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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 25 May 2017

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THURSDAY, 25 MAY 2017



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Gee, we are in a good mood this morning! It seems like everyone is in a good mood, but I will not pick on you. I will make sure that I do not look your way at all, member for Hinchinbrook, but I might look at the member for Everton because he has a bit of a track record this week. While I am in the mood, maybe the Minister for Education will get a mention as well. We will see how we go.

PRIVILEGE

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



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 6 March 2017 the member for Redlands wrote to me alleging that the Premier and Minister for the Arts deliberately misled the House on 15 February 2017 in her response to a question without notice when she stated—

If he had bothered to read the Strachan report, he would have seen that it is very clear that the new chair of the board said that he wanted to stress test that timetable and report back within one month.

...

As I have said—and let me say it again—there is going to be a stress test and report back within one month. It is in black and white there. I cannot be clearer.

In his letter to me the member for Redlands claimed that the Strachan review report did not provide a time frame of one month for reporting on the stress test of the train timetable and that the Premier would have been aware of the report's findings and recommendations. He also advised that both the Deputy Premier and Mr Phillip Strachan, the author of the report, had contradicted the Premier's statement.

I sought further information from the Premier about the allegation made against her in accordance with standing order 269(5). The Premier advised that she had been informed during various meetings following completion of the report that the stress test and accompanying report would be completed within one month and that when she made her statement it was off the cuff in the heat of the debate and she believed it to be true. On 23 May 2017 the Premier clarified to the House that the Strachan report provided that the report back on the stress test of the timetable being within one month was not contained in the report but in briefings that the Premier had personally received.

On the evidence before me, I am satisfied with the Premier's explanation that her statement was made off the cuff and she believed it to be true based on information received following completion of the report. 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 the matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence from the member for Redlands, Mr Matt McEachan MP, and the Premier, Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an alleged misleading of the House [\[789\]](#).

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Failure to Comply with an Order of the House by a Minister



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, yesterday after the Clerk, in accordance with standing order 29, advised the House of an outstanding order, dated 1 March 2017, relating to the stress test of the Citytrain timetable, the member for Glass House rose on a matter of privilege. The member noted that the Deputy Premier had failed to comply with the order since 1 March 2017, a period of nearly three

months. The member asked that I consider the matter and rule on when the delay constitutes a contempt of parliament and what remedies are available to the House. I have reviewed the final order of the House. The final order of the House stated—

That, in accordance with standing order 27, the House orders the Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport to produce to the House a property from Queensland Rail on the outcome of the chair's 'stress test' of the Citytrain timetable.

The motion as agreed to is not a resolution; it is an order of the House. There are a number of references I have included in the *Record of Proceedings*. They are—

29 October 2008, *Record of Proceedings* pp. 3184, 3223 and 3226; 3 December 2008, *Record of Proceedings* pp. 4099, 4102; 28 October 2009, *Record of Proceedings* p. 2962; 12 July 2012, *Record of Proceedings* p. 1189; 19 March 2013, *Record of Proceedings* pp. 637, 661-668.

The motion had originally included that the order be complied with within 72 hours, but that requirement was removed by an amendment agreed to by the House. Whilst the motion agreed to on 1 March was an order and not a resolution in that it places an obligation on the Deputy Premier to comply with its terms, the order does not have a timeframe within which to comply. Without a timeframe within which to comply there is no standard against which a failure to report can be measured; therefore, no contempt arises.

In terms of the remedies available to the House, standing order 29 is there to ensure that awareness of outstanding orders is brought to the attention of the House. It is always within the warrant of the House to take any further action including further orders that the House believes are desirable or necessary.

I table correspondence received from the Deputy Premier yesterday which explains the delay and gives assurances as to compliance with the order.

Tabled paper: Correspondence from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Jackie Trad, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding a matter of privilege raised by member for Glasshouse, Mr Andrew Powell MP [790].

PETITIONS

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

Schools, Bullying

Mr Boothman, from 225 petitioners, requesting the House to instruct the Department of Education to undertake a review into best practises at schools to reduce the prevalence of bullying in our schools [791].

Ferny Grove State High School, Multi-purpose Facility

Hon. Furner, from 919 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise funding for the construction of an upgraded multi-purpose facility to meet the growing demands of Ferny Grove State High School and the wider community [792].

Petitions received

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Jobs

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.38 am): The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games are just around the corner: 314 days from now, 6,600 athletes from more than 70 nations will converge on our state for the biggest sporting event that Australia has seen this decade. To deliver an event of this scale we need a large and diverse skilled workforce. We are committed to delivering the best Commonwealth Games ever, just as we are committed to delivering jobs for Queenslanders.

That is why today I am pleased to announce that from this Sunday Goldoc will launch a new recruitment drive to fill 800 new jobs ahead of the games. This will be the final intake of staff ahead of the games, taking the total workforce to around 1,500. Goldoc is seeking passionate people with the energy, skills and knowledge to work across a range of roles in key areas including transport, logistics, accommodation, security, spectator services, games venues and many more.

The first phase of applications opens this Sunday with a second phase of recruitment to commence in August. For successful applicants this could be a career game-changer to work alongside major events experts from all around the world. The positions will be advertised on the Seek Commonwealth Games jobs portal. I would encourage anyone who is interested to put up their hand for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of the Goldoc team.

Tropical Cyclone Debbie, Recovery

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.39 am): Two months ago today a low in the Coral Sea was named Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Debbie had a devastating impact across large tracts of Queensland. Thirty-five local governments have been activated for assistance under the joint Commonwealth-state Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, the NDRRA. More than 116,000 people have already been assisted through the Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme and \$28.1 million in assistance has been paid. A \$14.7 million Community Recovery Fund has been established under category C of the NDRRA.

Over the past two months there has been a lot of work done by Queenslanders across the state: 10,763 rapid damage assessments were conducted; 235,000 properties had power restored; 1,167 schools were reopened in time for the second term of the school year; 996 early childhood centres were reopened; and 56,000 insurance claims have been submitted across Queensland and New South Wales worth around \$897 million. There is still a long road to recovery, and we will continue to get on with the job to ensure we provide as much assistance as possible to those who need it most.

On Saturday I will be honoured to attend the Bowen Gumlu Growers Association gala dinner. I had the opportunity to meet with the association president, Carl Walker, and growers in the immediate wake of Cyclone Debbie. Agriculture is a mainstay of the Queensland economy and the Whitsunday region is a significant contributor to the \$10 billion horticulture industry in Queensland. The region is the main winter vegetable growing region in Australia, focusing on tomatoes, capsicums, beans and sweet corn. The gross value of fruit and vegetable production in the region is approximately \$450 million, with around 10,000 hectares under crops each year. One initiative we developed as a result of meeting with growers was my government's additional funding of \$2 million for our Go Local campaign to encourage people to source local services and produce.

To date, QRAA has received a total of 437 grant applications from primary producers across the state's disaster affected areas. So far 216 applications have been approved, worth \$1.2 million. To date, QRAA has received 29 applications of which 14 have been approved for a total of around \$147,000. I am advised that applications are being turned around within nine days. I thank all of the people who are working on this. I would encourage any growers that have been affected to contact QRAA on freecall 1800623946 to arrange a meeting with one of our teams in the region.

World of Drones Congress

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.41 am): I am pleased to announce that in August Brisbane will host the first Asia-Pacific congress on drone technologies. What good news for Queensland! My government will be the principal government sponsor for the event—an event covering topics such as the new drone economy, safety, smart cities, emergency response, and environment and conservation.

I am absolutely delighted that Brisbane has been chosen to host the World of Drones Congress. This is a major coup for Queensland and it shows that our state is a huge drawcard for major events. We are a state of innovation, with drone friendly policies attracting major industry players such as Japan's Terra Drone, which chose Brisbane as its new base in the Asia-Pacific region.

Let me be clear: my government is committed to taking drone technologies to the next level, proven by our recently announced investment of \$1 million as part of our \$10 million Advance Queensland Platform Technology Program. The funding will develop and test cutting-edge technologies used to monitor infrastructure across critical industries including LNG, agriculture, mining, energy, telecommunications, environmental management and, importantly, natural disaster preparation and recovery. Drones are already helping to improve and save, in the case of search and rescue, the lives of Queenslanders.

This conference will provide an ideal platform for business matching, industry development and commercialisation, positioning Queensland as an attractive investment destination. There will also be a 'design a drone' competition, encouraging students to design a drone that addresses one of Queensland's science challenges. This competition is a great way for students to get involved in this emerging billion dollar industry. I encourage schools to take up this kind of opportunity. Internationally renowned drone experts and industry leaders are set to lead keynote addresses across the three-day conference.

I understand that we have already received significant interest globally and expect to see the Queensland business community embrace this congress. It is expected that delegations will come from Australia, China, the United States of America, Canada and the United Kingdom.

QAGOMA, Marvel Exhibition

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.43 am): As Minister for the Arts, one of the things I am so proud of is our cultural precinct of QAGOMA. I am pleased that earlier this month it was announced that renowned American light artist James Turrell has been commissioned to create a permanent architectural installation that will illuminate GOMA. James Turrell is a visionary who for 50 years has created artworks that use light and space to deliver immersive and moving artworks that are renowned around the world. He has transformed entire buildings in cities like Paris, London and San Francisco, and now Brisbane will be in that company. QAGOMA is now renowned around the world as a world-class cultural precinct.

Tomorrow I will officially open one of the most anticipated exhibitions to come to GOMA. *Marvel: Creating the Cinematic Universe* is an exclusive exhibition curated by GOMA in collaboration with Marvel. This is great news for Queensland as it is the first exhibition of its type to ever be staged in an art museum anywhere in the world. This is a major coup for Queensland and will attract pop culture lovers, film buffs and many devoted national and international Marvel fans.

Mr Pitt: I'll be there.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Good to hear.

Mr Bleijie: Are they going to have The Avengers Civil War?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I think your invitation is lost in the mail. Featuring pieces from the extensive archive of Marvel Studios as well as private and public collections worldwide, this exhibition follows superheroes such as Thor, Iron Man and Captain America from the pages of comic books to the cinema screen.

Mr Bleijie: You're no Wonder Woman.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Maybe he is. At least I'm not a dancing queen!

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You started it!

Mr SPEAKER: I think the member for Kawana did start it. Premier, do you have anything further to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I have not finished, Mr Speaker. It will feature more than 500 artworks and objects. This major exhibition is the first of its kind to be staged anywhere in the world. I look forward to the opening tomorrow night. Ticket presales for this exhibition have already outsold any other exhibition held at GOMA. I am quite sure it will be outstanding. It will attract a lot of families from across Queensland and Australia. There has also been interest from other places around the world. I am very pleased that it is my government that has been able to secure this as a direct result of trade missions I have attended in the United States. I look forward to attending tomorrow night.

Fairer Fares

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.47 am): When the Palaszczuk government introduced the Fairer Fares package last December we had clear goals. We wanted to ease the cost-of-living pressures for customers and increase the convenience and appeal of public transport to help the switch from cars and congestion to fast, reliable public transport. Today I am delighted to inform the House that we are doing just that. In the first four months since its introduction, Fairer Fares has saved South-East Queensland commuters and families more than \$22.6 million, or about \$1.2 million a week. That is more money going into our economy, going into small businesses or helping with household bills.

The most significant change to the South-East Queensland public transport network in a decade, Fairer Fares has made public transport more affordable and has simplified the TransLink network. The proof is in the monthly TransLink open data report for February, which I table.

Tabled paper: TransLink Customer Satisfaction Monthly Snapshot, February 2017 [\[793\]](#).

Satisfaction with affordability has reached its highest level since 2012. More than 53 million trips across the South-East Queensland public transport network have been eligible for savings from the Fairer Fares package since it was introduced, with customers saving on average 43 cents per trip. These \$22.6 million in savings are spread right across the South-East Queensland region.

Between 19 December 2016 and 30 April 2017, Fairer Fares has delivered almost \$11 million in savings to commuters and families in Brisbane's north and more than \$4.5 million in savings in the city's south. In the western areas of Brisbane, Fairer Fares has delivered savings of more than \$2 million,

while in Brisbane's eastern suburbs almost \$2 million in savings has been achieved. On the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast, the first four months of Fairer Fares has seen savings of more than \$1.1 million and \$800,000 respectively for commuters and families.

We promised that Fairer Fares would make bus, train, ferry and tram transport more affordable, and it has. People right across South-East Queensland are now enjoying reduced fares, with most customers saving between three per cent and 42 per cent per trip, with an average customer saving of around 15 per cent. The incentives we introduced to help people switch from car to public transport are working. I am delighted to report that customers have also embraced the government's decision to extend the 20 per cent off-peak discount period. In the first four months of Fairer Fares, more than 760,000 eligible weekday off-peak trips were made. This is an increase of 90,000 trips compared to the same period last year—a jump of 13.5 per cent or almost 1,000 additional off-peak weekday trips every day. I want to place on record my recognition and thanks for the good work done by the Leader of the House when he was transport minister to deliver our Fairer Fares policy.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

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

Ms TRAD: In just a few short months Fairer Fares is achieving what we set out to deliver: it is easing the cost-of-living pressures by making public transport more affordable and a choice of transport for thousands of Queenslanders.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Budget

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.50 am): Confidence is king. The third state budget I will deliver on 13 June will continue the implementation of our economic plan that has helped rebuild business confidence in Queensland. Confidence is an essential ingredient in attracting new investment to expand existing industries and to generate new ones. It is also essential to encourage investment in innovation to establish new industries delivering jobs for the future. After slumping under the former government, confidence has made a comeback under the Palaszczuk government. The positive results in a range of surveys show our state is heading in the right direction.

Most recently the Suncorp CCIQ Pulse survey for the March quarter underlined the upturn in the state's economy by pointing to stronger business confidence. The Pulse survey showed business confidence rose 1.7 points to reach 49.4 on the survey's index. This is the highest it has been since December 2014. General business conditions rose by 6.3 points to reach 52.6—the highest since December 2009. The expectations for the June quarter of those surveyed was rated at 51.9, indicating that improving conditions are expected to remain steady. A major aim of our economic plan is to attract investment and innovation, leading to more jobs in our regional communities, so it was encouraging to see in the Pulse survey that 'caution and pessimism' is lifting across Queensland. The survey said that the 'substantial increase' in confidence in the March quarter 2017 followed the 'steep climb' seen in the December quarter 2016. Our government has focused on supporting regional communities and economies, so it is notable that the Pulse survey showed Queensland businesses in regional areas were more optimistic than those in South-East Queensland.

The NAB Monthly Business Survey is another indicator of the strong performance of our economy. It has placed Queensland highest or second highest in the nation on confidence for 26 out of the past 28 months. In addition, the latest Sensis Business Index survey showed confidence amongst Queensland small and medium business owners is at its highest level in seven years. These outcomes show the positive results of our economic plan and the initiatives in our two state budgets so far. These outcomes also show how important it is to any economy to have a government that interacts with business in a consultative and cooperative way. We took that approach in opposition and we have taken that same approach now that we are in office.

We have seen the negative results that flow from taking a panicky approach built around a fake budget emergency. We saw that approach recently here in Queensland as a justification for asset sales and also saw how it hits business confidence. Similarly, at the federal level we repeatedly heard the scare stories about the so-called budget emergency from former treasurer Joe Hockey. That approach is directly linked to the current lack of confidence and the view that the federal government has no coherent economic plan and is just drifting.

The third state budget that I will hand down on 13 June will build on our achievements so far in rebuilding business confidence. The budget will continue the sensible and disciplined economic management seen since the last election. It will continue our focus on encouraging job-generating investment and innovation and it will continue to build the positive relationship between the government and the business community. As I said earlier, all of the survey results show that Queensland is heading in the right direction under our economic plan.

Queensland Health, integrated electronic Medical Record Program

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.54 am): Today I want to update the House on Queensland Health's integrated electronic Medical Record, or ieMR, program. Members would be aware of recent ransomware cyber attacks that impacted upon personal computers and computer networks operated by private enterprise and governments around the world. This attack did not result in any breaches to Queensland Health security. Queensland Health cybersecurity staff cooperated with their state government cybersecurity colleagues, with colleagues in other jurisdictions and with our vendors to fend off this serious ransomware attack that has impacted upon so many government agencies, private businesses and individuals worldwide.

Over the course of that weekend as part of protecting our systems from cyberattack, a series of security patches provided by software owners such as Microsoft, Cerner and Citrix were loaded to further protect Queensland Health systems from attack. As I have said often in this place, patient safety is a top priority for the Palaszczuk government. Protecting our networks and the integrity of our information systems is critically important in achieving that goal. Yesterday I received advice from the Chief Executive of eHealth Queensland, Dr Richard Ashby, that while those patches have protected the integrity of our systems and data it appears these protections may be making logging on and off the ieMR system difficult for some users. The impact is affecting five hospitals out of Queensland's 193 hospitals and health clinics—the Princess Alexandra and Lady Cilento Children's hospitals in Brisbane and the Mackay, Cairns and Townsville hospitals. While this is causing inconvenience to staff, I am advised that there have been no patient safety issues and our hospitals are operating as usual.

While a large number of users remain on the system, full downtime procedures—for which staff have been trained and are ready, including reverting to paper systems as necessary—are operating as required. These backup systems operate in accordance with clinical protocols which are practised regularly to prepare for any downtime event, including scheduled maintenance. Our clinicians and support staff are doing what they do best, and that is caring for patients. I am further advised that the impact of logon issues may result in some delays to patient admission or discharge and I thank our staff once again for their hard work and patience.

The response to this matter is being led by Dr Richard Ashby, Chief Executive of eHealth Queensland. Dr Ashby is known to many in the chamber as he led the successful implementation of ieMR at the Princess Alexandra Hospital as the Chief Executive of the Metro South Hospital and Health Service. ieMR has been operating at the PA effectively since late 2015, with improved clinical operations and no significant patient or systems issues. No clinician or health administrator in the nation knows ieMR better than Dr Ashby. While I am advised that this situation could remain current for at least seven days, Dr Ashby and the team at eHealth Queensland, along with senior hospital and health service staff, are working with the vendor, Cerner, to resolve this issue as soon as possible. I thank our staff for their continued dedication. They are the backbone of our world-class health system. I will keep the House informed of developments.

Townsville, Crime

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.57 am): The Palaszczuk government is serious about tackling crime and the causes of crime. Our commitment is backed up with record funding, greater resources, tougher laws and the determination of 11,800 sworn police officers to keep Queensland communities safe—and no more so than in Townsville, and that commitment is a testimony to the dedication and courage of our local members, the members for Townsville, Thuringowa and Mundingburra. There are more front-line police in Townsville today than there ever was under those opposite. I am advised by the Queensland Police Service that, as of 30 April, there were 289 officers based in the five police stations responsible for calls for service across Townsville, and they are also backed up by additional sworn officers from the Criminal Investigation Branch, the Child Protection and Investigation Unit and the

intelligence and road policing units. You can see those police right across Townsville—their strength, their capability and their commitment to tackle criminal behaviour in Townsville and surrounding suburbs. The facts speak for themselves. The hard work of our police is delivering results.

Mr SPEAKER: Just one moment, Minister. I just make it clear that my view is that the minister's comments are not provocative. It is a ministerial statement. If members want to interject unnecessarily, you will be mentioned.

Mr RYAN: The hard work of our police in Townsville needs to be acknowledged. In the six months to March this year, police under Operation Oscar Merchant made 1,449 arrests and laid 3,772 charges, predominantly for drug, traffic and property offences.

We know that there is still more work to do in Townsville. That is why we have provided additional investment for a new operation—Operation Papa Advance—to target property crime offences in Townsville. This is a proactive police operation that provides rapid response and additional investigative capability in the Townsville district. Our police in Townsville continue to increase their presence through proactive policing in public areas throughout Townsville to support community safety. Coupled with the additional resources that our government has provided to support the Stronger Communities initiative—a key investment that was made following the outstanding representation by our local MPs in the Townsville area—we are seeing results in Townsville.

Our government is serious about delivering safer communities throughout Queensland and the facts support that. The Palaszczuk government promised to deliver more police and more resources to keep Queenslanders safe. That is exactly what it has done. It is our government that is backing the police with the best equipment and the laws that they need to target antisocial behaviour and place people who do the wrong thing before the courts. The police are doing a fantastic job across Queensland and only Labor can be trusted to support them every step of the way.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Minister for Education, I am informed that we have year 12 student leaders and teachers from the Lockyer State High School in our public gallery observing our proceedings. Welcome.

Sally and Possum

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (10.01 am): I am pleased to advise that the Palaszczuk government will invest in four new seasons of the popular *Sally and Possum* series for deaf and hard-of-hearing children. This follows the successful broadcast of seasons 1 and 2 of *Sally and Possum*, which first screened on ABC Kids in June 2016. Children and their families can look forward to 60 new episodes of Sally and Possum's adventures. The new episodes will be filmed at Yatala this month and the new episodes will be broadcast midyear.

The new series will feature a new character called Skip, a boat skipper with a talent for building and fixing things ranging from tools and magnifying glasses to steam engines. The new character will introduce beginning concepts to set children up for success in learning and engaging with science, technology, mathematics and engineering subjects in school. Children will be also excited to see our new kindy ambassador, Jay Laga'aia, feature in some of the episodes.

The new *Sally and Possum* television series will be available on ABC Kids and ABC Kids iview. It is all part of our effort to ensure that all children get a good-quality education. I know from speaking to parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing that *Sally and Possum* has already made a significant impact. I am very pleased that we are delivering on their request for more episodes, with 60 new episodes announced today.

Advance Queensland, Job Creation; Payroll Services

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.02 am): It gives me great pleasure to update the House on Advance Queensland's current and long-term vision for job creation. Advance Queensland is the Palaszczuk government's \$405 million whole-of-government initiative supporting jobs across a range of industry sectors. From 31 December 2016 to 31 March 2017, the total number of jobs being supported by Advance Queensland programs increased from 1,402 to more than 2,100. According to Queensland's Chief Entrepreneur, Mark Sowerby, these figures are just the tip of the iceberg. Mr Sowerby says that, more than ever before, Queenslanders are making a life choice that it is better to approach their future from a standpoint of making a job, rather than taking a job.

We are encouraging Queenslanders to turn their great ideas into new services, new products, new exports and new jobs. A great example of this support is the Ignite Ideas program, which is helping businesses take their ideas off the drawing board and turn them into commercial reality. Recently, we supported 79 innovative small businesses from across the state that will share in almost \$11 million from the second funding round. These projects will deliver innovation in key industries such as agriculture and resources right across the state—from Mareeba to Toowoomba.

In fact, I would like to tell members about a Toowoomba based recipient, the Darling Downs Ice Cream Company. This family owned ice-cream retailer, franchisor and manufacturer successfully applied for an Ignite Ideas grant to expand their business into the functional food market. This Advance Queensland investment will create export opportunities in counterseasonal markets that will result in up to 40 part-time seasonal jobs becoming full-time jobs, which is great news.

Not only is this government committed to creating jobs but also we are determined to deliver successful payroll services, in particular the migration of four public safety agencies from the outdated Lattice system under the HRIS program. These agencies are the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, the Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Corrective Services and the Inspector-General Emergency Management. One agency—the Inspector-General Emergency Management—has already successfully moved onto the new Aurion system. Today, I am pleased to advise that the transition for a second agency has been a success. The first two pay runs have been completed for about 4,700 Corrective Services employees. This project adds to the record of projects delivered by Queensland Shared Services. Moving forward, the security of employees' payments will continue to be our highest priority.

Workplace Health and Safety

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (10.05 am): As the Minister for Industrial Relations expressed quite eloquently yesterday, this government is determined to see the end of workplace deaths in this state. Safety must be paramount across all industries, especially in the building and construction industry.

In 2012, 20-year-old Jason Garrels started a new job on a housing construction project in Clermont. Nine days later, while cleaning up an unsafe site, Jason was killed by a five-second electric shock from wiring that should have been properly secured, but was not. That day, Jason's mother, Lee, a nurse educator, was on call at the hospital in Clermont. She was told to prepare for a patient who had been electrocuted. Shortly before Jason arrived she was told that the patient was Jason. It is impossible to imagine what that must have felt like. As a parent, this situation is too much to think about. I am sure everyone else in this House feels the same—to lose a child at work in an environment that should have been safe, that should have had protections. Jason's death was entirely avoidable—entirely avoidable.

Everyone should go to work knowing that, at the end of the day, they will come home safe. It is a right that every worker, every family member, and every friend should have. Tragically, in too many cases, such as in Jason's, that has not been the case. Jason's parents, Michael and Lee, are with us in the gallery today. Since Jason's death Michael and Lee Garrels have been passionate and determined advocates for common-sense reforms to ensure safety on workplaces across Queensland.

I am pleased to inform the House that, today, I will be introducing a bill that will enable the Queensland Building and Construction Commission to take action where there is a threat to the safety of workers on building sites. The recommendations of the Coroner in Mr Garrels' inquest made it clear that there is a need for the building regulator to be notified if there is a death, a serious injury or a serious risk to health and safety on a building site. Under our proposed changes, QBCC licensees will have that obligation. Licence holders will also be required to let the QBCC know if they think that a person is not complying with, for example, an electrical safety notice. The powers of the QBCC will be strengthened and clarified so that it can decide to cancel a licence if a licensee has caused a death or serious injury to a person on a building site or is causing serious risk to the health and safety of a person.

Last Monday, Jason would have turned 26. Let me send this clear message: if builders fail to protect the safety of workers, they do not deserve to hold a building licence in this state. A licence is a privilege. It is not a right. Let me be clear: builders who do the right thing, who behave in a way that is consistent with the expectations of our community, should not have to compete with builders who consistently cut corners, be that in quality, payments, or safety.

I commend Michael and Lee Garrels for their tireless advocacy. Their work can never change what has tragically happened to their son, nor will these new laws that the Palaszczuk government will introduce today, but I have no doubt that better laws—real Labor laws—will help save other families from the grief that the Garrels family have been through. These are laws that will save lives.

Mr Pearce: That's why we need unions.

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

Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis, Health Assessment Reforms

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (10.10 am): As my colleague said, the hard work continues to protect Queensland workers. This work continues in my portfolio in tackling coal workers' pneumoconiosis for Queensland's 30,000 coalmine workers. In the latest of our suite of reforms, these workers will have their health assessed by medical professionals that meet world-class standards. We are putting in place a special register. Only medical professionals conducting the health assessments of our coalmine workers who have the appropriate qualifications and who meet best practice standards will be able to join that register. Doctors will require postgraduate qualifications in occupational medicine or a fellowship in general practice with experience and training in providing occupational health services. They will also require contemporary medical experience in the coalmining sector. Medicos will be able to register from next month and the register should be fully operational by the end of this year. I welcome the ongoing support of industry, unions and the medical profession as we progressively implement this new model.

This is just one of the many reforms the Palaszczuk government has put in place following an independent expert review last year. Since July 2016 coalminers' compulsory chest X-rays have been assessed at least twice. Tenders closed last Friday for a local provider to deliver this dual reading service and by the end of this year chest X-rays will be read by qualified B reader Australian radiologists. By the end of the year coalmine workers will have world-class lung function tests. My Department of Natural Resources and Mines has partnered with the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand to develop accreditation standards for spirometry by July. These standards will set out clear requirements for medical practices conducting the tests, including, most importantly, training for staff members, spirometry testing and interpretation, spirometry equipment and quality control. For our coalmine workers these standards will ensure early identification of any occupational lung disease.

All registered medical providers will be independently audited to ensure the rigorous checks and balances we are putting in place are working and will continue to work. Much more has been done to protect the health of our coalmine workers. Since 1 May Queensland has a new recognised standard for underground respirable dust control. In July my department will publish respirable dust monitoring results from Queensland's coalmines. These will continue to be published quarterly on the department's website and therefore will be open to public scrutiny. As always, I encourage any coalmine worker with health concerns to consult their GP.

National Sorry Day

 **Hon. M FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.12 am): Tomorrow is National Sorry Day and the 20th anniversary of the *Bringing them home* report. Tabled in the Australian parliament in 1997, the *Bringing them home* report documented our nation's past shameful treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. These children are adults now and we know them as the stolen generations. I know my good friend Aunty Honour Cleary will be reflecting on that today. Today members of the House wear a purple ribbon symbolising resilience, healing and compassion.

Until the 1970s, under the government policies of the day, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were removed, often forcibly, from their families, their communities, their culture and country. Also this year is the 50th anniversary of the 1997 referendum's overwhelming yes vote to count Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the census. It is also 25 years since the Mabo land rights decision. These are monumental events etched in Australia's history. On equality, healing and reconciliation with our first nations people we have made significant ground because, as Queenslanders, as Australians, we are egalitarian in nature. As the latest national *Closing the gap* report shows, there is much more to be done to close the gap on disadvantage. National Sorry Day is an opportunity not only to reflect on the past but also to consider, as Queenslanders, the legacy that we want to be remembered for.

MOTION

Amendments to Standing Orders



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

- (1) That the House endorse the Protocol for custodians in the possession or control of members' documents as circulated in my name;
- (2) That the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly be amended by inserting a new Schedule 10—Protocols for Committees Regarding the Documents and Records of a Member as circulated in my name and commencing immediately; and
- (3) That the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly be amended by inserting a new Standing Order 211B Confidentiality of proceedings—Ethics Committee as circulated in my name and commencing immediately.

Protocol for custodians in the possession or control of members' documents

Application

This protocol applies to custodians who are in the possession or control of members' documents. ("Applicable custodians")

Who are likely to be "applicable custodians"?

Applicable custodians are likely to include:

- The Clerk of Parliament and their delegates and other Parliamentary staff
- Electorate Office staff
- Ministerial Service Branch staff
- Directors' General and departmental staff

Documents over which applicable custodian likely to have control and possession?

Applicable custodian

Documents likely to be within control and possession

The Clerk of Parliament and their delegates and other Parliamentary staff

Electronic communications (emails of/to members on email servers)
Electorate Office documents on parliamentary servers
Briefings/advices to members
Correspondence to and from Members

Electorate Office staff

Correspondence of members
Research or planning documents
Other documents created within the Electorate Office

Ministerial Service Branch staff

Electronic communications (emails of/to Leader of the Opposition and Ministers on email servers)
Ministerial Office and Office of the leader of the Opposition documents on parliamentary servers

Directors' General and departmental staff

Ministerial briefings for parliamentary proceedings (for example, possible parliamentary questions, estimates briefing material, draft ministerial statements, etc.)

The proper approach for custodians

Applicable custodians should not publish or release control or possession of members' documents, without the consent of the member unless it is in accordance with law, for example:

- Right to information applications—in which case the views of the member should be sought in accordance with Chapter 3, Division 3 of the *Right to Information Act 2009*.
- For the purposes of an audit or report required under the *Auditor General Act 2009* and/or the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*.
- Pursuant to a coercive process such as a court order, a notice or a summons.

The proper approach for applicable custodians, should they be summoned by a non-parliamentary body (courts, commission of inquiry, Queensland Police Service, Crime and Corruption Commission) to produce documents is as follows:

Firstly, the custodian should seek the consent of the Member/Minister to release the documents to the investigating body. A custodian should only not seek the consent of the Member/Minister if the court order, notice or summons requires the custodian to not disclose the matter.

Secondly, if the Member/Minister consents, the documents should be provided.¹

Thirdly, if the Member/Minister does not consent, the summons should be challenged if it appears that the document is a proceeding in parliament² and release of the document is likely to infringe the privileges of the member,³ a committee or the Legislative Assembly. The challenge should be in accordance with the relevant legislation or otherwise in accordance with law. The ultimate claim will be determined by the courts in accordance with the law.

The proper approach for applicable custodians, should they be summoned by a parliamentary body (parliamentary committee or Legislative Assembly), is to comply with the summons and any relevant Standing Order.

In addition, the custodians should consent to the attendance of a committee appointed observer (i.e. either a person nominated by the relevant Member or a senior parliamentary officer) to be present with the custodian or delegate during the conduct of any searches under the summons with a view to ensuring that the conduct of the search complies with the strict search parameters and that there is no interference with the privileges of the Member outside of those strict parameters.

Advice and assistance

Applicable custodians can obtain advice from the Office of the Speaker and/or the Clerk of the Parliament.

The Speaker is the traditional guardian of the privileges of the Legislative Assembly, its committees and members and may in some instances seek to intervene in a matter or appear in a matter as a friend of the court.

SCHEDULE 10—PROTOCOLS FOR COMMITTEES REGARDING THE DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS OF A MEMBER

- (1) When the documents and records of a member of the Legislative Assembly are sought by an investigative body 'outside parliament', the protections of parliamentary privilege may apply to the documents and records. Parliamentary privilege does not apply to protect the documents and records against proceedings 'in parliament', such as committee proceedings. These protocols seek to provide protection to the documents or records of a member of the Legislative Assembly from proceedings 'in parliament'.
- (2) These protocols apply when, in the course of a committee of the Legislative Assembly's inquiry, there is a need or desire to obtain the documents or records of a member of the Legislative Assembly.
- (3) The committee shall in the first instance determine whether the documents or records of the member are relevant to the inquiry and likely to assist the committee in its inquiry.
- (4) If the committee determines that the documents or records of the member are relevant to the inquiry and likely to assist the committee in its inquiry, the committee should invite the Member to provide the documents and records to the committee within a reasonable time

¹ Note that the provision of the documents to the non-parliamentary body will not affect the protection afforded the documents by s 9 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 as proceedings in the Assembly. That is, if they are a proceeding in parliament they will still not be able to be impeached or questioned in the absence of an overriding statutory provision applying.

² In Queensland s 9 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 provides the definition of proceedings in Parliament:

9 Meaning of "proceedings in the Assembly"

- (1) "Proceedings in the Assembly" include all words spoken and acts done in the course of, or for the purposes of or incidental to, transacting business of the Assembly or a committee.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), "proceedings in the Assembly" include—
 - (a) giving evidence before the Assembly, a committee or an inquiry; and
 - (b) evidence given before the Assembly, a committee or an inquiry; and
 - (c) presenting or submitting a document to the Assembly, a committee or an inquiry; and
 - (d) a document tabled in, or presented or submitted to, the Assembly, a committee or an inquiry; and
 - (e) preparing a document for the purposes of, or incidental to, transacting business mentioned in paragraph (a) or (c); and
 - (f) preparing, making or publishing a document (including a report) under the authority of the Assembly or a committee; and
 - (g) a document (including a report) prepared, made or published under the authority of the Assembly or a committee.

³ It is important at all times to note the distinction between the use of a document (that is, if it is a proceeding in Parliament) and the release of the document to third parties. Whether a matter is a proceeding in Parliament does not necessarily mean it is protected from an order from a competent tribunal for production—for example, if the document is already public.

- (5) If the documents or records are owned by a member but are in the possession or control of a third party (“custodian”), the committee should invite the Member to either:
 - (a) obtain the documents or records from the custodian and provide the documents or records to the committee; or
 - (b) consent to the custodian to provide the documents or records to the committee.
- (6) The committee should only summon the production of the documents or records of a member in the possession or control of a custodian if:
 - (a) the steps above have been undertaken by the committee and the member or custodian declines to provide the material voluntarily within a reasonable time; or
 - (b) the committee suspects, based on reasonable grounds that there is a risk to evidence being lost or destroyed; or
 - (c) the committee suspects, based on reasonable grounds that there has not been a complete disclosure of information.
- (7) If the committee decides to summon the production of documents or records of a member in the possession or control of a custodian, the committee shall:
 - (a) develop specific parameters, such as search terms and dates, with a view to ensuring that documents identified in the search are strictly relevant to the committee’s investigation;
 - (b) appoint an independent observer either nominated by the relevant member (i.e. the member the subject of the search) or, if the member does not nominate an observer in a reasonable period of time, a senior parliamentary officer, with a view to ensuring that the conduct of the search complies with the strict search parameters;
 - (c) settle any disputes between the custodian undertaking the search and the independent observer as to whether the document or record meets the parameters of the search.
- (8) In these protocols “documents or records” include:
 - (a) any paper or other material on which there is writing or information; and/or
 - (b) a record of information held by way of a mechanical, electronic or other device.
- (9) In these protocols “documents or records of a member” are documents created by or for a member or directed to a member and which would generally be regarded as the property of the member and confidential and includes:
 - (a) Correspondence, including emails, texts or other messages to and from a member;
 - (b) Briefings, information papers, draft reports or notes produced by or for a member; and
 - (c) Possible questions or answers for use in parliamentary proceedings produced by or for a member.

211B. Confidentiality of proceedings—Ethics Committee

(1) The proceedings of the Ethics Committee or a subcommittee of that committee on a matter before the Committee that is not open to the public or authorised to be published remains strictly confidential to the committee until the committee has reported to the House or otherwise published the proceedings.

(2) No member shall in the House refer to any proceedings of a committee in (1), until the committee has finally reported to the House or otherwise published the proceedings.

(3) When the Ethics Committee makes its final report to the House on a matter, the Committee shall at the same time, table in the House:

- (a) The minutes of its proceedings relevant to the matter; and*
- (b) Any submissions received or evidence taken in respect of the matter (including transcripts of hearings)*

unless the committee resolves that some or all of its proceedings remain confidential.

(4) The Ethics Committee shall only resolve that some or all of its proceedings remain confidential if valid grounds exist, such as:

- (a) Publication of the proceedings is not in the public interest;*
- (b) Publication of the proceedings would be procedurally unfair to any person; or*
- (c) Publication of the proceedings is irrelevant to the matter.*

(5) Any member of the committee is able to refer to any proceeding of the committee in a dissenting report or statement of reservation, unless the committee has resolved in accordance with (3).

By way of explanation, following a letter of referral from the Ethics Committee in April 2016, the CLA has conducted an inquiry into matters concerning members’ documents, including electronic documents, in the possession or control of the third-party custodians. The CLA surveyed presiding officers of other Australian jurisdictions and took advice from the Clerk of the Parliament as well as independent advice from Mr Bret Walker SC on the issue.

As a result of its inquiries, the CLA has resolved to place before the House the following documents for its approval: protocols for the guidance of third-party custodians in possession or control of members’ documents; a new schedule 10 for standing orders containing protocols for parliamentary committees who find a need or desire to obtain the documents or records of a member; and a new

standing order 211B which provides as a default position the publication of the minutes of the Ethics Committee's proceedings and any submissions received or evidence taken relevant to the matter, including transcripts of hearings, with Ethics Committee reports, unless the Ethics Committee decides otherwise. I urge the House to support the motion.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Vehicle Registration

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.18 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk government to adopt the LNP's fair rego pledge in the 2017-18 budget.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Youth Detention Centres

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (10.18 am): Another week goes by and, as regular as clockwork, we see more drama inside Queensland's youth detention centres with media reports of three more security incidents at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre at Wacol. It is clear from an article in the *Courier-Mail* on Monday this week that staff inside the centre are at their wits' end, and who could blame them? According to the media reports from earlier this week, the three latest incidents include that three female youths climbed onto the roof of the horticulture building last Monday, a male youth climbed on top of a roof on Wednesday and damaged property before demanding dinner perks and up to six youths were involved in a violent brawl on Thursday. That may seem relatively minor to some, but add it to the chaos of the last year—kids on the roof in Townsville and Brisbane, valued staff injured, significant property damage—and we have a system in crisis. Monday's *Courier-Mail* article went on to quote a source as saying—

Everyone is petrified because of what's been in the media or of being seen as too hard. Now we've gone completely the opposite way, where guards are standing back and can't do anything.

Guards are losing control due to management putting so many restrictions on them. The whole centre is constantly damaged now. It's just a war zone.

Let us not forget these are centres with detainees as young as 10 years old, clearly being influenced by others who act like they are running the place. What sort of environment has this government created here? These are supposed to be places that help get the lives of these kids back on track so they do not become career criminals, but under Labor what hope have they got? It is clear that management is paralysed in its decision-making, staff are left unsure of what they can and cannot do and the Attorney-General is stuck in review and crisis management mode. On top of all of this, the government is still trying to figure out how they will transition around 50 17-year-olds into the system by November into what is clearly already a highly volatile situation. It will be like pouring kerosene onto an open flame.

The report that was going to fix all of this could not come up with key conclusions about whether kids were being systemically mistreated. It could not come up with conclusions as to whether there was room for 17-year-olds in youth detention centres. One-third of the report was redacted and now the report itself is subject to another review, that is, a review to cover up the bungled release of the report of the initial review. It would be funny if it were not so serious, and this is a very serious issue.

Queenslanders have no confidence in this Attorney-General's ability to fix the problems inside our youth detention centres because they happened on her watch. It is time for the Premier to front up to the issue, show some leadership and responsibility and appoint a minister who knows how to fix the problems and can put in place a plan to do just that. We are talking about the future of kids who face life-determining decisions. They deserve much better than what they have been served up under this government.

Youth Detention Centres

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.20 am): I find the comments of the member for Mansfield extraordinary. Only last night, the member for Everton said that we should stop worrying about the youth in detention

centres and their underlying circumstances. He said that it is all about treating them tough. Now the member for Mansfield is saying, 'You're treating those poor youths too tough.' They cannot make up their minds as to how to treat youths in detention centres.

The fact is that a number of the reports that were released last week are not factually accurate about what is happening in those centres. Unlike those opposite, we respond to any queries we have in relation to those incidents. When they were in government, did we hear how many roof incidents there were? No, because they did not release that information.

An opposition member: We didn't have any.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection: they did not have any, allegedly. Even when it came to damage in the centres, those opposite did not report it separately. It was just put in to maintenance: 'We're just fixing the place up a bit; that damage is just general maintenance at the centres.' They have no idea what transparency and accountability actually mean. They have no strategy for youth. They should come clean to the people of Queensland about their policy on youth justice. Do they intend to simply bring back all of the Newman government changes? I ask them to please be honest with the people of Queensland and tell us if they are going to bring back all of the Newman government changes, which did not lead to any reduction in recidivism.

Mr Mander: Many of them.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection. The member for Everton said, 'Many of them'. Does that include boot camps? Shall we waste another \$16 million on failed boot camps? Is that what we should do? Members opposite have no credibility.

I find it interesting that the member for Mansfield is speaking about this today, because last night he chose not to speak on the motion on this issue. Maybe the member for Mansfield is starting to feel a little anxious about the electorate of Mansfield, as our candidate, Corrine McMillan, is a wonderful community champion who would make a fantastic representative for the people of Mansfield. She has credibility. She will stand up for people in her community. She knows what it means to have early intervention and to look after young people in the community. As a school principal, she understands that you have to look after—

(Time expired)

Minister for Education

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (10.23 am): Queensland students deserve the best education opportunities and a minister who spends 100 per cent of his or her time dedicated to achieving that goal. Sadly, that is not the case here in Queensland. In a portfolio that carries the second largest budget and is responsible for about 800,000 students, the Premier did not see fit to appoint a dedicated minister for education, instead choosing to tuck the portfolio in behind Tourism and the Commonwealth Games. That begs the question: is the Labor backbench so bereft of talent that she could not find anybody else?

A quick peak at the minister's diary for the first quarter of this year is very insightful as to where the education minister's priorities are. Members would be interested to know that, in the first quarter of this year, the education minister published 166 diary entries, but only around 30 of those engagements were directly related to dealing with education stakeholders. In the first quarter, 30 engagements related to educating Queensland young people, that is, less than 20 per cent of her time was spent on her Education portfolio. Of course, this part-time minister found time to get along to a Justin Bieber concert and a Bruce Springsteen concert, she managed to go to the Magic Millions and she also managed to tuck in to a bit of yum cha. Why has the Premier not pulled up her minister and told her it is just not good enough? It is not good enough. Queensland students deserve better.

We know that opportunity starts with education because education will provide the gateway for our kids to achieve their aspirations and have a great future. On this side of the House we are committed to building a better Queensland and a better education system for every child. What have we seen under this minister? Under this minister we have record numbers of kids with unexplained absences of five days and over and suspensions on the rise. We have dongas and demountables for classrooms and no real planning for future schools. Assaults on teachers are at an unacceptable level. Literacy and numeracy results are not where we would like them to be and standards are slipping. While the minister has time to play politics on funding, she has been deathly silent on the \$191 million slashed from the Education and Training budgets last year, that is, over \$42 million cut from education and training in this coming budget, \$53 million in 2018-19 and \$63 million in 2019-20.

There is no greater fan of the Minister for Education than the Minister for Education. I am sure that Queensland parents would not be fans of a minister who thinks it is acceptable to invest a meagre 20 per cent of her time in the education of their children.

(Time expired)

Pauline Hanson's One Nation

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.26 am): In the last week or so we have seen even more reports that reveal the true nature of One Nation and how they operate in this state and across the country. Secret tapes reveal their senior adviser talking about ripping off and making money off their own candidates. How can you trust people who have such unethical behaviour that they treat a political party like a business rather than a body that represents people? There are other issues around One Nation, such as their use of a plane and whether that has been declared under electoral law. In that context, let us look at the Palaszczuk government's position. On behalf of Queenslanders, the Premier has strongly and consistently said that this government will not do any deals with One Nation. That has always been our policy and it always will be our policy. That is leadership.

However, what do we hear from the Leader of the Opposition? He refuses to rule out deals with One Nation. Why does he refuse to rule out deals with fringe extreme groups such as One Nation? It is probably because One Nation is populated by former LNP state members and staffers, such as James Ashby, Neil Symes and Michael Pucci. They are running Sam Cox. The member for Buderim now leads them. One Nation is too close to the LNP. On this issue the Leader of the Opposition displays only weak leadership and Queenslanders never vote for a weak leader—that is for sure. The slippery behaviour of the member for Clayfield shows that he is not fit to lead this state.

The Leader of the Opposition will face another challenge this Saturday with the preselection in Broadwater. Will his favoured candidate, the perennial backbencher and member for Broadwater, get up or will the leader be rolled by the party machine for a blow-in from North Queensland? That is the choice they have this Saturday. That is the choice—a blow-in from North Queensland or a perennial backbencher that the Leader of the Opposition is backing. We will see who wins—the party machine or the Leader of the Opposition.

This is in a context where the member for Southport clung on by three votes in his preselection. Apparently he was calling preselectors from China and it went down like a lead balloon with the local LNP branch members. He was lobbying for preselection from China. They are in disarray in the opposition. They should not deal with One Nation. They should show some spine and they should show some leadership.

(Time expired)

Carmichael Mine

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.30 am): What a week of division, dumb-headedness and disaster from a do-nothing government. The Adani mining company—with more than 6,000 Queensland jobs in the pipeline—has been rebuffed for the sake of protecting the member for South Brisbane, the member for Yeerongpilly and the member for Mount Coot-tha from the Green scourge that they fear is coming for them. That might be a victory for the Deputy Premier's small-mindedness and self-interest, but it is another hammer blow for regional Queensland and the 15,000 young Queenslanders who have already lost their jobs through the ineptitude and inner Brisbane pandering of this inexperienced Labor government.

What have we seen this week? We have seen a Premier who will not stand up to the Deputy Premier, a Premier who will not stand up for Queensland jobs and a Premier who will not stand for anything. We hear only now, deep into the Adani crisis and after relentless community opposition and media pressure, of some sort of late-night plan, cobbled together by the Premier and her warring ministers, to save the Carmichael mine from the edge of death that they have walked it to. They have been scurrying in and out of the room, all grim and gloomy, and have been calling all the bureaucrats in late at night to cobble together some sort of plan.

How can the business community, especially those next wave resource companies with potentially billions of dollars of investment for Queensland, have any faith in a shambolic approach by a government that cannot even govern itself? After what they have seen this week, how can Queenslanders have any faith that this resurgent deal can even be honoured?

We have seen the Premier run a mile from a Left cabinet faction leak about an earlier deal on the \$16.5 billion Carmichael mine—a Left cabinet leak. Then the Right leaks ruthlessly about a secret letter from the Under Treasurer to Adani confirming the deal which the Premier and Adani shook hands on. Then last night what did we see? We saw a leak back again from the Left about the time that the Deputy Premier knew about the whole deal. In Queensland we do not need WikiLeaks, we have the ALP government doing the job for us.

The Premier has already dishonoured one handshake deal. The Premier could have stepped up and led and put a stop to this recklessness, but she did not, she has not and she will not. Queenslanders cannot trust her and uncertainty is all around because this weak, compromised, deal no-deal Premier has failed to put Queenslanders first.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you member for Everton. I can see you.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will finish at 11.33 this morning.

Carmichael Mine

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (10.33 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. It is reported that last night the Premier gathered her ministers in secret to try to deal with the fallout from the botched handling of the Adani Carmichael mine—a proposal Peter Beattie calls a no-brainer. Why does Peter Beattie seem to know more about the Premier's secret deal with Adani than the Premier's own cabinet?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question because when he is asked about anything to do with royalties he does not want to say anything. He does not have a view. He does not have a position. Talk about a divided party over there. They are preselecting against their own. It is internal warfare against their own. We do not know what is happening with the member for Broadwater.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I know that that may be what you want to talk about, but I do not think that is answering the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am going to be. It is all right.

Mr SPEAKER: Can you answer the question, please.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me make it absolutely clear that my government supports jobs. We will drive jobs in regional Queensland in those basins that I have mentioned—the Galilee, the Surat and the North West Minerals Province.

We do not have one single idea from those opposite about creating jobs, but we know their track record very clearly. We have the Leader of the Opposition who stands in his seat and dares to—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I know you want to talk about that—

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are talking about Adani and regional jobs.

Mr SPEAKER: Can you talk about Adani.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need assistance from other members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to talk about it.

Mr SPEAKER: Talk about Adani, please.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are looking at developing those regions to create regional jobs. I took the regional mayors with me to India because they are concerned about the rate of unemployment in those regions. Why are they concerned about the rate of unemployment in those regions? It is because when the Leader of the Opposition was treasurer he cut 14,000 jobs. The pain that was inflicted on people—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I know that—

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are talking about jobs. This is fundamental to the question.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. Do those opposite want to talk about Peter Beattie? I back Peter Beattie when it comes to jobs. I am more than happy to back him when it comes to jobs. He backs me when it comes to jobs. How many jobs are we creating on the Gold Coast with the Commonwealth Games? We are creating 800 new jobs.

We will continue to work for Queensland. Every one of my team is dedicated and committed to that. When we hear those opposite talking about building Queensland we note that the only building they built is the legacy of 1 William Street. That is their legacy.

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

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Leadership

Mr NICHOLLS: My second question is also to the Premier. Any deputy who had leaked damaging confidential cabinet information, sabotaged the biggest jobs project in Queensland and displayed a gross disloyalty against her leader would be sacked. Premier, is the reason the Deputy Premier is still on the frontbench because she controls half the Labor caucus and two-thirds of the union donations leaving the Premier powerless to act?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Is that the best they have? Do you want me to write the question for you? We did spend three years over there. We were able to ask questions about policy—things that Queenslanders are interested in.

I have a good working relationship with everybody on my team because we are focused. We have one focus and that is to create jobs in Queensland. No-one will distract us from that goal. Every single day we wake up and focus on how we can generate more jobs across our state.

With those opposite we saw the chaos and division start at the top with Campbell Newman. They will not even utter the former premier's name. He sat here for three years. They cannot even utter his name. The clear picking of fights amongst Queenslanders is the legacy of that government.

Next month the Treasurer is going to hand down the budget. Once again, it will be a budget focused on jobs. Those opposite can all hang their heads. They do not want to hear it. This is going to be the best budget of this term of the Palaszczuk government. It is going to be a budget growing Queensland—making sure that we—

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to relevance. While I note that the Premier has not denied the proposition in the question, she has not mentioned the Deputy Premier. The question was about the Deputy Premier. I think the Deputy Premier at least deserves a mention in the answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: All right.

Mr SPEAKER: Hang on, Premier. I think the question actually contained inferences and an imputation. I have allowed the question, so I will allow the Premier a reasonable degree of latitude in her answer if there is some connection to the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me talk about what the Deputy Premier is delivering for Queensland. I am more than happy to do that. She is working with me to deliver the \$200 million Works for Queensland program—\$200 million out the door helping our councils get people into work as quickly as possible. The Deputy Premier and I are working together to fight the Turnbull government to get Cross River Rail for this state. We will continue to work together when we have to fight against the Turnbull government that is turning its back on Queensland. We do not hear anything about that from those opposite.

Ms Trad: They are happy to roll over to Malcolm Turnbull.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. Let me make it very clear: we have all worked very hard on next month's budget and it is going to be great. I cannot wait. In fact, it is so good I do not think there will be enough days for me to make all of the announcements that are contained in the budget. Well done, Treasurer. Well done, Deputy Premier.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I am flat out even thinking myself. Premier, do you have anything further to add? No. Before I call the member for Townsville, I am informed that we have students from the Prenzlau State School in the electorate of Ipswich West observing our proceedings. Welcome.

Townsville, Stadium

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on the status of the \$250 million North Queensland stadium project, the home of the North Queensland Cowboys?

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Premier. You will have a chance soon.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Townsville for that question because I know how important the Townsville stadium is to the people of Townsville. My government has worked very hard to deliver this project for the north of our state. I was in Townsville just last week with my Premier's Business Advisory Council meeting with local businesspeople and everybody is talking about the Townsville stadium. From Minister Coralee O'Rourke to the member for Thuringowa and the member for Townsville, everybody is coming up to us wanting to know the latest progress. My government is pleased to put over \$140 million into that project.

I am very pleased to announce today, to coincide with the impending State of Origin, that the Department of State Development, through Minister Anthony Lynham, will lodge a development application next week with the Townsville City Council for the 25,000-seat stadium in Townsville—progress. I want to thank his hard work and the work of his agency on that project. As managing contractor, Watpac is now putting in place the project for the north right on time for the start of the 2020 NRL season. The best news is that 80 per cent of the stadium team will be local. If there is one thing that I have really pressed upon not just my ministers but also my directors-general it is that we want local content first. I want to see as many local people get jobs, especially in our regional centres, as much as possible.

As part of their winning tender submission, Watpac outlined a plan for more than 80 per cent of hours spent building the stadium to be by locals and at least 80 per cent of the value of the project to be spent on local contractors and suppliers. More than 2,000 people—let me say that again: more than 2000 people—are expected to be engaged in delivery of the stadium, a significant jobs boost for the Townsville region. Of these jobs, Watpac has committed to targeting 6.6 per cent of the workforce to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Watpac has been an employer and part of the Townsville community for nearly 20 years. They have outstanding stadium construction experience, including Suncorp Stadium here in Brisbane. Starting next month, Watpac will participate in ongoing industry events starting with my Department of State Development's quarterly Townsville industry breakfast on 6 June, which is Queensland Day.

I welcome Watpac to the stadium project and look forward to the next milestone, when we break ground later this year which is expected to be in September. It is all happening in Townsville.

Adani, Royalties

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Given the Deputy Premier refused to answer the question yesterday, will the Deputy Premier now tell the House when she first knew of the secret deal between the Premier and the Treasurer with Adani?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Nanango for the question. The member for Nanango clearly is growing in confidence. I think that is the fourth question she has asked me since becoming the shadow minister for infrastructure. It does give me an opportunity to reiterate the answer I gave yesterday, because clearly those opposite did not understand. They understood cabinet-in-confidence when they were in government, but clearly they have forgotten cabinet-in-confidence since losing government, since throwing away the largest victory in Queensland's political history. They threw it away in three years because of their arrogance. I will reiterate for the benefit of the House that I do not reveal cabinet-in-confidence discussions.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. I call the Deputy Premier.

Ms TRAD: I do not reveal cabinet-in-confidence discussions and particularly not to the likes of those opposite. While I am on my feet, I will remind those opposite that during their time in government the member for Callide, who was off doing a deal at the exclusion of senior government officials, and the member for Clayfield, when he was treasurer—it was something that was very widely reported on in the media. It was something that the member for Callide took great delight in telling everybody about, and he still does.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Ms TRAD: I take that interjection from the member for Morayfield and police minister, although I do think—

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Deputy Premier. I know you like to talk about the member for Callide and what he did. I urge you to come back to the question.

Ms TRAD: Mr Speaker, I am responding to an interjection. I do like talking about the member for Callide particularly because we are seeing his time in this chamber come to an end very soon. I think it is important that we reflect upon his enormous contribution to Queensland politics and to this place.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, do you have anything further you wish to add? No.

Public Transport

Ms BOYD: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier explain how the Palaszczuk government's commitment to public transport is benefiting people in my community and right across Queensland?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for the question. I do understand that there was a very successful commuter catch-up at the Strathpine station last week and that there was a great rollout of commuters who came along to inspect the detailed design of the upgrade of the Strathpine station. I am very pleased that the Palaszczuk government is delivering not only better transport but also better transport infrastructure for the commuters right across South-East Queensland.

Commuters in Pine Rivers are benefiting from our Fairer Fares policy through real savings every week, as I detailed earlier in the House, as are commuters right across South-East Queensland. For those people in Pine Rivers, it is just under \$20 a week and that equates to about \$900 a year. That means an additional \$900 in the pockets of people who use public transport and who travel weekly from Pine Rivers. That means money in their pockets and that is a saving right across the network. As I also detailed, our replacement of nine trips and free with eight trips and 50 per cent off is seeing more people access that saving than the previous nine and free travel. Almost three-quarters of a million more trips have qualified for this discount than the nine and free travel that was the previous government's policy—three-quarters of a million more trips because of this savings program. That means more money in people's pockets and it means public transport as an accessible reliable choice for people rather than more cars on the road.

For the benefit of the House, I want to report on weekend-free travel for children. We have seen almost a 10 per cent increase in the number of child go card trips on weekends. What that means is that families are choosing public transport on the weekend to move about the South-East Queensland region and to access a whole range of activities on the weekend. That is another indication of our policy settings, driving some real change in the transport mode from cars to public transport.

I am very proud of this initiative. I think it is a great initiative. As I said earlier today, I want to commend the Leader of the House for the work he did at the time to introduce Fairer Fares, but this is a Palaszczuk Labor government shining reform, making public transport far more affordable for all people right across the South-East Queensland network and changing transport patterns of behaviour.

Mining Industry, Jobs

Mr CRIPPS: I table a page from the green activists plan titled 'Stopping the Australian coal export boom' which lists creating uncertainty as a key strategy to put coalmining projects and jobs at risk here.

Tabled paper: Document, dated November 2011, titled 'Funding proposal for the Australian anti-coal movement', page 5 [794].

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

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook, can you indicate whom your question is to?

Mr CRIPPS: My question without notice is to the Premier.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: That is what I was seeking to clarify, Mr Speaker.

Mr CRIPPS: Does the Premier accept that the indecision of her government and the failure of her leadership this week has caused massive uncertainty, damaged Queensland's reputation as a safe place to invest and put jobs at risk?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Hinchinbrook for the question. The answer is no. What we have seen through announcements today is that we are attracting through our Advance Queensland fund some of the most significant conferences, the likes of which have never been seen in this state.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, and jobs—over 2,000 jobs. As I mentioned earlier this week, as a result of going over and dealing directly with JFE Steel and having that relationship with them, they have now opened up a new mine worth over a billion dollars. It is very important for their steelworks and is one of the largest—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They are just a rabble. Do you want the answer or not? I am talking about a billion dollar coalmine—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are warned under standing order 253A. If you persist I will take the appropriate action. I would urge members to listen to the Premier's answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As a direct result of going to India we have now been asked if we can deliver one million tonnes of chickpeas, and we are working with the industry to see how we can facilitate that. In relation to gas, the Minister for State Development was able to secure the contract from Tennant Creek to Mount Isa to deliver gas for our state. We were also able to—

Ms Jones interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection: 800 new jobs out of 1,500 jobs that we need for the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. Is Queensland an attractive place to invest? Yes, it is. We heard the business confidence figures today delivered by the Treasurer—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under standing order 253A. If you persist I will take the appropriate action. You have had a pretty good go this morning. Premier, do you have anything further you would like to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Absolutely, Mr Speaker. Under the LNP it was very clear that Queensland was a less attractive place for mining companies to invest. Who was the minister?

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, this is very important. They are very rude for a Thursday but we are used to it. We had it for three years when they were in government. Nothing has changed

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, do you have anything further you would like to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker, I do. In terms of the recently released global Fraser Institute survey of mining companies, Queensland is 10th on its investment attractiveness index. Under the LNP in 2014, when the member for Hinchinbrook was the minister, Queensland ranked 27th on the index right after Botswana. We beat New South Wales. Let us also talk about exports—over \$58 billion worth of exports in the last financial year. That is what we are doing. We are diversifying the economy and we are creating jobs.

Federal Funding

Mr KELLY: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer outline how the federal government's approach to economic management has affected Queensland?

Mr PITT: I thank the member for Greenslopes for his question. I do not think I need to say too much about this given we have just had the federal budget and we talked about how many difficulties Queensland will face as a result of some of the non decisions in that budget. What I think about the Turnbull Liberal National Party federal government is that they will be remembered in history as the Clayton's government: the government you have when you do not have one.

What we have is a lack of leadership, a lack of decision-making and a lack of funding in the budget that has been handed down. Ordinarily money is allocated in the forward estimates so people take you seriously that there is some money on the table. That is not what we saw with the recent budget. What we see is a government which is trying to change the tact started under Joe Hockey to something which they are saying is an economic plan but it is not delivering. How do we know that? We know that there is no hard economic data supporting the claims being made, whereas in Queensland we have all of the hard economic data telling them that that situation has improved dramatically in Queensland under the Palaszczuk government.

We have had Moody's recognise that our management of the state's finances and the economy has seen our outlook move from negative to stable, and that is a very important tick—but back to the budget. There are no funds in the budget for the things that we need here in Queensland. It is bereft of that. It is long on promises and short on funds. The new Infrastructure and Project Financing Agency—one of my favourite announcements in the federal budget—looks at how to fund projects but does not actually fund them. There is no funding for our No. 1 priority, Cross River Rail. We had a \$10 billion promise but only \$600 million in the forward estimates.

The announcement of inland rail was also there. Inland rail is meant to be the Prime Minister's visionary approach to delivering a project of that scale for the nation. What we have had, unfortunately, is a project that stops short of going to its final destination, the Port of Brisbane. The Turnbull government, with Scott Morrison as Treasurer, is asking Queenslanders to pay for Cross River Rail and they are also asking us to pay for the gap they have left with inland rail. On the flip side they have given money to New South Wales. We of course have a Prime Minister who comes from New South Wales, but they have given Western Sydney Airport \$5.3 billion yet they cannot give us \$1 billion which we were requesting for Cross River Rail.

I reiterate: the budget which I will hand down on 13 June will have real money for real projects in the forward estimates as opposed to the Clayton's budget under Scott Morrison from the Clayton's government, the Turnbull government. People should expect that of their government and that is what they will get on 13 June.

North Queensland, Jobs

Mr EMERSON: My question is to the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland. One in nine adults and one in five young people in Townsville cannot get a job, so why has the minister been so deathly silent this week on Adani's Carmichael mine and not fought for jobs in North Queensland?

Mrs O'ROURKE: I thank the member for the question. We have made it to Thursday before I have been asked a question about Adani. I have actually been quite vocal on this issue and I have said many times before right across the region that I thoroughly support the Adani project and the jobs that it will bring because I know exactly how important this is for Townsville and North Queensland. I am very pleased that this government has a very dedicated focus on tackling unemployment in the regions. We can see that through the extensive work that has been done about supporting the approval processes for the Adani projects. It has progressed more under this government than it did under those opposite.

I can also talk very proudly about programs like Back to Work, Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Works for Queensland. I cannot emphasise enough to the House how important Works for Queensland is for our North Queensland councils. It is getting local people back in jobs, and that is exactly what I will fight for and that is exactly what this government is doing. I am very, very pleased about the processes we are undertaking.

Maternity Services

Mr POWER: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Noting the value of maternal and child health in Logan, will the minister outline to the House how the Palaszczuk government is working to improve maternity services? Is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I want to thank the member for Logan for his tireless advocacy for his community and for public health care, not just in the electorate of Logan but in the broader city of Logan. This is a very important question because we know that there are groups of women in Logan who are missing out on adequate antenatal and postnatal care. In fact, research shows that seven per cent of pregnant women in the city of Logan are not accessing the recommended number of antenatal appointments, compared to five per cent for the rest of Queensland. That means it is almost 50 per cent higher in the city of Logan, including the member for Logan's electorate, than in the rest of Queensland. That fact alone should have convinced any government to improve maternity services and not take them away, but we know what happened when the member for Clayfield was treasurer. He put a sledgehammer through public health services across Queensland.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Kawana. He said, 'Rubbish.' I will give the member for Kawana some facts—4,000 staff out of the health system, 1,800 hardworking nurses and midwives. The member for Clayfield cut funding from the Red Cross, he cut funding from healthy eating

programs in tuckshops and he also cut funding from mental health services—the first time in Queensland’s history that mental health services were cut. We know about the war on lawyers, the war on doctors and the war on nurses, but we should never forget the war on midwives. Across Queensland, midwives lost their jobs, they lost support, they lost essential training and they lost clinical backup. Those midwives in Logan also lost support. I am proud to be part of a Labor government that today puts that right. Today I announce the restoration of community midwifery and maternity services in the city of Logan. We will invest \$2 million in new funding to the Metro South Hospital and Health Service to put six additional midwives out into the community.

Mr Springborg interjected.

Mr DICK: If I was the member for Southern Downs, who was the health minister who cut these services, I would be saying nothing. Importantly, those midwives will provide continuity of care through pregnancy, birth and postnatal care working through a midwifery group practice. The midwives will be based in community maternity hubs. They will be based in our community, serving our community, because we listen to our community. We are not like the Leader of the Opposition who cuts, sacks and sells. We are about building community.

This would not have happened without the advocacy of the candidates who were elected to this parliament—the member for Logan, the member for Springwood, the member for Waterford and the member for Algester, and it is something I campaigned on as the candidate for Woodridge. We are restoring these services. It is only Labor governments that will deliver good quality maternity services to Queensland.

North Queensland, Jobs

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland. As the minister with responsibility for North Queensland, does she support Townsville or does she support her faction leader, Deputy Premier Trad?

Mrs O’ROURKE: I thank the member for Burdekin for the question, which I find quite interesting because I absolutely support Townsville. This is my home town and that is exactly why I am behind the Adani project because I know what it will mean for our Townsville people and our North Queensland people. The one thing I am very, very happy to say is that the cabinet is very focused on delivering jobs for regional Queensland. Every single person on this side of the House is focused on delivering jobs for regional Queensland. I am very proud to be part of a cabinet that is focused on that.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mrs O’ROURKE: We have got the North Queensland stadium. I take that interjection from the Premier. As I said earlier, the programs that this government is delivering for Townsville and North Queensland are very important in relation to creating jobs—programs like Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which was cut under the previous government.

Mr SPEAKER: Do you have anything further, Minister?

Mrs O’ROURKE: As I have said before, I support the Adani project and the jobs that it will deliver. This government supports jobs for regional Queensland.

Schoolteachers

Mr CRAWFORD: My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister advise the House how the Palaszczuk government is helping to deliver quality teachers for every classroom?

Ms JONES: As everyone in this House knows, I am deeply proud to be the Minister for Education in Queensland in a government that is delivering an extra 3,400 teachers in Queensland schools. That is right: we had an election commitment of 875 teachers above growth. We listened to our stakeholders, and that is what they wanted and we are delivering that. We have teachers in classrooms making a real difference to the educational outcomes of our children.

This stands in stark contrast to when those opposite were in government, with their mean and tricky fidgiting with the allocation which saw a reduction of 500 teachers from getting into classrooms. That is their record. They also cut funding for schools. They have been deathly silent when it comes to the \$300 million that their federal colleagues want to rip out of state schools over the next 10 years. I have a suggestion for the member for Aspley: instead of poring over my diaries, why doesn’t she put pen to paper and write to Simon Birmingham on behalf of state schools and tell him to walk away from

his \$300 million cut? If she really wanted to do her job standing up for Queensland schools, then she would write to the federal minister—her friend, her colleague—and say that we will not accept the \$300 million cut to Queensland schools. The Liberal education minister—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. This is not an opportunity for a shouting match across the chamber.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: No, it is not.

Ms JONES: The Liberal education minister in New South Wales had the guts to stand up to Simon Birmingham. He said to his face that he was not going to take those cuts for New South Wales schools. All I am doing is asking for the Liberal Party in Queensland to do what their colleagues are doing in New South Wales and say, 'We will not accept the Simon Birmingham cuts.'

The other thing that we focus on in schools is doing homework. I suggest to the member for Aspley that instead of poring over my diary she gets out to some schools because I have been to three times the number of schools she has been to this year. If she had had a look, she would know that she has gone to 14 and I have been to 40, so she should not come in here with her petty—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Aspley. Thank you, everyone.

Ms Trad interjected.

Ms JONES: I take that interjection—no, I will not. What I will do is get on with the job of delivering good quality education in this state. I will build the school halls in the electorates of members opposite—in Cleveland, Hinchinbrook, Kawana, Lockyer, Mansfield, Nanango and Warrego. We are building those halls for those school communities—our Labor government. They had three years and they failed miserably, but our government will do exactly what we said we would do. Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield, mentioned that it is always me going on about how great I am, but there are other people, too. The federal member for Petrie—

Ms Davis interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, you have had a pretty good go. I would urge you to—

Ms Trad interjected.

Ms JONES interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, either you can quieten down or I will make a direction.

Ms JONES: It is also the federal member for Petrie, the Liberal member, who said, 'PS. Well done, Kate.' I also had, 'The minister runs a very consultative process'—

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister for Education—

Ms Jones:—'unprecedented level of engagement.' Mark Robinson said, 'Thank you, Minister, for delivering my hall.' I could keep going.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education, you are warned under standing order 253A for speaking whilst I am on my feet. I realise you have been provoked, but you have now been warned.

Queensland Health, Payroll System

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. Under Labor we have had a \$1.2 billion Health payroll disaster and a \$27 million blowout to install the integrated electronic Medical Record at PA and Cairns hospitals and now we learn that same system has crashed after a security upgrade that was designed to protect it sent it into meltdown, and I ask: will Labor ever get Health IT right?

Mr DICK: I thank the honourable member for his question. The first thing I would say in response is the ieMR program was initiated by the Newman LNP government, by those members opposite including the member for Surfers Paradise—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. A question has been asked. The minister's answer is relevant.

Mr DICK: They asked the question. I must say it has been some weeks—maybe months—since the member for Surfers Paradise has bothered to ask me a question, but it is their program that we are implementing. The second point I would make is: what would those members opposite have? Would they have the system crashing because of a malware attack? Is that what they want? Do they not want us to respond? Is that what the members opposite want? Do they not want us to—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. Minister, do have anything further to add?

Mr DICK: I do, Mr Speaker, but I am constantly interrupted by those members opposite and I would like to complete my answer.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, it is question time. The time for questions will finish at 11.33 am and I am happy to have silence. I am in your hands.

Mr DICK: Would the members opposite not have us upload the Citrix patches, the Cerner patches or the Microsoft patches? Is that what they would want us to do, leaving our system exposed? As they would know from my speech to the eHealth Expo, we have up to 500 attacks coming through on our system regularly. Big health systems, big banks, big IT systems—

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the minister for IT. Big corporations around the world are constantly subjected to these attacks. The system is not in meltdown. We are acting effectively to protect our patients and to protect the integrity of our IT systems and we will always do that. The ieMR system implemented at the PA has delivered significant benefits to that hospital. It has reduced the cost of a whole range of services. It has made patients safer and it will continue to do so. The future of health care is digital hospitals, and we implemented the first large-scale digital public hospital in Australia.

Mr SPEAKER: I apologise for interrupting you, Minister. Your answer is relevant. Members, the minister's answer is relevant to the question that was asked. There is a lot of noise happening and I cannot pick out people. If I can pick out people, you will be named; I give you forward notice.

Mr DICK: We will continue to work with our staff, work with our leadership of our hospital and health services, work with the chief executive of eHealth Queensland, Dr Richard Ashby, and the director-general of Queensland Health. We will work through this problem. We believe the horizon is seven days to resolve it. We will plan on that basis. We want it fixed soon and we will fix it as soon as possible, but we will support our staff. That is the priority I have given to the department: making sure our staff are supported, making sure the system gets online, working with our vendors like Cerner who are working in the United States to assist us. We will continue to do this, but we will keep patients and our system safe and secure.

Thuringowa, Riverway Drive

Mr HARPER: My question without notice is to the best main roads minister for road safety this state has ever seen.

Mr MANDER: I rise to a point of order. The member is clearly misleading the House.

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Minister for Main Roads and Road Safety. Will the minister update the House on the important Riverway Drive duplication in my electorate of Thuringowa?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for Thuringowa for his question. I think it is fair to say that when it comes to Riverway Drive he has been incessant, persistent, relentless, constant, unrelenting, obsessive, nonstop, perpetual and downright dogged, but he has delivered. The member for Thuringowa gets things done. I am very pleased that the Palaszczuk government is delivering on Riverway Drive after three years of promises by the previous government, and they did nothing. What we have here is 20,000 people a day will benefit from the Riverway Drive upgrade, which is a \$35 million project. Recently I announced that Queensland company BMD Constructions has been awarded the construction contract to duplicate the three-kilometre section between Gollogly and Allambie lanes. It is part of our \$2 billion State Infrastructure Fund and includes new signalised intersections, pedestrian crossings and centre median strips to increase safety and reduce congestion. This is a key road in the honourable member's electorate and it is something that he has delivered on in just over two years of his first term. It is a great credit to him and his advocacy on behalf of his local constituents.

That is on top of the commitments by the Palaszczuk government in Townsville to the berth 4 upgrade at the port, the start and completion of the Townsville ring-road, the stadium, Bruce Highway upgrades and the accelerated works package delivering jobs for North Queensland and Townsville. That is in stark contrast to the \$600 million in road cuts that were made under the member for Clayfield when he was treasurer of this state. He ratted on regional roads. He cut \$200 million each and every year he had the purse strings. We also saw \$30 million spent by the member for Indooroopilly on outsourcing and privatisation of a secret branch of Transport and Main Roads. An amount of \$30 million was spent on that instead of going to roads. I note that lately he has gone less Andrew Peacock and more 'Angry Ant'. Maybe it has been to cover up his appalling record when it comes to roads. We have recently seen the federal government cut more than \$100 million from the Bruce Highway contingency fund—shame on them—and \$90 million from the contingency fund generally on top of cuts.

What does the member for Clayfield do? Does he stand up to Canberra? Does he stand up for Queensland? No—there is silence. He backs his LNP mates in Canberra. He sells out Queensland. He dithered for three years under Campbell Newman in this state, particularly with regard to regional roads, and all we get from him is pictures of roads from Slovenia. That shows how relevant he is to roads in Queensland. It is an appalling record.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Dalrymple, I am informed that we have students from the Canterbury College in the electorate of Waterford observing our proceedings. Welcome.

Ravenswood, Flying Foxes

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef. Flying foxes are one of the major issues in my electorate. Can the minister advise what action he will take to reduce the restrictions preventing the Charters Towers Regional Council from removing the huge flying fox colony that is distressing the residents of Ravenswood?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Dalrymple for his question. We do not agree on everything, but we do agree that the member for Dalrymple is a passionate advocate for his community, particularly on the issue of the flying fox colonies in Charters Towers and Ravenswood. I understand how these colonies can be troublesome for communities, particularly in urban built-up areas. The member for Dalrymple has emphasised to me how smelly, noisy and messy these colonies are and how fed up the Charters Towers community is with them. He is not the only member of the House who has raised flying fox colonies with me. The member for Mirani, the member for Ipswich, the member for Ipswich West and the member for Cairns have all raised various concerns about the management of flying fox roosts.

In part thanks to the advocacy of all of those members, including the member for Dalrymple, the Palaszczuk government has bolstered spending on flying fox roost management by something like \$2.7 million over the next three years, and much of that work will be focused in the Charters Towers area. When the member for Dalrymple and I last met to discuss this topic, we dispatched EHP wildlife officers to Charters Towers to meet with the regional council. I understand that they met as recently as a month ago to talk about how those funds could assist the council to manage the roosts in Charters Towers and Ravenswood, although I am told that the Ravenswood roost in particular has not been raised at those meetings so I will ask them to go back and discuss that with them again.

What they discussed at that meeting was what as-of-right permits the council had to deal with the roost, the things they could do without applying to EHP for a permit, and what their other options might be with a permit if they applied to EHP. The department advised me that the council have not applied for any rights beyond their as-of-right existing permit, so if there are things that the council would like to do that are beyond what their existing permit allows, then I would encourage them to apply to the department. Those applications will be properly considered and assessed, and that will allow the department to assist the council to do the best job possible to address the concerns of residents.

Finally, the member for Dalrymple has urged me repeatedly to come and visit Charters Towers and have a look at these roosts. Given that this has been important enough for him to raise here today, I will commit to do that over the next couple of months. We will be in touch to organise a date.

Barcoo-Diamantina Fibre Optic Project

Mr PEARCE: My question is to the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Will the minister update the House on the progress of the Barcoo-Diamantina Fibre Optic Project and the benefits it will deliver to local communities?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for Mirani for his question and acknowledge his strong commitment to regional Queensland and his fight to assist people in those areas.

I am delighted to inform the House that the high-speed digital connection to two outback Queensland shires is now complete. Barcoo and Diamantina shire councils' 550-kilometre connection is operational. Stonehenge, Jundah, Windorah, Birdsville and Bedourie now have access to the fast lane of the information superhighway. This is a great example of local communities thinking outside the box to put in place 21st century infrastructure for the industries of the future.

The two outback councils sourced \$16.5 million in state, federal and local government funding to connect their communities to cyberspace like never before. This initiative has the potential to revolutionise communities in the outback. The Palaszczuk government answered the call and backed the project to the tune of \$6.25 million, with the Premier also pushing for federal funding. Barcoo and Diamantina shire councils stepped up and contributed over \$2 million to the project as well. Improved mobile phone coverage is expected to be fully integrated into the system next month. It will help support long-term economic development for a region growing in importance for oil and gas reserves.

The fibre-optic initiative means so much more than buffer-free Netflix: it has supported up to 60 jobs and brings huge potential for health, education, emergency services, local business and tourism. Faster broadband connectivity will drive innovation and economic diversification. It is the core of our Advance Queensland initiative.

The Palaszczuk government understands the importance of telecommunications to rural and remote Queensland. The Barcoo-Diamantina fibre-optic cable connection is so transformational that the councils recently won the Local Government Managers Australia 2017 Community Shaping Award for Excellence. I congratulate them. I want to thank the Premier, Barcoo Mayor Bruce Scott and Diamantina Mayor Geoff Morton for their joint efforts in driving this game-changing digital revolution. This is an excellent example of what can be achieved with strong local leadership and all levels of government working together for the benefit of our communities.

Youth Detention Centres

Mr WALKER: My question is to the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General has previously told this parliament that damage done by detainees to the Queensland youth detention centres from 2015 until February 2017 totalled well over \$900,000. Can the Attorney-General advise whether last week's rooftop breakout by detainees has taken Labor's repair bill beyond the \$1 million mark?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Mansfield for his question. I am happy to get that information for the member with regard to any costs in relation to recent damage that may have occurred at the centres. I do not have that information on hand at the moment.

Domestic and Family Violence

Ms FARMER: My question is to the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the minister update the House on how members of parliament can support local child protection and domestic violence prevention initiatives in their electorates and across Queensland?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question and her ongoing advocacy in tackling domestic and family violence. Last week in Nerang I visited the \$2.1 million facility which is the result of a partnership between my department, Act for Kids and the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre on the Gold Coast to improve responses to children and families who come to the attention of Child Safety. This integrated approach means that we can start hands-on work to support families the moment they come to our attention. This has been welcomed by staff and parents alike. I also announced that \$1.1 million would be provided to Centacare to run a mobile domestic and family violence support service on the Gold Coast. Again this was warmly welcomed by DV services across the state.

What did the opposition have to say about these new initiatives? Members might recall that during the last sitting I spoke about the 'Negative Nancy' of our parliament, the member for Mudgeeraba, and I am disappointed to say that nothing much has changed.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I think that reference to the member is inappropriate. Will you withdraw?

Ms FENTIMAN: I withdraw. The member for Mudgeeraba could not even bring herself to welcome \$500,000 in additional funding for security upgrades for women escaping violence. The member for Mudgeeraba talked down this initiative and said that we were taking credit for a Commonwealth trial. I

have a newsflash for the member for Mudgeeraba: that was new money from our government on top of Commonwealth funding for a trial. Instead of encouraging women to reach out for help and access these services, she has been critical of the services that are being funded by the Queensland government—as usual.

After the member for Mudgeeraba's visits to child safety service centres, staff have also had enough of her negative attitude. In an extraordinary move this week, Together has issued a media release on behalf of child safety officers—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: With respect, member for Mudgeeraba, the minister has already been warned under standing order 253A. I would urge you not to go there.

Ms FENTIMAN: With regard to our hardworking child safety officers the media release states—

We are concerned that one minute the opposition is visiting an agency office, seeking meetings and photos with ... staff and the next minute ... standing out the front with the media sending mixed messages—

Ms BATES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the minister's comments absolutely untrue and offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Ms FENTIMAN: I am happy to table the media release I am quoting from.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. I understand that the member has found some comments you have made personally offensive.

Ms FENTIMAN: I withdraw, Mr Speaker, but I will continue to read—

Mr SPEAKER: For clarification, the member will withdraw whatever the member found offensive and move on.

Ms FENTIMAN: I withdraw. The media release goes on to say—

The crucial relationships between the department, clients and NGOs have a value beyond any measure and members are concerned that Ms Bates' comments have not been helpful in ensuring that they can continue to be strengthened.

I table that media release.

Tabled paper: Together media release, 23 May 2017, titled 'Child safety is important' [795].

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh, you are warned under standing order 253A. I find that your comments are designed to talk over the top of the minister. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

Ms FENTIMAN: We cannot be too hard on the member for Mudgeeraba. It is a special day for the member for Mudgeeraba: it is her birthday. In a spirit of bipartisanship I hope that she reflects on her birthday and leaves her negative attitude behind.

Youth Detention Centres

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Premier. Staff at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre have told the media—

Guards are losing control due to management putting so many restrictions on them. The whole centre is constantly damaged now. It's just a war zone.

Does the Premier take responsibility for over two years of constant chaos and crisis in our youth justice system?

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you have one minute.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Everton for the question. I state at the outset that my government will back the staff that provide vital services to Queenslanders right across this state. Whether that is at the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre or the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre, we will back our staff. Rather than coming in here and attacking staff, those opposite should show a bit of bipartisanship when it comes to supporting staff.

We still do not know from their most recent policy whether the Leader of the Opposition wants to cut staff. Those opposite talk about flexibility, but we all know that flexibility can mean sackings. The question for those opposite is: will they maintain the staff at those detention centres or will we see cuts?

Mr SPEAKER: Question time has finished.

SAFER WATERWAYS BILL

Introduction

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (11.34 am): I present a bill for an act to establish the Queensland Crocodile Authority and for related matters. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Agriculture and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Safer Waterways Bill 2017 [\[796\]](#).

Tabled paper: Safer Waterways Bill 2017, explanatory notes [\[797\]](#).

The Safer Waterways Bill 2017 has multiple policy objectives. The bill places greater value on human life than on the lives of crocodiles and seeks to responsibly reduce the risk of crocodile attacks as much as possible. It aims to eliminate from our waterways all crocodiles that pose a threat to human life while protecting crocodiles from becoming endangered as a species.

The policy of prioritising human life over the lives of crocodiles came about in response to calls from North Queenslanders for action in response to an increased number of crocodile attacks. Communities across North Queensland are consistently reporting significant increases in crocodile numbers. Waterways which people previously regularly swam in are now infested with crocodiles. From 1985 to 2015 the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection recorded 25 crocodile attacks in Queensland, seven of them fatal. In the past 12 months there have been three attacks, two of them fatal. This does not include attacks on stock or other animals.

An effective crocodile management strategy is urgently required to save lives. The increase in crocodile numbers not only endangers human lives; it also adversely and significantly affects the way North Queenslanders live. There are life-saving, rowing and skiing clubs closing their doors because crocodiles are driving their members away.

The Safer Waterways Bill 2017 will ensure that crocodiles are removed by an authorised person if they are a threat to humans. This removal may involve killing or relocating the crocodile to an authorised farm. It would involve the removal of crocodiles from urban or public areas commonly used by people for recreation. If managed responsibly, crocodiles have the potential to be a great asset for Queensland rather than just a danger to people.

As well as protecting human lives, the Safer Waterways Bill 2017 aims to create a significant and sustainable crocodile industry in Queensland through controlled egg harvesting. The Northern Territory currently has a successful egg harvesting program. Evidence suggests that egg harvesting can help sustain crocodile populations rather than diminish them and creates a huge economic opportunity which is currently untapped in Queensland.

Significantly, the Safer Waterways Bill 2017 gives power to landowners to apply to manage crocodiles on their land. Indigenous landowners have a connection with and understanding of the land and should be empowered to manage that land as they see fit. This bill allows them to apply to do that in relation to crocodiles. Non-Indigenous private landowners can apply for the same rights. As well as empowering landowners, it places a value on crocodiles and creates an unprecedented economic opportunity for landowners.

Authorised landowners will be empowered with regard to all aspects of crocodile management on their property. If a crocodile is on their property they may choose whether to kill it, have it relocated to a farm or let it remain on their property. If they choose for it to be euthanased they may do this themselves or accept payment from another person who wishes to kill the crocodile. By placing value on crocodiles, landowners are unlikely to simply kill all the crocodiles on their land unless this is necessary for them to safely live and operate on that land. The landowner will likely see the value in crocodile eggs and the income that can be generated for landowners.

If there are crocodile eggs on their land, they can choose to leave the eggs, harvest the eggs and sell them or have someone else pay to come on their land and harvest them. Ultimately, people who live in North Queensland are best placed to manage crocodiles and people with experience managing crocodiles should have input into the ongoing management of crocodiles in Queensland. It is hoped that any time a crocodile is euthanased, whether it be on private property or on state land, the crocodile's carcass is fully utilised by, for example, selling teeth, meat or skins or by producing blood and bone from unsaleable parts of the carcass.

The bill achieves the policy objectives outlined above by creating a Queensland Crocodile Authority. Under the bill, the Queensland Crocodile Authority would be required to remove all rogue crocodiles by killing them or moving them to an approved crocodile farm. Rogue crocodiles are defined

as crocodiles posing a threat to human safety and include crocodiles in urban areas or waterways commonly used by people for recreation. The bill legalises egg harvesting for permit holders and allows people to pay to hunt crocodiles on private land with the landowner's consent if the landowner has the Queensland Crocodile Authority's authorisation to so manage the land. The bill ensures that the Queensland Crocodile Authority is based in Cairns and it is expected that all staff would live in that area rather than fly-in fly-out. The bill also creates a board to provide recommendations to the Queensland Crocodile Authority. The board is to be made up of people with relevant experience in crocodile management to ensure that Queensland is getting the best possible advice on managing crocodile populations and creating a crocodile industry that will benefit the state and its landowners for many years to come.

Some views were expressed during consultation that no crocodiles should be killed or relocated. This does not align with the policy objectives of keeping people safe from crocs. Other views were expressed that the policy objective of keeping people safe from crocodiles could be achieved by relocating any problem crocodile to other locations. Consultation with experts suggests that crocodiles may become more dangerous once they have been relocated. Therefore, crocodiles should only be relocated to farms or properly managed reserves. The consultation also reveals that because there are so many crocs that require removal to keep people safe it is very unlikely that there would be the desire from existing crocodile farms to house all those crocs. Based on this extensive consultation, it has become clear that a combination of killing and relocation to farms is the best way to achieve the policy objectives.

The costs associated with implementing the bill relate to the establishment and operation of the Queensland Crocodile Authority. These costs will be met within the existing department's allocation. The bill has been drafted with regard to the fundamental legislative principles as defined in section 4 of the Legislative Standards Act 1992 and is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

There has been extensive consultation. Significant consultation has been undertaken in the preparation of this bill, including detailed engagement with affected communities through public forums and private engagement. Other major stakeholder groups consulted include Indigenous groups, local government, crocodile experts, professional fishing communities and other community groups, and federal members of parliament. The bill creates a new authority within the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to enable several activities for the management of crocodiles in Queensland waterways. State based crocodile management frameworks exist in other states and territories and include some of the activities contemplated in this bill. There may be some areas of the bill that may encroach on the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. However, consultation with the relevant Commonwealth government ministers has indicated a willingness to consider mechanisms that will ensure no conflict between this bill and the Commonwealth act exists.

With regard to the extensive consultation that we have undertaken, we visited the communities of Innisfail, Port Douglas and Mareeba. Robbie Katter has consulted with communities and Indigenous groups in Burketown and Normanton. There were also public consultations in Cairns and with local councils. There is great concern with regard to the explosion of crocodile numbers. This is also impacting on our international tourist market because when tourists come here all they see are croc-warning signs, they hear of croc attacks and if they swim in our waterways they could possibly be taken by a croc.

We have introduced this legislation into this House because people are sick and tired of hearing about more studies or more counts. People want action. I will read some of the concerns of residents who attended a public meeting in Innisfail. One person lives at Kurrimine Beach and has spent 15 years spearfishing. They said that there used to be plenty of dugongs and turtles but that, however, in the last 10 years they have been slowly disappearing. They believe that this is from the explosion in the numbers of crocodiles. They said—

We used to enjoy our waterways, sit by the water, walk along the waters edge—now we cannot do that.

Tourists who visit here don't understand the dangers and treat it like an adventure. They take no notice of signs or information pamphlets.

The State Government has a duty of care to the people in the region and listen to what we are saying. They don't seem to want to know about North Queensland and despite deaths, close calls and the erosion of our way of life do nothing. Crocs are now eating us ... and it is past time for action.

Another person travelled from Gordonvale for the meeting. They said—

The croc problem is likened to a full grown lion walking down the streets of Jburg. They don't belong there and the same as the crocs. They are in areas they never were in the past.

They have lost the fear of man and we cannot guarantee our kids safety.

Kids in Gordonvale used to enjoy swimming. Now they can't learn to swim and won't swim in local waterways.

Crocodiles are also now on private farms which is unacceptable.

We used to scare crocs by firing buckshots at them but we would be arrested if we were to do that now. We need to make them frightened of humans again.

One canefarmer said that in the off-season he used to hunt crocs through the gulf many years ago. He has seen and knows of 16-foot crocs in Cooper Creek where kids swim and believes that it is only a matter of time before children are taken. They said—

There were no attacks for 60 years when we used to shoot crocs. Now there is a spate of attacks because numbers have got out of control.

Never used to hear of attacks in the rivers with freshwater crocs, however now salties have invaded the waterways. They are aggressive, territorial and nobody would or should swim in these waterways now.

In places like Lake Placid kids would swim out to the pontoon and do summersaults. Now they would not even make it to the pontoon. In places like the Johnstone River people enjoyed skiing. You are lucky to be alive if you go and ski now. I could read a lot more in terms of what people have had to say, and that is why we have introduced this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Mr KNUTH (Dalrymple—KAP) (11.47 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Agriculture and Environment Committee

Mr SPEAKER: Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Agriculture and Environment Committee.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Safer Waterways Bill

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I note that the bill just introduced by the member for Dalrymple, the Safer Waterways Bill, creates a statutory authority with a director, board and staff. Despite the claim in the explanatory notes that the costs will be met from existing departmental allocations, I will be considering whether the bill offends section 68 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001 and/or standing order 174 and would invite members to make submissions to me on that matter in writing.

School Group Tour

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I am informed that we have more students from Canterbury College in the electorate of Waterford observing our proceedings in the gallery. Welcome.

LABOUR HIRE LICENSING BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11.49 am): I present a bill for an act to provide for the licensing and regulation of providers of labour hire services and related matters. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Finance and Administration Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Labour Hire Licensing Bill 2017 [798].

Tabled paper: Labour Hire Licensing Bill 2017, explanatory notes [799].

I am proud to rise today as a Labor industrial relations minister to introduce the Labour Hire Licensing Bill 2017. For far too long and far too often we have all heard the stories of vulnerable workers being exploited at the hands of unscrupulous labour hire operators: cases of wage theft and

unauthorised deductions, sexual harassment, workers housed in overcrowded and substandard accommodation, a lack of proper safety equipment and training, systemic tax avoidance, sham contracting and phoenixing of companies leaving workers stranded without their entitlements. The tiering upon tiering of labour hire arrangements, found also by the Fair Work Ombudsman, means that workers who have been exploited sometimes do not even know who their actual employer is. These labour hire rorts are fast becoming a national disgrace. Just last month a Queensland labour hire company was found to have underpaid workers \$77,649 over a seven-week period. Some of these workers were at times forced to work entire days harvesting produce without food or drink and without pay, as well as forced to live in isolated, transient accommodation.

Such cases have been reported time and time again through the media and a stream of reports and inquiries, including through our own state parliamentary Finance and Administration Committee, which conducted an investigation into the labour hire industry last year. With this bill we are saying 'enough is enough'. These practices have been going on far too often and for far too long. A business-as-usual approach is not acceptable. The only way to put an end to this kind of appalling exploitation is through the introduction of a proper labour hire licensing scheme, and that is what this bill delivers. If it is good enough to require a licence for those who sell houses or sell cars then, with this bill, we say that you should be required to have a licence if you are in the business of selling human labour to other businesses.

I am proud that the Queensland Palaszczuk Labor government is leading the way by becoming the first jurisdiction to introduce a state based labour hire licensing scheme. We accept that a national licensing system for labour hire would be the best outcome, but with the continuing absence of national leadership on this matter—in fact, the Deputy Prime Minister confirmed yesterday that they want nothing to do with it—the Queensland government is determined to do all it can at the state level to clean up the labour hire sector and protect vulnerable workers. Unlike the Turnbull Liberal-National government, the Queensland government will not sit on its hands and do nothing. In the government's response to the report from the parliamentary committee in September 2016 we said that we would consider further measures to better protect vulnerable workers from exploitation and ensure improved and effective regulation of the labour hire sector. With this bill before the House today we deliver on that commitment.

I turn now to outline the key features of the bill. The Labour Hire Licensing Bill 2017 will establish a mandatory business licensing scheme for the labour hire industry in Queensland. The twin purposes of the scheme, as set out in the bill, are to protect labour hire workers from exploitation and to promote the integrity of the labour hire industry in Queensland. We know that there are many ethical labour hire operators who have had enough of being undercut by shonky operators who are exploiting workers and tarnishing the reputation of the whole industry.

The two core elements underpinning the whole scheme in the bill are, first, a requirement that all labour hire providers must be licensed to operate in Queensland; and, second, that businesses who use labour hire must only engage a licensed labour hire provider. The bill sets out strong penalties for operating without a licence or for using an unlicensed provider. The other major penalty provision in the bill is targeted at avoidance arrangements which are designed to circumvent or avoid an obligation imposed by this bill.

The bill does not interfere with any existing obligations under workplace relations, taxation, anti-discrimination, health and safety, or independent contractor laws. However, the bill will provide stiff penalties for any business that aids, abets or induces improper or unlawful practices designed to breach or avoid those obligations, whether by threats, promises or otherwise.

In terms of scope, the bill will cover all labour hire providers operating in Queensland regardless of where their registered address might be. The definition of 'labour hire' in the bill is one where a person or business supplies workers to do work for another person, regardless of how the activity might be described. This definition will cover the traditional and well-understood on-hire labour hire arrangement as well as group training schemes. It will also ensure that pyramid labour hire arrangements, where there may be several layers of labour hire providers, and sham contracting out labour placement arrangements will also be captured in the licensing scheme if a labour hire provider enters into an arrangement with a client or end user to provide workers but they source the workers from another entity, then that entity also needs to be licensed.

The intention of the bill is to cast a wide net over labour hire arrangements but not clog up the licensing system with other arrangements that fall outside genuine labour hire. Genuine recruitment, permanent placement and workplace consulting arrangements are not within the ambit of the licensing

scheme. If a business supplies workers whom the end user then employs themselves, that is not an arrangement that the bill is designed to capture. Neither does the bill intend to cover genuine subcontracting where, for example, a builder subcontracts a plumber to do the plumbing work on a small construction site.

The basic features of labour hire that the bill intends to capture are where a person supplies workers to another person—the end user, or client—the client pays the provider for that service, and the labour hire provider pays the workers for that work. The bill also makes provision for regulations to be made to provide further clarification on the scope of the bill to ensure that coverage does not capture unintended classes of providers or workers. We are confident that the definition does what it needs to do to cover labour hire, but we acknowledge that there are a multitude of arrangements out in the labour market and we fully expect that we will get further submissions on these matters through the committee process.

The bill sets out the conditions and requirements that must be met to obtain and continue to hold a licence. Under the bill, a labour hire provider must satisfy a fit and proper person test to establish that they are fit to hold a licence to provide labour hire services. They must have a history of compliance or ability to comply with all relevant laws and also be able to show that the business is financially viable.

The licence will be renewable annually and all licence holders will be required to report on their performance, including any breaches of workplace laws. An annual licence fee will be payable upon the original application and all subsequent licence renewals. The fee will be set in subordinate legislation and will be structured according to the size of the business, based on a calculation of turnover and wages paid. It is anticipated that the fee will be \$1,000 for a small labour hire provider, \$3,000 for a medium provider and \$5,000 for a large provider. By design, these fees are not high or onerous. They are not set as a barrier to entry or as a deterrent for continuing labour hire operations. The fees are set at a level that will support the extra resources required for the enforcement and compliance activities that will underpin this licensing scheme.

Under the bill there will be a public register of licensed providers. This will allow businesses to check on the bona fides of a labour hire provider they are considering using and also enable workers and prospective workers to ensure that the labour hire provider they might work for is licensed. Through the application process and the reporting requirements under the bill, data will be captured in relation to labour hire arrangements in Queensland to inform industry and the government of trends and emerging issues in the industry and to monitor the effectiveness of the scheme.

Licensing decisions will be made by the chief executive and will be subject to a review and appeal process as set out in the bill. Appeals against licensing decisions will be heard in the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, QCAT. Because of the broad community interest expressed in this scheme, persons or organisations with an interest in the protection of workers or the integrity of the labour hire industry will have standing to review and appeal licensing decisions.

Stakeholder feedback during consultation on the bill revealed a very high expectation for strong enforcement and monitoring of the labour hire licensing scheme. In response, a compliance unit will be established in the Office of Industrial Relations within Queensland Treasury to promote awareness of the scheme and ensure compliance. Inspectors will be appointed under the terms of the bill and will investigate and prosecute suspected breaches and, where proven, licences will be revoked. Inspectors will have powers to enter, question and seize documents or things. The inspectors will also be in a position to assist other enforcement agencies with intelligence gathering and referral capabilities. As noted earlier, revenue generated from the licensing scheme will be used to cover the costs of the inspectorate.

The development of the Labour Hire Licensing Bill has been informed by evidence from numerous inquiries and from extensive consultation with the community, with users of labour hire arrangements, with the labour hire industry and with the unions who represent the interests of labour hire workers. Since responding to the parliamentary committee's report in September 2016, I have sought feedback from stakeholders on the components of a labour hire licensing scheme and other measures to stop the exploitation and mistreatment of workers, to stop unfair competition and provide minimum standards for operating as a labour hire provider.

The government released an issues paper in December calling for public submissions over a seven-week period. A total of 40 submissions were received from labour hire businesses, workers, consumers, unions, industry peak bodies, academics and other community representatives. Since then I have met personally with a number of stakeholders across the labour hire industry. The advice from

industry users, labour hire providers, community groups and worker representatives largely supports the introduction of a labour hire licensing scheme as a means to protect vulnerable labour hire workers from exploitation, to support ethical and responsible labour hire providers and also to provide confidence to host employers who utilise labour hire arrangements in good faith.

In preparing the Labour Hire Licensing Bill, the government has sought to balance the need to provide protections for vulnerable workers and rid the industry of cheats and rorters with minimising the administrative burden on those labour hire providers who operate ethically and in compliance with all their legal obligations. I trust that every member in this place shares this government's unwavering commitment to rid this state of the scourge of dishonest and shonky labour hire operators. This bill will drive out those cheaters and rorters who exploit labour hire workers, who take unfair advantage of those businesses that do the right thing and who bring the entire industry into disrepute. This bill will protect both workers and those reputable labour hire providers that are doing the right thing.

I come back to the point I made at the outset: if you need a licence to operate a real estate agency or to be a motor car dealer, for example, then why should you not need a licence to run a labour hire firm that hires out labour? I am proud to be part of a Labor government that is leading the way as the first jurisdiction to introduce a labour hire licensing scheme. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. G GRACE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12.05 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 Finance and Administration Committee

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

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. G GRACE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12.05 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Finance and Administration Committee report to the House on the Labour Hire Licensing Bill by 24 July 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION LEGISLATION (NON-CONFORMING BUILDING PRODUCTS—CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY AND OTHER MATTERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (12.05 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Building Act 1975, the Pest Management Act 2001, the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 and the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes and I nominate the Public Works and Utilities Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Building and Construction Legislation (Non-conforming Building Products—Chain of Responsibility and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2017 [\[800\]](#).

Tabled paper: Building and Construction Legislation (Non-conforming Building Products—Chain of Responsibility and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes [\[801\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Building and Construction Legislation (Non-conforming Building Products—Chain of Responsibility and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2017. The bill seeks to establish a chain of responsibility, placing duties on building supply chain participants in order to ensure building products used in Queensland are safe and that they are fit for purpose.

The bill seeks to update the compliance and enforcement powers of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, the QBCC, and the responsible minister. The bill will facilitate, and in some cases obligate, information sharing on workplace health and safety and public health matters between the QBCC and state work health and safety regulators. The bill will allow the QBCC to take disciplinary action against a licensee. It will allow the QBCC to suspend or cancel a licence where serious safety issues are at stake.

Members will recall that I have raised the issue of nonconforming building products a number of times in the House. In 2014 it took less than 15 minutes for a lit cigarette left on a balcony to cause 13 floors of the Lacrosse building in Melbourne to be engulfed in flames. That fire was a result of highly flammable nonconforming aluminium cladding, a cheaper imitation version of a conforming product.

The proliferation of cheap, imported and often substandard products entering our nation is a risk to the health and safety of all Queenslanders. It is a risk to Queenslanders when they gather at events, when they gather at public places, when they go to work in a modern office tower, when they visit major shopping centres and even when they return to their homes at the end of a busy day. These products are often costly to rectify and they are often difficult to replace once they have been installed. These costs currently are falling on the builder, the installer, the building owner or the strata title community.

The Queensland government has been leading a national push for a stronger approach to this issue. The Palaszczuk government is determined to secure public confidence in our built environment. That is why I am proud to present a bill that delivers a new approach to addressing nonconforming building products and also establishes, importantly, a model for other jurisdictions that are looking to improve their own legislative frameworks.

It is important to note that the single most effective way of dealing with this problem would be for the Commonwealth to take some action to stop the importation of these products at the border. Despite significant pressure from the states, meaningful action to date has not been forthcoming. To protect Queenslanders, whether they be in the office or at the shops, at home or on a construction site, we are called to act. This bill will implement a chain of responsibility that places duties on supply chain participants—specifically designers, manufacturers, importers, suppliers and installers. We do this so as to ensure that nonconforming building products are not incorporated into our built environment.

Additional duties will be placed on parties in the chain of responsibility to ensure that building products are accompanied by appropriate information. The bill requires that parties in the chain of responsibility must not make false or misleading statements about a building product's performance. These duties will more fairly allocate responsibility for the management of nonconforming building products. This will correct a situation that exists in Queensland where the only safeguard currently preventing a dangerous building product being permanently incorporated into the built environment is the vigilance of a tradie, developer or certifier. The bill establishes a duty on supply chain participants to notify the Queensland Building and Construction Commission of nonconforming building products.

The bill will also update the compliance and enforcement powers of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. Under these laws the QBCC will be able to take a range of actions to address the conduct of those who breach their duties. The QBCC will be able to make use of modern compliance tools such as enforceable undertakings. Importantly, the QBCC's powers of entry will be significantly broadened. For example, to pursue the removal or the rectification of nonconforming building products, the QBCC will be able to enter finished construction buildings rather than, as the current situation has it, only active building sites. This is because experience tells us that nonconforming building products can often become apparent well after the construction project has concluded. The QBCC will also be able to direct or take remedial action to make a place safe and to take building products and samples for examination and testing. In the interests of public safety, the bill provides the ability for the responsible minister to issue a warning statement about a product and to issue a recall order where deemed necessary. The bill will also establish the Building Products Advisory Committee, which will be a key source of information and guidance about issues relating to nonconforming building products.

I turn to workplace safety amendments on building sites, which I have mentioned in this House already today. I pause for a moment to again acknowledge Mr Michael and Mrs Lee Garrels, who are in the gallery today for this important occasion. On behalf of the House, I thank you for your tireless advocacy for safer workplaces for all Queenslanders. Lee and Michael Garrels lost their son when Jason was fatally electrocuted when working on a building site in Queensland. I cannot imagine the utter devastation suffered by the Garrels family. I cannot imagine the utter devastation suffered by Jason's mates and those in the local community because of that tragic and preventable incident. I have no doubt that the Garrels family's advocacy for better workplace safety has and will continue to save the lives of Queenslanders. Again, I thank you for your determined campaigning.

Influenced by the Garrels family's sensible advocacy, in this bill I am proposing amendments that will seek to establish a requirement that the QBCC shares information with workplace health and safety regulators, including the regulator under the Electrical Safety Act 2002, the Workplace Health and Safety Act 2001 and the Public Health Act 2005. These amendments also require licensees to report notifiable health and safety incidents, breaches and risks to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. The bill allows the QBCC to then suspend or cancel a licence or take other disciplinary action if a licensee has caused death or serious injury or is causing serious risk to health and safety on a building site. The bill further allows the QBCC to take action if a licensee is convicted of an offence or is in breach of relevant legislation.

The intent of these provisions is to fulfil the community's expectation that the QBCC should take into account the conduct of a company when considering the suspension or cancellation of a licence. Licensees who fail to meet their obligations to ensure the safety of workers and who expose workers to risk—for example, dangerous chemicals and things such as asbestos or many of the hazards that are prevalent on construction sites—should not have the privilege of holding a building and construction industry licence in Queensland. If you fail to protect the safety of workers, you do not deserve to operate in this state.

I will be very clear: the great majority of builders who do the right thing and who do behave in a way that is consistent with the expectation of the Queensland community should not have to compete with builders who consistently cut corners, be it on quality, payment or safety. Those builders, together with the tradies, the young workers—men and women such as Jason Garrels—and the certifiers in the construction industry deserve the support of a modern chain of responsibility to control the dangers created by nonconforming building products and a proactive regulatory authority to protect their health and safety. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (12.16 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 Public Works and Utilities Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Public Works and Utilities Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (12.16 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Public Works and Utilities Committee report to the House on the Building and Construction Legislation (Non-conforming Building Products—Chain of Responsibility and Other Matters) Amendment Bill by 7 August 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

TRADING (ALLOWABLE HOURS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 24 May (see p.1406), on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.16 pm): I rise to speak to this union-building thought-bubble bill proposed by the Palaszczuk Labor government which is another example of the review-heavy but legislation-light approach of the Palaszczuk government. This is more legislation that promotes union-employing companies at the expense of the small business trader. It is absolutely the height of hypocrisy for members on the other side of the parliament to put forward legislation to supposedly look after business, particularly small business, when almost all of their backgrounds are as union hacks and political staffers, apart from a couple of good operators such as Tricky Ricky's moonlight towing service and Brucey's banana split parlour—

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. There have been a number of rulings enunciated on many occasions about referring to members by their appropriate titles.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Thank you, Leader of the House. I was just about to make that very point. Member for Mermaid Beach, I ask you to withdraw.

Mr STEVENS: I withdraw.

Mr WILLIAMS: I rise to a point of order. I take offence at the comments. I ask that they be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think that at the same time you rose to your feet the member was withdrawing.

Mr STEVENS: The Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017 proposes to restructure trading hours provisions across Queensland to simplify and reduce the administrative burden on Queensland businesses, no matter their size. It is an outcome of a trading hours review headed by Mr John Mickel. The report of that review was provided to the Palaszczuk Labor government on 22 December. Conclusions could be drawn as to who was heard, particularly in relation to some of the traders affected by this bill—not the reference group—including industry groups and retailers. More to the point, the legislation was driven by this unionised Palaszczuk Labor government.

I notice that the Minister for Industrial Relations has just introduced into the House more union-promoting legislation, which is typical of the last 2½ years of this government. The government has concerned itself completely with union matters. The unions are the puppeteers for the puppets that they put into this House. Unfortunately, rather than getting on with the job of getting Queensland going, the Labor members in this House have just been the puppets dancing to the tune of the puppeteers of the union movement.

After a very extensive inquiry we will again be looking at matters that promote union membership, which is rapidly falling. I am told by the shadow minister that the shoppies union is probably the only one growing throughout the state. The unions are trying to promote union membership so they can put more members on the ground for this tired, do-nothing Labor government.

This review was initially welcomed by industry groups and retailers, as there is no doubt in my mind or the minds of my colleagues that the current system has become far too complicated and unwieldy. However, in typical Labor fashion, the minister and the Palaszczuk Labor government have botched this legislation.

As a small business owner on the Gold Coast in the 1980s and 1990s and being in the big shopping centres such as Pacific Fair and the Paradise Centre at Surfers Paradise, amongst others, I understand completely the power of these large supermarket chains, Woolies and Coles. As members would know, they are now even dominating the liquor supply industry throughout Australia in terms of their market share. All they do is squeeze, squeeze, squeeze small business operators.

Open-all-hours—to borrow the name of the famous ABC show of yesteryear—trading gives them another advantage to again try to eradicate some of their competition, the small business operators throughout Queensland. Open-all-hours trading is hard work. They pay top dollar to their employees, as per the agreements through the Fair Work Commission. This legislation will circumvent this through two major provisions. One is non-exempt shops, as they are defined in the bill. This will give the duopoly of Australian retailing, Woolies and Coles, another advantage through their 200,000 members of the shoppies union on EBAs with Woolies and Coles. This gives them a dollar trading advantage over the

guy operating the corner store in our suburbs. This is particularly the case in regional areas. This is going to create another problem. We will probably lose more jobs rather than create the 900 jobs as suggested in the Mickel report. That is absolute rubbish. All the big operators, as we know—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr STEVENS: Despite what the minister keeps saying in her interjections, all the big operators do to save money is cut out staff. We have seen checkouts become increasingly automated. That is exactly where the store packing and all the rest of it will head—

Ms Grace interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Thank you, Minister. I call the member for Mermaid Beach.

Mr STEVENS: This will mean fewer jobs in the future. The jobs that will be lost with small traders will, unfortunately, not be regained because they will all be out of business because of the actions of the large operators. It is these businesses and existing businesses such as independent grocers that did not receive proper consultation. They are extremely concerned that the bill will lead to job losses and give more of the market share to larger business. That is in direct contrast to the Palaszczuk government's supposed primary objective of ensuring changes increase both employment and economic activity. I say 'supposed primary objective', as it is plain from the public report release date and the government response, only two days later, that the union-kowtowing Palaszczuk Labor government had received their shoppies union orders to disregard the impact of the changes on industry and consumers. Indeed, I and the other non-government members of the Finance and Administration Committee agree that this bill should not be passed due to these concerns and the difficulties with the overall expected outcomes of the changes.

In the committee report is a non-government members' statement of reservation which was brilliantly written and contains matters that hit the nail right on the head in terms of the long-term issues.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr STEVENS: I am not sure who wrote this statement of reservation, but they did a wonderful job on it. Even the government members on the Finance and Administration Committee could not support the legislation as put forward.

Mr Costigan: That says it all.

Mr STEVENS: Exactly. I should not take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday because he is out of his seat, but I did hear the interjection. It says it all that the government members took on board the representations from the motor vehicle and caravan traders who had not been consulted but who had had the proposed legislation foisted upon them by the minister and the Labor government. They were all, to a man and woman, upset about the lack of consultation in drafting this bill. Government members joined with non-government members and rejected the legislation as proposed. I am pleased to see—

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Logan, please cease interjecting.

Mr STEVENS: Government members joined with non-government members in relation to the unacceptable part of the legislation. The minister has corrected that situation. I understand that, through amendments that will be moved later, this will be taken out of the legislation. That is a win for the non-government members and the government members of the Finance and Administration Committee.

One recommendation of the committee was to correct the oversight excluding the Cairns CBD from the defined tourist area—I do not know how that was dreamed up—where special tourist areas such as Port Douglas are allowed extended trading hours to meet the needs of domestic and international tourists. This is an important consideration for these regional communities. Another recommendation, as per Queensland Treasury's advice, was to refer to an appropriate address for the Westfield Chermside and Westfield Garden City shopping centres rather than property descriptions which may change over time under expansion. I understand that the minister has now moved to include Pacific Fair.

We have had a long history of changes to Pacific Fair. It was formerly in the Albert shire. I happened to be part of that council as they expanded. I was a trader in Pacific Fair. They are very tough operators. We did get some infrastructure commitments out of Pacific Fair for their last expansion. They have now wised up and I doubt strongly that we will see any more infrastructure commitments to account for the traffic created by the expansion of these shopping centres in the future.

While these two recommendations show that the characteristic haphazard approach to legislation by the Palaszczuk Labor government is continuing, it is the third recommendation which shows their unscrupulous union-kowtowing legislative approach must have limits. The third recommendation relates to Sunday trading for motor dealers and caravan dealers. The import of those changes must not go unnoticed as that is a clear divergence from the explanatory notes, which optimistically declare that both business and consumers would benefit. In the case of motor dealers and caravan sales it was emphatically suggested that it would not.

It is my and my colleagues' view that the changes proposed in this bill are not the answer to the current system, as the Palaszczuk Labor government and this failing Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Racing have not only failed to make their case for their changes but also failed to explain what benefits there could be while attempting to deceive Queenslanders by presenting another botched review. Even the review itself was carried out by a body of nine people, five of whom were strongly unionised in their interest. There was always going to be a majority union outcome with the Mickel review. That has been presented as the reason going forward.

The review, it must be said, needs to be taken back to the drawing board so that Minister Grace and the Palaszczuk government can try again to do the job properly for Queensland, with proper consultation with small business including the independent grocers, as the bill in its current form does not benefit them or everyday Queenslanders. I do understand that it is an easy sell to say, 'We will give more shoppers the opportunity to shop at midnight or one o'clock in the morning or all day every day.' The public would say, 'That is a great thing,' without knowing the consequences of the job losses and the closure of small business. As the shadow minister did a wonderful job last night pointing out, the LNP stands up for small business and Labor does not care a fig.

At the committee's hearing on the Gold Coast a small convenience trader who had three small stores was absolutely critical of this legislation. He said he had been a lifetime member of the Labor Party and also a lifetime Labor voter and could not understand why a Labor government would bring in this big business supporting legislation, as it was going to absolutely destroy his business. As the members of the committee who were there on that particular day would know, it was a cry for help from a guy who, even though he was misguided—

Ms Grace interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order, Minister! The member is not taking your interjections, so please cease them.

Mr STEVENS: The owner of three convenience businesses at Parkwood, Arundel, who was at this committee meeting—some members were not at that particular meeting—told the committee how he would close his business and lose his staff and this is what he got for voting Labor all his life as a member of the Labor Party. It was a clear cry for help. I can chase down his name for any member who would like to talk to him personally about the matter.

We are not going to support this bill in any way, shape or form. It will destroy small businesses. It will have a major effect on jobs in Queensland. That will be the ultimate result of this misguided union-building legislation. Whilst the big operators in the state can afford to trade these extra hours, they will just squeeze further advantage until one day there will be no convenience stores or IGAs or NightOwls or Spars to compete against them and you will see prices go up spectacularly. There is no way that we, as former business operators, can support these amendments for extended trading hours. I look forward to this bill getting the treatment that it deserves.

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (12.33 pm): I rise in my capacity as shadow minister for small business to make a contribution to the debate on the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017. Sadly, this is a bill that fails the small business community. It is a bill that would tilt the scales away from smaller retailers, who would find it even more difficult to compete.

I have worked in small business. For a time before entering this place I owned and operated my own small business. I concede that it would not have been a business impacted by these changes that we are debating here today, but having a business gives me an appreciation of the challenges that many small business owners face. It can be a demanding job. It takes up a lot of time. It can be tough. It can be worrying and quite scary when expenses are outstripping revenue or when regulatory changes challenge your business model. I remember when I made the decision to open my business after working as a journalist. It was a leap of faith into the unknown, not knowing what would come after stumping up your own capital—your own blood, sweat and tears—to get it off the ground.

Queensland is an entrepreneurial state. We have always rewarded people for their efforts. In making decisions in this place, we should be mindful that we are supporting those individuals.

Ms Grace interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I have asked you to cease interjecting. If you continue, I will warn you under standing order 253A.

Mr EMERSON: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, for your protection. In making decisions in this place we should be mindful that we are supporting those individuals or families or small groups who have decided to give it a go. This bill fails those people. As the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland has rightly pointed out, the changes would make it easier for those who already have a large share of the existing market to increase their market share further. This is not good for competition and therefore not good for consumers.

I have a number of independent grocers scattered throughout my electorate, including one just down the road from where Robyn and I live at St Lucia on Hawken Drive. There is another IGA on Baroona Road at Milton, just on the other side of my electorate, that is frequently utilised by people throughout the inner western suburbs.

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Logan, I have asked you to cease interjecting. If you continue, I will warn you under standing order 253A.

Mr EMERSON: This is a store that I have popped into countless times after hours or on a Sunday while out and about. Already, these types of smaller stores have been impacted by the extension to Saturday trading hours. Other independent stores right across the state have rightly highlighted their concerns at what is being put forward and the impacts this will have across different parts of Queensland. The Queensland IGA State Board put forward in its submission—

IGA supermarket owners are at the coal face of the negative impacts that flow from deregulating trading hours.

...

It is the long term experience of IGA retailers that the negative impacts to turnover and employment that flow from deregulation of trading hours increases over time.

At the heart of the IGA argument is that such moves that are being proposed here will not lead to more jobs. In fact, they will mean fewer jobs at the smaller independent stores that operate in communities all across Queensland. There is no doubt that the current system is complicated, with most people finding it hard to follow, but the changes being proposed are not the answer. There has not been adequate consultation time. We need to go back to the drawing board and do it again, but this time we need to do it right.

I have listened to government members who stand up and talk about what this means for reducing red tape. The LNP is absolutely committed to reducing red tape. Unlike the Labor Party, we have a formal policy and we have put on the table our target for reducing red tape. We also have a record of delivering in this area. In government, our red-tape reductions were all about making it easier to do business. They included changes like reducing the number of payroll tax returns smaller businesses had to lodge, increasing the payroll tax exemption threshold so businesses would no longer even have to pay the tax in some cases or reducing the number of workplace health and safety forms businesses had to fill out while maintaining standards. We also freed 12,000 low-risk businesses from the need to obtain an environmental approval, saving them time and costs. These are the simple, smart changes small businesses want to see. These are changes that are focused on saving them time and costs.

The changes we are debating here today are of a different nature. As CCIQ senior policy adviser Catherine Pham put it—

The State Government has been pushing for this Bill from a red tape reduction perspective, but reducing red tape is about removing excessive regulation that is considered redundant or bureaucratic.

Small businesses who have a competitive edge in an uneven playing field, by way of the current shop trading hour arrangements, certainly did not view shop trading hours as being redundant—it was their lifeline.

These are not changes that will allow small businesses in Queensland to flourish. What is being proposed will not get the balance right. Even government members have highlighted issues with the bill, as illustrated in the committee report into this bill. I urge all members of the House to think about small businesses in their own electorates that will be impacted by these changes when voting.

This is too important an issue to rush through. What has been put forward is not the answer and is clearly not supported by many small business stakeholders. The process for these reforms is flawed—rushed through without proper consideration and consideration for small business, the backbone of our economy. As the small business shadow minister, as the member for Indooroopilly, as someone who is wanting to run for the seat of Maiwar and as a former small business man, I cannot support these changes.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (12.40 pm): I rise today in the House to debate the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017. I will be recommending that the bill be passed, and I base my recommendations on the following information that I wish to put before the House regarding the bill. When the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Grace Grace, introduced the bill into the House to amend the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 she stated—

The Palaszczuk government is today introducing the most significant changes to Queensland's retail trading hours in more than two decades.

The minister went on to say that the changes in this bill will modernise and simplify current trading hours to support jobs, cut red tape and increase choice for consumers.

The bill deals with an important issue that emerged, with 99 specific trading hours provisions contained within the orders of the QIRC. These will be replaced with the introduction of this legislation by just six trading hours provisions covering all large stores across the state. Queensland Treasury has estimated that the proposed changes will have the potential to increase gross state product by up to \$79 million and support an additional 945 full-time-equivalent jobs.

What do these reforms mean? The allowable trading hours under the act will be extended in South-East Queensland from 7 am to 9 pm Monday to Saturday, and this is in accordance with the decision by the QIRC handed down in late 2016. In regional areas trading hours will be from 7 am to 9 pm Monday to Friday and from 7 am to 6 pm on Saturdays. Trading hours on Sundays and public holidays will be standardised. Importantly, regional towns which currently do not have Sunday and public holiday trading will be able to opt in to trading hours through an application to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission.

The introduction of these matters arises out of a comprehensive review of Queensland retail trading hours by an independent reference group chaired by former Speaker and QUT School of Justice Associate Professor John Mickel. Once again, we have the Palaszczuk Labor government showing courage and leadership to make the hard decisions that are in the best interests of all Queenslanders.

The review was announced on 31 August 2016 in response to concerns raised by business and consumers in the community that Queensland trading hours arrangements were complex, confusing and acted as a disincentive to business expansion, employment and economic growth. The review received over 170 submissions from businesses, consumers, workers and other community representatives. It makes perfect sense to standardise trading hours across Queensland as this will provide customers, businesses and workers with greater certainty.

I now turn to the Finance and Administration Committee's report on the bill. The object of the bill is to simplify and standardise trading hours across Queensland. I stated previously in the debate that the number of variations to trading hours across the state was approximately 99 and led to much confusion. This issue will be remedied by the passing of this legislation. The opposition often state in this House that they are all about looking after small business and the cutting of red tape. Here is their chance to be part of the fight to cut red tape and support the passing of this legislation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Finance and Administration Committee for their support and hard work. I would also like to thank my fellow committee members for their work on this report. Whilst we were unable to reach consensus on this occasion, perhaps today may be a different day.

The committee considered evidence from a wide range of stakeholders, and I take this opportunity to thank them for their time and effort in writing submissions and appearing before the committee. Several stakeholders consider that deregulation of trading hours will have a negative impact on small business. I disagree. When one looks at the evidence from other jurisdictions where there has been a relaxation or total deregulation of trading hours one sees that, essentially, changes to trading hours in other jurisdictions did not reduce the participation of small business.

It was interesting to hear the member for Kawana indicate that trading hours should be left to the independent empire, being the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. Earlier in the debate he indicated that there is a need for some modernisation in the trading hours sphere. I put to the member

for Kawana that this is what the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill does. Legislation is often necessary to bring together decisions of courts and commissions to take out the confusion or duplication which through no fault of the tribunal or the court can creep in to decisions over time, and this is what has occurred here. This legislation, as I have previously stated, does this by reducing nearly 99 specific trading hours provisions to six trading hours provisions. Dare I say, that is modernising trading hours and taking out uncertainty for both business and consumers.

There are many challenges facing small business and it is Labor that can address these issues. The threat of Amazon moving into Australia in the area of online grocery shopping is only one of these threats. Buying groceries online is a reality now and the move will no doubt impact on all businesses, big and small.

In conclusion, I would like to touch on the moratorium provided by the legislation and its effect. Last but not least, I would like to address the issues raised by motor vehicle and caravan retailers. The motor vehicle industry is currently undergoing huge changes and its trading model is under attack. The motor trade and caravan industry is also being reviewed by the federal government, and its findings will no doubt impact on how it does business. Driverless cars and their pending inclusion in the car market space will have some impact in the very near future.

Whilst the member for Kawana acknowledges the lobbying by motor trader members in his electorate, my understanding is that the committee system is designed to take evidence and then make recommendations, and that is exactly what happened here. During the review by the committee into this bill we were able to listen to what the industry was saying to us and make recommendations. To me, that shows that the committee system is working well and that the minister is doing the job tasked to her.

I also understand that, just because a committee makes a recommendation to the minister, the minister does not necessarily have to accept that recommendation. It is the mechanism of the committee listening to the community, reviewing what they have been told and then making a recommendation. It is simply not true that there was a lack of consultation. We listened, we made the recommendation and the rest is history. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (12.50 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017. The primary aim of the bill is to extend non-exempt shop trading hours from 7 am to 9 pm Monday to Friday and from 7 am to 6 pm on Saturday across regional Queensland. The government also wants to standardise trading hours for Sundays and public holidays across Queensland from 9 am to 6 pm. That means non-exempt stores like Woolworths and Coles will have the opportunity to open and trade longer than ever before—at least another seven hours per week.

Coles and Woolworths are entitled to maximise their returns to shareholders and their market power, whether that be through extra trading or through maximising their particular competitive advantage, but with nearly 80 per cent of the market I think it is appropriate that somebody stands up for small business in Queensland and today that will be the opposition. This is not simply a matter of a potential monopolistic activity; a greater challenge facing the industry generally is monopsony, which is a gathering together of too much buying power.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: Correct. Thank you, member for Whitsunday. The challenge is on all fronts, particularly when I consider hardware stores, corner stores and small supermarkets around regional Queensland. We have heard from the government that there is no evidence about the potential changes in trading hours, but we only need to look to the submissions to see the evidence. The IGA State Board noted that, following the deregulation of trading hours in December 2016, IGA supermarkets lost \$1 million per week in turnover. That loss of turnover reduced wages, which would ultimately lead to a reduction in employment across their network of nearly 130 jobs. Spar, which operates 72 stores in Queensland, reported in the same time a 25 per cent decrease in sales on Saturday alone of non-tobacco related products.

MGA Independent Retailers put the case on behalf of 760 Queensland independent supermarket owners and operators employing more than 21,000 staff. They undertook research by Factuality at the end of last year. That research showed that 85 per cent of those polled were satisfied with opening hours as they are, and they said that opening for an additional seven hours per week and opening on Sundays in more than 20 small regional communities will cost independent supermarkets business.

The Labor government will not know this, but community based and family owned supermarkets, corner stores and grocery stores are often the beating heart and soul of small country towns—and even regional cities like Toowoomba. I think of my own electorate and the contribution made by so many small businesses and family owned businesses in the supermarket game. I think of Betros Bros, which has a history dating back to 1938 and is currently owned and operated by Kerry, Bevan and Murray Betros. I think of their contribution across our community. I think of my own electorate and John Wilson, who has spent a lifetime in supermarkets and operates the Southtown Five Star. I think of the Kelly's Store on the corner of Alderley and Ramsay streets. They have operated their store for over 40 years. It is an icon of the city. I think of the Westridge Fruit Market, which has been operating in the Westridge Shopping Centre in Kearneys Spring. The Boulus family operate this incredible fruit and vegetable store but they will come under threat because the additional opening hours for the major supermarkets of Woolworths and Coles will lead to decreased opportunities for them.

I think of young men and women wanting to get into the corner store and small supermarket business. Recently, the deputy opposition leader was in Toowoomba with me and we went to meet a young man called Adam Sack, who has operated a corner store on the corner of Greenwattle Street and Glenvale Road. There are young men and women who want to invest in supermarkets and corner stores. All they want is a leg-up but this regulation today is an imposition on their small businesses because it will cost them business and jobs and it will ultimately cost the consumer.

Mr Emerson: It is people trying to give it a go.

Mr JANETZKI: I take that interjection from the member for Indooroopilly. When the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and I were wandering around Toowoomba meeting small business owners, that is what we heard. They know the challenges facing them, including increasing electricity prices and ever-increasing regulation and red tape.

Mr Emerson: The member for Toowoomba North heard the same thing.

Mr JANETZKI: He did. The member for Toowoomba North heard it as well. We often hear it from our corner stores and supermarkets. We cannot afford these businesses to close because consumers will then have less choice. We have 14,000 small businesses in the Toowoomba region and they are up against it.

How did we end up in this position? We have to go back to the very beginning and the Trading Hours Review Reference Group. That group was made up of four trade unions and four industry groups. CCIQ as an industry group did their very best to put the interests of small business to this review group. At the public hearings, I asked the chair of that group, Mr Mickel, whether he thought that particular group was representative of commerce and industry across Queensland. He believed it was, but I profoundly disagree because I do not think the voice of over 400,000 small businesses across Queensland was heard loudly enough.

Small corner stores, grocery stores and supermarkets in my electorate go to the very heart of regional and rural communities, but small businesses were not really listened to in this review group process. It was timely that we heard from the small business minister in the last sitting week. I had not heard the small business minister speak but it was timely that she spoke about small business because last week was in fact Small Business Week. We welcomed the federal small business minister, Michael McCormack, to Toowoomba, and I note that the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce did a cracking job putting on a forum with the federal small business minister. I pay tribute to my predecessor, John McVeigh, for getting him there because he heard the interest. After listening to the federal small business minister, I wanted to learn more about what the Labor government is doing with small business, particularly when the voice of small business has not been heard when considering this regulation. I went looking.

Mr Millar: What did you find?

Mr JANETZKI: I take the interjection from the member for Gregory. I found a document called *Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy 2016-20* and there are a couple of things in here that I would like to draw out. We know that at the end of last year the government appointed a small business champion who was meant to be representing the interests of small business. I have not heard the small business champion out there championing the interests of small business in relation to this bill. Where is the small business champion on this bill?

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: Yes, absolutely muzzled. Where is the small business champion? A couple of hundred grand has been put into that position, and I would have presumed that she would have been out advancing the interests of small business in the face of this regulation, but I digress. I want to get back to the *Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy* document. The first thing I want to draw out from this Labor government document is the promise that—

The Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy will deliver ... strengthened support for regional small businesses, recognising that they are vital to their communities ...

That is a fail. The government is failing the intent of its strategy document.

I go on to the second thing I want to talk about which is under the heading 'Our vision'. The government wants to see 'business owners working smarter not harder'. I have no idea how the government will fulfil that particular promise when family hardware store owners, who are already working 70-hour weeks across six days, now have to get out of bed at 5 am to compete for an ever-decreasing customer base against the scale, scope and size of our listed hardware store companies. I have no idea how the government could ever meet that obligation. As far as I am concerned, the *Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy* is a worthless document after this legislation and should be tossed out.

I now want to turn to a significant problem in my electorate. It is heartening that the government has backflipped on the proposal to allow car dealerships to operate on a Sunday. The committee advised that it heard no support from the motor vehicle dealer industry.

Mr Costigan: Funny that.

Mr JANETZKI: I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. There was one person who was right behind these changes that would have seen family car dealers in my electorate opening on a Sunday, and that was the chairman, Mr Mickel.

Debate, on motion of Mr Janetzki, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Infrastructure; Anzac Day

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.30 pm): In a few weeks the Queensland state budget for 2017 will be handed down, and I again call upon the Palaszczuk Labor government, as I have done many times, to invest in infrastructure for my electorate of Moggill. My constituents urgently need solutions implemented to ease traffic congestion, to deliver increased secondary school capacity and to provide cost-of-living pressure relief for all.

Today I also rise to make a contribution regarding the recent Anzac Day commemoration ceremonies held in my electorate of Moggill. My day on 25 April 2017 commenced at the Bellbowrie dawn service where I laid a wreath at the Bellbowrie cenotaph. Dawn services have become an integral part of commemorations and the credit for their origins is divided between the Reverend Arthur Ernest White of Albany, Western Australia and Captain George Harrington of Toowoomba. Reverend White was a padre to the earliest Anzacs to leave Australia with the First Australian Imperial Force in November of 1914. After the war, Reverend White gathered some 20 men at dawn on 25 April 1923 on Mount Clarence overlooking King George Sound and silently watched as a wreath floated out to sea. He then recited the words, 'As the sun rises and goeth down we will remember them.'

After this year's dawn service at Bellbowrie I was delighted to attend the gunfire breakfast hosted by the Moggill Girl Guides at their hut. The breakfast, as always, was much appreciated by all who attended. Following breakfast I proudly then watched the Kenmore marchers as our local schools, service and community clubs and veterans marched proudly down Moggill Road to the Kenmore Village Shopping Centre. The Kenmore Anzac Day service was conducted at the Moggill digger memorial.

As I attended these events in the Moggill electorate I reflected on the meaning of Anzac Day as it is one of Australia's most important occasions. It marks the anniversary of major military action by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. Today Anzac Day takes two forms: the first being the commemorative services that are held across the nation at dawn, the time of the original landing, while later in the day former servicemen and servicewomen meet to take part in marches throughout our country's major cities and smaller centres. This allows all Australians to reflect on the many different meanings of war and our freedoms and values that have been defended and protected by some very brave and patriotic Australians.

The final service I attended on Anzac Day was the RSL Care Fairview service where residents and staff joined official guests and attendees. After a quick drive from Fairview, I also attended the annual T20 cricket match between the Brookfield United Cricket Club 11 and the Army 11 which commemorates the match played at Gallipoli in 1915. The original match was played on 17 December 1915, the day before the mass evacuation of the 20,000 remaining Australian and New Zealand troops from Anzac Cove. I say congratulations to Pullenvale councillor Kate Richards for assisting in the organisation of the cricket match this year. It was also good to see the Lord Mayor, Graham Quirk, in attendance.

Anzac Day is a very special national occasion and I hope the commemorations continue to grow as time passes. I say well done to our Kenmore-Moggill RSL sub-branch, in particular president Trevor Dixon and also Rick Maher and all the other volunteers and community organisations that participated on the day. Lest we forget.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Budget

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (2.33 pm): In the lead-up to the 2017-18 state budget there will be a lot of speculation about what will or will not be in it, what has been funded and what has been left out, and what has been cut and what has been boosted. There will be wish lists and doubtless on the day we will find out which hollow logs and biscuit tins Treasurer Pitt will raid this year to prop up the Palaszczuk government.

I will certainly have plenty to say about this year's budget when it is actually handed down in a couple of weeks time. However, before Labor gets carried away with making new promises in its third budget, on behalf of the people of Cardwell I would like to ask the Palaszczuk government to actually deliver the things it promised in its first budget two years ago. In July 2015 I made representations to the then transport minister, Jackie Trad, on behalf of the people of Cardwell asking for the north coast rail crossings on Liverpool Street and Brasenose Street to be upgraded. There have been serious incidents on these crossings in the past and Cardwell residents continue to have concerns about the risk they represent.

I was pleased when in September 2015 I received a response from Minister Trad advising that following a safety assessment in 2014, Queensland Rail had gained funding in the 2015-16 capital plan to upgrade the level crossings on Liverpool Street and Brasenose Street. This news was welcomed by the people of Cardwell on whose behalf I had made representations. Then we waited for these upgrades to happen and then we waited some more. After 12 months of waiting and after the 2015-16 financial year came and went, in July 2016 I wrote to the transport minister again, but by this time it was Stirling Hinchliffe.

After months of waiting without a response I tabled a written question on notice in the House in September 2016. When the answer came back from Minister Hinchliffe in November 2016 he confirmed that the funding had been provided for in the 2015-16 budget and even let us know that a contract to upgrade the two rail crossings in Cardwell had apparently been awarded in June 2016. The minister also advised the upgrade would be completed in the first half of 2017. Then we waited and then we waited some more.

Now here we are at the end of May 2017, a month away from the end of the 2016-17 financial year and a couple of weeks away from Labor's 2017-18 budget and absolutely nothing has happened at the north coast railway crossings on Liverpool Street and Brasenose Street in Cardwell, despite it being promised in the 2015-16 financial year. Now the portfolio is back in the hands of Minister Trad, ironically, after Minister Hinchliffe made a complete dog's breakfast of running the passenger train services in South-East Queensland.

However, before Curtis Pitt gets too carried away with his third budget, on behalf of the people of Cardwell I would like to politely ask the Palaszczuk government for the third time to please deliver the things it promised to do in its first budget but has not.

Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.36 pm): I would like to begin by acknowledging the 20th anniversary of the *Bringing them home* report. It was great today to see the Noonuccal Yagera dancers who, might I add, were also at the sod turning of Gundu Pa. Gundu Pa is on track, with construction steaming ahead and on schedule. The Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre is on target for completion by October 2017. The \$13.5 million investment in the bayside by the Palaszczuk government is what Labor

governments do so well: creating jobs, building important infrastructure and delivering a state-of-the-art public health centre to the bayside community. These public health services are sustainable and tailored to meet the health needs of baysiders now and into the future.

Gundu Pa will see not only the return but also the extension of important health services—services that my community needs. There will be the return of 24-hour primary care with first-class GPs providing important services around the clock in the new primary care centre. BreastScreen will also have extended hours in a modern and purpose-built clinic. Physiotherapy and rehabilitation services will operate from a fabulous new gym, adult and child mental health services will return to the bayside and the dental clinic will be extended to six dental chairs. New outpatient clinics have been designed to specifically meet the needs of our community and will include a range of outpatient clinics including general medicine, respiratory medicine, palliative care, antenatal, obstetrics and paediatrics.

The rehabilitation beds will be offered in the refurbished Casuarina Lodge and there will also be in-home services. Palliative care beds will be offered in a hybrid model providing choice to families involved at this difficult time with either an in-home service or in a community based local organisation partnering with Metro South Health. During construction there has been up to 60 staff on site and, importantly, this workforce has included locals and apprentices. I have had the opportunity to visit the site and I must congratulate Josh, the site manager, and the contractors on site. It is great to see so many local people constructing a facility that will serve our community for years to come.

It is great to be part of the Palaszczuk government, a government that knows how important public health services are to a community, unlike the former Nicholls-Newman government—a government that ignored at their peril the bayside community and the pleas of 15,000 petitioners against the loss of health services in the bayside and the disgraceful closure of Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit. Our Premier, the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, the then leader of the opposition, joined with me and many other members of the community to show the Newman-Nicholls government our dismay at their total lack of regard for baysiders. Sadly, history shows that these pleas fell on deaf ears. Heartbreakingly, 85 elderly residents of Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit lost their homes and were displaced. This pain still runs deep within the bayside and will not be forgotten.

Tropical Cyclone Debbie

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.40 pm): It is almost two months since category 4 Cyclone Debbie impacted my electorate of Whitsunday right across the Mackay-Whitsunday region, and of course I also acknowledge the other communities across our state from Bowen to Beenleigh which were impacted by this cyclone.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: I take the interjection from my good friend the member for Beaudesert, who also had his community impacted. There is no doubt that the people of Whitsunday are a tough mob. We breed them tough in North Queensland, and I say that as a proud fifth-generation North Queensland. A lot of great work is being done by community groups—and I have touched on this previously in the chamber—in the aftermath of the cyclone. As we count down towards Treasurer Pitt's latest budget as part of the Palaszczuk Labor government, people around the Whitsundays are waiting with bated breath and asking themselves, 'What's in it for us?'

Where is the flood immunity for Shute Harbour Road at Hamilton Plains? I know that people will ask why that did not happen under the former LNP government, but what sort of financial wreckage did we inherit after years and years of Labor's neglect? It is no secret that the LNP has won one state election in Queensland in over 30 years, and you can see the sheer neglect of our roads in Whitsunday. You can see it for yourself as you go around. It is not only Shute Harbour Road where we need to boost flood immunity across Hamilton Plains. Albeit it was unseasonal rain, I saw an ambulance going through floodwaters only a week or so ago. You have to wonder when we will see an improved Shute Harbour Road linking Airlie Beach and Proserpine—the tourist town—to the hospital and the airport. It is not only that road: when will we see the fast-tracking of an upgrade across Goorganga Plains, which is the most flood-prone section of the Bruce Highway between Brisbane and Cairns to this day. 'Goorganga' is Aboriginal for crocodile. We have had crocodiles crossing it. I have seen emus, turtles, kangaroos and dingos, but I have not seen any roadworks under the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is outrageous.

The Proserpine showground was hit for six. Sue Quantock and Donna Rogers are waiting for the Treasurer or someone from this government to come to town and say, 'We'll help you fix this.' The Transport and Main Roads office in Proserpine looked like a bomb hit it. I acknowledge the government

for doing something, because after my pleas we have a pop-up TMR office near the Proserpine Railway Station, but there is no indication that we will see bricks and mortar back in Proserpine. They are basically telling my people—people from all walks of life—to nick off to Cannonvale and Mackay and 'deal with it'. It is unacceptable.

Three cafes in our town were knocked out, and it is so pleasing to see Megan and Jeff Cannings' Cafe on Main back open for business. The Whitsundays are back open for business. I would like to see a new tourist information centre for Proserpine on the Bruce Highway and a lot more in the state budget as we rebuild in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Sunnybank Electorate

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (2.43 pm): I intend to speak about all things education and a little sport. First of all, I would like to talk about Minister Kate Jones, the Minister for Education, who hosted the Catholic schools here on Tuesday night. The Queensland Catholic Education Commission and principals from various Catholic schools throughout the state's south-east—including my electorate—were here, and I think there were even some from further afield. It goes without saying that the Catholic schools in my electorate and the electorates of many of my colleagues are partners in Queensland's education future for our children.

I would also like to briefly touch on languages in schools and their importance to certain cultural groups within my electorate and the broader electorates of many of my colleagues. I would also like to speak about the great junior Rugby League clubs in my electorate: Sunnybank Junior Rugby League and Souths Juniors Rugby League at Acacia Ridge. Yesterday the Parliamentary Friends of Rugby League, headed by Nikki Boyd MP and Tim Mander MP, hosted the Queensland Origin team here at parliament. I was fortunate to bring my two youngest, Grant and Joe, along. Unfortunately, Joe was a little bit off-colour and did not get right into it, but Grant did and I have some great photos of him with Sam Thaiday and Johnathan Thurston. That brings me to another point, and that is the Sunnybank Junior Rugby League Club. That is where Johnathan Thurston played most of his junior league. They even have a field named after him and, being a Johnathan Thurston fan, I am fortunate to have a sign on the Johnathan Thurston Field.

I will now speak on the issue of languages. The Tamil community in my electorate—and I repeat again, in many of the electorates of my colleagues—is very passionate about their language. The Tamil language is one of the oldest languages known to civilisation and has been historically important when dealing with trade throughout the ages. In my electorate every Saturday afternoon at the Sunnybank High School the Tamil school teaches the Tamil language to children from a very young age right up to the senior years. I will just touch on another issue in relation to that great school in my electorate. I think it is important to understand that we have great facilities available to our community at the Sunnybank High School, and it is an indication of the great work that that school does between the community and the school. That particular school recently hosted the Filipino Festival. It is also home to Little Athletics and many other cultural groups that meet there on weekends.

Beaudesert Electorate

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (2.46 pm): This morning in the House we were treated to the unedifying spectacle of the Minister for Health running down the record of the former government in relation to serving the health system in Queensland. In fact, it was the LNP government under the stewardship of the member for Southern Downs that got Queensland Health working again after years of mismanagement and waste—like the Health payroll debacle—that went on under the Bligh and Beattie governments. We got it working again.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): One moment, member for Beaudesert. Member for Logan, you are warned under 253A for your interjections. The House will come to order. I call the member for Beaudesert.

Mr KRAUSE: We stopped ambulance ramping across the system. We cleared the elective surgery waiting lists in so many parts of the state. We cleared the dental backlogs. We put 1,000 more nurses and midwives on across the state. The West Moreton HHS around Ipswich actually ran at a surplus and got things done for the first time in years.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: One moment, member for Beaudesert. Member for Lytton, you are also warned under 253A.

Mr KRAUSE: Of course, in Beaudesert we restored maternity, health services and other procedural services to the Beaudesert Hospital that had been cruelly let wither on the vine by the Labor government about 10 years prior. It took the LNP and the member for Southern Downs to put those services back. The Minister for Health announced his community maternity services policy this morning, but the people of my electorate remember so painfully what Labor took away. The people of Beaudesert want the Minister for Health to stand in this House and guarantee that he will maintain the maternity and procedural services at Beaudesert that our government put back into place. They do not want it taken away again.

When the Minister for Health talks about community and maternity services in Logan, I need to remind the government that I represent an area of Logan City as well. Cedar Grove, Cedarvale, Mundoolun, Jimboomba and other areas are part of Logan City, and I call on them not to forget those areas of Logan City when they are looking at establishing those community maternity services. They are fast-growing areas and they cannot be forgotten about just because they happen to be in a state electorate that is not held by the Australian Labor Party.

There has recently been a threat to close the Beaudesert Child Safety Centre. There were moves afoot for it to be closed down and moved to another location. In fact, it is a very busy child safety centre. It is one of the very few government services that is delivered directly on the ground in Beaudesert and not outsourced from another part of Logan, the Gold Coast or Brisbane. It was going to be moved away, but we put pressure on the government. Hundreds of people signed a petition to keep that child safety centre open and the lease has been renewed. Again I call on the government and the minister to guarantee the future of that child safety centre because we cannot afford for that to be taken away, just as years ago Labor took away maternity and other services at the Beaudesert Hospital. We need them on the ground. We need those guarantees.

Small Business Week

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.48 pm): Small business makes up over 97 per cent of all Queensland businesses, making it the engine room of the state's economy. With over 4,000 small to medium sized business enterprises across the Nudgee electorate operating in industries as diverse as manufacturing, construction, service, hospitality and retail, small business is the engine room of my local economy, too.

Small Business Week was celebrated from 15-20 May and included a week-long series of more than 100 workshops, events and seminars that provided business owners, managers and small business advocates with the opportunity to network, learn new skills and discover support programs to see their business thrive. This year's theme for Small Business Week was 'Time to thrive', championing the importance of digital technologies and promoting a culture of entrepreneurship and employment.

Queensland is home to more than 414,000 passionate small business operators, and this number is growing. According to ABS data, Queensland's small business sector increased by 8,000 small businesses in the 12 months to 30 June 2016. This growth is evidence that the Palaszczuk government is creating the right environment for businesses to start, grow and employ. This is further supported by the findings of a recent Bankwest survey, which found that Queensland's small and medium sized businesses have the nation's highest level of confidence about their future prospects.

The Palaszczuk government understands that by supporting small business we are supporting economic growth across the state, which is why the Queensland government allocated \$22.7 million to the Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy, including the delivery of a range of new and expanded grants, services and programs. We want to see Queensland's small businesses start, grow and employ.

The Small Business Week reception hosted at parliament during the last sitting week by the Premier and the Minister for Small Business, Leeanne Enoch, provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate and showcase the substantial successes and contributions of our local small businesses. I was so proud to showcase just a few of the incredible local businesses operating in my electorate including Ben of Mozmo Creative, Stacey of She Wear, Steve of Street Science, Walter of Kuhn Corp Press and Packaging, and Graham and his wife, Charmian, of the Driven Business Edge, who all attended the reception.

Ms Enoch: They're amazing.

Ms LINARD: I take that interjection of the minister: they are amazing. I take this opportunity to thank the Premier and the Minister for Small Business, both of whom warmly greeted my local businesses. It was a special surprise when the Minister for Small Business included reference to She Wear in her opening address at the reception.

Each of these local businesses is making a fabulous contribution to our local economy and the small business sector generally, and it is a pleasure to see them, along with all businesses across my local community, excel. I take every opportunity to buy, shop and dine locally, and I encourage everyone in my local community to do the same to support our excellent small business community.

Pollie Bait

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.52 pm): I rise to talk about a charity fundraising opportunity that is happening in Kawana at the moment called Pollie Bait. Pollie Bait is the opportunity for Sunshine Coast residents to see me get eaten by a shark. For 20 years I have had a phobia and real fear—some say an irrational fear—of sharks. I have travelled to the Great Barrier Reef with my family and not been able to get in the water so have watched from above. I own a boat and enjoy fishing but cannot get in salt water. I cannot teach my children how to boogie board. As the father of young children it is very difficult to go down to the beach—particularly a few weeks ago when we were at Currimundi Beach—and see my children trying to boogie board and not be able to get in and help them. My irrational fear of sharks prevents me from getting in the water so I send my wife, Sally, into the water to assist the kids to boogie board. Some ask, 'How can you have such a fear of sharks but allow your children and wife to go in the water?' Well, they do not have the fear of sharks. My wife can swim very well and if the children get into danger my wife is there to help them.

Stroud Homes came to me with a fundraising opportunity. They invited me down to the beach for a surf, but I said I could not. Dan Chapman said, 'If we kick off a fundraising campaign for Pollie Bait—Stroud Homes will give \$5,000—will you swim with the sharks at Sea Life Sunshine Coast?' Of course I said yes to that opportunity so, after 20 years, I will be swimming with the sharks on 22 June.

We are doing it to raise \$25,000 for some great local charities. The Sippy Creek animal refuge is a great charity on the Sunshine Coast. They look after dogs, cats and all animals that need to be rehomed. I myself have two great dane crosses that we have rescued—one from the RSPCA and another from an animal shelter at Caboolture. I am really looking forward to raising money for Sippy Creek animal refuge. 4 Paws Animal Rescue puts dogs and cats out for fostering. It also does a great job with volunteers right across the Sunshine Coast to make sure we 'adopt, don't shop'. I say to all people in Queensland that they should not buy pets from pet stores but should adopt pets that have been mistreated or abandoned. The third charity is Steps Group, a group on the Sunshine Coast that does amazing work for people with disabilities—getting them employment opportunities, giving them opportunities they would not otherwise have and helping them cope with life.

Those three charities will benefit from me swimming with the sharks on 22 June. I encourage all Sunshine Coast residents to go to the Pollie Bait website, Facebook page or gofundme page and donate to these amazing, very worthwhile charities. If you like me, donate. If you do not like me, donate even more because I might just get eaten by a shark.

Sunshine Coast

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—PHON) (2.55 pm): I stand here today in this place secure in the knowledge that it is an honour to represent the people of my Buderim electorate, the Sunshine Coast and indeed Queensland as the state leader of One Nation. We have major issues on the Sunshine Coast regarding public transport: the roads are becoming more gridlocked and the public transport system is struggling. I recall being at a function seven years ago at which the former deputy prime minister and leader of the National Party was speaking. He spoke about new federal funding for the looming upgrade of a roundabout at Maroochydore Road and the Bruce Highway, which is in the Buderim electorate and Mr Speaker's electorate. I was excited by this announcement and I had my staff look into it. It was buried in the forward funding with a time frame of greater than 10 years. The then deputy prime minister made an announcement simply for the sake of making an announcement.

Under both Labor and the LNP, the Sunshine Coast is going absolutely nowhere. At the next state election, the people of the Sunshine Coast community will have a real choice. Queenslanders can vote for more of the same from Labor and the LNP, who continue to take us for granted, or they can vote for real change. One Nation is totally committed to funding the Mooloolah River interchange, which will link the community to the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital campus.

Duplication of the rail network is another issue. The Beerburrum-Nambour project needs to be delivered. Recently I asked the Deputy Premier a question on notice about this. The answer from the Deputy Premier states—

Building Queensland has recently completed the Business Case for the Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Upgrade Project.

The project has been identified as a 'near-term priority initiative' in Infrastructure Australia's Infrastructure Priority List since 2016. The Queensland Government is assessing the Business Case.

What the hell is a near-term priority initiative? It is just more gobbledegook from a lame duck, do-nothing Labor state government that has just let us down. The LNP has done no better. The Leader of the Opposition made it very clear in my Buderim office a number of months ago that the Sunshine Coast has safe LNP seats. He told me that his priority was for funding marginal seats. That rocked me to the absolute core, as it should all Sunshine Coast residents. Even in government, when he was the treasurer, he used to say to me—I am sure he said it to other LNP colleagues—that the Sunshine Coast was not a priority for him as in his mind the Sunshine Coast does not contribute much to government coffers. The Sunshine Coast deserves its fair share of funding.

Change is often not easy. Sometimes very difficult decisions must be made. Personally, such a decision was to either sit back and just go along with the LNP or fight for genuine change, to fight for the Sunshine Coast.

Riverway Drive, Upgrade

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.58 pm): Today I am excited. It is a great pleasure to report to the parliament that, after years of promises to duplicate one of our major arterial roads in Thuringowa, Riverway Drive stage 1 has become a reality. Riverway Drive stretches 10 kilometres from Thuringowa Drive to the Ross River Dam. Riverway Drive stage 1 will see Riverway Drive duplicated from Gollogly Lane to Allambie Lane. For years the 24,000 locals have suffered frustration and traffic gridlock along the stretch of road spanning the three suburbs of Condon, Rasmussen and Kelso.

After living in Kelso for some 15 years—a place that I am proud to call home and raise my family—I think that I can speak with a degree of authority and can attest to the level of frustration fellow residents feel each morning and evening on their way to and from work and school runs. It is no surprise that, as a then candidate in late 2014, the No. 1 issue for constituents of this major section of Thuringowa was to actually deliver the duplication of Riverway Drive as promised by the previous LNP member, who even went to the trouble of announcing via a billboard that only the LNP could deliver Riverway Drive in the months leading up to the 2015 state election. Locals are not silly. They saw through this ruse and spoke with their feet and elected a fellow local who was committed to working hard to deliver the duplication of this important road corridor.

Standing in this place today just after two years in, I am absolutely wrapped with progress to date. In 2016 I fought for and received the \$30 million in funding, and I thank the Deputy Premier, who funded this through the State Infrastructure Plan, and Minister Mark Bailey, who knows that I have been like a dog with a bone on the duplication of Riverway Drive and was never going to let it go. The Riverway Drive stage 1 duplication is not an easy task. The detailed design has taken some time given Townsville's main water supply exists via a pipeline under that same road which is over 30 years old and presents a challenge, but it is a challenge the winning local contractor BMD is up to. BMD is local and knows what it is doing and has a great track record of delivering major roads like Dalrymple Road last year.

The Riverway Drive project is not only a job creator; it has become a catalyst for other projects in the area, with the Riverway shopping precinct undergoing a multimillion-dollar redevelopment for locals. I want to thank locals from the Upper Ross Community Voice group and the users of the Loam Island facility who have provided feedback along the way. I went back to the minister and helped to secure more funding for an extended project scope that will include extras like car parking, lighting and boardwalk sections that will improve pedestrian and road safety and increase civic pride in the area.

MOTION

Order of Business

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.01 pm): I move—

That government business order of the day No. 1 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (COMMONWEALTH GAMES) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 14 February (see p. 60).

Second Reading

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (3.01 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I start by thanking the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee for its detailed examination of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017. On 27 April this year the committee tabled its report which included three recommendations. The government has considered these recommendations and I have prepared a response. I table the government's response to the committee's report.

Tabled paper: Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 31, 55th Parliament—Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017, government response [\[802\]](#).

I note that this proposed piece of legislation—this bill—has received bipartisan support during the committee stage and, as the committee would know, the Queensland Police Service is conscious that the passing of this bill allows for the timely preparation of the regulations required to support police operations during the Commonwealth Games. The government supports recommendations 1 and 3 of the committee report and supports recommendation 2 in principle. I will now address each of the recommendations.

Firstly, the committee recommended that the bill be passed, and I thank the committee for its support of the bill. Secondly, the committee recommended that an integrated website be used for games information, that the website provide information in the main languages used in Commonwealth countries and that the commissioner nominate the integrated website as the designated website for protective security zones. I have consulted with the Minister for the Commonwealth Games in relation to this recommendation and our departments have been liaising closely. The intent of recommendation 2 will be achieved by linked websites that create an online platform rather than a single integrated website. A range of information about the games will be available on the integrated online platform which will include the official Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018 website and the state's Embracing 2018 website. This information will include information to be provided to games visitors, athletes, residents and the public about all aspects of the games including events, transport and security arrangements. Information about protective security zones and major event areas will also be integrated into this online platform.

In relation to the designated website referred to in sections 619G and 619H of the bill, it is important that the Commissioner of Police be able to nominate the Queensland Police Service website rather than an integrated website as the designated website. This is particularly important for protective security zones declared by the commissioner under section 619H. Such a declaration may be required in urgent circumstances at any time and any delay in the process of uploading information to the website controlled by another agency could compromise the safety and security of the games.

In relation to information being provided in different languages, I am advised that the official Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018 website will only be made available in English. The official language of the Commonwealth Games is English as prescribed by the Commonwealth Games Federation in its constitution and English is spoken as a first or second language in most Commonwealth countries. However, in addition to English, the state's Embracing 2018 website will be made available in other languages including Arabic, Chinese and Japanese which are the main languages spoken by residents on the Gold Coast.

The third and final recommendation was that the bill be amended to provide that the Police Commissioner must ensure the operation and effectiveness of the additional police powers in protective security zones are reviewed. To give effect to this recommendation, I am happy to inform the House that I intend to propose an amendment to the bill to insert a review clause. This amendment has been circulated in my name. The clause will require a review to be conducted by the commissioner after the conclusion of the games. The commissioner must give a report of the outcome of the review to the minister by 22 March 2019. The report is required to be tabled by the minister as soon as reasonably practicable after it is received by the minister.

I again thank the committee for its careful consideration of the bill. I also thank those organisations that made submissions to the committee and participated in the public hearing. I also thank Commissioner Ian Stewart, Assistant Commissioner Peter Crawford and other members of the Queensland Police Service who participated in the public briefing to the committee.

The objective of this bill is to promote the safety and security of persons attending events or activities associated with the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. This will be achieved by providing police officers with additional powers in protective security zones. Protective security zones will be prescribed by regulation but may also be prescribed urgently by the Commissioner of Police. It is intended that protective security zones will protect areas associated with the games where mass gatherings of people are expected to form. Many protective security zones will adjoin major events areas at competition and non-competition venues whilst others may include transport hubs, transport networks and designated pedestrian routes to and from a venue.

As we all know, the games is a mega 11-day sporting event and cultural event and will be one of the premier events in Australia this decade. It will generate a huge influx of visitors to the Gold Coast and to other areas of Queensland that will be hosting games events. There is no better way to showcase the Gold Coast and Queensland to the world than for the city to host the most spectacular games ever staged, and everything is on target for that to occur. A successful Commonwealth Games requires careful planning, organisation and cooperation at all levels of government and within the private sector.

One of the key priorities for the Commonwealth Games organisers is security planning to ensure the safety and security of all persons during the games. This includes over 6,500 athletes and officials and over 3,000 media personnel, 15,000 volunteers and 1.5 million potential spectators and other members of the public. Security planning is an important and onerous task for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation, the Queensland Police Service and other games partners. The Queensland Police Service also has the additional task of maintaining core policing services throughout the state during the duration of the games and whilst the games security operations are underway.

Games security planning is complicated by a number of factors, including the extended duration of the games, the number of competitions and other venues involved and, of course, the current security environment, with the ever-increasing threat of terrorism. The current general national terrorism threat level remains at probable, which indicates that individuals or groups have developed both the intent and capability to conduct a terrorist attack in Australia.

At the public hearing of the committee on 11 April 2017, Assistant Commissioner Crawford, who is the head of the Police Service Commonwealth Games Group, provided a detailed overview of the current security environment and security considerations for the games. I invite members of this House and the public to read the transcript of the hearing to fully understand the games security issues. I draw attention to that not to deter anyone from participating or attending the games, but to reinforce the fact that the Queensland Police Service is well aware of the games security risk and is doing everything it can, along with the games partners, to mitigate those risks.

This week's terrible events have demonstrated that this risk is real. The bombing at Manchester Arena is a stark reminder of that. The bombing in Manchester on Tuesday demonstrates clearly that the threat of terrorism is real, the risk to life is significant, and that the nature of the threat continues to evolve. I am sure that I speak for all members of this House as I express my condolences for those injured and to the family and friends of those who have died as a result of this cowardly and despicable attack in Manchester.

This bill is an important aspect of the security response, as it will give our police officers the extra powers they need to enhance the security and safety of all persons attending the games. The police powers in the bill are a proportionate response to the current security environment and will allow police officers to proactively manage and respond quickly to any threat to the games.

The powers include the power for a police officer to frisk search a person entering or in a protective security zone and inspect any article in the person's possession. Police officers will also have the power to stop, detain and search vehicles in or entering a protective security zone. Police officers will also be able to enter and search premises in a protective security zone without a warrant. However, a police officer can enter a residence only with an occupier's consent, or if the police officer reasonably suspects that an offence that would likely endanger the safety of a person may be committed in or from that residence. These powers work in conjunction with the power of a police officer to use a firearms and explosives detection dog to conduct security sweeps of a protective security zone. The bill also

authorises a police officer to give a direction to a person entering or in a public place in a protective security zone if the officer is reasonably satisfied that the direction is necessary for the safety of persons entering or in that zone.

Along with those powers, the bill provides an exemption for police from completing enforcement register entries for searches conducted by police officers in a protective security zone, or under the provisions of the Major Events Act 2014. The powers in this bill are designed to provide police with the tools they need to quickly resolve and prevent security threats, with minimal inconvenience to members of the public. The powers apply only within protective security zones and are in place only for the limited duration of the games. However, the exemption from completing enforcement register entries for searches conducted under the Major Events Act 2014 will continue to apply, as it is required for future prescribed major events under that act.

It is important to note that the bill is only one aspect of the policing and security response to the games. Goldoc has engaged a consortium of security companies to deploy approximately 4,500 security officers for the games. Largely, these security officers will be deployed in major events areas and will be authorised to use powers under the Major Events Act 2014. These security officers will complement a large contingent of Queensland police officers and specialists from other law enforcement agencies and the Australian Defence Force.

A comprehensive community engagement and communication strategy will be implemented for the games. Goldoc, the City of Gold Coast and the Office of the Commonwealth Games will be undertaking coordinated public messaging and advertising. Public awareness campaigns, particularly in relation to transport and security requirements, will significantly increase in the lead-up to the games as well. The Queensland Police Service will manage its own public information campaign, which will focus on security information for people attending the games. That will include providing relevant security information on the Queensland Police Service website and other public messaging tools. That will assist people to understand what security will look like at the games, why it is necessary and what people can do to make their journey through the games security easier.

The Queensland Police Service is undertaking an extensive community engagement program in relation to protective security zones. The aim of the program is to develop and maintain good working relationships with all relevant internal and external stakeholders. As part of the program, the Queensland Police Service will engage with each business owner and resident within a protective security zone so that impacted persons have information about the zones, how they will work and what the additional police powers will be. That will reduce the impacts on businesses and residents and allay any community concern.

The Queensland Police Service will continue to work with games organisers and games partners to ensure that the games are as safe as possible. In policing the games, the Queensland Police Service is committed to preserving the spirit of the friendly games. That will be reflected in all aspects of police training and response to the games. In this state, we are fortunate to have a professional Police Service that has proven time and time again that it can be trusted with additional police powers when given to them by this parliament. We only need to look back to the 2014 G20 meetings held in Brisbane and Cairns to see how well the Queensland Police Service conducted itself on the international stage. I have every confidence that our Police Service will again deliver a safe and secure international event. The additional police powers in this bill are a crucial element to making that happen. I encourage all members to support the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (3.14 pm): I rise to speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017. From the outset, I want to express that the LNP will not be opposing the changes contained in this bill. The Commonwealth Games, to be hosted on the Gold Coast in April next year and at other supporting venues throughout the state, including Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville, will be the biggest sporting event in Australia for a decade. It is a major international event for our state and country. With over 6,600 athletes and officials, 3,000 media personnel, 1,500 volunteers, 1.5 million spectators and a global audience of 1.5 billion people, the Gold Coast and, more broadly, Queensland will be showcased on the international stage.

The security of all of those involved in the event is of paramount importance, which is why these changes are being debated here today. As outlined in the explanatory notes, games security planning is informed by the current general public national terrorism threat level, which, despite recent international events, remains at probable. Recently, we have seen an increasing number of international terrorist attacks in open areas and public transport areas where large numbers of people

have gathered to cause the maximum impact. Clearly, the tragic events that we saw in Manchester are another reminder of what has become an all-too-familiar story, as in recent years we have seen similar events in Europe and across the globe. Therefore, it is important that the police have additional proportionate powers to keep people safe and to ensure that the Commonwealth Games is a safe and secure event for everyone. We trust police officers to keep Queenslanders safe and prevent and detect crime. It is fundamentally important that they have the powers they need to make the games a safe and successful event.

In government, we introduced specified additional powers to ensure a safe G20 event. As outlined in the explanatory notes, the bill includes the following: the prescribing of protective security zones by regulation; the declaring of protective security zones by the Commissioner of Police, with the approval of the minister, if urgent action is required; the power for a police officer to search a person in a protective security zone, to stop, detain and search vehicles entering or in a protective security zone, to enter and search premises, excluding residential premises, in a protective security zone without warrant—however, a police officer can still search a residence with the consent of the occupier or if the officer reasonably suspects an offence may be committed in or from the residence and the offence would be likely to endanger the safety of a person; to use a firearms and explosives detection dog to search public places and premises that are not residences in a protective security zone; to give a general direction to a person entering or in a public place in a protective security zone to ensure the safety of persons entering or in the zone, and an exemption from completing enforcement registers for searches conducted by police officers within protective security zones or under the Major Events Act.

All of the additional powers will expire at the end of the games, except for the changes around enforcement registers which can be used by police for other major events in Queensland in the future. The changes to the enforcement register mean that police will not need to record every time they search someone in a protective security zone at a designated major event unless the search locates an item such as a weapon or explosive. As Commissioner Ian Stewart outlined to the parliamentary committee in a public briefing—

When assessing security needs for the games, the Queensland Police Service considered a number of factors including current threat assessments and intelligence relating to the general security environment and lessons learnt from previous games and other large-scale policing operations such as the 2014 G20 Leaders' Summit in Brisbane.

The QPS also conducted an extensive review of current legislation including the Major Events Act 2014 and Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. The Major Events Act is expected to apply to the games and will provide sufficient powers to provide a safe and secure environment within a prescribed games major event area. However, it does not address security requirements in other public areas associated with the games where people will gather in large numbers—for example, designated pedestrian routes to a venue and public transport hubs and networks. The Police Powers and Responsibilities Act also does not specifically address the unique security issues associated with the games in the current security environment.

We need to trust the advice of our law enforcement agencies on these issues and let them do what they do best. That is what happened when we put together our 2013 tough bikie law reforms. They were formed with the advice of our two key law enforcement agencies, the QPS and the Crime and Corruption Commission. We note the concerns from the Queensland Law Society and the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, which are important in maintaining the appropriate balance and regard for the individual rights and liberties of individuals. We also note the response from the Police Commissioner in his statement to the committee in the public briefing in relation to this issue—

In developing the bill, the QPS has been mindful to find a proportionate and reasonable balance between additional police powers designed to promote the safety and security for all and the rights and liberties of individuals. The QPS has sought only those powers considered necessary for the safety and security of the games. Our objective is to deliver an integrated security operation with our partners that will achieve a safe, secure and successful games. This bill is pivotal in reaching that objective.

We appreciate that advice and the need for the security planning of the games to be led by the Queensland Police Service. Ultimately, it comes down to the security planning ahead of the games and making sure we have a safe event. Sadly, no matter how many times it happens, and it is happening far too often, we are all shocked and saddened by the international terrorist events overseas where radicalised individuals set out to cause maximum damage by ploughing trucks through crowds of people or setting off explosive devices like we saw in Manchester earlier this week. The final quote I want to use is from Assistant Commissioner Crawford. It defines the issues that the QPS need to take into account in preparation for the security planning ahead of the Commonwealth Games next year—

The games will inevitably have an impact on members of the public and, therefore, the engagement with them and the messaging to them is a critical component not only of this aspect of the bill but also of the policing strategy generally. For us to make this work, we need the appropriate policy in place, we need to train well, we have to give very clear direction to our members and we have to ensure that the execution of the police operation, including the use of these powers, is done in accordance with the intent.

In summary, what we are seeking to achieve is, by the use of this legislation, to deter those people who are intending to commit acts that are going to cause harm in the public space. We want to detect those people who are planning on executing any action in that public space that is going to harm people and we want to present a really visible reassurance to the public that we are out there in that space protecting their safety as they attend the games in what is a very challenging security environment that the Police Commissioner has identified. We are mindful of the spirit of the games and the atmosphere for this spectacular sporting event is an area where we have to support the government's intention and we will do that.

I want to thank the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee for its review of the legislation and the three recommendations it made to inform the communication of the changes contained in the bill which, of course, we support. We want a safe games, because a safe games is a successful games. It is important to back the police to ensure that this can happen. Our prayers and sympathy go out to the people of Manchester following the tragic events earlier this week. We need to learn from these international incidents to ensure that something like this never happens here in Queensland.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (3.25 pm): Like other members of the House, I also want to start by passing on my thoughts and prayers to the victims of the Manchester terrorist attack. The images and the stories are haunting for many of us, particularly us parents. It sends home the message of how important security for the Commonwealth Games will be.

I acknowledge and thank the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee for its detailed examination of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill. I note that it received bipartisan support during the committee stage and that the committee had extensive briefings from the Queensland Police Service. I am cognisant that the Police Service has asked that this be considered in a timely fashion so that it can get its planning done well in advance of the games. As the police minister has addressed in his report, the government supports recommendations 1 and 3. The minister also detailed that we support the principles underlying recommendation 2 and both the police minister and I have been in consultation in relation to this recommendation. Our departments have been working very closely together in regard to having linked websites that create an online platform rather than a single integrated website. This has been done once again with the advice of police. A range of information about the games will be available on the integrated online platform, which will include the official gc2018 website and the state's Embracing 2018 website. As the minister said, this includes information for games visitors, athletes, residents and the public about all aspects of the games, including events, transport and security arrangements. Information about the protective security zones and major event areas will also be integrated into this online platform.

The objective of this bill is to promote the safety and security of persons attending events or activities associated with the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in April 2018. This will be achieved by providing police officers with the additional police powers that they need to ensure that we have a safe and successful Commonwealth Games. These are in the protective security zones, which will be prescribed by regulation, but may also be prescribed urgently by the Commissioner of Police. It is intended that protective security zones will protect areas associated with the games where we will see mass gatherings of people. Many of the protective security zones will be near major event areas at competition and non-competition venues while others will be where we know we will see large congregations of people, including the transport hubs, transport networks and designated pedestrian routes to and from the many venues of the Commonwealth Games.

I acknowledge the great work that the team that has been working on these security measures has been doing. We know that a successful games does require cooperation at all levels of government and with the private sector as well. One of the key priorities for games organisers is security planning well ahead of the games to ensure the safety and security of everyone who will be attending the games. We heard the member for Everton talking about the fact that this will be the largest event to happen in Australia for the next decade and that it is the third largest major sporting event in the world. There will be over 6,500 athletes and officials, more than 3,000 media personnel, 15,000 volunteers and, the way ticket sales are progressing as they have been so successfully in the last few weeks, we will have up to 1.5 million spectators coming to see the games live in action down on the Gold Coast. I am sure you will be there, member for Barron River.

Security planning is vital to get this right and to ensure that everyone that I have just spoken about has a safe, secure and friendly games. That is our goal. Games security planning is complex and is made more difficult by the number of factors that we have to look at and investigate in the lead-up to the games, such as the number of competitions, other venues involved, the current security

environment and the ever-increasing terrorism threat that we have already spoken about this afternoon. We know that the current general national terrorism threat level remains at probable, which indicates that individuals or groups have developed both the intent and the capability to conduct a terrorist attack in Australia. As the Commonwealth Games minister, I believe very strongly that when we look at the realities of that, the police powers in this bill are a proportionate response to the current security environment that we face. They will allow police officers to proactively manage and respond rapidly to any threats during the Commonwealth Games.

As the minister outlined in his remarks, the powers include the power for police officers to frisk search a person entering or exiting a protected security zone and inspect any article in the person's possession. Police officers will also have the power to stop, detain and search vehicles in or entering a protected security zone. The bill also authorises a police officer to give a direction to a person entering or in a public place in a protected security zone if the officer is reasonably satisfied that the direction is necessary for the safety of persons entering into that zone. As we know from the bipartisan support for this bill, and I see the member for Townsville nodding, when we think about the scale of the Commonwealth Games those powers are proportionate to the realities that we face.

It is important to note that the bill is only one aspect of the work that we are doing when it comes to our policing and security response for the Commonwealth Games next year. A lot of work has happened since I first became the minister for the Commonwealth Games some two years ago. Top of mind for us was how to get the security planning in place and how to get the quantum of security guards that will be needed for such a large event. I can advise the House that Goldoc has engaged a consortium of security companies to deploy approximately 4,500 security officers for the games.

A government member interjected.

Ms JONES: Thank you very much. Those officers will be largely deployed at the major event areas and will be authorised to use powers under the Major Events Act. The security officers will complement a very large contingent of Queensland police officers and specialists. Obviously, they will have support from the Australian Defence Force as well. I note that the Queensland Police Service has a comprehensive community engagement strategy. Goldoc, the City of Gold Coast and officers of the Commonwealth Games will be undertaking a coordinated communications strategy with the people of the Gold Coast and, indeed, all people who are intending to go to the Commonwealth Games.

In conclusion, I thank the parliament for its bipartisan approach to this very fundamental issue. The momentum for the Commonwealth Games is building. You can feel the excitement in the air. It is huge. Only today I have been on the phone to the Mayor of the Gold Coast, Tom Tate. We are very excited about what is going to happen for the Commonwealth Games. It is going to be a legacy event for the Gold Coast. I am sure that, in her address, the member for Broadwater will talk about how exciting this event will be for the Gold Coast and the legacy it will leave for the city and, indeed, for all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House. I thank not only the Police Commissioner but also all police officers involved in the work leading up to this point. In some ways, the hard work now begins as we implement the planning and ensure that we have a safe and secure Commonwealth Games.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.33 pm): I rise to speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill. At the outset, I too place on the record my thoughts and prayers for the people of Manchester. Manchester holds a unique place in my heart, because it is where I became an Australian citizen; Manchester, of all places. Manchester is a very special place and I am sure we are all thinking of the people of Manchester at this difficult time.

As has been highlighted by the shadow minister for police, fire and emergency services, the opposition will not be opposing this bill. I am sure the chair of the committee, the member for Townsville, would agree that great bipartisanship was shown during our consideration of this bill. Everyone on the Gold Coast and I am sure everyone right across Queensland is incredibly excited about the 2018 Commonwealth Games and are very much looking forward to April next year. I have put in for tickets to a couple of events and I am sure that other members have as well. Indeed, as a local member it was fantastic to hear the announcement that, in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games, Athletics Australia will be training in my electorate. All Gold Coast members are incredibly excited about not only the opportunities that the people of our hometown will have to work with athletes and visitors in the lead-up to and during the Commonwealth Games but also the opportunities that this presents for our city after the games.

During the course of our committee inquiry, a couple of issues were raised by submitters. In particular, I want to touch on the concerns that the Queensland Law Society and the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties raised about the additional powers that are being granted to police. For those

in the House who have not had a chance to look at the particulars, those additional powers are with respect to stopping and searching, using drug detection dogs and the ability to search cars and the like inside the security zones. As someone who comes from the Liberal side of the Liberal National Party, I can understand why there are concerns about granting unfettered powers. However, the reality is that we are talking about a very significant event. As has been highlighted by the recent tragic events in Manchester and other terrible events that unfortunately and all too regularly we see around the world, there are times when as a society we do need to grant additional powers to police. I think all members of this House would agree that we need to make sure that the friendly games are also the safest games that we can have. In order to do that, we have to grant additional powers to the Queensland Police Service.

The concerns that the Queensland Law Society has revolve around the fact that the register that ordinarily would need to be filled in will not be filled in. During the course of our inquiry, I had the opportunity to ask Assistant Commissioner Crawford about exactly what is entailed in filling in one of those registers, because if we were going to give due consideration to the concerns of the QLS we needed to know that. I see the member for Burdekin nodding knowingly. As a former police officer, he is well aware of what it entails. It is quite complex. I am sure the member for Burdekin would agree that a significant amount of information must be provided. The reality is that, with the number of people coming through the security zones during the 2018 Commonwealth Games, it is simply impractical to even entertain the notion that every single time someone is stopped and potentially searched or a vehicle is searched, the police would be expected to go through that process.

I think everyone will be so caught up in the excitement that people will be fairly *lassiez-faire* about being stopped and will not necessarily mind having their bags searched. You go through it all the time whenever you go through an airport. Whether you are going to see the Broncos, the Cowboys or, in my case, to commiserate with other Queensland Reds fans, every single time you enter a stadium you accept a certain level of security. Those who are attending the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games will accept the additional security requirements.

The Law Society raised an issue that was considered when the parliament was looking at the changes to the PPRA and the provision of additional powers for the G20 in relation to independent legal observers. Whilst I appreciate that there was a role for independent legal observers during the G20 when people were exercising their democratic right to protest and express a different point of view, I am not sure that we will have the same kind of scenario or the same sorts of crowds at the Commonwealth Games. People will not be going to Metricon Stadium to protest; they will be going there to cheer on the athletes. They will go to the swimming, the badminton or the netball to cheer on the athletes, not to protest a government decision. Therefore, I am not sure that there will be a benefit to having independent legal observers, given the type of crowds that we can expect to see.

I acknowledge the government for accepting recommendation 3 with respect to the parliament being provided with a report. This was something that was included in the changes to the PPRA for the G20. It is an important check and balance to make sure that everything has gone smoothly. There were not necessarily any problems with the G20, but it is important for people to know that the parliament does give consideration to these things.

I have some questions for the minister with respect to the government's response to recommendation 2 where they talk about there being a linked website and integrated platform. Perhaps through the minister's advisors could the question be put to the minister regarding how easy it will be for people to find information around the security zones? I appreciate that there are benefits with having an integrated platform and a linked website. As the member for Townsville would appreciate, I do not necessarily always get technology, but I see the benefit of having a linked website and an integrated platform. I just want to make sure that those who come to our city can easily find and access the information so that we can make this as smooth as possible for them.

Whilst I appreciate that English is the official language of the Commonwealth Games and many residents of Commonwealth countries have English as either their first or second language, given that we are talking about increases in police powers beyond what might ordinarily be considered appropriate in Australia and given that we are talking about specialised zones, I would appreciate if the government could give consideration to whether it would be appropriate to have this information available in other languages on the website. I think that would be appropriate so we make it as easy as possible for visitors coming to our great city to understand what it is that they can and cannot do.

The other question that I have for the minister is with respect to police resources. During our consideration we received briefings from Commissioner Stewart and Assistant Commissioner Crawford of the Queensland Police Service. We are well aware that, like the G20, we are going to need additional resources on the Gold Coast at Commonwealth Games events. During the G20 there were police officers who came from other jurisdictions—they came from other Australian states and territories and there were even some who came from New Zealand.

There are people across Queensland who would like the comfort of knowing that the police resources in their regions are not going to be affected. I am sure the member for Burdekin would agree that the people of Townsville would like to know that they are not going to have reduced resources. The rest of the Gold Coast would like reassurance that they are not going to have reduced resources. There is already a lot of consternation on the Gold Coast with respect to police resources being taken from Surfers Paradise and put into Coomera and vice versa. We need to make sure that police resources are not affected. This is not just the case for larger urban centres, like the Gold Coast and Townsville, but regional towns as well. We need to make sure that police resources are not impacted.

The committee received two other submissions, one of which was confidential. We received a submission from the City of Gold Coast. I think that is fantastic. All Gold Coast members would agree that we have a fantastic relationship with Mayor Tom Tate when it comes to working towards the Commonwealth Games. We all want to see a fantastic event for our city. I acknowledge and thank the City of Gold Coast for their submission and their support of this legislation.

If the minister could in his response to the second reading debate consider the questions that I put to him that would be much appreciated. We need to make sure that what is going to be the single largest event in this decade is the safest we can make it. Changes to the PPRA are but one element of the security approach to these games. We need to make sure that each and every one of them is correct.

April next year is going to be big. We will have so many people come to the Gold Coast and see the Gold Coast on their TV screens. We need to make sure that it goes off without a hitch. I look forward to the 2018 Commonwealth Games. As I said, I will not be opposing the bill.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (3.44 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017. As the chair of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee it was a pleasure to have this particular bill referred to the committee, to conduct the inquiry, to hear all the information and to contribute to the debate today. It is great to hear that both sides of the House support this very important bill.

The Commonwealth Games will be one of the biggest events Queensland has seen for decades. It will impact Cairns and the great city of Townsville—which is the location of one of the venues—and, of course, the Gold Coast. Townsville is fortunate to have this opportunity. The momentum is starting to build with regard to the Commonwealth Games. It is one of the locations for the preliminary rounds of basketball. Mr Deputy Speaker Crawford, your city of Cairns is also one of those locations. I imagine the excitement is building in Cairns also. We have less than one year to go. The impact of this is certainly on the lips of many people in the community. I imagine the anticipation is building in the electorates of those opposite whose electorates on the Gold Coast will be impacted by the Commonwealth Games.

Mr Hinchliffe: Townsville and Cairns are two great basketball cities.

Mr STEWART: I take the interjection. Townsville and Cairns are two great basketball cities. The Townsville Fire women's basketball team was the national champions not once but two years in a row. Being one of the venues for the Commonwealth Games is absolutely fantastic.

I have been the chair of this committee for about 2½ years. When we previously considered a bill related to the Commonwealth Games we had the opportunity to visit some of the Commonwealth Games sites. Almost two years ago to the day we visited those sites. Some of them were still under construction, some were ready to undergo facelifts and some of them only had concrete slabs poured. My understanding is that most of those venues are, if not complete, very close to complete. Some of them are already being used by the community which is absolutely fantastic.

The Commonwealth Games is all about showcasing Queensland. Why is it that we love Queensland? One only has to look at the people of Queensland and our laid-back and friendly approach and the environment we live in. These winters are to die for. That is why visitors love coming to Queensland.

The Commonwealth Games will present Queensland with a plethora of opportunities. There will be a number of cities and sites, not only in the south-east corner but right across Queensland, that will become training venues for teams when they come to Queensland in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games. More importantly, the legacy attached to the Commonwealth Games will last for years and decades. It will build tourism and trade opportunities that we will continue to revisit and build on year in, year out. That is the importance of the Commonwealth Games.

I will toot my own trumpet here. In 1982 I had the opportunity to be a Queen's Baton Relay runner when the Commonwealth Games were in Brisbane. The sleek greyhound physique has now disappeared. It would be a quick stroll if I were to run the baton this time. I also had the opportunity to go along to a number of events at the Commonwealth Games way back in 1982.

In those days when people entered venues their bags were searched. People opened their bags and they were searched to make sure they were not carrying in food items they could consume because that would do the food vendors at the sites out of business. That was why bags were searched back in those days. It was to make sure people did not do the food vendors a disservice. How our world has changed!

We have already heard about the impact of the events in Manchester. Every speaker this afternoon has passed on their thoughts and prayers. I will do the same very quickly. My thoughts and prayers and those of my family go out to each and every person impacted by the tragedy this week. We see this all too often, particularly when we think of the Boston Marathon. What happened at the Boston Marathon had a huge impact on the way we run our sporting events. This legislation will fit directly into our responses as a state and as a city around how we make sure that that does not happen to the thousands and thousands of visitors and the locals who will be going along to see each of these particular events. These things are not isolated. We have seen it happen in France and in Belgium and, as I said, we have seen it happen at the Boston Marathon.

Late last year in this House we implemented our counter-terrorism legislation. Each and every one of us who spoke in the House—I think there were a few members—also spoke about the importance of making sure that we do everything we can to protect our lifestyle and our people. When this legislation was referred to the committee, we knew that this was the foundation for, and at the heart of, what this legislation was about. It was about making sure that we protect our lifestyle and that we protect our people. As the member for Broadwater has highlighted already, not only do we want these Commonwealth Games to be the best games but we want to make sure that they are the safest games.

To achieve this outcome—we want people to come back and revisit and revisit and bring their friends with them when they come not only to the Gold Coast but right across our fantastic state including that beautiful city of Townsville—we need to make sure that we back our police and that we give them the support that they particularly need. On that note, I give a shout-out to Assistant Commissioner Peter Crawford. He briefed the committee twice. He is a very smart man. He is the man who is looking after all of the security arrangements and making sure that the Commonwealth Games sites and venues will meet the needs of not only its competitors but also the patrons to make sure that they are going to be the best games ever. Sitting right beside him was Commissioner Ian Stewart. I wish to give a shout-out to Police Commissioner Ian Stewart because those people are doing a fantastic job not only with the Commonwealth Games but also right across our state.

It was interesting to hear Assistant Commissioner Peter Crawford talk about the issue of scanning the crowd as people come into the games venues and how we actually do the searches. We have already heard the member for Broadwater describe the time intensity it would take to record every single person who is searched, bearing in mind that for some of our venues there will be limited numbers. There may be 3,000 or 4,000 who go to some venues, but the opening of the games—the very first event of the Commonwealth Games—will attract the largest audience right across-the-board. This is the time that we need to get this right. We need to make sure that right off the bat we have this sorted, that we have this all worked out. That is exactly what this legislation will do.

Once this legislation is passed, the police will put into place their policies and processes to make sure that people will transition through particular areas—those safe zones that we have heard about—quickly so there are no big lag times but also to make sure that security is the utmost priority when they are performing their particular task. To achieve that, Assistant Commissioner Peter Crawford highlighted that they will be particularly relying on body worn cameras.

We have heard of the success of body worn cameras with our police force. He told us at the briefing, which was about four weeks ago, that at that time there were 2,644 body worn cameras used by police when performing their roles. He then went on to say that by the time the Commonwealth

Games roll around and we are ready for that very first day, when the cameras right across the world zoom in and focus on and highlight not only the Gold Coast but our great state, there will be over 4,000 body worn cameras used by police. Using that technology, those body worn cameras will be able to record every single person who police come into contact with. Those recordings will then be used to determine safe processes of doing quick searches to ensure our safety.

When we heard those facts and figures, it certainly made those of us on the committee—I am sure I can speak on behalf of all those on the committee—feel very comfortable in the way that the police were approaching this, that they were doing everything they can to make sure it is security first but also that people felt comfortable. There will be tens of thousands of people to process in a very short period of time, not only on the Gold Coast but in Townsville and in Cairns. Those processes need to be done right across our state.

We have heard of the various locations that have been determined where body worn cameras will be used. It is expected that protective security zones will include areas adjacent to prescribed major event areas and road based fields of play, designated pedestrian routes from transport hubs to venues, park-and-ride locations, games transport hubs and some transport networks. The reason for that is that there will be thousands upon thousands of people in those particular areas. We need to do everything we can to make sure that those people are safe but also process those people quickly. That is what those body worn cameras will do.

One of the key points that the police made was that during the G20 summit in Brisbane they learnt many different strategies and ways that they could perform their role without being intrusive. The police also learnt lessons from the 2012 London Olympics and from the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games. The police have been working on this not just for the last three weeks, not for the last three months, but since the lead-up to the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. They worked right beside the security forces and the police at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games and the London Olympics to make sure that they get this right.

I have absolutely no hesitation in commending this bill to the House today, particularly with the two recommendations that the committee made. It was great to hear the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games talk about the second recommendation and about our need to communicate expectations. This is what the committee said. We need to make sure that people know the expectations when they enter those particular safety zones so they can plan around them to accommodate their travel time and enjoy the event as well. That is why that recommendation was made—to make sure that people get that early communication to know what to expect, to know that their bags will be searched and to know all the particular requirements they will need to go through before they turn up to an event.

The third recommendation, which I heard the Minister for Police embrace, was the need to review the process afterwards. As any good teacher or good professional will know, once you perform a particular task the best thing you can do is to review it and put it under scrutiny to make sure that you get it right and do even better the next time you encounter such events. We want to demonstrate to the world that not only can we host the best Commonwealth Games ever but we can continue to host major events in this state, not only in the south-east corner but right up and down our coastline including Townsville, that we can continue to host sensational international events and pull them off knowing that they are going to be the best and the most secure events that anyone has ever seen. With that, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (3.58 pm): I too rise to make a contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017. I thank my fellow committee members for our long deliberations and discussions on this bill. It was a very productive time. With the chair and the deputy chair, I must say that we have a very good committee. It is very good to work with all of the members of the committee.

Like the member for Broadwater, my electorate covers parts of the Gold Coast and Logan, and we will be hosting the best event in 2018 anywhere in the world. People in my region are very proud of their region. It is a beautiful place to live. We have the beautiful rolling hills, with Mount Tamborine in the background. We are only a short distance from the best beaches in the world. I cannot imagine anywhere better to have a Commonwealth Games. I know that these Commonwealth Games will be the best. I feel sorry for Glasgow because they do not have the beautiful beaches like we do. They can also have cold and dreary weather over there, but we have warm and sunny hearts over here.

Given what has transpired around the world in recent times, with the unfortunate events in Manchester and the innocent victims of that most horrendous crime, the Commonwealth Games is certainly at the forefront of people's minds, especially people in my area. Having legislation in place to give as much protection as possible to our local residents at this event is paramount.

With 1.5 billion people around the world watching the Commonwealth Games, the media spotlight will be on the Gold Coast. It is imperative that we ensure these are the safest games in the history of the games, especially considering what is going on around the world in France, Germany, the US and England. It is very sad that international terrorism is becoming more commonplace. We, as legislators, must ensure that laws are put in place to ensure that events where people congregate are safe.

We discussed these laws at length with all those who participated in the committee process—the police, the Law Society et cetera. I honestly do not have any problems with what the police have put on the table. Major sporting events already have to adhere to these laws. If you go to these sporting events, you get searched. I cannot see much difference with what is being proposed here today.

I know that some members of the committee had concerns about the rights of those who want to air an opinion or protest a cause. If that is done in a safe manner and that does not obstruct the games, then they have every right to have their opinion heard, but we must ensure that we make it as hard as possible for those in our society who wish to do the greater population harm. I keep thinking back to the poor innocent individuals in Manchester and the little girl who was only a little older than my daughter. I would hate to see that happen at one of our events in this great country of ours. I thank the law enforcement agencies for their due diligence and perseverance in tracking down these individuals to keep our community safe.

I would like to follow on from the member for Broadwater and the member for Townsville who spoke about recommendation 3, and I thank the minister for incorporating that. After legislation such as this is passed, there should be a review process put in place to ensure that we learn from any mistakes that might occur.

Lastly, we need to get the information out there to people all around the world to ensure that individuals know what is expected and what to expect when entering Commonwealth Games facilities and security zones. I know there have been a lot of discussions about websites, but these days phone apps seem to be a big thing in our community. If we could design a phone app, they could easily download it when they arrive into the country so they could have firsthand information with them at all times. That would be advantageous for those individuals, especially those for whom English is their second language, if it were in their own language.

I certainly support what the police have prescribed in this bill. I hope my part of the world has the best Commonwealth Games in the history of the Commonwealth Games. A lot of my constituents are very excited about it. We have some events in my electorate. The new electorate of Theodore is going to take in the Coomera sports centre, which I am taking off the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon. I have to gloat about that now. It has finally come over to the light side of the highway, one could say.

Without further ado, my wish is that the Commonwealth Games is a safe event. With this legislation and the wonderful work of our local police, I think this will be the best Commonwealth Games ever.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (4.05 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017. First of all, I would like to pass on my condolences to all those families who lost young children in Manchester. It is pretty hard to sit here and think of all those young people who have had their lives cut short because of what happened there, and I hate even mentioning the clowns who do that sort of thing. As one of the new members of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee—

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SORENSEN: Yes, it is good. I know how important tourism is to our community. I come from an area where tourism is very important. To have the Commonwealth Games here in Queensland I think is a real coup because it will bring in lots of people. We really have to look after all those people when they get here. Our reputation is on the line. The best thing we can do is make sure that these Commonwealth Games are safe. All the best to all the Queensland and Australian athletes. There is a lot of training they have to do between now and then. It is not easy to be an elite athlete. A lot of practice and training goes into that. I wish them all the best.

The amendments to the bill seek to provide additional police powers to protect mass amounts of people in public areas associated with a big event like the Commonwealth Games. The additional powers will be associated with a new type of security zone called a protective security zone. This strengthens the power of police to be able to search people in a protective security zone quickly should they expect any danger. Searches can be done without warrants in protective security zones.

The police will have body worn cameras. We asked a question in the committee process about the expanded use of body worn cameras. By the time of the games, approximately 4,449 video cameras will be issued to operational police. In addition, some police officers have their own devices. The police will use body worn cameras where they are available. These cameras will not only protect people at the event but also protect police against false allegations. If a police officer is wearing a camera, something goes wrong and somebody makes an allegation against them, there it is. That is it. There is no argument then. I think that is a very important reason for the use of these video cameras.

In response to the committee's question about the potential for all operational police to have body worn cameras, the police advised that these cameras are quite special because they transfer the images straight back to a database. It is a little more complicated than what we think. They have nearly 4½ thousand cameras and all that data needs to be stored. There is an enormous amount of data collection in the IT system. If we need to go back and look at different things, it is really great to protect those police officers from false allegations.

The police can stop and detain people and search vehicles in these protective zones. This will be critical at the end of the day because the police will be able to stop and search a vehicle if somebody drives in there. That is really important because we have seen what has happened around the world with people driving into crowds. We have to protect people as much as possible. The bill will allow police to give special directions to people entering the protective security zones, and it exempts the police from completing enforcement registers for searches.

The Commonwealth Games will not only be held on the Gold Coast. Major events will also be held in Cairns and Townsville. This will mean that people will travel around the state and other cities will be given opportunities to participate. There will be an enormous number of people, with over 6,600 athletes and officials, 3,000 people in the media, some 15,000 volunteers and, hopefully, about 1.5 million spectators. These additional police powers will make this a safe games. As I said before, our reputation is on the line but we can do it. We have to give the police the opportunity to do it. I believe that these games will be very successful and that Queenslanders will be proud of the effort that we put in to make them happen. I wish everybody who participates in the games all the best because it will be really great fun.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (4.12 pm): I rise to support the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017. As chair of the committee which investigated the games, I would like to say that it was a very good committee. I would like to thank the police who came in and briefed the committee because we received a very comprehensive briefing from the commissioner and his staff regarding the security arrangements that have been put in place for the Commonwealth Games.

We are all looking forward to the Commonwealth Games—none more than me, because I was a track and field legend in my own lunchtime. It is great that a state like ours, which is the best state in Australia, is going to be on show to the world. We have two great ministers involved in the games—with the Minister for Police, Minister Ryan, looking after the law and order, and the tourism minister, the member for Ashgrove, lifting tourism in this state. These two ministers will make sure these games will be a big success for Queensland.

People on the committee who know me know that I am always checking to make sure that when we give police the extra powers we do it right to make sure we are not giving away hard-fought-for liberties just for the sake of giving them away. I have been through a few battles in my day, and I want to make sure that safeguards are put in place, that the police are responding to the community and that they do follow the letter of the law because they are not above the law. I was happy with the responses from the commissioner and the responses we have received back from the minister's office. To the commissioner and the minister, I say thank you very much for allaying my fears. I now know that everything is right and we are not giving away our freedoms in the name of terrorism. I thank the minister for that.

When we think about the Commonwealth Games, we think about the crowds. The member for Hervey Bay talked about the number of people who will be there. It will be a huge effort for law enforcement agencies to make sure everything is kept in check. There will be 3,500 police officers,

4,500 security personnel and over 2,000 ADF members at the games. One of the concerns I had on the committee was ensuring that the security guards are trained adequately. The member for Albert brought up some great worries—and I agree with him—that we will have overseas visitors here who may not understand English and may not understand the procedures and the way we do things in this country. I do agree, as he said, that we need to have adequate signage for our overseas visitors who come here for the games because they will not be used to the way we operate in Queensland. In fact, people from New South Wales and Victoria sometimes do not understand how we operate in Queensland. We are the Sunshine State and we are a bit different to other parts of the country.

All in all, I was very pleased with the response we received from everyone on the committee. I am looking forward to the games not only for the sporting events—as someone who can sit back and talk about my feats over 100 metres, which took a very long time to run—but also for the opportunity to showcase this great state with our tourism as well as the great food we grow here. After tourists have had meals here, they will be talking about Queensland when they go home—about our beef, our vegetables and the whole experience. That is what the games are all about.

Mr Pearce interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection from the member for Mirani because I was just getting to the greatest city in Queensland and how we can get tourists to have a look at places like Maryborough, Hervey Bay and Wide Bay after the games or before the games.

Mr Pearce interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection from the member for Mirani also. It will be great to showcase our fantastic state to the people who will come here as well as to the millions of people throughout the world on the TV networks and the internet. The tourists will go home and tell people that Queensland is a great place to come and holiday and spend your money because they would have had a great meal and watched world-class athletes at the same time.

The most important thing is that we have to make sure people are safe and secure. With these powers, I believe we will be able to control the crowds and make sure safeguards are put in place. The minister did listen to the committee and he came on board. It is good that the minister took everything on board and spoke to the police. It shows that the committee system in this parliament works because the concerns were listened to. I am hoping that we have good weather and we have a great Commonwealth Games. I know that the people on the Gold Coast will put on a great show, as they always do for visitors who go to the Gold Coast.

Mr Boothman: Thank you.

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection from the member for Albert because I have spent many nights on the Gold Coast and they do put on a good show. This is going to be a fantastic Commonwealth Games. I would like to wish everyone who participates and all of the athletes who come to this great state to train and compete a great games. I would also like to thank the police and the volunteers. The police officers will be on the ground and walking through the crowds to make sure that everyone is safe. I would like to thank them because there will be long hours and it will be hard.

I also thank the volunteers. We have heard that events like the 1982 Commonwealth Games and the Sydney Olympics could not have been a success without the volunteers. The volunteers will make the games because a lot of the contact with our overseas and interstate visitors will be with these volunteers. I thank the volunteers. I thank everyone involved in the Commonwealth Games. I support this bill in the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (4.19 pm): In supporting the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017, I would like to reflect briefly on the comments that were made by the Minister for Police in his second reading speech about what happened yesterday in Manchester in the United Kingdom. It is a sad fact that bills like this one, which will give the police additional powers to keep the public and visitors to our country safe, are necessary.

Although we wish we did not have to have bills like this that are designed for public safety, the recent events in the UK and in Manchester, which are very sad, as well as other events around the world really show that terrorism and dangerous events can happen anytime, anywhere. It is a very sobering thought, but I know that the committee would have had all of that in mind when recommending that the additional powers in the bill be put into the laws of this state.

The main reason I think we should support this bill is that the additional powers the bill is giving to police will lapse immediately following the conclusion of the Commonwealth Games. There is no doubt it is going to be a big event. There will be many visitors to the Gold Coast and many other visitors

to other parts of Queensland and Australia as well. The eyes of the world—at least the eyes of many of the Commonwealth countries—will be on Queensland during those games. We do not want the Gold Coast to become synonymous with horrific terrorist events. We need to face the fact that, unfortunately, that is a possibility in the present global environment in which we live. We do not want that to happen. We want the games to be a success not just from an organisational point of view but also from a sporting point of view for Australia and for our own Queensland athletes.

In particular, I would like to call out a young athlete from Beaudesert who is hopefully on her way to the Commonwealth Games, Riley Day. Riley is a terrific young sprinter who recently broke Cathy Freeman's under-18 200-metre record. She can run. I hope that Riley does make it into the Commonwealth Games team. She obviously has not quite got there yet, but she is a great young talent. We have a lot of great young sporting talent from Beaudesert—and have had over the years as well. I digress into the sporting realm. We hope we have great sporting success but, most of all, we want it to be a safe event and a fun event, and that is what this bill is all about.

Some concerns were raised by stakeholders about the provisions in the bill, in particular by the Queensland Law Society and the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties. This was picked up in the report. Primarily, the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties was worried about the arbitrary use of powers; the potential for targeting of particular groups; and the need for reporting, recording and transparency. They were also worried about protecting the residents' freedom of movement and minimising inconvenience due to the games and associated activities. They also said in their submission that the risk of abuse of these powers by police was significant.

I could not disagree more with that assertion from the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties. Our police are very professional people. Every day they work according to standards and codes. They know how they need to conduct themselves. I would say the fact that they have been given additional powers through this law for a particular event will not change in one way how they do their policing: keeping us all safe according to the high standards that they are held to at any other time of the year. I have to disagree very vigorously with those assertions from the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties. As I just said, all of the concerns they have raised need to be outweighed—and are outweighed—by the fact that we need to keep the games safe. When we give more powers to police it is always a balancing act between the freedom of people to do what they want and to move around without being hindered by authorities and the need to protect people. However, these powers have a limited time frame; they are just for the games. I do not know who wrote the submission from the Council for Civil Liberties or in what realm they are operating, but I think they are way wide of the mark in criticising these powers that will be available for this limited amount of time.

As stated in the report, the Council for Civil Liberties also recommend that the increased police powers should be widely publicised and residents in the zones should be directly alerted to the increased police powers and their rights within the zones in advance of the powers taking effect. When we are talking about the actual games precinct, I think people who go to major events like the Commonwealth Games, the Olympics and other such events expect there to be heightened security. They expect there to be more bag and other searches, more checks and the ability for security to undertake activities which they would not do on a day-to-day basis. It is just expected because of the world in which we now live. Making that sort of submission does not reflect the reality of the environment we are living in today.

Whilst this bill is supported by the opposition, it only applies to designated zones around the Commonwealth Games. There are other threats on the Gold Coast. In particular, the re-emergence of criminal motorcycle gangs does present a threat to the security situation on the Gold Coast. While we support this bill, a government bill, it is very disappointing that in other bits of legislation the strong security laws that were put in place by the former government have been watered down. We are very disappointed that they have been watered down and the bikies will be allowed to re-emerge on the Gold Coast through those pieces of legislation. However, we support this bill. The bill will be supported by the opposition.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (4.26 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017. The fact that the Commonwealth Games will be spread over an area from the Gold Coast, through Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville will present a lot of unique challenges for those who are tasked with providing security, and of course that task primarily falls to the Queensland Police Service. As a former member of the Queensland Police Service, I have no hesitation today in saying that I have 100 per cent confidence in our Queensland

police officers to keep the athletes, the volunteers, the media personnel and the spectators safe throughout the duration of those games. Certainly we want to be known for all the right reasons and not the wrong reasons.

It is important we also understand that the national terrorism threat level remains at probable—not possible, but probable. The recent events in Manchester certainly reinforce the difficulties associated with keeping everyone safe and dealing with threats of terrorism, which can be very difficult to detect and prevent. It is important that as legislators and members of the parliament we give our police those extra powers, which they have asked for, and the resources that they need to do their job. They have asked for those additional powers. They have asked that we set up a new area—protective security zone—which will allow them to search persons, vehicles and premises and for those searches of persons to be conducted in a timely manner. Certainly under the present Major Events Act—and I have had a fair bit to do with that act—it is onerous to fill in enforcement registers. I can certainly vouch for the time that it takes, after searching someone, to have to go back to a police station or sit in a police vehicle and fill in that register. We should do anything we can to streamline that process. We also need to be cognisant that this is only for the duration of the games. It is a specific power that will enable our police officers to very quickly detain persons, to search persons, to search vehicles and to give directions if needed. It certainly supplements those powers in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000.

These powers are necessary. I certainly agree with the member for Beaudesert when he took issue with the Council for Civil Liberties' suggestion that the police would abuse these powers. All our police officers are going to be wearing cameras; they are going to be recording all conversations. Every interaction they have with every single person will be recorded, so the level of scrutiny that those officers will be under will be of a standard which will ensure that those powers are certainly not abused.

We want Queensland to shine. This is our opportunity in the world's spotlight and we certainly want to present a positive image to the rest of the world. I have no doubt that this event will be known as the best Commonwealth Games ever, and I have every confidence that our Police Service will keep everyone safe. I am pleased to support this legislation before the House today.

 **Mr WILLIAMS** (Pumicestone—ALP) (4.30 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017. As a member of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee, I thank Minister Ryan and Minister Jones for their exhaustive work in bringing this bill before the House. I would also like to thank Commissioner Ian Stewart and Assistant Commissioner Peter Crawford for appearing before the committee. They answered all of our questions. I also wish to thank the secretariat and Hansard for their extensive work.

The 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast will be the friendly games—Queensland's equivalent event to the 2000 Sydney Olympics and the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games. Queenslanders and Australians will have opportunity to access wonderful, spectacular sporting events. It is an amazing opportunity to showcase the Gold Coast and Queensland to the world, and I think the many ambassadors for our state—an army of 15,000 passionate volunteers—will help deliver a great friendly games.

Over 11 days of competition Queensland will host 6,500 elite athletes and team officials from 70 nations and territories. These athletes will participate in a variety of sports at a range of world-class venues at the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville before 1.5 million visitor spectators who will have the joy of witnessing these athletes. Over 3,000 media personnel will present the games to a global audience of 1.5 billion people, and therein lies the need for heightened security due to the risk of terrorism. The prime consideration in games planning must be safety and security. These will be the friendly games, and bearing that in mind we reflect on the terrorist attacks in Westminster and in Manchester yesterday. Before I continue, I should say that the thoughts of every member of this House and our community are with the family and friends of those 22 people who lost their lives. There are currently about 60 people who are still fighting for their lives. Our thoughts are with them.

The safety and security of people attending the games—the athletes, officials, international visitors, media and our local community—is paramount to us. Queensland police have worked in partnership with the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation, Goldoc, to ensure that the friendly games are as safe as possible. Make no mistake: our intelligence services are second to none. Four terrorist incidents have occurred and, due to increased information sharing, 12 potential terrorist incidents have been foiled. The Muslim community here works very closely with our intelligence

agencies to identify people who may be becoming radicalised. One media report this morning concerned the arrest of a 22-year-old girl in Adelaide who police believed had become radicalised. This is a reflection of the intelligence work between our agencies.

Goldoc has engaged a consortium of four Australian security companies which will deploy 4,000 security officers to ensure a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, providing a positive visitor experience. This is what the Palaszczuk Labor government will deliver. We will have 12,000 police on the ground in varying shifts plus 4,000 security guards to make the friendly games a truly memorable experience for all. For those who decide to cause problems, our courts have made arrangements to expeditiously process any offenders. Body cameras will be worn by about 4,500 police officers, and many more officers have their own devices. Based on reasonable suspicion, all officers will have the right to conduct frisk searches on persons entering security zones. We go to airports with the expectation of being searched, and anyone visiting a games venue or security zone does so with the expectation that they may be searched, for the good of the greater community.

Our police will have well-trained dogs to carry out searches for weapons and explosives; furthermore, best practice provisions are made for a vehicle potentially being used as a weapon. The police are well equipped for this event. Plainclothes officers well trained in behavioural characteristic recognition will mingle amongst the crowds. These are all measures that are designed to make these the safest games ever. These special powers will only be used for major international events. Some of these powers will remain after the games, but they will be determined by the Major Events Act 2014 and must be approved by the minister before being enacted.

This amendment bill, which has been put together by the Palaszczuk Labor government, will place our law enforcement agencies in a very good position when you consider that our national risk status is 'probable'. In closing, I would ask all Queenslanders to be prayerful; there are some things we cannot control. Let's have a fantastic friendly games. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (4.38 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017. I thank the members of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee for their comprehensive report No. 31. I thank the chair, Scott Stewart, the member for Townsville; Verity Barton, the member for Broadwater; all other members of the committee; and the secretariat who support them. Once again they have provided us with a comprehensive summary and assessment of this bill. As the shadow Commonwealth Games minister, it is a pleasure for me to speak to this bill.

Following on from the member for Pumicestone, can I say that it is nice to pray for a successful event, but I am very happy that we have extra police powers and responsibilities to ensure we have a safe event because Gold Coast locals are proud to play host to the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. We are excited to show off our world-class city to over 6,600 athletes and team officials, 3,000 media personnel, 1.5 million spectators and a global audience of 1.5 billion people.

For those of us who remember the 1982 Commonwealth Games—I was at university—this is going to be an event that dwarfs the 1982 games. Along with Expo in 1988, they were seen as changing how Brisbane was perceived. I think there were only a couple of thousand athletes at the 1982 games, but it was certainly a game-changer for Brisbane. I think the member for Pumicestone said that these games will be similar to Sydney and Melbourne, but I think that the 2000 Sydney Olympics really brought Sydney onto the world stage whereas, having attended the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, generally speaking it was really seen as just another event amongst all the events that Melbourne tends to do. I think that, as the Gold Coast is the first regional city in Australia to host the Commonwealth Games, it is really going to make a big difference to the city and our state.

I take this opportunity to thank the tourism and Commonwealth Games minister for the regular briefings I have been receiving from the chair and CEO of Goldoc. That has been very helpful. It is obvious that we on this side of the House have supported the games ever since former premier Bligh first proposed bidding for them. The games have certainly given a real fillip of confidence to the south-east region that is not necessarily being reflected in other parts of the state in terms of infrastructure provision. There is a real sense of economic success, buoyed with real estate success and development success, that has lifted us since the global financial crisis.

I know that for many within Goldoc and those who experienced the Glasgow Commonwealth Games there have been many learnings. We are looking forward to hosting the games, enjoying the 70 other Commonwealth countries who will come and following things like the Queen's Baton Relay, which has been travelling around Africa over the past couple of months. There is a real sense of excitement on the Gold Coast with just nine or 10 months to go.

I take this opportunity to thank the 47,000 people who have applied to fill 15,000 volunteer opportunities at the games and the 1.2 million people who have registered for tickets. There really has been an amazing outburst of enthusiasm from Gold Coasters and Queenslanders who, sometimes when there is an event that is up to a year away, often think, 'We will follow that much closer to the event.' That 1.2 million people have registered for tickets is a vote of confidence in the games. It will be a fantastic festival involving arts and culture as well as sporting activities. Gold Coasters are very excited about the games. I know that other members of the parliament share that excitement. It will be a fantastic time. I look forward to hearing about the progress of applications to be a baton bearer for the Queen's Baton Relay. Applications closed on Wednesday, 15 May 2017.

As mentioned on the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games website, the event is unprecedented in our city's history and is destined to define our future. The games will be the largest international sporting event in Australia this decade. Locals are excited to establish a legacy as a fun and safe family tourism destination. That is a very important part of this bill. There is nothing more important to me, as the member for Surfers Paradise and the shadow minister for the Commonwealth Games, than the safety of my constituents and visitors to our city. It is something that I speak about nearly every day, whether I am meeting with constituents or whether I am engaging in social media or standard, old style media. The views of the stakeholders who are mentioned in the committee report are best exemplified by the City of Gold Coast's submission, mentioned at page 4 of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee report. It states—

The City of Gold Coast submission strongly supported the objectives of the Bill to provide additional police powers to protect mass gatherings of people in public areas associated with the Games. The submission noted that the 'legacy benefit of the Games is the opportunity to host other large scale sports, events and festivals on the Gold Coast, and remain an international tourist destination'.

The CoGC agrees that the powers are a proportionate and considered response to meet the identified security need for the Games and achieve a balance between individual civil liberties and the protection of the community.

That has been an important issue, with all of the infrastructure that has been created. The City of the Gold Coast is aware that, with all of the extra facilities that have been provided—I might add that they were funded by the LNP, because we inherited a situation whereby the games had been committed to but there was no funding within the budget for the provision of the games—the LNP's commitment to keep Gold Coast residents and visitors safe does not start and end with the 2018 Commonwealth Games. That is why we brought in the tough anti bkie laws which removed the scourge of criminal gangs from our city. We gave our hardworking police officers the resources that we see spoken about in this bill—extra resources to keep our streets and homes safe. It is disappointing—we have mentioned it many times—that these initiatives have been wound back. We know that, whilst there will be a significant increase in the amount of resources given during the period of the games, other parts of the state are concerned about the diminution of resources that will happen when all of those police officers and security officers are at the Gold Coast.

We are seeing a resurgence of crime in our city. It is the last thing we want to see at the Gold Coast. We have had reports of outlaw motorcycle gangs being back in Broadbeach and Coolangatta, turf wars in Coomera, armed robberies by 12-year-olds and triple 0 calls going unanswered due to a lack of police officers, just to name a couple of incidents. On the eve of the games, we want to have a reputation as the best place—the safest and most secure place—to live, work, play and raise a family. The last thing we need is more publicity in the lead-up to the games that there may be any questions about those issues. The LNP will always stand up for Gold Coasters. We did it in the lead-up to 2012, when we finally became the government. Former police ministers, including Neil Roberts, and the then deputy premier, Paul Lucas, denied that there was any problem with law and order at the Gold Coast.

I see that this bill gives additional and proportionate powers to create safe and secure environments during this unique event. Other members have spoken about a number of recent terrorist attacks overseas. Many of these attacks occurred in public, open and highly populated spaces in order to cause maximum impact. I see that there is a survey going around as to whether we—those of us in the public looking at this issue—would support banning backpacks from public events. They are the sorts of issues that police and security have to consider in terms of the overall safety of people attending these events.

Yesterday we watched in horror as the events of that terror attack which claimed the lives of 22 people unfolded at the Ariana Grande concert in Manchester. My thoughts are also with the people of Manchester. These are gut-churning events, particularly at large gatherings such as that concert. They are a reminder of why security is always the No. 1 priority for locals, visitors and families in

Queensland—never more so than during the Commonwealth Games. The security planning is informed by the current general public national terrorism threat level, which sits at ‘probable’. The UK’s terror threat level has been raised to ‘critical’. I know that security and transport are two of the major issues at the Commonwealth Games.

LNP members do not oppose the bill. We note that the three recommendations made by the committee to improve the operation of the bill have been accepted, which we support. I thank the shadow police minister for his contribution. I note that all of the additional powers will expire at the end of the games except for the changes around enforcement registers, which can be used by police for other major events in Queensland in the future.

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (4.47 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017. The main objective of this bill is to provide additional powers to protect mass gatherings of people in public areas associated with the Commonwealth Games. Whilst these may be additional powers, they are proportionate to the potential threats that exist. The additional powers will expire at the end of the games with the exception of changes to enforcement registers, which can be used by police at future major Queensland events.

The committee report of this bill makes three recommendations. The first recommendation is that the bill be passed. Recommendation 2 notes the need for the location and boundary of a protective security zone to be published on a designated website under proposed section 619G and 619H of the bill. The Minister for the Commonwealth Games and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services are to ensure an integrated Commonwealth Games website keeps visitors, athletes, residents and the public informed. The Commonwealth Games website should provide all information in the main languages used in Commonwealth countries. The third recommendation outlines the need for this bill to have similar terms to section 98 of the G20 (Safety and Security) Act 2013 with regard to the commissioner ensuring the operation and effectiveness of the additional police powers in protective security zones.

As the member for Gaven, the home electorate of the main Commonwealth Games hub—namely, Metricon Stadium—and the surrounding sports precinct, I, like many of my fellow locals in Gaven, look forward to the many sporting, community and cultural events that the electorate will host during the Commonwealth Games in 2018. With over 6,500 athletes and officials as well as 3,000 media personnel, 15,000 volunteers and a global audience of 1.5 billion people, this will be a major international event and the perfect opportunity to showcase not only the Gold Coast but also Queensland to the world.

With the world watching these events, safety is of paramount concern to all involved, and I can assure this chamber that this is absolutely the case for local Gaven residents as well as those beyond the Gold Coast hub. The current legislation does not go far enough and, whilst it may protect those within the games precinct, it does nothing for those outside it. The existing legislation does not address any of the many possible security issues that may arise during the games. Many constituents in Gaven have approached me to voice their concerns and to question whether all is being done to keep us safe during the games, especially those communities that live within the immediate vicinity of Metricon Stadium.

I have met with the peak residential bodies in each of these community groups including Neighbourhood Watch Nerang 8 with Ron Thompson and his fellow residents at The Vistas in Carrara. This fantastic group of locals work together to ensure their community is a safe and friendly place to live, and they would certainly like that to continue during the games. Another group that I have had the pleasure of working with over the last three years is the Riverside Home Park residents’ association at Carrara. This over-50s residential community is situated immediately beside Metricon Stadium, so without a doubt this community has the potential to be most affected and should be the most concerned about the management and operation of security at the Commonwealth Games.

I want to recognise the fantastic work of Bev Anderson and Bob Sheppard from the park residents’ association who assisted me to organise a series of residents’ meetings to discuss not only the Commonwealth Games but also many other security and safety issues concerning residents at the park over the last few years. I have recently been advised that Bev Anderson has relinquished her position as chairperson of the residents’ association so she can concentrate on some personal health concerns. My thoughts and prayers are with Bev and her family during this time. I want to place on record my personal thanks to Bev for all of her hard work and effort for her community and also for her awesome hugs, which always made me feel so welcome each time I attended the Riverside Home Park.

It was a privilege to have the opportunity to address these and many other community groups in Gaven to discuss their concerns and answer any questions they had regarding the Commonwealth Games and their community. As I have previously spoken about in this chamber, these meetings would not have been successful without the involvement of Senior Sergeant Stephen Batterham and Acting Senior Sergeant Spiros Lentakis from the Queensland Police Service Commonwealth Games police liaison unit and also Senior Sergeant Ben Nielsen from the Queensland Police Service Gold Coast South East Region Helicopter Support Unit, which is situated right outside Metricon Stadium.

The ability of Stephen, Spiros and Ben to engage with local residents in Gaven was impeccable. The residents could clearly see firsthand the time, energy and resources that are being put in by the incredible men and women of our Police Service to make the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games safe for all Queenslanders and our visitors.

It is also important to take into consideration though the fact that the games security is informed by the current general public national terrorism threat level which, as we know, today is at probable. However, with recent international events that previous members have spoken about with regard to Manchester, it should also be front of mind that events that attract such a large number of people are a prime target for those individuals and groups that wish to cause maximum negative impact on our freedom and way of life. It is incredibly important that these games are not just successful but are safe as well. Our international reputation rests on it. The changes contained in this bill will strengthen the ability of our law enforcement to protect us during the Commonwealth Games so that after the games the only cost that will be considered will be in dollar terms and not a cost of life. This would be the greatest outcome for all involved. I support the bill.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (4.53 pm): Like every single member who has spoken on this bill today, I want to acknowledge the terrible tragedy that occurred in Manchester this week. It seems poignant that this week of all weeks we are debating such a bill which is aimed at giving police the power to guarantee our safety, because I think we all have that incident on our minds. It was almost impossible to look at the photos of the teenagers who were missing which their parents had posted on social media asking people if they had seen them. I think everybody in this House probably had a little cry at the thought of what those parents were going through and our hearts go out to them. There are a number of people living in my electorate who have families in Manchester who spent some very stressful hours just waiting to hear what had happened to them, and I acknowledge them.

I also want to acknowledge the police and emergency services workers who were involved in dealing with that tragedy. I do not imagine that involvement in such an event would ever go out of your head as well as the things that those workers have to put up with every single day, but on that day it must have been the most challenging day of their lives. In a situation that has now been labelled as critical by the British Prime Minister, those people know now that they have to be vigilant in every single situation and in situations that were innocuous to any of us five years ago.

We saw what an amazing job our police, Defence Force and emergency services personnel did at the G20 summit. I remember all of the discussion in the media and around the barbecues and in every single place about how amazing the security precautions were and at a level that we had never seen before or even heard of in little old Brisbane. We were all so impressed and proud with the way those personnel dealt with that situation and we were praised worldwide for the work they did. That was not so long ago of course and now that level of security is clearly not enough. It is not enough for world events. It is not enough for an event like the Commonwealth Games. It means that we have to do so much more to make sure that that event is safe.

With regard to my own local police at the mighty Morningside Police Station, I want to acknowledge the work that Senior Sergeant Barry Bullion and his whole team do there. I know how vigilant they are now about even our everyday community events such as Anzac Day services and just even driving up and down Oxford Street, which is the retail sector in my electorate. They are always on the alert and the conversations that they are having with me now are about possible terrorist attacks. They all have that training now and it is just a very different world for them.

That is why this bill is just so important. It is to protect all of us and it is to protect our police and ensure that they have every single resource at their disposal in order to look after themselves and us. The Commonwealth Games are absolutely critical to Queensland. They are critical to the countries of the Commonwealth. They are so important to everyone competing there. As Queenslanders we are all proud, and I am sure that every person in this House has put in their ticket requests and is anxiously waiting to see what will happen about that. The games also become quite symbolic in that in the midst

of the evil and hatred it is just so important that we make statements about positive things, about accomplishments, about reaching goals, about achieving and that we are not being cowed by the blackness that is the polar opposite of that.

I want to talk about this bill in terms of the search of persons, vehicles and premises powers that it will give police, and I guess it is because that is quite apposite this week. The bill provides police officers with additional powers in protective security zones, including the power to search persons, vehicles and premises and to use firearms and explosives detection dogs. The power to search a person includes the power to frisk search a person and inspect an article in the person's possession and it will allow police officers to quickly and immediately search a person in a protective security zone to ensure the safety of all persons within the zone. That does not mean that police will search every person in a protective security zone but will conduct targeted and ransom searches.

They will also have the power to stop, detain and search vehicles entering or in protective security zones and the bill provides police officers with the power to enter and search premises in a protective security zone without a warrant. I note that there were some concerns raised about civil liberties. I cannot remember who but it was one of the members opposite who expressed his opinions about that, and I have to concur in that in the current circumstances we are all just so keen to make sure that the police have every resource at their disposal to ensure that they can do the best job they possibly can. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.00 pm): On 14 February this year the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017 was introduced by the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services. The bill was initially referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, of which I am a member, but, I imagine, owing to the heavy workload of that committee the bill was referred to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee for consideration to be reported on by Friday, 28 April this year.

The objectives of the bill are very straightforward. It will provide additional police powers to protect mass gatherings of people in public areas associated with the games, other than prescribed major event areas, by allowing a new type of security area to be called a protective security zone. Also, the bill proposes to exempt searches of persons, vehicles and premises in protective security zones and searches of persons conducted under the Major Events Act 2014 from being enforcement acts for the purposes of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000.

In its briefing on the bill, the QPS advised the committee—

The Major Events Act is expected to apply to the games and will provide sufficient powers to provide a safe and secure environment within a prescribed games major event area. However, it does not address security requirements in other public areas associated with the games where people will gather in large numbers—for example, designated pedestrian routes to a venue and public transport hubs and networks. The Police Powers and Responsibilities Act also does not specifically address the unique security issues associated with the games in the current security environment.

The games present unique security challenges. They are spread over several consecutive days and involve multiple venues that attract large crowds inside and out. In the public briefing, the Queensland Police Service further advised—

The security challenge is compounded by the current global and national security environment.

The explanatory notes to the bill state that games security planning is informed by recent international terror events. The public national terrorism threat level remains at probable. The proposed additional police powers will be based on a new type of security area to be called a protective security zone.

The bill also exempts police officers from the obligation to record the details of searches in a protective security zone in a register and continues that exemption for searches conducted in a major event area under the Major Events Act after the games. Concerns were raised in submissions and at the committee's public hearing about the removal of the obligation to record searches undertaken in a protective security zone in an enforcement register. Submissions from the Queensland Law Society and the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties raised the apprehension about the additional powers. The QLS also recognised the unique security challenges that such an event attracted and that extra measures may be necessary to ensure safety. In order to operate successfully, the completion of enforcement registers will be exempted, as they become unfeasible in protective security zones when officers cannot execute large numbers of searches in such a short time frame. However, should a weapon or explosive be discovered during a search, that would be recorded.

As the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games draws nigh, the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017 is an essential step as it adds additional powers to a suite of bills that it has been necessary to introduce in order to provide safety in hosting an event of this scale. I note the concerns of the Council for Civil Liberties that the bill goes too far in restricting fundamental rights and liberties of the citizens of, and international visitors to, Queensland. Although I have the utmost respect for an individual's human rights and liberties, I have an even deeper respect for the protection and preservation of human life. As my father used to say, it is better to be sure than sorry.

When I introduced the Major Events Bill in October 2014, I had not long been back from the Glasgow games, where I witnessed intense security measures on a massive scale. On some days I would have three changes of clothes for functions. I can tell honourable members that police and security guards checked me very thoroughly each time I came and went from my hotel. It was a common practice to exchange commemorative pins, so I went through a lot of them as I passed through security with new staff shifts.

The Major Events Bill provided a generic framework for use at major events in Queensland—events of national or international significance, mega-events such as the Commonwealth Games. The legislation was activated depending on factors, such as event size, the number of spectators, the duration and economic benefit. At the time, the powers for authorised persons who would assist police in duties such as bag checks created a discussion. It is unsurprising that extra police powers, contained within the provisions in this bill, have also attracted comment.

Quite rightly, the explanatory notes illuminate the very real threat of a terrorist activity. The fact that the public national terrorism threat level remains at probable should be a reminder to us all to remain vigilant. In recent weeks, hardly a day has gone by without a chilling attack on innocent people in countries mostly located in the Northern Hemisphere. In London and France, police were the targets. We watched in horror as we saw people being run down by a motor vehicle in a place as familiar as the Westminster houses of parliament before a policeman was stabbed to death in front of terrified and confused onlookers. In Paris, the iconic Champs-Élysées was targeted. On Australian soil, in Parramatta a teenager shot dead Curtis Cheng outside police headquarters. Fifteen-year-old Farhad Jabar was captured on CCTV footage giving the IS salute as he left a mosque on his way to the police station. Of course, this week there was the shocking terrorist attack in Manchester. May I add my sincere condolences to all who have been affected by this tragic event.

Is it any wonder that our police want extra powers—powers that will not only protect us and the thousands of visitors who will flock to the Gold Coast and Queensland but also powers that give them a sense of protection in what is increasingly a dangerous and deadly job. Let us face it: our reputation is at stake. As a very proud Gold Coaster, I want us to shine brilliantly as we host these fantastic games. I want them to be remembered as the best yet, so I truly hope that members opposite will not twist my comments into something they are not.

One of the major tasks will be transporting athletes, visitors and ticket holders to events. Our transport woes are real. Congestion on the M1 and across the Gold Coast looms as a real risk to timely delivery and access to the games. Already, traffic comes to a standstill regularly on the north and southbound lanes of the M1—not just at peak times, but at any time. What is Labor's solution? To tell the locals not to drive on it. They will need to do a whole lot better than that.

I have been very keen to assist with information relating to my electorate of Currumbin, where a number of events are being held, but I have found the consultation process very light on and have now been told that all inquiries have to go to the minister. I offered to keep residents informed through newsletters and social media, but it seems that that is not wanted. That is why, on behalf of the residents and small businesses of Currumbin, I have asked the minister a question on notice. Although there is considerable excitement—and it is growing—there is also a degree of trepidation as to the impacts on the hundreds of local small businesses that line Currumbin Creek Road and the residents of Galleon Way and Guineas Creek Road. They want to know what restrictions they will have placed on their trading hours and how they will get out and about their neighbourhoods. There are also security concerns—as to be expected. One year, the night before the Tour de Valley cycling race into Currumbin Valley some low-lives decided to scatter tacks along the road that could cause punctures and serious injury to cyclists.

The Commonwealth Games are known as the friendly games. Of course, they are still competitive, but they are friendly. Playing political games is frowned upon. It is a pity that ministers in the Palaszczuk government are deliberately shunning local MPs by not inviting them to events in their

own electorates. I do not know if this is a directive of Peter Beattie, the Premier, or the minister for the games, but it is just not cricket. The Premier cries foul when the Prime Minister does not tell her when he is coming to Queensland. That is exactly what she and her ministers are doing to LNP MPs on a regular basis. I reject outright any suggestion that I spiked the volleyball, as former games minister Hinchliffe decried. The LNP put in a request to the Commonwealth Games Foundation to include volleyball and the recommendation that came back from the games federation was, 'No.'

I am very proud of the hard work put in by my colleagues in the former LNP government to secure games venues and the athletes village and our plans for them to be completed 12 months ahead of the games. The legacy from these venues alone is a huge bonus. Recently, I was watching a clip of the closing ceremony in Glasgow, where Tom Tate and I invited the world to come to visit us in 2018. We have been given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to put on the best show in the world. I have every faith that Queensland will put on a fantastic games and I will do all I can to make sure that happens.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (5.08 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the bill before the House. I want to start by putting on record my congratulations to the former LNP minister for the Commonwealth Games, the member for Currumbin, Jann Stuckey. Staging these games is always a difficult and onerous task and working through the myriad requirements, both here and overseas, is difficult and time consuming. The member for Currumbin did a wonderful job and we are now going to see in April of next year the outcome of that hard labour. In addition to that, the ALP minister for the Commonwealth Games has worked very hard in conjunction with the various departments and officials across this nation and the globe. Collectively we have done an excellent job to put in place a games that will provide a venue and an outlet for excellent outcomes.

Sadly, the events in Manchester are the latest tragic reminder of the global reach of terrorism, a movement that exists for the sole purpose of death and subjugation with, at its base, a twisted and evil interpretation of religion that must be routed from this planet. It is also that reality that highlights that gatherings such as the Commonwealth Games must be protected and elaborate security measures are, in fact, essential.

I note on the news.com website there is a report of an event on the *Sunrise* program this morning where it is stated that Isis posters are available for a few dollars across shops in Melbourne. One of those posters is held by one of the men on the show. It worries me that posters of that nature are readily available in this nation given what they symbolise and given the terror that they have brought to people in the Middle East and what they have exported across the globe, highlighted most recently by the tragedy in Manchester. I indicate my abhorrence of that organisation and believe all governments should move to ban such posters being readily available because what they simply do is put into the hearts and minds of young people a glorification of an organisation that is there to glorify death.

There are those who would argue the Commonwealth Games are becoming of less relevance, but to me the Commonwealth Games is more than competition, it is the meeting of cultures, ideas and aspirations in a friendly environment that brings out the best, not just in the athletes, but in the country in which it is held. It is clearly an opportunity, in this case for the Gold Coast and Queensland, to showcase the best of the state and to enhance our international reputation. However, we know from hard reality that protection of people and athletes who attend an event of this nature is paramount.

I can vividly recall the Olympic Games in Munich in 1972 when terrorists broke into the Olympic Village leading to the death of 11 Israelis. I can recall the picture of the terrorist wearing a balaclava on the balcony that became a worldwide symbol of what that man did to those people. I can recall the convoy that went from the games centre to the airfield in Munich. I can also recall seeing the gun battle that took place at that airfield and the 11 men and women who died. The games in Munich, as the games always are, was a major event, but that had a special significance because it was the first time the games had been held in Germany since the end of World War II and it highlights the vulnerability of games of this nature to terrorism across the globe.

Of course no-one wants to see that event replicated here, let alone on the Gold Coast, but the reality is that vigilance must always be uppermost in the minds of those who are charged with running and controlling the games. In this case it is the current government in Queensland, but it is this chamber that has a legal obligation to put in place the protections required to ensure that those who are competing are safe and those who watch do so in a safe environment.

The bill proposes to provide police officers with additional powers to search a person; stop, detain and search vehicles entering or in a protective security zone; enter and search premises, excluding housing premises, without warrant; use a firearms and explosives detection dog to search public places

and premises that are not residences; and give a general direction to a person entering or in a public place to ensure the safety of persons entering or in the potential security zone. The bill also exempts police officers from certain obligations.

I note the first recommendation of the committee that the bill be passed. The bill also prescribes the creation of protective security zones by regulation and allows urgent declarations by the Commissioner of Police with the approval of the minister if the safety and security of people is at immediate risk. When we consider that over 6,000 athletes and officials will be at the Gold Coast, Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane and there will be 3,000 media personnel, we understand the significance and the need for security. We will have 15,000 volunteers. It is important to understand that the 15,000 in many ways will make or break the games. They will be the face that many people meet at the ticket selling stands, at the concession stands and inside the grounds. They are the people who will donate their time over many days to ensuring the games run smoothly. I can guarantee, based upon past events, that these volunteers will have a ready smile and cheer and also offer the best hospitality the Gold Coast can offer by way of a genial 'hello' and 'how are you?'

There are 1.5 million spectators expected to attend the Gold Coast. That is an amazing number of men and women who will spend money on the Gold Coast and, indeed, right across this state once the games are concluded. An audience of 1.5 billion people across the globe will be watching the games on a daily basis. This is why security is so important. It is not just the protection of the people who compete, it is the protection of the nation they are competing in and the protection of the ethos of the games itself that is so critical. These games will move on and we want to ensure that we gave the best measure when we were called upon.

Issues of national security have become more and more acute in recent times. The police powers here are balanced with the need for security. The games are an expression of the spirit of the Commonwealth and the powers are based upon the current necessity to provide protection against the recent history of violence with no regard for human life.

I would like to put in a plug for Mr Alan O'Callaghan, a man known as the mayor of Mooloolah. Alan spends much of his time at the Mooloolah Community Centre in his role as president. Alan has been nominated as a Commonwealth Games baton bearer. There will be almost 4,000 baton bearers in Australia whilst the baton is carried across this nation. Alan was born with cerebral palsy and confined to a wheelchair after an accident in 1981. He has fought for disability rights, he has travelled to schools in his wheelchair speaking to students and attended demonstrations for disabled persons while passionately lobbying for the right to live independently and for access to transport services and employment. Martin Luther King once made the comment, 'If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.' Alan O'Callaghan is a man who has done exactly that. We may call him a man who is disabled; he calls himself a man in his natural state, a man who can do anything and will do anything to further the desires and needs of those who are disabled. He is a man, a champion and a worthy baton bearer for the Commonwealth Games. I support the bill.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (5.18 pm): I rise to support the bill before the House and to reiterate and join those speakers in the debate who have expressed their deep condolences to the people and particularly the families who have been affected by the horrific attack that we saw in Manchester in the United Kingdom earlier this week. When we see the attack occurred in an arena that was one of the venues for the 2002 Commonwealth Games hosted in Manchester, it reminds us how important security is in the context of this massive and very special event that the Gold Coast, Queensland and Australia will have the great honour of hosting in April of next year. I pause to extend and reiterate my condolences to our great friends in the United Kingdom who have been affected by this terrible crime against humanity and, in many ways, against the exuberance of youth.

I want to highlight what a great role the United Kingdom plays, alongside nations like Australia, in being beacons of pluralism that support the broad opportunities for a range of people to express themselves, to be their best and to be part of a society that is tolerant and accepting of a range of people. That is what the enemies of pluralism despise the most.

The Commonwealth Games is an expression of pluralism as it brings together the peoples of 70 different nations and territories who are tied by the common bond of being members of the Commonwealth of nations and also the common bond of a commitment to and love for striving for excellence through sport. As we have heard from a number of speakers today, the games will bring together some 6,000 athletes and officials from 70 different nations and territories; 15,000 volunteers

who will make this wonderful event so very special and a great experience that people will take away with them; and 1.5 million spectators who will have an opportunity to be a part of it. I note and acknowledge the news from earlier this week that there have been 1.2 billion bids for tickets. I have put in a few of those bids. I am very keen and look forward to the opportunity to enjoy a whole range of the fantastic events that will be a part of the 2018 Commonwealth Games. In particular, I hope to get tickets to the men's and women's basketball finals to be held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre at Broadbeach. I look forward to seeing how that bid will turn out for me.

In addition to the 1.5 million spectators who will enjoy the games firsthand, the global television audience of 1.5 billion people will enjoy this tremendous event, which, as I say, is indeed a celebration of the diversity of the Commonwealth, as well as a celebration of tolerance and acceptance. People will come together to celebrate sport and culture, as well as the values that the people of the Commonwealth share, including a commitment to democracy and a respect for the rights of others and the principle of freedom of religion. All of those things need to be a fundamental part of what we do. However, with a global event such as this, we need a balance between pluralism and the security that all of the people visiting and taking part in the event need to enjoy and should be assured of enjoying, which is why it so important that we support the bill before the House.

The Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill provides an opportunity to get the balance right by supporting our security services and, most particularly, the Queensland Police Service. In the time that I had the honour of being the Commonwealth Games minister, I really appreciated the great work that the Queensland Police Service was doing. I very much appreciated the fantastic briefings I received regularly from Assistant Commissioner Peter Crawford and his whole team. They are doing a fantastic job that will support this tremendous event, which is the biggest sporting event that we have seen in Australia this decade. That does not come purely from their good efforts, their smart work, their research and their commitment to learning from the experiences of previous major events, both here in Australia and overseas. It also comes from the support that we can provide to security services through the amendments that are before us this afternoon. We all need to support the event, as I hope members have done, by putting in bids for tickets to events—

Mrs Frecklington: Yes, gymnastics.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Clearly the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is a great fan of gymnastics. Hopefully, she will be at the Coomera Indoor Sports Centre enjoying the gymnastic events. I trust she has put in a bid for tickets, as that would be an exciting thing for her to do and, as I say, for each and every one of us to do. We can support the games not just by purchasing tickets; by supporting this legislation, we can ensure that we have a framework that gets the balance right and that allows for the relaxation of some provisions, such as in relation to spot searches. In that way, we can ensure that the games events will be very safe and secure for all people to enjoy in April next year.

I know that our great Queensland Police Service will respect and have great regard for the responsibilities and powers they will be provided through this amendment. I acknowledge and respect the concerns that civil libertarians have raised about how those powers could be and may be misused. As a parliament and as a government, we must very carefully watch how those powers are used in next year's Commonwealth Games and reflect upon that in any further amendments to legislation that maybe undertaken, so that we can be a great venue for and facilitator of global events.

As I have said on a number of occasions in other contexts, the 2018 Commonwealth Games will provide a wonderful opportunity for the Gold Coast and other host cities such as Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane to showcase themselves to the world as potential hosts of major global events. I hope this is the beginning of a long story of attracting great global events to the City of Gold Coast and other host cities. I commend the bill to the House. I encourage everyone to share the dream and be a part of the 2018 Commonwealth Games. I urge people to be a part of the celebration. In the face of threats of global terror, the most important thing we can do to reject those threats is to celebrate our way of life and the pluralism that Australia and other Commonwealth nations have been very much a part of for many generations.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (5.26 pm), in reply: I thank all members of the House for their contributions to the debate on this bill. The Commonwealth Games represents a great opportunity for Queensland to promote our state and our way of life to the world. It will bring many benefits, both directly and indirectly, to our communities. The debate held in this House reflects the level of interest in the

Commonwealth Games and, as a consequence, the level of public interest in this bill. I note that this bill has not been opposed and appears to have bipartisan support. However, I take this opportunity to address matters raised by some members of the House in respect of the bill during this debate.

In relation to the query about the language to be used for the official Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018 website, I refer the House to the government's response. The official Gold Coast Commonwealth Games 2018 website will be in English. However, the state's Embracing 2018 website will be available in other languages, including Arabic, Chinese and Japanese. I am satisfied that online translation tools will allow non-English speakers to navigate and understand the contents of those websites and to understand where protective security zones, once they are prescribed, will be located. I note that the boundaries of those protective security zones will be electronically published as maps, which of course will speak for themselves as visual representations.

In relation to other comments about resourcing implications for the Queensland Police Service, the Commonwealth Games Group has planned for this contingency. It is recognised that the Queensland Police Service must meet the challenge of maintaining its normal calls for service throughout all of Queensland during the period that the Commonwealth Games is held. To assist in meeting this challenge, a leave restriction will apply over that period and there will be a short suspension of training to ensure that an appropriate level of resourcing will be maintained.

I also note that a number of members questioned whether the powers in the bill will extend to other public places outside the protective security zones. Protective security zones are, by their very nature, public places defined under the regulations or, in emergency situations, declared by the Commissioner of Police. Should those zones need to be extended to other public places, there is a process to do so either by the regulation or by emergency declaration by the Commissioner of Police. I also note that the police will continue to have powers to make a public safety preservation order where relevant in respect of any emergent issue.

Over an 11-day period next April we will be focused on a sporting extravaganza at multiple locations throughout our state. We will be privileged to witness elite athletes competing at the highest level in their chosen sport. When our attention is not focused on these events, we can participate in the cultural activities that will be associated with the Commonwealth Games.

With all this action going on, we must not forget the work that is happening behind the scenes for the Commonwealth Games to run successfully. An army of people, many of them volunteers, will be working to ensure that we can all enjoy the Commonwealth Games. In many cases, while these people are doing their jobs, they will fade into the background and we will not notice them. It is important to recognise their efforts. I take this opportunity now to thank them in advance for their contribution to the Commonwealth Games and their service to the people of Queensland.

Ultimately, one measure of success of these games will be whether we have established a safe and secure platform for this event to take place. In particular, I wish to acknowledge all the hard work and dedication of the Queensland Police Service and all those other personnel working hard to ensure that this will occur.

I recognise that a mountain of work has already been done to get us to this stage and I know that there is still much to do. However, this is an appropriate moment to thank the members of the Queensland Police Service on behalf of all Queenslanders for their efforts and wish them all the best in their endeavours in the future.

This bill will provide police officers with the powers they need to create a safe environment within protective security zones. This is crucial in ensuring that our police officers can meet the challenges they face in the current security environment. I am confident that our police officers can meet this challenge. The Queensland Police Service has a proven track record in meeting the security needs for major events as evidenced through their professionalism and diligence during the recent G20 Leaders Summit. This government recognises the difficult job that we ask our police officers to perform. We will do all we can to support them by providing them with the powers, the tools and the resources they need to do their job. 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 4, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Mr RYAN (5.32 pm): I move the following amendment—

1

After clause 4

Page 15, after line 5—

insert—

4A Replacement of s 808 (Review of motorbike noise provisions)

Section 808—

omit, insert—

808 Review of additional powers for Commonwealth Games

(1) The commissioner must ensure the operation and effectiveness of chapter 19A is reviewed.

(2) The commissioner must give a report of the outcome of the review to the Minister by 22 March 2019.

(3) As soon as practicable after receiving the report, the Minister must table a copy of the report in the Legislative Assembly.

(4) This section expires on 22 April 2019.

(5) In this section—

chapter 19A means chapter 19A as in force from time to time before its expiry on 22 April 2018.

I table the explanatory notes to the amendment.

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes to Hon Mark Ryan's amendments [803].

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 5, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (5.33 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. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (5.33 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Suspension of Sessional Orders



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.33 pm), by leave: I move—

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

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Vehicle Registration

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.34 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk government to adopt the LNP's fair rego pledge in the 2017-18 budget.

We often hear those on the other side of this chamber wax lyrical about how they stand up for the Aussie battler, how they stand up for hardworking Queensland families, that they know better than anyone else what it is to suffer under cost-of-living rises.

Mrs Frecklington: Who, them?

Mr POWELL: I take the interjection from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Yes, the members of the Labor Party claim that they stand up for the Aussie battler when it comes to the cost of living. We all know that that is completely and utterly false. The cost of living continues to rise in the state of Queensland, whether it is electricity bills, water bills, insurance premiums—I appreciate the government's ability to influence many of them is limited. There are certain elements of cost-of-living increases where the government can intervene very simply, quickly and easily to save Queensland's hardworking families their precious dollars.

One bill that many of Queensland's hardworking families will be receiving in the mail shortly is their vehicle registration. It will look something like this one and will read, 'Hardworking families of Queensland your registration is overdue.' The reference is Labor's broken promise and the reason is that in 2015 we saw the first strike, 2016 the second strike and unless action is taken tonight and in the budget in a couple of weeks there will be a third strike in Labor's box.

Year on year on year there have been 3½ per cent increases. That is double the consumer price index rise. That is a slug to the back pocket of each and every taxpaying Queenslanders who has to operate a vehicle. What does 3½ per cent equate to? For a four cylinder car that equates to \$55.40 over the last two years. They will whack on another 3½ per cent after the budget this year. That is 3½ per cent year on year on year.

Those opposite claim to be the ones who care about the Aussie battler—hardworking Queensland families.

Ms Davis: It is all talk.

Mr POWELL: It is all talk. I take the interjection from the member for Aspley. The LNP quietly goes about delivering for these families. When in government what did we deliver? There were zero increases—not even CPI increases, but zero increases. We froze the registration of a family vehicle for the three years the LNP was in government.

If we could do it those opposite can do it. In fact, we are not even asking them to freeze it in this year's budget. We are simply asking them to be fair and to peg those increases to CPI. If those opposite do not have the gumption to stand up to the Treasurer, who appears to be speaking in this debate tonight, and say, 'Please, Treasurer, we cannot do this to the people of Queensland again. Please do not pass on that 3½ per cent increase,' then maybe those members opposite might want to assist us in petitioning the government and the Treasurer to drive down this unnecessary cost-of-living increase.

For the benefit of those opposite, let me give them a website they can go to to register their own angst and frustration at what their Treasurer and their cabinet is doing to each and every one of their constituents in this state who drives a vehicle. Go to www.fairerreg.com.au and tell this Treasurer, this cabinet, this Premier that enough is enough. These 3½ per cent increases year on year on year—

Mrs Frecklington: Shame.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection. It is outrageous. It is a shame. They should know better. They say they know better. It is time to start putting their words into action.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (5.39 pm): I am not surprised to hear the LNP talking about adopting a pledge. Let us all be clear: we have heard this before. Those opposite may want to forget it, but we remember the 'Contract with Queensland'. I table a copy of that for the House.

Tabled paper: Contract with Queensland by Mr Campbell Newman, LNP Leader [\[804\]](#).

I will be talking very much about pledges because that is exactly what the LNP are claiming they will deliver on. What we know is that this document says, 'Keep this contract so you can hold us to account.' That was one of my favourite lines. We all know what voters did in the 2015 election. They did just that. Their 'contract' was full of pledges. By the last election, voters knew that the LNP just tears them up when it suits them.

Let us look at what the pledge from the LNP is worth. The LNP's No. 1 pledge in their contract with Queensland was to reduce unemployment to four per cent over six years. What actually happened? They inherited a trend unemployment rate of 5.5 per cent. It hit a high of 6.7 per cent under the LNP for four months, and they left it behind at 6.6 per cent. What happened to their pledge in their contract to reduce unemployment to four per cent? It was all too much hard work for the then treasurer, who dismissed it as 'a stretch target'. He just gave up. Instead of putting in place programs like our Back to Work program and many other job-creating programs, he did not even bother trying—too lazy, no ideas, not interested.

On the other hand, we have created a net average 2,190 jobs a month where the LNP created just 830 a month. Remember they pledged no government worker had anything to fear from an LNP government. The first thing they did—

Mrs Frecklington: What about registration?

Mr PITT: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango, because what she is trying to do is deflect from the fact that this is all about the core issue of a pledge. This is about a promise. There is no point talking about a pledge when that pledge is not worth the paper it is written on.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Deputy Leader, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr PITT: Madam Deputy Speaker, I took the member's interjection. I was certainly replying to her. I am happy to repeat that. A pledge is only worth the paper it is written on. When it comes to the LNP we know that a pledge is not worth the paper it is written on. They pledged no government worker had anything to fear from an LNP government. The first thing they did was break the pledge and sack 14,000 people in their first budget. They pledged to extend the payroll tax exemption from \$1 million to \$1.6 million each year over six years. They stopped after year one. That was another pledge made and then broken.

Let us keep going through the pledges in their 'contract'. Another pledge was that the LNP would establish a Commission of Audit to get us back to a AAA credit rating. Is it too late to get our money back? First they chose a Liberal Party life member and the advocate and architect of the Howard government's assets sales, Peter Costello, to head up the so-called independent commission. Surprise, surprise—the commission recommended assets sales plus mass job cuts and cuts to front-line services. The only thing that the Commission of Audit delivered was a negative outlook applied to the state's credit rating after the 2012 state budget. It took a Labor government to get us back to a stable outlook. Our economic plan has seen that happen.

The next LNP pledge was to return the budget to surplus by 2014-15 and lower debt. Debt was higher by the end of their term and the budget was nowhere near surplus. Under Labor, debt is lower, our unemployment rate is down and growth is up. I have delivered two budgets in surplus, even before a spike in coal royalty prices, and I aim to do it again in the next state budget.

We also remember the cost-of-living pledge in their 'contract'. What really happened? There was a 43 per cent price rise in electricity bills, after promising everyone would save \$120 a year on their electricity bills. We have taken action. We have kept prices to a minimum 1.2 per cent per annum, below inflation, since we came to government.

The LNP 'contract' pledged to revitalise front-line services. They took an odd approach to that—sacking front-line workers and cutting services. They pledged to 'restore accountability'. They lifted the trigger point for declaring political donations from \$1,000 to \$12,400. Remember they changed the budget estimates process to have as many hearings at once just to make it difficult for the media and public to scrutinise them.

Yes, this is all about a pledge, but it is also about the indexation rate and it is also about car registration. Guess what was in the 2014 midyear fiscal review? There was a 3.5 per cent indexation policy across the forward estimates including car registration. What does that mean? That means that we are talking about an indexation of 3.5 per cent which is an LNP policy! They are trying to change history and change their own indexation rate and are asking us to do it for them. We said that we would

adopt their policies because they built them into the forward estimates. It is the second or third time we have had this debate. They are complete political opportunists. No-one can trust a pledge the LNP put forward because it is not worth the paper that it is written on.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.44 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Glass House, but first I believe I should correct the record. The Treasurer did take my interjection and I thank him for that, but when I was interjecting—and this is for *Hansard*—I was actually screaming about the 40 per cent—

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Yes, you can laugh. I was screaming about it because it was about the 40 per cent youth unemployment rate in the outback. I actually got that figure wrong. The shadow Treasurer rightly corrected me because, as of today, youth unemployment in the outback sits at 48 per cent—48 per cent. Yet the Treasurer of Queensland—

Mr Pitt interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Treasurer, the deputy leader deserves to be heard.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Whilst I am talking about those figures, youth unemployment in Townsville sits at 21.8 per cent.

I rise to speak in support the motion moved by the member for Glass House because we all know that families are hurting. We all know, as we get about Queensland, that they cannot trust this Labor government. Again, mums and dads are going to get their registration papers and what will they see? They will see another increase. They have had an increase in year 1 of Labor, an increase in year 2 of Labor and now they are going to cop another 3.5 per cent increase in their registration. That is their record. If we go back to the former Labor government under Beattie and Bligh, when the current Premier was the transport minister and the Treasurer, the education minister and the health minister were in cabinet, what did they do with registration then? They increased it by 30 per cent over four years. This government's record is a 3.5 per cent increase but when we look back to previous Labor governments we see increase upon increase upon increase because this is all Labor governments know what to do.

When they went to the last election they said they were not going to increase taxes, fees or charges. What have those opposite done? In the last two budgets they have increased registration by 3.5 per cent. They have increased taxes, fees and charges by 3.5 per cent. They have also brought in a tax—the foreign investor tax. Let us not forget that—this from a Treasurer who went to the election saying he would not increase any taxes, fees or charges. They have increased registration year on year on year because that is all Labor know what to do. They do not know how to manage the economy except for hitting the hip pockets of mums and dads. When we were in government we froze registration.

A government member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am pretty sure we were not accused of that. We froze car registration. We did not even increase it by CPI. Instead, this Treasurer and an incompetent ministry have increased registration by twice the CPI—3.5 per cent when CPI only sits at around 1.8 per cent. We have made a pledge. The shadow transport minister talked about it. I encourage everyone in the chamber and all of your constituents to go to www.fairerrego.com.au and make your complaint against this lazy Palaszczuk government for increasing our taxes, fees and charges by 3.5 per cent year on year.

Who knows what other fees and charges are going to come in this budget? We have already seen the money grab from this Labor government over car registration year in, year out. They have no understanding that mums and dads are out there hurting. They have no idea they have just cruelled a \$16 billion project. They have absolutely cruelled regional Queensland by their incompetence this week, with the left leaking against the right and the right leaking against the left. Then I think we had the leader of the left leaking again against the right just today. Who knows what is going to happen tomorrow.

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is complete chaos. I take that interjection. Regional Queenslanders would understand if money was being spent on their roads, but this government is just ripping the guts out of rural and regional Queensland, and it has to stop.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (5.49 pm): This is a government committed to roads in Queensland. Our record is very clear. We had two record QTRIPs in the first two budgets of the Palaszczuk government. Compare that to the record of the opposition. The LNP ratted on regional

roads when they were in government. They cut \$600 million from roads—\$200 million every year under the member for Clayfield's treasurership. They ratted on regional roads. The mayors were lined up at our early meetings of local government in this term complaining about how badly local governments were treated by the Newman government and by Tim Nicholls when treasurer. How dare they come in here and talk about roads when their record is so bad!

The member for Indooroopilly was spending \$30 million of taxpayer funds not on roads but on secretly preparing branches of Transport and Main Roads for outsourcing and privatisation. That is what their policy was—cuts. That is the only LNP policy we will ever get—cuts, cuts and more cuts. That is exactly what they will do to the roads budget in this state if they get another chance. The whole premise of this motion is code for cuts. That is what they stand for. That is what the member for Clayfield and the member for Indooroopilly will do if they ever get the chance again. Look at the record of the Palaszczuk government. Did the LNP fund any upgrades on the M1?

Government members: No.

Mr BAILEY: No. Did they fund any upgrades to the Ipswich Motorway?

Government members: No.

Mr BAILEY: No. Did they do the Gregory Developmental Road?

Government members: No.

Mr BAILEY: No. Did they do the Cape River Bridge?

Government members: No.

Mr BAILEY: Did they do anything for western roads specifically?

Government members: No.

Mr BAILEY: No. Did they cut TIDS funding? Yes, they did. Compare that to our policy on the Urraween intersection. The member for Maryborough has got that going after three years of inaction by the LNP. I just had a meeting with mayors from the Wide Bay-Burnett region and they complimented me and this government on getting the bridge done at Monto-Mount Perry Road. If we want roads, we have to pay for them. We cannot pay for them with this magic pudding policy from the LNP. They are trying to re-establish their credentials on cost of living after 43 per cent electricity prices and after putting up public transport fares 7½ per cent virtually every year. They do not remind us about that; that is for sure. Queenslanders remember what they were like when it comes to cost of living. They remember it all too well.

What are we talking about here? We are talking about a dollar a month to get a much bigger road program right across Queensland to make up for three years of cuts by Tim Nicholls and Scott Emerson. That is what this motion is about. It is that time of the year when they come up with the same old motion, the same old policy, misrepresenting, firstly, what our election commitment was. Our election commitment was that we would not introduce new taxes beyond those already in the budget settings. Where was the 3½ per cent in terms of the Queensland government budget papers? It was in the Newman government's last budget.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Treasurer, if you would like to have a conversation across the chamber you might like to take it outside rather than stopping your colleague from being heard. The minister has the call.

Mr BAILEY: Where did it first appear in Queensland government documents? It appeared in the last budget and the last midyear economic statement by the member for Clayfield. It is an LNP policy which they would like to forget. They are trying to forget. They are trying to push on and mislead people, but it is there in black and white. On table 18 of page 25 of the LNP's last midyear economic review from the then treasurer, the current member for Clayfield, it is in the foreword. It is also in the foreword of his last budget. That is where this came from. This is a magic pudding policy from the LNP. They say they are for infrastructure but they will not tell us how they will fund it. We know what their policy will be: cuts, cuts and more cuts. That is the only way they have of going about this. That is how they will go about it. They will do it again. They cannot be trusted.

(Time expired)

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (5.55 pm): It is a real pleasure to get up tonight because I follow possibly the most incompetent ministers we have seen in Treasury and Main Roads in the last 50 years. As I listened to both of them I wondered where should I begin. Let me go with the main roads minister to begin with. The main roads minister was at pains to point out the roads funding under the

LNP. Let us have a look at a statement which he put out this week, on Tuesday, titled 'Palaszczuk Government's record clear on job-creating roads infrastructure across Qld'. This is from the main roads minister who has accused the LNP of cutting projects and not funding projects at the same time that we froze family car registration charges. As he goes through this press release, let us have a look at the projects he likes to highlight—

Some significant road projects over the past two budgets include ...

What does he start off with?

- \$1.6 billion Toowoomba Second Range Crossing.

This is the first project. He is claiming credit for this.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mr EMERSON: Here we go—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Member for Indooroopilly!

Mr Watts interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Toowoomba North, I am trying to call order. You are warned under standing order 253A. Minister, you have a point of order?

Mr BAILEY: I do. The member for Indooroopilly is misleading the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! That is not a point of order, Minister.

Mr BAILEY: The first example was not that, in fact. He is trying to mislead the House once again—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! That is not a point of order. There are remedies that you are aware of. The member for Indooroopilly has the call.

Mr EMERSON: He is very sensitive, isn't he, Madam Deputy Speaker? What is extraordinary is that he does not even know his own press release. That is how bad it is. I will begin reading it again—

Some significant road projects over the past two budgets include:

- \$1.6 billion Toowoomba Second Range Crossing.

Just remind me: who did that project?

Opposition members: LNP.

Mr EMERSON: LNP. Let us go to the second one—\$1.14 billion for the widening of the Gateway Motorway north. Who did that project?

Opposition members: LNP.

Mr EMERSON: LNP. That is two out of two so far. Do not forget this is the minister's press release. The LNP was able to freeze car registration but still deliver all this infrastructure. The third one—\$384 million Cooroy to Curra section C realignment of the Bruce Highway. Who did that project I wonder?

Opposition members: LNP.

Mr EMERSON: LNP.

Mr Powell: Three for three!

Mr EMERSON: I take that interjection. That is three out of three. He is doing very well: three out of three. It is the gift that keeps giving. The fourth project is the \$200 million Townsville ring-road—LNP. The ring-road is ours. There is a long list here, colleagues, and I do not want to take all my time on it because I want to get on to the Treasurer. Let me mention just a few other projects he lists. The next one is the Warrego Highway. Remember our \$600 million package on the Warrego Highway?

Opposition members: LNP.

Mr EMERSON: LNP. The next one is exit 54 of the Pacific Motorway.

Opposition members: LNP.

Mr EMERSON: Again, LNP. Where is the member for Coomera? He knows what it is. We have the most incompetent main roads minister ever. He does not even know his own press releases. He does not know his own projects. It proves that the LNP could build roads and at the same time it could freeze family car registration. We do not use motorists as cash cows; the Treasurer uses motorists as cash cows.

What was in the Treasurer's speech tonight? What did he say in his great contribution? He gave a five-minute speech and it took until he had 43 seconds left before he mentioned the word 'rego'. He would not even mention it. The reality is that Labor will always use motorists as cash cows. They will always slug motorists and make them pay more. The disgraceful thing is that all of the ALP members will come in here tonight and vote for this registration increase. They will say, 'Yes, I support increasing registration at almost twice the inflation rate.' That is what they do because that is what the ALP does every budget. In every budget they have introduced in here, they have increased registration at almost the inflation rate or twice the inflation rate. The LNP policy was very clear. We froze family car registration. We will cap family car registration at the CPI rate. Only the ALP will keep putting registration up at twice the inflation rate.

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (6.01 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this debate as roads and road funding is absolutely critical to North Queensland seats and Western Queensland areas—these remote areas of Queensland. We know how much it hurts when funding is cut. When TIDS funding was cut from \$70 million down to \$40 million then \$30 million in the last parliament, that hurt a lot. Coupled with that, there was not much coming through in that time in my electorate. When road funding is low, we know what that can do to an electorate, as my colleague from Dalrymple knows.

We fought hard to get the western roads package in this parliament. The government delivered that western roads package that went right through the western areas, down through the seat of Warrego into Dalrymple, Gregory and Mount Isa. That was a \$60 million road package that was very well received, and we were very grateful to have that money because it was a lifeline to a lot of those councils. After three years of having very low funds, we were very happy to get good road funding in my electorate in that lifeline that was thrown to those councils.

When we talk about registration increases or road funding, sometimes it does not mean as much to us because why would we care if road funding increases or if registration increases if we do not get our share in the north? What is the point? We will continue to have a lack of representation in the House, and those areas always seem to end up being neglected. The important point for us then is not so much the amount of funding there is but where that funding goes. That is the point for the crossbenchers. Therefore, we propose an amendment to the motion tonight, so I move—

After the word "budget" insert the following wording:

"or quarantines a portion of vehicle registration revenue, equal to the shortfall, for North Queensland roads specifically the Flinders Highway, Ray Jones Drive, Millaa Millaa to Malanda Road, and Almaden to Chillagoe Road.

This recognises the fact that there have been many years of government funding neglect where we are constantly trying to catch up. It is a signal to the parliament that we miss out on these increases but when we get the chance, if there is going to be an increase from a shortfall, it should come to the north. That is the position of the crossbench here tonight—any source of funding should come through to us. I support our amendment.

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

AYES, 5:

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Dickson.

INDEPENDENT, 2—Gordon, Pyne.

NOES, 81:

ALP, 41—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, 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, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

LNP, 40—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

Pair: Byrne, Simpson.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Katter) negated.

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

AYES, 40:

LNP, 40—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

NOES, 46:

ALP, 41—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, 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, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Dickson.

INDEPENDENT, 2—Gordon, Pyne.

Pair: Byrne, Simpson.

Resolved in the negative.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.12 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 13 June 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.13 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Sunshine Coast University Hospital



Mr McARDLE (Caloundra—LNP) (6.13 pm): In February of last year the health minister, in talking about the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, said—

I make it clear, as I have in the parliament previously, that whatever we do will be focused around a safe clinical opening of that hospital.

Let us consider how the hospital is faring. Within weeks of the hospital opening, the CEO of the HHS had to admit there were not enough nurses available to care for patients due to the recent school and public holidays. In fact, he is quoted in the paper as saying—

Additional needs for levels of nursing staff beyond the usual number, due to a prevalence of patients requiring clinical specials (i.e. one on one nursing care) and other patients who have additional nursing hours assigned to them due to behavioural issues ...

Given that the date of the hospital opening, the number of beds in the hospital, the number of nurses required, the date of the holidays and the historical patient data were all known well in advance, the hospital could not even get the nursing staff numbers required on the ground to care for patients. How this failure happened defies belief and certainly jeopardises the safe clinical environment as promised by the minister.

The April Queensland Health data on hospitals showed that only one-half of category 1 patients in the emergency department—that is the most seriously ill or injured—were admitted to a hospital bed within four hours. The data shows that in March 71 per cent of category 1 patients were admitted within a four-hour period. In one month there had been a slump of 21 per cent; only one-half had been given a hospital bed within four hours. That means patients lying on trolleys in the emergency department or in bays not being able to get a ward bed, delaying treatment for, as I said, the most seriously ill or injured. Treatment delayed is treatment denied.

At a time when the health minister promised that this hospital would not open until it was ready to do so, we find a situation developing where patients are languishing in the emergency department and not getting treatment on time. In addition, it also shows that ramping is occurring at the hospital. In fact, the March data shows that 22 per cent of patients were lying on a stretcher outside the ED of the

hospital longer than 30 minutes and, as a consequence, ambulances were ramping. This means that patients are sitting in the ED not getting the treatment but, importantly, paramedics are sitting outside the ED, not back on the ground, not back on the streets, not saving people such as you, Mr Speaker, and me who live on the Sunshine Coast. This hospital was not ready to open and this sham of a minister has not had the capacity to apologise to the people of the Sunshine Coast for the sad reality of this situation.

Queensland Teachers' Union, Wages

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.16 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of the House the failing of the Queensland Teachers' Union to look after the interests of all of its members, in this case particularly the therapists employed by Education Queensland who are discriminated against because they are employed by the department of education and not the Queensland health department. We are talking about speech, physio and occupational therapists who are the cornerstones of a better education for many of our disadvantaged students throughout Queensland. Health department therapists enjoy an extra \$5,000 to \$10,000 per annum for the same work and hours and also enjoy a professional development allowance of around \$1,600 per annum not received by education department professionals. This anomaly obviously started under the Beattie Labor government when they were in dire straits over the failure of the Queensland health system. In desperation to secure therapists for Queensland Health, they had to adjust remuneration to be competitive with interstate rivals.

Subsequent enterprise bargaining negotiations by the Queensland Teachers' Union have failed to address this imbalance. The education department therapists with whom I have met feel let down by their union and that this Palaszczuk Labor government can endorse less pay for Queensland government employees doing exactly the same work. Someone does not have to be Einstein to work out that, before too long, if the pay rates are not equalised excellent Queensland government therapist employees will be tempted to move from Education to Health for the extra pay and Queensland education will end up with a second-rate roster of therapist employees. If they were not otherwise occupied with their Trojan Horse political rallies for the Labor Party, their union conferences at their members' expense and dining out expenses paid for by their members, they might have noticed that some of the members they are supposed to represent were receiving less pay for exactly the same work than equally trained and equally experienced therapists in the Queensland health department. Hello! They are all Queensland government employees. Where is the fairness in that?

Where were the union representatives when the latest round of enterprise bargaining took place and was settled in 2015 when it was patently clear that 360 full-time equivalent Queensland education department employees were being underpaid, particularly under this current government's supposed 'fairness in pay' mantra compared to their workplace equivalents in the health department? Indeed, it is my great pleasure to highlight this anomaly because I firmly believe in equal pay for equal work regardless of gender or which section of the Queensland government someone works for. I know some bright spark will say, 'But they get education department holidays,' when the reality is that they do not under their award. They assure me they get the same four-week holiday entitlements as their health department equivalents and any extra time in school holidays has to be made up by working extra hours during term time. If it is good enough for the therapists in the health department, it is good enough for the therapists in the education department. To borrow some well-worn chants from the union movement, 'What do we want? Equal pay for equal work! When do we want it? We want it now!'

Peninsula Respect Project

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (6.21 pm): It is my pleasure to speak this evening about a wonderful project that I had the opportunity to launch back in February—and the member for Murrumba was there as well—the Peninsula Respect Project, which aligns with the Respect our staff, respect our school campaign which is being rolled out across Queensland state schools. This was hosted at the Golden Ox Restaurant at Margate in my electorate. This is a great initiative which is about showing respect to our teachers and school staff and also asks people in the community to commit to showing respect to each other. Setting out clear expectations helps create a safe and supportive environment for all, whether that be in teaching and learning or other fields of endeavour.

I want to congratulate and thank the 13 state schools right across the Redcliffe Peninsula, Deception Bay and Mango Hill and all P&C representatives for coming on board with the Peninsula Respect project. Special thanks go to the project coordinator and principal of the Redcliffe State High

School, Ms Shona McKinlay, and Mr Carlos Ortego, Redcliffe State High School P&C president, for their leadership roles. I encourage business, government community organisations and individual members to become involved because ultimately everyone will benefit.

I have had the great pleasure of witnessing this project develop, and it is great to see how our state schools have taken the initiative in getting such a valuable concept off the ground. All 13 schools will play a pivotal role in cultivating a culture of respect in their school communities, which in turn will affect the community of Redcliffe. However, we all have a role to play in building a culture of respect across all aspects of community life. This project will provide an important vehicle for community networks to raise and discuss issues and explore strategies to strengthen partnerships and promote respect for the dignity of each person.

Focusing on clear, positive and engaging strategies is the key. Our schools have already been involved in helping shape a consistent approach for this project and in developing resources, but broader community support will be critical to its success. I am so pleased to see businesses coming on board and some of the resources that have been created. Tonight I am wearing a ribbon which says, 'Respect—Commit to it!' I have enough ribbons for each member of parliament who wants to commit to showing respect to each other in this parliament and in our communities. I also have cards which say, 'Community commitments: as a member of this community I will be respectful in all my interactions; be a positive role model for the young people in our community; be a productive contributing member of the community.'

I encourage members to get on to the Respect—Commit to it! Facebook page and 'like' it to support this initiative. Encourage your own community to take up these initiatives. This is about showing respect to each other in this place, in our community, to our teachers, the staff at our schools, to parents and young people. We cannot ask young people to show respect unless we as adults lead by example, and that is what we ask every member of this parliament to do this evening.

Walk for Youngcare

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (6.24 pm): I would like to give the House an update on a wonderful event that I mentioned during the last sitting, and that was the Walk for Youngcare. I would remind the House that we have a Youngcare centre in my electorate that is just about to open. We had a soft opening last week with a barbecue. There was an open invitation to the community and it was very well attended. Then we went on our walk. The idea of the walk was to raise money to buy a special-purpose vehicle for the residents to help them get around the place, so a group of us set off.

We went to the Albany Creek State School first. The whole school was out in the oval all dressed in red. We did a couple of laps of the oval with the walkers and made a gold coin donation which raised nearly \$1,000 there. Then we took off to the next school, which was the Good Shepherd Christian School. It is only a small school, but they were all there with red balloons ready to receive us as well. We did a couple of laps of their school oval. Then we took off to Eatons Hill State School, which is a very, very large school. I think it is the largest primary school on the north side of Brisbane. They were all out on the oval waiting for us. They had been given an incentive: if they made a gold coin donation, the school would give them a lemonade iceblock. They were all there full of enthusiasm, and again we got nearly \$1,000 there. Then we did the big walk all the way to the Everton Park State School. Again the whole school was out waiting for us dressed in red, and they formed a giant Y on the school oval and we took photos.

This was all for Youngcare. Our goal is to raise \$30,000. At the moment we are at \$22,000 so we are going to continue to fundraise. This Sunday we will be at the Albany fair for the All Saints Parish Primary School, and we will also have a raffle there to try and raise more money.

I want to thank the community. This money has been raised by donations from the local community, mainly through local businesses. I want to thank Paul Crooks from the local *Buzz* magazine, who has many networks and has been very, very active in promoting this. I also want to thank those who walked with me: Dan Whelan from Mitchie Day Club; Sally Cochrane and her dad, Glen, from helloworld; Natasha Orpwood from helloworld; Praseel Kapadia from PK Airsystem Services; Matt Maxwell of City Rouseabout; Machaela Magennis from Home Care Assistance; Cath Tonks; Marty Lampe; Anthony Morris; Patrick Dore; and some of the Youngcare staff.

I want to make special mention of Carly Mattea from Carric Accounting who walked the whole way with us. Carly suffers from MS herself, so this is very close to her heart. I also want to give special thanks to Anthony Ryan, the CEO of Youngcare, who did a great job explaining to the kids what Youngcare is all about and the special challenges that people with a disability have. It was a great, great community event.

Foster and Kinship Carers

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (6.27 pm): Last week I met an inspiring woman from my electorate by the name of Penny, who has opened her home and her heart to three boys who were homeless and in the child protection system. Penny, who has three children of her own, took these boys in, got them back into school, helped them find a school based traineeship, and got them back to playing footy and living happy and healthy lives. I sat in awe of Penny, a single mum and a very busy small business owner, who told me her story of helping these three boys who were desperate for a stable and safe home life—something they had never had before.

People like Penny and many foster and kinship carers in Keppel dedicate their time and energy to provide a safe, loving and stable home for about 1,400 local children in foster care. Local foster and kinship carers need to be commended for opening their homes and hearts to children in need. There are currently more than 5,300 carer families in Queensland—630 foster and kinship carers in Central Queensland—who find room in their hearts and homes for more than 8,800 children and young people in care. This group of individuals and families is the backbone of our child protection system. Without their help, some of the state's most vulnerable children would have no-one to turn to. Often it is a thankless job, but I maintain that our state's foster carers ought to be congratulated and celebrated by the community.

I also want to pay special tribute to the many local Child Safety staff who also do an amazing job in keeping our local children safe. Last week I also met with Nikki Joyce from the Act for Mason campaign. We spoke for nearly two hours about child safety and how we might be able to work together to improve the lives of young people in our community. Nikki and I agree wholeheartedly that protecting children is the responsibility of all of us and we all have a role to play in keeping children safe. I will be attending the Walk for Mason Rockhampton event which will be held on Sunday, 4 June to show my support for the community working together to keep our children safe.

The Palaszczuk government has invested a record amount, more than \$1 billion, to keeping Queensland children safe in 2016-17. Almost \$200 million has been invested in domestic and family violence services which will also help keep children at risk safe. We have 166 more front-line Child Safety and Child Safety support staff than we did two years ago. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is leading the way by restoring services and investing in jobs that support vulnerable Queenslanders, but the government cannot do this alone. We need the whole community to keep Queensland children safe, whether they be in care or supported by their parents, and we must continue to deliver Queensland families in crisis the helping hand that they need to stay together safely.

Glass House Small Business Awards

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.29 pm): I rise to proudly state that I am unashamedly pro small business. It was with great joy and celebration that we celebrated Small Business Week in the Glass House electorate last week with our second annual 'Glassys', the Glass House Small Business Awards. Members can think of them as like the Logies but better. There are three tiers of awards: bronze Glassy, silver Glassy and gold Glassy. We break up the electorate into six subregions. Each subregion is awarded a bronze and a silver Glassy, then the gold goes to the overall best business and best employee in the electorate. I acknowledge the support of Commerce Caboolture, the Glass House Country Chamber of Commerce, Maleny Commerce, the Montville Chamber of Commerce and the Palmwoods Community and Business Association.

I want to acknowledge each of our winners. From across the electorate, nearly 100 businesses were nominated, 50-plus employees were nominated and 1,300 people voted for those businesses and employees. I thank all those who participated.

Our bronze winners were Scissor Magik Hair Design, Onward Fitness, Beerburrum Post Office, Rosetta Books, the Montville Post Office/IGA and Mane Street Hair & Beauty. Our bronze employee winners were Maria Catlin of Wamuran Water Babies, Krystal-Rose Thomas of Kids Capers Elimbah, Claudia Eastmure of Beerwah Hair and Beauty, Peter Falcongrien of Maleny Dairies, Joy Kachina from Illume Creations and Celeste Hargraves of Elders Real Estate in Palmwoods.

Our silver business winners—the ones that got the most votes in their region—were Clews News, our wonderful Woodford newsagency; Hans Electrical, a fantastic electrical service servicing the Caboolture region; All in One Fitness Centre, based in Beerwah and Mooloolo; Monica's Cafe, servers of probably the best coffee in all of Maleny—and that is saying something when there are 27 different coffee shops; Little May Espresso, servers of the best coffee in Montville—and given there are plenty there, too, that is saying something as well; and Renae's Pantry.

The silver employees were Sarah Sweeney from Ray White Wamuran, Cassandra Denison from Hans Electrical, Reegan Clarke from Beerwah Cosmetics, Stacey English from The Garden Maleny, Matt Turner from Little May Espresso and Shaylee Clyde, an amazing 19-year-old who heads up Studio S at Palmwoods.

That brings me to our gold winners. The employee winner was Rhyllie Coutts, an amazing young lady who works at Wamuran IGA. At the age of 17 she was confronted with an armed hold-up with a fully loaded shotgun. She belied her age and acted with immense maturity. She is a real life of the party in her community and richly deserves that award. The business winner was Renae's Pantry from Palmwoods. Note to self: next time record the speech of the winner of the gold award. Ben gave one of the best acceptance speeches and gave the reasons we support small business in our communities.

Logan, Midwifery Services

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (6.32 pm): Eleven years ago this month my wife, Jacki, and I were anticipating the birth of our first child. We dutifully trekked in to do special classes and learn all we could about becoming parents. As you would expect, we were very nervous. We hoped that our future son's health was perfect, but as this was our first time we did not know. My mother and mother-in-law were a great help when it came to reassurance, but we turned to the experts. Midwives were simply amazing, ensuring we were on the right track. We knew that if we were to have problems or our baby was at risk then the midwives were there for us. They were there for Jack's birth and they were there after. Jacki and I were lucky—our kids were healthy—but it was great to get that reassurance.

There is clear evidence that midwives being actively involved with expectant mothers, and both mother and baby after the birth, get better results for both the mum and the bub. That is why, when I was candidate for election in 2015, I was so angry that the then Newman-Nicholls government cut the community midwifery service at the Crestmead Community Centre and the Logan West health centre.

The suburbs of Park Ridge, Regents Park and Boronia Heights are some distance from Logan Hospital. If your partner is away with the car, it is a long journey on the 560 bus to the Logan Hospital. It should be noted that the LNP also reduced the number of 560 bus services, making it more difficult. If your appointment ran late, you would have no way of getting home—all thanks to the LNP.

As a member of parliament, at every opportunity I have raised the issue of restoring these services. I have brought it up with the minister, with Logan metro health and with virtually everyone I meet on the streets. The health minister was really supportive. He said that this was something we had to do. Together we worked hard, knowing that there are benefits for Logan mothers, especially those who are vulnerable and need extra attention.

Health minister Cameron Dick also highlighted that expectant mothers in Logan were not connecting at as high a rate as the rest of Queensland. That is why I am so pleased the Minister for Health announced today that the government would invest an extra \$2 million annually as part of a midwifery group service model of care and that the midwives will be based at community centres that will be announced in consultation with the local community. I, along with the member for Waterford, the member for Algeester and the health minister, fought to restore these services that were cut so badly by the LNP.

There is so much more to do to restore some of the services to work to improve our growing area. I am committed to being on the side of locals in Logan, fighting for the services they need and to ensure they are never cut again.

Mount Isa Electorate

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (6.35 pm): I rise to speak about a number of issues, the first being the Etheridge shire irrigation scheme. Mayor Warren Devlin and his council are doing a terrific job. They are very enthusiastic about getting irrigation going on the Gilbert and Einasleigh. There is good alluvial soils along that river and a real appetite to develop irrigation. The council has been very innovative in terms of how it will apply for that water and allocate it to individuals so that irrigation opportunities are available to existing graziers along that river and not just one or two big users. It would act as an adjunct to the existing cattle industry. I think that is where we want to be with irrigation on that river. I commend the council for what it has done. I know that that is the future for that region, because the town is doing it very tough. They do not want handouts from the government; they just need the ability to fight for themselves.

I refer to the recent announcement in relation to Dugald River, that the workforce will come primarily from Cloncurry and Mount Isa and then accept FIFO from Townsville. It is very concerning to people when there is more talk about FIFO. They say that the Ernest Henry mine in Cloncurry employs only about 30 per cent locals right now, even though it is just outside town. Last month's figures show that there is 40 per cent youth unemployment in the outback. That is evident also in Cloncurry. Some people in Townsville and Brisbane might celebrate when they get FIFO in those areas, but it takes from our towns. That is our one chance to try to get ahead, when we have those mines and resource projects that impact on our communities. It is the cancer of the bush. It is not where we want to be as a state. There are a lot of opportunities in the city. We do not want these mines robbing us of jobs in those areas. To me, the jobs are more important than any other business associated with that mine.

I see that the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships is present in the House. I refer to the AMP for Mornington Island. We visited Mornington Island the other week and can say that the situation is becoming very urgent. The alcohol ban on Mornington Island was introduced with the best of intentions, but it has inadvertently delivered a lot of problems with home-brew and drugs. There are good, decent people there who just want to be afforded a similar right to every other Australian and have a beer every so often. Birri lodge has closed now so no contractors—Indigenous or non-Indigenous—can have a drink on the island now. It does not look like the lodge will open anytime soon. The issue has been toyed around with for a while, but now the time is right. We need to act because there is a sense of anger and frustration building up that needs to be addressed.

Dalrymple Electorate, Roads

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (6.38 pm): There are a number of roads in my electorate that need urgent attention through funding, upgrade and the provision of passing lanes. I refer to the Millaa Millaa-Malanda Road, which joins the Palmerston Highway and connects to the far northern coast. The Palmerston Highway runs from Innisfail to Millaa Millaa and connects to the Millaa Millaa-Malanda Road. The highway carries a lot of road traffic, including prime movers. There is a massive flow of traffic coming up the Palmerston Range, but when it gets to Millaa Millaa it encounters the school buses and students going from Millaa Millaa to Malanda or Malanda to Millaa Millaa.

This section of road is massively congested and there is an urgent need for passing lanes to combat this slow-moving traffic in the morning. We acknowledge that the Ergon powerlines in some areas may have to be removed, but it is 2017, not the 1950s, and we have to make decisions in this regard. I want to acknowledge the Minister for Main Roads in providing \$3 million funding for a seriously dangerous section of the Palmerston Highway, and that is the area at Henrietta Creek. Bob Katter and I saw the seriousness of that section of road and lobbied very strongly about two months ago. As we were lobbying for funding for this road there were quite a number of near misses and many accidents as a result of the potholes on that road, but that road is very important because my constituents go down that range and people from other electorates go up the range.

The LNP attacked me for not getting enough money, despite the \$3 million. However, the area that I fought to get that funding for is not in my electorate but in the Hinchinbrook electorate. The LNP was attacking me for getting funding in its electorate and then it attacked me because we did not get enough! It was disappointing that the LNP saw this as a political issue when it was about saving lives. There were three serious motorcycle accidents about a month ago and people were asking for something to be done urgently, so we stepped in and worked with the minister and got that funding. We are very appreciative of that \$3 million funding going into that road, but there also needs to be funding for the Kennedy Highway between Tumoulin and Upper Barron Road.

Tawse, Mr S

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (6.41 pm): Earlier this month I had the honour of meeting a genuine Woodridge hero, Shane Tawse, and his family. I was privileged to represent the Woodridge electorate and the Queensland government at an investiture ceremony at Government House when Shane, a Woodridge electorate local, received an Australian bravery medal. With no consideration for his own safety, Shane rushed into a burning Kingston home in the Woodridge electorate to rescue a woman on Christmas Eve in 2015. Shane noticed smoke billowing from a home on Poinciana Street and drove to the street, stopping across the road from the house. Shane saw the second floor of the building was fully ablaze and a woman in the driveway was attempting to extinguish the ferocious flames with a garden hose. When neighbours realised the woman in the home was not outside, Shane left his car and ran across the road. He tried to enter the front door of the home but it was locked and he could not get in through the windows. After

several attempts to gain entry from the front, Shane quickly moved to the back of the property and found the woman and her three dogs inside the house. He dragged the woman clear of the home just as the fire engulfed the building, saving her life and the lives of her dogs. Shane is very humble about his heroism and maintains that he did what he thought anyone else in the situation would do.

It is somewhat appropriate that this is the second time Shane has been formally recognised and honoured following on from the Queensland bravery award he received in 2016, as his courage ultimately saved the great-grandmother's life twice. Tests undertaken for smoke inhalation revealed the woman had lung cancer according to the Metro South Hospital and Health Service. In even more good news, the Metro South Hospital and Health Service said that the cancer was successfully removed. Not surprisingly, as is the Woodridge way, Shane told the *Albert and Logan News* that he and the great-grandmother regularly keep in touch. The newspaper reported that if not for Shane's actions the woman would not have seen the birth of her first great-grandchild. On my own behalf and on behalf of the Woodridge community, I say congratulations to you, Shane, and thank you again for your courage and your selflessness. You are an example to all of us and represent the very best of the Woodridge electorate and our great state of Queensland.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6.43 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, 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