware that some operators have made commercial decisions regarding commodity transport in the region. I am advised that at the end of January this year Aurizon ceased its daily intermodal—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, I can hear you loudly from your seat. You will be warned under standing order 253A if you persist.

Ms TRAD: I am advised that at the end of January this year Aurizon ceased its daily intermodal freight service between Townsville and Mount Isa as a result of losing the Glencore intermodal business. The remaining volumes were too small to support the cost of a daily service. This was a commercial decision based on a loss of contract. I understand that Glencore has made a decision to enter into an arrangement with Pacific National and that Pacific National operated its first intermodal rail service on 3 March this year and only recently has been able to operate with a full complement of 25 intermodal wagons per train. Queensland Rail has been working with Glencore and Pacific National to find ways of increasing the number of services, but availability of rolling stock has been a barrier to Glencore increasing its freight service.

It is important to note that we are also looking at non-price options to improve the attractiveness of rail transport, including increasing the loading gauge between Stuart and Mount Isa, promoting the establishment of common user intermodal terminals and encouraging new low-cost rail operators to enter the market.

(Time expired)

Penalty Rates

Mr PEGG: My question is of the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations. Will the minister advise the House how the Turnbull government's refusal to guarantee existing penalty rates for low-paid Queenslanders is affecting these workers and their families?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Stretton for his question. I know that he is passionate—as are all of us on this side of the House—to ensure that we protect penalty rates. There is no doubt that the recent Fair Work Commission's decision to cut penalty rates has been devastating for thousands of Queensland's lowest paid workers. These cuts, of between 25 and 50 per cent, mean that workers are estimated to lose between \$40 and \$127 a week—an annual pay cut of between \$2,000 and \$6,000. That money will be ripped straight out of the pay packets of those workers struggling to pay bills and put food on the table. This is money sucked out of regional Queensland economies at a time they can least afford it.

The estimates are that around 160,000 Queensland workers are facing savage take-home pay cuts for working Sundays and public holidays. From the Sunshine Coast all the way to Cairns we are talking about over 30,000 workers, and in the greater Brisbane area over 75,000 workers will be affected by these savage cuts. I have written to the Fair Work Commission restating our position in support of penalty rates and low-paid workers. It is a pity those opposite do not do the same.

Malcolm Turnbull, the Prime Minister of this country, has the power to intervene, but to date he has not done so. Malcolm Turnbull has the opportunity to do something about protecting workers' take-home pay. He legislated to overturn recent decisions regarding road safety remuneration and regarding a country fire authority, but to date he has refused to do anything on this issue.

Associated with tonight's budget is a three-word slogan, and one of those words is 'fairness'. We send a message to the Prime Minister: there is nothing fair about penalty rate cuts to the lowest paid workers in this country—nothing fair. He has the power to intervene. He has the power to stand up for thousands of workers in not only this state but also Australia working in the hospitality and retail sectors. He can look them in the eye and commit to reversing the FWC's decision, and I challenge him to do so tonight. The Premier and I, the Deputy Premier and other members in this House all marched on Labour Day, which was rightly held in May of this year, and we can say categorically that that was one of the issues raised by the thousands of workers who took part in Labour Day. It was an honour to March in Maryborough with the member for Maryborough and an honour to march with those here in Brisbane. The message was loud and clear: they want these penalty rate cuts reversed. Malcolm Turnbull can do that in tonight's budget and we on this side of the House would urge him to do so.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Mansfield, I warn the member for Hinchinbrook for your interjections which were designed to disrupt the speaker. You are warned under 253A. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action. Member for Everton, if you persist, I will follow suit.

Review of Youth Detention Centres, Report

Mr WALKER: My question without notice is directed to the Premier. Following the receipt of the McMillan report commissioned to address serious allegations of abuse in Queensland's youth detention centres and given the heavily redacted nature of that report, can the Premier guarantee to this House that no systemic abuse is occurring in Queensland's youth detention centres?

Ms PALASZCZUK: First of all, I thank the member very much for the question. He would have heard the Attorney speak this morning about that report, and I thank the three people who were involved in writing that report for the government and the response that the Attorney has given in relation to that. In relation to the issues the member raised about redactions, we have said very clearly today that in the public interest that report will be sent to the chief inspectorate to be assisted by a QC to look at those issues.

Since I am on my feet talking about redactions, it is a bit hypocritical of the LNP when it continually comes in here and publicly talks about redactions. A very clear example—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, just wait. A very clear example of this—

Mr WALKER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, it is related. It is related to—

Mr SPEAKER: Okay. The member for Mansfield has risen on his feet on a question of relevance. You are insistent it is relevant, so I am happy to hear your reasoning. I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The member for Southport issued a document and at that time we asked for information about that 600-page response. I will table those documents in relation to the member for Southport because there are so many blank pages.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, it is relevant because we are actually taking action.

Mr WALKER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Here we go!

Mr WALKER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Here we go!

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock for one moment.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Table them all!

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please; just one moment. Member for Mansfield?

Mr WALKER: My question was about whether the Premier could guarantee to the House that no systemic abuse is occurring in our youth detention centres. She has gone nowhere near that question and is wandering around the world otherwise, so I ask for relevance back to the point of the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. Premier, can you make your answer—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Leader of the Opposition. You are warned under standing order 253A. You have not stopped all morning. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action. First warning.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you. There are three volumes—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, one moment please. Can you please make sure your answer is relevant to the question?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am, Mr Speaker. Let me go back to the root of the question in terms of ensuring a number of issues. The first is, of course, that the young people are safe but also—

Mrs D'Ath: We'd hold up our record on youth justice against yours any day!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. The second is that the staff are safe as well and, thirdly, that the community is safe. We will do everything we can to ensure all of those three things are happening across the state. We only have to go back to an incident in 2012 under the former LNP government and a report into a riot at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. The report by the Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian was handed to the LNP government two years later but the report, to my knowledge, was not released—not released under its watch. Then we had the boot camps those opposite set up. How safe was that for the young people? Not safe at all.

Mr SPEAKER: I think the Premier has answered the question. Before I proceed, in relation to those documents, Premier, that you just tabled, my understanding is that we have a precedent ruling whereby it is not appropriate for those documents to be tabled during this section of the sitting. However, if you want to table them at a more appropriate time, I am happy for that to happen.

Tabled paper: Documents in three parts obtained under right to information application, showing redactions [660].

Gas Supply

Ms PEASE: My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. Will the minister please advise the House what action the Palaszczuk government has taken to address the looming east coast gas shortage and advise if any additional and complementary policies exist?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Lytton for the question because I understand just how important a reliable energy source is for industry and jobs in her electorate. The Queensland government recognises that urgent action is required to increase the supply of gas to protect our domestic industry and support local jobs. I have written to the Commonwealth Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, Senator Canavan, and the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Energy, Minister Frydenberg, to request support for a package of measures to further unlock Queensland's gas resources. The measures that I have put to Senator Canavan and Minister Frydenberg include Queensland and the Commonwealth undertaking a joint study of infrastructure options to support further gas developments in basins such as the Bowen Basin and the Galilee Basin and a guarantee of Commonwealth funding for gas infrastructure, and that possibly could be done through NAIF funding. Building enabling infrastructure such as pipelines is critical to growing the gas supply quickly and bringing more supply and more suppliers to Queensland. To satisfy longer term domestic gas needs, we would need to reinvigorate exploration in order to bring frontier basins into production.

To that end, we have asked the federal government to join us in supporting the junior exploration sector basin-wide geoscience exploration packages and industry-government exploration activities where gas may be present. The aim is to increase supply to improve gas affordability and reliability. If supported, these measures would build on and strongly complement the work that my government is doing already to increase gas supply. Nineteen subblocks were recently released in the Surat Basin with an Australian market supply condition and plans are currently in train to release further prospective areas with this requirement to supply the domestic market. I note that when we made this release those opposite said we should restrict that gas for use in Queensland, but that ignores the Australian Constitution. Section 92 of the Constitution relates to free trade between states. However, when the Prime Minister announced his intention to reserve gas for Australian use, we heard nothing from those opposite—nothing about his plan that would essentially not do much to increase supply in Australia. We heard nothing specifically from the member for Hinchinbrook opposite—no commentary at all—when he should have been standing up to support Queensland and supporting gas development in our state. The only sensible solution is the Queensland government's solution to avert our gas crisis.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Mudgeeraba for her question, I have taken further advice in relation to the bulky documents tabled by the Premier in response to the question asked by the member for Mansfield. I have now received advice and those documents are tabled.

Domestic and Family Violence

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Premier. In March this year, the government voted against a DV alert system for offenders being released on parole, yet in the *Townsville Bulletin* on Friday, 5 May, Minister Fentiman claimed to have supported this amendment. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 5 May 2017, titled 'Committed to safeguarding victims of DV' [661].

Will the Premier now confirm that her government's vote against the LNP's law was a mistake, or is this another case of saying one thing in Brisbane and something else in regional Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to get back to the member in relation to that, but my understanding is that there was our government bill that we supported at the time. Let me say this in relation to domestic and family violence—and I know the member is also very passionate about it and we have heard her personal experiences—when it comes to domestic and family violence, I honestly believe that it should be tackled in a bipartisan manner. When I sit down next to the families who have lost loved ones, I do not talk about whether the LNP did something or the government did something; it is about what we are doing as a community to tackle this issue, to fight to get the right supports that are needed for people who are going through it.

Whilst I am on my feet, I also want to pay tribute to Dame Quentin Bryce for her landmark report and the fact that she has led the Premier's implementation task force for the past two years. I also want to congratulate Kay McGrath, who has accepted the appointment to be the chair of the Premier's implementation task force on this important matter.

I am happy to get back to the member in relation to the specifics of her question but, once again, let me say this: we are a better society when we work together as one. When we put other people above ourselves and do the right thing, we are judged by that, not by the politics of division when there is such an important issue that has to be tackled in this state. I say to the Leader of the Opposition and those other members opposite to let us work together in the best interests of ensuring that we can help stamp out domestic and family violence in this state.

National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform

Mr BROWN: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills. Ahead of tonight's federal budget, will the minister advise the House of any progress on a new national partnership on schools reform?

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. Members, question time has finished.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tour

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I am informed that we have another group of students from Emmaus College at Jimboomba in the electorate of Beaudesert observing our proceedings from the gallery. Welcome.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Tropical Cyclone Debbie

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.53 am): I want to continue speaking about Tropical Cyclone Debbie, which well and truly left its mark on Queensland. With Tropical Cyclone Debbie covering almost 2,000 kilometres from Ayr to the border, few areas in this state were not touched by this monster of a system, although some areas in Townsville would have welcomed a little more rain as a result of this system and perhaps that would also have been the case for areas in the west and the south-west. But in areas along the coast, it was certainly a case of far too much rain, too much wind and too much storm damage. Tropical Cyclone Debbie delivered a large degree of harm, damage and destruction and left other areas untouched. The south-east, Wide Bay, Central Queensland and, of course, North Queensland were all affected in one way or another. Townsville was cut off and isolated by flash flooding and some dams were left overflowing.

During the course of the cyclone, I was in Townsville, having agreed to attend an engagement up there. I was marooned in Townsville for three days waiting to get out but, while I was there, I took the opportunity to visit the electorate of Burdekin with the member for Burdekin, Dale Last, and various other parts of North Queensland. I saw farms and animals wiped out. I saw racecourses ruined, businesses inundated and shops flooded. There was immense damage to roads and infrastructure and this morning in this place many tales have been recounted about that.

As I said earlier, cyclones are not a time for politics. The Premier and I both travelled to the hardest hit areas to offer our support on a unity ticket. We visited Mackay, and I thank the member for Mackay and the member for Mirani for their hospitality on the day that we were there. As I said earlier,

along with Prime Minister Turnbull, opposition leader Shorten and the member for Dawson, George Christensen, I also witnessed firsthand the aftermath of the trouble caused by Tropic Cyclone Debbie in Proserpine, Airlie Beach, Mackay and Bowen. Indeed, I spent some considerable time with Brigadier Chris Field discussing his plans for the reconstruction of those towns that were so devastated.

As I said, we know that Queenslanders are an inspirational and resilient bunch. I am sure we will hear stories from the member for Whitsunday and the member for Burdekin particularly in relation to some of the experiences that they had and some of the work that has gone on in their areas. I remember visiting a small motel on the outskirts of Airlie Beach. The fence had come down, the roof had come off, but the operators were still doing their best to house the hardworking emergency services workers who were staying there. They will have to excuse me if their name does not come immediately to mind, but I am sure the member for Whitsunday will mention their name. They were very generous in their hospitality. I think the member for Whitsunday has probably spent more than a little time talking to them over the past weeks. All Queenslanders stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Bowen, Proserpine, Airlie Beach, the Whitsunday islands, Mackay, the Logan and Scenic Rim areas and all the areas in between that were damaged—farmers and the business operators who suffered as a result; people who watched their topsoil wash away, their roofs peel off and their businesses flood.

I again pay tribute to the dedicated military and emergency services personnel and power workers who worked incredibly hard under trying circumstances to restore vital and essential services. Indeed, for the period that I spent in the area, which was some three weeks following the cyclone, you could not drive on a road somewhere in North Queensland and not see an Ergon or Energex truck and people putting back up powerlines and continuing the hard work of restoring power. The days, the weeks and the months ahead will continue to be hard for many people. Our prayers and thoughts are with all of those who have been affected. I want to thank particularly those members of my team whose electorates were smashed by the cyclone: Jon Krause at Scenic Rim, Mark Boothman in Albert, Jason Costigan in the Whitsundays, Dale Last in Burdekin and Ros Bates in Mudgeeraba. I know that others have contributed. I know that those members worked tirelessly and are still lending support and assistance where possible.

It is also important to acknowledge the mayors. On a number of occasions I spoke to Andrew Willcox in the Whitsundays. He personally put in a tremendous number of hours leading the disaster recovery group. The exhaustion was pretty well evident on his face, but he still fronted up every day and had to deal with the media, which perhaps is almost as tiring a task as dealing with the disaster management group recovery operation. I also acknowledge Greg Williamson in Mackay, Luke Smith in Logan—who activated his disaster management group and did a great job—and Greg Christensen in the Scenic Rim. When I visited with Jon Krause a local horticultural producer in the Scenic Rim I asked, 'Where has all the dirt gone?' He said, 'Mate, most of it is probably in your electorate.' It all washed down the creeks and streams and down the Brisbane River. That is a long way. It may well have passed by the green banks in Clayfield. I also acknowledge the mayor of Isaac and Margaret Strehlow in Rockhampton. Thank goodness the floodwaters were not as high in Rockhampton as it was thought they were going to be.

That is a good segue to refer to the great work of the member for Indooroopilly, together with the federal government, on the Yeppen floodplain, which was expected to be able to prevent Rockhampton being cut off from the south by floods up to 10 metres. That worked and communications were maintained, whereas previously Rockhampton would have been cut off. That was great work by the federal government and the then state government in investing in that infrastructure and seeing it through to completion.

Cyclone Debbie was a monster. It was slow moving and the damage caused was considerable. I mentioned the story of Jeff McConnell, an SES worker whose own house flooded, who had to text his kids to let them know that the flood was coming but who carried on with his duties. I say to Jeff and to everyone impacted by this beast of a storm, we will not forget you over the weeks and months ahead.

I want to particularly thank the people at the Yatala Pies shop. We visited them after the floodwaters had receded and saw the work that was going on—the volunteer work that was going on as well as the work by staff. There were no hot pies. It was 6 April—my birthday. We returned there a couple of weeks later and saw the business booming. In fact, up to 6,000 people a day are now going through the Yatala Pies shop. I say to anyone going past that way, if you want to taste something new and different, partake in a cyclone pie with pineapple on the top—just go light on the tomato sauce is my recommendation. Airlie Beach is rebuilding; it needs to for the tourism trade.

Mr Costigan: Don't forget Proserpine!

Mr NICHOLLS: I have not forgotten Proserpine, member for Whitsunday. No doubt the member for Whitsunday will be remarking on the group of people who volunteered to go out and fix people's places, Team Rubicon, former members of the military and paramedics who made themselves available to help after emergency services had gone through. They did a fantastic job. We need to see category C funding come through. From my own experiences after Tropical Cyclone Marcia and the recovery from Yasi, there are delays in getting that money through. I say to all parties involved that they must get their act together and deliver funding. It does require proper documentation and speedy assessment by the authorities. We will see Queensland rebuild. Queensland has rebuilt before. Nothing could have prepared the people we visited, like Ash and Fran at Draper's Siding who have lived in their house for 22 years, for the devastation, but they still show the resilience to turn up and get back on their feet again. Like the rest of Queensland, they will rebuild.

Whilst it has been tough times for those affected, from the north to the south and down into New South Wales, we know that Queenslanders are tough and they will rebound. Talking about being in North Queensland, one thing that makes life even harder for the people of North Queensland is the fact that unemployment in the north under this Palaszczuk Labor government is getting worse and worse. This morning we heard from the Treasurer. He is fond of quoting figures, but he did not quote this one: in Townsville unemployment is officially 11.7 per cent and the youth unemployment rate is over 21 per cent, having leapt from 16.8 per cent a year ago. Around 1,700 young people from the Townsville region have lost their jobs. We are seeing crime continuing to explode. Last week when I was there our very own candidate for the seat of Townsville, Casie Scott, found a thug on the run from police hiding in the downstairs toilet of her house. That is a sign of the increasing lawlessness that is affecting Townsville under this soft-on-crime Labor government that has created a revolving door of young offenders.

There are also issues around power and water supply that have not been solved by this current Palaszczuk Labor government—issues that will not be solved by it, issues that will only be solved by a Nicholls LNP government. We commit to starting work on fixing those problems within 100 days of being elected, should we be so fortunate.

Logan, Volunteers

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.03 pm): Logan loves its volunteers. Logan has more needs than some other communities. The Logan community steps up to meet those needs by doing more for others. Sometimes those doing the giving have so little but give so much. On Saturday, the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, was at the Logan Metro Sports Centre in my electorate of Logan to say thanks and to recognise the Logan volunteers at the Logan City Council's Logan Loves Volunteers breakfast. In 2017 the greatest support for Logan was those volunteers who made a difference during the floods. The SES and rural fire brigades from all over SEQ made a tremendous difference in keeping Logan residents safe. We should also recognise the professionals, the police and fire men and women who did amazing things.

All our volunteers are heroes, but we should especially recognise three SES volunteers: Jim Ferguson, Chris Holloway and Claire Browning. They took the lead on the night of the flood of the Albert River when the SES had calls from neighbours that resident Helen Gallo was trapped on her roof with her two children and their grandfather. In the pitch black, Jim, Chris and Claire unloaded the SES boat and used all their knowledge and training to prepare to rescue the family. 'The river was fierce. It was roaring. The noise, the volume of water was just massive', remembered Claire. They navigated carefully through the fast-flowing waters, all the time trying to navigate around trees and other objects now underwater. The team did not panic as their engine cut out in the middle of the raging waters. They tied up to a tree, untangled the hose from their propeller and restarted the engine. 'When we got closer we could definitely hear the screams for help', Claire said. 'It was emotional. You're trying to scream back, "We're on our way. We're trying."' Helen Gallo had meanwhile clambered onto the roof, putting her feet in the gutters to hold the children further up the steep roof.

Jim and the team carefully came up to the house's balcony. They first passed the children over the balcony down to the boat before the dogs and lastly the grandfather, who insisted that the dogs go first. Ten anxious minutes later they were on dry land, close enough to hear their house tear off its footings and float away, crashing through trees. Of the experience of saving the family Jim Ferguson said, 'It's nice to be recognised but the recognition is for the SES in general, not just for the three of us.' All the volunteers who kept Logan safe are heroes.

After the flood a new group of heroes stepped in. Neighbours helped neighbours, mates helped mates and strangers helped strangers. So many Queenslanders answered the call, gathering each morning at the Logan Metro Sports Centre to get on the buses to help in the clean-up. The mud army

was incredible, taking on the tough task of clearing and sorting. The Greenbank scouts gathered to help out Sam and Shane, a scout family. The Premier met them both in North MacLean, taking the time to hear their story. The Flagstone community set up a water taxi service across Flagstone Creek, keeping their community connected.

I want to thank local businesses, such as the Beenleigh Mitre 10 and the Maguire family of the Logan Village pub, who are organising a flood support concert. I recognise that local farms are suffering with crop losses and are gathering to help each other. Special recognition also should be given to the Ahmadiyya Muslim community of South MacLean, who are mostly Pakistani immigrants who want to give so much back to Australia. They organised teams and were simply everywhere. I came across one house in North MacLean that had been overlooked. I made a call to the community and within a few hours they had volunteers on the ground cleaning their house. At that house the water had come up to the eaves. Lynda O'Hello, who is elderly and in a wheelchair, thanked me for coming. She asked me if I had seen lots of houses like hers. I said I had. 'It must be very difficult for you,' she said. I had to pause because I was overcome a little bit with emotion. Here was a woman in the worst time of her life whose first instinct was to think of others. 'That's just what she's like,' her son said. These are special people in extraordinary situations. Volunteers who stepped up to help are special people too. Logan loves its volunteers and I hope this House recognises and loves all of those fantastic Logan volunteers.

Beaudesert Electorate, Tropical Cyclone Debbie

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (12.08 pm): On 30 and 31 March 2017, nature again bore down on the region I represent and caused a monumental amount of damage. All floods are different and this flood affected Beaudesert and surrounding areas like never before. It entered homes in and around Beaudesert where floods had not gone before. It took pumps, tractors, equipment and fencing on farms where floods had never gone before—at least not in living memory. A dairy farmer I spoke to lost a treasured Ford tractor used for irrigation. It was parked in a place he did not think the water would go, higher than the 1974 flood level, but the water went there and the tractor was washed away, along with every fence in the river flats of the farm.

A very long road of repair and recovery is in front of so many farmers. On the Logan River it was a record flood, peaking at 20.66 metres at the MacLean Bridge, just shy of the 1947 and 1974 floods, and its impact on the Logan River ran from the Border Range to the ocean. Our farmers were the first to feel its impact upstream south of Beaudesert and it is our primary producers who will feel the longest lasting impact of this flood. The other mighty river in our region, the Albert River, also had a record flood, peaking at 13.55 metres at Wolffdene, its highest level since 1974. It roared through parts of Kerry and Nindooindah, Tabragalba, Birnam, Boyland and Mundoolun before reaching Cedar Creek and Tamborine. It took with it thousands of cubic metres of topsoil and knocked flat millions of dollars worth of crops in aggregate. One farmer lost all of his corn, which was going to be winter feed for his dairy cattle. That feed will need to be replaced, but there is no government grant for that. Trees were uprooted, livestock including cattle and horses were lost, and equipment was damaged or destroyed.

In the early hours of 31 March, as the water from the Logan River and a number of creeks met in Beaudesert, a sea of water stretching from the town to properties west of Bromelton House Road formed, trapping residents in their homes and necessitating evacuations. I give a massive thankyou to those volunteers who went out to evacuate people in what were dangerous floodwaters. In Beaudesert, the final count showed around 30 homes had water in them and 10 or so have been considered unable to be lived in at this point. At Canungra, houses were inundated and landslips have rendered homes uninhabitable. Landslips occurred on Lamington National Park Road, closing the road to O'Reilly's over the Easter holidays. That might seem like a small number of homes affected, but when it is your home and your possessions the damage is simply immeasurable.

As the flood moved from Beaudesert towards Jimboomba, many people were stranded. Power was lost and pumps were out. People were cut off from neighbours and supplies in Cedar Grove, Cedar Vale, Veresdale, Woodhill, Jimboomba, Yarrabilba and Veresdale Scrub. Payne Bridge on Cusack Lane went under and the view from just north of Camp Cable Road, south along the Mount Lindesay Highway, was like looking at an inland sea. Jimboomba residents have said that the flood was extraordinarily high. While the official river levels may not show that it was a record flood, it was certainly a flood that touched businesses and homes in a way that had never happened before.

The Logan River catchment extends into the Fassifern area and the damage caused to farms in that region cannot be forgotten. I visited the area on the morning of 31 March. After the hugely devastating floods of 2013, it was harrowing to see damage caused by yet another flood. In Tarome, Kalbar, Aratula, Kent's Lagoon, Harrisville, Silverdale and the areas around the Warrill and Reynolds

Creek catchments, as well as over the hill at Rosevale and Mount Walker in the Bremer catchment, crops were flattened, irrigation equipment was damaged, topsoil was swept away to neighbouring farms or down the creek and, generally speaking, havoc was caused to the livelihoods of hardworking primary producers in the area. It was not as bad as 2013, but in many places it was not much better.

The primary producers of my electorate are bloody strong people. I have lost count of the number of times I have heard one say words to the effect that, 'We're not too badly damaged, especially compared to So-and-so.' It is a mark of the heroic character of those people who, at a time of disaster, think more of their neighbours than of themselves. However, we also need to remember that there may well be businesses lost out of this event, which impacts on families and individuals in a huge way. I offer my support to all who have been affected.

I thank the officers of DAF and QRRA who have been on the ground to offer advice to people affected at this time. I thank officers of Growcom, QDO, AgForce and other peak bodies that have helped to gather data for a category C declaration. Ruth Chalk from the QDO was especially instrumental in gathering data and was personally very supportive of my efforts in gathering data from producers at meetings I held in Beaudesert and Aratula on 10 April. On Good Friday, 14 April, the category C declaration was made. I thank all council staff, SES, rural fireies, BlazeAid, Palen Creek and other volunteers, members of the QPS and QFRS and everybody who helped to keep people safe during the flood. It was so good to see everybody working together. After the event, it was wonderful to see people volunteering to help out with the recovery effort. The Beaudesert Race Club had at least one metre of water across it, causing approximately \$1.2m worth of damage. In the aftermath, many volunteers helped to clean up the track. The president of the Beaudesert Race Club, John Wilson, remarked to me that Beaudesert has a lot of great people who are willing to dig in. He is proud of the Beaudesert community and so am I.

Federal Budget, Health and Education

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (12.13 pm): One of the most important hallmarks of any government is how they deliver the services Queenslanders need and depend on most when they are at their most vulnerable. Last week the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Cameron Dick, visited my electorate to announce a new 24-hour ambulance station and a new emergency and fleet management precinct for the Queensland Ambulance Service in Geebung, made possible with \$13 million in Palaszczuk government funding. The addition of a new station will enhance the delivery of prehospital emergency health services to Brisbane's northern suburbs and help the service to meet the increasing rates of QAS callouts in metro north over the past 12 months. This significant new investment is part of an ongoing commitment by our government to invest in the front-line services that Queenslanders need most following the severe cuts by the former LNP government, which degraded essential services in communities across the state, including my own.

Since coming to government, in the Metro North Local Ambulance Service Network that services my electorate, our government has delivered 35 full-time ambulance officer positions, 27 replacement vehicles and four additional vehicles. The new 24-hour ambulance station will see up to an additional five ambulance vehicles and 17 paramedics located onsite. This investment in and strengthening of front-line services is a story repeated across the state, with thousands of additional doctors, nurses, teachers, police, fire, ambulance and child safety officers employed across Queensland in our first two years in office.

We know of the critical role government workers play in our community, which was recently highlighted in the response to Tropical Cyclone Debbie and the severe flooding that followed. I pay tribute to those workers, as many in this House have already done. I am proud to be a member of a government that has rebuilt those essential services, with nine out of every 10 government workers in front-line or front-line-support roles. I am proud to be a member of a government that is investing in the services vulnerable Queenslanders need most in mental health, in preventive health, in public education and in reducing wait times across our state.

However, while we continue to provide record funding to front-line services and while we remain committed to the principles of accessible and universal health care, in stark contrast the federal LNP government has cut national funding arrangements, slashing funding to public hospitals, dental and mental health services and aged care. I note that this morning the health minister outlined cuts in the order of \$10 million from mental health services, \$216 million from aged care over four years and many other significant cuts that will hurt our communities. If the Turnbull LNP government continues to cut public health funding in tonight's budget, Queenslanders will wait longer or miss out on receiving vital health treatment.

It is not just health that is in the firing line. Every Australian child, no matter where they live, deserves the very best education. As parents, it is the single greatest investment we make in our children and, as policymakers, in the citizens of this state. We are investing not only in more teachers and teacher aides but also in the infrastructure that our schools need to provide the very best opportunities for Queensland students to shine. Once again, I gratefully acknowledge the recent announcement of \$6 million to Wavell State High School in my electorate for a much needed new performing arts hall.

In stark contrast, under the federal LNP government's new education funding proposal, Queensland state schools will be \$300 million worse off. The Catholic education system will reportedly be worse off. The tertiary education sector will also take a \$2.8 billion hit in the form of a two-year efficiency dividend, an increase in course fees of between \$2,000 and \$3,500 per student and a significantly lowered repayment threshold. Students in Australia are already among the highest contributors to the cost of their own university education. Those cuts will hurt young Queenslanders. They are short-sighted and they undermine the national and Queensland innovation and skills agenda to keep highly skilled jobs in Australia and Australia competitive in a global economy.

I appreciate that difficult decisions must be made and that responsible government cannot be all things to all people, but we must be a safety net for those who need it most. Since our election in January 2015, we have been resolute in our commitment to restore and invest in the front-line services that Queenslanders depend on most, while taking a disciplined approach to economic management—an approach recognised recently with an improved outlook by ratings agency Moody's. We have a vision for Queensland where every member of our community can access quality education services, where health care is accessible and universal, and where the policies of government support economic growth and opportunities, rather than further entrench disadvantage and disparity.

Burdekin Electorate, Tropical Cyclone Debbie

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (12.18 pm): We have had Cyclone Larry, Cyclone Yasi and Cyclone Marcia and now we can add to that list of devastating cyclones Cyclone Debbie. When Cyclone Debbie hit Bowen and the Whitsundays on 28 March, the residents could not have imagined the destruction that was about to befall them or how their communities would be torn apart and the landscape changed forever. When I drove into Bowen after the cyclone, I was confronted with houses and businesses without roofs, blown-in shopfronts, trees and powerlines down and debris everywhere. The enormity of cleaning up and rebuilding the shattered community was almost overwhelming. Yet, in true Queensland style, the residents rolled up their sleeves and started the long process of recovery. In the days following the cyclone, the conditions were horrendous. There was no water, no power, no food and the service stations were closed so there was no fuel. I remember the first night sleeping outside in the car park because of the hot and humid conditions. The thing that struck me was the quiet. There was no noise, there were no streetlights and, apart from the occasional car driving past, there was no movement.

During the course of my time in Bowen I visited many of the farms in the district, including the cane farms around Proserpine. It was nothing short of total devastation for these farmers. Machinery and packing sheds, coldrooms and irrigation equipment had been ripped apart with virtually 100 per cent of crops losses around the Bowen area. I remember walking around a cane farm on the outskirts of Proserpine and it was as if someone had come in with a giant set of shears and cut the cane off at waist level. It was devastating for the farmers and will significantly impact this year's harvest.

Following the cyclone the recovery effort commenced. I want to acknowledge the work performed by the Whitsunday Regional Council local disaster management group, led by Andrew Willcox, the SES and the Australian Defence Force. There was no more welcome sight than those personnel and their convoys rolling into town. I was going into the SES building twice a day during the week after the cyclone. Some of those personnel had not had a shower for days. It was terribly hot. They certainly suffered, but they kept coming back and going out every day to help with the clean-up.

I also want to acknowledge Ergon and all the energy sector workers brought in from outside the region for the work they did in restoring power to communities. We could almost hear the sigh of relief around the community when power was restored and residents were able to have their first hot shower and their first hot meal in days.

We should not forget that, after crossing the coast, Cyclone Debbie continued to wreak a path of destruction on inland communities such as Collinsville and Moranbah. A number of buildings were unroofed in Collinsville, including the local FoodWorks store, which, to this day, remains unopened, awaiting a decision on whether it will be demolished or rebuilt.

That is what I want to highlight. We still have business owners in this area who are endeavouring to reopen their businesses—people like Gordon and Anne Little, who operate the outdoor camping store in Bowen, or Terry Must from Arabon Seafoods, whose pontoon and seafood-processing shop was destroyed. The list goes on and on. I visited Ben Martin's mango farm on the outskirts of Bowen. His mango trees were snapped off at ground level. Ben told me that he now faces a four- to five-year wait for new trees to grow and produce fruit. This is a long-term recovery process.

Perhaps the most devastating impact though was on those farms that border the Don River. Floodwaters following Cyclone Debbie overflowed the banks causing massive erosion to several farms that may never again be utilised for production. Wayne and Leanne Born from Koorelah Farms lost 60 acres with in excess of two metres of topsoil washed away across the entire block. Jim Davies, on the other side of the river, lost his entire lime orchard and will likely lose a substantial number of mango trees. These communities need assistance. I know that, whilst the NDRRA scheme has been activated, there is still a lot more work that needs to be done to get these communities back on their feet.

Cyclone Debbie will go down in history as one of the most destructive systems ever to hit Queensland. We should not forget that the recovery is a long-term process that requires dedicated, ongoing community and government support. I know Brigadier Chris Field is doing an outstanding job coordinating the recovery effort and that this work will go on for some time yet. I will continue to work with my affected communities to ensure our businesses and our farmers are back up and operating as soon as possible. After driving into Bowen last week and seeing the tomato seedlings back in the fields, I know this process has begun.

Ice; Tropical Cyclone Debbie

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.23 pm): Ice is a cheap, potent and easy to access drug that is a national scourge. Within homes and families, ice is having a huge impact. We now know that one in three children who required out-of-home care in Queensland last year came from a home with at least one parent addicted to ice.

Two weeks ago the Palaszczuk government gathered more than 150 health experts, drug and alcohol service providers, law enforcement officials, community representatives and affected families in Rockhampton to marshal an action plan to confront the insidious and devastating drug ice. If we are going to combat this menace, we need to have everyone involved and working with each other.

In consultation with the experts, the front-line service providers and the wider community, we have developed a draft plan of 65 actions to target the use and reduce the harm caused by crystal methamphetamine. If we are going to combat this menace we certainly need to have everyone involved. That is what the whole purpose of the ice summit in Rockhampton was about.

Too often our front-line staff and our first responders are having to cope with more violence and aggression as a consequence of the drug. The Palaszczuk government will be increasing security measures for those front-line staff in our hospitals so that our first responders, who too often encounter the chaotic and violent behaviour of ice addicts, will be protected.

In addition to the summit, a forum was hosted with almost 40 people with that lived experience of ice either personally or within their own families. The Premier told the summit that, in order to minimise harm, the government has allocated an extra \$43 million over the next five years to increase access to specialist clinics and other support services. The Premier announced that we will be investing these funds across the full spectrum, including community based counselling, non-residential rehabilitation, pre and post treatment supports such as withdrawal management in residential rehabilitation, specialist peer support for families and flexible modes for counselling. This investment is in addition to measures within our health system, including treatment and outreach services for Cooktown in the Far North and the Gold Coast on our southern border, as well as in Charleville, Cunnamulla and Rockhampton.

The Premier also told the summit that in order to reduce demand, by getting more people off ice, a separate \$6 million investment will bolster drug intervention teams and that we will increase the number of specialist clinicians in hospitals. We know that often ice addicted people have health issues related to ice but not directly caused by the drug. This can bring them, but not necessarily their ice addiction, to the attention of the health system. By training staff in emergency departments to identify people who may be on ice, we can make sure that ice addicts are receiving the correct treatment. We are also supporting statewide workforce education, training and support activities.

The Premier said that in order to reduce supply the government has implemented tough new laws which increase the maximum jail term for drug trafficking from 20 to 25 years. We are also implementing a specialist drug court to appropriately handle ice related offences. These measures, when taken together, are far more than just throwing the book at drug dealers. This government has a tough line on drug dealers but, importantly, we are also looking at stopping people getting addicted to ice in the first place. I would like to make special mention of Debbie Ware and the team at Ice Affecting Families Capricorn Coast, Icesup. Together these women are effecting change in government policy and funding.

Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and the subsequent widespread flooding has had a devastating impact across our state. In the days after Debbie made landfall, heavy rain and damaging wind gusts affected Central Queensland. Yeppoon recorded wind gusts of up to 120 kilometres an hour overnight. The region received hundreds of millimetres of rain. Buses were cancelled, roads were closed and thousands of homes were without power. A week after Debbie made landfall Rockhampton residents were told to prepare for the city's worst flood since 1954, with the Fitzroy River predicted to peak at 9.4 metres. The flood peaked at 8.9 metres on Friday, 7 April, and hundreds of homes had water over their floorboards.

The response in the aftermath of Debbie and also the Fitzroy River flood was swift thanks to the hard work of hundreds of selfless Central Queenslanders—our emergency service workers, SES, rural fire, coast guard, public servants, energy, road and rail staff, local council staff and members of the Australian Defence Force. In fact, many of our local volunteers had only just returned from assisting in the aftermath of Cyclone Debbie in the Mackay-Whitsunday region when the Fitzroy River flood peaked a week later, but that did not stop them from getting stuck in to assisting in the recovery.

It may be an oxymoron, but the 2017 Fitzroy River flood was a good flood. If we can take the excellent collaboration and coordination between government agencies and engagement with the community that occurred in the preparation for and recovery from the Fitzroy River flood, if we can replicate our strong community response and recovery to natural disaster and apply it to the battle against ice in our community then we will succeed.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Before I call the member for Whitsunday, I point out that we have joining us in the gallery today students from Emmaus College at Jimboomba in the electorate of Beaudesert.

Tropical Cyclone Debbie

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (12.28 pm): I rise with great privilege today to speak of the heroes in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Debbie which hit the Whitsundays for a six a few weeks ago. Whilst it is a blur for many people across my community, it has also been a turning point in their lives—a moment in time that many will never forget. Whilst not of the same destruction and tragic consequences as Cyclone Ada, which claimed the lives of 14 people in January 1970, this was indeed a huge blow to the communities that I represent—big and small.

Airlie Beach received enormous publicity on the back of the cyclone, but it was not just Airlie Beach and our world-famous Whitsunday islands, particularly Hamilton Island and Hayman Island, which indeed suffered serious damage to property. The great sugar-milling town of Proserpine should also be remembered. There are people in Proserpine hurting to this day. Our main street has lost its three cafes. We will go from four pubs to three. Our heart goes out to people like Tom and Audrey Dunne and their Irish pub which is no more. The transport department office is no more. It looks like a bomb has hit it. I hope that the minister responsible will commit to rebuilding a new office for the department in that town that I proudly represent.

In Proserpine I think of Mick Porter, who in the days following the cyclone was a shattered man, crying in Chapman Street just up from my office as he lamented what was his Proserpine Plumbing Works that looks as though a bomb has fallen on it as well. If you go down to Shute Harbour, you will see what remains of David McInerney's Shute Harbour Motel. It had stood the test of time for decades. Now it looks like a foreign power has just obliterated it. You will see boats smashed up on the rocks and islands and on it goes.

The people of the Whitsundays are tough people. I said at a press conference alongside the Acting Prime Minister that Queenslanders are tough people but in North Queensland we are tougher. We have to be when dodging the snakes and crocs that followed the cyclone—literally. The Ergon workers had to do it when getting the power back on. I thank them and all of those people who participated in the recovery effort—the Red Cross, the Salvos, the SES volunteers—and I am talking

about great people like Tony Hinschen and Mark Connors locally—and the Rural Fire Service volunteers, those NGOs who worked alongside the council, Ergon workers and members of the Australian Defence Force led admirably by Brigadier Chris Field. I also salute Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, whom I recall being at Airlie Beach on the shores of Pioneer Bay—so serene it was—in the presence of the defence minister, Senator Marise Payne. I said to the Chief of the Defence Force, ‘The presence of our diggers, the site of HMAS *Choules* off the coast and the noise of the Taipans flying overhead gave the local people hope. For without hope what have we got?’

There is no doubt that the courage and dedication of our emergency services personnel was brought into focus, and rightly so. I speak particularly of Sergeant Mark Flynn of the QPS and paramedic Gavin Cousens, whose heroics were outlined earlier in the House today. I salute them and everyone else—our health workers, our doctors, our nurses—who all played a team role in getting our community back on track.

The tourism and the sugar industries have been hit for six in our part of the world. There is no doubt about that. Tourism is the lifeblood of Airlie and she will come back. It is the same for sugar at Proserpine. The crop was two million tonnes last year. This year we will be lucky to get half way to that mark. It will be a slow rate of recovery. A lot of questions will be asked as well. Why did some backpackers get turned away from the cyclone shelter at Proserpine after being told to clear out of Airlie Beach? Why did people on Keswick Island get cut off from the local disaster management group on the mainland with no communication before the cyclone?

I cannot believe the number of people who have come to me who were told they were not eligible for help, for financial assistance, who were turned away or had their payments delayed and delayed—Kerry Hamilton from Preston and Rodney Robertson from Dingo Beach. It went on and on. The system was not perfect. It was the first time an electronic recovery system was rolled out after having had a paper based system in the past. I think that we will have to learn from those mistakes.

(Time expired)

Cairns, Tourism

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (12.33 pm): The Cairns economy is continuing to grow through the strong tourism-led investments to our great Tropical North. We have continued to see consistent tourism numbers coming from the United States, Korea, Japan, the United Kingdom and New Zealand. Our tourism operators have enjoyed a good season this year and they are already getting started on the next season without much of an off-peak period.

The Tropical North was not directly impacted by Cyclone Debbie, but we have certainly had our share of cyclones and we know there will be more. Currently in the Cairns CBD there are three tower cranes, with a fourth not far from being erected. Not since Labor rebuilt the Cairns Hospital have we seen any tower cranes in the sky—not under the LNP, not one, nothing. Good governments do not need to erect tower cranes themselves, but good governments create the right economic moment through leadership, investment, stability and certainty.

The GA Group have commenced the facelift and extension of a city hotel, a long-awaited start to what we hope will be more hotels undergoing the same. We have two new projects in the CBD—both by the GA Group—approaching the start line, giving a shot in the arm of confidence to the Cairns community not seen for years. This morning federal government approval was given for the GA Group’s \$120 million twin towers hotel project. The building industry in Cairns, like the civil construction industry, has returned to traditional practices and work sites. The large contractors have large projects to work on, the medium contractors have medium projects to work on and the smaller operators have plenty of houses and subcontract work to keep them busy. There is adequate work for all in their respective sectors and they do not feel the need to compete with smaller contractors to try to steal their work.

The Cairns Aquarium opens within months—a much awaited addition to the tourism industry that Cairns and the Tropical North relies on ever so strongly. It was this aquarium build which broke the deadlock of major projects starting in our region. Since the aquarium turned its first sod, we have seen a consistent movement of projects from concept, through planning to construction.

As a government, we are working with our tourism industry that is ever reliant on external factors that influence people’s movement, their safety and their spending affordability. As a government, we have listened to the industry and taken action where needed. Whether it is on airline attraction from Asia, whether it is through snorkelling safety round tables to change the code of conduct to protect operators, whether it is the campaign to tell the country and the world that Queensland is open for business, our government has listened and responded.

I want to pay my respects to a Cairns tourism icon who passed away last week. Denis Ferguson arrived in Cairns in 1978 to take up a manager position with the airline TAA. He quickly decided that Cairns tourism was at the forefront of something very special but needed a lot of work to get the message out beyond Lee Marvin's marlin fishing exploits. After a few years at the helm of TAA, Denis switched jobs to take up the marketing manager's role for Air Queensland and then after that he went on to set up Destination Cairns Marketing with another tourism pioneer Peter Miller. DCM provide services to many inbound tour companies to entice them to include Cairns, Port Douglas and the Far North. He set up the first charter group to come from Japan, via Port Moresby in those days, before the new international airport was opened at Cairns.

DCM morphed into a marketing company and worked on the original marketing of the Tjapukai Dance Theatre and the privately owned Kuranda commentary train and Sky Rail. More recently Denis's company developed an online reservation system for the region's tour operators—a system that gives hotel tour desk operators and concierges last seat availability to most tours, cruises and adventure operators. Denis's passing will mark the end of an era. He was one of the last true pioneers. Tourism in the Tropical North owes Denis Ferguson a great deal.

Around Cairns you will see investment in construction. It is not a boom but more a steady pipeline of works, whether it is being funded by the local government or by our government through Works for Queensland or whether it is the private industry stepping up to do their part. There is one government that has not stepped up and that is the federal government. I am hoping that tonight we will see it step up to the plate. There is no doubt that in the Far North the Great Barrier Reef is a massive icon. It does not just belong to the Far North. It does not just belong to Queensland. It belongs to Australia and the world. The federal government needs to step up tonight and do something to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

One Nation, Policies

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—PHON) (12.38 pm): I would like to bring to the attention of the House a small article in this morning's *Gold Coast Bulletin* relating to a development by ASF. It is a casino development that has been touted for some time. I want to give a very clear message to the LNP and the ALP: the public on the Gold Coast do not want at it at a rate of 60.3 per cent. It is a very clear message. I hope that the Premier and those in government take that on board. The people have spoken. I know that One Nation is listening. We have made a commitment to call it in given the opportunity to do so in the future. Maybe other members of this House may like to stand up and make a statement about whether or not they are going to represent the people, but I will leave that in their hands.

I am going to touch on a document we released a couple of weeks ago relating to our policies. I heard the Treasurer say earlier today that those opposite do not have any at the moment. We have lots. It is very interesting that the media have not picked up on them yet. In relation to economic development, we will allow a five-year moratorium on payroll tax for new businesses to be established in Queensland with fewer than 40 people that do not cannibalise existing businesses.

We are looking at relocating and decentralising government bodies throughout Queensland so they can bring economic prosperity to places throughout the state—something that should have happened long ago. I have lots on economic development but I will turn to law and order. We are going to change the Police Service back to the police force. We all know that in the state of Queensland law and order is out of control. It does not matter where you are in the state. We are affected in the seat of Buderim, which is a pretty easygoing area. We know that law and order is absolutely out of control. I know what it is like in Townsville and on the Gold Coast. We are not doing the best we can do as a parliament unless we give police the best support we can. When issues of law and order go before the courts, maybe judges want to implement the law as they should. This parliament has given them the range to do so. They need to get on and do the job.

We have policies on health. An issue that I have raised quite a bit in this House is medical cannabis. Today we are still waiting for doctors to be able to write scripts for people throughout Queensland, but it should have happened on 1 March. I know that there are two at Lady Cilento. Where are the rest of them? We have not got any product being grown in this country as yet. We know that permits have been given out but we were told that it was going to happen on 1 March. It still has not happened. To all those people out there who said that I got it wrong, no, I did not. We need to all continue to push the issue in this House. I know we want it to happen but do not take the foot off the pedal. This is for sick and dying people. This is for people who need this medicine urgently.

We have plenty of policies on public roads and transport, but I will get into the more interesting stuff: water security. Townsville is an area that I know you know very well, Mr Deputy Speaker. It needs water now. I hear lots of talk from some people saying that they are going to fix it in 100 days. We all know that is not going to happen, but we need to pull together to make sure that Queensland is drought proof, not just one city. Peter Beattie got it wrong when he spent \$10 billion on water infrastructure in this region. We have desalination plants rusting away. That \$10 billion could have been spent in so many better ways.

Let us drought proof Queensland—not just South-East Queensland but also Western Queensland and Northern Queensland where money should be spent. We need to spend money on infrastructure for the future, not just put it up the wall. This is a real tricky one! It is really easy to say. It is only three words: ‘no to asset sales’. That is what we say. I do not know what the rest of you are going to do. I heard Labor not tell the truth a couple of parliaments ago. I do not know what the LNP is going to do. I am sure they will put their words forward shortly.

Our firearms policy is a 21-point plan. It is out there for the world to see. I did a video last night with the Shooters Union for an hour. Have a watch of it. It is great policy. We have policy on vegetation management, and the list goes on. We want landholders to be able to catch water on their land and keep it, not be dictated to by government regardless of which political persuasion. We want landholders to be able to clear regrowth. We will legislate that so they can live off the land and do what they should be able to do. A lot of people in this House do not want to see that happen. Without farmers, we do not have food. We should all drill down and start to think about that.

I turn to surplus land. We have lots of good uses for surplus land—the Men’s Shed and the like—but the real kicker is a citizens initiated referendum. I know when all governments in this country get into a bit of trouble they throw same-sex marriage or daylight saving on the table. People talk about it for weeks and nothing ever happens. Give the power back to the people. That is what we are going to do with a citizens initiated referendum. It is a great opportunity for Queenslanders to move forward. We are putting people before politics. The two major parties have just lost their way.

Regional Queensland, Jobs

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (12.43 pm): I rise today to talk about the thing that gets me up every morning right here in Queensland, and that is delivering jobs in regional Queensland. That is what the Palaszczuk government is all about. One of the great, innovative programs that is delivering jobs—thousands of jobs, in fact—for the regions is our \$200 million Works for Queensland program. I am excited about this program because it lives up to its name. It works for Queensland and it is getting Queenslanders working. As I travel around the state in my role as the Assistant Minister for Infrastructure, I see how this program is already making a huge difference to local communities. This was clear on a recent road trip to Emerald and the Central Highlands with the Deputy Premier when we visited one of these projects at the Emerald Botanic Gardens. The botanic gardens are the jewel in Emerald’s crown and it was great to join Mayor Kerry Hayes and Councillor Megan Daniels to see how Works for Queensland will deliver new walk and cycling paths, solar lighting and landscaping to make it even better.

These are stories that we are hearing all over the state—from sealing roads and delivering playgrounds in my community of Gladstone to getting the mighty Mary Valley Rattler running again in Gympie to critical water infrastructure in remote Indigenous communities in Far North Queensland. These programs are transforming our state. While they may seem small, the difference they make is enormous. It is community infrastructure like pools, parks and libraries that make our regional communities such great places to live. Communities across the state are benefiting with a total of a massive 723 projects funded through this program.

The brilliant thing about Works for Queensland is that it serves a double duty—generating jobs and upgrading important community infrastructure. The full \$200 million was allocated across 65 regional councils on the basis of population and local unemployment, providing a boost to every regional community, town and city. That is the really smart thing about this program: it was specifically designed to deliver jobs where they are needed most, and that is in regional Queensland.

It is also a program that recognises the incredibly important role that local councils play, especially in regional Queensland. We know that when the state government and local councils collaborate we can deliver projects that are really going to benefit our own communities. That is why we worked closely with the LGAQ to establish and design this program so that councils could get the

most benefit out of it. Together we know that we can stimulate local economies and we can build and upgrade great infrastructure for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Do not just take my word for it. Councils across Queensland are singing its praises. Banana Shire Council Mayor Nev Ferrier said—

This is the best funding program I have seen in 13 years in Local Government—council can deliver projects that we always seem never to have enough money to do.

Western Downs Regional Council Mayor Paul McVeigh said—

The real beauty of the Works for Queensland package is about creating jobs. This funding is to be used on projects that immediately create jobs. It is really very exciting, not only do we have the opportunity to boost jobs across our region but also deliver key projects for our communities.

These are just two of dozens of endorsements that we are hearing across the state because our councils know it is working. By working together with councils, we were able to fast-track the rollout of this program. In just four short weeks we were able to assess and fund all of these projects, meaning more jobs sooner right across Queensland. We know that Queenslanders want jobs, not red tape, and that is what this program delivers. This program is what our government is all about—great infrastructure and real jobs for our regions. I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering that right here in Queensland.

EDUCATION (ACCREDITATION OF NON-STATE SCHOOLS) BILL

Message from Governor



Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (12.48 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): The message from His Excellency recommends the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Message, dated 9 May 2017, from His Excellency the Governor, recommending the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017 [\[662\]](#).

Introduction

Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (12.49 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the accreditation of non-state schools, and deciding the eligibility of non-state schools' governing bodies for government funding for the schools, to repeal the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001 and to amend this act, the Building Act 1975, the Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Act 1999, the Child Protection Act 1999, the Education and Care Services Act 2013, the Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Act 2011, the Education (Capital Assistance) Act 1993, the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, the Education (Overseas Students) Regulation 2014, the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005, the Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014, the Education (Work Experience) Act 1996, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008, the Grammar Schools Act 2016, the Planning Act 2016, the Public Guardian Act 2014, the Public Health Act 2005, the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Regulation 2017, the Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002, the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998, the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 2005, the Weapons Act 1990, the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017 [\[663\]](#).

Tabled paper: Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017, explanatory notes [\[664\]](#).

Non-state schools play an important role in Queensland's educational system, offering a diverse range of quality educational options in Catholic and independent schooling sectors. Non-state schools support the right of parents to choose the school they believe is best for their child or is consistent with their personal values or faith. There are currently 504 accredited non-state schools that provide education to approximately 266,000 students. The Non-State Schools Accreditation Board, otherwise

known as the board, established under the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001, has responsibility for accrediting non-state schools in Queensland. The board is doing a great job in upholding the standard of non-state schooling in Queensland and ensuring the sector has the confidence of the public. It is well regarded and supported by the non-state schooling sector.

Given that the present accreditation and government funding eligibility schemes for non-state schools have been operating since the beginning of 2002, I have taken the opportunity to identify improvements to the schemes, streamline them and modernise the legislation. The review was informed by a reference group comprising departmental officers, the executive directors of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission, Independent Schools Queensland and the chair of the board. This bill is the product of this review and has the general support of the QCEC, ISQ and the board.

Mr Seeney: You said 'compromising'. You meant 'comprising'.

Ms JONES: Comprising. I never compromise. Thank you for pointing that out. I have never been compromised in my life. I can assure the member of that. Can I put on the public record, given that Jeff is retiring at the end of this year, that he has always looked after me in this House and I thank him for that.

This bill is the product of this review and has the general support of the QCEC, ISQ and the board. The bill maintains the current regulatory regime for non-state schools with some important reforms.

The bill continues the establishment of the board as a statutory body, with administrative support provided by a secretariat staffed with departmental employees. This structure has been in place since the establishment of the board and is a cost-effective way to support the operation of the regulatory body. The board has seven members appointed by the Governor in Council comprising a chair nominated by me as the responsible minister, three members representing each of the schooling sectors and three members who are nominated by me following consultation with the non-state sector peak bodies. The membership structure of the board will continue unchanged under the bill.

As the Minister for Education, I currently decide on a non-state school's eligibility for Queensland government funding, based upon the recommendation of the Non-State Schools Eligibility for Government Funding Committee—the funding committee. The decision is based on criteria prescribed in the accreditation act around need, choice, impact on other schools and projected minimum enrolment numbers. This is a lengthy and complex process.

The board must first decide that a governing body is operating the school in a not-for-profit manner and refer the matter to the funding committee, which considers a detailed report from the governing body. The governing body must also undertake a public notification process inviting public submissions on the prescribed criteria. The funding committee then makes a recommendation to me as the minister, and I make the decision about the governing body's eligibility for government funding. This is separate from detailed consideration by the board of the governing body's application to address the accreditation criteria.

When considering outcomes from the current processes, it is notable that all existing non-state schools receive funding for at least some of the years of schooling they provide. Only a small percentage of students are unfunded. As at August 2016, approximately 77 students in seven schools did not attract state government funding. This equates to 0.03 per cent of the non-state school student population.

The bill provides for a streamlined process for eligibility for government funding. This is something that I know the sector very much welcomes. A governing body will be automatically eligible for government funding for a school upon its accreditation, provided the board is satisfied the school will not be operated for profit. To decide the not-for-profit status of a school, the board will consider relationships between the school's governing body and third parties to determine if the governing body is independent in its financial decision-making. There will no longer be a funding committee or a public notification requirement. However, the board will publish on its website details of all applications for accreditation and notify the state, independent and Catholic peak bodies of the applications.

The bill also streamlines processes by removing the concept of provisional accreditation. A school can be accredited from the outset if the governing body is suitable and if the board considers the school will comply with the accreditation criteria from commencement of the school's operation.

A governing body is not currently required to notify the board when directors of the governing body change. The board is required to assess whether the governing body is suitable, which includes the directors having a blue card. To ensure currency of blue cards, the board writes annually to all governing bodies requesting an update in their directorships. This is an onerous task and means the status of the directors is not known to the board in a timely manner. The bill includes a new requirement that a governing body must notify the board about changes in directorship and, if a director is commencing with the governing body, provide a copy of any new director's blue card.

There are also a number of changes with regard to the operation of a school without accreditation, better ways with regard to information sharing and also review rights. There has been wide consultation on the bill and it has very broad support from the board, QCEC and ISQ. These stakeholders have been advocating for these changes for some time. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (12.56 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 Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

 **Mr WILLIAMS** (Pumicestone—ALP) (12.56 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I refer to documents tabled in the parliament this morning. They include three complaints made against the company Accident & Breakdown Towing Pty Ltd. My wife and I divested of this company in 2013. Documents revealed an investigation by the Department of Transport and Main Roads into this company in 2015. I was no longer involved in the company in 2015. Nevertheless, I note the finding that the investigation did not reveal any breaches. I table that document, page 3.

Tabled paper: File note, dated 31 March 2015, by Department of Transport and Main Roads, regarding breakdown and accident towing [\[665\]](#).

The complaint about fees following an incident on 26 June 2013 was investigated by the Department of Transport and Main Roads. I refer to page 9 of the documents tabled, which says, 'A check of the incident revealed fees charged in keeping with recovery costs of the vehicle.' I table page 9.

Tabled paper: Extract from Complaint and Enquiries Database, dated 2 July 2013, regarding a tow truck complaint [\[666\]](#).

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. The member is referring to documents that have already been tabled. I do not think it is allowable to table an extract of a document that has already been tabled.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! Member for Pumicestone, if a document has already been tabled in the House there is no need to table it again. However, you are able to do it if you wish to do so. Please continue.

Mr WILLIAMS: There was a further complaint in 2012 about the location and operation of a tow truck. This complaint has already been canvassed heavily in the media. There was no suspension of the licence of the business resulting from the complaint. I cooperated with all the inquiries.

I note that one-third of the documents tabled by the opposition was simply a reproduction of legislation. I commend the Minister for Main Roads for taking the current action, which is underway, against the predatory behaviour of the tow truck industry.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.30 pm.

**CORRECTIVE SERVICES (PAROLE BOARD) AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL**

Resumed from 16 February (see p. 219).

Second Reading

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.30 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Before I speak to the bill I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the former Parole Board president, Peter McInnes, who sadly passed away last month after a long illness. Peter will be remembered as a passionate Parole Board president who constantly strived for improvement. For over 15 years Peter demonstrated commitment to his community as a deputy president and then president of the Queensland Parole Boards as well as his work with a number of charitable foundations. His dedication and strong work ethic were pivotal during his tenure. I extend my deepest sympathies to Peter's partner, Robyn, family and friends.

On 16 February 2017 the Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 was introduced into the parliament. The parliament referred the bill to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for consideration and requested the committee to report on its consideration of the bill by 28 February 2017. The committee tabled Report No. 53 and made one recommendation: that the Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 be passed. I thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its timely consideration of the bill, and I acknowledge the efforts of the members of that committee and their work in respect of that consideration.

The bill before the House implements key recommendations made by the now President of the Court of Appeal, Mr Walter Sofronoff QC, in his report titled *Queensland Parole System Review*. As most members of this House know, the review of the Queensland parole system was instigated following the killing of Mrs Elizabeth 'Beth' Kippin in Townsville in July 2016. The man charged with this heinous offence was on parole. On 1 December 2016 the Sofronoff review was delivered, making 91 recommendations for sweeping legislative, operational and administrative changes to the Queensland parole system and providing a blueprint for reform. The Palaszczuk government supports or supports in principle 89 of the 91 recommendations, demonstrating its commitment to ensuring that Queensland's parole system is robust and rigorous when it comes to community safety and protecting our residents from repeat offenders.

The bill implements two key initiatives flowing from the Sofronoff review: the establishment of a new parole board system and the strengthening of GPS monitoring for parolees. The review found that the current parole board system is inefficient due to the simultaneous operation of three parole boards, the absence of full-time board members and inadequate administrative processes to support decision-making. I would like to acknowledge that these findings do not reflect on the ability or dedication of the current Parole Board members, but rather highlights that the current system is antiquated and unable to cope with the increasing demand on its time and resources.

In accordance with the Sofronoff review, the bill address these issues by the dissolution of the three existing parole boards and the establishment of a single professionalised new board known as Parole Board Queensland. This new board will be the sole decision-making entity regarding parole in Queensland other than the imposition of court ordered parole. As recommended in the review, the new Parole Board will have a professionalised membership, including a full-time president and at least one full-time deputy president who are either former judicial officers or have the equivalent qualifications and experience of judicial officers. The Parole Board will have a minimum of two full-time dedicated professional members with professional qualifications relevant to the functions of the Parole Board including, but not limited to, legal or medical qualifications. The board will also be comprised of at least one police representative and at least one Public Service representative who has expertise or experience in probation and parole matters. Crucially, the Queensland community will also be represented on the new Parole Board in the form of community board members to be appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the minister with portfolio responsibilities for the Corrective Services Act.

The fresh composition of the new Parole Board Queensland recognises the need for professional and committed members who are dedicated to performing the vital function of parole decision-making—a focus which is in itself a full-time job. The bill emphasises balanced representation on the new board by ensuring representation of women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. A dedicated secretariat staffed by Public Service employees will support the new Parole Board in the performance of its important functions.

Following the review's recommendation, the bill provides for a five-member quorum when presiding on matters regarding prisoners incarcerated for serious violent offences or serious sexual offences and for certain other prescribed prisoners. For these prisoners the bill—subject to some amendments that I intend to move during the consideration in detail stage of the debate, which I understand have already been circulated to members of the House—mandates that the membership be comprised of the president or the deputy president, a professional board member, a community board member, a Public Service representative and a police representative when considering an application for parole or the cancellation of a parole order. For meetings relating to all other matters the bill requires a quorum of three members, and the precise composition of the board will be dictated by the type of prisoner and the nature of the matter to be decided.

The new Parole Board Queensland is a cornerstone of the improved parole system in Queensland and marks a new era in the way that parole applications are considered. This new professionalised body represents the government's commitment to keeping Queenslanders safe. The Sofronoff review identified that the application of GPS monitoring to certain paroled offenders could assist in improving the safe reintegration of parolees into the community and a reduction in reoffending. The bill implements this representation by making a clarifying amendment to the Corrective Services Act to ensure that a corrective services officer may give a direction to a paroled prisoner to remain at a stated place for stated periods, wear a GPS monitoring device and permit the installation of a device or equipment at the place where the paroled prisoner resides. In addition to the newly structured Parole Board, this power to require the wearing of GPS monitoring devices clearly highlights that this is a new way of doing business and a tough, stricter approach to protecting Queenslanders.

At this time I would like to foreshadow that I will also be moving some amendments to the bill during the consideration in detail stage of the debate. Again I note that these amendments have already been circulated to members of the House. These amendments will improve the operational efficiency of the new Parole Board Queensland and remain consistent with the review's fundamental vision of a professionalised single parole board employing high-calibre members, assuring that well-informed decision-making occurs on all matters relating to board ordered parole. These amendments have been circulated in my name and will ensure the efficient operation of the new Parole Board Queensland.

In particular, it is proposed to admit and replace new section 234—which concerns meetings about particular matters relating to parole orders as inserted into the Corrective Services Act under clause 12 of the bill—to enable a more efficient and effective use of the Parole Board's resources and its composition.

New section 234 as amended will provide that the Parole Board sitting as five members must consider all applications for a parole order or the cancellation of a parole order for a prescribed prisoner; the Parole Board sitting as three members comprised of the president or deputy president, a professional member and a community member must consider all suspensions of a parole order for a prescribed prisoner; and the Parole Board sitting as three members comprised of a professional board member, a community board member and at least one other member can consider an amendment of a parole order for a prisoner, whether a prescribed prisoner or otherwise. The safeguard is that an amended application will not result in the cancellation or suspension of a parole order. The prisoner in these circumstances will already be on parole and the issue for consideration will be the addition or modification of existing conditions. The Parole Board sitting as three members comprised of a professional board member, a community board member and at least one other member is to consider the applications for parole and the suspension or cancellation of a parole order relating to all other prisoners.

Additionally, the definition of 'prescribed prisoner' under section 234 is to be amended to add a person imprisoned for the offence of choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting under section 315A of the Criminal Code. In this regard, I would like to particularly thank the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc. for its submission to the committee about the bill, as its submission formed the impetus for the inclusion of this amendment.

This is important reform for Queensland. It brings our parole system into the 21st century. It is good reform that will keep Queenslanders safe and I encourage all members of the House to support it. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.41 pm): I rise to address the Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, introduced by the government in February this year. Before I start, I place on the record my congratulations to the minister on the birth of his first child. The minister has a lot ahead of him. If he thinks being a minister is stressful, that is nothing compared to being a father! I congratulate him.

This legislation results from the recommendations made by the Sofronoff review into the parole system which was established in August last year. The Sofronoff review was established as a result of the shocking murder of Elizabeth Kippin of Townsville, an 81-year-old grandmother who was allegedly murdered by a violent offender who had been released on parole just hours before going on a drug fuelled rampage. Unfortunately, Mrs Kippin was caught in the crossfire and suffered multiple stab wounds that caused her death. That incident obviously shocked North Queenslanders and all of Queensland. The Sofronoff report was due to be handed to the government by the end of November last year, according to its own time line. We were disappointed that it took so long for the report to be released—in February this year—as were the family of Mrs Kippin and the wider Townsville community.

We have also been concerned about the government's response to the review. Of the 91 recommendations, 89 have been accepted by the government. As this government is good at and very keen to conduct reviews—its strength is not in implementation—it concerns us that out of the 89 accepted recommendations about 20 will be subject to further reviews. I will give some examples. In relation to recommendation 3 the government says that it will review. In relation to recommendation 11 the government says that it will establish a body to evaluate. In relation to recommendation 21 there will be an independent evaluation. In relation to recommendation 30 the government says that it will consider implementation. In relation to recommendation 34 it will establish an interdepartmental task force. In relation to recommendation 50 the government will explore. In relation to recommendation 83 it will consider. In relation to recommendation 91 it will consider the purview. Our concern is that the recommendations of Mr Sofronoff need to be implemented as quickly as possible. We call on the government not to delay the implementation of those other recommendations to ensure we have a true overhaul of the parole system.

As I said, the Sofronoff report made 91 recommendations, and this bill deals with the establishment of a new full-time Parole Board. The LNP will not be opposing this bill, but we will be making sure that the new Parole Board is representative of the community and is not used as a tool to go soft on crime and just let more people out of jail because the government has not been able to handle the explosion in prison population numbers—due very much to the scrapping of the LNP plan for 650 additional beds that was funded and budgeted for in the 2014-15 state budget. What a complete debacle that decision was.

Prisons are out of control, we have had a damning ombudsman's report and the safety of staff is at risk because of overcrowding. Our prisons have turned into fight clubs under Labor's watch. Most people will not have a lot of sympathy for prisoners, but they recognise that hardworking prison officers should not be put in danger every time they go to work due to the overcrowding of our prisons.

We appreciate the rationale behind the Sofronoff recommendations—that is, to professionalise the parole system and the framework that considers important matters of community safety. What is fundamentally important, though, is that matters of parole still take into consideration community safety and community expectations. It should definitely not be a get-out-of-jail-free card. We will be monitoring the implementation of these reforms to ensure they do not diminish community safety, because we know that Labor is fundamentally soft on crime.

Under the current system, three parole boards operate: the Queensland Parole Board and two regional parole boards. As outlined in the explanatory notes to the bill, the Queensland Parole Board decides applications for parole from prisoners who have been sentenced to a period of imprisonment of eight years or more or who have been declared to have been convicted of a serious violent offence under part 9A of the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992. Two regional parole boards—the Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board and the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board—decide applications for parole orders from all other prisoners.

The review report found systemic inefficiencies in the current operation of these three existing parole boards and that the current parole system in Queensland can be substantially improved. The review report recommends, to ensure the safety of the community and the proper and efficient operation

of the parole system in Queensland, that the Parole Board be modernised and professionalised. In particular, the concerns of Mr Sofronoff regarding the parole boards are specifically addressed at recommendations 35 to 61.

The key recommendations include the creation of a single Parole Board in Queensland to hear all applications for board ordered parole and which will supplant the three existing parole boards provided for under the Corrective Services Act—recommendation 35; the appointment of a full-time president and deputy president, each of whom is a retired judge of a state or federal court; the appointment of at least two full-time professional member positions—recommendation 37; the appointment of community members to the Parole Board in such number as the Governor in Council appoints from time to time—recommendation 40; the appointment of a police officer to be part of the membership of the new Parole Board and a Public Service officer with experience or expertise in probation and parole—recommendation 44; the importance of diversity in membership, including gender balance and the need for representation by Aboriginal people or Torres Strait Islanders in establishing the new Parole Board membership—recommendations 39, 41 and 42; the establishment of a dedicated secretariat to support the new Parole Board in the performance of its statutory functions—recommendation 54; and the distinction to be made between decision-making about a prisoner incarcerated for a serious violent offence or a serious sexual offence, as compared to all other prisoners—recommendations 45 and 46.

Recommendation 60 of the review report also identifies that the application of GPS monitoring of paroled offenders in appropriate circumstances, based on assessed risk, could assist in both improving the reintegration of parolees into the community and reducing reoffending. It is extremely disappointing that this government has been inconsistent in relation to strengthening the parole system, voting against important reforms that were designed to protect victims of domestic and family violence which included GPS monitoring considered by this parliament just a few weeks ago. Those important reforms were submitted to the Sofronoff parole review by the Women's Legal Service. It was also interesting that, despite voting against many of these changes put forward as part of those domestic violence reforms, including to parole, the Minister for Communities, Shannon Fentiman, sought to rewrite history in a letter to the editor in the *Townsville Bulletin* last week, only to claim credit for changes that she did not support and some of which did not actually pass through the parliament.

Following the release of the Sofronoff report in February, then long-term president Peter McInnes stepped down from his role, which was filled in an acting capacity. Peter passed away in April and we should acknowledge, as the minister has, his contribution to Queensland's parole system and the wider criminal justice system as we debate these changes here today. Peter served as deputy president and then president for some 15 years. We pass on our condolences to his partner Robyn, family and friends.

There was a very significant recommendation made by Mr Sofronoff which has not been included in this bill but which we believe needs immediate action. In November 2016 the LNP released a policy dealing with what has been dubbed no-body no-parole following similar moves interstate. These changes were instigated by a parliamentary petition established by Fiona Splitt of Cooktown whose husband Bruce Schuler was murdered in 2012 and, despite the successful conviction of the two suspects, his body has never been recovered. We believe that more needed to be done to rebalance the scales of justice in favour of victims and their families which is why we announced our no-body no-parole policy. Despite being recommended by the Sofronoff review, those recommendations have not been adopted by the government yet, which is disappointing. To ensure that these important reforms can pass and given the supposedly bipartisan support for these changes, we will be moving amendments to this bill to give effect to these changes and bring them forward now as a priority. Victims' families deserve that respect from the parliament at the very least.

While other states and territories have moved to implement these strong no-body no-parole reforms, Labor in Queensland has sat idle while victims of crime continue to miss out on the opportunities for closure that would be provided by these reforms. When I speak to the families of victims they have told me that, yes, it is incredibly painful when they do not know who is the perpetrator of the crime which led to their loved one being killed, but what is even more painful is if the remains of their loved one have not been found and that the unrest and the stress associated with that is beyond belief. Under our amendments to grant parole, the Parole Board must be satisfied that the offender has satisfactorily cooperated in the investigation of the offence to identify the location or last known location of the remains of the victim. This policy will apply to criminals who have not yet been released from jail on parole and not those already out of jail on parole. This will provide offenders with an opportunity to show remorse for their crime by rebalancing the scales of justice in favour of victims trying to find closure in the tragic circumstances of losing a loved one.

Recommendation 87 of the Sofronoff report states—

The Queensland Government should introduce legislation, similar to that in South Australia, which requires the Parole Board to consider the cooperation of a prisoner convicted of murder or manslaughter and not release the prisoner on parole unless the Board is satisfied that the prisoner has satisfactorily cooperated in the investigation of the offence, including, when relevant, by assisting in locating the remains of the victim of the offence.

We have publicly stated our support for these changes on several occasions, and obviously that is reflected in our policy announcement from late last year. Similar to what Mr Sofronoff indicated in his report at pages 233 to 235, we have also spoken to the original principal petitioner, Fiona Splitt, on several occasions about this issue and we see the benefit of this reform not only in terms of providing closure for victims' families but also that a punishment is lacking in retribution and the community would be right to feel indignation if a convicted killer could expect to be released without telling what he or she did with the body of the victim.

In its submission to the committee, the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group is strongly supportive of this issue and the need for the system to work better for victims' families. It is also concerned that the benefits of this policy are made redundant if the offender does not provide information to the families until well into their sentences, say some 15 to 20 years. It would like to see the parolee given a two-year time frame to provide the information or otherwise they miss out on the consideration of parole. Given these changes are only recent to Australian law and the recommendations from the Sofronoff report are quite prescriptive, we believe it is important that the reforms are implemented as they are written in the report and that consideration be given after the initial reform has been implemented. We will work with the stakeholders to ensure the spirit of the reforms in terms of how they practically apply, but if they do not we are more than happy to revisit that at a later time.

I want to thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its thorough consideration of the bill. I also want to thank the organisations that took the time to lodge a submission to the committee on this important issue, particularly the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group. I had the honour of attending and speaking at its Brisbane awareness day last Thursday. The Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group is a non-government organisation that specialises in homicide support and recovery. Its mission is to provide confidential peer support, help, love and understanding to the surviving victims of homicide and to create awareness for the unique needs of victims whilst promoting education and reform. Congratulations should go to its President Doug Elsmore, Vice-President Tina Good, General Manager Dr Ted Flack and the whole team for the great job they do in communities across Queensland, particularly the support they provide to victims' families.

It is fundamentally important that Queenslanders have confidence in our parole system and that it is geared towards community safety and rehabilitating offenders so that they can get their lives back on track. I foreshadow these amendments to the bill and look forward to further debate about these changes in the consideration in detail stage. In terms of commencement, if supported, they will commence on assent of the bill, as do the majority of the changes in the existing bill, except for sections 6, 7 and 8. Finally, I want to acknowledge the advocacy of Fiona Splitt from Cooktown who has been a fearless campaigner on the issue of no-body no-parole and hope that these reforms can go some way in helping her find closure following the tragic murder of her husband, Bruce.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.57 pm): Today I rise to support the Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. In commencing, I congratulate the minister on the recent arrival into his family. The minister and I both serve our communities in the Moreton Bay region, so on occasion I get to go along to events with the minister and get to witness him interacting with kids. I have to say that he has a very special touch. He has a great rapport with children and I am sure that both he and his wife, Holly, will make fantastic parents and I congratulate them on the recent arrival of baby Daniel.

In response to a community tragedy that occurred in Townsville on 26 July 2016, the Palaszczuk government announced an independent review into Queensland's parole system. The review, headed by Walter Sofronoff QC, was charged with ensuring that the parole and corrective services system delivered community safety and crime prevention through the humane containment, supervision and rehabilitation of offenders. On 1 December 2016 the *Queensland parole system review: final report* was handed down. It identified systemic inefficiencies in the operation of the three existing parole boards and found substantial room for improvement in the outdated, antiquated parole system. This bill seeks to establish one centralised, independent and professional Parole Board—the Parole Board Queensland. In doing so, it makes substantial changes to its membership as compared with the existing parole boards.

The bill provides that Parole Board Queensland supplants the three existing parole boards operating in Queensland and will be responsible for all decision-making with respect to parole in Queensland. Additionally, this bill clarifies that, when a person is granted parole, whether by a court or by Parole Board Queensland, a condition may be imposed requiring a prisoner to comply with and abide by any monitoring directions given by a Corrective Services officer.

I would like to acknowledge the work done by the department, the committee staff and also the stakeholders throughout this process. I particularly want to acknowledge the work done by the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence, which made a submission on what constitutes prisoners as being serious violent offenders. We know that non-fatal strangulation in a domestic setting is a precursor to homicide, with victims seven times more likely to die at the hands of their partner. I commend the minister for picking up on this point and including it in section 315A of the Criminal Code through amendments that he will move today.

The parole review report recommended that the new Parole Board should be required to decide applications within 120 days rather than 180 days. This bill delivers upon that recommendation. The amendment will mean that, although a prisoner can apply for parole up to six months prior to their parole eligibility date, the Parole Board will need to make the decision about the application within four months. In cases where the Parole Board decides to grant parole, that could mean that Queensland Corrective Services and the prisoner have up to two months advance notice about the parole decision before release. That is two months in which to plan and prepare for that prisoner's release and transition from prison into the community, setting them up to succeed with that transition.

This bill will deliver important changes to improve the fairness of the parole and corrective services system. Many submitters to the bill highlighted the need for improved wraparound systems. Our government is not a lock-them-up-and-throw-away-the-key government. Our government is committed to affordable social housing. Our government invests in high-quality health care. Our government recognises the role that drug addiction plays in antisocial behaviour. I take this opportunity to commend the Premier on the work that she is doing to tackle the scourge of ice in our communities. This government will invest in front-line services for mental health. I am so pleased that, under this government, the local hospital in my community will see much needed infrastructure and service improvement. Our government is committed to investing in victim support services.

I want to pick up on the point that was raised by the shadow minister about no-body no-parole. I was not present at the committee's public hearing on Wednesday, 29 March, but I read the meeting papers quite thoroughly and, as the shadow minister was speaking, I again reviewed them. I stand to be corrected, but it seems to me that the no-body no-parole scenario or policy was not picked up and canvassed in any great depth during this committee examination process. I think it would be very remiss of me not to highlight the fact that, as a committee member, it is not an issue that I have a familiarity with at any level of detail through the committee process of examining this bill.

There is no one quick fix or measure that will see a foolproof system, but many steps to better transition offenders back into our communities and to stamp out recidivism will create a robust and rigorous system that will make our communities safer. I commend this bill and the minister's amendments to the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.03 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the debate on the Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 and report No. 53 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. The committee constantly gets criticism through written submissions and also verbally about there being not enough time to consider bills. We understand that there is urgency in considering some bills, but this bill was introduced to the House on 16 February and the committee had to report on it by 28 April. The committee members expect submitters to the committee on bills to provide them with thoughtful and in-depth comments in relation to these very complex issues. I ask the House to seriously give consideration to ensuring that the committee members have much more time up their sleeves to be able to give those in the community a genuine opportunity to respond to the materials that are sent out to them and to properly put something together as a comment on the bills so that we can properly flesh them out. I am talking about organisations that send out to many other people material or requests for comment. Those people then have to give responses to those organisations and then the organisations have to collate the information they have received. Committees need to spend more time considering bills. I think it is important that committees are given every opportunity to be able to properly report on them to the House.

In my experience in looking at various aspects of parole and recidivism rates, one criticism that comes to mind is that relating to court ordered parole, in particular court ordered parole for young people. I am told by people in the corrective services system that court ordered parole tends to take away any incentive for young people in particular to engage in any programs that might give them an opportunity to have a better chance once they are released. I am talking about not only juvenile defendants but also people in that 17 and 18-to-25 age group. If during the court process they are given an actual release date—for example, their sentence might be for 12 months and they are told that they will be released much earlier; four months or whatever it might be—the incentive is taken away from that young person to do anything that is worthwhile. The feedback that I get from the corrective services area is that, with young people, that happens quite often.

During the committee examination and hearings the committee heard from more than one submitter, and certainly more than one witness, of the desire to have a broad range of people on the Parole Board. Yes, experience relating to victims of crime is important, but we also need people with experience relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues and experience relating to regional communities. That feedback came through loud and clear.

I am pleased that an amendment to clause 12 of the bill has been brought to our attention. That amendment amends new section 234, titled 'Meetings about particular matters relating to parole orders', to extend the definition of 'prescribed prisoner' to include a prisoner who is imprisoned for an offence of choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting under section 315A of the Criminal Code.

To come back to my first point of giving organisations and individuals time to give serious consideration to the bills that we are putting out for comment, it is important to note that the impetus for that amendment was the submission by the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee during its consideration of the bill. It is a real change that will occur in this bill as a direct result of input from those submitters to the committee process.

There were interesting comments from Eoin Mac Giolla Ri. He is on the Criminal Law Committee of the Bar Association of Queensland. He talked about there not being enough programs in place. That dovetails into what I was talking about earlier in relation to court ordered parole. At the end of the day it is a proven fact that if we are able to engage young people in our corrective services system in programs it reduces the likelihood of recidivism. I often think of the issues that cause people to end up back in our system from the perspective of AEIOU. The A relates to appropriate accommodation, not accommodation such as couch surfing. The E is for education. If we are able to engage with young people in the prison system and give them a better opportunity through education then that reduces the likelihood of them becoming recidivist offenders. The I is for integration. Some people talk about reintegration, but it is really integration. Often some of these young people have never properly been integrated into society because of their background and what has happened in their life. Because of their living circumstances they have never been taught to properly integrate into our society. The O is for occupation. If we put that proper education and training in place then we will see a better opportunity for them to be employed when they leave our prison system. The last one is U for understanding. We need to understand where they have come from in their life. The other side of it is that they need to understand what the expectations of society are of them, which comes back to integration.

Eoin Mac Giolla Ri talked about prison being an admission of failure of a society and isn't that so true? If we do not put disengaged young people into some sort of an education program when they are young they will find themselves with little to do, they will get into trouble and from there they will end up in our legal system and, all too often, in our prison system. As a government we need to look at such things as appropriate education programs for people who do not fit into mainstream schools. We fortunately have a number of those types of facilities in my electorate on the Gold Coast. I am very pleased that we have the Eagleby Learning Centre and other centres that are working as an alternative education program for young people and hopefully we can stem the flow of young people ending up in our prison system at a later time.

As was talked about by Eoin Mac Giolla Ri, a prison population is split into three parts. A third of them are mad—and we are talking about mental health issues; a third of them are sad—whatever has happened to them in their life has caused them to be depressed which leads them into drug taking, et cetera, and then into our legal system and ultimately into the jail system; and the reality is that probably around about a third of our prison population are bad—those who really need to be incarcerated and punished in some way. As a society we have to do a lot more in areas other than our corrective services

area. It is not just about catching them and putting them into jail, it is all of those other areas that we need to work on to ensure that we do not just keep throwing them in the river upstream and then having to fish them out downstream having put them through the prison system.

The committee worked well on this bill. A good range of people gave us witness statements telling us about their particular circumstances and experiences and freely giving of their knowledge. It was a worthwhile process, albeit not long enough in the scheme of things. I would like to thank all of the committee members and, of course, our secretariat who did a wonderful job on this and a number of other reports that had very short timelines.

On page 8 and 9 of our report we talked about the department's response to some submitters. The committee commented—

The committee notes submitters' suggestions that the PBQ should be comprised of people from diverse backgrounds, including those from regional and remote communities and those with disability.

I did not mention people with a disability. I think we need to give consideration to that. Those with disability includes those who are not necessarily physically disabled, they may also have mental health issues.

The committee considers that diversity of representation on the PBQ could enhance decision-making and ensure it best represents the interests of the prison population and broader community.

That was a whole-of-committee comment. I put it to the minister that he should give consideration to ensuring that diversity does, in fact, flow through.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.17 pm): I join the debate on the Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill which was introduced on 16 February by the Minister for Corrective Services, referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee of which I am a member for its consideration and the committee reported by 28 April of this year.

Four written submissions were received from stakeholders by the 9 March deadline. These were from the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group, Queensland Advocacy Incorporated, Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc and Sisters Inside Inc. I would like to put on record our thanks for their valuable contributions.

The committee agreed this bill be passed and made a number of comments, in particular in response to potential breaches of fundamental legislative principles. I thank fellow committee members, the secretariat and departmental staff for their deliberations and assistance with the examination of this bill.

In August 2016 the government announced an independent review of the Queensland parole system be undertaken by Mr Walter Sofronoff QC. This was in response to the alleged murder of an 81-year-old woman by a parole prisoner in the month prior: July 2016. This review considered the effectiveness of the Parole Board's current operations, including its decision-making structure and membership, transparency of Parole Board decision-making, adequacy of existing accountability mechanisms for the parole boards and the parole system generally, factors that would increase an offender's successful completion of parole and reintegration into the community and enhanced community safety, and lastly the effectiveness of the legislative framework for parole, including court ordered parole in Queensland.

Mr Sofronoff was directed to examine and have regard to best practice in parole systems operating in other Australian jurisdictions, particularly regarding effective ways to manage risk when releasing a person on parole. He was also directed to seek input from relevant experts, including those with knowledge and experience of the criminal justice system, organisations working with offenders, victims' organisations and academic researchers. In his extensive report Sofronoff acknowledged that those who worked within the system were dedicated people, but the system itself was antiquated and emaciated, a result of neglect over many years. He notes—

The only purpose of parole is to reintegrate a prisoner into the community before the end of a prison sentence *to decrease the chance that the prisoner will ever reoffend*.

Simply put, in Sofronoff's terms, 'parole is just a matter of timing'.

Two viewpoints are put forward, the first being whether parole is effective in supporting a prisoner towards a better way of life and, secondly, whether parole is effective in keeping the community safe from a prisoner reoffending. Research would suggest that paroled prisoners are less likely to reoffend than prisoners released without parole. Sofronoff concurs that it makes no difference which viewpoint is taken.

The parole review report identified systemic inefficiencies in the operation of the three existing parole boards and found substantial room for improvement in the parole system. The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report No. 53 of the 55th Parliament states—

The parole review report found that the decision-making of the three boards appeared to be unstructured and not always approached by the whole board on an informed basis, and that material provided to the parole boards before meetings was often long, unstructured, and compiled without careful consideration as to what information was necessary for the board to make its decisions. The parole review also highlighted the lack of full-time board members as a deficiency of the regime.

On 1 December 2016, Mr Sofronoff delivered his report to the government, making 91 recommendations covering nine broad categories. However, the parole review report was not tabled in the House until 16 February 2017, as well as the government's response to the report which supported in principle 89 of the 91 recommendations. This bill proposes the implementation of recommendation Nos 35 to 61. These relate to the establishment of a new parole board system and the global positioning system or GPS monitoring of parolees.

However, proceeding the parole review report, the Auditor-General's report No. 4 of 2016-17, *Criminal justice system—prison sentences*, was tabled in the parliament on 29 November last year. It is important to mention this in the context of a debate on the Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill as there is significant public sentiment around the issue of sentencing and the management of criminals, especially in the wake of a frightening spike in domestic violence cases.

A second report from the Auditor-General was tabled on 26 April this year entitled *Criminal justice system—reliability and integration of data*. The audit conclusions were damning, leading to media claims that police on the Gold Coast were being pressured to fudge crime figures because of a 66 per cent increase in assaults and overall crime rising by 30 per cent. I have the utmost respect for our hardworking and dedicated police officers and I have said so many times in this place. However, the Auditor-General's findings must be taken seriously and addressed. Who is applying this pressure to our officers? Is it the Premier? Is it the minister? Is it the commissioner? Findings like this erode public confidence in law enforcement officers and do nothing to enhance our reputation as a safe and friendly tourism destination.

Report No. 14 tabled by the Auditor-General on 26 April, *Criminal justice system—reliability and integration of data*, came to the following conclusions—

The Queensland Police Service has an unacceptable amount of crime data across the state that is incomplete, inaccurate, and wrongly classified. Contributing to this are officers' poor understanding or use of data classification rules, poor guidance, inappropriate data classification practices and inadequate quality assurance controls. As a result, reported crime statistics are questionable at best and unreliable at worst, and should be treated with caution.

It is little wonder then that the *Gold Coast Bulletin* run stories under the headlines 'Public being misled' and 'Grim blue line', and that commentary was made about police officers using methods that saw some victims withdraw their complaints. Only yesterday the *Gold Coast Bulletin* ran a story about a woman who claimed she was drugged and raped in her home and said she was discouraged by police from pressing charges.

On page 2 of his report, Sofronoff comments that 'to a degree, it is necessary to consider sentencing laws when considering parole'. He also presents an economic argument, stating that community supervision is cheaper than imprisonment. That may well be, but community safety is paramount and should not be measured against cost. For too long Labor's soft-on-crime approach has enabled crime to flourish.

The history of parole in Queensland began in 1937. In 1959 a new statute established a board that was independent of government. It was chaired by a Supreme Court judge and had five other members. A new law was enacted in 1980 and the board contained a similar composition. In 1986, the legislation was amended to permit remission of one-third of a prisoner's sentence for good behaviour. In 1988 respected businessman, Jim Kennedy, was appointed by the government to review the system of parole and he found many inefficiencies within the system. Kennedy's recommendations included a two-tier board system whereby one board considered parole of prisoners serving less than five years and another board made decisions about prisoners serving longer than five years. Further legislative changes were made in 1992, 1997 and 2000, before a new act was passed in 2006. At page 4 of his report Sofronoff said that the 2006 act—

... ended conditional release, release to seek and obtain work and home detention and executive ordered resettlement leave. The only form of release was to be by way of parole.

However, a court could now order that a prisoner be released on parole on a fixed date, provided the sentence was less than three years and excluded sexual offenders. According to Sofronoff, this reveals a current system of parole that has returned to the system of 1937 when parole began and little has changed in the past 28 years.

In Queensland, parole orders are made by the court at the time of sentencing, that is, a court ordered parole, or by the Parole Board during the sentence period, that is, a board ordered parole. The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report states—

Whether an offender is released on court-ordered or board-ordered parole depends upon the type of offence and the length of the term of imprisonment imposed.

It continues—

When sentencing an offender to a term of imprisonment of more than three years or for a serious violent offence or a sexual offence, the court may fix the date the offender is eligible for release on parole. If the court does not fix a date that the offender is eligible for parole, the offender becomes eligible for parole after serving half of their sentence.

The Auditor-General's 2016 report on prison sentences concluded that—

Criminal justice entities ... have not been effective in addressing process and system weaknesses identified in previous reviews. As a result, discharge and detention errors occurred at an increased rate over the period we examined.

Between the years of 2004-05 and 2015-16, the criminal justice system discharged in error or unlawfully detained 329 prisoners. This figure includes 91 people discharged in error and 238 people unlawfully detained. It was also noted that there may be more not detected by these systems. This is very worrying and so is the finding that criminal justice entities do not routinely or systemically document their assessment of potential risk to the community or individuals when a prisoner is discharged in error.

Of even greater concern was an article in the *Sunday Mail* on 7 May by David Murray that revealed 3,167 orders were made through the return of patients from Queensland mental health facilities who were absent without permission. News that 1,387 patients on forensic orders or involuntary treatment orders were charged with offences last financial year adds a whole lot of reasons—1,387 of them—to be alarmed our system is not working.

Incorrect calculation of sentencing can expose the community to risk by releasing prisoners early or the reverse, which is infringing on prisoners' rights by holding them longer than they are legally entitled to and leaving the state open to unnecessary costs as a result of these scenarios. The expression 'truth in sentencing' to many people means most prisoners should serve most of their sentences. The term is viewed as an attempt to satisfy a society's sense that serious wrongdoing deserves a penalty determined by a court.

If time has been served on remand awaiting court hearings prisoners can leave court straight after their sentence. There has been considerable media reporting of magistrates and judges facing backlogs of cases due to an increase in crime and a shortage of appointed judiciary. Add to that the findings of Auditor-General's report No. 14 that I mentioned earlier about data errors in police crime figures and people can see what a mess Labor, with their turn a blind eye approach, have made of law and order issues.

Currently, there are three parole boards in Queensland—the Queensland Parole Board and two regional parole boards. The Queensland Parole Board decides applications for parole from prisoners sentenced to a period of imprisonment of eight or more years or who have been declared to be convicted of a serious violent offence. The Central and Northern Queensland Regional Parole Board and the Southern Queensland Regional Parole Board decide applications for parole orders from all other prisoners. The bill proposes to replace Queensland's three parole boards with a single board responsible for all decision-making with regard to parole in Queensland—the Parole Board Queensland, which will be based in Brisbane.

Sofronoff acknowledges a massive proportion of prisoners suffer from mental illnesses and are addicted to substances. He says there are no known substitution programs for methylamphetamine users as opposed to opiate users, but even if there were the number available is woefully inadequate. What programs are on offer are frequently full and prisoners have to go onto waiting lists which makes it impossible to satisfy parole conditions that stimulate completion of these programs.

Mr Sofronoff places the blame of failing to provide money for these programs at the feet of successive governments. It is worthwhile remembering that Labor has been in power for 16 of the past 19 years in Queensland. It is also worth noting that recommendations 17 to 31 are for rehab programs and drug misuse programs but are not included in this bill.

Sofronoff found various anomalies, particularly where relevant legislation is found in several different acts and deals with specific problems where some of the provisions actually worked against each other. Also when a prisoner makes written application for parole the prisoner must face a panel of Corrective Services officers. It was found some lacked specific qualifications and there was inadequate preparation time for panel members.

The analysis of a commonly used risk of reoffending screening tool, which consists of four to six items to be answered and then a numerical score is collated, was deemed inappropriate for what it was meant to achieve. The creators of the tool—two academics from Griffith University—make it clear in the manual that the tool is not intended to be used to assess offenders for the purpose of parole eligibility or assessments of dangerousness. Rather it is intended to be used only to determine which prisoners should be subjected to a higher level of services. Sofronoff cites this misunderstanding of data to be a grave defect in the current system.

Victoria's parole model was developed from reforms in 2013 and has seen benefits such as a heightened sense of professionalism amongst officers and also a greater sense of job satisfaction which makes for better outcomes all round. Understaffing and very high workloads were given as further deficiencies in the current system. In Queensland an officer could have 100 case loads whereas in Victoria the number would be 10 to 15 if managing serious offenders or 25 to 35 if managing less serious offenders. That is a gross anomaly.

I note the shadow minister's intention to move an amendment in relation to the LNP policy of no-body no-parole and also recommendation 87 in the Sofronoff report. Now is not the time to be dithering, and yet that is what Labor is doing by omitting this important recommendation. I urge honourable members on both sides and the crossbenchers to support the LNP's amendment which is supported by the Sofronoff report and countless victims who are suffering unnecessary and added torment in not knowing where the deceased person's body lies. The Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group in their submission supported the no-body no-parole policy.

I am genuinely troubled by the amount of crime that we are witnessing on the Gold Coast, where I have lived for 30 years. The frequency and severity of many of them are deeply worrying. In just 12 months 798 people in Queensland have been charged with the relatively new offence of non-fatal strangulation. That is 66 acts of potentially deadly attacks perpetrated every month, and that is just the ones that we hear about. Honourable members, we are well overdue for an overhaul of Queensland's parole system and diversity of members on the new board.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (3.35 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. I start by thanking my fellow committee members, the committee secretariat, Hansard and all of those who gave evidence during the committee process. I would also like to congratulate the minister on his new addition—his newborn. It is good to have a colleague go through the experience of fatherhood at the same time. We can bounce ideas on what to do off each other. I look forward to our exchanges.

This bill stems from Walter Sofronoff QC's final report entitled *Queensland Parole System Review* delivered to the government in November 2016. The main purpose of the bill is to replace the existing three parole boards with a new professional and well-resourced Parole Board. This was supported by those who gave evidence during the committee process. The Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence stated—

One single modernised Parole Board in Queensland will be more efficient, will provide more consistency and has the potential to lower risk to the community and enhance community safety.

The leadership of the Parole Board will comprise a full-time president and at least one full-time deputy president. The president must be a former judge of a state court, the High Court or a court constituted under a Commonwealth act or have qualifications, experience or standing the Governor in Council considers equivalent to an office mentioned above. Each deputy president must be a former judge of a state court, the High Court or a court constituted under a Commonwealth act, be a former magistrate or have qualifications, experience or standing the Governor in Council considers equivalent to an office mentioned above. In addition to the president and at least one deputy president, the board would comprise: at least two professional members with qualifications relevant to the Parole Board's functions; at least one police officer to be nominated by the commissioner; at least one public service officer, nominated by the chief executive officer of Queensland Corrective Services, with expertise or experience in probation and parole matters; and community board members.

Much has been stated about the make-up of the board members, particularly with regard to the evidence we were given around having representatives of those with a disability, those who suffer from mental health issues and those from rural and remote communities. I note the department's response. I have every confidence in the minister when those appointments come about to take those issues into consideration.

I now want to highlight how the bill distinguishes between the meetings held for prescribed prisoners and the meetings held for all other prisoners. I want to go to the points that were raised during the committee process by the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence. They supported the proposed board's composition for prescribed prisoners 'as serious and violent offenders and serious sexual offenders pose the most serious risk to the community'. They also suggested that strangulation should be a serious violent offence, stating that it is 'one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence' and may be an 'attempted homicide' as well as a serious assault. They submitted that 'non-fatal strangulation is an important risk factor for homicide of women' and that 'research shows that women who have been strangled' by their partners are 'over seven times more likely to be killed by their partner than those who have not been strangled'. I am glad to see that today the minister is going to make those amendments to the bill in consideration in detail. I commend him for that effort.

Finally, I want to touch on the community groups who work in the area of drug rehabilitation. They are normally labelled as halfway houses in general. During the hearing I asked Mr Potts about local politicians taking the easy route of running 'not in my backyard' fear campaigns in relation to these halfway houses and services, particularly in regard to drug rehabilitation. They do tremendous work. They ensure that offenders do not re-offend and that they have somewhere to go to gain support. We do not want to see offenders coming back on to our streets and committing crimes to supply their addiction. We actually want them to be treated. It is disappointing to see campaigns being run that bring about fear in the community about these organisations. I asked Mr Potts—

I refer to campaigns by local politicians to drive these services from local areas. You talked about it being hard enough to find funding for them. Are you supportive of those fear campaigns?

Mr Potts replied—

I am not and I will explain why. I understand the 'not in my backyard' type of thing. I have a care facility two doors down from where I live and quite often demented people walk into my front yard, but we live in a community and a community means that you cannot isolate or inoculate one community from the whole effort of the whole community. I understand how people might think, 'I don't want a drug rehab next door,' but much of that is visceral fear rather than the reality of it.

I conclude on that note. There are important steps that we need to take as a government. I know the minister is working hard on ensuring that we are also delivering drug rehabilitation before people exit our prison systems. I commend him for that effort. I also commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (3.43 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. There is no question that the Queensland parole system is in need of review and change. As a former member of the northern regional parole board, I know firsthand the challenges facing our parole boards across Queensland. Before I go any further, I want to pay tribute to Peter McInnes. Peter was largely responsible for me becoming a parole board member and was an invaluable source of support and advice to me throughout my tenure on the board. He was certainly passionate about his role and had a genuine interest in the parole system. He will be sorely missed.

The Sofronoff review of Queensland's parole system, tabled on 1 December 2016, contains a number of significant recommendations for reform of Queensland's parole system. I note that the review recommendations relate to nine broad categories: legislative framework and sentencing; assessment and management of offenders; rehabilitation, mental health and substance misuse treatment; re-entry services; the Parole Board; management of offenders in the community; victims; independent prison and parole inspectorates; and technology and infrastructure. Queenslanders need to have faith and confidence in the parole system. They need to know that their safety is not being compromised by the incorrect or early release of prisoners on parole and that when prisoners are being released on parole appropriate conditions are imposed upon them.

There is a substantial workload associated with being a member of a parole board. It is a complex and difficult job. I know I spent many hours reading parole applications and the workload during my time on the Parole Board escalated to the extent that it was becoming almost a weekly meeting. The creation of a single parole board in Queensland with a number of full-time members makes practical sense, and there is a need to ensure that sufficient numbers of community members are appointed to share the workload and prevent members from being burnt out.

My background as a police officer certainly stood me in good stead as a parole board member. Knowledge of law, probation and parole is a complex issue and I concur with recommendation 44 that a police officer be appointed to the new Parole Board. I also support diversity in membership including gender balance and the need for representation from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

There is an enormous workload associated with undertaking parole board duties and a dedicated secretariat appropriately resourced is imperative for the effective operation of a parole board. I saw the workload of the secretariat in Townsville—it was extraordinary—and the hours that they worked in order to adequately service the parole board in that location. That is an important avenue going forward—that they are appropriately resourced and staffed. Given that some files I read were in excess of 400 pages, there is a need for an efficient system to be put in place that allows parole board members to familiarise themselves with the prisoner's history and behaviour whilst in prison in a timely manner.

There is widespread community concern about prisoners released on parole and there are unfortunately numerous examples of prisoners who have been released on parole who have gone on to commit further offences. I fully support recommendation 60 of the review which identifies the application of GPS monitoring of parole offenders in appropriate circumstances. The residents of our communities need to have confidence that paroled offenders are being appropriately supervised and monitored and, if necessary, returned to prison if they breach their conditions.

I turn to the amendment already foreshadowed by the member for Everton and that is no-body no-parole. I fully support this amendment. I am sure that the overwhelming majority of Queenslanders would support this amendment as well. I note that this is a recommendation of the final report, and it perplexes me that it is not incorporated into the bill before the House. It is bad enough that someone should be killed, but it is completely unacceptable for a prisoner to be considered for parole when they have not disclosed the location of the deceased person. The deceased person's family not only have to live with the loss of a loved one but also have to live with the fact that they are unable to conduct a proper funeral to give them closure. There is no question in my mind that prisoners imprisoned for the offences of murder and manslaughter should not be considered for parole if they have failed to disclose the location of the body and satisfactorily cooperated in the investigation of the offence.

The assessment and management of prisoners, rehabilitation and the management of offenders in the community are complex issues. We need a professional and appropriately resourced parole board to undertake this important role. The establishment of a centralised, independent and transparent parole board will give Queenslanders the certainty they need that our prisoners are being managed in an appropriate manner.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (3.48 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. I want to firstly thank the minister for introducing this bill and the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its consideration of the bill. I also want to thank those individuals and organisations who lodged written submissions. The primary objective of the bill is to amend the Corrective Services Act 2006 to establish the Parole Board Queensland. The bill also proposes to make technical and clarifying amendments to the act to facilitate the electronic monitoring of people released on court ordered or board ordered parole.

This bill follows the Queensland parole system review by Mr Walter Sofronoff QC following the tragic death of Ms Elizabeth 'Beth' Kippin in Townsville in July 2016. To ensure the effective operation of Queensland's parole system, the parole review was focused on the effectiveness of the Parole Board's current operations. The review report provides a comprehensive blueprint for reform, and this bill focuses on two core areas of reform recommended in the report—reform of the Queensland Parole Board system and expansion of QPS monitoring of parolees. The Palaszczuk government is committed to a corrective services system that delivers community safety and crime prevention now and into the future. In response, this is a bill that ensures the fundamental integrity of Queensland's corrective services system.

One of the major reforms of this bill is the transition from the current three parole boards in Queensland to a single board responsible for all decision-making regarding parole in Queensland, the Parole Board Queensland. The review report found systemic inefficiencies in the current operation of the three existing parole boards and that the current parole system in Queensland can be substantially improved. Board decision-making appeared to be unstructured and not always approached by the whole board on an informed basis.

The bill achieves the objectives of securing community safety and crime prevention through the establishment of one centralised, independent and professional Parole Board together with significant changes to the membership and structure as compared to the existing parole boards and their

operation. Included in the bill are the necessary arrangements to ensure the smooth transition from the current parole board process to the new one. These arrangements will ensure that community safety is not compromised throughout this transitional period.

In its submissions, the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence stated that a single modernised parole board in Queensland would be more efficient, will provide more consistency and has the potential to lower risk to the community and enhance community safety. The bill also provides that the membership of Parole Board Queensland will include at least one police representative nominated by the Commissioner of Police as well as at least one Public Service representative nominated by the chief executive who has expertise or experience in probation and parole matters. Additionally, the Queensland community will be represented in the form of a community board. The bill also ensures appropriate representation of Aboriginal people or Torres Strait Islanders and for balanced gender representation in the membership of the new board.

The bill also makes a clarifying amendment to the Corrective Services Act to ensure that Corrective Services officers are able to monitor parolees by electronic devices. The act gives the chief executive the power to require an offender to wear a device to monitor the offender's location if the chief executive considers it reasonably necessary. Parolees are one group the act considers may be required to wear such a device.

The bill clarifies that when a person is granted parole whether by a court or the Parole Board Queensland a condition may be imposed requiring a prisoner to comply with and abide by any monitoring directions given by a Corrective Services officer. These monitoring directions may include a direction that the person remain at a stated place for stated periods or wear a stated device—for example, this could include a GPS tracking device or permit the installation of any device or equipment at the place where the released prisoner resides or comply with any reasonable directions that are necessary for the proper administration of any other direction given by the Corrective Services officer. GPS tracking devices could be used to enforce and monitor curfew requirements.

Taken in the context of the bill as a whole, which establishes a new full-time and highly professional parole board, these monitoring directions add another layer of safety to protect the community. The Parole Board will consider all aspects of a person's parole application and will, if satisfied, grant parole with the conditions it considers appropriate. The monitoring directions provide the power for Corrective Services to more closely manage and monitor a person's behaviour while on parole. This additional layer of oversight is designed to allow the Corrective Services officer to manage the risk associated with the prisoner's integration back into the community and reduce their risk while they are under supervision.

In conclusion, this bill is a response to the tragic death of Beth Kippin, whom I am sure we will all keep in our hearts and our minds. It implements a more efficient parole board and structures that will enhance community safety now and into the future. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (3.54 pm): I rise today to make a short contribution to the Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. The review of parole boards that ultimately recommended these changes was initiated because of the callous killing of an 81-year-old grandmother by a man who had just been released on parole. These changes create a more professional and streamlined parole board system and ultimately create a safer Queensland.

The main objective of the bill is to amend the Corrective Services Act 2006 to establish the Parole Board Queensland and to make amendments to the same act regarding electronic monitoring of persons released on parole. It is the responsibility of all of us here today as elected officials to ensure the safety of our communities. It is something that I have worked tirelessly to do in the Gaven electorate, continually calling on the Palaszczuk government to increase police numbers in the northern Gold Coast. While significant and constant pressure by the member for Albert, the member for Coomera and me saw 20 RAP squad officers moved to the Coomera station, our calls have clearly fallen on deaf ears with only bandaid measures put in place by Labor to date. I will continue to support the Gaven community in their want to see more police on the beat to maintain our community's safety including attending community rallies, as I recently did to address hooning in Carrara.

For a community to truly feel safe and secure, it must also have faith in its legal system and that extends to parole boards. The electronic monitoring of offenders—recommendation 60—based on assessed risk would give people the peace of mind that they deserve and contribute to a decrease in reoffending. This cannot, however, be just another way for this Labor government to go soft on crime as they have time and time again.

A leaked report from Townsville discussed the possibility of transitioning 17-year-olds into youth detention by releasing other detainees. That is right: this Labor government is considering just releasing youth detainees onto the street. These changes are strongly correlated with LNP policy that existed prior to this report—namely, that of no-body no-parole. This tips the scales back in favour of victims and victims' families. Under no-body no-parole, the Parole Board must be satisfied that the offender has cooperated with the investigation and has assisted in identifying where the remains of the victim are. This policy would apply to those about to be released after having been convicted of murder or manslaughter.

This LNP policy would put Queensland in line with South Australia and with most other Australian states also considering these laws. It is time to put Queensland first, not to play catch-up with the rest of the country as has been the case under this Palaszczuk Labor government. An LNP government whose focus would be on improving community safety for everyone would create a safer Queensland, and that is something everybody wants.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (3.57 pm): I doubt if anyone living in Townsville will ever forget that fateful day on Wednesday, 27 July 2016 when Townsville police discovered the tragedy that was the murder of beloved mother, grandmother and aunty Beth Kippin. Beth was murdered by a man who had only just been released from Stuart prison that same day. From that tragedy has come the changes to the parole system that we have with us today and that we debate in this House.

While it will never console the Kippin family for the loss of their matriarch, it will, however, forever change the way parole is managed across Queensland. This bill focuses on two core areas of reform recommended in the report—reform to the Queensland parole board system and expansion of GPS monitoring to parolees. The report from Mr Sofronoff found that there were deficiencies across the system in the operation of three existing parole boards in Queensland. Mr Sofronoff observed that material provided to the parole boards in advance of meetings was typically voluminous, unstructured, unindexed and compiled without careful consideration as to what information was necessary for the board in making its decisions. The report concluded that the present parole system in Queensland can be substantially improved.

Mr Sofronoff recommended that, to ensure the safety of the community and the proper and efficient operation of the parole system in Queensland, the Parole Board must be modernised and professionalised. To achieve this end, three parole boards must become one and have a consistent parole approach across the state. It would be an independent entity and be able to conduct its business as it sees appropriate.

Perhaps one of those more appealing aspects of the bill is the opportunity for those on parole to be fitted with GPS tracking bracelets in those circumstances where it may be deemed necessary. From Mr Sofronoff's review, recommendation 60 of the parole review report proposed that Queensland Corrective Services develop GPS tracking capabilities so that it is possible for the Parole Board Queensland to require GPS tracking and monitoring in appropriate circumstances on assessed risk of each parolee. Consistent with this recommendation, the bill makes a technical and clarifying amendment to the act to ensure QCS officers can monitor parolees via electronic devices.

Had Beth Kippin's murderer been wearing a GPS tracking device when he had been released from prison, would police have been able to intervene and prevent the most horrific of situations? We will never know. What we do know is that the amendment of this legislation may prevent future atrocities similar to Beth's. The use of GPS tracking bracelets is not new and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General noted in that response to the committee that GPS monitoring is already used in Queensland Corrective Services as part of a range of case management options to reduce the likelihood of reoffending including programs to reintegrate offenders, programs to address offending behaviour, supervision and substance testing.

In their submission to the committee, the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group also considered that victims of crime should be alerted when the perpetrator of that crime is about to be released on parole wearing a GPS device 'for the simple fact that it then allows the person to protect themselves if that is deemed necessary'. They also said—

... in those cases where the families know and have a very real fear that they are in danger, giving them the opportunity to respond to that and to remove themselves from the situation, a warning, just time—even an hour or 24 hours sometimes is enough—to remove yourself from the vicinity of the perpetrator.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Kippin family: Beth's son, Wayne Kippin, and daughter, Terrie Ward, and their families as well as prominent Townsville business community member and nephew Dave Kippin. My heartfelt prayers go out to each and every one of you. I could never imagine what they went through following Beth's murder at the hands of the beast, but know this: Beth's life touched many and made many people's lives better. Today her life will change Queensland's history for the better. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.01 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. We on this side of the House know we have to keep victims safe when it comes to offenders being released on parole. This is especially the case when it comes to offenders who have been convicted of crimes related to domestic violence. That is why earlier this year we successfully passed parole reforms to tell domestic violence victims about the potential parole and release of their perpetrators. This was historic legislation that will help keep victims of domestic violence safe and reduce the risk of reoffending.

Of course, the LNP's commitment to balancing the scales of justice does not stop there. We will be introducing amendments to this bill to further amend parole laws and implement our no-body no-parole policy because we must rebalance the scales of justice in favour of victims trying to find closure in the tragic circumstances of losing a loved one. Our laws will apply to those convicted of murder and manslaughter where the body is not located, but of course these changes are not just supported by the LNP.

In February 2017 the Sofronoff review recommended these changes for Queensland but, in typical Labor style, we have seen these recommendations sitting on ministers' desks since that time with no action taken to implement these recommendations. Why has this government failed to act? It is because Labor is soft on crime. It knows that an independent review recommended this important reform, but it is so ideologically conflicted by its preference for leniency that it has chosen to sit idly by and do nothing about it. Our policy will bring us into line with all other states actively considering no-body no-parole laws including Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales because while Labor dithers, the LNP delivers. Under an LNP government, Queenslanders and victims of domestic violence will be safer. We will improve community safety by reducing crime and, importantly, unlike those opposite, we will support victims of crime.

As we consider legislation which complements our earlier laws protecting victims of domestic and family violence, we should also remember that this month is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month. This is a very important initiative which aims to raise awareness in communities across this state about the importance of stamping out domestic and family violence in all its forms. This of course is an issue which is very near and dear to my heart. I have spoken a number of times in this House about my own experience with domestic and family violence. I have spoken about how this insidious crime stopped me and my sisters from having a normal childhood. I have spoken about how I was so often scared in my own home and how I was beaten by someone who was supposed to be protecting me and how I tried unsuccessfully to stop my mother from being beaten. Sadly, this is a story shared and understood by far too many Queenslanders.

Whilst all of us in this House can recognise that Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month is a very important initiative, it is important that we all remember that it is every day of every month that we should be working to stop domestic violence. In this House we should reflect on the fact that in 2016 alone some 18 women, children and men lost their lives to domestic violence here in Queensland. That is a quarter of all domestic violence deaths in Australia. This is not a record we should be proud of. It shows we have a long way to go to stop domestic violence. More than ever, we must recognise that no matter where people come from, no matter what their job or their socioeconomic status, domestic and family violence affects all walks of life.

This month also marks a year since I was tasked by the Leader of the Opposition with taking on this very important portfolio. I am encouraged by the work we have done in this space in just 12 short months which will make a real difference to so many women, children and men who may face DV in the future. As I mentioned, earlier this year the parliament passed tough new domestic violence laws introduced by the opposition. These laws give extra protection to victims and their families. Despite these important wins, the battle against domestic violence is far from over. In fact, in the last fortnight we heard of another alleged domestic violence related homicide. I am glad that the new laws that we brought in a few months ago will hopefully assist and stop further domestic violence deaths.

In the case of young Shelsea Schilling on the Gold Coast, if her family had been notified that her former partner was out on parole Shelsea may still be here. In Tara Brown's case, if GPS tracking had been in place, maybe Tara would still be here as well. On the Gold Coast alone more than 10 per cent of DVO breaches are committed by serial offenders who have breached their orders at least five times in the previous five years. There is currently a 7½-month wait to get a hearing at the Southport DV court. Police on the Gold Coast are telling local members and anyone who will listen that DV is their single biggest issue. Sadly, all we have seen from this Palaszczuk Labor government is lots of talk but no action.

Just last week we saw the embattled minister penning a letter to the *Townsville Bulletin* claiming credit for changes introduced by the LNP and trying to rewrite history. Unfortunately for the minister, *Hansard* shows that Labor actually voted against certain changes, including parole notification changes put forward by the LNP. Whilst Labor was voting no five times to the LNP's bill there were mothers up in the gallery sobbing each time they voted no. We all remember that the parliamentary committee report which analysed the bill actually showed that Labor opposed the whole bill.

The sad truth is that the minister's letter was a shameful distraction from her inability to implement the 140 recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report in the two years and three months she has been in office. In fact, just 40 of the recommendations—less than a third of the total—have been implemented. Rather than trying to rewrite history and spread completely misleading statements throughout the media, the minister would do well to spend her time fast-tracking reforms to better protect domestic violence victims and their families. Is it any wonder that people have had a gutful of politicians who are all talk and no action? Queensland is stagnating, the community is crying out for leadership and we have a government stuck in neutral when it comes to domestic and family violence. Thankfully, from opposition we have passed laws that will make a real difference. I am very proud of the reforms we have passed because I know firsthand what a difference they will make.

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (4.08 pm): I rise in the House to commend the bill before us. During my time in this parliament I have learnt that delivering justice and reform in the area of combating family and domestic violence is very complex. One of the things I have learnt is that we need bipartisanship. It is incumbent on this parliament to work in a bipartisan manner to deliver reform in this area. Combating violent crime is complex and we do need a complex suite of solutions. I am convinced that this bill is part of that. We have already done so much to combat family and domestic violence in implementing the *Not now, not ever* report and its findings. This is an important part in that overall push to deliver reform in that area.

I want to congratulate the minister on the job he has done on this. I think this is the first second reading debate he has had for one of his bills, so I say congratulations on that. I would also like to congratulate both the member for Capalaba and the minister on the birth of their sons.

Debate, on motion of Mr Whiting, adjourned.

WATER LEGISLATION (DAM SAFETY) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 30 November 2016 (see p. 4704).

Second Reading

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (4.09 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Public Works and Utilities Committee for its thorough consideration of the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016. In particular I thank the chair of the committee, the member for Kallangur, Shane King, and all committee members for their work on the inquiry. I also thank committee staff. It is also important to acknowledge the contributions made by the nine organisations which made submissions to the committee during its examination of the bill.

The committee made five recommendations, the first of which is that the bill be passed. The committee recommended that the bill be amended to clarify specific requirements relating to emergency action plans and newly defined terms such as 'dam hazard event' and 'emergency event' as well as particular terms such as 'unacceptable risk' used in reference to new powers for dam owners to reduce the full-supply level of dams for safety reasons. It is also recommended that a no-compensation provision be included in relation to the exercise of these new powers under section 399B of the Water

Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 to protect dam owners from claims for compensation from water users or other third parties where they lower the level of a dam for safety reasons. I will move amendments to address those recommendations during consideration in detail of the bill. The committee's second recommendation states—

The committee recommends the Minister clarify in his second reading speech if the Department of Energy and Water Supply, as the approval agency for Emergency Action Plans, in fact indemnifies local governments and/or local disaster management groups, as referral agencies, from liability.

I note that in his statement of reservation the member for Southport and deputy chair raised a concern about potential unintended consequences of these amendments which he suggested may inadvertently move some of the burden of liability onto local government authorities and local disaster management groups. I can today confirm that there is certainly no intention to do this. Further, I understand the member's concern is about ensuring that local governments can give advice on a dam owner's emergency action plan without any potential for being held liable 'in the event of a catastrophic or significant dam failure'. In the first instance, dam owners are civilly liable for the safe management and operation of their dams. I reiterate the advice provided to the committee, which is that there is no transfer of liability to disaster management groups or local governments under the amendments. I am advised that no issue of liability could arise merely from an obligation to review and give advice on the consistency of the dam owner's emergency management plan with the disaster management plan for the area.

In terms of responsibilities between the two groups, however—that is, between local governments and disaster groups—the disaster management groups have less responsibility under the amendments than they currently do. The amended process moves the responsibility for reviewing emergency action plans from the chairperson of the local or district disaster management group to the relevant local government for the plan and makes it mandatory rather than optional for the local government to provide advice. This change reflects the Inspector-General Emergency Management's findings that very few emergency action plans to date have been reviewed by local or district disaster management groups and have therefore been approved without the benefit of their input. The intent of these provisions is to provide better collaboration between dam owners and disaster management groups and improve integration of dam safety into the all-hazards emergency management framework. Assessment and approval of the emergency action plan still resides with the dam safety regulator: the chief executive of the Department of Energy and Water Supply. I now table the government's response to the committee report.

Tabled paper: Public Works and Utilities Committee: Report No. 35, 55th Parliament—Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016, government response [\[667\]](#).

I will now outline the key elements of the bill. The bill clarifies the responsibility of dam owners to warn the public during dam related emergencies and simplifies how low-risk dams will be regulated. This bill is part of the government's response to the Inspector-General Emergency Management's review of flood release communications and warnings issued by SunWater and Seqwater during the two severe weather events in early 2015: Tropical Cyclone Marcia and the 1 May rain deluge. I asked the Inspector-General to undertake that review in 2015 because as portfolio minister I recognised shortcomings in how both entities communicated with the community during those events. The Inspector-General Emergency Management Review found that the community expects they will be notified as soon as possible when issues emerge and not merely notified that water is to be released from a dam. The community also expects that they will be warned about the likely impact of dam releases and how they should respond. While recognising that dam operations are only part of the picture of any flood event, the Inspector-General recommended that the government review the legislative provisions and guidelines for emergency planning to enhance effective communications. This was one of eight recommendations and 30 findings in the Inspector-General Emergency Management's 146-page report.

The government has put in place a range of operational improvements in the capabilities and operations of the Department of Energy and Water Supply, SunWater and Seqwater over the last two years as immediate responses to other recommendations in the Inspector-General's report. The department has incident management expertise and works with dam owners and disaster management groups to help both understand their roles and responsibilities. Seqwater and SunWater have already made substantial improvements in how they deliver notifications and warnings to the community and in how they engage with disaster management groups and emergency management agencies.

I want to express here my sympathy for all Queenslanders who were affected by destructive Tropical Cyclone Debbie and the subsequent rain depression that caused widespread flooding from North Queensland to the south-east of our state and indeed into northern New South Wales. I also want to acknowledge the work of both SunWater and Seqwater during this emergency event, which was extremely challenging for them and the state emergency management system to respond to. I recognise that some residents in the community of Eton, south of Mackay, feel that releases from Kinchant Dam during the flood event caused flooding or aggravated flooding downstream of the dam. I visited the area soon after with the member for Mirani and listened to local concerns.

Many residents consider that the warning messages were inadequate and ineffective. That is why I have asked the Chief Scientist to undertake an independent assessment of the severe flooding experienced by communities on the Sandy Creek flood plain south-west of Mackay during Tropical Cyclone Debbie in March of this year to make sure that everything that could have been done was done. The assessment will investigate both the hydrology of the flood and communications by agencies during the flood event. I have expressly asked Professor Miller to ensure that the community is consulted and given an opportunity to relay their experiences of the flood. The Chief Scientist's final report is due on 30 June 2017, and I look forward to receiving her findings.

Many Queenslanders are affected by disasters, and we must continue to learn from each event and improve our response and our practices. I note the Inspector-General Emergency Management has also been tasked with undertaking a review of the effectiveness of Queensland's disaster management system in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Should either of these reviews suggest that further improvements to our dam safety arrangements would be prudent, they will of course be considered.

The bill clarifies that dam owners are responsible for warning people who are at risk or whose property is at risk from water spilling or being released from a dam during a flood, as well as if there is a risk that the dam may fail. This goes beyond the current requirement to just notify people about releases. The bill also makes it clearer that emergency action plans are to provide an agreed framework for responding to dam related events and integrating dam owner activities into existing disaster management arrangements in their area. Dam owners, disaster management groups and local governments must all work together to identify hazards and develop coordinated responses if those hazards arise.

The bill improves the approval processes for emergency action plans by requiring local government consideration of the plans and by introducing time frames for the department's approval process to provide certainty to dam owners and other stakeholders about the status of plans.

The bill makes several other administrative improvements which are not directly related to the Inspector-General's review. The first of those is to better focus the dam safety regulatory framework on public safety issues and reduce regulatory overlap for dams that pose only a limited risk to people who live or work at the same place as the dam. These circumstances are covered by existing protections under work health and safety frameworks. This change may result in a number of dams which are currently referable, meaning regulated under the dam safety framework, no longer being covered by the regulations under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008.

It is important to remember that dam failure is rare and that the risks posed by dams at a workplace or on farms can be very small compared to other occupational risks. In these cases, the government recognises that there are more significant risks that need to be managed and that the focus should be on managing those risks.

The bill also provides relief for owners of dams which are not currently referable but which might be identified as posing a potential risk to two or more people if the dam were to fail. At the moment, the chief executive of the department can require a dam owner to have an assessment undertaken of the impact of their dam failing if the chief executive believes that the dam would pose a risk to two or more people were it to fail. In these circumstances the dam owner has no choice and must engage an engineer to undertake a failure impact assessment, which can be costly. This bill provides an option for those dam owners to accept the chief executive's assessment and hence avoid the costs of a failure impact assessment. However, it does not affect their existing right to commission their own independent assessment and to give that to the chief executive for approval. If the assessment is of a sufficient standard, the chief executive would accept the findings as to whether the dam would have a population at risk if it were to fail.

The bill will also provide dam owners with appropriate powers to manage the safety of their dams and, as a consequence, the safety of downstream communities. Currently, dam owners would need to negotiate with regulators before deciding to lower the level of a dam below the full-supply level and consider the implications of this on water security. There have been a number of instances where dam owners have raised short-term safety concerns with their dam operating at the full-supply level. The bill provides an express head of power for dam owners to reduce the full-supply level of their dam where, based on the advice of a registered professional engineer, there is an unacceptable risk of a dam failure if the dam operates at the full-supply level. This new power will enable the dam owner to take decisive and effective action to address short-term safety risks without the need to balance safety concerns against water security.

However, a number of submissions to the committee raised issues with the potential of these powers to expose dam owners to liability risks and claims for compensation from third parties. The committee recommended that the bill be amended to clarify the terms 'unacceptable risk' and 'acceptable risk' by reference to the Queensland dam safety guidelines and that a no-compensation clause be added for new section 399B inserted by the bill. The Queensland guidelines on acceptable flood capacity provide guidance on tolerable risks and include upgrade schedules for completion of necessary works by 2035 in order to reduce long-term risks such as spillway inadequacy below tolerable risk levels. Long-term risks above the tolerable risk limits are considered acceptable if they satisfy these schedules.

Short-term risks arising from emergent circumstances such as embankment instabilities or concentrated leaks are not considered to be acceptable long-term risks and need to be investigated and addressed in much shorter time frames. My department will amend the dam safety guidelines to clarify that these shorter term risks are outside the limits of acceptable risk and should be addressed independently of scheduled upgrades. Providing clarity on what constitutes an unacceptable risk within the Queensland guidelines on acceptable flood capacity will also ensure dam owners are not applying different industry standards or interpretations when exercising these new powers to reduce dam levels. As I foreshadowed, I will be moving amendments during consideration in detail to address these issues.

The bill also streamlines the process the minister must follow to declare a temporary full-supply level for a prescribed flood mitigation dam, which currently only includes Wivenhoe, North Pine and Somerset dams. Finally, the bill gives dam and weir owners the power to erect warning signs on public land downstream of the infrastructure in response to a recommendation of the coronial inquest into the tragic death of Nelani Koefer. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.25 pm): I rise to address the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016. The LNP will not be opposing the passage of this bill; however, we do have some concerns, which I will raise during my contribution to the debate.

The Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016, as introduced on 13 September 2016, amends the Water Act 2000 and the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008. The bill aims to improve the integration of dam safety and disaster management; improve the way dam owners manage dam safety; and simplify process and reduce regulatory burden.

A referable dam is a water supply dam that would put more than two persons at risk if it were to fail, as determined by a failure impact assessment. The Department of Energy and Water Supply advised the committee that currently there are 106 referable dams in Queensland owned by a range of different entities. SunWater owns 22, Seqwater owns 26, DEWS owns three, water boards own two, local governments own 32 and other GOCs including electricity companies own six. The remainder are privately owned dams including eight mining company dams and four dams owned by primary producers.

In 2012 the LNP amended the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008, the water supply act, to implement recommendations of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry relating to dam safety and flood mitigation issues. The changes included amending the Water Act 2000 to relocate provisions for declaring temporary full-supply levels for flood mitigation dams to the water supply act and amending the water supply act to change the criteria determining which dams must carry out failure impact assessments; extend the due date for when certain low-risk recycled water systems must have an approved recycled water management plan or exemption from a plan in place; and provide exemptions for small, non-urban water service providers from certain planning and reporting requirements. Training workshops were also provided to the public about dam safety emergency action plans.

The 2012 amendments required all dam owners to have an emergency action plan for their dams approved by the Department of Energy and Water Supply and to enable the chairs of local disaster management groups to review those emergency plans. These provisions were largely untested until two events in 2015: the flooding of Callide Creek in February 2015 during Tropical Cyclone Marcia and releases from Wivenhoe Dam into the Brisbane River in May 2015. Both of these events gave rise to criticism from downstream residents and local disaster management groups. These events and SunWater's and Seqwater's flood release notification and communication processes were reviewed by the Inspector-General Emergency Management, who subsequently made a number of recommendations to improve the warning for communities, improve emergency planning for dams and better integrate dam safety disaster management.

This bill will make a number of changes. The bill requires the owner of a referable dam to have an approved emergency management plan for the dam. The expanded requirements of an emergency management plan are that it should minimise risk of harm to persons and property if a dam hazard event or an emergency event happens. Additionally, the plan must contain the agreed arrangements for warnings and notifications.

The emergency management plan will no longer be reviewed by the chairperson of the relevant disaster management district but will be provided to the relevant local government and the relevant disaster management district. Local governments and chairpersons of the relevant disaster management district must give the dam owner a notice within 30 days after receiving the emergency action plan. The plan must then be provided to the chief executive under the Water Act for assessment.

With regard to failure impact ratings for dams, the new definition for population at risk excludes a resident on a parcel of land on which the dam is situated and a person at a workplace if the dam is situated at a workplace. The government advises that this change should restrict the number of referable dams that are in place. With regard to changes to the temporary supply level for a flood mitigation dam, the bill provides a streamlined process for the minister to make a temporary full-supply level for a flood mitigation dam. However, that criteria has not changed. The flood mitigation dams are currently Wivenhoe Dam, Somerset Dam and North Pine Dam.

The bill also provides for warning signs on public land in that the bill provides the power for dam owners who are registered as service providers to place warning signs on public land in appropriate areas immediately downstream of weirs and dams. The bill also gives dam owners an express power to reduce the full-supply level of their dam in response to emerging engineering issues before the situation becomes an emergency without contravening the resource operations licence conditions under the Water Act.

The bill was referred to the Public Works and Utilities Committee which made a number of recommendations, and I was pleased to hear from the minister during his contribution to the debate that there will be amendments moved to cover those recommendations. They are quite good amendments and the LNP will not have any issue with any of those particular amendments. However, I do have a couple of concerns that I will run through quickly and the minister may choose to respond to these at a later date.

Members of the LNP on the committee raised some concerns. One concern is that at the moment there are approximately 27,000 dams in Queensland and the department has identified 106 of those dams as referable. The committee was unable to ascertain from the department how many more dams were in need of further assessment. In his introductory speech on the bill, the minister advised that DEWS—

... had identified around 100 small dams which probably pose a risk but which are not currently regulated. Most of these only pose a risk on the same property, but around 40 may pose a risk to the general public and should be regulated.

DEWS provided further advice that it has used satellite imagery and modelling to determine those dams that might pose a risk and therefore be referable. As I said, with over 27,000 dams that have been assessed, about one-third of those were actually physically inspected. Out of the initial assessment, 312 dams were identified as worthy of more detailed modelling. While the modelling is still progressing, the number of dams the department considers may pose a risk to at least one household is 191. As members can see, this may be a slightly moving target. We are not 100 per cent sure how many dams will end up being referable.

Another concern that we have is that there has been no regulatory impact statement to assess the additional cost on farmers and other stakeholders and whether these costs are in fact less than the potential benefits of the reform. The government really does not know what will be the impact of

changes on these stakeholders. As the present bill currently stands, the impact assessment process requires the dam owner to have the dam failure impact assessed if the chief executive has formed a reasonable belief that a dam would have a population at risk and issued a notice. DEWS advised that in many instances, informing this reasonable belief, the department has undertaken a broadly similar assessment to that required in carrying out an actual failure impact assessment.

A failure impact assessment must be certified by a registered professional engineer and this can cost a dam owner between \$15,000 and \$30,000. There is a significant cost impost if a dam owner needs to have that assessment carried out. I am pleased that the amendments contained in this bill give the dam owner the opportunity to accept the department's suggestion that their dam might be a regulated dam and move on from there without incurring that \$15,000 or \$30,000 bill. If the dam owner decides that they do not agree with the department, they can of course go ahead and have that study carried out. There is some cost involved in that, as I have said.

There is one last issue that I want to raise. There is no mechanism in the bill for an incoming purchaser of a property that has a referable dam on it to know that they do have a referable dam. Therefore, there may be instances—and I say there may be instances—where somebody buys a property with a referable dam on it and they are not fully aware of their obligations and requirements. It would be advantageous if the government were to consider some process to be put in place to notify people that they do in fact have a referable dam on their property. As I said, the LNP will not be opposing this bill. I thank the committee for its consideration and the sensible recommendations that were made by the committee.

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (4.36 pm): I rise to support the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016, a bill that has as its objectives to improve the integration of dam safety and disaster management and improve the way dam owners manage dam safety, with a focus on simplifying processes and reducing regulatory burden. I note that it is stated in the explanatory notes that before the tragic Queensland floods in 2011 there was limited integration between dam safety emergency planning and the broader community with emergency management planning and that the planning focused primarily almost exclusively on hazards relating to the potential failure of dams.

In 2012 the water supply act was amended to require all dam owners to have an emergency action plan for their dams approved by the Department of Energy and Water Supply and to enable the chairs of local disaster management groups to review those emergency plans. This gave actions to some of the recommendations of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry and introduced the requirement for dam owners to notify the community about downstream release hazards such as gate or spillway releases. These provisions were largely untested until two events in 2015—Tropical Cyclone Marcia and releases from Wivenhoe Dam into the Brisbane River in May 2015. Both of these events saw further concerns from both downstream residents and local disaster management groups.

Arising from this, the honourable minister requested that the Inspector-General Emergency Management review SunWater and Seqwater's flood release notification and communication following community criticism of SunWater and Seqwater's flood releases on both those occasions. The Inspector-General's review of Seqwater and SunWater's warning communications made a number of recommendations that included improved warnings for the community, emergency planning for dams and better integration of dam safety and disaster management. The Public Works and Utilities Committee reviewed the bill and I want to thank the members on the committee for their work, as well as our hardworking secretariat staff and also the witnesses and submitters to the consultation and public hearing on 31 January.

This is a simple piece of legislation proposing to enhance the safety of people living downstream of a dam—which is what the community's expectation clearly was after these recent tragic events. It was disappointing to see the opposition members provide a statement of reservation over issues that I believe were clearly explained by the department, some several times. In my response today I want to specifically speak about the signage issue raised by those opposite. On one hand they were saying they were concerned about onerous demands on local government with respect to signage and on the other hand they are—I think—wanting us to put in place a raft of rules relating to signage placement, size and style—an expectation that would quite rightly leave the process open to excessive bureaucratic argy-bargy that delays the sign being in place and takes away the local knowledge of the area from both dam and landowners.

The answer is simple and well explained: let us ensure that the dam owner is the responsible one for entering, erecting and maintaining the sign in consultation with the landowner. In its reply to the question on notice asked by the committee about this concern, the department was very clear and, in my view, addressed well the issues that were raised unnecessarily by the dissenting report. In its response the department explained the following—

The intention is that the dam owner will be responsible for maintenance of the warning signs and not the land manager, which in many instances is likely to be a local government.

The provision is simply to overcome any potential delays in getting approval from the relevant land manager to enter land to erect warning signs. It wasn't considered necessary to expressly state in the entry power that the dam owner is responsible for maintenance of the sign.

However, this is the case. The department's answer continues—

While the power will facilitate timely action, it is expected that dam owners would consult with the land manager before proceeding to erect the signage.

I point out to those opposite that it is most important to note the following in the department's response—

This provision was agreed with the Local Government Association of Queensland as being preferable to a standard agreement or MOU between it and dam owners across Queensland but it also agrees that it should be clear that the dam owner is responsible for maintenance of signs.

As for concerns of ambiguity around type and sign size, again, the department's response is very clear in relation to prescriptive measures. It states—

There are no existing guidelines produced by the department, and the department was not proposing to develop guidelines.

...

It would not be appropriate to standardise requirements for warning signs, as each warning sign will need to take account of the particular location and type of dam or weir and contain an appropriate warning message for that site.

Most referable dam owners that are also registered service providers are large professional local government or State-owned organisations. These organisations, for example, Seqwater and SunWater, have significant knowledge and experience with the design of signs and manage warnings on land they own as many people visit their dams for recreational purposes.

Once again, this bill was designed purely to enhance safety by providing an authority for all dam owners to erect signs on public land to make sure that people are fully aware of the dangers to try to reduce the chances of any tragedy happening again. With those few words, I support the bill before the House.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.41 pm): I rise to speak to the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016. I want to say up-front that the LNP will not be opposing this legislation. The LNP members of the committee supported the underlying principles and intent of the amendments to improve the integration of dam safety and disaster management, to improve the way dam owners manage dam safety and to simplify the process and reduce regulatory burden.

I want to pick up on the comments of the chairman in regard to the signage conditions. The LNP members raised four or five issues. One of them was simply a question of the departmental officers— if they could be a little more prescriptive about the signage that is required. Across the state there are specific signage requirements—on our highways and on our major roads. We see signage around venues providing information. We see signage at parking areas. We also see signage on gas pipelines and water mains. The simple questions were as follows. If a referable dam presents as a hazard downstream, where should the signs go? How many signs should there be? Should they be set three metres apart or 10 metres apart? Who is responsible for making sure that the signage is kept in place? What size should the signs be? Is there some standard for these signs?

Some other concerns arose out of issues relating to approval and access rights. If there is a need for warning signs downstream from a referable dam and those signs are not to be on the property of the owner of the dam, what right does the owner of the dam have to access properties downstream? Even the Gold Coast City Council raised this concern in its submission. It said—

From a local government perspective, it is not desirable that dam owners be given exemption from liaising with the local government prior to placing signs on public land that the local government is responsible for.

This is another potential issue. A dam owner may have to seek local government approval for the placement of signage downstream when the land belongs to a local government. All of us know that councils are notoriously good at regulating all sorts of signage. We simply ask that there be further clarification or some as-of-right provisions made so that the requirement to place signage and warning signs did not end up being a debacle with a lack of clarity around what, when, where, how many, access

rights and any ongoing maintenance obligations of the dam owner. I accept the chair's comments that it is the responsibility of the dam owner, but I think that it is also the responsibility of the government to have clear regulation and policy so that the dam owner knows exactly what he is required to undertake or provide.

The LNP members expressed some concerns in committee discussions and wanted some clarification—and I am pleased to say that we received a response from the department—on the issue of liability. A requirement in this legislation is that local disaster management committees and councils become a referral agency in respect of the preparation of emergency action plans and also have some obligation in respect of identifying potential risks within their areas. Given that some local disaster management committees are often made up of local councillors and volunteers from the Red Cross, the local ambulance service, or other government departments, a local police representative, or even members of the SES in some communities where there is a significant presence, the question was simply: if local disaster management committees or councils become a referral agency, will they in some way end up being liable for the referrals that they make in respect of those emergency action plans if at some point there is a failure and, as a result of that failure, there is a loss of life or significant injury? I was pleased to read in the response from the department that the department would still be the primary assessor and would be fundamentally responsible for the final decision as to whether the emergency action plan was appropriate.

It is interesting to note that, currently, 106 referable dams have been identified. However, I note in the response from the department that a further 312 dams were in the final stages of engineering investigation. Those 312 dams were identified out of several thousands of water bodies on which the department claimed to have done initial assessments. The department reported further that, of those 312 dams, only 191 dams may pose a risk to at least one household. Further, of those 191 dams assessed as possibly having population at risk, the department believed that as few as 102 of those dams may need further review. It was pleasing to see that the departmental officers have, in their words, had boots on the ground on many properties across the state. They are certainly undertaking a very thorough and intense review to ensure that the objects of this legislation and the legislation preceding it fulfil the requirement to consider whether more than one or two people downstream are at risk.

I want to touch on comments that the committee received from Cotton Australia and the Queensland Farmers' Federation, which represent a significant number of bodies across the state. One of their concerns was whether this legislation would impose significant additional cost on property owners. If their dam was identified as one that may need to be reviewed, who was up for the cost of that engineering assessment and then the subsequent preparation of the emergency action plans?

We heard from the Queensland Farmers' Federation that the proposed changes may have financial impacts on property owners. The department itself has acknowledged a minimum indicative costing of around \$5,000 for producing an emergency action plan, not including ongoing costs associated with maintaining the currency of such plans. It is quite right that the Queensland Farmers' Federation would identify that as a concern. I am satisfied for the most part that both the minister and the department have sought to address those concerns. Nonetheless, it was an important issue to flesh out in committee because, in case anyone has missed it, across Queensland there are many farmers and graziers who have dams on their properties who are doing it pretty tough as a result of the drought. I suggest that those dams on properties that are in significant drought may not pose much of a risk at all given that there is probably little, if any, water in many of them. I enjoyed the response from Cotton Australia. I want to quote from the transcript, which I can assure the House is a public document. I have been there previously and realised that I perhaps was quoting from something I should not be and so have double-checked.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: I take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday. I did go to the library to check that it was a public document. We heard from Mr Michael Murray, the general manager of operations at Cotton Australia. He said—

Normally we would come here and really welcome this legislation. It does go a long way to reducing red tape.

I certainly have to commend the department on its genuine desire to try to simplify the process.

The idea of not doubling up where OH&S is concerned is a very positive move; however, our concern is that the red tape was unnecessary in the first place and there is room for further reduction.

He then went on to say that his colleague, Mr Graham Clapham, who was an irrigator from the Darling Downs, would explain a little bit more about the type of dam. We had a fairly insightful presentation on earth dams and turkey nests and what little risk that they in fact pose because of the way they typically breach, if they breach at all. Mr Murray continued—

... there has not been a single death from a farm dam failure in Australia. We are regulating something that is an extremely low risk to human life. Graham will point out that it is not as if there is no risk of these dams failing—and sometimes they do fail—but they fail over quite an extended period of time.

I love this quote from Mr Murray. He said—

Nobody is going to make a horror movie out of a farm dam failing. It does not just burst.

The very nature of these dams, as Graham will explain, is that they tend to be built on flat land. They are described variously as a ring tank or a turkey nest dam, they are not a dam wall across a gully or a valley or anything like that. It is quite different to what you might see in your general perception of a dam.

It is important that those distinctions be made and recognised. I am grateful for the education that we were afforded as a committee by Mr Michael Murray and Mr Graham Clapham on that occasion.

The potential cost to farmers certainly had a significant airing in the committee. While there were many undertakings from the department given to us, it is still a concern of both the Queensland Farmers' Federation and Cotton Australia. It is not just the actual physical cost. I am sure members of the House can all relate to that feeling when you receive a notification in the mail from a government department or from a lawyer or from some other organisation suggesting that you need to answer to something or that you need to show cause or that you need to provide information. For many people the process of having to respond can be quite stressful.

I think it is fair to say that the heartbeat of those of us on this side of the House was that we were concerned that the requirements were clear. We were very concerned that the interests of farmers and their families were considered. At a time when there has been so much pressure on those on the land we felt that it was important to make sure that this legislation did not impose unfair or unnecessary costs upon those on the land. We heard further from Cotton Australia and the Queensland Farmers' Federation. They said that, while the initial cost might be as much as \$5,000, there is the potential on occasions for the cost to accelerate to as much as \$30,000 or \$40,000.

I would also like to point out that, in terms of the referable dams, we did ask the department to give us a breakdown of the list of referable dams that were already in existence. It is comforting for the House to understand that many of these are operated by government departments or government owned corporations. In fact, 22 of the current referable dams belong to SunWater; 26 are under the control of Seqwater; there are three under the control of the Department of Energy and Water Supply; there are two that belong to statutory authorities, as in water boards; there are six that belong to other government owned corporations—for example, electricity companies; there are 32 local government referable dams; there are eight mining company dams; there are four that belong to primary producers; and three others that are privately owned. At this point, subject to what the department discover through that ongoing process of identifying referable dams, there are only 106, with potentially, based on the department's report, another 89 across the state.

If I could go back to the issue of liability, it may not seem a matter of great concern, but I raised it having been a councillor with Gold Coast City Council. Time and time again we have experienced instances where those on the other side of the House, through legislative changes, have unintentionally, I am sure, on many occasions effectively shifted more costs onto local government. That was one of the issues that I was concerned about in considering the submission from local government and these disaster management committees. While they may be a referral agency, and while the department has given an undertaking that they will not be liable for the advice they give and that the department will be the final regulatory body to sign off on emergency action plans, the fact is that even being a referral agency there is more cost for local government.

No doubt some councils will have to tie up significant resources in responding to some of these reviews of referable dams. As always, that is an ongoing concern that I have and I think all of us in the House should have because the last thing we need to be doing is encouraging cost shifting, the last thing we should be wanting to do is impose a greater onus or burden of work on people who are volunteering to be on disaster management committees. We understand that it is necessary. We understand that it is important to get this right, but to go back to the words of Michael Murray from Cotton Australia, there has never been a single known death in Australia from a farm dam failure. While I understand the need for a rigorous review of these dams, it continues to be my concern that we do not impose unnecessary and unfair cost burdens on farmers who are already doing it tough.

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (5.00 pm): I rise to commend this bill to the House. Through the committee process, it was made clear to us that there is a need to act to prevent loss of life. I take on board what the member for Southport was saying about there being an extremely low risk in this area of endeavour, but as he knows when we asked the department about this they were able to show us illustrations and outline many instances of catastrophic dam failure. We heard accounts of how tragedies have been narrowly averted when dams have failed. Some of those structures can be 20 or even 40 hectares in size, with five-metre walls.

Given the extreme weather events that we can face and considering past events and the evidence that the committee was given, it is incumbent upon us not to say that it is a low risk and we should just let it go. There has to be some regulation. I know that some witnesses would like no regulation whatsoever, but from the evidence it is clear that there has to be a level of regulation. Taking on board the findings of the commission of inquiry into the 2012 floods and also the Inspector-General's report in more recent times, there is a clear case to be made for regulation. Despite that, the bill does reduce some red tape.

This bill addresses the issues of emergency management planning and notifications. As we have heard, in broad terms no-one opposes the bill. We have not yet heard people talk about how, under the bill, we will empower a dam owner to reduce the full-supply level of their dam in response to a water safety issue. Everyone agrees that that is a very important part of the bill, but it has not been remarked upon as yet. I think it is a much more important component of the bill than the aspect of signs, which has been talked about.

As I have said, we are reducing red tape through this bill. Firstly, we are not imposing a new regime of red tape as requirements to have emergency action plans already exist. They have been in place since the water supply act was amended in 2012 after the report from the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry. The provision that exists currently states that dam owners must prepare emergency action plans, that they be approved by the appropriate agency and that the local disaster management group can review the emergency action plan for the dam. Currently those regulations apply to dam owners.

Secondly, the bill does not extend a dam owner's responsibility for warning the community downstream. It makes him or her responsible for preparing the emergency action plan and outlining who needs to be notified if an emergency arises, how and when they are notified and who does the warning.

Thirdly, the bill reduces red tape by stating that a dam owner will not have to do an emergency action plan if the risk is only for those people on the property. Under workplace health and safety legislation, a regulatory regime is already in place for the workers or the residents on the property. Under this bill, an emergency action plan would be needed only if there is a threat to people off the property. We are removing a regulatory overlap between workplace health and safety and emergency management.

Fourthly, the bill streamlines the regulatory process. Currently, the owners of dams that are deemed referable, which means some oversight is needed to check that they are safe, usually have to undertake a failure impact assessment, which means getting an engineer to do a report. We heard that could cost from a few thousand dollars up to \$20,000 for larger structures. With the new process under this bill, the dam owner does not need an engineer's report if they accept that the dam is referable. They have the option to accept that the dam is referable and, therefore, avoid the cost of doing a failure impact assessment, thus the bill reduces red tape. If the dam owner disagrees with the opinion that the dam is referable, they can do their own assessment. If they are right, their costs are reimbursed by the department. Before this bill, many dam owners had to complete a failure impact assessment; if the bill is passed, many will face the prospect of not having to do so.

In investigating the bill we heard some commentary about how we are making owners do emergency action plans that could cost thousands. At the hearings it was made very clear that the template for completing those emergency action plans can be found on the departmental website and dam owners can download the template. It is very straightforward and does not have to cost the amount of money that is being assumed or anticipated. We heard one witness say that it could cost \$5,000 or even \$10,000 to do an emergency action plan, as they would get in a consultant to do it. In the hearings we found that that would be replicating some of the work already being done as part of the workplace health and safety regime. Witnesses said that some of the work that they have done for workplace health and safety could be used for emergency action plans. It is very clear that, despite some commentary, this bill goes a long way to reducing red tape for dam owners. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (5.05 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016. As indicated by my colleagues on this side of the chamber, we will not be opposing the bill. When I think of dam safety—and I am sure this will resonate with you and your constituents, Mr Deputy Speaker—I think of the tragic events of 2008 on the Mackenzie River in the Central Highlands of Central Queensland. For those members who are not aware of the tragic circumstances on that fateful day in November 2008, a little four-year-old girl died as a result of the rupturing of a bladder atop a dam wall holding 6,000 megalitres. Sadly, Nelani Koefer lost her life. She was a week or so out from her fifth birthday. It was a terrible tragedy for the good people of Blackwater and the Central Highlands. It could have been a lot worse, as others survived that terrible fateful day, including poor little Nelani's mum.

I am sure that to this day the events of that particular day have not been lost on many people in the great town of Blackwater, represented by your good self, Mr Deputy Speaker, as the member for Gregory. I know that for my sister, my brother-in-law, my nieces and other relatives in Blackwater that is the case. It is a very tight-knit coalmining town. Therefore, dam safety is very important and it is something that I take very seriously. We have something like 27,000 dams across the state. I would like to see some more built, including the Urannah Dam in my electorate, which would benefit central and north Queensland. That has been a pet project of mine since I first entered this place. The former member for Burdekin was a great advocate of it. If we go right back, the former Liberal member for Bowen, the late Sir Peter Delamothe—

Mr Stewart interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: I take the interjection from the laughing member for Townsville, who is out of his seat. He might be out of a seat after the next election.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: Sixteen per cent.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is straying well off the bill. I refer him to the legislation before the House, rather than going around the world.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Order! I ask the member to speak to the bill.

Mr COSTIGAN: The minister is in a world of his own over there. There is no doubt that the Urannah Dam is a great project. I will continue to beat the drum in relation to it, because I believe in the opportunities that go with building dams, whether that is Hell's Gate on the upper Burdekin or other dams such as the Rookwood Weir that we need to be investing in—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The legislation is about the regulation of current dams; it is not about proposed dams or feasible dams into the future. It is about current dams. I ask that you pull him back to speak about the bill that is before the House and to do his job.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member is talking about dams, but I ask him to please stick to the bill.

Mr COSTIGAN: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would have thought that the bill has implications for the planning of future dams. Our state has not been building dams. I take the importance of dam safety very seriously. In my electorate of Whitsunday, Peter Faust Dam was named after an esteemed member of my community and is managed by SunWater. In fact, my electorate goes right down to the dam wall at Eungella, which is another SunWater facility.

We have heard from some of the key stakeholders that are managing these dams. I am not going to double up too much of what my colleagues on this side of chamber have said, including the deputy chair of the committee, the member for Southport, who gave us a pretty exhaustive summary of his take on this piece of legislation.

From a local government point of view, I thank the key stakeholders who provided submissions to the committee, including the Charters Towers Regional Council. The submission from Mayor Liz Schmidt and CEO Mark Crawley supported several elements of the bill, in particular the distinction that only emergency events trigger the requirement for post event reporting and changes to reduce regulatory overlap with workplace health and safety regulations. Thanks to Mayor Schmidt and Mark Crawley and the other key stakeholders who provided their take on the bill. The others included the Queensland Farmers' Federation and the LGAQ.

There is no doubt that on this side of the House we are always cognisant of creating more red tape. That is something that we do not believe in. We certainly are very keen to see dam safety standards enhanced. Everyone has a role to play in relation to that.

I want to talk briefly about the warning signs on public land. The bill requires dam owners that are registered as service providers to place warning signs on public land in appropriate areas immediately downstream of weirs and dams. I think that is a good thing. There has been a lot of cost shifting onto local governments under previous Labor governments in this state. A lot of people say to me, 'Where does it stop?'

As I said earlier, we will not be opposing the bill. It is worthy of note that there is no mechanism in the bill, as I understand it, for an incoming purchaser of land to be notified that a dam on a property is a referable dam. That has obligations for the new owner. What is the government doing to address the situation? Perhaps the minister, in going around his world, can illuminate and illustrate what he is going to do in relation to addressing those concerns.

There is no doubt that a lot of landholders are doing it tough. I take the contribution of the member for Murrumba, who is on the committee with my good self, albeit from different sides of the chamber, in which he told us that landholders can go to the departmental website and look at how to come up with an emergency action plan. Time will tell how that pans out and what the cost will be to the landholder.

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (5.12 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016. I would like to focus on one aspect of the bill—that being the issue of warning signs on public land—as most other areas of the bill have been comprehensively and exhaustively covered by my fellow committee members.

This bill responds to a recommendation of the coroner in December 2017 as a result of the inquest into the death of Nelani Koefer which occurred when an inflatable rubber dam used to increase the height of Bedford Weir, owned and operated by SunWater, had a catastrophic failure in November 2008. The coroner noted that SunWater had identified the need for signage and had been engaged in discussions with the local council at the time of the incident. The coroner noted that there was a particular issue slowing progress, which was the right to erect signage in an area that SunWater did not own or control, and identified the need for dam owners to have authority to erect appropriate signage on public land immediately downstream of dams and weirs to warn the public about potential dangers.

The bill proposes to amend section 36 of the Water Supply Act to provide that an authorised person of a service provider, such as a dam owner, may enter a place to erect a sign on public land to warn people about the risks of entering an area downstream of a dam or weir. This brought to light some concerns of committee members. While the Local Government Association of Queensland supported the need for warning signs to be erected on public land and for there to be associated powers for dam owners to enter public land to erect signage, it submitted that it should be made clear that maintenance of such signs is the responsibility of the dam owners and not local governments.

This is where we wanted a bit more clarity. They said that there are countless examples across Queensland of signs that were installed for good purposes but that have fallen into disrepair, contain outdated information or have become eyesores. They would potentially serve no purpose for all the good intentions of this bill. They contest that local governments should not be held responsible either directly or by default for these signs or issues that result from their presence.

The department responded that the policy intent is that dam owners will be responsible for maintaining the warning signs. Following a question from the committee at the public hearing, they provided more advice. The department stated—

The intention is that the dam owner will be responsible for maintenance of the warning signs and not the land manager, which in many circumstances is likely to be a local government.

The provision is simply to overcome any potential delays in getting approval from the relevant land manager to enter land to erect warning signs.

In principle, that is fair enough, but it does not resolve the potential issues around the liability in relation to signs and the ongoing maintenance and cost of those signs.

SunWater submitted that restricting entry powers to land adjoining a watercourse downstream of a dam or weir may be too restrictive but acknowledged that was a minor issue. In response to a question from the committee about whether there will be guidelines available to inform dam owners about the type of warning signs that should be used, the department advised that there are no existing guidelines produced by the department and that the department was not proposing to develop guidelines. The provision in the bill is merely enabling the dam owner, who is also a registered service provider, to enter public land to erect warning signs. Again, in principle this seems fair enough, but the more the

committee delved into it the more potential there was for liability issues and conflict between dam owners and landowners. From my perspective, this needs further work. I would like to see this considered in more detail as the bill goes through the parliament.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow committee members: the member for Kallangur, the member for Murrumba, the member for Whitsunday, the member for Southport and the member for Lytton.

Ms Pease: I was going to get forgotten then.

Mr McEACHAN: No. How could I forget you? I thank our hardworking committee secretariat, led by Kate McGuckin. We do not oppose this bill. We think it goes some way to reducing red tape. We still think there is probably a little bit more to do. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.18 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016. This bill provides important clarification for dam owners and the community about responsibilities for warning the public during an emergency, enhances the focus of the dam safety regulatory framework on public safety and simplifies some regulatory procedures to save small dam owners and the government substantial money. The bill will amend the Water Act 2000 and the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 and will improve the integration of dam safety and disaster management, improve the way dam owners manage dam safety and simplify the process, and reduce the regulatory burden.

In Queensland, dam safety regulation not only protects against the rare risk of dam failure but also explicitly requires dam owners to warn the public about what are called downstream release hazards. These hazards are caused by water coming out of a dam over the spillway automatically or by water deliberately released by the dam owner which can occur frequently. In rain events, dams often spill without there being any threat to the structural integrity of the dam. A review by the Inspector-General Emergency Management, IGEM, indicated that there were a number of operational and other improvements that could be made. This bill responds to the recommendation that the government review the dam safety legislation to enhance effective communications. This bill will underpin operational improvements and ensure that dam owners, disaster managers and the community understand each other's roles.

During the review of the bill, the committee received nine written submissions and received written advice from the Department of Energy and Water Supply in response to matters raised in submissions. The committee also held a public departmental briefing and a public hearing. I would like to thank the stakeholders who made a written submission and also those who attended the public hearings. I also thank the department for their thorough briefings on the bill and their responses to questions on notice. I would also like to thank the committee chair, the member for Kallangur, Mr Shane King, my fellow committee members, and the secretariat for their exceptional work during the committee process.

The department advised that it had consulted with the 35 local governments with referable dams in their local government areas, as well as the Local Government Association of Queensland and peak bodies representing dam owners, and that it had also consulted with relevant agencies across government, including the Inspector-General Emergency Management, SunWater and Seqwater on the policy intent as well as the draft bill—many of their issues were addressed in the final bill; and dam owners through the Queensland Farmers' Federation. This bill will ensure that dam owners, disaster managers and the community have a shared understanding of what emergency action plans are meant to achieve.

Ensuring that communities are prepared is a critical part of disaster readiness. This bill will insert a purpose statement for an emergency action plan which will make it clear that the plan exists to minimise risk to the community by planning for a range of possible scenarios and responses should a dam hazard or emergency event happen. Plans are intended to agree responsibilities and communications and form the basis of a response. However, the best planning cannot predict every possible situation, and it is important that the response to an event is tailored to the real situation. This will mean that dam owners may need to adapt their response during unexpected circumstances to minimise the risk to downstream.

Currently, prior to submitting an emergency action plan to the regulator for approval, dam owners must provide an opportunity for disaster management groups to give feedback on the plan to ensure consistency with disaster management plans. Unfortunately, the IGEM found that fewer than half of the disaster management groups that they had spoken to had provided comment on an EAP and most

plans approved to date, therefore, have not had the benefit of input from disaster management groups. This bill ensures that the local government must assess the EAP plan prepared by the dam owner for consistency with its own disaster management plan and must provide a written report on its assessment, and the district management group will have the same opportunity.

This bill will also simplify process and reduce the regulatory burden for small dam owners, including many farmers. Dam owners are responsible for the safety of their dams and, under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008, dams are assessed to determine the number of people whose safety could be at risk should the dam fail. A dam that poses a risk to two or more people is called a referable dam and is regulated through conditions imposed on the dam and provisions of the Water Supply Act.

Currently, small farm dams that only pose a risk to the dam owner and their workers must manage the safety of the dam under both the Water Supply Act and the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. This bill will remove this regulatory overlap and means that a dam that poses a risk only to the dam owner and their workers will be regulated by the Work Health and Safety Act and not the Water Supply Act. Therefore, a dam that poses an unlikely but high-consequence risk to the general public will still be regulated as a referable dam under the Water Supply Act. This will reduce regulatory burden by streamlining the process for determining whether an existing dam should be regulated as a 'referable dam' under the Water Supply Act.

Currently, the chief executive can give a dam owner a notice that the dam is referable and therefore should be regulated which would require the dam owner to undertake a failure impact assessment to determine how many people would be at risk if the dam were to fail. This bill will establish a new process which simplifies the pathway to regulation by giving the dam owners an option to simply accept their regulator's assessment of risk rather than be forced to spend their own money to independently assess the failure impact risk. This will save these small dam owners substantial expense. Dam owners will not be forced to accept the assessment and will have the option of completing their own assessment. These streamlined processes will not only decrease the regulatory burden for dam owners but also reduce the costs for both dam owners and the department.

This bill is a sensible and measured response to the review. I commend the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016 to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.24 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016. As many people in this House may not realise, the electorate of Nanango actually has 10.377 per cent of the state's referable dams. This is a very important issue for the electorate of Nanango. Like I have said, we have nine of the current referable dams in the state seat of Nanango. If we take in the full South Burnett, that takes it up to 11. I will list those dams. We could be talking here about the 'electorate of the dams' or the 'electorate of the lakes' as people around Toogoolawah like to call it.

We have the mighty Somerset and Wivenhoe dams, which are South-East Queensland's major water supply and flood mitigation dams. We have Atkinson Dam in the Somerset Regional Council area. We have Cooby, Perseverance and Cressbrook dams—water supply dams owned and operated by the Toowoomba Regional Council. There are two mine operated dams at Meandu Mine and Tarong Power Station. We have Gordonbrook Dam in the South Burnett which provides the water supply to the town of Kingaroy.

Just to the north but still within the bounds of the South Burnett we have the water supply catchment dams of Bjelke-Petersen and Boondooma. For any members who like to go water skiing or camping, there is no greater spot than the beautiful, mighty Boondooma Dam, although the levels are quite low at the moment. Unfortunately, Tropical Cyclone Debbie did not quite dump enough into the catchment area. There is always one area that unfortunately does not get enough while another part of Queensland gets way too much. Those are the dams within my region in Queensland.

I certainly understand the importance and the pressures of landholders who reside around those dams. We all know, particularly those of us on this side of the House who do have a greater understanding of the importance of the agricultural industry to Queensland, that water is indeed a precious resource. We need more water. It is obvious, unfortunately, that the government we have in Queensland now is not interested in building dams. Only an LNP government would build dams. Water also gives life to our agricultural sector—our crops, our animals, our farms, our landholders and, most importantly, our people. Without access to water, many of our regional communities simply would not exist.

As I have mentioned, dams are a wonderful use of tourism and recreation. I was very proud to be able to campaign in the 2012 election on opening up the vital waterways of Wivenhoe and Somerset to make use of those. The Somerset Regional Council were very pleased when the LNP in government opened up those dams so that we could use them—so that they were not just a big mass of water sitting there. We stopped listening to those crazy green groups who said, ‘Oh, no, we cannot have any recreation on the dams’—a massive supply of water—‘because it may affect the water that people in Brisbane drink.’ That debate has already been had and thankfully won. We also understand that our dams must be managed safely because in times of extreme rainfall events flooding can and does occur.

Following the terrible floods of 2011 it was the former LNP government that implemented recommendations from the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry to improve dam safety and flood mitigation. Much needed to be done to regain community confidence in our major water structures for those living downstream of the dam walls. Unfortunately, in 2015 following the impact of Cyclone Marcia on Wivenhoe Dam, water releases severely impacted primary producers in the mid-Brisbane Valley and Lockyer region. This is an example of where and how things can go wrong if dams are not managed properly. At 8.07 a text message was sent from Seqwater saying that they had commenced releases at 8 pm. The landholders received the message at 8.07, but the release was actually commenced at 8 pm. Then they said they would be slowly increasing the release to 400 cubic metres per second. This is well below the safe levels for pumps to remain in the river and the landholders knew that. At 8.20 pm, in the black of night, they then received a text messaging saying that controlled gate releases would increase, and overnight Brisbane River increased to 4.5 metres.

This has been executed by me in this House, and I spoke in the House on 19 May 2015 on that very important matter. It is important that it is raised again in this House to remind those living downstream that unfortunately it took this Labor government three weeks to even realise that major catastrophe had occurred. Finally, a review was conducted into the event which made 30 findings and eight key recommendations, including a safer warning system for those downstream.

This bill includes changes to the Water Act 2000 and the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 to further improve dam safety. As mentioned here on several occasions, while the LNP supports the intent and the principles of the amendments, there are concerns which simply need addressing. Firstly, there are the unintended consequences of moving some liability onto local governments and local disaster management committees. The LGAQ also noted some concerns in relation to the financial impost on those councils as the responsibility for reviewing the emergency action plans would move to them rather than the local disaster management groups, which I would say would be much better funded and resourced than local councils. Secondly, there is the granting to the Department of Energy and Water Supply CEO the unfettered right to impose potentially unnecessary reviews on some dam owners resulting in unnecessary cost imposts. We are not talking about those major dams; we are talking about landholders who may or may not have referable dams; they may not even know. The impost and the cost to them is really quite unknown. Thirdly, there is the difficulty around understanding the notification process and the lack of guidance in respect of warning systems and safety signs, which has been spoken about by my colleagues in the House.

It is important to remember that it is not just local governments who manage these dams. Primary producers, our agricultural producers, are also dam owners and managers. It is concerning, therefore, that this Labor government has done no work to assess the additional costs on those farmers and whether those costs are less than the potential benefits of the reform. Certainly it is understood that no RIS has been done in relation to this at all. We are backed up there in that submission. I can see there are slight expressions of concern on faces just outside of the House, but this is backed up. I can rely upon the submissions of Cotton Australia. They strongly question whether any farm dams should be regulated as referable dams, the simple reason being the costs. Then there is the Queensland Farmers’ Federation, which queried whether the referable dam framework is appropriate for dams given the level of risk these dams pose. However, Queensland Farmers’ Federation did note, thankfully, that no deaths have occurred from farm dam collapses. I think it is important to note that.

I am also quite concerned about the lack of mechanism in the bill for people purchasing a property to be notified that the dam on that property is classed as a referable dam and, therefore, the need to highlight the potential costs and obligations to new owners.

On behalf of my constituents and the people I mentioned above—there are way more than 10 per cent given that there are so many other dams that we do not even know are referable dams—we would be seeking clarification from the minister around those issues to ensure that this bill does not impose any unnecessary extra red tape.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (5.34 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016. The issue of water usage and storage has never been more relevant or more important to the future of the state. There are a couple of dams that directly impact my area in North Queensland. The Ross Dam is the primary water supply for Townsville, which is almost dry at present, and there is ongoing debate surrounding the Burdekin Falls Dam—and the Burdekin River runs right through the centre of my electorate—and what the raising of that dam wall might mean not only to the water supply of Queensland but also in terms of ongoing development in the agricultural sector between Home Hill and Bowen through the Elliot main channel and other schemes as well. It is very relevant in my area.

In relation to the Ross River Dam, during my time on the Townsville City Council they lowered the spillway of that dam to improve the safety and to reduce the impact on downstream residents should that dam experience a significant wet weather event. During a couple of those wet weather events when I was in Townsville on council and as a member of the local disaster management group, the automatic opening of the gates which allowed water over the spillway was certainly a bone of contention. It caused a lot of very anxious moments within the disaster management group and certainly with the residents of Townsville. I am pleased to see that this legislation formalises that process. I think that is important going forward.

The safety of water supply dams is regulated through that water supply act. We certainly never want to see a repeat of the floods in this area of the state in 2011, which were exacerbated by the lack of integration between dam safety emergency planning and community emergency management planning. There is a need to ensure our dams are safe and that their structural integrity will withstand wet weather events. However, it is even more important that appropriate measures are in place to protect our residents when water is released from those dams.

As a former deputy of the Townsville disaster management group, I know firsthand the importance of having an emergency action plan for dams and the need to ensure regular reviews are conducted of those plans. Those plans should not exist in isolation and should be prepared in consultation with disaster management groups and the broader community. There should be no secrets regarding those emergency management plans for our dams.

I participated in a number of debriefs following cyclones and wet weather events. Almost without exception the single biggest issue identified is that of communication. Communication that is consistent between legislation, policy guidelines and plans will go a long way to ensuring a transparent and effective process is in place around this legislation. Given the risks and potential ramifications of an unauthorised or poorly managed release of water for downstream residents, there needs to be a robust and stringent process in place regarding the approval process. That is to say that the process that the regulator applies to ensure emergency action plans comply with legislation and guideline requirements needs to be transparent and in accordance with legislative requirements.

I note that an event can be treated as a dam hazard event but can also be treated as an emergency event if and as the situation escalates. Other events can be treated immediately as an emergency event. This means that a dam owner can plan when to notify the community, including leading up to and when there is a dam hazard event or emergency event, and when to warn that particular community.

I have listened to the debate tonight about referable dams and I, too, share the concerns of members on this side of the House about the potential impact that will have on some of our dam owners and operators across the state. Certainly when we talk about risks, there are dams on private property, on farms et cetera, of a significant size. There is certainly a big question mark about the costs involved if someone is designated to have a referable dam. I would draw the minister's attention to that tonight.

The management of water in our dams is vitally important to the protection of downstream users, and we do not want a repeat of the disaster that developed during the 2011 floods. I support any measure that aims to improve dam safety, and I support the changes that are outlined in the bill.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (5.39 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016. The bill seeks to amend the Water Act 2000 and the Water Supply (Safety Reliability) Act 2008 to improve the integration of dam safety and disaster management, improve the way that dam owners manage dam safety and simplify the processes and, hopefully, reduce the regulatory burden.

There are currently some 106 referable dams in Queensland which are owned by a range of different entities: SunWater owns 22; Seqwater owns 26; the Department of Energy and Water Supply owns three; water boards own two; local governments own 32; other GOCs, including electricity

companies, own six; and the remainder are privately owned dams, including eight which are owned by mining companies and four by primary producers. I have no doubt that some of those dams are in my electorate; for instance, the Cunnamulla weir, Beardmore Dam and the Chinchilla weir. I have no doubt that some of the four dams which are owned by primary producers would also be in the Warrego electorate.

The three policy objectives of the bill appear to be well-meaning, and there is always a need to seek improvement. There is an old saying that there will always be longer droughts and higher floods. How much rain falls in a catchment is not something that government has any control over. Previous weather events in 2010, 2011 and 2012, and even some that we have witnessed during Tropical Cyclone Debbie this year, have resulted in successive flood events in some areas. Disaster management is one of those areas where there is always a need to improve and review. Not every event is the same and not every flood is the same.

I note the statement of reservation of the member for Southport and deputy chair of the Public Works and Utilities Committee. In particular I note the comments that are made in relation to the lack of clarity for local governments and local disaster management committees being absolutely indemnified from any and all litigation that may arise as a result of their advices as a referral agency. There is a significant question in relation to the transfer of liability to disaster management groups or local governments under the amendments, and I would appreciate it if the minister could give a clear assurance in relation to whether a liability could occur as a result of their advice in the event of a catastrophic or significant dam failure. That is particularly important for the smaller local governments across our state because every time the legislative profile changes for local government, the risk profile changes for local government insurance. That advice would be appreciated if there is any additional liability likely to occur.

I wish to address the input of Cotton Australia and QFF to the committee with regard to this legislation. While Cotton Australia and QFF supported the proposal to streamline the failure assessment process, they raised a general concern about the application of the dam safety legislation to all farm dams even though there have not been any deaths associated with an on-farm dam failure. QFF submitted to the committee—

Given the nature of many of the farming soils in Queensland associated with the location of on-farm dams, the exposure to flood waters is typically limited as failure occurs over several hours or days and soil infiltration rates are high.

I am not sure if many other members of this House have seen those ring tank dams fail, but I have over the years in my area and there is no way in the world that those particular situations pose any risk whatsoever to property or to individuals. The QFF submission further states—

These failures are not comparable to flood waters associated with dam failure in areas of high urban development or flows associated with gully dams or from [an incorrectly] engineered spillway or a spillway inadequacy.

Cotton Australia also noted in their submission that 'no life has been lost in Australia due to farm dam failure'. They further submitted—

... while a gully type dam maybe be subject to a higher risk of rapid failure, all the experience from irrigation farmers utilising "ring-tank" style dams is that "failure occurs over many hours, and is almost always rectified without full loss of the storage capacity ...

When you are a farmer, if there is an indication that there is any issue with a ring tank style of dam then the first thing you do is try and preserve the water because it is extremely precious. It is probably more accurately referred to as liquid gold, so you certainly do not let that disappear if there is any failure.

QFF and Cotton Australia also raised concerns about the number of farm dams which are still to be assessed by the department to ascertain whether they are referable, given that this may result in considerable further impacts on farming communities—including potential costs of approximately \$5,000 for producing an emergency action plan—when the evidence suggests that the risk is minimal and is very hard to justify. In relation to emergency action plans, I wonder how easy it is going to be to get a professional person out to Cunnamulla, Thargomindah or even further west out in the Cooper Basin. That would present a significant impost and travel cost to farming families.

I note there is no mechanism in the bill for an incoming purchaser to be notified that a dam on a property is a referable dam and that there could be obligations on the new owner of that property. I am not sure if the minister is aware of the water buy-back in the Murray-Darling Basin, but I would appreciate his further consideration of this matter. In the Murray-Darling Basin water is being bought back, but the dam infrastructure continues to be on the property because there is a significant cost to remove it. I think there should be some mechanism whereby people can be advised by the department

or some way of searching departmental records to find out if a particular dam would be considered referable by the department. That is a particularly important issue in my electorate, and I would ask the minister to give some consideration as to how that may occur.

As has been indicated by earlier speakers in the House, the opposition does not oppose this legislation and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PEARCE** (Mirani—ALP) (5.47 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016, in particular those parts of the bill which improve emergency management planning and warnings to the community. At the request of the Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, the Inspector-General Emergency Management reviewed SunWater and Seqwater's flood release warning communications to the community during two weather events in 2015. Everyone would remember those events because they were quite significant.

The minister made this request following community criticism of the way that SunWater communicated about releases from the Callide Dam in February 2015 during Tropical Cyclone Marcia and the way in which Seqwater communicated with the community about flood releases from the Wivenhoe Dam in May 2015 following heavy rainfall across South-East Queensland. It came to be recognised that in many cases during those weather events people in flood-prone areas were very, very lucky if they could not only protect their properties but get away with their lives. I want to reflect back to a couple of weeks ago when Tropical Cyclone Debbie hit the area. I was the member whose whole electorate was smashed by Tropical Cyclone Debbie from Mackay to Rockhampton and out to the coalfields. For someone who takes things personally, that was a pretty testing time.

I can remember sitting down with one couple on a Sunday morning. I was there for a couple of hours but I was pretty frightened to leave them. The state they were in was a bit scary. It blows you away to think about what happened on the day the flood came through—that the water could get as high as it did. People who built above the flood level still had 18 inches of water go through their house and their shed. You had to see it to believe it.

I am reminded of the impact of past flood events on a small community in my electorate. Sandy Creek, south-west of Mackay, sits below Kinchant Dam. Water is often released from this storage around these particular events. This water was released into a system that was already bursting at the banks. It was a pretty big event. When your system is full of water and you put a massive amount of water in on top of that, there have to be consequences. I went into the area a couple of days after the event. I had to travel an extra two-and-a-bit hours to get to the town of Eton—a small, much loved community. People in rural areas have these little communities they love. They all live there happily and think nothing will ever happen to them. North Eton is also probably more passionately known as Drapers Siding. About 500 people live in this community. After seeing the damage done to homes and surrounding land and crops and after listening to the people of Drapers Siding, I started to feel the pinch. I listened to stories of fear, of people being caught in the dark carrying children, of home and property loss. I asked one fellow, 'How are you going, mate?' He said, 'I'm okay, but I've got some snakes in the house. I think it'll be a while before I go back, not because of the flooding but because of the snakes.' You have to admire the attitude of some people, because they are true outback Australians. In conversation with another gentleman I spoke to, every sentence he said to me ended with, 'I can't wait till I get my hands on a stubby.' He had lost everything in his house, but he was still working helping other people and looking forward to a stubby.

A lot of people told me about massive volumes of water coming down the creek. I saw evidence of that. A new bridge built for a one-in-100-year flood had water go across the top of the railings. After listening to all of the residents and people along Sandy Creek I formed the opinion that there was a need to take this matter quite seriously. They were suggesting that the water from Kinchant Dam was the reason the flood was so severe. I spoke to the minister about that. I cannot thank the minister enough: he listened to what I had to say about this particular event in this location. I asked him if he would hold an inquiry because I believed there were a number of questions that had to be answered. To his credit, within two days the minister started talking up the possibility of having an inquiry. I believe that inquiry is underway and I look forward to seeing the outcome of it.

I do not want to be a hero and stand in this House and talk about the event. I want the people of Eton to come forward and talk to the inquiry and say in their own words what happened and tell their story. It is inappropriate for me to talk about the things that happened if I was not there. I want the people of that area to own the outcome of the inquiry. I am quite happy to have input at a later date, but I think at this time it is important that the people affected by this out-of-place flood have the opportunity to have their own input, do their homework, come forward and make sure everything is

presented to the inquiry. Not only does it help those conducting the inquiry to get a broad understanding of what happened; it also takes a lot of feeling off the people themselves to have the opportunity to stand up and talk about what happened. When the inquiry reports and makes recommendations, we will have a really good understanding of what happened. It is very difficult to point the finger at this time. At the time I said to the people in the area that we need to get the facts and look at what happened. I am sure that if something happened that should not have happened, we have the people in government who will make sure it does not happen again.

What I think we are forgetting here is the rain event itself. West of Mackay, 40 inches of rain fell in 24 hours. Some of those falls were two and three inches in an hour. That is a lot of rain in a very short period of time. Those people in the community of North Eton deserve the opportunity the minister has given them. They deserve the opportunity to—

(Time expired)

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (5.57 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate of the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016, which was introduced into the House by the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Hon. Mark Bailey. Every one of those portfolios is very important to agriculture, as is this bill.

Earlier the member for Whitsunday mentioned the tragedy at Blackwater, which was probably the catalyst for this issue being addressed. No greater tragedy can we imagine. We also saw the devastation that happened in Callide Creek and with the release of water from Wivenhoe Dam in 2015. As the member for Mirani has just highlighted, in heavy rainfall events water does need to be released from storages. It is unavoidable. When water was released from Wivenhoe Dam we saw damage around Colleges Crossing and areas like it.

Referable dams are dams from which the release of water poses a risk to two or more people. Those people would need to be notified and an emergency action plan implemented. I note from the minister's foreshadowed amendments that it relates not just to people impacted but also to infrastructure such as roads because it affects schools, emergency services and so on. The main part of this legislation that interests me is farm dams because on the central downs there is probably a higher concentration of farm dams—

Debate, on motion of Mr Weir, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Referral of Auditor-General's Reports; Reporting Date

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.59 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved that pursuant to standing order 194B the Auditor-General report to parliament No. 12 for 2016-17 titled *Biosecurity Queensland's management of agricultural pests and diseases* be referred to the Agriculture and Environment Committee; the Auditor-General report to parliament No. 13 for 2016-17 titled *Local government entities: 2015-16 results of financial audits* be referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee; the Auditor-General report to parliament No. 14 for 2016-17 titled *Criminal justice system—reliability and integration of data* be referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee; and the Auditor-General report to parliament No. 15 for 2016-17 titled *Managing the performance of teachers in Queensland state schools* be referred to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee. The committee has also resolved that pursuant to standing order 136 the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee report on the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017 by 14 July 2017.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.00 pm), by leave: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders, for this day's sitting the House will not break for dinner at 6.30 pm but will continue to sit to conduct government business, followed by a 30-minute adjournment debate.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Resource Projects

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (6.01 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for its secret support of attempts by extreme activist groups to block the jobs and investment opportunities associated with Queensland resource projects.

The story of the Palaszczuk Labor government and its treatment of the resources sector in Queensland is a duplicitous and dishonest one. It is extraordinary how the Palaszczuk government can take the jobs, investment and royalties of the resources sector for granted while increasing uncertainty, sovereign risk and red tape and selling the industry out for Greens preferences. Since assuming office the Palaszczuk government has amassed a long list of hostile actions against the resources sector. It has reinstated the ban on uranium mining which crushed that fledgling industry as it tried to get off the ground and it delayed the assessment and approval process for the expansion of export capacity at the port of Abbot Point to accommodate Queensland's growing coal sector.

Labor has interfered in the process with special legislation in relation to the assessment of the Aurukun bauxite deposit. Labor rushed changes through this House to re-establish third-party objection rights for green activist groups to frustrate and delay resource projects that have already been assessed by the Coordinator-General and then infamously tried to justify its actions with the fraudulent Broccoli Broccoli petition. We have seen Labor undermine the future of the North Stradbroke Island community by moving to shut down the island's biggest employer—the sandmine—without any coherent plan to transition the local economy. We have also seen Labor introduce new and retrospective underground water assessment and approvals processes that threaten both stage 3 of the Acland coalmine and indeed Adani's Carmichael coalmine in the Galilee Basin. Only a last-ditch campaign by industry, business and community leaders from across north and Central Queensland saw Labor do a backflip and exempt Adani's project from these additional processes. This was a political deal rather than a demonstration of support for Adani's project because, unfortunately, the exemption did not extend to stage 3 at Acland which has now been subjected to an additional and retrospective process.

The Palaszczuk government's relationship with the resources industry is akin to a story of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. It has two faces with two completely different personalities. Labor's Dr Jekyll—Dr Lynham, the Minister for State Development and Minister for Mines—always seems to be mouthing the right words. He talks about the jobs and the investment and he sounds like he knows what he is talking about—and, to be fair, I think he probably does. Sadly, when the light of the day fades and the dark of night comes, the equivalent of Labor's Mr Hyde emerges in the form of the Deputy Premier. Here lurks Labor's real and ideologically driven hostility, compelled by the constant need to satisfy the beast that is their inner greenie. This leaves the Palaszczuk government hopelessly compromised between its jobs rhetoric and its political addiction to Greens preferences. Dr Lynham is of course outnumbered because, if you check inside the Deputy Premier's handbag, you will find the environment minister and the energy minister, who together stand ready to create some extra green tape or plunge taxpayers' money into another heavily subsidised renewable energy project.

The Deputy Premier and these two ministers are closely linked to the extreme activist groups gunning for the resources sector in this state. This motion seeks to highlight the relationship between Labor and the extreme activist groups because they are insidious and they have extreme and serious ramifications for Queensland, particularly regional Queensland where most resource projects are located. Queensland jobseekers need to understand that the links between these extreme activist groups and Labor is impacting on their opportunities to secure employment. We know the Deputy Premier, the environment minister, the energy minister and the Attorney-General are meeting with the activist group GetUp! which is engaged in a major campaign to prevent Adani's Carmichael mine from proceeding and delivering much needed jobs and investment to communities in central and North Queensland. We know that the Palaszczuk government is handing over huge sums of public money to the EDO whose chief objector, Jo Bragg, is a former Greens candidate to help fund legal challenges to resource projects across Queensland, and I table a set of documents that demonstrates the extent of the Palaszczuk Labor government's and the EDO's relationship. For all of those reasons, the Palaszczuk government should be condemned and today, through this motion, Labor is going to have to pick a side.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents obtained under a right to information application regarding the Environmental Defenders Office Queensland [\[668\]](#).

 **Mr PEARCE** (Mirani—ALP) (6.06 pm): This government is a government that appreciates the contribution of the resource sector to our economy and the one in seven Queenslanders' jobs that it supports. We also keenly understand that maintaining exploration investment and activity is critical, particularly in times of low commodity prices. Working in an area like Central Queensland, I know the contribution that the mining industry provides to this state. The important thing is that this side of the House is definitely not supporting the motion as moved.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr PEARCE: To whoever said that I do not support Adani, you need to get your facts right. I have had more to say about Adani than you could dream about, so just leave me to do my job and you do yours and I will be happy.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr PEARCE: It is not about what those opposite say; it is about what this government has done to assist the industry advance along a line of productivity and job creation in Queensland. Early last year before prices started to strengthen this government stepped up and provided concessions to coal and mineral explorers. Why did the government step up and do that? It is because this Labor government is focused on the creation of jobs. If we do not support exploration, we do not support development and that in turn means fewer job opportunities for Queensland.

Mrs Frecklington: Youth unemployment in the outback, Grace. Are you proud of that?

Mr PEARCE: At least I know what I want in my area: I want jobs! My nickname is not 'Dragline'.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Thank you, Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr PEARCE: While I am on the issue, I think it would be great if the conservative side of politics started supporting the people who have provided a return to this industry for decades, and that is the workforce. Instead of treating the workforce like numbers on a computer, how about they start thinking about their families, their communities and where they live? I have really had enough of those opposite and that other mob down there in Canberra—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Thank you, members. Thank you, one and all.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Hinchinbrook. You have made your contribution. It is now the member for Mirani's turn.

Mr PEARCE: The concession provided for up to a 50 per cent reduction over 2016-17 in the expenditure a coal explorer is required to commit under their exploration permit. The concession initiative was supported by the Queensland Exploration Council, the Queensland Resources Council and the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies—great support for a great project and I congratulate the minister for these initiatives. That is another demonstration that this government is listening to our resources sector and is an example of the action that we have taken to help our resource companies get through a tough patch and emerge stronger. As of today, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has approved 244 applications, which will provide approximately \$35 million in financial relief for our exploration sector during 2016 and 2017.

I heard someone have a shot at me about what I said last night. I know what I said last night. I said it is about time the industry and the workforce started working together and tried to sort out the issues that we all agree should happen. You have to live in the area, you have to see the way—

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr PEARCE: Stay out of it. You have to see the way people have been treated. People have been committing suicide.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook, you are warned under standing order 253A. If you persist, I will take the appropriation action. I will mention other members if they persist.

Mr PEARCE: I can assure the member that any legislation that this side of the House introduced would be common-sense legislation that helped the industry. If the member opposite ever gets back into government, he will not have to try to fix it up like we have had to. We have spent most of our time trying to fix their mistakes—mistakes that stop people from having the opportunity to lodge a complaint. The members opposite are chatterboxes. They get carried away with themselves and forget about the most important people in this state, and they are workers and their families.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Hinchinbrook. When we talk about double standards, there is no better example than this Labor government, which has made an art form out of saying one thing and doing another. Of course, the problem is that, in playing these games, Labor is treating Queenslanders like fools. It makes me sick to my stomach to think that the whole time North Queenslanders have been struggling with an economic downturn, rising unemployment and the aftermath of a cyclone, Labor has been sidling up and funding the extreme green anti Adani group GetUp!, whose entire aim is to discredit and destroy the Adani project.

We need the jobs and we need the investment in the resource sector, particularly in North Queensland. We do not need a Labor government running an agenda behind the scenes to stop or delay these much needed resource projects. I have a message for the Premier and her mates at GetUp! from North Queenslanders—and one that I am happy to share with members tonight—as published on the front page of the *Townsville Bulletin* on Saturday. Yes, that is correct: to Labor and GetUp!, ‘Get lost’. I table a copy of that.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Weekend Bulletin*, dated 6-7 May 2017, titled ‘Extreme green group’s anti-Adani survey backfires as readers declare they want the job-creating project’ [\[669\]](#).

North Queenslanders are on to the Labor members. Their subterfuge has been exposed and I say shame on them for selling North Queensland down the drain and shame on them for getting into bed with GetUp!. There are good people in my electorate—in places like Bowen and Collinsville—who would give people the shirt off their backs. They are good, decent, hardworking people who want to live in rural and regional Queensland and who are looking to this government to develop and approve projects that will help them find a job. In an economic climate where unemployed North Queenslanders and their families are desperate to obtain work with the Adani project, the Deputy Premier, the environment minister, the energy minister and the Attorney-General are clandestinely meeting and dealing with GetUp!. It puts a sour taste in my mouth to know that, while the Premier and the mines minister have been publicly supporting Adani’s Carmichael mine and the thousands of employment opportunities that it will create, behind the scenes the Deputy Premier and three of her ministers have been meeting and funding people whose sole focus is to destroy the Adani project.

If members need evidence, they need look no further than the fact that Ellen Roberts from the Mackay Conservation Group, who has campaigned for the ALP, now works as GetUp!’s Queensland organiser. Ellen Roberts works with a solicitor called Michael Berkman from the Environmental Defenders Office, which is an organisation that specialises in legal fights to thwart mining projects throughout Queensland. It is supposed to be an independent, non-government organisation, except we know that it is not. It is far from independent. It is being led by Jo-Anne Bragg, a former Greens candidate for South Brisbane. It is hardly a non-government organisation, because in 2015 this Attorney-General handed over \$1 million of taxpayer’s money and on 28 March of this year—yes, the very day that Tropical Cyclone Debbie hit Queensland—this government handed the EDO another \$600,000.

It gets better. The immediate past national director of GetUp!, Sam McLean, has returned to the Labor fold, in October last year joining federal Labor leader Bill Shorten’s office to head Shorten’s digital campaign efforts. It is appalling beyond belief to think that this government is spending taxpayers’ money creating a false public image that it supports Adani and regional jobs when the reality is that the Deputy Premier and senior ministers are secretly meeting with GetUp! and depositing funds into the bank account of the EDO.

The Premier needs to know that North Queenslanders are not a forgiving bunch. They do not take kindly to those who tell them lies and try to deceive them. They might be facing some tough times at present, but that only makes North Queenslanders stronger and more determined to fight for what they deserve and for what is right. I say to the Premier to rest assured that North Queenslanders will come out fighting against her and the extreme Greens in her opposition to the Adani project. They will fight for what is right at the next election. Queenslanders deserve better.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.16 pm): We all know that actions speak louder than words. For the resources and the mining sector in this state, it is important to note that the Palaszczuk government's actions speak very loudly indeed. Not only has the Palaszczuk government actively supported the resources and mining sector, it very useful to compare the actions of this government to those of past governments. The Palaszczuk government has approved three mining leases for the Adani Carmichael mine. When those opposite were in government, they did not do that. There is no more important approval needed—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, would you like to take your private conversations outside.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you have had a pretty good go. If you persist, you will get warned.

Mrs GILBERT: Since this government has come to power, a total of 31 key Commonwealth, state and local government approvals have been granted for Adani's Carmichael mine and rail project. Yet those opposite, including the member for Hinchinbrook as the Newman-Nicholls government resources minister, managed to facilitate just five approvals for the Carmichael mine. The difference between the actions of the Palaszczuk government and the empty words of those opposite could not be more stark. The facts show clearly that, when it came to getting Adani off the ground and delivering the jobs and business opportunities for regional Queensland, those opposite were on a go-slow. My region desperately needed those jobs and those opposite did not fulfil their duties.

In the last month, the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines has approved both the Colton and the Byerwen coalmines. Only last week the Department of Natural Resources and Mines approved the Arrow Bowen Pipeline to bring Bowen gas to the market. During the term of this government, we have seen expansion programs in the coal seam gas industry. The QCG Charlie and Ruby projects and the Arrow Energy Tipton field development were announced this week. These are hardly the actions of a government that is involved in some sort of secret conspiracy to stop major resource projects in the state, which was the fairy tale peddled by the member for Burdekin. We are seeing the major bauxite project at Amrun on Cape York which is being delivered by Rio Tinto. Further, the Palaszczuk government has established a North West Minerals Province Taskforce to focus on the development of mining activity in the Mount Isa region. This government is committed to driving further investment and growth in the sector to breathe new life back into this important region of Queensland. Importantly, our North West Minerals Province Taskforce seeks to help build the social fabric of the great region of Mount Isa.

This list of approvals and new mines and projects, which is by no means exhaustive, demonstrates that the Palaszczuk government is very strongly committed to the development of natural resources in this state. The proposition that this government is seeking to slow down or stop resource development in this state is an absurd proposition. The resource sector employs thousands of Queenslanders directly. I have immediate family members working at mine sites in the Bowen Basin. The sector also creates millions of dollars in business opportunities, in particular in regional areas like Mackay. Mackay is proud to be a service centre for the resource sector, in particular in the area of engineering. That is why the Palaszczuk government continues to advocate strongly for the sustainable development of our natural resources to generate jobs and business opportunities. As the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines has said in this House before, the member for Hinchinbrook is very good at saying 'should have', 'could have', 'would have', but the fact is he very rarely did.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (6.22 pm): I am very pleased to rise to support the motion moved by my good friend and fellow North Queenslander, the member for Hinchinbrook. This side of the House truly believes in the future of regional and rural Queensland. Without us who is standing up for them? We have just heard from the member for Mackay. Mr Speaker, I noted your comments, as we got going this morning in the House, about the new technology. I reckon the people of Mackay would love to see a replay of what we have just seen: the oratory skill, passion and pride from the member for Mackay! Being an old TV person, I can say that it would rival test pattern, I will give members the tip.

There is no doubt that the \$26 billion Carmichael mine project is the cornerstone of driving the regional economy of Queensland well into the 21st century. What we have failed to see tonight in this six o'clock debate is any passion from the members for Mackay and Mirani. They have failed to do their job in standing up for their constituents. They did not once refer to the Premier sealing the deal with Mr Adani in terms of the FIFO hubs. I appreciate it is a competitive world, but Rockhampton and

Townsville are earmarked as FIFO hubs and there is nothing for Mackay and the Whitsundays, which suffered the biggest whack in terms of the economic downturn in the resources sector. What about Bowen to Broadsound? What about Clermont to Collinsville? These communities in my own electorate and in the electorates of Mirani and Mackay are continuing to recover from the downturn in the resources sector.

To see the Environmental Defenders Office being propped up by the Palaszczuk Labor government is disgraceful and shameful. People across regional and rural Queensland need to know about it. That is why it warms my heart to see the headline last Saturday in my old newspaper, the *Townsville Bulletin*, as articulated by the member for Burdekin. The 'Get lost' headline will become part of folklore in years to come. I commend Tony Raggatt on his story. These people need to be exposed.

Some \$600,000 is being dished out by the Palaszczuk Labor government to the EDO that is trying to stymie development in mining projects in regional and rural Queensland. There are 600,000 reasons for the people of not only my electorate but regional and rural Queensland to send this mob packing at the next state election. It is madness. We have seen so many blocks in relation to the development of the Galilee Basin. There has been stoppage after stoppage—in fact, more stops than the old *Sunlander*.

Dr Lynham interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: Quite frankly, those opposite are off the rails. We have heard from Dr Jekyll. He has come to life. He can come to Bowen as much as he wants. He can come to Le Sorrelle and have a latte and tell the sisters how good they are—and they are good, let me give you the tip. The member for Burdekin will back me up there. We are not mugs in North Queensland.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: They do speak with forked tongue. I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. In relation to the Adani company, it saddens me that in Mackay my local paper did not roll out the red carpet. Good on Townsville for getting the regional office. Unfortunately our community has been failed not only by certain sections of the media, but also by the members for Mackay and Mirani. Not once tonight did they say, 'We want jobs. We want our city and region to be FIFO hubs.' What about drive-in drive-out? The ears of the member for Gregory have pricked, and so they should, because the mine is 160 kilometres from Clermont, perfect for drive-in drive-out. We have heard nothing at all from Dr Jekyll, the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines.

The EDO being propped up by the Palaszczuk Labor government is disgraceful. There is no doubt about that. As for Ellen Roberts, we will never forget how she slumped to the ground—a famous photograph that Mackayites will remember—after she got towelled up on 2 July last year after the federal election. She did not like it one bit. There is no doubt that people associated with the Mackay Conservation Group should hang their heads in shame because they are all in it together. This is the most left-leaning government from a Labor point of view. The member for Mirani spoke about the workers. They are not looking after the workers one iota—not at all! The headline last Saturday said 'get lost'. Come the next election the people of Queensland will tell this mob 'get stuffed'.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (6.27 pm): The Palaszczuk government is committed to the growth and development of the resources and mining sector in Queensland. There can be no doubt about that. That commitment is absolute. We must make sure that we have a view in the Queensland community that welcomes and supports the resources sector. If you want to understand that you have to go to the websites of any mining resources company. They speak long and hard of working in and working with the communities that they operate in. Building community confidence and support is not an easy task. It requires long-term commitment and a commitment to compromise. It is invaluable to these companies. You cannot simply tell a community what to do.

A confident society such as Queensland can deal with dissent. That is why we give support to groups like the EDO. That does not mean we try to suppress them. That is the reason the Palaszczuk government returned the very important objection rights. We also introduced a chain of responsibility act which allows us to seek recompense from companies that fail to meet their financial obligations to the Queensland community to clean up after their projects have finished. As one miner said, he was not worried about this act because he intended to conduct his activities within his obligations. Most of our resource companies simply do the right thing.

This government has also acted to improve the arrangements around financial assurance for rehabilitation of mine sites. These reforms will better protect the environment and Queensland taxpayers, encouraging jobs in the resources sector. They are the most significant upgrade to the

resources sector framework in 20 years. This package includes a financial assurance framework tailored to company size and level of risk, pooling companies' financial assurance into one interest-earning rehabilitation fund, options such as insurance bonds to make it easier for miners to provide their financial assurances, more funds to rehabilitate abandoned mines, measures to ensure mine land is rehabilitated progressively, regular checks and reporting on progressive rehabilitation, and better planning for rehabilitation and regular monitoring and reporting. Those reforms for the resources sector are innovative and strike the right balance between environmental sustainability and the development of the resources sector. It lowers the cost for our resource sector doing business in Queensland, encouraging development within the resources sector and growing jobs in the community. The QRC shared similar sentiments, saying, 'Our sector supports a rehabilitation policy that encourages progressive rehabilitation wherever practical'.

Unlike those opposite, the Palaszczuk government understands the need to work with industry to mitigate the financial risk to taxpayers if a mining company cannot fulfil its rehabilitation and environmental obligations. An earlier speaker said that actions speak louder than words and the record of this government is very strong: we have acted resolutely to support projects such as the Adani project, but not limited to the Adani mine. We have assisted the ongoing investment in the gas industry and we have supported the development of the north-west minerals province.

There is a real opportunity for this opposition to stop wasting the time of parliament and get on to their friends in Canberra to say to them that we need infrastructure to support our resources sector, such as a pipeline to the Galilee to bring new gas investments to the east coast. This is their time to speak up, to phone their colleagues and to press that issue home. I reflect on the words of the motion and single out those who clearly are willing to support groups in the resources sector, although normally I would not. However, tonight I will single out the member for Nanango who is as one not just with the knitting nannas but also with the EDO. They are together as one. They are joined at the hip. The member for Nanango and the EDO are standing united in their knitting circle, opposing a coalmine. It is the Deb and Jo show. There is solidarity for you, right there.

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

AYES, 39:

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

NOES, 42:

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

INDEPENDENT, 2—Gordon, Pyne.

Pairs: Ryan, Simpson; Brown, Bleijie.

Resolved in the negative.

MOTION

Order of Business

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.36 pm), without notice: I move—

That government business order of the day No. 1 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

WATER LEGISLATION (DAM SAFETY) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p.1002, on motion of Mr Bailey—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.38 pm), continuing: As I was saying, my concern with this legislation relates to farm dams. Condamine probably has the heaviest density of ring tanks or irrigation dams in the state. Most of those dams would range in size from 400 megalitres to 700 or 800 megalitres,

so a large number of them will be trapped by the legislation as referable dams. They have five-metre-high earth walls. Occasionally those dams leak, which is how I would describe it, rather than burst. Generally those leaks are quickly repaired. I have never heard of one of those dams losing all of its water. In most cases, the leak is repaired before one-third of the water is lost from storage. There has never been an injury or death from a leak from any of those dams.

Cotton Australia and QFF have said that this bill will provide an improvement on the regulation that was previously in place, but both believe that the legislation that was in place was unnecessary—as is this—because the dams pose no threat to either the public or property. Trapping the dams as referable dams will mean a lot of expense. It is estimated that it will cost up to \$20,000 for farmers to get expert advice and have management plans drawn up. They will need to implement any of the recommendations that come from that advice. They will have no option but to erect signage, which is a pain in the neck on a large-scale agricultural dam. As I have said, in my area numerous dams have been there for 30 to 40 years and are an integral part of the landscape. This bill is an overreach and, in my opinion, this is a completely unnecessary part of the legislation. I understand the need with large structures, which the death of the young girl in Blackwater proves.

Mr Rickuss: If you don't understand it, regulate it.

Mr WEIR: That is right, member for Lockyer. I would like to hear the minister address my concerns when he sums up the bill.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (6.40 pm): I too would like to make a short contribution to the debate on the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016. Like the member for Condamine, this will have a huge impact on those in my area, those in the seat of Gregory, and especially the Central Highlands where we have one of Queensland's major irrigation areas—the Fairbairn Dam and large-scale irrigation. We use ring tanks and dams across the landscape.

Tonight I would like to pay tribute and remember Nelani Koefer who was swept to her death when an inflatable section of the Bedford Weir near Blackwater burst in November 2008. Following an inquest into the incident, Coroner David O'Connell recommended that the dam operator, SunWater, remove and not reinstate the rubber fabric dams made by Trelleborg, or, as it was known, Queensland Rubber. It was suggested that the serviceable life of the particular rubber barrier was 30 years. Within two years of the barrier being installed it had started to develop problems with ruptures in the foam and tears in the fabric.

The coroner recommended the inflatable rubber dam at the Bedford Weir be removed and never used again. The coroner also found a controlled wall of water was released when the barrier, which was about 1.2 metres high, ruptured with a loud bang and caused the shin-deep water that Nelani and her mother were in to quickly rise. Nelani's mother tried to move her to higher ground but little Nelani was swept away from the arms of another adult and found dead downstream the next day. I think every member in this House would agree that that is absolutely devastating. This four-year-old was at the start of her life. This tragic accident that happened in the small town of Blackwater was felt not only in the community of Blackwater but right around the Central Highlands.

Tonight I would like to pay tribute and remember Nelani and her family and acknowledge what they have gone through. It is certainly very sad. We need to make sure that this sort of infrastructure has the necessary safety provisions around it to ensure this never happens again.

In terms of the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016 I would also like to touch on agriculture and the Emerald irrigation area. That area is home to the Fairbairn Dam and is a substantial irrigation area in Queensland. I want to acknowledge the impact this legislation may have on farmers. I note the concerns of Michael Murray from Cotton Australia with regard to the regulation of dams.

Like the member for Condamine, I too have been involved in agriculture and certainly irrigation. I have also been involved in building these ring tanks. The amount of work and the amount of engineering that goes into them is substantial. They are very safe pieces of infrastructure.

Mr Rickuss: If they start to leak it is a slow leak.

Mr MILLAR: It is. I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. When they do leak it is a slow leak. In 1992 a dam on my parents' place and a dam on our neighbour's place did go because of rain. What happens is that those dams fill up and the water goes over the top of the spillway and slowly erodes the soil. The water slowly goes away. They then have to be repaired.

I would like reassurance from the minister that farmers will not be hit with more regulation and more costs as a result of this legislation. It is quite an expensive exercise to build dams and to build ring tanks. The last thing we want to do is put additional costs, additional red tape and additional bureaucracy onto these farmers when it comes to constructing these dams. I hope the minister will be able to reassure us in the House tonight that that will not be the case.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.45 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016. I will make a short contribution to this debate because I believe it is important, after the weather events that we have seen around the state this year and in previous years, that we note the absolute power and destruction of fast-flowing water. This bill streamlines the process for the minister to declare a temporary full-supply level for a flood mitigation dam under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008.

The power to declare a temporary full-supply level was first established in response to the recommendations of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry interim report. It allows the minister to declare a temporary full-supply level for Wivenhoe Dam, Somerset Dam and North Pine Dam. They are currently the only prescribed dams that must have an approved flood mitigation manual for operating dams during floods.

The power to declare a temporary full-supply level has been used on a number of occasions since enacted. It is generally in the lead-up to the wet season to manage the potential impacts of floods in South-East Queensland. However, the current process set out in the legislation to declare a temporary full-supply level is prescriptive and time consuming.

The bill will streamline the process for the minister to declare a temporary full-supply level, but retains the existing criteria that the minister must have regard to in making a decision. These criteria include: the outcome of any consultation between the chief executive and the owner of the dam about the full-supply level of the dam; the extent to which the temporary full-supply level is likely to mitigate the impacts of a potential flood or drought; the impacts the temporary full-supply level will have on the water security of the dam; whether the temporary full-supply level would affect the safety of the dam; and any other positive or negative impacts of the temporary full-supply level that the minister considers relevant.

The new process will not change the current requirement for the minister to publish a declaration in the gazette as soon as practicable after making the decision, maintaining public disclosure of these important decisions. The bill will ensure that the decision can be made in a timely manner, while keeping the current checks and balances as well as transparency and accountability.

This is a simple and sensible change that will streamline processes and enable better management of flood mitigation dams. I applaud the minister and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (6.48 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016. It has been articulated by our shadow minister that we do not oppose the bill. However, I do intend to highlight some concerns that were raised by some of the stakeholders and talk about some of the positives as well.

We all acknowledge that the integration of the dam safety and disaster management were part of the motivation. We are all about improving the way dam owners manage the safety of their dams, simplifying the process and reducing the regulatory burden. I think it is widely acknowledged and there is general acceptance that there is a need for effective regulation. I note that the committee received submissions from several stakeholders. I note that the Queensland Farmers' Federation commends and supports the process of reducing the regulatory burden where appropriate to do so, but the sector did question the department's overall philosophy of dam safety and the application of an appropriate risk framework which is specifically appropriate for on-farm dams.

Information provided to the committee notes that there are approximately an additional 100 dams yet to be assessed by the department which may result in considerable further impacts on the farming community. Local governments in Queensland own and operate approximately a third of the referable dams that are affected by the changes in the bill. As dam owners, local governments recognise the need to amend current legislative requirements to improve planning and communication in response to emergency events, as defined in the bill.

Local government believes that community engagement contains the core elements of information, consultation and participation. The changes contained within this bill are an important step in preparing communities for future flood events that will affect communities living below Queensland's dams. As has been reported, the LGAQ supports the bill.

Queenslanders are keenly aware of the impact of dam operations on communities. From the 2011 floods to the events surrounding the Callide dam in 2016, the operation of Queensland dams has been and still is under great scrutiny. With flood events since 1974 occurring in Queensland on average every two years, there is undeniably a need for constant vigilance in ensuring dam safety. Including the community in emergency event planning is necessary to ensure that anyone potentially affected by the event has the best possible chance of preparing for and responding to the event. The LGAQ supports the inclusion of local governments in the development of emergency action plans for dam operations, as per clause 18 of the bill.

Acknowledging the significant role local governments play in the planning and response to emergency events is crucial to ensuring the best chance of protecting lives and property. As the level of government closest to the community, we acknowledge that local governments are well positioned to take immediate actions that can improve responses to emergency events. Notwithstanding the need for ensuring dam safety, the recent concern over dam related events is driving increases in legislative requirements, as evidenced in part by this bill.

The LGAQ believes that such legislation should be based on sound risk assessment and reasonable levels of acceptable risk—not the absence of risk entirely. Stakeholders noted that there has not been a single death attributable to the failure of an on-farm dam in Queensland and therefore question if on-farm dams exceed the societal or individual risk. The context of the review of the Inspector-General Emergency Management and more broad public concern is focused on large-scale infrastructure—that is, large dams and weirs.

We all know that it is in the farmers' own interest to manage their dams as effectively and efficiently as possible—a failed dam is a waste of effort, a loss of water security and future income. The committee was reminded that perverse outcomes arise from regulation that is not warranted or appropriately targeted and when it is not well communicated or easily understood. The collective benefits of regulation must outweigh the collective costs of doing so.

Stakeholders, I note, extended an invitation to the committee to visit examples of on-farm dam storages so that a practical, on-the-ground assessment of the associated risk, or lack thereof, could be made. The committee was satisfied, I am sure, that the real risk posed by on-farm dams should not add additional regulation or cost impost to the agricultural sector. I think that has been achieved.

Warning signs on public land have been debated here tonight. It has been acknowledged that the bill provides a power for dam owners who are registered as a service provider to place warning signs on public land in appropriate areas immediately downstream of weirs and dams. The bill gives dam owners an express power to reduce the full-supply level of their dam in response to emerging engineering issues before the situation becomes an emergency without contravening the resource operations licence conditions under the act under which they were granted.

The LGAQ noted some amendments and we look forward to those being debated in consideration in detail. While the LGAQ supports the bill, it noted that there will be a financial impact imposed on councils. There were several other concerns. We have talked about the regulatory impact statement that was not prepared to assess the additional costs on farmers. The department's modelling about how many dams will be 'regulated dams' based on changes to the definition of population are inconclusive and we do not know the impact of the changes. Local governments are bearing an additional burden of now reviewing emergency management plans and important liability issues are still unclear. The notification process and procedure lacks any specificity, and there is no mechanism in the bill for an incoming purchaser to be notified that a dam on a property is a referable dam.

With that, I acknowledge the Fred Haigh Dam in the Burnett electorate. The Paradise Dam is also a dam of some consideration and debate. The Woongarra Balancing Storage, which is of particular interest, and the Isis Balancing Storage are all part of the implications of this bill. We commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (6.55 pm), in reply: First of all, I thank all honourable members for their participation in this debate. I will take this opportunity to respond to a number of the issues raised during the debate. Concerns have been raised about the lack of a regulatory impact statement. I can clarify for the benefit of members that this bill is amending existing provisions and it does in fact reduce the regulatory burden. The obligations which have been referred to currently exist in legislation. No additional obligations are being proposed for landholders. Accordingly, I have been reassured by my department that these amendments do not necessitate a regulatory impact statement. I will deal with these in further detail.

It has been suggested that the amendments extend the current regulatory requirements that apply to small farm dams. I can state very clearly that they do not. In fact, the amendments will reduce the number of small farm dams that might otherwise have been referable dams. The existing obligations on these dam owners are usually limited and relate to conditions regarding decommissioning. The amendments will not increase costs. In fact, they will reduce the need for dams assessed to be referable to be failure impact assessed as the owners can accept the regulator's assessment and avoid the need to prepare their own failure impact assessment. I am sure if there were some genuine concern in that regard from the opposition that they would vote against it which they are choosing not to do.

It is a matter for any purchaser of land to conduct their own inquiries about the land and the infrastructure on that land in relation to notice for purchasers. People purchasing properties containing very large dams have the capacity and resources to conduct appropriate due diligence processes and to understand their legal obligations. Also, I note that information about referable dams is available on the Department of Energy and Water Supply website.

In relation to the number of referable dams, the member for Burleigh raised concerns that there are thousands of potential referable dams across the state. My department has undertaken an extensive process to identify referable dams using satellite imagery, plans and visual inspections. Not all of these dams have been captured as they do not meet the definitional requirements under the current provisions. Of the ones that are currently captured, the amendments will ensure that some of these will no longer have to be subject to two regulatory arrangements. Those that are no longer considered to be referable dams will continue to be subject to workplace health and safety requirements.

I note the member for Warrego's comments and agree that water is, of course, essential to farmers and their businesses and that the value of water is a strong motivation for safe management of farm dams. While the bill removes regulatory overlap, a dam that poses an unlikely but high-consequence risk to the general public will still be regulated as a referable dam under the Water Supply Act.

In relation to costs for local government, I can also clarify for the House that the amendments do not significantly increase the costs for local governments. The amendments in respect of emergency action plans require local governments to review those plans—I think it is good that that is required; I think that is a step forward in terms of it being optional—and support the collaboration between dam owners and local governments to ensure they plan for appropriate notifications and warnings during emergency events. There is nothing that did not demonstrate that to me more clearly than the impact of Cyclone Debbie recently on a large section of our state in terms of the damage that I saw. There is no doubt that preparation, preparation and preparation is critical to us preventing damage, preventing people being injured and preventing fatalities. I certainly see the provisions here in that context.

I note that the Local Government Association of Queensland has identified that any cost of the implementation of the measures in the bill are reasonable. I once again confirm that the amendments do not transfer liability to local governments or to local disaster management groups. I am advised that no liability risk can arise from an obligation to review an emergency action plan and provide advice. The dam safety regulator continues to have responsibility to approve emergency action plans; dam owners continue to have responsibility to operate their dams safely.

The intent of the bill is to reduce regulatory duplication. For example, the bill recognises that the risks from small dams are appropriately managed under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. However, the amendments ensure that a dam that poses an unlikely but high-consequence risk to the general public will still be regulated as a referable dam. I am comfortable that these changes strike the right balance between reducing the regulatory burden and maintaining dam safety and continuing to protect our community.

In relation to reduced full-supply levels, submissions to the Public Works and Utilities Committee suggested the need to define the term 'unacceptable risk'. The term is used in relation to the power to reduce the full-supply level of a dam if there is an unacceptable risk that the dam could fail if it operates at the full-supply level stated in the resource's operations licence. I appreciate that this is a subjective test and in the absence of a definition there is a potential for different interpretations. I will move amendments during consideration in detail soon to define an 'unacceptable risk' for this provision.

I will also move amendments to insert a provision into the bill which provides that no compensation is payable because of the operation of the reduced full-supply level provisions contained in the bill. This provision will address concerns raised by dam owners during the committee's examination of the bill. That provision will also allow dam owners to focus on the safety of the dam as their primary consideration.

In relation to emergency action plans, concerns have been raised about interpretation and implementation of the new provisions for emergency action planning. As I stated in my second reading speech, I will move amendments during consideration in detail to further clarify certain definitions and requirements in relation to emergency action plans. I want to be clear, however, that the provisions must be broad because every referable dam must have an emergency action plan that is applicable to the circumstances of the individual dam to minimise the risk to affected communities should a dam hazard event or emergency event happen. The Department of Energy and Water Supply will publish an updated guideline following passage of the bill which will provide dam owners with detailed guidance on preparing an emergency action plan under the amended provisions.

In relation to signage downstream of dams raised by a range of people in remarkably similar sounding paragraphs, dam owners already understand how to erect appropriate signage on land that they own. They will apply the same considerations and care when erecting signs on public land downstream of a dam or weir as they do on their own land. They have the opportunity to seek the advice of a relevant local government if necessary. I am somewhat surprised that those opposite seek to have more prescription in the legislation on this topic. I am of the view that it is not necessary to address the details about the size or wording of signs in the legislation. Some people might even call that red tape.

In relation to emergency management planning, in summary, the emergency action plan framework was inserted into the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 to implement dam safety and flood mitigation recommendations by the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry. This framework has improved emergency management planning and community safety. Emergency management is an enormously challenging field and requires continuous improvement. The bill responds to the findings and recommendations of the Inspector-General Emergency Management to further improve emergency management planning and integrate dam safety with disaster management. The bill will also provide dam owners with an appropriate power to reduce the full-supply level to manage the safety of their dam and, by extension, the safety of the downstream community.

The bill will reduce regulatory duplication for owners of small dams which are covered, for example, by the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. This will reduce the burden on the owners of the dams, including small farm dams, while maintaining dam safety and continuing to protect the community. The bill will also introduce a new failure impact assessment process for an existing dam to become a referable dam. The new streamlined process will reduce the cost and burden for existing dam owners which are currently caught by the framework.

I would like to thank my departmental and ministerial staff who have worked hard on this bill in an effort to improve community safety. I thank the members of the parliamentary Public Works and Utilities Committee and its secretariat for their consideration of the bill as well as the nine organisations that made submissions to the inquiry and attended the public hearing here in Brisbane. I also thank those organisations who have taken the time to provide valuable contributions such as the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Queensland Farmers' Federation and Cotton Australia. 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 to 30—



Mr BAILEY (7.05 pm): I seek leave to move the following amendments en bloc.

Leave granted.

Mr BAILEY: I move the following amendments—

1 **Clause 13 (Amendment of s 352A (Definitions for div 2A))**

Page 14, lines 8 to 16—

omit, insert—

dam hazard event, for a dam, means an event arising from a dam hazard if—

- (a) persons or property may be harmed because of the event; and
- (b) a coordinated response involving 2 or more of the relevant entities mentioned in paragraphs (b) to (d) of the definition *relevant entity* is unlikely to be required to respond to the event; and
- (c) the event is not an emergency event.

2 Clause 13 (Amendment of s 352A (Definitions for div 2A))

Page 14, lines 26 to 34—

*omit, insert—***emergency event**, for a dam, means an event arising from a dam hazard if—

- (a) persons or property may be harmed because of the event; and
- (b) any of the following apply—
 - (i) a coordinated response involving 2 or more of the relevant entities mentioned in paragraphs (b) to (d) of the definition *relevant entity* is likely to be required to respond to the event;
 - (ii) the event may arise because of a disaster situation declared under the Disaster Management Act;
 - (iii) an entity performing functions under the State disaster management plan may, under that plan, require the owner of the dam to give the entity information about the event.

3 Clause 13 (Amendment of s 352A (Definitions for div 2A))

Page 15, lines 10 and 11, 'harmed'—

omit, insert—

affected

4 Clause 13 (Amendment of s 352A (Definitions for div 2A))

Page 15, after line 19—

insert—

- (ba) each local government whose local government area may be affected if a dam hazard event or emergency event were to happen for the dam;

5 Clause 18 (Replacement of s 352H (Content of plan))

Page 17, line 16, 'an'—

omit, insert—

a material

6 Clause 18 (Replacement of s 352H (Content of plan))

Page 17, after line 18—

*insert—**Examples for subparagraph (ii)—*

- an unusual amount of seepage from the dam
- rainfall in the catchment area of the dam

7 Clause 18 (Replacement of s 352H (Content of plan))

Page 17, line 26, after 'happens'—

insert—

, including the order of priority in which the persons or categories of persons are to be warned

8 Clause 18 (Replacement of s 352H (Content of plan))

Page 18, lines 10 and 11, from ', if a relevant' to 'may provide'—

omit, insert—

the emergency action plan may provide for the dam owner to make arrangements with a relevant entity

9 Clause 25 (Amendment of s 352T (Preparation and submission of emergency event report))

Page 23, after line 9—

insert—

- (1) Section 352T—

insert—

(1A) For subsection (1), an emergency event relating to the dam happens if—

- (a) a person or property has been or may be harmed because of the event; and
- (b) any of the following applies—
 - (i) a coordinated response involving 2 or more of the relevant entities mentioned in paragraphs (b) to (d) of the definition *relevant entity* was required to respond to the event;
 - (ii) the event arose because of a disaster situation declared under the Disaster Management Act;

- (iii) an entity performing functions under the State disaster management plan has, under that plan, required the owner of the dam to give the entity information about the event.

10 Clause 25 (Amendment of s 352T (Preparation and submission of emergency event report))

Page 23, line 10, before 'Section'—
insert—

(2)

11 Clause 25 (Amendment of s 352T (Preparation and submission of emergency event report))

Page 23, line 13, 'risk'—
omit, insert—

material risk

12 After clause 25

Page 23, after line 14—
insert—

25A Amendment of s 352U (Preparation and submission of emergency event interim report)

Section 352U—

insert—

(1A) For subsection (1)(a), an emergency event relating to the referable dam happens if—

- (a) a person or property has been or may be harmed because of the event; and
- (b) any of the following applies—
 - (i) a coordinated response involving 2 or more of the relevant entities mentioned in paragraphs (b) to (d) of the definition *relevant entity* was required to respond to the event;
 - (ii) the event arose because of a disaster situation declared under the Disaster Management Act;
 - (iii) an entity performing functions under the State disaster management plan has, under that plan, required the owner of the dam to give the entity information about the event.

13 Clause 28 (Insertion of new ch 4, pt 4)

Page 27, after line 14—
insert—

- (5) No compensation is payable to any person because of the operation of this section.
- (6) In this section—

unacceptable risk, of a failure of a dam, means a risk that is not acceptable under a guideline about the flood capacity of dams made under section 572.

14 Clause 30 (Amendment of sch 3 (Dictionary))

Page 29, after line 31—
insert—

State disaster management plan see the Disaster Management Act, section 49(1).

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes to Hon. Mark Bailey's amendments [670].

The amendments I move to the Water Legislation (Dam Safety) Amendment Bill 2016 are required to address issues raised in a number of submissions to the committee; and to respond to the committee's recommendations to clarify particular requirements relating to emergency action plans and new powers for dam owners to reduce full-supply levels of their dams for safety reasons.

The amendments provide further clarification on what is a dam hazard event and what is an emergency event, what constitutes an increase in the likelihood of a dam hazard event or emergency event happening, when an emergency event ends for the purposes of emergency event reporting and what is an unacceptable risk of dam failure for the purpose of reducing the full-supply level of a dam.

The amendments also insert a new provision into the bill which provides that no compensation is payable because of a decision made to operate at a reduced full-supply level pursuant to these new powers in the bill. This provision is similar to current section 399 of the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008, which states that no compensation is payable in relation to a temporary full-supply level declaration made by the minister for a prescribed flood mitigation dam.

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 30, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (7.08 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. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (7.08 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. MC BAILEY (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (7.09 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Upper Mount Gravatt, Player Street Connection

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (7.09 pm): I rise to address a traffic issue within my electorate—about which I have informed the House before but which is becoming more and more critical—concerning the Player Street intersection at Upper Mount Gravatt near the Garden City shopping centre. It is well known to anyone who lives in Upper Mount Gravatt and travels through that area because there are significant traffic issues there at present.

In 2015 TMR imposed conditions on a unit development in that area which blocked right-hand turns at a certain time from Kessels Road into a street called Cremin Street, and that was clearly going to create a traffic problem. I wrote to the minister about that in August 2015, and the minister wrote back saying that he was not prepared to change the condition. He pointed out that it was not something that would happen in perpetuity and an alternative solution was planned: the Player Street connection. Some work would be done by both the state and Brisbane City Council to create a new intersection which would allow the free flow of traffic through that area. In 2016 the right-turn ban was put in place and, as expected, it became very dangerous. I stood and watched many times as vehicles which moved into the right-hand lane ready to turn right, did not see the signage and did not realise they had been caught in that lane, took a punt and turned right against the red arrow or they moved back into the main stream of Kessels Road traffic, which is busy traffic, and caused traffic chaos as they did so. As expected, this caused a problem and continues to cause a problem to this very day.

This government is very good at calling on other levels of government to contribute money so that it can get on with infrastructure funding, so I am pleased to advise that in fact that is exactly what has happened here. The Brisbane City Council has put 50 per cent of the cost of this intersection on the table, and that is the correct percentage. Kessels Road is half state road and half Brisbane City Council road, and everyone knows that the protocol is a fifty-fifty split. In order to relieve the traffic congestion at that intersection it is now very easy. The state government has no further excuses. There is no other level of government that has to stump up money. The Brisbane City Council has stumped up money and it is doing the preliminary work now. I went to a council meeting on 28 March where they resolved all is in place, and all that has to happen now is for this government to get going and get this intersection happening.

Once again I draw to the attention of the House the needs of my constituents in Upper Mount Gravatt who drive through there and the ease with which this government could solve this problem by simply putting its hands in its pocket and matching the contribution of the Brisbane City Council.

Logan, Disaster Recovery

 **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) (7.12 pm): I rise tonight to put on the record my admiration for my community of Waterford as we rebuild from the worst flooding in a lifetime. On 1 April heavy rain from ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie caused a one-in-100-year flood across Logan, and many families are still picking up the pieces from this disaster. However, I want to focus not only on the floodwaters and their devastating impact but also the one thing that shone through clear and bright through this disaster: the Logan spirit. No matter whose home I went to or which resident I was speaking to at an evacuation centre, each and every person was determined to not only rebuild but also assist those around them, reminding me that as long as you have your health and family and friends everything else can be replaced. This perspective and resilience impressed me every day and it still does as we continue to recover.

I was also want to pay tribute to local businesses who espouse the Logan spirit like the IGA at Loganholme, which asked people to drop their food from their fridges in to them so they could keep them cold so they did not lose all of their groceries. Rebecca Cobbing and her family at the White House of Waterford cooked delicious food for our brave SES crews. The White House of Waterford backs on to the Logan River, and they kept their kitchen running while the floodwaters crept closer and closer to their restaurant. Colin Patino from Patino Lawyers at Meadowbrook donated \$7,500 worth of food vouchers that he and his business purchased for those affected. Louie and Christine Naumovski from the Logan House Fire Support Network normally deal with house fires, but that did not stop them from opening up the Bethania community hall and filling it to the brim with donations of food and clothing for their fellow 'Loganites' in need. There are so many other tales of individuals and businesses who chipped in in our time of need, and to them I want to say a very heartfelt thank you.

I also want to place on record my thanks to Mayor Luke Smith and his Logan City Council team, who led our city with strength and composure, demonstrating exceptional leadership. I finally want to thank my neighbours Karl, Larissa, John and Linda, who were at my house as the floodwaters rose doing what they could, as I was out at the local disaster centre with my constituents. When I talk about the Logan spirit I am not talking about something that I am removed from; I am speaking of something that I have personally experienced over the past month. Logan really is an incredibly strong and resilient city with a big heart. The recent flooding may have been incredibly devastating for so many across Logan, but it cannot and will not dampen our spirit.

Regional Freight Services

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (7.15 pm): This evening I again rise to put on public record the issue of subsidised freight services in Western Queensland—or the lack thereof. For the past two months the communities in my electorate of Gregory have been battling unreliable and unsatisfactory freight services. Deliveries from Aurizon, the regional road and rail freight carrier, have been late or in poor condition. Less than two weeks ago right before Quilpie's centenary celebrations a truck full of produce was delivered to Quilpie's only two supermarkets. When the goods were unpacked the owners found the frozen goods in the fresh section and the fresh goods in the frozen section. The potatoes were so hard they could have been used as cannonballs. The community was left with a truck full of spoiled produce right before one of the town's biggest weekends on record.

It is not good enough, and unfortunately this is not an isolated incident. Communities are becoming increasingly frustrated with the substandard service they are receiving. The Queensland government subsidises this service as part of the Regional Freight and Livestock Transport Service Contract to deliver 3,300 rail and road freight services to regional Queensland every year. Queensland's hard-earned taxpayer dollars are being spent on a service that is not even delivered properly. Clearly the current contract arrangements are not working. We are seeing services running empty or severely reduced because nobody wants to use them.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has a duty to all Queensland taxpayers—and especially to the people of rural and regional Queensland and Western Queensland—to ensure that they provide good quality services that deliver value for money for the government. I am calling on the Palaszczuk government to fix the current situation. All I can see at the moment is more waste. The current contract arrangements are due to expire in December 2017. As the tender process for the new contracts gets underway, I am committed to ensuring that the people of rural and regional Queensland and Western Queensland are not forgotten.

The drought has had a severe impact on the viability of many businesses in my electorate. The inefficiency of the regional freight contract adds more pressure to the bottom line of already struggling businesses. The people of Western Queensland deserve a fair go. I am calling on the Palaszczuk government to fix the current arrangements now and ensure that the new regional freight contracts deliver goods to rural and regional Queensland on time and in good condition. The people of Western Queensland are getting sick and tired of the substandard service that is provided by Aurizon to Western Queensland communities. It is important to these communities that they have goods and freight delivered on time and intact, and I call on the government to fix this now.

Fairfax Media, Industrial Action

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (7.18 pm): As members would have noticed, there have been some empty chairs in the press gallery in this place and indeed across the country as a result of the industrial action taken by Fairfax journalists in response to management announcing they are going to sack one quarter of the editorial staff. This will see approximately 125 journalists made redundant across Australia. As I understand it, the *Brisbane Times* is less likely to be affected than other Fairfax titles, however, it says a lot about the character of those journalists at the *Brisbane Times* that they are prepared to support their colleagues.

As information capacity increases in our society, we have a plethora of information coming at us from a variety of different sources. The rise of fake news has made it increasingly difficult to determine what the truth actually is. Given these challenges, good-quality journalism is as vital to our society as it has ever been.

Fairfax is one of the oldest media companies in our country and has a storied history. It has made a worthy contribution to the public good and the effective functioning and accountability of our institutions. It is important to recognise that this contribution has been achieved on the back of hardworking journalists.

We need quality journalism. Journalism is the fourth estate in our democracy. For a stable and functioning democracy we require good-quality media and experienced journalists—checking facts, corroborating sources and stories, analysing and questioning—to ensure the public are reliably informed. We need these experienced and good-quality journalists to keep our society accountable and ensure an independent media platform. The public is not served by a media that simply panders to the interests of big business and the big end of town or a media that acts simply as a mouthpiece for conservative politics in this country.

In these changing times the public have come to rely on journalists with a depth of knowledge and a balanced perspective. Fewer journalists means fewer stories that matter. Stories like the 7-Eleven wage theft and the world's biggest bribery scandal at Unaoil were uncovered by Fairfax Media journalists. Breaking these big, important stories in the future will obviously be more challenging in an environment where more is required from fewer journalists. I think it is important that all of us in this House hear what these Fairfax journalists are saying. Whilst we no doubt disagree with our friends in the press gallery from time to time, their contribution to good governance and the community at large should be recognised and applauded.

I am hopeful that this matter can be sorted out in the best interests of maintaining quality journalism and a diversity of opinions. I put on the record that I have taken a personal and principled stand in that during the duration of this particular action I have not given interviews to any Fairfax Media outlets. That is a principled and personal stand that I have decided to take. Quality journalism and a diversity of opinions are extremely important. I finish by saying: fair go, Fairfax.

Anzac Day

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (7.21 pm): Tonight I would like to pay tribute to our veterans community across Mackay and the Whitsundays following on from Anzac Day. It is now 102 years since the Gallipoli landings. I had the great honour of laying wreaths at no fewer than six services across the Mackay-Whitsunday region, including four in my own electorate. This year marks the 75th anniversary of some iconic battles involving members of the ADF—El Alamein, Kokoda and, in just the last few days, the Battle of the Coral Sea.

The day started for me in the cane fields of Calen, where I laid a wreath at the dawn service. I acknowledge Peter Wright and his colleagues from the St Helens subbranch of the RSL. Next it was on to Kuttabul, where I attended a wonderful dawn service at which World War II veterans 'Monty'

Edmonds and Len Lister stole the show, as always. Sadly, their great mate Ron Turner passed away after last Anzac Day. Our thoughts are with Fay and the rest of the family. To 'Frosty' McLean and the Kuttabul RSL subbranch I say well done. It was tremendous to see the MacGill family—an iconic family who made an enormous sacrifice in terms of serving the nation in World War I. That was symbolised by the presence of the light horse at the dawn service.

Then it was on to Airlie Beach for the main service at which I was privileged to address a huge crowd. I pay tribute to RSL subbranch member Graham Wyatt. It was lovely seeing Shirley, his widow, after the service. I say well done to Terry Brown, Bill Rose, Chris Bull and the rest of the team from the local subbranch, particularly in the wake of Cyclone Debbie.

After that it was on to Proserpine, where I paid tribute to World War II veteran Jack Tyree, who reached 100 years of age. His recent funeral service was postponed not once but twice because of Cyclone Debbie. He was a great man—a prolific writer of letters to the editors of local newspapers. It was a privilege to not only attend Jack's funeral but also pay tribute to him at the service in Proserpine. I say well done to Jason Raiteri and his colleagues from the Proserpine subbranch.

Then it was down to Mackay, to the Mackay South Sea Islanders service. This year is a significant year in our part of the world as it is 150 years since the first of the Kanakas, as they were called, arrived on our shores to work in the cane fields. I thank Starrett Veve, Maud Corowa and Marion Healy and their brothers and sisters for their warm welcome. It was a privilege to lay a wreath at the hut in West Mackay.

Finally I went up the Pioneer Valley, to the Finch Hatton RSL subbranch. Sadly, Sidney Allen passed away after last year's Anzac Day. He served in the RAAF during World War II. Vale, Mr Allen. I thank Tony Dodd and his team at the RSL subbranch in the Pioneer Valley for their hospitality. Let us not forget.

Anzac Day

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development) (7.24 pm): The Anzac Day dawn service is a solemn tradition that brings together tens of thousands of Queenslanders to pay their respects to those who lost their lives in service of their nation. As we all know, dawn services are held on 25 April in towns and cities. They are part of the fabric of our nation and one of the vital and unique social threads that distinguishes Australia.

As the member for Rockhampton I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the solemn Anzac Day dawn service tradition has much of its roots in Rockhampton. The Rockhampton community decided to gather at dawn on Anzac Day in 1916, one year after the Gallipoli landings. In January of that year a Queensland committee was formed to arrange a commemoration of the sacrifice of 25 April 1915. That committee called for evening services in every community large or small across the state and one minute's silence to be called for 9 pm. The following is from the *Morning Bulletin* of Saturday, 8 April 1916. The headline read 'Anzac Day: United Religious Service' and the article states—

At a meeting of the Rockhampton Ministers' Association held on Wednesday last it was resolved, that, in addition to the services arranged by the various churches, a united gathering should be held from 6.30 a.m. to 7.30 a.m. on Anzac Day (April 25). In view of the landing of the gallant troops at an early hour of the morning on the day that has now become historic, it was decided to describe this particular celebration as "a daybreak service. Mr G. H. Birch has kindly granted the use of Earl's Court, for the occasion. A sub-committee was appointed to make all the arrangements for what the association believes will meet with very wide approval as an interdenominational effort to mark the event, especially the appropriateness of the hour.

I think the *Morning Bulletin* had it right. The first daybreak service was attended by approximately 600 persons and, by all accounts, set the tone for ceremonies that are now held at dawn in communities all across our nation. I also think it is appropriate that, 101 years after that first dawn service, Rockhampton's part in establishing this most enduring and precious tradition is acknowledged by the Queensland parliament.

I did some quick numbers—I have previously given versions of this speech. We wonder why there are whistlestop towns all around Australia that have Anzac memorials. Many members would know that we have so far lost 41 in Afghanistan and we lost 521 in Vietnam. To contemporise our population of 1915 to 1918 to today's population, the casualty figures Australia would bear for a war such as the First World War, from an entirely volunteer base, would be about 200 soldiers killed every day and about 500 wounded every day. I do not know anyone who would have an appetite for that scale of loss for four years, day after day, with nearly a battalion wiped out daily.

Gold Coast, Community Safety

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (7.27 pm): I rise to speak about a topic I have previously addressed during this term of parliament—that is, community safety, specifically with regard to hooning and dangerous driving on our local and state roads. Without a doubt, this is the No. 1 issue that residents of the Gaven electorate still consider to be the greatest threat to community safety.

As I noted in my speech earlier today, I have worked tirelessly in the Gaven electorate in the area of community safety with regard to police numbers. My colleagues the members for Albert and Coomera and I have jointly called for at least 50 more police officers on the northern Gold Coast. Unfortunately, we have received only 20 officers transferred from the RAP squad located on the southern Gold Coast. The only other efforts we have seen from this Labor government are bandaied measures which inevitably are seeing our thin blue line stretched to breaking point, with no real way to cope with the constantly increasing population in our area.

This has resulted in reports of residents, desperate to see their community safe for both themselves and in many cases their children, resorting to forms of vigilante justice. This has been documented in both the mainstream media and our social media pages. Whilst I would never condone any such action that would endanger anyone in our local community, I certainly understand the frustration and anger residents are feeling as a result of the neglect of this Labor government.

I want to take this opportunity, however, to recognise a local, Gary Hodges—a local Carrara resident who, after seeing a serious accident caused by hooning in his street, decided to initiate positive action by gathering together his fellow local residents to address the issue of hooning to community representatives including myself, the local councillor and the local police officer in charge. I very much welcomed Gary's contact with me with regard to holding this community rally, as this is exactly the type of action that is required for our community to come together to confront this reckless and abandoned behaviour. Gary's actions have effectively started a positive chain reaction to see real change in the Carrara community, including road traffic slowing measures and pedestrian safety measures. I am also taking every opportunity to promote 13HOON throughout the Gaven electorate. 13HOON is a police initiative specifically designed to allow residents to phone a police hotline providing whatever information they have about hooning in their area as it happens. I am also encouraging local residents to contact my office when they have further concerns about this issue or if they have feedback regarding how we can assist the police further as a community.

Kallangur Electorate

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (7.30 pm): I am pleased to advise the House about some very important local road improvements that are commencing this week in the Kallangur electorate. Motorists on Anzac Avenue can soon enjoy improved driving conditions with \$1.8 million worth of resurfacing works to begin this week. Anzac Avenue is one of the major thoroughfares in my electorate and carries tens of thousands of motorists to both my local community and further north daily. I was pleased to be advised by Minister Bailey that both carriageways on Anzac Avenue between School Road and Dohles Rocks Road would be resurfaced in this project. The works will provide an improved road surface and safer driving conditions for motorists on this busy section of Anzac Avenue. The project will involve the removal of the existing road surface, complete asphalt resurfacing and line marking and will take about five weeks to finish, weather permitting. This has been needed for a while.

A lot of work has gone into making sure we deliver these upgrades as efficiently as possible and limit interference to traffic and local business. The entire project will be completed at night, between 7 pm and 5 am, to minimise disruptions to nearby businesses and motorists. Motorists may experience some minor delays during the works and traffic control, reduced speed limits and signage will be in place. I implore motorists to take care during this time and consider the workers on the project. There is no doubt that the volume of traffic that uses this road takes a punishing toll on the surface and the vehicles on it. It is my priority to ensure that we not only have the roads we currently have in the best possible shape to carry the volumes of traffic they must but it is a constant challenge to ensure that we meet the needs of the future.

I know that most in this place would also have heard me mention the university that is coming to my electorate in the suburb of Petrie. This most important infrastructure project will bring with it a number of planning and funding priorities for future governments and councils. We as a community face a number of challenges in the local area in relation to this expansion, and I consider Anzac Avenue and indeed the entry point to Anzac Avenue—the Petrie roundabout and its upgrade—to be of the utmost priority for me as the local member of parliament. I am pleased that the minister recently responded to

my question on notice about the early planning that is taking place around the need to upgrade this intersection and I am committed to working with the minister, the Moreton Bay Regional Council and the many local residents who use this area to get action on the required works as a priority. It has been a bottleneck in our area for as long as I can remember. I have lived in the area for most of my life and it makes me feel pretty good to know that we have a start towards repairing it. I thank everyone for their patience and remind motorists to drive with caution through the area while the roadworks are happening and to take care.

Hervey Bay Electorate

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (7.33 pm): I have been asked to table this nonconforming petition on behalf of the Marcus' Legacy Rule and Jodie Tangikara and am happy to do so. There are a total of 455 Queensland signatures. The petition questions why women cannot choose to stay in hospital when they miscarry.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding miscarriage and hospital stays [\[671\]](#).

This year the Red Shield Appeal is in full swing. The Red Shield Appeal is the Salvation Army's signature fundraising drive. It goes from April through to the end of May. The Red Shield Appeal began in 1965 and every year since the Salvation Army asks many Australians for donations to ensure that we can give hope where it is most needed through our social welfare and community programs. Many Australians rely on the Salvos' programs every day. The fundraising goes to shelters for the homeless, assists families in crisis with support and financial counselling and guides people with addictions to get back to a clean and healthy lifestyle. The Red Shield Appeal gets strong support in Hervey Bay and I am proud to be a part of the Red Shield Appeal each year. I thank George and Lyn Duck and Ed Gibson from the boat club for sponsoring the breakfast the other morning.

There are other organisations in my electorate that really make a difference. My gratitude goes to Jaime de Salis who works tirelessly with her team to support people with Parkinson's disease. Jaime has been wanting a movement nurse in Hervey Bay for many years and has mounted a strong argument as to why it is necessary. The nurse would be a community based nurse who would travel out to patients who have limited body abilities from acquired diseases such as MS, MG and Parkinson's disease. I am pleased to note that Hervey Bay now has a full-time neurologist. We welcome Professor Geoffrey Boyce operating full time from Main Street. We really welcome that news. I also want to give a special mention to Elaine Gamer from the leukaemia support group in Hervey Bay. These ladies do a great job of supporting other people with leukaemia, especially those who have lost children around the area. There are a lot of good groups in Hervey Bay which really deserve our support as much as possible. They are great support groups.

Ambulance Service, Kirwan Station

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (7.36 pm): Since being elected in 2015 I have given a commitment to my constituents and staff of the local ambulance station at Kirwan to ensure they get a new station. Kirwan station is where I remain as an honorary officer, albeit I had to cancel my last shift in March with the threat of Cyclone Debbie looming off the coast of Townsville. I am now overdue for my next volunteer shift, but I look forward to that. In my 27 years as a paramedic with the Queensland Ambulance Service I had the opportunity to relieve as acting officer in charge in many stations in the northern region, including Kirwan in 2014, so I believe that I can speak with a degree of authority in that I know the station and staff quite well.

I have been in regular contact with the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services making representations with regard to delivering funding for a new QAS station at Kirwan over the last two years. The minister, who has himself been to QAS Kirwan station on a number of occasions—in fact, his last visit was meeting the new QAS Indigenous cadets a few months ago—is also well informed that this facility is now 38 years old, being built as a subbranch of the then QATB in 1979. It housed two staff and I remember that, having worked there myself as a probationary ambulance officer in 1990 and for several occasions over the years. QAS Kirwan station now has over 40 full-time staff. The new modern fleet of ambulances barely fit under the roof of the plant room. In fact, it cannot house the new two-stretcher vehicles or four-wheel-drive ambulances. The previous LNP member promised to fix it—much like Riverway Drive—but he never delivered on that promise.

I know that we need to deliver the modern facilities for our front-line staff, and to that end I have been working with local QAS Assistant Commissioner Robbie Medlin, officer in charge of Kirwan station Linda Reedman and representatives from the Kirwan local ambulance committee. I committed to

gaining support from the broader community for a new QAS station at Kirwan by launching a petition and I have been out at markets doorknocking and gaining support. I now table this nonconforming petition with 320 signatures from the local area which calls on the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services to include funding in the upcoming state budget for the 2017-18 period for a new ambulance station at Kirwan.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding Kirwan Ambulance Station [\[672\]](#).

I want to thank all who signed this petition—there are 320 of them—and gave support. On doorsteps in the Kirwan area people told me that they have used the QAS on occasion and have the highest respect for our local paramedics who do an outstanding job. They believe that they need a new station as well. I commend all our paramedics who, in my humble opinion, are ordinary people doing an extraordinary job.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 7.39 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Crawford, Cripps, D'Ath, Davis, de Brenni, Dick, Dickson, Donaldson, Elmes, Emerson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Gordon, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pyne, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams