



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 8 August 2017

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TUESDAY, 8 AUGUST 2017



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

ASSENT TO BILL



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

The Honourable P.W. Wellington MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of assent: 22 June 2017

A Bill for An Act to amend the Duties Act 2001, the First Home Owner Grant Act 2000, the Land Tax Act 2010 and the Taxation Administration Act 2001 for particular purposes

The Bill is hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

22 June 2017

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 22 June 2017, from his Excellency the Governor to the Speaker, advising of Assent to a certain bill on 22 June 2017 [[1202](#)].

PRIVILEGE

Register of Members' Interests



Mr SEENEY (Callide—LNP) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. As has been reported in the *Courier-Mail* this morning, earlier this year ASIC issued an Australian company number for an entity in which I have an interest. The establishment process for this company has not been completed, and it cannot conduct and has not conducted any business. However, I acknowledge that technically my interest should have been declared when the ACN was issued rather than when the company commenced its business. I corrected the record immediately I became aware of the issue and I apologise for the oversight.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

The 'Eggsembly'



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have a number of statements to make this morning and I would like to start on a lighthearted note. I understand a former premier referred to media conferences as 'feeding the chooks'. Yesterday I was present when our parliament received four real chooks, who have taken up residence in the garden area on level 3 beside our gardeners' current greenhouse. Their home has been named The Eggsembly and, after a staff naming competition, the chooks were given

the following names: Miss Hensard, Dorothy Dixier, Miss Erskine Lay and Cluck of the Eggsembly. Members will be glad to learn that there will be no rooster with early morning cockerel calls. The primary purpose of the chooks will be to dispose of appropriate kitchen waste and to provide eggs for the kitchen and fertiliser for our gardens.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: No, we will not have chicken curry. It is not my intention that the chooks will end up on the dinner menu when they stop laying. I am informed that another benefit to having chooks is that they have been found to have a calming influence on people and lower stress levels. I accordingly invite members to visit the chooks, preferably before question time each day, so that perhaps we may see their calming influence and it may reduce my need to use standing order 253A.

On a serious note, I thank our gardeners and all the Parliamentary Service staff involved in this initiative, which includes a new herb garden, a vegetable garden and fruit trees all designed to support our kitchen. Well done to all the staff involved.

Vacancy in Senate of Commonwealth of Australia

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that His Excellency the Governor has been informed by the President of the Senate of the resignation of Senator Larissa Waters. I table the correspondence for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 20 July 2017, from his Excellency the Governor to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, advising of a vacancy in the Senate and attaching a letter, dated 19 July 2017, from the President of the Senate to His Excellency the Governor regarding the vacancy in the Senate [[1203](#)].

The letter reads—

Your Excellency,

On Tuesday, 18 July 2017 I received written notification from Senator Larissa Waters resigning her place as a senator for Queensland. I therefore notify Your Excellency that, pursuant to the provisions of section 21 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution (Constitution), a vacancy has occurred in the representation of Queensland.

At this stage I cannot advise you as to the nature of the vacancy, due to doubts recently raised by Senator Waters about her eligibility to be chosen and to sit as a senator, under section 44(i) of the Constitution. In particular, I expect that the manner of filling the vacancy will be a matter for the High Court.

I will write again as soon as I am in a position to provide clarification.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Parry

President of the Senate

SPEAKER'S RULING

Answers to Questions on Notice

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 17 July 2017 I tabled a ruling and associated correspondence regarding question on notice 58 and question on notice 506 of 2017. As I stated in that ruling, it was my intent to reissue the ruling on the next sitting day to ensure the rights of all members regarding rulings are not diminished and to incorporate it within the *Record of Proceedings*. I seek leave to incorporate this ruling into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members,

Further to my rulings of 22 March 2017 and 23 May 2017, I have received additional items of correspondence regarding answers to questions on notice.

The Member for Beaudesert has written to me regarding my ruling of 22 March 2017, in which I stated where a question is asked that is broad in terms of its scope or it seeks information over a number of years, I am comfortable with the responsible minister making an attempt to answer the question, but an attempt must be made. In that statement I also noted that questions, while technically in order, may require unreasonable resources to fully respond, hence my comfort with an attempt to answer the question.

In addition to my ruling of 22 March 2017, on 23 May 2017 I stated that where a question is asked that is broad in terms of its scope or it seeks information over a number of years, or seeks minutely detailed material, I am comfortable with the responsible minister making an attempt to answer the question, but the minister should attempt to answer the question in a genuine manner—that is, they should use their best and reasonable endeavours.

The Member for Beaudesert submitted Question on Notice 506 to the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events and the Commonwealth Games on 9 May 2017 in which he requested a breakdown of Tourism and Events Queensland's total marketing budget for the financial years between 2015 and 2019, reported separately. The minister responded by providing an average amount spent each year on direct marketing activities, with mention of an additional amount for a Cyclone Debbie tourism recovery campaign in 2017.

The Member for Beaudesert submits that his question was a straightforward question, which was particularly relevant in the lead up to the state budget, and argues that the minister does not attempt to answer the question, nor does the minister attempt to reframe it. In her response to my correspondence, the minister argues that she provided an average marketing spend because in addition to Tourism and Events Queensland's marketing budget, overall marketing activity fluctuates as a result of tourism activities that include a marketing component.

While the minister has provided a response to the question, she has not attempted to provide an answer to the question asked which was a 'breakdown of the total marketing budget for each year' requested, nor does the minister's answer to the Question on Notice, or her response to my correspondence, indicate that providing the information is not possible. There was no reason why the minister could not have answered the question asked and then provided further supplemental information—such as additional funding—if the minister thought it desirable. Therefore, in accordance with my rulings of 22 March 2017 and 23 May 2017, I rule that by providing only an average figure for each year, the minister has not made a genuine and reasonable attempt to answer the question asked, and the question remains unanswered.

The Member for Indooroopilly has also written to me regarding my ruling of 23 May 2017, in which I stated that a reference in an answer to a website, annual report or budget estimates document that does not, at the time of the question and/or answer, contain the information is not an answer to the question and is irrelevant to the question.

The Member for Indooroopilly submitted Question on Notice 58 to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment on 15 February 2017, requesting the Treasurer advise the total cost of the Electricity Pricing and Solar Feed-in Pricing inquiries undertaken and completed by the Queensland Productivity Commission (QPC), reported separately with the costs associated with each inquiry individually itemised. The Treasurer responded by advising that until November 2015, the QPC operated as a government entity under the Public Service Act 2008, and he provided one figure for the total cost of QPC functions from 1 June 2015 to 30 November 2015. The Treasurer also advised the QPC was formally established as a Statutory Body in November 2015, and the costs incurred by the QPC across all of its functions from the time of its establishment as a Statutory Body until 30 June 2016 are included in its 2015-16 Annual Report. The Treasurer also noted that the QPC has indicated it will be reporting on a range of performance indicators going forward, including the breakdown of costs across its activities, including individual inquiries.

The Member for Indooroopilly submits that the Treasurer has answered the question by referring to an annual report which does not provide the detailed information he requested in his Question on Notice, and therefore in keeping with my ruling of 23 May 2017, the answer is irrelevant to the question. The Member for Indooroopilly also argues that the Treasurer's response indicated this information is available, and is likely to be reported in the future, but the Treasurer has chosen not to provide the information specifically requested of him. He also states that it seems unlikely that the cost of two inquiries undertaken and completed by the Commission in the 2015-16 financial year will be reported in the 2016-17 annual report.

In his response to my correspondence, the Treasurer advises that the nature of the member's question is seeking detailed financial information from an independent Statutory Authority, outside of the normal reporting requirements, and requires public resources in the preparation of an answer. The Treasurer also notes that my ruling of 23 May 2017 was made after the Treasurer's response to Question on Notice 58 of 2017, which was tabled on 17 March 2017, and his answer was provided in good faith.

In keeping with my ruling of 23 May 2017, the Treasurer has provided the total cost for each of the inquiries of interest to the member for Indooroopilly, as well as more detailed information on the amounts spent on employee expenses and consultation and travel, for the period from when the QPC became a statutory body. The Treasurer advises that the cost of the inquiries from April 2015 to November 2015 is not available as the QPC was operated as a Government entity with funding administered by Queensland Treasury during that period.

In the correspondence to me, the minister provided information that would have satisfied the question if it had originally been provided in the answer. I request the Treasurer replace his answer to Question on Notice 58 with an answer that includes the information in his correspondence to me.

Given the Assembly is not sitting for some time, I have decided to deal with this matter by way of tabling this ruling outside of the House under Standing Order 31.

I will reissue this ruling on the next sitting day to ensure the rights of all members regarding rulings are not diminished and incorporate it within the record of proceedings.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Integrity Commissioner, Appointment

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in accordance with section 79 of the Integrity Act 2009, on 29 June 2017 I administered the oath of office to Dr Nikola Stepanov as Integrity Commissioner. A copy of the oath was tabled by me on 30 June 2017.

APPOINTMENTS

Changes in Ministry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.36 am): I lay upon the table of the House the *Extraordinary Queensland Government Gazette* of 20 July 2017 which outlines recent acting arrangements made within the ministry by His Excellency the Governor.

Tabled paper: Extract from Queensland Government Extraordinary Gazette No. 73, dated 20 July 2017, regarding the acting arrangements for the portfolios of the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply [[1204](#)].

These arrangements include the appointment of the Hon. Curtis Warren Pitt, Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, to act as and to perform those functions and exercise those powers of Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply that relate to matters administered in the Department of Energy and Water Supply; and the appointment of the Hon. Steven John Miles, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, to act as and to perform those functions and exercise those powers of Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply that relate to matters administered in the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

PETITIONS

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

Pomona Railway Crossing, Safety

Mr Elmes, from 1,498 petitioners, requesting the House to prove the relative safety of crossing the Pomona railway via the Reserve Street crossing point and adjacent roads, versus the existing path and we request that the existing path remains operational with the addition of safety features applicable with national standards [[1205](#)].

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petition, sponsored and lodged by the Clerk—

Bicentennial Bikeway

From 1,361 petitioners, requesting the House to require the Queens Wharf development to ensure the entire section of the Bicentennial Bikeway that runs within the development envelope is upgraded to a segregated facility equivalent in standard to the Herschel St to Toowong section [[1206](#), [1207](#)].

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

Autism, Training of Medical Professionals

Mr Langbroek, from 292 petitioners, requesting the House to enforce mandatory annual or bi-annual training and education for paediatric nurses, doctors and therapists on autism [[1208](#)].

Autism, 'Harry's Rule'

Mr Langbroek, from 270 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce 'Harry's Rule', implementing a range of measures to ensure that hospitals in Queensland meet the needs of children with autism [[1209](#)].

Mount Crosby and Warrego Highway Interchange, Upgrade

Mr Madden, from 305 petitioners, requesting the House to expedite the completion of the upgrade of the Mount Crosby and Warrego Highway interchange [[1210](#)].

Coomera, Hospital

Mr Crandon, from 193 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure planning and construction of a hospital in the medical precinct adjacent to the Coomera Railway Station and the 'under construction' Coomera Town Centre [[1211](#)].

Coomera Railway Station, Car Park

Mr Crandon, from 112 petitioners, requesting the House to increase the car park size at the Coomera Railway Station [[1212](#)].

Ormeau Railway Station, Car Park

Mr Crandon, from 84 petitioners, requesting the House to increase the car park size at the Ormeau Railway Station [[1213](#)].

M1 Motorway, Exit 41, Upgrade

Mr Crandon, from 397 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake improvements to upgrade Exit 41 [[1214](#)].

Ormeau Railway Station and Coomera Railway Station, Bus Service

Mr Crandon, from 58 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade bus services between Ormeau Railway Station and Coomera Railway Station [[1215](#)].

M1 Motorway, Exit 45, Upgrade

Mr Crandon, from 498 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake improvements to Exit 45 [[1216](#)].

Ormeau, Police Station

Mr Crandon, from 409 petitioners, requesting the House to plan and construct a police station at Ormeau and provide an additional 50 police officers [[1217](#)].

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

Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, Naming

From 11,345 petitioners, requesting the House to designate the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing as the Brett Forte Way [[1218](#)].

Greenbank, Pub Lane, Development Application

From 724 petitioners, requesting the House to halt the 50% increase of an additional 500 residential lots for the priority development application at Lot 9968 on SP163061 Pub Lane, Greenbank. [[1219](#)]

Altandi Railway Station, Park and Ride

From 21 petitioners, requesting the House to rule out the sale of 31 Gundooe Street and to begin public consultation around building a park and ride to service Altandi Station [[1220](#)].

Pelorus Island, Dingoes

From 672 petitioners, requesting the House to bring about a speedy and humane resolution to the plight of the 'death row' dingoes on Pelorus Island [[1221](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS**PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS**

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

21 June 2017—

- [1037](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 35, 55th Parliament—Barrier Fences in Queensland
- [1038](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 37, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 1 March 2017 and 21 March 2017

22 June 2017—

- [1039](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 18: 2016-17—Universities and grammar schools: 2016 results of financial audits
- [1040](#) Response from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham) to an ePetition (2723-17) sponsored by Mr Dickson, from 3,241 petitioners, requesting the House to immediately apply the Caravan Park Policy to prevent closure of the Mooloolaba Esplanade Beach Holiday Park and confirm its intention to abide by the Caravan Park Policy to prevent the closure of other beachfront caravan parks which are presently at risk of closure: Coolum Beach Holiday Park and Mooloolaba Beach Holiday Park on Parkyn Parade
- [1041](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 35, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 1 March 2017 and 23 May 2017
- [1042](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to an ePetition (2710-17) sponsored by Mr Crandon, from 507 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the government undertakes, as a matter of utmost urgency, improvements to the operation of the dangerous interchange that is the northbound off-ramp Exit 49 of the M1 at Pimpama
- [1043](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to a paper petition (2758-17) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), and an ePetition (2712-17) sponsored by Mr Crandon, from 61 and 257 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to do all in its power to ensure the City of Gold Coast undertake the essential and necessary roadworks to turn Yawalpah Road into two lanes for 250 metres, leading to the roundabout at Exit 49, which is already a dual lane roundabout

23 June 2017—

- [1044](#) Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal: Additional Salary of the Offices of Chair and Member of Select Committees, Determination 15/2017, 23 June 2017

26 June 2017—

- [1045](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Hon. Miles) to an ePetition (2691-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 494 petitioners, requesting the House to amend current litter and illegal dumping legislation to include a ban on releasing helium balloons and investigate options to outlaw and impose penalties for the mass-distribution of helium balloons at events

- [1046](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to a paper petition (2751-17) presented by Mr Crandon, from 69 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure an Australia Post post box is provided at the Rededge Convenience Centre, corner of Finnegan and Celestial Ways, Coomera
- [1047](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events (Hon. Jones) to an ePetition (2665-16) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 225 petitioners, requesting the Minister for Education to instruct her department to undertake a review into best practises at schools to best reduce the prevalence of bullying in our schools
- [1048](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events (Hon. Jones) to an ePetition (2747-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 919 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise funding for the construction of an upgraded facility to meet the growing demands of Ferny Grove State High School and the wider community
- 27 June 2017—
- [1049](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 19: 2016-17—Security of critical water infrastructure
- 29 June 2017—
- [1050](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 20: 2016-17—Education and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- 30 June 2017—
- [1051](#) Oath of Office of Dr Nikola Stepanov as the Integrity Commissioner of Queensland, dated 29 June 2017
- 4 July 2017—
- [1052](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dick) to an ePetition (2734-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 49 petitioners, and a paper petition (2771-17) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), from 121 petitioners, requesting the House to change back the law to prevent dogs, with the exception of assistance dogs, being allowed in outdoor dining areas
- 6 July 2017—
- [1053](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 39, 55th Parliament—Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis Affordability) Amendment Bill 2017
- 12 July 2017—
- [1054](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 36, 55th Parliament—Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017
- 13 July 2017—
- [1055](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 33, 55th Parliament—Sustainable Queensland Dairy Production (Fair Milk Logos) Bill 2016, interim government response
- [1056](#) Response from Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman) to an ePetition (2706-17) sponsored by the Member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Bates, from 1,200 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce laws that provide greater certainty and safety for abused children, similar to laws introduced in New South Wales and Victoria that offer permanency and stability for abused children
- [1057](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 46, 55th Parliament—Gasfields Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017
- [1058](#) Response from Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to a paper petition (2770-17) presented by the Member for Everton, Mr Mander, from 437 petitioners, and an ePetition (2724-17) sponsored by the Member for Everton, Mr Mander, from 88 petitioners, requesting the House to provide residents of Everton Hills with a better bus service
- [1059](#) Response from Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) paper petition (2769-17) presented by the Member for Mulgrave, Hon. Pitt, from 154 petitioners, requesting the House to consider reducing the road speed limit on the Gillies Range Road near Little Mulgrave to 60 km/h between Appaloosa Street and Little Mulgrave Road
- [1060](#) Response from Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events (Hon. Jones) to an ePetition (2738-17) sponsored by the Member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 173 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade school parking facilities; the school bus service; and road access to and from the Pimpama State Primary College
- 14 July 2017—
- [1061](#) Local Government Electoral Act 2011: Local Government Electoral (Transparency and Accountability in Local Government) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 127
- [1062](#) Local Government Electoral Act 2011: Local Government Electoral (Transparency and Accountability in Local Government) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 127, explanatory notes
- [1063](#) Electoral Commission of Queensland: Procedure for Electronic Disclosure
- [1064](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 57, 55th Parliament—Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017
- [1065](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for the Arts (Ms Palaszczuk) to an ePetition (2680-16): Sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 532 petitioners, requesting the House to remove religious prayers from all parliamentary business thereby confirming government impartiality in matters of religious belief

- [1066](#) Response from Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to an ePetition (2741-17) sponsored by the Member for Buderim, Mr Dickson, from 2,759 petitioners, requesting the House to repeal rideshare legislation and undertake a payment of fair and proper compensation to Queensland taxi licence owners
- [1067](#) Response from Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to a paper petition (2775-17) presented by the Member for Callide, Mr Seeneey, from 799 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the unsealed sections of the Monto to Mt Perry and Gayndah to Mt Perry Roads to full bitumen seal pavement and, in the interim, ensure the unsealed sections are graded and re-gravelled more frequently
- 17 July 2017—
- [1068](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Peter Wellington MP, and related correspondence regarding answers to Questions on Notice Nos 58 and 506 of 2017
- [1069](#) Response from Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to a paper petition (2776-17) presented by the Member for Dalrymple, Mr Knuth, from 392 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise the immediate upgrade to a sealed standard for the Herberton to Irvinebank Road
- [1070](#) Response from Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to a paper petition (2777-17) presented by the Member for Ipswich West, Mr Madden, from 30 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate how the removal of bus stops on the former route 516 has impacted upon elderly and disabled residents in the communities of One Mile and Leichhardt, and the possibility of restoring the 516 service or expanding the current 506 service
- 20 July 2017—
- [1071](#) Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017: Erratum to explanatory notes
- [1072](#) Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: Report about the White Spot Syndrome Virus Biosecurity Emergency
- [1073](#) Independent Councillor Complaints Review Panel Report: 'Councillor Complaints Review: A fair, effective and efficient framework', January 2017
- [1074](#) Independent Councillor Complaints Review Panel Report: 'Councillor Complaints Review: A fair, effective and efficient framework', government response, July 2017
- 21 July 2017—
- [1075](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a Trade Mission to the United States of America by the Premier and Minister for the Arts (Hon Palaszczuk), 17-25 June 2017
- 24 July 2017—
- [1076](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a Trade Mission to the United States of America by the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business (Hon. Enoch), 17-23 June 2017
- [1077](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 47, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 February and 21 March 2017
- [1078](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 48, 55th Parliament—Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017
- [1079](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 40, 55th Parliament—Healthy Futures Commission Queensland Bill 2017
- [1080](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 58, 55th Parliament—Corrective Services (No Body, No Parole) Amendment Bill 2017
- [1081](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 41, 55th Parliament—Labour Hire Licensing Bill 2017
- 27 July 2017—
- [1082](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 34, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled from 30 November 2016 to 14 February 2017, government response
- 28 July 2017—
- [1083](#) Mt Gravatt Showgrounds Trust—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1084](#) Department of Transport and Main Roads—Marine Incidents in Queensland 2016, June 2017
- 31 July 2017—
- [1085](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for Mount Emerald Wind Farm, Springmount Road and Kippin Drive, Arriga
- [1086](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for Mount Emerald Wind Farm, Springmount Road and Kippin Drive, Arriga. Annexure A—copy of the permissible change request
- [1087](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for Mount Emerald Wind Farm, Springmount Road and Kippin Drive, Arriga. Annexure B—copy of the relevant entity responses
- [1088](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for Mount Emerald Wind Farm, Springmount Road and Kippin Drive, Arriga. Annexure C—copy of the decision notice

1 August 2017—

[1089](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: 2017-18 Budget Estimates—Responses to Questions taken on Notice—Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services

3 August 2017—

[1090](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for Pacific View Estate master planned development at Worongary

[1091](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for Pacific View Estate master planned development at Worongary. Annexure A—copy of the permissible change request

[1092](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for Pacific View Estate master planned development at Worongary. Annexure B—copy of the relevant entity responses

[1093](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for Pacific View Estate master planned development at Worongary. Annexure C—copy of the decision notice

4 August 2017—

[1094](#) Public Works and Utilities Committee: Report No. 42, 55th Parliament—2017-18 Budget Estimates

[1095](#) Public Works and Utilities Committee: Report No. 42, 55th Parliament—2017-18 Budget Estimates—Additional Information

[1096](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 37, 55th Parliament—2017-18 Budget Estimates

[1097](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 37, 55th Parliament—2017-18 Budget Estimates—Additional Information

[1098](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 49, 55th Parliament—2017-18 Budget Estimates

[1099](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 49, 55th Parliament—2017-18 Budget Estimates—Additional Information

[1100](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 41, 55th Parliament—2017-18 Budget Estimates

[1101](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 41, 55th Parliament—2017-18 Budget Estimates—Additional Information

[1102](#) Public Works and Utilities Committee: Report No. 43, 55th Parliament—Building and Construction Legislation (Non-conforming Building Products—Chain of Responsibility and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2017

[1103](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 59, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 1 March 2017 and 21 March 2017

[1104](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 60, 55th Parliament—2017-18 Budget Estimates

[1105](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 60, 55th Parliament—2017-18 Budget Estimates—Additional Information

[1106](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 42, 55th Parliament—2017-18 Budget Estimates—Appropriation (Parliament) Bill

[1107](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 43, 55th Parliament—2017-18 Budget Estimates—Appropriation Bill

[1108](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Reports Nos 42 and 43, 55th Parliament—2017-18 Budget Estimates—Additional Information

[1109](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 38, 55th Parliament—2017-18 Budget Estimates

[1110](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 38, 55th Parliament—2017-18 Budget Estimates—Additional Information

7 August 2017—

[1111](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 50, 55th Parliament—Land Access Ombudsman Bill 2017

[1112](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 38, 55th Parliament—University Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Biosecurity Act 2014—

[1113](#) Biosecurity (White Spot Syndrome Virus) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 90

[1114](#) Biosecurity (White Spot Syndrome Virus) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 90, explanatory notes

Liquor Act 1992—

- [1115](#) Liquor (Licence Conditions) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 91
[1116](#) Liquor (Licence Conditions) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 91, explanatory notes

Financial Accountability Act 2009—

- [1117](#) Financial Accountability (Accountable Officers) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 92
[1118](#) Financial Accountability (Accountable Officers) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 92, explanatory notes

Corrective Services (Parole Board) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017—

- [1119](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 93
[1120](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 93, explanatory notes

Work Health and Safety Act 2011—

- [1121](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) (Tower Cranes) Amendment Notice 2017, No. 94
[1122](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) (Tower Cranes) Amendment Notice 2017, No. 94, explanatory notes

Professional Standards Act 2004—

- [1123](#) Professional Standards (The Law Society of South Australia Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2017, No. 95
[1124](#) Professional Standards (The Law Society of South Australia Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2017, No. 95, explanatory notes
[1125](#) Document titled 'Law Society of South Australia Professional Standards Scheme' (Refer Subordinate Legislation No. 95)

Professional Standards Act 2004—

- [1126](#) Professional Standards (South Australian Bar Association Inc Scheme) Notice 2017, No. 96
[1127](#) Professional Standards (South Australian Bar Association Inc Scheme) Notice 2017, No. 96, explanatory notes
[1128](#) Document titled 'South Australian Bar Association Inc Professional Standards Scheme' (Refer Subordinate Legislation No. 96)

Environmental Protection Act 1994, Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011—

- [1129](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 97
[1130](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 97, explanatory notes

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- [1131](#) Adoption (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 98
[1132](#) Adoption (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 98, explanatory notes

Disability Services Act 2006—

- [1133](#) Disability Services Regulation 2017, No. 99
[1134](#) Disability Services Regulation 2017, No. 99, explanatory notes

Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016—

- [1135](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 100
[1136](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 100, explanatory notes

Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017—

- [1137](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 101
[1138](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 101, explanatory notes

Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016—

- [1139](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 102
[1140](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 102, explanatory notes

Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, Building Act 1975, Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995, Disaster Management Act 2003, Economic Development Act 2012, Electricity Act 1994, Environmental Offsets Act 2014, Environmental Protection Act 1994, Fisheries Act 1994, Liquor Act 1992, Local Government Act 2009, Nature Conservation Act 1992, Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002, Prostitution Act 1999, Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991, Queensland Heritage Act 1992, Regional Planning Interests Act 2014, Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994, South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009, State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991, Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994, Vegetation Management Act 1999, Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011, Water Act 2000, Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993, Wine Industry Act 1994, Planning Act 2016—

- [1141](#) Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 103
[1142](#) Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 103, explanatory notes

Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990—

[1143](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) (Scheme Membership) Amendment of Deed Regulation 2017, No. 104

[1144](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) (Scheme Membership) Amendment of Deed Regulation 2017, No. 104, explanatory notes

Local Government Act 2009, Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990—

[1145](#) Superannuation Legislation (Scheme Membership) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 105

[1146](#) Superannuation Legislation (Scheme Membership) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 105, explanatory notes

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[1147](#) Revenue Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 106

[1148](#) Revenue Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 106, explanatory notes

Ambulance Service Act 1991, Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, Public Health Act 2005—

[1149](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 107

[1150](#) Health Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 107, explanatory notes

Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009—

[1151](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 108

[1152](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 108, explanatory notes

Agents Financial Administration Act 2014, Appeal Costs Fund Act 1973, Associations Incorporation Act 1981, Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003, Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980, Casino Control Act 1982, Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Act 1999, Civil Partnerships Act 2011, Collections Act 1966, Cooperatives Act 1997, Coroners Act 2003, Criminal Code Act 1899, Debt Collectors (Field Agents and Collection Agents) Act 2014, Dispute Resolution Centres Act 1990, Electoral Act 1992, Evidence Act 1977, Funeral Benefit Business Act 1982, Gaming Machine Act 1991, Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998, Introduction Agents Act 2001, Jury Act 1995, Justices Act 1886, Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991, Keno Act 1996, Land Court Act 2000, Legal Profession Act 2007, Liquor Act 1992, Lotteries Act 1997, Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers Act 2014, Partnership Act 1891, Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, Property Law Act 1974, Property Occupations Act 2014, Prostitution Act 1999, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009, Recording of Evidence Act 1962, Retail Shop Leases Act 1994, Right to Information Act 2009, Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2003, Security Providers Act 1993, Status of Children Act 1978, Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991, Tattoo Industry Act 2013, Tourism Services Act 2003, Wagering Act 1998, Wine Industry Act 1994, Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000—

[1153](#) Justice Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 109

[1154](#) Justice Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 109, explanatory notes

Civil Liability Act 2003, Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994, Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002, Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003—

[1155](#) Civil Liability and Other Legislation (Prescribed Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 110

[1156](#) Civil Liability and Other Legislation (Prescribed Amounts) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 110, explanatory notes

Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966, Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, Biosecurity Act 2014, Brands Act 1915, Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988, Drugs Misuse Act 1986, Fisheries Act 1994, Food Production (Safety) Act 2000, Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936—

[1157](#) Agriculture and Fisheries Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 111

[1158](#) Agriculture and Fisheries Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 111, explanatory notes

Farm Business Debt Mediation Act 2017—

[1159](#) Farm Business Debt Mediation Regulation 2017, No. 112

[1160](#) Farm Business Debt Mediation Regulation 2017, No. 112, explanatory notes

Heavy Vehicle National Law as applied by the law of States and Territories—

[1161](#) Heavy Vehicle National Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 113

[1162](#) Heavy Vehicle National Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 113, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

[1163](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Heavy Vehicle National Law) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 114

[1164](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Heavy Vehicle National Law) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 114, explanatory notes

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[1165](#) Electrical Safety and Other Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 115

[1166](#) Electrical Safety and Other Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 115, explanatory notes

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[1167](#) Racing (Conditions of Race Information Authorities) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 116

[1168](#) Racing (Conditions of Race Information Authorities) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 116, explanatory notes

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[1169](#) Weapons Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 117

[1170](#) Weapons Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 117, explanatory notes

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[1171](#) Housing and Public Works Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 118

[1172](#) Housing and Public Works Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 118, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

[1173](#) State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 119

[1174](#) State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 119, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[1175](#) Nature Conservation (Administration) (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 120

[1176](#) Nature Conservation (Administration) (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 120, explanatory notes

Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003—

[1177](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2017, No. 121

[1178](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2017, No. 121, explanatory notes

Valuers Registration Act 1992, Water Act 2000—

[1179](#) Water and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 122

[1180](#) Water and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 122, explanatory notes

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994—

[1181](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (White Spot Disease Concessional Loan Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 123

[1182](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (White Spot Disease Concessional Loan Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 123, explanatory notes

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

[1183](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Driver Licensing) (Road Rules Test) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 124

[1184](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Driver Licensing) (Road Rules Test) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 124, explanatory notes

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[1185](#) Gaming Machine Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 125

[1186](#) Gaming Machine Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 125, explanatory notes

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[1187](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 126

[1188](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 126, explanatory notes

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[1189](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice (No. 1) 2017, No. 128

[1190](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice (No. 1) 2017, No. 128, explanatory notes

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[1191](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2017, No. 129

[1192](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2017, No. 129, explanatory notes

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[1193](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management—Dryander and Woondum National Parks) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 130

[1194](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management—Dryander and Woondum National Parks) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 130, explanatory notes

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[1195](#) Professional Standards Regulation 2017, No. 131

[1196](#) Professional Standards Regulation 2017, No. 131, explanatory notes

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[1197](#) Forestry (State Forests) (Beerwah and Glen Rock) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 132

[1198](#) Forestry (State Forests) (Beerwah and Glen Rock) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 132, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[1199](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Cooroibah Conservation Park) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 133

[1200](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Cooroibah Conservation Park) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 133, explanatory notes

MEMBERS' PAPERS

The following members' papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Toowoomba North (Mr Watts)—

[1201](#) Nonconforming petition regarding objections to the draft Highfields Cultural Precinct Master Plan

Member for Cairns (Mr Pyne)—

[1237](#) Document (with redactions), dated August 2017, titled 'NDRRA FRAUD by Local Governments'

[1238](#) Document (with redactions), dated August 2017 titled 'Gold Coast City Council'

[1239](#) Document (with redactions), dated August 2017, titled 'Ipswich City Council, They Knew'

[1240](#) Document (with redactions), dated August 2017, titled 'City of Gold Coast (Gold Coast City Council)'

[1241](#) Document (with redactions), dated August 2017, titled 'Ipswich City Council, Material Personal Interests, Unethical and Unconscionable Conduct'

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

US Marine Corps, Incident

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.41 am): Last month I joined other members of this House to celebrate the 241st anniversary of US independence aboard the USS *Ronald Reagan* at the port of Brisbane. It was a privilege to meet so many US service men and women who were here for the joint military exercise Talisman Sabre. This celebration was an opportunity to reflect on the thousands of US personnel who travelled to Brisbane 75 years ago, changing the course of World War II. Our friendship with the United States was forged in war and it has been sustained in peace.

On Saturday night, I was shocked to hear that an aircraft carrying 26 US personnel had ditched into water off Shoalwater Bay in Central Queensland and that three personnel were unaccounted for. My government has offered whatever assistance the US Marine Corps may require. This is a tragedy for the family, friends and crewmates of these officers. On behalf of this House we share their grief and we offer our heartfelt condolences.

Queenslanders, Achievements; Buy Queensland

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.42 am): Since we last met, Queenslanders have achieved historic victories. Jeff Horn won the WBO welterweight title against Manny Pacquiao in front of a full house at Suncorp Stadium. Our mighty Maroons, led by Cameron Smith, coached by Kevin Walters and inspired by Johnathan Thurston, won the State of Origin series, again at Suncorp Stadium. In its inaugural year, Sunshine Coast Lightning won the national Super Netball competition. Queenslanders Judah Kelly won *The Voice* and a recording contract.

I also congratulate Queensland students, their parents and, of course, their teachers on our best NAPLAN results, which were released last week. These results vindicate our decision to invest more in Queensland schools—more teachers, upgraded classrooms and extra resources. Last month it was confirmed that 77,300 jobs have been created in Queensland since the last election. The latest data also shows that Queensland exports over the last 12 months were at a record \$65.9 billion—\$20 billion more than when we came to office.

For every extra export dollar Australia has earned since 2015, Queensland contributed 80 cents. Our agricultural production is forecast to reach almost \$20 billion, compared to the \$14.5 billion projection for 2014-15. As a tourist state, visitor numbers continue to grow strongly, with international and domestic visitors coming in record numbers and spending record amounts here in Queensland. That is also why I am so committed to our Buy Queensland policy. By encouraging local businesses to supply goods and services to our government, we can create even more jobs and opportunities for Queenslanders. We want to maximise government procurement for Queensland employment. Our Buy Queensland policy includes requiring at least one local or regional supplier and one other Queensland

based business to be invited to quote or tender for every procurement opportunity offered; for significant infrastructure projects valued at \$100 million or above, require the use of local subcontractors and manufacturers where the local capability and capacity exists; and significant projects will be required, where possible, to expend 15 per cent on apprenticeships—up from the current 10 per cent.

Jobs

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.42 am): My government continues to work as promised to restore hope and opportunity to Queenslanders. We know the importance of a job. That is why we have worked with industry to create 77,300 new jobs since the 2015 election. We know the importance of having a strong economy, and the record exports, tourism and agriculture results are great news for our state. However, we also know the importance of helping disadvantaged and vulnerable Queenslanders. That is why in the recent state budget we have budgeted \$5.3 billion for concessions and rebates for Queenslanders this financial year, the equivalent of more than \$100 million every week or more than \$100,000 for every Queenslander. To ensure these concessions are known and accessed by Queenslanders in need, my government established the Smart Savings website. It is a comprehensive source of information about concessions and rebates available for energy and water, seniors transport, health and disability, education, housing, training, agriculture, youth, legal, sports and recreation, volunteering, community groups, arts and culture.

As honourable members know, my government secured the electricity rebate for Queensland pensioners and seniors. Under my government the rebate has increased to up to \$340.85 per annum. This is an increase of almost \$20 under my government. Last year we expanded access to the electricity rebate to holders of Commonwealth healthcare cards. Through our Powering Queensland Plan we committed \$770 million to slash the expected price increase for Queenslanders by more than half. It means that we have the lowest retail price increases of all mainland states—3.3 per cent compared to around 10 per cent and even up to 20 per cent in other states. It also means that over the term of our government average prices for households have increased by an average of just 1.9 per cent per year, compared to 43 per cent during the term of the former LNP government.

As Premier, I want to ensure Queenslanders get the support they need by accessing the support we are offering. I urge Queenslanders to check the concessions and rebates that are available on the Smart Savings website.

Waste

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.47 am): Last night the *Four Corners* program made alarming allegations about the management of waste. Specifically, it raised the allegation that the New South Wales government was not enforcing its own laws around the movement of waste within its borders. We need to ensure there is a national approach to the management of waste in this country. I am determined to work with the Premier of New South Wales on the cross-border movement of waste, and I hope to speak with her later today.

Fairer Fares

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.47 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government's Fairer Fares policy has made public transport cheaper and helped ease the cost-of-living pressure for many people right across South-East Queensland. I am pleased today to be able to provide an end of financial year analysis for our Fairer Fares policy. I am delighted to be able to report that the Palaszczuk Labor government's Fairer Fares package has helped save more than \$34 million for South-East Queenslanders since its introduction in December last year. More than 80 million passenger trips have benefited from the reduced fares, with customers on average saving 43 cents per trip. By reducing the travel zones—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, if you persist you will be warned under standing order 253A. You have had a pretty good go.

Ms TRAD: Over 80 million passenger trips have benefited from reduced fares, with customers saving on average 43 cents per trip. By reducing the travel zones from 23 to eight wider zones, Fairer Fares has succeeded in making public transport more affordable and it has simplified the TransLink network, making it cheaper and easier to use than ever before.

Passengers throughout the south-east—on the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast and at Ipswich, Logan and Brisbane—are now benefiting from this government's investment in Fairer Fares. Fairer Fares is helping everyday Queensland commuters and families save on the daily cost of public transport. It is also making it easier for those who need it the most. Through the new concession fares this government introduced in April 2017, Fairer Fares is giving a much needed break to jobseekers receiving the Newstart Allowance or youth allowance as well as to asylum seekers who reside in Queensland. Fairer Fares not only helps the unemployed and asylum seekers access the job market; it also helps connect them to health, education and vital support services.

Fairer Fares is also helping families get out and about to visit friends and families and access the many great leisure activities on offer in the beautiful South-East Queensland region. The 'free weekend go card travel for kids' initiative is proving hugely popular, with families saving more than \$400,000 and taking more than 807 extra trips per day compared to the same time last year. Regular users and commuters are also reaping the rewards of Fairer Fares through the 'eight trips and half price' initiative. Almost six million passenger journeys have benefited from the 'eight trips and half price' initiative, with customers saving more than \$7.5 million since the introduction of Fairer Fares. Fairer Fares is putting money back into the pockets of South-East Queenslanders and I know that commuters, families and concession card holders appreciate this very practical cost-of-living relief.

Water Prices

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.51 am): I wish to set out the facts in relation to water billing in South-East Queensland following media reports today. The Queensland Competition Authority is reviewing Seqwater's pricing, and a draft report is due in November with the final report expected to be finished by March next year. As with any such review, the QCA's role is to make recommendations and the government's role is to make final decisions on those recommendations. I wish to state clearly that the Palaszczuk government will be making decisions that ensure no avoidable or unnecessary costs are passed on to SEQ water bills. There are options open to the government to ensure that water bills do not rise, including extending the 20-year price path for repaying the cost of the water grid. We will need to assess those issues when we receive the QCA recommendations.

Water demand in the region has been lower than expected; however, there is no expectation that lower consumption levels should inevitably result in consumers paying more for water. The price impact of lower demand will largely be offset by continued cost savings. As its owners, the government has consistently driven Seqwater to find operating and capital cost efficiencies. Consumption is down on average, but Seqwater has already made significant savings to offset reduced revenue. As the QCA stated, it set an operating cost saving target of \$50 million in the 2015 price review over three years and Seqwater has exceeded this target by around \$67 million over three years. Actual and forecast capital expenditure is also lower. Seqwater expects that the price impact from lower demand will largely be offset by these continued cost savings.

In the 2015 pricing review we saw prices decrease across five local government areas, including 6.7 per cent at Logan and 10.3 per cent at Somerset. It must also be pointed out that the bulk water charge makes up less than half—and in some cases only one-third—of a customer's final water and sewerage bill. Lower consumption also allows the deferral of the next significant augmentation of the south-east corner's water infrastructure until around 2040, which again reduces the cost borne by end consumers. Without the water grid, new water supply infrastructure would otherwise have been required as early as 2020-21.

I also wish to advise that my direction to the QCA specifically ruled out consideration of fixed network charges in the review and that the QCA was to focus only on volumetric pricing. The government will not be approving increased fixed charges on bulk water bills as a result of this review. I repeat: the government will not be approving increased fixed charges on bulk water bills as a result of this review. It is important to note that the earlier review of water prices under this government locked in lower prices for bulk water than under the previous LNP government. Our record concessions package of more than \$5 billion for five million Queenslanders already provides a subsidy of up to \$120 per annum to eligible pensioner property owners in the SEQ water grid.

Labor droughtproofed the south-east. The water grid's interconnected pipe network means that we now have an extra 85,000 million litres of water available for households, businesses and industry. Despite criticism from those opposite, the grid has proved its worth in times of potential water shortages as a result of natural disasters and will continue to do so.

State Finances

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.54 am): I have good news for Queensland. Today I can advise the House of the latest Queensland State Accounts, which show strength and growth in our state economy as a result of this government's economic plan. The latest Queensland State Accounts figures show the best quarterly economic growth result in Queensland in five years and confirm the continuing strong upturn in the Queensland economy. For the four quarters to the March quarter 2017 they show trend gross state product growth of 3.9 per cent compared with 1.2 per cent for the rest of the nation. The March quarter result of 3.9 per cent sees growth strengthen from 2.8 per cent in the December quarter 2016. In the March quarter our economy is growing at 1.2 per cent in trend terms compared with 0.3 per cent for the rest of Australia. The March quarter figure for Queensland was also up on the December quarter 2016 figure for GSP growth of 1.1 per cent.

The QSA figures expose the previous criticisms of federal Treasurer Scott Morrison that Queensland is somehow a drag on the national economy. The facts are there in black and white. If Queensland's growth were not as strong as it is, Australia's growth would be much lower. The figures show that our economic plan is on the right track and has reinjected growth into the Queensland economy. Before Labor took office, growth under the LNP was just 0.8 per cent in the four quarters to the December quarter 2014, which is the lowest since the GFC.

As previously acknowledged, Tropical Cyclone Debbie is expected to impact growth figures by around 0.75 per cent from the loss of around 10 million tonnes of coal exports and damage to other industries, with an economic impact of around \$2 billion. That impact is likely to show up initially in the figures for the June quarter 2017, which are yet to be published. The latest figures show that our economic plan is on the right track and has reinjected growth into the Queensland economy. Queensland's stronger economic growth is being underpinned by our strong export performance, notably our robust resource driven trade sector. Queensland Treasury estimates our state's trade performance to continue to be a major driver of growth, with net exports contributing 1.2 percentage points to GSP growth in the March quarter. This has occurred as a result of both higher exports and lower imports, but the signs of an upturn in our state's domestic economy are still evident. State final demand—a key indicator of domestic conditions which excludes our trade performance—recorded its fifth consecutive quarter of growth in the March quarter after nine consecutive quarters of contraction. State final demand rose 0.3 per cent in the quarter to be 1.5 per cent higher over the year. A key component of this was continued growth in household consumption, which was up 0.6 per cent.

I have been talking about Queensland's economy being in transition following a period of weakness as LNG construction activity wound down from the highs of the resources boom. Now we can see clear evidence of continuing improvements in domestic economic conditions because of the initiatives we have taken in three state budgets delivered under our economic plan. Under Labor, the Queensland economy is in a much stronger position than the one we inherited in February 2015. Growth is higher, debt is down, confidence is up and we have created 77,300 net new jobs. We know that we have more to do and we will continue implementing initiatives under our economic plan to drive growth, lift investment, foster innovation and create more jobs.

Hospitals, Car Parking

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.57 am): The Palaszczuk government recognises that the cost of car parking at some of our public hospitals is a real concern for many patients, carers and their families. On 23 July I was pleased to announce the Palaszczuk government's four-point action plan to improve the affordability of, and access to, hospital parking at public hospitals in Queensland. As the first step of the action plan, all hospital and health services have been directed to develop policies specific to each hospital with paid parking to address car-parking costs. The directive requires hospital and health services to develop and publish their local hospital car-parking concessions policy by 1 October this year and report on them annually. In particular, car-parking concessions will focus on the following categories: patients and carers experiencing financial hardship, which may include government concession card holders; patients and carers who need to attend hospital for an extended period of time; patients and carers who are required to attend hospital frequently; and patients and carers with special needs who require assistance.

The second step involves the Palaszczuk government providing \$7.5 million over the next four years to make available at Queensland public hospitals 100,000 additional free and discounted car-parking spaces each year. Increasing the number of concessional car-parking spaces means that

many more people and families in need will have access to affordable car parking. This will mean a little less stress for patients and their families, especially those who find themselves burdened financially by the cost of parking.

The third element of our action plan is to make more car parking available. At Logan and Caboolture hospitals the government has funded ground-level car-parking solutions. In both cases this will also help with the future expansion of both hospitals. At Rockhampton Hospital Queensland Health has awarded a contract for the design and construction of the nearly 600-space multistorey car park, and the \$1.1 billion Herston Quarter redevelopment provides for expanded car-parking capacity to serve the hospital and future occupants of that site.

For future multistorey car park proposals at public hospitals, the government's preferred approach will be to develop a government portfolio model, financed by the Queensland Treasury Corporation. Finally, we have started work on developing options for car parking at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. There are no easy or immediate answers to increasing car parking at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital precinct or in the immediate vicinity of the hospital, but we will work to ensure every option is considered. We are doing all of this because our government is a government that works hard to support Queenslanders when they need it the most.

Playgroup

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (10.00 am): One of my first memories is of going to playgroup with my mum at our local Anglican church. Our government understands, just like my mum did, that the early years of education are the most crucial for children's development. That is why we are providing \$1.6 million over five years to Playgroup Queensland to deliver Play Stars—free playgroup membership for Queensland families. I am pleased to advise the House that, during the first year of this program, close to 4,000 Queensland families have already registered for playgroup. Under the partnership, every family with a child under 12 months can sign up for a free one-year membership with Playgroup Queensland, saving Queensland families \$40. Playgroup Queensland membership allows families to attend affiliated Playgroup Queensland playgroups and access a range of age-appropriate resources.

We want all Queensland children to get the very best start in life. More than 3,900 families have registered, and 40 new playgroups have been created across Queensland since the Play Stars initiative began in July last year. We are determined to increase participation in playgroup for Queensland families because we know that the early years are vital for a child's development. Playgroup helps parents and carers to network and support each other. It also supports the learning and development of children from their earliest years. We want to encourage even more families to reap these benefits by registering with Play Stars or even starting their own playgroup in their own local community.

Tow Truck Industry

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (10.01 am): In early May the *Sunday Mail* exposed the extent of the tow truck industry rort. That rort had left many motorists tricked, intimidated and ripped off. In a matter of days the Palaszczuk government set up a hotline for people to tell their stories, and within a week we announced that former District Court judge Michael Forde would lead a three-month investigation. During that time Mr Forde, an eminent and respected former District Court judge, consulted extensively. He spoke with towing operators, private property occupiers, motorists, and government and non-government bodies and organisations to put together his report. Information was gathered from the hundreds of calls to the tow truck hotline, 41 written submissions and numerous interviews.

The report was finalised and officially presented to me on Sunday, ahead of the three-month deadline. Yesterday cabinet endorsed all of the 22 recommendations made by Mr Forde. This body of work sets out the framework to overhaul the tow truck industry. I want to thank Mr Forde and his support team at TMR for their hard work.

The act covering tow truck licensing and accreditation has been amended only once in 40 years, so these changes are long overdue. By capping the fees at \$250 for a standard private property tow and \$150 for an on-site release, we will smash the business model that has allowed spotters and rogue operators to charge what they want and get away with it using intimidating tactics. This means that Queensland will be the first state in the country to cap fees for towing from private properties. Another

key recommendation is increasing the existing penalties and introducing new penalties for those who contravene the tow truck legislation. For example, fines for operating an unlicensed tow truck will increase from \$252 to \$1,513, with a maximum court imposed penalty of \$20,184.

Under the recommendations, TMR will also develop guidelines outlining the minimum signage standards to promote visible, clear, comprehensive and consistent signage. They will increase enforcement activities and provide education aimed at improving community understanding of rights and obligations about private parking towing. Importantly, the tow truck hotline will continue to operate.

We are now preparing the necessary legislation to implement the recommendations and expect the new arrangements to be in place by the end of the year. The Palaszczuk government has acted swiftly and consulted widely to put an end to this rip-off rort by rogue towies once and for all. Private property towing will now be regulated. Drivers will be accredited and trucks will be licensed. While all motorists have a responsibility to park legally, they can now breathe easy knowing that they will no longer be tricked, intimidated or ripped off when their vehicle is towed.

Vocational Education and Training

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.05 am): The Palaszczuk government recognises that the ability to access vocational education and training is vital for many Queenslanders to be able to enter the workforce. We also know that cost can be a barrier to Queenslanders accessing these services. There are a number of ways in which the provision of training is subsidised in Queensland, through both public and private providers. These are the Certificate 3 Guarantee, User Choice and Higher Level Skills programs. In 2017-18 it is forecast that in these three programs the Palaszczuk government will provide around \$460 million in subsidies to allow Queenslanders to access the training they need.

The Certificate 3 Guarantee is designed to ensure Queenslanders have access to a qualification at any point post school. This allows students to access heavily subsidised training in over 100 courses in more than 30 different industries. These subsidies are regularly reviewed to ensure they align with workforce demands. The User Choice program is where the costs of training an apprentice or trainee are subsidised to ensure it remains affordable and accessible for students and employees alike. More than 350 different qualifications are eligible to receive between 50 and 100 per cent subsidy to ensure a pipeline of qualified apprentices and trainees are going through training in this state. The Higher Level Skills program is also about ensuring that courses in the certificate IV, advanced diploma and diploma area are made affordable for students in the workplace or often as a transition to university. More than 60 qualifications in 20 different industries are subsidised under this program. Once again, these subsidies are regularly reviewed and new and emerging qualifications added, especially where an industry demonstrates a need to support a specific qualification. For those apprentices and trainees who need to travel more than 100 kilometres to access their training, there are travel and accommodation subsidies available to help support this cost. This recognises that there is a need for face-to-face training for apprentices, and this helps to soften the costs and assist in this often significant expense.

The subsidies on offer range from a few hundred dollars to more than \$50,000, depending on the course cost and the industry demand, so the incentive is there for Queenslanders to get involved in training at a reduced cost. I urge any Queenslanders who are thinking about undertaking training to visit the Queensland Skills Gateway and make sure they understand the process and choose the course that is right for them. The Palaszczuk government is proud to be providing opportunities for Queenslanders to access affordable training to help them get into jobs.

Better Budgeting

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.08 am): I am pleased to report that the Palaszczuk government's \$25 million Better Budgeting plan is delivering for those who need it most. We know that currently 31 per cent of households in Australia are experiencing financial stress and that right now 14.8 per cent of Queenslanders are at risk of poverty. These householders want to get out of this situation but often do not know how or cannot access professional financial advice or products. Sadly, this often leads many households to access unscrupulous payday lenders, who deliberately target vulnerable Queenslanders. Thanks to our \$25 million Better Budgeting plan, we can tell struggling Queenslanders that they do not have to go down that track with hidden fees and high interest rates. We have an alternative. If people are struggling with paying their car registration,

utility bills and insurance or need to replace appliances such as washing machines and dryers, they can now access no-interest loans at our Good Money stores and be put in touch with one of our financial counsellors.

While governing from the Gold Coast last week I met with Good Shepherd Microfinance at our Southport store and heard about the life-changing work it was doing. Already the store has had more than 500 inquiries in the first month and issued many no interest loans. Customers at this shop do not just get a loan and then leave; they are connected with a financial counsellor to help them address long-term issues and the debt cycle that they are trapped in, and that is where I met Brett. Brett came to Good Shepherd to help get his car on the road and pay his registration. During that application process it became clear that Brett had accessed a payday lender and had been charged illegal fees on top of huge interest rates. When staff looked into his finances even further, they helped him recover much of the illegal fees he was paying to these unscrupulous payday lenders and our Good Money employees advocated on his behalf. Renee, one of our employees, got Brett a no interest loan which got his car back on the road which helped him find work and he managed to get a refund from his payday lender who had charged, I have to say, outrageous fees. With the help of the financial counsellor, he got his finances back on track.

Once that particular payday lender was on the Good Money store's radar, they were then able to make contact with other clients who had been charged similar illegal fees. In Brett's case, most importantly, as I said, he got his car back on the road and got to job interviews. I am appalled that people like Brett are targeted by these predatory payday lenders and I am proud that Queenslanders now have another option to help them out with cost-of-living pressures and life's unexpected expenses and I am proud that the Labor government has practical plans and policies to help people who are living pay cheque to pay cheque.

National Disability Insurance Scheme, Taxi Subsidy Scheme

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (10.10 am): I am pleased to inform the House that the Palaszczuk government has moved to reinstate the Taxi Subsidy Scheme for National Disability Insurance Scheme participants. Reinstating this important concession was essential, because if you cannot access health services, education or employment opportunities then you cannot live the life you choose and you become isolated and excluded. I heard these stories firsthand of hardship and frustration in not being able to access real and important issues like transport. I have heard stories of people who had been given opportunities through the NDIS but not sufficient travel allowance to enable them to access them. TSS members receive up to a \$25 per trip co-contribution from the Queensland government and at the end of the NDIS's first year 1,146 TSS members have transitioned and up to another 1,700 may transition in 2017-18.

While the federal government has acknowledged the concerns about transport support through the NDIS and set up a national working group of transport and disability agencies to work out this issue, Queenslanders with disability could not wait. The Palaszczuk government took the view that Queenslanders should not miss out on this essential concession scheme. People with disability deserve better. The reinstatement of the concession scheme gives people with disability peace of mind so they do not have to worry about getting to their appointments, to visit their families and to get around the community or to their jobs. The restoration of this concession has been positively received by the disability sector and people with disability, with Sharon Boyce, Chair of the Queensland Disability Advisory Council, saying—

Thank you for such great news. This will make such a difference to people with disability who rely on the taxis and the taxi subsidy card to get them to their various appointments every day. Thank you to the Queensland Government and everybody who advocated for this to happen.

To make this process as seamless as possible, people whose Taxi Subsidy Scheme membership ceased on entry into the NDIS will not have to apply for their membership to be reinstated; it will be done automatically. We are a government that listens and makes sure that all Queenslanders can afford to take part in this great state.

Accelerate Small Business Grants Program

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.13 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to providing small business owners and operators with the support they need to succeed. Today I am delighted to

announce the latest round of funding under our \$22.7 million Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy. Another 19 Queensland small businesses will share more than \$185,000 under the Palaszczuk government's \$3 million Accelerate Small Business Grants Program. Some 53 Queensland small businesses have now received Accelerate Small Business Grants. Recipients of the Accelerate Small Business Grants receive matched funding of up to \$10,000 to engage business mentors, coaches or an advisory board to work closely with the business for six to 12 months. These grants are helping small businesses grow and employ more Queenslanders.

Accelerate Small Business Grant recipient Sue-Ellen Watts is the powerhouse behind Brisbane business wattsnxt. Sue-Ellen started her small business 10 years ago, working with small to medium sized businesses to create an individual approach to their human resource needs that will bring about cohesive teams and great workplaces. Wattsnxt now works with more than 100 clients across all aspects of human resources—from audits to exits and hiring to performance management. She says that Queensland is a terrific state to have a small business and that being part of grant programs like this one show the Queensland government means business when it comes to small business.

Another Accelerate Grant recipient, Furniture Hardware Supplies at Varsity Lakes on the Gold Coast opened its doors in 2007, wholesaling kitchen and bathroom hardware to cabinet-makers. Its Gold Coast operation has a staff of five and it has its eye on franchising into northern Queensland and eventually other regional centres. Owner Mark Turner says that the business is 'experiencing growth' and he needs to ensure the business is well structured to handle future growth and employment projections. He says the Accelerate Small Business Grant will enable them to get the business support and advice they need to make sure their success continues so that they can grow and employ more Queenslanders. Since October more than \$477,000 in Accelerate Small Business Grant funding has been allocated to 53 Queensland small businesses. The Palaszczuk government's economic plan is setting the right conditions for small business growth after the disastrous slash-and-burn approach of the Newman-Nicholls government. We will continue to back our 414,000 small businesses to help them grow and employ, especially in our regional communities.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Policies

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.16 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for its politically motivated policy decisions creating investor uncertainty and destroying jobs for Queensland.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.16 am): It is good to be back, but I cannot help but reflect on some of the changes we have seen since we last gathered in this place. Notably, Mr Speaker, I refer to your announcement this morning of the addition of four chickens to the parliamentary precinct. However, I have to say that nothing will beat four chickens other than the lame duck we have sitting in the back corner. We have had a few lame ducks in this parliamentary precinct for some time, but we look forward to the calming effect that the lame duck will have in joining the chickens on the precinct. I am surprised the member for Yeerongpilly was not placed next to the member for Pumicestone. After all, they have certainly got the same level of ability and talent and the same approach to ethics! They would have made a perfect pair sitting at the back. Perhaps I am being unfair to the member for Pumicestone. The member for Pumicestone has been accused of a lot of things in this place such as swearing at elderly constituents and being a dodgy tow truck operator, but at least he has never been accused of potentially corrupt conduct by the CCC.

What a distraction for this government. What an embarrassment to this accidental Premier. The questions of her leadership are swirling around: a Premier who has now lost four ministers, a Premier who buried her head in the sand at this sordid affair for so long and only acted when the stench became so strong that she had no other choice but to act. It is obvious that those opposite still do not understand the seriousness of the situation. As I have said in this place before, the Premier's leadership is really by the puppetmaster sitting to her right—'I see nothing, I do nothing, I hear nothing'. I know the puppetmaster is the Deputy Premier. The health minister thinks he is the puppetmaster: he gets up in

the morning, looks in the mirror and says, 'Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?', and the mirror replies, 'Not you, Minister for Health. Certainly not you.' It is the Deputy Premier. We know that.

We have talked in this place before about the Premier's office and the guide to using the Premier, because we know she does not like to get out in public when there is controversy. In such a short period of time we have had to update the 'Labor Guide to Using the Premier'. I have had to add a few, but of course last time we had—

Is the media event in South East Queensland?

Is there any ... controversy around (think adverse CCC findings)?

Does it involve email scandals, trains, child safety, housing or law and order or the actions of the member for Yeerongpilly?

Do any of the ... names appear in the paper today, Miller, Williams, Fentiman, Gordon, Byrne, Saunders—

we had to add Saunders to that; we have added Bruce Sanders—

or Bailey?

Is it just rebranded LNP policy?

Does it require the Premier to speak?

Does it require the Premier to explain a policy?

Is there a chance—

the Premier will not know what she is talking about. It continues—

Is there a chance it could lead to questions over her leadership?

Has the Premier sneezed this morning?

Achoo!

If yes please immediately phone the CFMEU and seek approval for a sickie.

That is what this Premier does. She hides from the media. Then after Mark Bailey resigns, she turns up in the media and says, 'Oh, that was yesterday's news. There's nothing to see here. There's no issue. There's a line in the sand.' Today, the paper says that the Premier is going to be a fluoro vest—

(Time expired)

Electricity Prices



Hon. CW PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.20 am): If we ever needed an example of why those opposite were thrown out of office, it is the 'peacock' from Kawana. When it comes to putting downward pressure on electricity prices, I am proud to report that, after the shocking 43 per cent increases under the previous government, the Palaszczuk government has taken decisive action. Our Powering Queensland Plan—a \$1.1 billion plan—is helping to stabilise electricity prices, deliver jobs in infrastructure and lead the transition to a clean energy sector. This is a move that has been applauded by the ACCC.

Although I welcome the federal government commissioning the ACCC's national inquiry into electricity prices, this action should have been taken a long time ago. The National Electricity Market—the NEM—is broken owing to policy paralysis at the federal level. That has prevented much needed investment in new generation, it has driven up wholesale prices and it has put energy security at risk. It is not delivering for households, businesses, industry or the government.

Despite that, our government is doing the heavy lifting, using the levers that we have available, because we kept our energy assets in public hands. In fact, while the failed former treasurer, the member for Clayfield, wasted \$100 million of taxpayers' money preparing to sell assets, Labor invested our revenues in keeping electricity prices lower for Queenslanders.

Under the Powering Queensland Plan, we have invested a massive \$770 million to slash the expected QCA electricity price increase by more than half. This is expected to save a typical household \$56 a year. To further shield Queenslanders from the high electricity price rises that are being felt across the rest of the country, our government has directed Energy Queensland to remove the costs of the Solar Bonus Scheme from network charges until at least 2020. The only way this has been possible is through the retention of the ownership of these assets in public hands.

The result of our intervention is that Queensland has the lowest retail price increase of all the mainland states—3.3 per cent compared to around 10 per cent to 20 per cent across the other states. Over the term of our government the average price increase has been 1.9 per cent, compared to 43 per cent over the term of the LNP government.

The Chairman of the ACCC, Rod Sims, has welcomed our decisive action, stating—

... the good news is, the Queensland Government, alone of any government, has drawn on its own budget to remove that cost to consumers and I certainly applaud them for doing that and again I think it's evidence of a welcome focus on affordability.

We have also been working hard to reduce wholesale electricity prices. During the estimates hearing, I was very clear and tabled—and I will show this to the House and table it—the wholesale electricity price increases for 2011 to 2014.

Tabled paper: Graph titled Wholesale electricity price increases 2011-12 to 2014-15 [1222].

Tabled paper: Graph titled Wholesale electricity price increases 2014-15 to 2016-17 [1223].

Under the former government, we can see where Queensland was positioned.

How are we going? Under a Labor government, we have the lowest rises in wholesale electricity prices. It is there in black and white. It is irrefutable. It is because of the work that we have done in government in having to fix the mess left by those opposite.

Queensland Rail

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.23 am): Labor's rail fail has evolved. In the words of the member for Maryborough, it is now a rail debacle. Over the past 24 hours, one of the world's largest rail operators, Deutsche Bahn, has panned Labor's 'rail fail' in a whole-of-business review of Queensland Rail. Deutsche Bahn—or DB—is a company with 5.5 million passenger transport customers each and every day. It operates more than 40,000 services daily on its 33,000-kilometre-long rail network, which includes over 5,500 railway stations. Unlike that mob opposite us, one could say that DB knows a thing or two about running trains.

The Strachan inquiry requested this report. Over six weeks an expert rail team from DB reviewed all of QR, interviewing 82 managers from QR and TMR, including the CEO and the director-general, embarking on four operational QR site visits and reviewing 250 documents. With 30 findings and recommendations, reviews do not come more thorough than this one. What did DB find? I ask members to remember that last week the Premier said that she had been fully briefed and was very optimistic. DB says that 18 new generation rolling stock trains are required to service the Commonwealth Games timetable—a timetable that commuters still have not seen. That is another secret from a secretive government. Given that nobody else on that side seems competent enough to do it, perhaps the member for Maryborough could do the people of South-East Queensland a favour and release that Commonwealth Games timetable. DB says that 18 NGR trains are required for the Commonwealth Games but, in its conservative view, those 18 NGR trains will not be ready. So much for optimism! As we learned at estimates, there are only 15 NGR trains in the state and only five of them have done on-track testing. So much for optimism! DB warns that there is a risk—

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I hear the interjections of the Minister for Education. I urge you to consider your interjections in the future.

Mr Cripps: You'll have the chook run.

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, you too might be down to the chook run.

Mr POWELL: Deutsche Bahn warned that there is a risk that there will not be enough train crew either. The Deputy Premier's last-ditch, eleventh-hour opening of train crew recruitment will not save the games. So much for optimism! DB also warned that there is a risk of increased rolling stock failures as a result of having to rely on ageing trains—trains that have contributed to 84 per cent of the major rail fails over the past 12 months. So much for optimism! At the same time, DB tells us that Queensland Rail's NGR and Commonwealth Games teams are understaffed. So much for optimism!

Today the Premier is breathing a sigh of relief, because today is the day that she loses the mantle of Queensland's—

(Time expired)

Queensland Rail

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.27 am): One of the recommendations of the Strachan commission of inquiry was to undertake a whole-of-business review into Queensland Rail. This review was undertaken by a world-leading industry expert from Germany, railway operator Deutsche Bahn. I now table for the benefit of the House the report.

Tabled paper: DB Engineering & Consulting, Whole of Business Review of Queensland Rail, Report prepared for the Citytrain Response Unit, July 2017 [[1224](#)].

Mr Strachan's recommendation was all about proactively identifying any other areas of Queensland Rail's business that can be improved. This report shows that our plan to fix the trains is working. This report notes that Queensland Rail is working hard to overcome issues and has established appropriate recovery and response measures. The report also says that Queensland Rail is performing strongly in daily operations, including on-time running, and has a state-of-the-art railway management centre.

This report also tells us what the Strachan commission of inquiry already has: there are challenges in Queensland Rail and we need to continue taking steps to address them. That is exactly what we are doing. We are not like those opposite, which took the low road of cuts. We are not like those opposite, which ordered half-priced trains from India.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind members when I am on my feet to not continue their interjections or I will take the appropriate action.

Ms TRAD: For the benefit of those opposite I table a copy of the press release titled 'New trains for half the price'.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 29 January 2014, by the former Treasurer and Minister for Trade, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, and the former Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mr Scott Emerson MP, regarding contract for 75 new trains in South East Queensland [[1225](#)].

We have been working hard to resolve the issues that have occurred since the LNP ordered these cut-price trains from India and I am confident that they will be on the network by the end of the year.

I am also confident that we will have the staff required. Currently, there are 85 drivers in training—the largest school Queensland has ever had. In contrast, what we saw from the LNP was a freeze on driver recruitment and sacking of driver trainers. Those opposite sacked 14,000 public servants, including those training train drivers. They gutted Queensland Rail. They gutted the department of transport. That is the legacy we inherited from those opposite.

It is clear that it is only the Palaszczuk Labor government that can and will fix the trains and provide Queenslanders with the world-class public transport system that this region so desperately needs. Anything else from those opposite is throwing stones from the sidelines. They are not interested in fixing the trains; they are interested in throwing stones.

US Marine Corps, Incident; Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.30 am): On behalf of the opposition, I also join the Premier in conveying our most sincere condolences to the families of the US marines who died in the weekend's tragic incident off the coast of Rockhampton. The pain and grief currently being experienced by the families of the three marines, the last having only just been identified, who have lost their lives cannot be measured. The heartfelt thoughts of all Queenslanders I am sure are with them at this tragic time.

Last week this fly-in fly-out Premier took her cabinet down to the Gold Coast in the hope of generating some good news. That is about the only thing they try to generate in this place. They are about as successful at generating new power and keeping power prices down. I know the Premier called it a success, but what did we really see? We saw report after report after report about the many failures of this Labor government on the coast.

Let us have a look at the week that was last week. The week started with a number of home truths from that good old truth teller, the member for Maryborough, that were widely reported. Not content to talk amongst his colleagues, he went on radio. What did we see? We saw the first headline: 'Derailed: Labor insider's stunning games confession'. That was the first one. I table that headline for members opposite who may not have made it down the coast.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 1 August 2017, titled 'Derailed' [[1226](#)].

It is a confession by the member for Maryborough that included—

We are going to have a transport debacle.

...

We're struggling, no use lying to people saying everything is all good.

...

I'll be quite honest with people—

thank you, member for Maryborough—

these trains were supposed to be up and running before the Commonwealth Games.

The bad news did not stop there. The next day we got this in response to Labor's unilateral decision to kill 13,000 jobs on the coast—'Yay! Labor celebrates as the coast loses'. I table that.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 2 August 2017, titled 'Yay! Labor celebrates as Coast loses' [1227].

This is backed up by another one—'Palaszczuk scorns own study to kill resort'. I table that.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 2 August 2017, titled 'Palaszczuk scorns own study to kill resort' [1228].

This is the week of success. This is how the *Courier-Mail* described the jobs-destroying ASF backflip—'Going for broke'. I table that article as well.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier Mail*, dated 2 August 2017, titled 'Going for broke' [1229].

Labor lost in its gamble to snatch seats. On the same day the media was highlighting that embarrassing about-face, it was also reported that only 27 bikies had handed back their badges under Labor's soft laws and that the LNP's tough criminal gangs laws were three times more efficient. Then there was 'Patch me if you can'. I table that report for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 2 August 2017, titled 'Patch me if you can' [1230].

Mr PITT: I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. We have finished. Thank you, members.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Mr SPEAKER: Before we proceed to question time, I would like to acknowledge today in the public gallery a delegation of young political leaders from the Republic of Korea hosted by the Australian Political Exchange Council. Welcome to our parliament.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Transport



Mr NICHOLLS (10.35 am): My first question is to the Premier. On radio last week the member for Maryborough slammed the government's efforts in organising the Commonwealth Games, saying, 'We are going to have a transport debacle. We are struggling at the moment—'

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, the proceeding is that we need to listen to the questioner in silence or I will take the appropriate action.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you. My question is to the Premier. On radio last week the member for Maryborough slammed the government's efforts in organising the Commonwealth Games, saying, 'We are going to have a transport debacle. We are struggling at the moment. There's no use lying to people.'

Mr Dick: You would know about struggling!

Mr NICHOLLS: Coming from the member for Woodridge, who had to struggle to find his electorate, that really is saying something.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, you are warned under standing order 253A for that interjection.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: He is not about to visit the chooks yet, but he might later. Leader of the Opposition, can you put the question?

Mr NICHOLLS: I am attempting to do that. Thank you for your statement of the rules. On radio last week the member for Maryborough slammed the government's efforts in organising the Commonwealth Games, saying, 'We are going to have a transport debacle. We are struggling at the moment. There's no use lying to people.' Why is a Labor backbencher on the Commonwealth Games committee entitled to know the truth but the rest of Queensland is not?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question. As the Deputy Premier was clearly saying, we are fixing the mess that was left by the former LNP government. Let us be very clear. Who signed the contract in 2014? The member for Clayfield and the member for Indooroopilly! They are the people responsible for signing the contract to get the trains from India.

In future, under our procurement policy about putting Queenslanders first, these trains will be made in Maryborough. That is where the trains will be made, in the seat of Maryborough, creating jobs for Queenslanders and not jobs for Indians.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Thank you, members. We will wait. I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I want to see Queenslanders get those jobs. I want to see, where there is a government contract for work in this state, that the first opportunity comes to Queenslanders. In Maryborough they have the capacity and the capability to build those trains and in future that is where they will be built. What we saw very clearly under the opposition when they were in government was they signed the contract for half-price trains. That is what they did. They signed the contract for half-price trains.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Glass House, I find your interjections designed to disrupt the Premier in her answer to the question. You are warned under standing order 253A. If you persist as well, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you will get a similar warning. So will other members if I can identify them. I will ask the Clerk to assist me in identifying members who are playing up. I call the Premier. Do you have anything further to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I do. The state has received a delivery of some of those trains. In order for those trains to run safely on the network a number of issues have been identified. There are 41 outstanding issues. We want them fixed as quickly as possible so that we can put those trains on the network and then we can receive the other trains that were contracted from India.

Our procurement policy is clearly about keeping jobs here in Queensland. I have never met a stronger advocate for their local community than the member for Maryborough. He wants jobs in Maryborough, which is a community that is hurting because of the savage cuts that were made under the former government. We will stand up for jobs in this state. We have heard the attacks that have come from New Zealand and Canberra, but we will always stand up for Queensland and put Queenslanders first. That is what our policy is about and it is exactly what Bruce Saunders, as the member for Maryborough, is clearly advocating, that is, to have the opportunity to tender for that work in Maryborough—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before I ask the Leader of the Opposition for his second question, Minister for Health and member for Glass House, you are both on a first warning under standing order 253A.

Queensland Rail

Mr NICHOLLS: My second question is also to the Premier. Does the Premier accept that the member for South Brisbane's backflip to allow external QR driver applications is too little too late, after the secret report has revealed that there will not be enough train crew for the Commonwealth Games?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The answer is no. Let us be very clear: under the government that he led, he cut the trainers.

Ms Trad: And froze recruitment.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And froze recruitment. If you want to ask where this situation came from, it happened under the leadership of Tim Nicholls.

A government member: Lack of leadership.

Ms PALASZCZUK: A lack of leadership, leaving a legacy of cuts.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I urge you to refer to other members by their appropriate title.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Clayfield. The Deputy Premier is ensuring that we have more guards and drivers going through the recruitment process and she is making sure they get the training that is needed to drive the trains. That is what she has been doing from day 1 of taking over the portfolio. In fact, I have seen her at the training sessions, talking to the trainers. I also have had the opportunity to speak to the train drivers. They have clearly told me that the fault lies with the former LNP government, which froze this process and froze the training. The Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport is getting on with the job of fixing the trains and is making sure that we have a sustainable train system into the future.

I reiterate that our Fairer Fares program is delivering savings to commuters across the south-east network and is helping to reduce the cost-of-living pressures that families are facing. We are getting more people onto the trains where possible and reducing the cost of travel. I know that people living in the outer suburbs are doing it tough. We want to do everything we possibly can to make their lives a bit easier by cutting fares.

Mrs Smith interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I have heard you all morning, member for Mount Ommaney. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

Electricity Supply

Mr POWER: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on measures being taken to increase the supply of electricity into the Queensland market?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Logan for that very important question. We know how important it is to put as much downward pressure as possible on electricity prices, which are having a huge impact on families across our state. As I said in my opening statement this morning, Queensland is leading the way. As the energy powerhouse, we are continuing to focus on lowering the future wholesale prices for families right across our state. That is in stark contrast to what the LNP wanted to do. Tim Nicholls, as Campbell Newman's right-hand man—let us not forget that—wanted to sell our electricity assets. If the former government were sitting here and electricity assets had been sold, families would be paying in excess of \$600 extra per year for electricity. That would have been the impost on families under those opposite.

The other thing that the former government did was to mothball Swanbank E and cut jobs. Over 20 families were impacted by the mothballing of Swanbank E. Today I can announce that Swanbank E is ready for recommissioning and that we have signed a gas contract, which means Swanbank E will be ready to put in excess of 380 megawatts of supply into the network system come next summer. My government is taking the firm decisions and the firm actions that are needed to put downward pressure on household bills, especially when it comes to electricity.

Today I can also announce that, with the recommissioning of Swanbank E, 16 new jobs will be created. For families, that means an income that they did not have after the cuts made by the former treasurer of this state, Tim Nicholls.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I counsel the member for Hinchinbrook and the member for Burleigh in relation to their interjections.

Queensland Rail, ICT

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question without notice is to the Premier. What actions has the government taken to improve Queensland Rail's ICT structure, given that the government's report has highlighted QR's cybersecurity is immature and vulnerable to attacks?

Ms PALASZCZUK: That issue in relation to ICT is contained in the report that the Deputy Premier has just tabled. Let us go back to the fact that this report was put forward by Phillip Strachan and his commission of inquiry. He said that this is what Queensland Rail needs to do going forward and ICT is one of those issues. The Strachan report identified ICT as an improvement area for Queensland Rail and, of course, Queensland Rail is working hard to address the issue. In recent times, Queensland Rail has significantly enhanced its capabilities and technologies to prevent cybercrimes and is certainly working to ensure it remains resilient to cyber attacks, as well. The report, which was handed to the government in July, will be studied and the recommendations from that report will be taken into due consideration.

Jobs

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier please update the House on how the government is working closely with the business sector to create more jobs and opportunities for Queenslanders?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Townsville for the question. Recently I was in Townsville, where I had the opportunity to announce our buying Queensland products and putting Queensland first procurement policy, which is something that my government has taken very seriously. We have worked very hard on this. I thank Minister Mick de Brenni for his hard work in this area. We want Queenslanders to be given the opportunity to build things here in Queensland.

I am absolutely delighted that we have had a positive reaction from groups, including Master Builders and the CCIQ. The Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that this is 'an absolute shot in the arm for small business'. I am very pleased that they have made that statement. The honourable member also knows that Townsville builder and Master Builders representative Adrian Gabrielli said the announcement was a 'momentous occasion'.

As I travel across the state people have been coming up to me and saying that this is the policy that they have been waiting for. It means that the government is listening to them and the government is delivering. Mr Adrian Gabrielli also said—

Hopefully the Federal Government takes a leaf out of the State Government's book ... it should give a lot of regional businesses the impetus to start growing. It gives the opportunity to build residual benefits in the community and jobs for the future.

We have had a bit of an attack from across our shores from New Zealand. The New Zealand trade minister was not too happy with our procurement policy. The federal trade minister has expressed some concerns about it. The federal trade minister is a Queenslanders so I would have thought that he would put Queensland's interests ahead of those of New Zealand. Our policy is purely about protecting and growing Queensland jobs.

I must refer to an article in the *Courier-Mail* today. It is good to see a member of this House getting into small business himself. The member for Callide is preparing for life post the election. I wish him all the best on behalf of this those on this side of the House. We on this side of the House support small business. With all due respect, we wish him all the very best with his small business venture into the future.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Glass House, I am informed that we have school student leaders and the deputy principal of the Laidley State High School, in the seat of Lockyer, in our gallery. Welcome.

Queensland Rail, New Generation Rollingstock

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. Given the statement by the transport director-general last year about the NGR trains that 'the design problems aren't really problems' and 'Oh yeah, I fixed them', why are commuters facing more delays every day because of Queensland's ageing train fleets, with some trains now nearly 40 years old, due to Labor's inability to commission the new trains?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I thought he was a member of cabinet when they were in office. Usually when a member is in cabinet they sit around and listen to the submissions. There would have been a submission that came in that talked about purchasing new trains.

Ms Trad: A \$4.4 billion contract.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It was pretty significant. One would have thought that someone sitting around the cabinet table would have paid a little bit of attention to that.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Kawana, if you persist I will take the appropriate action. I find your comments are designed to disrupt the Premier in answering the question. I would urge members to allow Hansard to record what is spoken in our chamber.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As we know, this contract was signed by the Newman-Nicholls government. My government is remedying the faults in the trains that have come over to ensure that they are safe and compliant to transport passengers on the rail network. It is pretty clear.

Ms Trad: We don't make any excuses for that.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. We make no excuses for getting it right. We will not put those trains on the network and we will not put passengers on that network until it is safe to do so.

The number of issues that need to be remedied have gone down to 41. I have had a briefing from both the CEO of Queensland Rail and the chair of the board, Phillip Strachan. They have given me every confidence that these details are being rectified as quickly as possible so that we will have the new rolling stock on the network by the end of the year.

Any fault with those trains lies clearly with the people who signed that contract. It is a basic principle of contract law. There is a buyer and a seller. They rushed in and signed it without due care and consideration. Now I have my Minister for Transport, the Deputy Premier, fixing the mess left to us by the former government. That is what is happening. We are fixing their mess—their debacle. That is what we are fixing. I have every confidence that we are going to remedy those issues and get trains on the network as soon as possible.

Government Procurement Strategy

Mrs LAUGA: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport. Will the minister inform the House how the new Queensland Government Procurement Strategy will benefit Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast and Central Queensland and what the response has been to the new strategy?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Keppel for the question and for her tireless support of jobs in Central Queensland. Our new procurement strategy will deliver for Rockhampton and regional Central Queensland for one very important reason—it backs Queensland jobs. This strategy makes sure that local truly means local. That means businesses getting a fair shot at local work.

If there is a firm in Rockhampton—in the electorate of Keppel—capable of undertaking work then they should have the best possible shot at winning that work. We will support businesses in Yeppoon, not businesses in Yarraville. We will support businesses in Berserker, not in Bankstown. We will support businesses and workers in Maryborough, not in India. We will do that unashamedly. The Queensland government spends \$14 billion a year on procurement and \$4 billion on building and maintaining infrastructure. We want to see as much of that investment supporting local jobs right here in Queensland.

The member for Keppel asked what the response has been to the announcement of the procurement strategy. I am pleased to report to the House that it has been extraordinarily fantastic. It has been welcomed with open arms by small business communities. Senior business figures have thanked the government for ‘answering small businesses’ call’ because they know the power of this policy. Right across the state, members on this side of the House are receiving positive feedback. I know the member for Keppel will have received that as I have in my electorate of Springwood. The Chief Entrepreneur Mark Sowerby said—

This new Queensland Government Procurement deal for Queensland Business is the best birthday present I’ve ever had.

He went on to tell the *Courier-Mail*—

I’m really impressed that this has been done; it’s a real competitive advantage for Queensland and I’m excited.

He makes an important point that what this strategy does for local business is provide sales not subsidies. Our Buy Queensland strategy is providing the best environment in the nation for small business.

The LNP in Queensland have been silent on this. Why? It is because the Liberal Party will not support small business and the National Party will not back the regions. They will not back our procurement policy. We have seen that they will not back subcontractors in Queensland. They will not support the small business families in Keppel, or anywhere else in the state, because they are not interested in Queensland jobs. All we saw from those opposite and all Queenslanders will ever see from those opposite is cut, slash, sack and sell. They will not support small business in regional communities like Keppel or anywhere else in the state.

(Time expired)

Queensland Rail, New Generation Rollingstock

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier guarantee that 18 NGR trains will be operational for the Commonwealth Games given the member for South Brisbane has stopped the delivery of any more trains?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are entirely optimistic that we will have those new trains.

Mr Seeney: Entirely optimistic?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, absolutely. We are always optimistic, unlike the three years of what you delivered for Queensland. I am always optimistic. I promised a better way and there is a better way. Let me make a couple of points because the member for Mudgeeraba raised the Commonwealth Games.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I think that was the member for Albert. You are warned under standing order 253A. If I can find your sparring partner, I will warn that member as well.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Of course we have a comprehensive transport plan when it comes to the Commonwealth Games. On this side of the House we are absolutely determined to deliver the best Commonwealth Games ever. I had the opportunity last week as part of governing from the Gold Coast, where I spent the entire week down there—not flying in and flying out, as the member for Kawana would have us believe—to meet with people and we were updated about the Commonwealth Games venues. All of the Commonwealth Games venues have now been completed, except for the games village. We expect the commissioning and handover of that to be in October this year. The Commonwealth Games are on track, on time and on budget.

In relation to the M1, in terms of transport, it was our government that had to fight with the federal government to get the funding for the M1. We did not hear any noises from those opposite when it came to fighting Canberra to get the funding for the M1. Secondly, at the time the Commonwealth Games were announced I do not know that they even supported the Commonwealth Games. It was not until after we won the games that they hopped on the games express.

Let me address another issue. Last week I had the opportunity to see the golden weld, which is the final welding linking the Gold Coast Light Rail so people will be able to travel from Brisbane all the way down to the Gold Coast. We expect to have that light rail up and running. It is due to commence early next year. Fingers crossed that it might be able to operate by the end of this year. It is great to see that there was someone out there backing in that project.

Ms Trad: Who was that?

Ms PALASZCZUK: 'The last weld on Stage 2 of the Light Rail to Helensvale. So pleased this is now only a few months away from happening.' That was the member for Southport! At least there is one member on that side who supports the light rail. We have not heard the Leader of the Opposition support the light rail. In fact, when we were arguing for the funding of the second stage of the light rail they did not even support that. We will deliver the infrastructure that is needed for the Commonwealth Games.

(Time expired)

Electricity Prices

Ms LINARD: My question is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer please update the House on what the Palaszczuk government is doing to assist with cost-of-living pressures and to stabilise electricity prices and how this compares to the previous government?

Mr PITT: I thank the member for Nudgee for her question. She is someone who raises these issues with me on a constant basis. I thank her for her advocacy.

I have said in this House, at estimates and on a number of occasions that the wholesale electricity price is one of the key determinants as to how we are going to travel forward in lowering electricity prices overall. We know that the national electricity market, as I have already stated, is broken. I have already tabled documents today which talk about the price differences between each of the states as to the rises in wholesale electricity prices. Across 2014-15 to 2016-17, we saw a 177 per cent rise in South Australia, 131 per cent in New South Wales, 119 per cent in Victoria and 103 per cent in Tasmania. By comparison, in Queensland, prices in wholesale terms are up 77 per cent. The LNP like to claim that this is a massive figure. Of course we would love it to be lower, but it is lower than the other states.

Here is a less than fun fact for the member for Clayfield, the former treasurer. When Tim Nicholls was treasurer wholesale electricity price increases were even higher. They were actually 81 per cent between 2011-12 and 2014-15. We know why this was the case. We know that there was a hands-off approach by those opposite as opposed to the very proactive approach that we are taking under our Powering Queensland Plan. Their hands-off approach was about fattening up the generators for sale as part of their Strong Choices assets sales program.

We have proved that we on this side of the House can do things differently, retaining our public assets and making them a virtue. We know that when prices were increasing by 81 per cent under the previous treasurer we saw that the wholesale prices in other mainland states were increasing between 11 per cent and 30 per cent. That is an absolute indictment on the former government and their handling of electricity prices.

As we said, our government is stepping in in terms of electricity pricing. The national electricity market is broken. This is a crisis of leadership by the federal government. There is no other way to explain it. We know that the only plan of those opposite was to sell the assets off. We know what happens then. The dividends that come back go to offshore private owners, not to the people of Queensland for us to reintroduce and reinvest. That is what we did. We reinvested approximately three-quarters of a billion dollars to lower electricity pricing.

The reality is that without our Powering Queensland Plan New South Wales and Victoria businesses and households, because of our Queensland power and gas exports, would be in the dark. That is the reality. Following our Powering Queensland Plan, we have also seen that the wholesale electricity price lowered by 19 per cent. A direction by our government to Stanwell Corporation has seen a direct impact on the future prices of wholesale electricity pricing—19 per cent down. That is a direct action of our government.

We need the federal government to start doing some heavy lifting. We cannot do this on our own. It is a national electricity market. We are going to be hammering them every step of the way, sticking up for Queenslanders and doing what those opposite have never done—and that is put Queenslanders first.

Queensland Rail, New Generation Rollingstock

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Premier. Premier, we are told that there are only 15 NGR trains in Queensland right now and that the delivery of the rest has been stopped by the member for South Brisbane.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr HART: Of those, 10 of the NGR trains have not travelled a single inch on the network.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I cannot hear the question. Can you please start again, member for Burleigh?

Mr HART: The member for Maryborough does not want to hear this question.

An opposition member: No, it's Yeerongpilly.

Mr HART: The member for Yeerongpilly, is it?

Mr SPEAKER: Before I invite the member for Burleigh to start again, I could take issue with that interjection but I could also take issue with an interjection by the Minister for Education in relation to the question that was asked. Will you please repeat the question, member for Burleigh?

Mr HART: Premier, we are told that there are only 15 NGR trains in Queensland right now and that the delivery of the rest has been stopped by the member for South Brisbane. Of those, 10 of the NGR trains have not travelled a single inch on the network. I ask the Premier: which train services on other lines will be forced to be cut to ensure there are enough trains for the Commonwealth Games?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I note that there have been a lot of questions today from the Gold Coast MPs. They must have loved our visit to the Gold Coast last week. They loved it! They loved having us down there. I love the Gold Coast. We love the Gold Coast.

Mr Bleijie: The more you are on TV their poll numbers go up.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. It won't be long and you might be on TV too.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Do you want us to release the polling on you?

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. Are we ready?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to put the member for Kawana in a focus group any day, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: All right.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will even personally pay for it.

Ms Trad: We'll chip in.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Pass the hat around—crowd funding.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier. I will stand on my feet and wait. I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Burleigh for that question. I love going to Burleigh. I will be spending a lot more time down there over the coming months. I will be spending a lot more time down there. We are coming to get you. Yes, we are.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, can you make your answer relevant to the question?

Ms PALASZCZUK: In all seriousness, the cabinet enjoyed the week down there. It was a great opportunity to meet with people from the business community and different interest groups. I know that all of my ministers got out and about.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Don't worry. I am coming to Kingaroy, too, soon. Yes, I am. There is so much good news in Kingaroy and the electorate of Nanango.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. I would urge members not to bait the Premier, who is answering the question.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Premier, can you come back to the question please?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are doing everything we can to make sure that the 41 issues that have been identified on the new generation rolling stock are rectified as quickly as possible. To that end, Queensland Rail has a large team working on the NGR, including approximately 130 staff on this project, fixing issues created not by this government but by the former government—by the two people sitting across from me, the member for Indooroopilly and the member for Clayfield. There are more than 40 Queensland Rail staff who are working on closing out the rolling stock compliance matters as quickly as possible.

To go to the heart of your question, which is why those trains have not yet gone on to the system, it is because we will not compromise safety. I will not compromise safety for any reason. We will continue to rectify those issues as quickly as possible. Let me once again reiterate in this House: the contract for half-price trains from India was signed under the Newman-Nicholls government. It was signed by them and it is being fixed by us.

Mr SPEAKER: After question time I will look back at some statements I have made about the appropriate way to refer to the previous government.

Queensland Rail, New Generation Rollingstock

Mr PEGG: My question is for the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on the progress of fixing the trains?

Ms TRAD: I thank the honourable member for the question. I know that he, like everyone on this side of the House, is interested in fixing the trains, unlike those opposite who are interested in creating problems, then ducking and hiding and throwing stones.

The Premier gave me the task of fixing the trains and that is exactly what I am doing. Those opposite like to criticise this government for commissioning reviews and seeking expert opinion until it suits their purpose. When the Deutsche Bahn review came down, did those opposite condemn this government for commissioning that review? No, they used the expert findings from that review to come into this place and continue to throw rocks.

Let us talk about the facts. Phillip Strachan recommended 200 additional drivers be recruited on to the system. We have 107 in training and 28 have already qualified since October last year. We have more guards in training than we need because we know we need to move from an undersupply to a surplus in terms of train crew. That is what we are doing. When I became transport minister there were

almost 500 outstanding critical issues that had to be addressed on the new generation rolling stock—almost 500. In five months we have whittled them down to 41, with a team of 140 diligent officers working through all of the critical outstanding issues including eight Queensland Rail engineers.

As the Premier said, we make no apology for putting the delivery of these trains on hold until we have resolved all of the outstanding critical issues. We want these trains to pass through our certified engineering standard, and we make no apology for that. The people who should be apologising to the people of Queensland—the people who should be apologising to the workers of Queensland—are those opposite. Those opposite came into this place and crowed about half-price trains from India. Those opposite went out and said, 'We've got a made-in-India policy.' This side of the House has a Made in Queensland policy. We know how desperate people in regional Queensland are in terms of jobs in their community. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government has introduced a new procurement policy. Had that policy been in place, these trains would have been made in Queensland.

Queensland Rail, New Generation Rollingstock

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier order the member for South Brisbane to backflip on her decision to stop delivery of the new NGR trains so that there are enough trains for the Commonwealth Games?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are going to be delivering trains for the Commonwealth Games. I thank the member—another Gold Coast member—for asking the question.

Ms Trad: He sat at the cabinet table.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: he sat at the cabinet table and was obviously privy to these deals when they were made. As the Deputy Premier said, and as I and my whole caucus have been saying, we want to put Queenslanders first. We want to put Queensland workers first and Queensland jobs first. If those opposite go out there and start listening to people they will understand that is exactly what they want as well.

The Deputy Premier mentioned that there are a number of people working on remedying these NGR issues, and I want to thank those hardworking men and women who are doing everything they can to bring the number of issues down from more than 500 to 41. We will continue to work with Queensland Rail. We will continue to implement the Strachan recommendations that my government commissioned, and we will continue to work diligently to ensure that the issues are rectified as quickly as possible.

Ipswich, Waste

Mr MADDEN: My question without notice is to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef. Members of my community have contacted me and are concerned about reports of waste being trucked from New South Wales to Queensland. Will the minister advise how it was that the suburbs of Ipswich became the dumping ground for New South Wales?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Ipswich West for his question. I can well understand how concerned his constituents would be after watching *Four Corners* last night. Last night we saw laid bare how the member for Clayfield and his mate Campbell Newman turned Queensland into the nation's dumping ground. They turned Ipswich into the capital city of the dumping state of the country. When they came to office just 10,000 tonnes of waste were transferred to Queensland. As a result of their policies, 600,000 tonnes of waste are now transferred to Queensland every single year. I table the press release from the member for Clayfield boasting about those policy decisions.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 25 November 2014, by the former Treasurer and Minister for Trade, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, regarding red-tape reforms [\[1231\]](#).

He should not be boasting; he should be ashamed. He should apologise to the member for Ipswich West for the impact his policies had on his community. While those opposite failed, the Palaszczuk government is acting to clean up our waste industry. We created a targeted compliance task force, Operation Tora, that has resulted in 69 enforcement actions. In the last budget we bolstered spending on waste initiatives by \$1.5 million. We are working with industry to identify where and how landfill bans can help us to improve recycling rates. We are working with industry to develop a new waste to biofuels industry, creating jobs and giving us clean, green alternatives for our vehicles and aircraft.

We are working with industry to re-regulate the stockpiling of tyres. Those opposite outrageously deregulated that activity, leaving many of our communities at risk of dangerous tyre fires. In Ipswich I have asked the environment department to today investigate the claims made by *Four Corners* and report back to me by the end of the day, and I look forward to providing the House with that information.

Let me say that in my 2½ years as environment minister I have met many, many honest, hardworking folk in the waste and recycling industry. That industry employs thousands of Queenslanders and their efforts were undermined by the activities of the member for Clayfield and his mate Campbell Newman. For every 10,000 tonnes of waste recycled we create 9.2 jobs. However, if we send it to landfill, like those opposite wanted to do, we create just 2.8. That is why this government will change that industry and create more jobs.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Cairns, I am informed that we have students from the Peace Lutheran College, Gatton in the electorate of Lockyer observing our proceedings. Welcome.

Ipswich City Council

Mr PYNE: My question without notice is for the Minister for Local Government. Following last night's *Four Corners* expose of illegal dumping in Ipswich, is the minister concerned about official corruption within Ipswich City Council's jurisdiction and Queensland local government more broadly? I table further documents to assist the minister in his consideration.

Tabled paper: Document (with redactions), dated August 2017, titled 'Ipswich City Council' [1242].

Tabled paper: Document (with redactions), dated August 2017, titled 'Ipswich City Council, Misuse of public resources for personal gain while a candidate for by-election' [1243].

Tabled paper: Document (with redactions), dated 27 July 2017, titled 'Official Complaint Ipswich City Council' [1244].

Tabled paper: Document (with redactions), dated August 2017, titled 'Ipswich City Council Safe City Systems misused in Crime & Corruption' [1245].

Tabled paper: Document (with redactions), dated August 2017, titled 'Fraser Coast Regional Council' [1246].

Mr FURNER: I note the interest of the member for Cairns in local government and encourage his continued interest in this area of my portfolio. As this House knows, the former mayor of Ipswich Paul Pisasale tendered his resignation on 6 June this year, and it came into effect from 11 June. Since that time the Deputy Mayor, Paul Tully, has been in the role as acting mayor. As the House would also know, there has been a lot of interest in the by-election to be held on 19 August. Some 11 candidates put up their hand before the nominations closed on 1 August 2017.

I note also that the member for Cairns has been actively involved in tabling documents, using parliamentary privilege, about matters concerning alleged corruption in other councils. I am always alarmed if matters are brought to my attention that have yet to go through the correct process of investigation through the CCC. On this particular occasion, they are allegations, so I look forward to those allegations being ventilated through the correct process through the CCC and, if necessary, through the department. Should anything come to light that needs my involvement as Minister for Local Government, I will be very keen to further those processes and make sure they are considered according to the provisions under the act.

Section 15 of the Crime and Corruption Act defines 'corrupt conduct' to mean conduct of a person regardless of whether the person holds or held an appointment in a local government. Accordingly, the CCC is best placed to deal with that allegation of corrupt conduct of a former mayor who has since resigned. Once again, I look forward to any dialogue and involvement from the CCC once its investigations have been furthered.

Mental Health Week

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister please update the House on how the government is supporting communities to take part in Queensland Mental Health Week?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question and his keen interest in mental health and suicide prevention strategies, which are key elements of what we are doing as a government in the health space in Queensland. Mental health strategies and suicide prevention strategies are set out in our Connecting Care to Recovery Plan, which is our \$350 million additional investment in mental health support in Queensland over five years. That, of course, addresses the neglect of mental health that happened under the previous Newman government.

To encourage the community to get involved with Queensland Mental Health Week from 8 to 14 November, the Queensland Mental Health Commission supported by the government will be rolling out grants across Queensland. An amount of \$85,000 in grants will be available to local government, non-government and community groups hosting events and activities to promote mental health and wellbeing in the community. I encourage all honourable members to seek those sorts of small grants—there are grants of up to \$2½ thousand—so community groups in their electorates can talk about the need and the positive approach we can take to mental health and wellbeing, particularly to break down stigma in the community.

We are doing a lot of work as a government to address the neglect and the errors of the previous Newman government. We know that our mental health system is still recovering from the cuts inflicted on mental health by the member for Clayfield when he was the Treasurer.

Government members: Shame!

Mr DICK: I take the interjections from government members; it was a terrible shame, a shock to the health system of Queensland. While the member for Clayfield was the Treasurer, the Newman government became the only Queensland government ever to cut funding to mental health services in Queensland. The Newman government closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre, which this government is rebuilding in this budget, without a replacement and contrary to expert advice. The Leader of the Opposition has never apologised to those families who were catastrophically affected by that complete failure in public policy. We saw massive public policy failures under the Leader of the Opposition when he was Treasurer. There was the waste levy. We are the sunshine state; we are not the rubbish state. That was a catastrophic policy failure. There were policy failures in mental health and policy failures in the environment. Some of the nation's best tree-clearing protection laws were repealed by those members opposite. That is what we get from the member for Clayfield: cut, sack, sell. Policy failure is in the DNA. He is incapable of effectively leading government, and that will be the choice at the next election. It will be the choice between a government delivering for Queensland and delivering for mental health and those opposite, who have demonstrated their incapacity to govern our state.

(Time expired)

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Transport

Mr CRAMP: My question without notice is to the Premier. With a Labor MP predicting a pending transport debacle for the Commonwealth Games, the city brought to a standstill for more than eight hours last Friday due to a tanker explosion, and the minister responsible for the games missing in action and claiming she was in meetings all of last Friday during the traffic chaos, I ask the Premier: is this what she meant about being 'quietly confident' of transport for the games coming together?

Mr SPEAKER: Who was the question to again?

Mr CRAMP: The Premier.

Mr SPEAKER: Can you repeat the last part of the question, please?

Mr CRAMP: I can repeat the whole lot if you like, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: I think just the last part, thank you.

Mr CRAMP: Can the Premier advise: is this what she meant about being 'quietly confident' of transport for the games coming together?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for—who is it?

Ms Trad: Gaven.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Gaven for the question. I know there is a great Labor candidate for Gaven—very impressive and out there working hard for the local community. I am not quite sure how the member for Gaven's preselection is going.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier. Can you come back to the question, please?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Has it happened? On a serious matter, of course it was brought to my attention immediately when we heard that there was a serious problem on the M1. All three lanes of the M1 southbound where the truck fire occurred at Loganholme reopened to traffic in the early hours of Saturday morning. We know that was a huge issue. It is something that is not a common occurrence on the M1. I do—

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Not a truck fire of that scale—let's be serious—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—carrying hydrochloric acid. I want to thank the emergency response teams that responded to that issue incredibly quickly. I also want to acknowledge that the tolls were waived on the Logan Motorway to ensure that there was an alternative route for people to travel. That was a very serious matter which is why so much attention was given to it. The last thing we wanted was for other motorists to be compromised due to the fire that occurred on that stretch of the M1. It was a serious incident. Minister Mark Ryan was with me when we were briefed by members of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Once again, thank you very much to all of the staff who were involved in that.

As we know, my government has been fighting to get funding for M1 upgrades. There has been complete and utter silence from those opposite; they have been like headless chooks. There has been complete and utter silence when it comes to standing up to Malcolm Turnbull and saying, 'We need funding for the M1 motorway.' This side of the House has been fighting for all residents between Brisbane and the Gold Coast to get upgrades for the M1. If we look back to see how much those opposite have said about it in this House and publicly, I doubt that it would be very much at all, if anything.

(Time expired)

NAPLAN

Mr BROWN: Will the education minister please update the House on Queensland's latest NAPLAN results?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I know he firmly believes that as a government we must invest in state education, and that is exactly what we have done. As the member has rightly pointed out, this year Queensland students recorded their best ever NAPLAN results, and that is because our government has made a record investment in education. Where the LNP cut 500 teachers from Queensland schools, we have employed 3,400 teachers. We have also employed 1,000 teacher aides—real staff making a difference to the teaching and learning that is happening in classrooms right across Queensland.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Ms JONES: I will take that interjection from the member for Morayfield. They hate teachers, but we will stand up for teachers every single day of the week. That is why there are 3,400 more teachers in Queensland schools recording the best NAPLAN data ever, including at Nambour State High School in the honourable Speaker's electorate. We also have national recognition that Queensland is a state that, year in year out, is seeing improvement. Professor John Hattie, who is renowned across Australia for his national leadership in education, said—

What you need to look at is what's the growth over time.

...

I look at what Queensland has done over the last four or five years with the persistent and relentless attention to evidence-based impact and they're getting quite a change.

Professor Carol Nicoll, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Education, QUT—

Ms Trad: She is my old teacher.

Ms JONES: We can thank her—or not. Professor Nicoll stated—

The improvements are significant for Queensland, particularly in years 3 and 5. This is a clear consequence of the focus on development of literacy and numeracy and skills by Queensland teachers, the principals, the education sectors and the Queensland government.

Overnight Sweeney Strategic Consulting said, 'Kate Jones is the best education minister ever.' I could not help myself! There is a clear difference between a Labor government that will invest in—

An honourable member interjected.

Ms JONES: I have never been accused of that. There is a clear difference between a Labor government that invests in front-line services and an LNP government that will cut, sack and sell. They have form in this regard. Everyone knows Tim Nicholls' script. It is easy: a vote for Tim Nicholls is to cut, sell and sack workers in this state. That is what they do. They did it to Education and they did it to Transport. What is their legacy? They outsource jobs to India and bring in trash from New South Wales. That is their record. That is what they did.

We know that Queenslanders know what they stand for. That is why I am very proud to be the education minister and part of a Palaszczuk government that restores front-line services and is delivering real improvements for every Queensland child, no matter where they live and no matter where they go to school—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, question time is due to finish at 11.34. Do you want to ask your question now or wait until tomorrow? I have a statement to make in relation to a matter. Perhaps tomorrow.

Speaker's Ruling, Document to be Tabled

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, the member for Cairns has sought to table material in the House and yesterday afternoon provided the Clerk with other material to be tabled under standing order 32. Both sets of material are being considered by the Clerk and me to ensure that they do not contain material that is offensive to standing orders, in particular standing order 233. The Clerk and I will take the time and advice sufficient to discharge our duties. The material will not be available until I am satisfied there is no offending material included.

Question time has finished.

TOW TRUCK (TOWING FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.34 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Tow Truck Act 1973 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Public Works and Utilities Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Tow Truck (Towing from Private Property) Amendment Bill 2017 [[1232](#)].

Tabled paper: Tow Truck (Towing from Private Property) Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes [[1233](#)].

If there is yet another example of this 'review, not do' government it is the issue of motorists being taken advantage of by unscrupulous tow truck companies from private car parks. In Queensland, the towing of a motor vehicle from the scene of a crash on a road—accident towing—is regulated by the Tow Truck Act 1973 and Tow Truck Regulation 2009. All other forms of towing, including the removal of vehicles from private property and associated fees, are not currently subject to these regulations. Our bill seeks to amend this.

Property owners currently have a common law right to deal with vehicles parked on private land. These rights apply where vehicles are trespassing or if vehicle owners do not obey the terms and conditions of parking on the land, which are usually displayed on a sign. There are no laws to stop motorists from being ripped off when they are towed from private property. There is already a considerable framework for accident towing, as I mentioned, and the LNP is seeking to apply those principles to include anywhere motorists are towed from. Owners or managers of private parking areas frequently arrange for tow truck operators to remove vehicles on their behalf. Unfortunately, some tow truck operators are exploiting the current loophole to charge exorbitant towing fees of more than \$600 and punitive storage fees with no limit on how far they can tow your vehicle.

There has been increasing community discontent and recent media attention surrounding practices involving the removal of parked motor vehicles from private property. Common issues raised include: vehicles being removed without the owner's permission, which has left vehicle owners stranded and feeling vulnerable; the level of fees being charged by the tow truck operator; the absence, lack of clarity or poor placement of signage outlining the terms and conditions of parking; vehicles having to be retrieved from tow truck operators which are sometimes many kilometres away; and the behaviour or other conduct of tow truck drivers. When concerns about how widespread this issue has become were brought to the attention of the minister at the time, what did he do? True to form, sidelined Minister Bailey sent the issue off to a three-month review. Perhaps if concerned Queenslanders had emailed Minister Bailey they would have been heard.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr POWELL: I will take that interjection. In contrast, the LNP has listened to Queenslanders. We have a plan and we are now acting. We could not sit idly by while motorists are duped into parking in empty lots, usually with very poor signage, only to be towed away minutes after they leave their vehicle. We could not sit here in good conscience and embark on a three-month review and then spend six weeks drafting a bill, so we have acted. Uncapped fees mean that tow operators can pay spotters to instantly identify cars which are parked on private property and, in some cases, use other cars to bait unsuspecting motorists. Penalties and the ability to cap fees will set an economic disincentive to dodgy towies.

Motorists have experienced intimidating, thuggish behaviour from some bad eggs in the industry. While in government the LNP acted to weed out bad characters in the tow truck industry. Our strong criminal gang laws specifically targeted the tow truck industry to prevent criminal gang members from working in the industry. The Palaszczuk Labor government wound back these laws with no real alternative. While we were unable to reintroduce the measures to prevent criminal gang members from being granted a tow truck licence in this term of parliament, an LNP government will do so next term.

The bill that I am introducing today seeks to enable the minister to set maximum towing fees from private property. Regulation will set the maximum fee that can be charged for towing and storing a motor vehicle. The minister will be able to set different fees for metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. It will restrict how far away your car can be towed without your consent by creating a head of power to regulate the distance a vehicle can be towed without the written consent.

The amendments to the Tow Truck Act 1973 will allow the minister to prescribe a maximum distance a vehicle can be towed. They will set minimum signage standards and ensure the person in control of a car park and the tow truck licence holder are accountable to these standards. They will allow complaints against a person or company to be considered when deciding to grant a tow truck licence to weed out some of the bad eggs. They will ensure there is a proper complaints management process for the tow truck industry, because the lack of such a process is what has led to this mess in the first place.

The department will be required to publish statistics annually about the number of complaints received against tow truck licence holders and the outcome of these complaints. If the tow truck licence holder gets written permission from the vehicle owner, they will be able to charge fees outside the cap and tow the vehicle to any destination. This is to ensure car club members and people who have a genuine need for towing from private property are still able to reach agreement with tow truck operators.

The Queensland Law Society was consulted on the draft of this bill. While raising issues of clarification on provisions contained in the bill, correspondence from the Queensland Law Society to the office of the Leader of the Opposition was broadly supportive of the proposed amendments, stating—

The Society has previously advocated for standards to be imposed on tow truck drivers and for the introduction of set fees that represent the real cost of towing a car, thereby removing financial incentives for nefarious activity. Such fees should be comparable to fees to which proper contractors charge for removal from clear ways.

The laws flagged by the acting minister—I stress ‘flagged’, because we have still not seen anything—will, simply put, leave towed motorists miles from nowhere. The government’s announcement does not seek to limit the distance a car can be towed from private property, meaning a car towed from a Valley car park could end up in Logan or North Lakes. The government also has refused to act on signage standards. By contrast, we will act. The solution offered by the acting minister is too little, too late for Queensland motorists being ripped off. Queenslanders know that the LNP will deliver better government. We will not be a do-nothing, review-all government like this Palaszczuk Labor government. We have the experience and the policies to build a better Queensland, and I commend this private member’s bill to the House.

First Reading

Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (11.42 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 Public Works and Utilities Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Public Works and Utilities Committee.

Leave to Move Motion

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.42 am): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.
Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 44:

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, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Dickson.

INDEPENDENT, 1—Pyne.

NOES, 40:

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

Pair: Miller, Springborg.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Declared Urgent

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.48 am): I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 137 the Tow Truck (Towing from Private Property) Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill and the Public Works and Utilities Committee report to the House on the Tow Truck (Towing from Private Property) Amendment Bill by 1 September 2017.

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, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

NOES, 45:

ALP, 41—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Dickson.

INDEPENDENT, 1—Pyne.

Pair: Miller, Springborg.

Resolved in the negative.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.54 am): I want to clarify a few things that have been said this morning by those opposite who should know better, although knowing better is not something that one normally expects from those opposite in any way, shape or form. The situation around the new generation rollingstock is not as you would believe from those opposite who delivered us trains without seats, trains without air conditioning and then air-conditioning units that were too big to fit in the tunnels and, importantly, from the Premier, who, as transport minister, cut the order for new trains from just over 100 to just over 60 in her final term in government, who failed to deliver trains to meet the needs of Queensland and who, on leaving government, left us with the mess to clean up.

Here is the situation: a government that concentrates on cover-ups, on redactions and on not releasing reports will not tell you that in December 2011 the then Bligh government approved the business case for the NGR project including \$2.11 billion of capital funding, excluding the ongoing maintenance costs, and the short-listing of two proponents—Bombardier Transportation Australia and Advance Rail. In December 2012 Projects Queensland, which at the time was headed by Mr David Stewart, the now head of the Premier's department—the director-general of the Premier and Cabinet—and TMR under Mr Neil Scales, the now director-general of the department of transport, recommended procurement with the two short-listed proponents and a revised request for proposal was issued in March 2013. The proponents submitted proposals in August 2013 and they were reviewed by the evaluation panel—not politicians, not elected representatives but by the evaluation panel—and Bombardier's proposal was identified as superior and innovative and, in comparison to the public sector comparator—that is, the public sector comparator that Labor established—met the requirements of the tender and was able to be executed.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: You are dead right we were in government, and we did it the right way. We did it the right way with the advice of people that those opposite were relying on too who made the recommendations.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: You were not in government because you were part of the government that failed to deliver it!

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Eighty-six per cent on-time running was the record under that government when the member for Brisbane Central could not jag a spot on the front bench. We all remember that. It took her another 18 months to jag a spot in this government as well!

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): One moment please, member for Clayfield. Minister for Employment, your interjections are not being taken. If you persist, you will be warned.

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Despite the claims of those opposite, Downer EDI was part of the NGR process and it chose to withdraw from the tender process in December 2011. It chose to withdraw. In December 2011 under Labor, it chose to withdraw from the process. In fact, the current Premier, as well as presiding over 15 per cent year on year on year increases in the price of tickets for people on public transport, was the transport minister from February 2011 and should have known what was going on in her own department but failed to do so. She was also a member of the government that presided over the \$200 million-plus *Sunlander* debacle that we had to fix up when we got into government that the Auditor-General spoke about. When those opposite cry, as always they cry crocodile tears. They do not tell the truth. They redact. They hide. They cover up. They shuffle ministers around when it all gets a bit difficult. The only thing they do not do, with the possible exception of the member for Maryborough, is tell the truth!

Soaring bills under this Premier and her Labor government are indeed a serious matter, yet the Premier continues to joke about the expensive prices that Queenslanders are paying for their electricity, with cheap, glib references that somehow even drag in Phil Gould and the New South Wales State of Origin team. Businesses throughout Queensland—from Townsville's zinc-producing Sun Metals, to Gladstone's Boyne Smelters, to Hervey Bay's Consolidated Linen Service, to Bundaberg's Red Shed Seafood and to the Sunshine Coast's Fresh Meats are splashed across the media talking about crippling electricity prices. They are not laughing about crippling electricity prices and nor are their employees.

In the *Townsville Bulletin*—as, Mr Deputy Speaker, I am sure you read—on 9 June, Sun Metals project manager, Lance Moody, revealed a fivefold increase in the price of power. Electricity now consumes 60 per cent of their operating costs and Mr Moody was alarmed. He said, 'You hear about how South Australia has an energy crisis,' and then went on to say—

... in Queensland ... we have the highest wholesale price in the national electricity market.

In the last 12 months what we have seen is really quite alarming ... if you are looking at growing the North and attracting industry, especially energy-intensive industry, then this is really going to discourage that.

Earlier this year, Gladstone's Boyne Smelters, Australia's largest aluminium smelter, warned that it would be cutting Queensland jobs and production because of massive electricity price increases. The general manager of Boyne Smelters, Joe Rea, predicted that production would need to be reduced by

eight per cent. He cited one weekend where the grid's wholesale power price spiked at an incredible \$12,641 per megawatt hour compared to the \$140 per megawatt hour average. Just last month, in came the second quarter results and the extent of the carnage became clear. Boyne's inability to source affordable—

Mr Bailey: Forty-three per cent.

Mr NICHOLLS: Just because the member for Yeerongpilly is up in a back dark corner does not mean that he can become—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Both sides will come to order. If this continues, I will name members and they will be ejected from the House.

Mr NICHOLLS: It is probably appropriate that the member for Yeerongpilly is up in the back corner. What better place could you have for a troll? The member for Yeerongpilly failed to address the important issue of Boyne Smelters' inability to source affordable electricity, which resulted in an aluminium production cutback of 18,000 tonnes, equating to more than \$40 million, and losses are likely to reach \$100 million by the end of the year.

Our team has been out talking to Queensland businesses and families about the growing cost of power under this Labor government. It is one story after another. The 70 per cent increase in the wholesale power price occurred under this Labor government. Everywhere we travel Queenslanders stop me, they stop my deputy, they stop members of the team and their anger about the price of power under this Premier and this Labor government is palpable. Labor is sending Queenslanders higher power bills, Labor is killing jobs and destroying the state's economy. The fact is that Labor cannot be trusted. After almost three years in office, its only legacy is to deliberately slug Queenslanders to pay for its financial incompetence. No-one should be under any misapprehension: Labor's higher power prices are nothing but a pure and simple tax by stealth.

It does not matter whether it is the Consolidated Linen Service in Pialba, it does not matter whether it is the Red Shed in Bundaberg, it does not matter whether it is a plastics manufacturer at Broadbeach, the price continues to go up. According to Tony Mills, the owner of the Red Shed, in 13 years the price has quadrupled. They work harder, they work longer, but what does Labor do? It continues to drive up the price. There has been billions of dollars in subsidies, and no-one is any better off for it.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Before I call the next speaker, members, I need you to check your behaviour. It is getting to the point where it is becoming unacceptable.

Governing from the Regions, Far North Queensland

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (12.06 pm): During the week of 9 July to 14 July, the tropical North Queensland region was proud to host the Queensland cabinet while it governed from North Queensland. I cannot think of a better way to allow the government to communicate with the region. Community cabinets are good, but governing for a week in the city is even better. Why? It allows for longer stays and provides for better engagement and the opportunity for ministers to soak up the issues and opportunities in the region. There were plenty of opportunities in the Far North. Whether it was ministers visiting communities in Cape York, for whom they are champions, departmental meetings being conducted in Cairns, or representations from interested parties being received, it is the best way for regional communities to have their say with cabinet. The feedback from the Cairns community has been outstanding.

The highlights of governing from Cairns included the announcement of the Cairns Shipping Development Project, which removes one million cubic metres of capital dredge spoil and the on-land disposal arrangements. This is a significant win for Cairns, as previous governments have struggled to find a balance between meeting our environmental obligations to the world for the Great Barrier Reef and our economic obligations to Cairns to bring mega-classed cruise ships into our city. Our government has found that balance. The plan is sorted, the funds are sorted and the future of cruise shipping in Cairns is secure. We are yet to see the LNP's plan. I cannot wait to see what it proposes. Maybe it will succumb to the call of their supporters for a four million cubic metre mountain and the destruction of East Trinity.

On Wednesday, 12 July, the motorists of the Barron River electorate woke up to read the front page of the *Cairns Post*, which announced that the Palaszczuk government is building the Smithfield bypass and has committed \$100 million towards it. The Smithfield bypass is a 3.8-kilometre new road

that will be built to divert traffic flow away from the suburb of Smithfield and relieve pressure on the Smithfield roundabout—a roundabout that has been under increasing pressure. All the north-south traffic between Cairns Airport and Palm Cove, Port Douglas, Trinity Beach, Kuranda, Cooktown and Mareeba has to pass through the Smithfield roundabout and often there is a lot of it. It has been stated that up to 90,000 cars and trucks per day move through that roundabout. There are near misses, bingles and traffic jams. Between 3 pm and 5 pm, sometimes the traffic is backed up three to four kilometres on the western arterial as it tries to merge on to the Captain Cook Highway just south of the Smithfield roundabout. Building Queensland rated the Smithfield bypass the best way to resolve the traffic woes at that roundabout and in that area. I thank the Premier and her cabinet for listening to both the people of the Barron River electorate and me, the people of the Cairns electorate, the people of the Cook electorate, our community leaders, our mayors and the department of main roads. The response from the Cairns community has been very positive. It has certainly become a daily topic of conversation in our communities.

A few weeks ago the leader of the LNP committed that they would also build Labor's Smithfield bypass if elected—just like Labor—and I welcome that. This comes a few weeks after he also said that they would commit to the \$176 million Cairns Convention Centre upgrade—just like Labor. There is no LNP plan to be seen yet, just a copying of Labor's ideas and commitments.

During the three years of the Newman government, with the member for Clayfield as the treasurer and Michael Trout as the member for Barron River, the LNP did not deliver one single road infrastructure project in my electorate—not one! They did not even try. They did not plan for one; they did not build one. During the 2015 election the LNP announced that if it was elected it would do the planning for the Bill Fulton Bridge. We went one better. We did not just plan for the Bill Fulton Bridge, we built it! That \$34 million bridge will be open this side of Christmas.

Those opposite had no plan. All they could do with their candidate up there was to promise a \$1.5 million plan. We delivered the \$34 million bridge that will be opened before Christmas and now we have got the \$152 million Smithfield bypass. Clearly Labor has the right plan. The LNP has nothing in Barron River. It will roll out the same old thing over and over again. Those opposite have no plan and no future in our area.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.11 pm): No wonder there is anger in the regions with representation—or lack thereof—from people like the member for Barron River, unlike the previous member for Barron River, Michael Trout, who was a fantastic member of parliament. It will be a fantastic day when we can welcome the man of the people, the man from Barron River, back into this great House.

I did refer to that anger in the regions. It is not only in the regions, it is now all across this great state. We have had over 2½ years of a do-nothing Palaszczuk government and it is clear—one only needs to look at the figures—that the Palaszczuk government simply cannot, will not and refuses to deliver the infrastructure that Queensland needs.

Months before this potential election, Labor's panic set in. One can see those opposite, including the Premier, in absolute damage control. The Premier's final budget—a so-called election budget—has completely failed. The old adage is certainly true: you cannot fatten a pig on market day. We know that Queenslanders are smarter than that. Queenslanders will remember the low infrastructure spend by the Palaszczuk Labor government's first budget. It was the lowest infrastructure spend in living memory. It is a disgraceful legacy. Queenslanders remember that Labor failed to deliver the \$2 billion worth of infrastructure it promised in its first budget. Queenslanders remember the further cuts in the 2015-16 budget and the failure again to deliver \$1.7 billion of infrastructure it actually stood here and promised.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is right, Grace, they failed to deliver \$1.7 billion of infrastructure. In I think one of the harshest cuts of all they have completely ripped the guts out of the regional road funding to almost every single region across this state. The impact of this failure to deliver, the impact of this do-nothing government, is hurting all of Queensland. It is certainly hurting the 56 per cent of youth in outback Queensland who want a job but cannot find one. That is an increase of 19.8 per cent over the year, an increase of 38 per cent since the election of this do-nothing Palaszczuk government. That is this Labor government's legacy.

The do-nothing Palaszczuk government is hurting the 7,000 people on the Gold Coast who have lost their jobs in the last year and the further 8,000 people on the Gold Coast who have simply given up looking for any work. There is not a corner in this state which is not in economic misery because of this government.

The contrast for Queenslanders is stark. At the next election Queenslanders have a choice between a do-nothing Palaszczuk government with no record to run on or an LNP team led by Tim Nicholls which has a plan and a record to deliver. I am happy to compare Labor's inaction to the LNP's record of delivering major infrastructure projects. The LNP record includes an \$8.6 billion investment in the Bruce Highway; \$4.4 billion of new generation rolling stock; the \$1.6 billion Toowoomba Second Range Crossing; 11 new schools in high-growth areas; \$450 million in the government's wireless network; and \$1 billion for the Gateway Upgrade North project.

A Tim Nicholls led government will build a better Queensland. We made sure we delivered for regional Queensland through our Royalties for Regions program and we have committed to do that again. An LNP government will focus on building the roads, bridges and dams that we need. We have already announced that we will invest \$225 million to upgrade the Haughton Channel and duplicate the Ross River Dam pipeline to support Townsville's long-term water security. The LNP will call for expressions of interest for construction contractors within 100 days of a Nicholls led LNP government. Unlike those opposite, we will not delay the funding of this project out over a four-year period. This will only aggravate the water security issues in the short term. An LNP government will provide the funding as fast as possible so the engineers can do their work and this project can become a reality. The choice is clear. In Townsville the mayor is screaming out for assistance from this government because she does not want the money over four years, she wants it immediately, and that is what the LNP has promised.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (12.16 pm): In the last six months I have had the honour of attending three Skilling Queenslanders for Work graduation ceremonies in my electorate of Ipswich West. These programs have provided meaningful work for the trainees and to obtain recognised skills. The tragedy is that the Newman government discontinued the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program soon after it was elected in 2012 as a short-term cost-saving measure despite the program's obvious successes. The result was unemployment increased from 5.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent in Ipswich during the three years the LNP was in power from 2012 to 2015. That was the legacy that the Newman government left for my constituents of Ipswich West. This is just another example of the sack and sell, bloody-mindedness of the Newman government.

Since the Palaszczuk government reinstated the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program we have invested \$168.9 million to help train unemployed or underemployed young people, mature age jobseekers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with a disability and people from culturally and linguistically diverse background. Round 1 in the 2017-18 program saw up to 7,100 jobseekers across Queensland access training programs to help find work through an investment of \$33.9 million in funding for 191 projects. As at 30 June 2017, since the program was reintroduced across Queensland, we have seen an incredible total of 14,121 people complete the training program. Of these, 64 per cent, or 9,026 people, have gained full-time employment as a result of the program, 2,288 have gone on to further training and 345 have returned to school.

To date, the Ipswich local government area has received \$13,434,900 in funding for 50 Skilling Queenslanders for Work projects. As at 30 June 1,350 people have participated in projects located in the Ipswich area and 829 have already obtained full-time employment. These projects are producing fantastic outcomes for people who have previously been struggling to find and hold good jobs. In the Ipswich area, the programs that have been completed or are planned for are at Tivoli, Chuwar, Mount Crosby, Willowbank, Lowood, Marburg, Ipswich, Ripley, Blackstone, Bundamba Creek and Redbank Plains.

As part of the government's \$240 million investment in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, we aim to get 32,000 Queenslanders into work and my electorate of Ipswich West has been the site of many of the program's success stories. Just last Friday, I joined Councillor Wayne Wendt, a former member for Ipswich West, at the Tivoli Social Enterprises Skilling Queenslanders for Work graduation ceremony at the Tivoli Drive-in. We celebrated the achievements of 24 participants graduating from the Tivoli Drive-in community events project and the Tivoli Drive-in community stage project. They are 24 fine young men and women. When completed, the program will see 24 trainees

receiving a certificate I in business and another 24 will receive a certificate in construction. Tivoli Social Enterprises was established in 2009 to provide training, financial planning and mentoring to disadvantaged people in our community. The leadership team is led by pastors Fred Muys and Abby Walmsley. Tivoli Social Enterprises was awarded \$426,400 to deliver the Tivoli Drive-in community events program and a further \$431,900 to deliver the Tivoli Drive-in community stage project under the Work Skills Traineeships program. Two weeks ago, I attended a similar graduation at the beautiful Kholo Gardens in Ipswich, where 14 trainees graduated after upgrading bush walking and mountain bike paths, as well as other works around Ipswich, as they follow their own career paths. This is another example of not just the economic incompetence of the Newman government but also its failure to develop a commitment to an effective employment policy.

Weapons, Drugs and Violence in Schools

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (12.21 pm): I am really fortunate to have visited many state schools over the past 12 months. I know how hard teachers work and how great schools are across our great state. During my visits, I could see firsthand how our schools strive to build safe and supported school environments for all of our students. I know the principals and teachers make that a priority. Sadly, it appears that that priority is not shared by Queensland's very own part-time education minister. Recent reports reveal how hundreds of students are turning Queensland state schools into dangerous zones by bringing weapons and drugs onto school grounds. Added to that, we know that violence towards our teachers is also on the rise.

The part-time education minister is in denial. While she continues to bury her head in the sand, our hardworking teachers are left to face the worrying levels of weapons, violence, drugs and poor behaviour in schools across Queensland. In the estimates hearing recently, the minister put the increase in the number of serious incidents involving drugs and weapons in our schools down to student population growth over the past few years. That was her way of defending the numbers being reported, which involved children as young as seven—that is, in grade 2—being caught with drugs. One would think that the minister would be horrified that we have littlies in the early years of primary school being caught with drugs in schoolyards, but sadly no. She thinks it is statistically okay. What a sobering picture that paints about her commitment to the safety of our children. This is not a proportionality test. This is a serious problem that needs the full-time focus of the minister; not the less than 20 per cent of time that she puts into the nearly 540,000 students studying in Queensland state schools.

We are seeing alarming rises in the number of school kids found with weapons and drugs at schools across Queensland. We are seeing jumps in suspensions involving weapons, other objects and illicit substances over the past few years. There is no denying that in places such as the Gold Coast and Logan we are seeing real problems with weapons in schools. In just two years under Labor, we have seen a 34 per cent increase in the number of students suspended for physical misconduct with an object. This comes on the back of reports from 2015 when at least three students on the Gold Coast were stabbed by other students. In the past two years on the north coast, we have seen a 20 per cent jump in similar suspensions. More alarming are the revelations from Queensland police around students being charged with weapons offences. One student had a handgun in his bag and media reported that another student had been holed up with a knife and was threatening to stab everyone. In another report, we heard of a student bringing a taser to school and activating it near other students, who became suspicious when they heard it.

Ms Grace interjected.

Ms DAVIS: One would think that the member for Brisbane Central would be concerned about the number of students being subjected to violence, drugs and weapons in our schools. We have terrific schools in Queensland, but there is an untimely, unfortunate and unsatisfactory growing trend of drugs, weapons and violence in our schools. Members such as the member for Brisbane Central do not care about the safety of our children in the schoolyard. The LNP does. From talking to teachers, principals and parents, I know that they are concerned. Maybe the member for Brisbane Central should start listening to her constituents, her teachers and her principals about these very challenging issues that they are facing every single school day.

The figures show that more needs to be done to tackle the problem of children bringing weapons into our state schools. Not only should we be horrified that weapons are in our school yards; we have to remember that children who are going to school to learn could be intimidated or, if they feel threatened enough, might resort to violence themselves. The minister needs to do the right thing by students, by parents and by teachers and acknowledge that there is a problem. The prevalence of

drugs, weapons and violence is rising to worrying levels in our schools. It screams volumes as to why the minister spends so little time on her portfolio: she does not want to deal with the tough issues. She just sticks her head in the sand.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! Before I call the next speaker, I acknowledge in the gallery students from King's Christian College in the electorate of Mudgeeraba.

Electricity Prices

 **Mr PEARCE** (Mirani—ALP) (12.26 pm): This morning, much has been said about power prices in Queensland and across the nation. We all know that this is a complex issue, which allows the opposition to muddy the waters and confuse people about where we, as a government, intend to go. Our Powering Queensland Plan is a firm action plan to ensure that we meet current and future energy needs. Queensland is an energy powerhouse. We can and will continue to take advantage of our strong position to support our energy future. We are in a better position than other states, because we are committed to keeping our energy assets in public hands.

The ALP government will continue to use public ownership to back in Queensland's consumers by putting downward pressure on prices and ensuring a secure supply of energy. Our government will continue to invest in government owned corporations. By doing so, we can and will continue to lead the country in maintaining the lowest power prices. Queensland has one of the youngest and least emissions-intensive fleets of coal-fired power stations. That is much more than can be said for other states across the nation. We have put a lot of financial support into backing our power industry, with \$1.6 billion to ensure an affordable, secure and sustainable supply of electricity for Queenslanders. The government's intervention in electricity prices means that, on average, Queensland household bills have increased by just 1.9 per cent per year, compared to the 43 per cent increase under the Newman-Nicholls government.

I want to move onto the coal industry, but, firstly, I offer my heartfelt condolences to the family, workmates and friends of Daniel Springer, a mineworker who passed away after being seriously injured in a workplace incident at Goonyella Riverside Mine on Saturday. Daniel leaves a young wife and baby boy. My thoughts go out to his family.

I now want to refer to the issue of the social licence to operate a mine. It is regarded as a certificate of community acceptance to function as a taker of resources, while maximising financial returns to people through full-time jobs and the funding of schools, hospitals and roads. A social licence to operate is seen by Queenslanders and considered by coal producers as a simple statement by a company to do the right thing by the government of the day and the people of this state. In today's corporate world of greed and power taking, a social licence means nothing. In short, mining companies not only need government permission or a permit to operate but also require social permission to conduct their business. Having a social responsibility is about having a structure around different corporate responsibilities based on ethical, legal and economic standards that a democratic society expects.

Last week I went to a mine site to talk to workers who have been locked out of their workplace—the Oaky North underground coalmine south-east of Tieri in Central Queensland. Today in this place I call on Glencore to relocate or, even better, sack Oaky North general manager, Darren Nicholls. He is an unfit frontman for Glencore and is responsible for this attack on workers, their families and their community. I have not got time to go into it all at the moment. This man needs to take a good look at himself and what he is doing to workers and the local community.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Before I call the next speaker, I acknowledge in the gallery deputy principal Drew Jell and college captains from Stretton State College in the electorate of Stretton.

Electricity Prices

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (12.31 pm): I join with the member for Mirani in passing on my condolences and the best wishes to the family and friends of the young man who lost his life over the weekend in a coalmine in North Queensland. I also offer my best wishes to those US servicemen who were involved in the tragic incident off Rockhampton over the weekend. Our thoughts and best wishes are with the family and friends of the servicemen and the servicemen themselves who were involved in that tragic incident and the rescue mission that followed.

I also join with the member for Mirani in saying that it is certainly the case that the issue of electricity costs in this state is very complex. There are a lot of people who try to muddy the waters around this particular issue. They are all from the other side of this parliament. The member for Mirani was passed a number of notes about electricity costs from the former minister for energy, who is now sitting a couple of seats from him.

The Labor Party keep parroting phrases about a 43 per cent increase in electricity prices that occurred during our period of government from 2012 to 2015. Let us understand how this all works. It certainly is a complex issue. Some 50 per cent of electricity costs are made up of network costs. They are set by the Australian Energy Regulator every five years. They were set in 2010 for the period to 2015.

Mr Mander: Who was in power then?

Mr HART: They were set under the former Labor government—the Bligh and Beattie governments.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I believe the member for Burleigh is misleading the House. He is misrepresenting this issue. There is a maximum made—it is not set—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Yeerongpilly, feel free to write to the Speaker about this.

Mr HART: They do not like hearing the truth, do they? The Leader of the Opposition pointed out the situation in relation to the new trains. I am now pointing out the situation in relation to the price of electricity. In 2010 the Australian Energy Regulator set the price for a period of five years—

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I believe the member for Burleigh is misleading the House. It was not set. A maximum revenue level was determined. It was not set.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Yeerongpilly, as I said before, you can write to the Speaker about this. You are on the speaking list so you can have your say then.

Mr HART: They just do not like hearing the truth. The truth is that the Australian Energy Regulator locked in those prices—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members on my right!

Mr HART: As the member for Yeerongpilly said, it was returning the revenue. After the government of the time spent so much money gold plating the networks the Australian Energy Regulator said that they could recover 15 per cent. That was locked in from 2010 to 2015.

When we came to government in 2012 we took immediate action. The member for Caloundra, when he was the minister for energy, took immediate action. We got rid of that gold plating. The next decision of the Australian Energy Regulator led to network costs stabilising for the next five years—2015 to 2020. What a coincidence that at the time the Labor Party came to office they were able to say that electricity prices stabilised. That was as a result of what we did when we were government not what they did when they were in government. Since then—

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member for Burleigh is misleading the House. He just referred to a 2015 AER determination which was in our term of government not in his.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. Member for Yeerongpilly, as I have stated twice, you can write to the Speaker with your grievances.

Mr KRAUSE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member for Yeerongpilly has made frivolous and repetitive points of order that you have ruled out of order. I ask that you warn the member for Yeerongpilly.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. I will be the judge of what is in and out of order.

Mr HART: If the member for Yeerongpilly thinks that I am wrong he will have the opportunity to tell us exactly what he thinks is right. At the end of the day, network costs were under control. This government has now lost control of the generating stock.

In 2015-16 this government actually earned \$382 million from generating electricity in this state. They then budgeted for \$482 million in 2016-17. They actually earned \$892 million from those generators. They had been gouging the people of Queensland. For the last 12 months they have made

an extra \$410 million in income from the generators that are owned by this state and controlled by this state government. They have made an extra \$410 million at the expense of the people of Queensland. This has pushed up wholesale electricity prices by 70 per cent.

The ACCC are looking into this. I was in Townsville last night for the ACCC meeting. The Labor Party was not represented at that meeting.

(Time expired)

Stretton Electorate; Electricity Prices

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (12.38 pm): I also welcome our guests from Stretton State College who are in the gallery today—deputy principal Drew Jell and college captains Aarushi Chadha, Neilesh Maharaj, Erin Ross and Sophie Smerdon. It is great to have you with us in parliament. Stretton is a place where champions are made and records broken. Last year the Executive Principal of Stretton State College, Jan Maresca, was named Queensland's best principal at the prestigious Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools. On 2 July this year we had another champion in Stretton with Stretton Boxing Club's Jeff Horn defeating Manny Pacquiao to win the WBO welterweight title.

It gets even better. On 21 July this year a Guinness World Record was set at Stretton State College for the most people clasping wrists in support of the charity Hand in Hand. People were joined together at Stretton quite literally. The record involved Stretton State College students, staff, families and community members. I say well done to everyone at Stretton State College for hosting and helping to organise this event.

Hand in Hand is a not-for-profit, volunteer based organisation which provides support for those people and their families affected by brain cancer and brain tumours. Hand in Hand was established by one of the mothers at Stretton State College, Carolyn Oldano, after her husband, Michael, sadly passed away due to brain cancer last year. It was wonderful to see the joy on Carolyn's face when the record was broken. Well done to everyone at Hand in Hand and congratulations on making history. It was a privilege for me to join with the Minister for Health in being an official witness to this world record.

I could go on and on about the fantastic things that happen in Stretton, but we have just heard a really interesting contribution from the member for Burleigh in relation to electricity prices. It was interesting for a few reasons. He actually managed to mention 43 per cent. No—that is not the Leader of the Opposition's approval rating. He has never made it that high. I think it was 27 per cent at the last poll.

Ms Jones: Everyone thinks it is Lawrence Springborg still.

Mr PEGG: That is true. I take the interjection from the Minister for Education. She is spot on as always. I will give the member for Burleigh credit where it is due. At least he had the guts to mention the 43 per cent in amongst all of his huffing and puffing in his speech. What he failed to mention and what he seems to fail to understand is how important it is to keep our electricity assets in public hands. That is the way to ease pressure on electricity prices. That is something that the LNP failed to do when they were in government. They had plans to sell our assets. We did not hear anything from them today about their future plans in that regard.

This government has kept our power generators in public hands. We are attracting new public sector investment in large-scale projects because we have energy security. Those opposite like coal-fired generation so much they wanted to flog it off to overseas interests and sacrifice those returns which are used to ease pressure on prices and the cost of living. The facts are in and the facts are that renewable generation is now the quickest and cheapest energy infrastructure to build and we urgently need new supply to reduce prices.

Ms Grace: And hydro.

Mr PEGG: I take that interjection from the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. It is important to note that Queensland also has the lowest retail price increase of all mainland states—3.3 per cent compared to around 10 to 20 per cent in other states. Over the term of our government, prices for households have increased by an average of 1.9 per cent. As we have heard from the member for Burleigh, they increased 43 per cent over the term of the LNP government. At least the member for Burleigh was prepared to admit that fact. I wonder how many of those opposite have the courage and the guts to do so. I note that the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Clayfield, failed that test in his very lengthy contribution earlier.

To help with energy bills, we as a government are urging Queenslanders to apply for concessions on their electricity bills. We have extended the eligibility to another 157,000 Queenslanders. I think that is a fantastic initiative and it has been extremely well received in my electorate. The other important

fact, to put some more facts on the table, is that electricity prices are actually the result of the national electricity market. While this government is happy to help fix electricity prices, what we all need is the federal government to step up and fix the national electricity market, rather than simply fighting amongst themselves. I think it is important in this debate to put some facts on the table and also make sure that everybody knows about the new electricity rebate that is now available.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Before calling the next speaker, I acknowledge in the gallery representatives from Redlands College in the electorate of Cleveland.

Budget

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—PHON) (12.43 pm): On 16 June at 10.29 pm, the LNP had a chance to vote down the Queensland budget. They talked about how bad the ALP budget was. They talked about the increase in rego fees. They talked about all of the fees and charges. They talked about how the electorates of South Brisbane and Brisbane Central were going to get a \$500 million school. They talked about Cross River Rail. Infrastructure Australia came out just recently and said, 'The Cross River Rail project is not needed until late 2030-something.' We know that the money is there in the budget because clearly both major parties voted for it.

Going back to the vote that was had, I remember it extremely well. We have a video of it. It demonstrates how this parliament operates. The Labor Party voted 42 votes for the budget, and they should have. They are proud of their budget. The LNP voted 41 votes against the budget. The KAP voted two votes against the budget and One Nation voted one vote against the budget. Then everybody ran around in a scramble. That was from 10.29 pm until 10.33 pm. I had never seen that happen before in this House, but it is legal and it can happen. Then the LNP decided they would change their vote. They voted with Labor for all of those increases. They voted for the renewable energy target of 50 per cent. They voted for increases in the registration fees. They voted for everything that Labor believes in. Good on them. They are allowed to do that. That is democracy in this House. I voted against the budget, as KAP voted against the budget. I am proud to be working with those gentlemen because they are putting Queenslanders first. They are putting people before politics, as One Nation does every day of the week. What this demonstrates very clearly is that both of the major parties have absolutely lost their way.

Getting back to the Cross River Rail project, we all know what that is about. That is about saving the member for South Brisbane's job. It is going to cost Queensland taxpayers \$5.4 billion. That is a pretty good investment in one member of parliament. I think, One Nation thinks and the Katter party thinks that money could be invested a whole lot better. We know that Cross River Rail is not needed until 2030-something. We really do not need the member for South Brisbane that much that it is going to cost us \$5.4 billion.

This is the opportunity—have I got a deal for the LNP! Tonight we get to vote on the third reading. Tonight the LNP can vote with the backbenchers because we are all going to vote against the budget. That means three votes here. That means 41 votes over here. That means 42 votes over there. Do you know what that will do? That will cut off supply. I had such an interesting conversation with the Clerk of the Parliament today. It is going to blow your mind, Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition or his spokesman had the audacity to tell the people of Queensland that, if we do not vote for the budget with the Labor Party for all the fees and charges and increases and the renewable energy target, we will not be able to pay front-line services like doctors and nurses and all of those people.

Guess what? That is not true. You would not believe it. I nearly fell over when the Clerk told me. There is a contingency built into every budget that gives six months leeway so everybody gets paid. Isn't that a shock to the system, ladies and gentlemen? I do not like being misled. The people of Queensland do not like being misled. That is what the opposition did. They misled everybody. They either were too tired and asleep and did not know which way they voted or they misled Queenslanders. It is up to Queenslanders to make that decision.

What we want to do with that \$5.4 billion is invest it in things that we believe Queenslanders really need. That includes projects such as a coal-fired power station. Isn't that a rocket to the system? I spoke on *Paul Murray Live* in February about a coal-fired power station. You can look at the record; it is on TV—\$1.5 billion for baseload energy for everybody. That is a good idea. How about water for all of North Queensland—secure water for Townsville and secure water for Rockhampton? That is our idea and it is a good idea. How about \$850 million for the north coast rail? That is a pretty good idea

too. How about \$700 million towards raising the Borumba Dam wall and drought proofing all of South-East Queensland? This is a little one just as a kicker. How about \$400 million towards the Mount Lindesay Highway because it has been neglected to death?

Queenslanders, you have heard it here. This is true. The parliament has a chance tonight. LNP, have the guts to vote the budget down. Let us go to an election. The chance is yours. We have the chance to change this state for the better. You can vote with us or vote with the ALP and up all the prices—up the prices of energy, up the prices of rego. The ball is in your court.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Before calling the final speaker, I want to acknowledge in the gallery students from Clifford Park Special School in the electorate of Toowoomba South.

Yeerongpilly Electorate

 **Mr BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (12.48 pm): With the new boundaries for the next term in parliament now determined, my current seat of Yeerongpilly has been adjusted to include the suburbs of Chelmer, Graceville and Sherwood and the other half of Tennyson. It has been renamed the seat of Miller after the great Emma Miller—the renowned suffragette who campaigned successfully for equal rights for women in our state.

Having now had many, many discussions with residents in those suburbs, easily the most significant issue is traffic congestion during the morning and afternoon peak hours across the single lane on the Walter Taylor Bridge. Those mammoth traffic jams, and I say that advisedly—and I table a number of photographs now for the benefit of the Legislative Assembly—go far beyond where the eye can see along Oxley Road, Wharf Street and Honour Avenue.

Tabled paper: Two photographs depicting traffic congestion on Oxley Road, Chelmer and on Wharf Street, Chelmer [\[1234\]](#).

This single lane across the Brisbane River is the only access between the CBD and Centenary. That is correct: there is only one lane of traffic to get across the river for half of our city between the CBD and Centenary. That is unsustainable. It has been ignored by the LNP city council for too long and requires action. The LNP council has had a clear majority for a decade and the mayoralty of Brisbane for 13 years and more. The Walter Taylor Bridge and local road networks are 100 per cent their responsibility and yet we have seen absolutely nothing from them.

They have ignored the Chelmer, Graceville, Sherwood and Tennyson communities for many four-year terms in office going back to the mayoralty of Campbell Newman and including the current mayor, Graham Quirk, and a number of years when Campbell Newman's right-hand man, the member for Clayfield, Tim Nicholls, was a councillor on the Brisbane City Council and in the civic cabinet as the councillor for the Hamilton ward. Yet the LNP city council is very happy to approve seven-storey buildings in nearby Sherwood and pocket the rates windfall from it.

Do they spend it in the local area to upgrade infrastructure to deal with the extra traffic that they are causing? Of course they do not. They spend it and much more—\$650 million, in fact—turning Kingsford Smith Drive in Ascot—coincidentally in the electorate of Clayfield, the seat of the current opposition leader who is a former close colleague of Graham Quirk and Campbell Newman—from two lanes into three lanes. Meanwhile in my part of the city the one lane at Walter Taylor Bridge is absolutely ignored by the Brisbane City Council. This northside pork barrel of old LNP councillor mates—Graham Quirk, Campbell Newman and opposition leader Tim Nicholls—with more than half a billion dollars of ratepayer funds is a disgrace at the expense of every local resident of Graceville, Chelmer, Sherwood and Tennyson.

Even if a decision were made today, it would be at least four years before anything was built, with traffic worsening every year. The neglect set in long ago during Campbell Newman's reign as mayor between 2004 and 2011 when nothing happened at all. When it comes to this part of the city, the LNP has a disgraceful record of neglect, ripping off the area, approving high-density development in Sherwood and spending southside ratepayers' funds on the north side at the expense of local amenity. Has the current three-term LNP state member for Indooroopilly stood up for his local constituents to his own party in the city council? Not at all—not a word. In stark contrast, it was great to see real community advocates Ali King and Jess Pugh at the public meeting on Saturday that I called in Graceville with 100 people attending. The member for Indooroopilly was nowhere to be seen and neither was the current LNP candidate who ignored the issue as well.

There is strong public support for a second bridge on the downstream side of the current bridges. The large majority LNP city council needs to stop neglecting Chelmer, Graceville, Sherwood and Tennyson, get on with it and do some design and engineering work to look at solutions including how

to best integrate it with local road networks for the best community outcome. That work needs to be put out to the community for genuine two-way consultation to ensure the community benefits fully from any project and to ensure the best possible outcome locally.

This matter must no longer be neglected and ignored by the LNP city council, which has sat on its hands and funnelled large sums of ratepayer funds to the north side. I call on the LNP city council to do their job, stop ignoring proposed Miller electorate residents and current Indooroopilly electorate residents in Chelmer, Sherwood, Graceville and Tennyson, let alone the broader community on the south side in communities like Oxley, Corinda and north of the river in Indooroopilly and surrounding suburbs. I say to the council and to Councillor Simmonds, who says that we have to wait a lot longer, 'Let's get the work done. Let's integrate it with nearby roadwork and get cracking because you have ignored the area for long enough.'

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! The time for matters of public interest has expired.

EDUCATION (OVERSEAS STUDENTS) BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (12.53 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the approval of schools to provide courses to overseas students and the approval of schools and not-for-profit organisations to provide international secondary student exchange programs, to repeal the Education (Overseas Students) Act 1996, and to amend this act, the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, the Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014, and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017 [[1235](#)].

Tabled paper: Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017, explanatory notes [[1236](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017 into the House today. The bill replaces the Education (Overseas Students) Act 1996 with modern legislation that reflects the national framework for the regulation of providers of courses to overseas students and introduces a statutory regime for the regulation of international secondary student exchange organisations.

The bill is also an important step towards the introduction of Queensland's new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems. In October 2016, the government committed to introduce new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems for Queensland students commencing year 11 in 2019. The reforms are the biggest change to senior secondary education in decades. They will affect more than 50,000 school students each year.

The government has engaged extensively with the education community to ensure the new systems meet the needs of Queensland students. The development of the new arrangements has been guided by representatives of all three schooling sectors, parent groups, secondary principals associations, teacher unions and tertiary institutions. The new senior assessment system will build on the strengths of Queensland's current school based assessment approach. Teachers will continue to use their professional judgement to design and administer school based assessments. However, new processes will be introduced to help teachers to prepare and administer the highest quality school assessments for students.

Under the new systems, school based assessments will be complemented by an external assessment for most senior subjects. These external assessments will be administered and marked by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the QCAA. In addition, current overall position tertiary ranks will be replaced with an ATAR, Australian tertiary admission rank. This will bring Queensland into line with other states. The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre, QTAC, will be responsible for issuing the ATARs.

The bill ensures that the QCAA is able to deliver on the Queensland government's commitment to introduce new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems that will serve Queensland senior students into the future. The amendments ensure that the QCAA has the power to undertake functions required to implement the new systems. Specifically, the bill provides the QCAA with new functions to endorse school based assessments for senior subjects; review samples of marked school based

assessments to ensure reliability of the grades that have been awarded; analyse results of school based assessment and external assessment to detect anomalies; and administer and mark external assessments for senior subjects.

The bill also allows the QCAA to provide information to QTAC for the purpose of generating ATARs for eligible students and informing students of their ranking. All schooling sectors, the QCAA and QTAC were consulted and support the bill. The QCAA is working in consultation with the schooling sectors to develop new procedures to support the new senior assessment systems. It is anticipated that draft procedures will be finalised by early 2018. The QCAA's establishing legislation allows the authority to develop guidelines about its functions. The legislation includes extensive regulation-making powers which are enhanced under the bill to allow for regulation about the new senior assessment functions. Once the QCAA's procedures for delivering the new senior assessment system are settled, there will be further consideration about what detail, if any, will need to be prescribed in regulation to support the reforms.

I now return to the new regulatory regime for providers of courses to overseas students and student exchange programs. International education is Australia's third largest export. While the majority of this export revenue comes from the tertiary and training sectors, the schooling sector also provides education services to overseas students wishing to undertake their school education in Australia. These students often continue to undertake tertiary education in Australia.

The bill modernises the regulation of school providers of education to overseas students and ensures that Queensland will continue to offer safe education opportunities for international students. The regulation of providers of education to overseas students is a cooperative model of shared responsibility between the Australian and Queensland governments. In accordance with the requirements under the Commonwealth Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000, providers of education to overseas students must be registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students, commonly referred to as CRICOS. Providers must comply with requirements under the Commonwealth act and the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students.

Queensland has a role under the cooperative national framework for approving school providers as the first stage of CRICOS registration and undertaking monitoring and enforcement activities. There are just over 100 non-state schools and 150 state schools that provide education to overseas students in Queensland. Queensland has had state based legislation—the Education (Overseas Students) Act 1996—regulating providers of courses to overseas students since the mid-nineties.

The Queensland Act does not reflect the state's role in the national framework or provide the Department of Education and Training with appropriate powers to monitor compliance with the commonwealth Act and national code. It also enshrines duplicative regulatory processes, requiring Queensland to maintain a separate state based register of Queensland school providers of courses to overseas students. The bill introduces a new legislative scheme that better reflects Queensland's role and responsibilities under the national framework and provides the appropriate powers for the state to monitor compliance.

International secondary student exchange programs offer Australian students the opportunity to attend a high school in another country and, under similar conditions, students from other countries may undertake studies in Australia. The programs are managed on a state-by-state basis with reciprocity of exchange accepted in lieu of payment of school tuition fees. In 2016 about 160 international students and 190 Queensland students participated in student exchange programs. There are 23 organisations registered in Queensland to provide these exchanges, comprising 10 non-state schools, one state school, and 12 not-for-profit entities such as Rotary.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Speaker has reviewed the introductory speech. Under standing order 25, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Consistent with the approach taken in Victoria and Tasmania, the Bill introduces a legislative regime to regulate international student exchange organisations.

Introducing a statutory regime will provide regulatory oversight commensurate with the level of risk associated with student exchanges.

It will safeguard the welfare of international exchange students coming to Queensland to study and Queensland students travelling overseas on exchanges. It will also protect Australia's reputation as a destination for international education and training.

It should provide parents of both overseas and Queensland exchange students a level of comfort that appropriate protections are in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their children when they travel to study through an approved exchange program.

The new legislative regime reflects the current administrative regime based on the National Guidelines for the Operation of International Secondary Exchange Programs in Australia (the National Guidelines).

The Bill provides the power for the Director-General of the Department of Education and Training to make guidelines, which will outline the standards required of approved exchange organisations. The guidelines will be based on the National Guidelines with modification to meet specific Queensland circumstances, such as requirements about working with children.

The new legislative regime will not impose new or additional requirements on providers and will not impact on short-term cultural exchanges that occur under visitor visa arrangements.

All existing student exchange organisations were consulted during development of the Bill as was the industry peak body, the Council of Australian Student Exchange Organisations, which gave strong support for the Bill.

I commend the Bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (1.00 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee

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

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill

Finance and Administration Committee

Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! The question is—

That the report of the Finance and Administration Committee be adopted.

Mr RUSSO (Sunnybank—ALP) (2.30 pm): I rise as chair of the Finance and Administration Committee to speak to the examination of the budget estimates and to present report No. 42 on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2017. I pass on the recommendation of the committee that all proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2017 be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. On behalf of the committee, I thank the Speaker, the Clerk of the Parliament and their staff for attending our committee hearing on 18 July. The detailed information provided to the committee and the relevant experience and rationale for the changes were very helpful to the committee in our consideration of the proposed expenditure.

I note Mr Speaker's advice that this will be his last estimates process. On behalf of the committee I thank the Speaker for his continued judicious stewardship of the Office of the Speaker and of the parliament and I wish him well in his future endeavours beyond the parliament.

In his opening statement to the committee during the estimates hearing held on 18 July, the Speaker reminded the committee that we are the custodians of our parliament and in this role we are responsible for maintaining and preserving the heritage of our parliament and the role it has played in

Queensland's history. It is important that we ensure that the parliament remains relevant to meet the needs of the people it serves. In his opening statement the Speaker also outlined that once the next state election is held parliament will undergo the most significant change in over 30 years following the recent electoral boundary redistribution and the increase in the number of members in the parliament from 89 to 93.

The Speaker went on to advise the committee that the next state election will be the last state election before the amendments to the Constitution of Queensland will see fixed dates for future elections. The Speaker went on to advise that the key focus for 2017-18 will be the planning for, and managing of, the impacts of these changes as they occur and to transition from the 55th Parliament to the 56th Parliament.

Mr Speaker went on to also advise the committee that when he appeared before the committee last year he approved the new strategic plan and organisational infrastructure for the Parliamentary Service. The Speaker informed the committee that the new strategic plan and organisational infrastructure has now been implemented to better focus service delivery to parliament, its members and our committees.

The Parliamentary Service recently launched an update to its broadcast of proceedings system, now named Parliament.TV. The new broadcasting system, as the Speaker advised, will make it easier for the public to access the broadcast using portable devices. The Speaker also advised the committee that a similar upgrade to the members' video on demand service is planned over the coming months, and I think we have seen that come to fruition.

The Speaker also spoke about the capital works program for 2017-18. The Speaker outlined the highlights: the need to preserve the parliament's heritage while delivering a modern, relevant workplace. It is anticipated that the final stage of the parliamentary stonework restoration will hopefully be completed in October 2017. The committee has been advised that the restoration of the Queensland parliament started almost 25 years ago. The planning has now also commenced for the final stage to design work for the upgrade and restoration of the heritage fence, which is anticipated to commence this year. The completion of the restoration of the Queensland parliament is to coincide with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the first sitting of the Queensland parliament.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.35 pm): I rise to follow on from the member for Sunnybank in making a contribution in connection with the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2017. As the member for Sunnybank mentioned, it is appropriate to reflect that this is Mr Speaker's final estimates proceeding and it would be appropriate to congratulate him on the judicious and excellent way he has operated the Parliamentary Service during his tenure. I would also like to acknowledge the collegiate nature of the committee, the work they have done, the committee secretariat and also anyone associated with the preparations for, and the undertaking of, the estimates hearing.

A number of issues were raised throughout the estimates hearing. I want to draw attention to a couple of those, as the member for Sunnybank and the chair of the committee has already done. Firstly, I would like to draw attention to the high turnover rate that was identified during the committee hearing of electorate office staff. As we all know, our electorate officers have very challenging jobs. It is a role that has significantly changed over many years from once being an administrative task to now, dare I say, a quasi social worker role. Certainly, in my experience electorate officers play a very vital role in managing constituents, many of whom will be upset and many of whom will have quite personal problems that they are seeking to have addressed in the electorate office. To hear that a turnover rate of 30 per cent is applicable throughout the state is worrying in some respects.

I note that the Clerk of the Parliament, who also does an outstanding job managing the Parliamentary Service, has arranged for a new role, a liaison officer type role, for electorate office staff. That is a role that is to be applauded because, as I have already reflected, a 30 per cent turnover rate is unacceptable. Given the very highly charged nature of the role, it is a necessary role. If there were a turnover rate of 30 per cent in the corporate sector there would be significant questions raised and actions taken to address that problem. I look forward to seeing what actions are taken in the years ahead to try to address this turnover rate to ensure that electorate office staff are properly supported and over time we see this rate drop. It may be appropriate that a benchmark be set so that the electorate staff turnover rate can be properly addressed into the future.

Another issue that was raised during the public hearings that I would like to speak briefly about is live captioning. There was a question from the Leader of the Opposition in respect of that. The advice that we were given during those hearings was that such a live-captioning process in respect of the federal parliament cost \$3.5 million, which is quite costly, and I understand that further investigations

are being undertaken in that regard. I also learned that members of the Queensland parliament speak more quickly than those of the federal parliament—which may cause some additional problems—but it would be wonderful to see that particular initiative continued and brought forward as soon as possible.

Another issue raised during the public hearing related to security upgrades. We have seen a lot more vehicular and pedestrian traffic around the precinct because of 1 William Street and the Queen's Wharf redevelopment and we are going to see a lot more. We do not want to see the Berlin Wall erected around the parliamentary precinct but it would be appropriate that, in accordance with the heritage listing of the precinct, steps be taken to ensure that additional security arrangements are addressed as soon as possible into the future.

The final issue I would like to raise that came out of the public hearings is in relation to cybercrime. We know that since 2015 there has been over \$3 billion lost due to cybercrime throughout corporate Australia. I would like to see the Parliamentary Service continue to undertake ongoing audits and address this issue through additional resources to ensure that we have the highest standards of information technology security and that we can safeguard our information and that of our electorates for the foreseeable future in a safe manner.

(Time expired)

Report adopted.

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.

Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Appropriation Bill

Finance and Administration Committee

Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): The question is—

That the report of the Finance and Administration Committee be adopted.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (2.41 pm): I rise as chair of the Finance and Administration Committee to speak on the 2017-18 appropriation for the portfolio areas of the Premier and Cabinet, Treasurer, Employment and Industrial Relations, Racing and Multicultural Affairs. I present report No. 43 on the Appropriation Bill 2017. The committee's recommendation is that the proposed expenditure for the committee's areas of responsibility, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2017, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. On behalf of the committee I thank the Premier and Minister for the Arts; the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment; and the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs as well as their staff for their attendance and providing details in answering questions of the committee during the estimates hearing.

In her opening statement to the committee discussing the 2017-18 budget, the Premier outlined that her government's third budget is a budget that invests in job creation. The Premier outlined that, as a result of that commitment, there has been a total of 69,300 jobs created in Queensland and that the current budget will support a further 40,000 jobs over the next 12 months. It was also outlined in the Premier's statement to the committee that this is the government's third budget where there will be a further delivery of infrastructure. The budget has committed more than \$42.75 billion for its capital program over the next four years, and the Premier outlined that this has occurred without privatisation—in other words, without the need for asset sales—which was the main plank of the LNP's policy going into the 2015 election. The member for Clayfield was the main architect of those asset sales. In this third budget the Premier also outlined that we will see record investment in health and education. The third budget continues to restore front-line services for our growing and decentralised state.

In her opening statement the Premier also outlined to the committee that, since being elected in 2015, the Palaszczuk government has delivered additional front-line services through nurses, doctors, teachers, teacher aides, police, ambulance officers and Fire and Emergency Services. I would now like to outline some of those numbers: 3,170 nurses, 1,190 doctors, 3,095 teachers and teacher aides, 330 police, 250 ambulance officers and 200 fire and emergency services officers. The government's election promise to restore front-line services after the massive LNP cuts has been fulfilled. The Premier also outlined that this budget caters for growth in our community, including the regions.

In the Premier's opening statement to the committee there was talk about electricity prices, which are a concern to many householders in Queensland. As was outlined to the committee, electricity prices have been stabilised after dramatic increases under the LNP. As we are all aware, the national electricity market is a mess. This has mainly been caused by the federal government's inability to rectify issues on the national grid. Queensland has managed to keep downward pressure on electricity prices, and price increases have been held at an average of 1.9 per cent per annum under the Palaszczuk government. The Premier pointed out that this is as a result of us keeping our energy businesses in public ownership, developing additional energy resources, reopening Swanbank E—which had been mothballed by the member for Clayfield—and providing concessions to Queenslanders on their electricity bills.

The Palaszczuk government's third budget is in stark contrast to the federal budget, which was delivered in May. As outlined by the Premier in her opening remarks, the Turnbull government has ignored Queenslanders and continued to refuse to fully contribute—

(Time expired)

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.46 pm): I am grateful for that enthralling and enticing report from the member for Sunnybank as I am also equally grateful for his astute shepherding of the Finance and Administration Committee during the question and answer process. His tolerance and forbearance, despite numerous interjections by the member for Logan, was unbelievably kind. Indeed you, Madam Deputy Speaker, played no small role in respect to that matter.

The Palaszczuk Labor government promised a jobs bonanza but has given Queensland a jobs crisis. As we said on the night that the budget was released to underwhelming response, it is a budget con job. It is a budget that, for the first time in Queensland's history, will see debt exceed \$81 billion. It was planned for by the member for Mulgrave and the member for Inala and supported by all those on that side. Despite \$10 billion worth of raids, despite ceasing contributions to the public servants' superannuation fund and despite their own asset sales, the debt continues to go up to \$81 billion. The debt continues to increase.

It was again made clear throughout the estimates hearings that this government says one thing and does exactly the opposite. This is a Premier whose supposed catchcry is 'jobs, jobs, jobs', but she has no issue selling out the jobs of Queenslanders in a bid to hold onto Greens preferences in inner Brisbane seats like South Brisbane. This is a Premier who claims that she is committed to openness and accountability but whose own actions show a lack of transparency. This Premier only acts when her hand is forced, and that was again made abundantly obvious through the Finance and Administration Committee's hearings and subsequently during the balance of the estimates hearings. At estimates I had the chance to ask the Premier and her officers questions about the investigation into the member for Yeerongpilly's deletion of a private email account which was used for government purposes following an RTI request received by his office. The day immediately after that estimates hearing the CCC announced that it had completed its investigation into the member for Yeerongpilly and found—

... there is sufficient evidence to raise a reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct relating to the potential destruction of public records ...

That led to the member being unceremoniously—eventually—stood aside as minister and sent up to the back of the House with his tail between his legs. Again, the Premier only acted when the public outcry became too loud to ignore.

The CCC's findings also revealed a concerning and ongoing practice amongst ministers which the Premier did not want to acknowledge at estimates—that is, the use of private email accounts. The CCC was of the view that the use of personal email accounts for ministerial purposes is in breach of both the Queensland Ministerial Handbook and the Ministerial Information Security Policy.

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Member for Logan, the member for Clayfield is not taking your interjections, so please cease.

Mr NICHOLLS: Of course, these findings stung the Premier into action and she announced yet another review and overhaul by her department into the practice, but when the Premier was asked about these issues during the estimates hearing she simply did not want to know about it and she dodged the questions.

When the opposition outlines concerns, the Premier sticks her head in the sand. When the CCC admits there is a problem, the Premier has no choice but to act. Members should make no mistake about it: the Premier only acts when she is forced. She shows no leadership and she fails to live up to her promises on accountability.

Again this year the Premier used estimates to table and release documents that were well overdue in a bid to hide them from scrutiny. The Premier knows that releasing these documents prior to estimates would have led to some tough questions, so what did she do? She tabled them on the day of the estimates hearing to avoid scrutiny. For example, the Working for Queensland survey was conducted between April and May 2016 yet was only made publicly available on the day of the estimates hearing—more than a year after the survey was conducted. Perhaps the Premier's attempts to hide this document were because the survey showed drops in her department's satisfaction with organisational leadership and job development. The Premier also released on the day of estimates figures revealing yet another blow-out in the size of the Public Service, following on from the government's inability to keep to its own fiscal principle linking growth in the Public Service to population growth. The fiscal principle that was announced last year—

(Time expired)

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.52 pm): It is such a pity to cut off the Leader of the Opposition, but if he cannot plan his time properly then that is up to him. In looking at the budget of this state at estimates hearings, either we can ask questions that look to lift up Queenslanders or we can ask questions that are irrelevant and pointless. In 150 years of this parliament we perhaps have not seen a lower point than the questions asked by the member for Clayfield. When all of the big issues were there to be discussed, we heard the priorities of the member for Clayfield. All he could ask about were lifts. He asked five questions about lifts—not the safety of lifts in our high-rise buildings across Queensland but about one lift in particular. He wasted his precious time asking five questions about the lift in the Annexe. That is the lift that takes him to bed. That is not lifting up any Queenslander. He asked those questions only for his own benefit. The residents of Logan do not care about the lifts of the member for Clayfield; they care about our roads, schools and health services. Now they know that the member for Clayfield was more interested in the lift that takes him up to sleep—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Logan, I do have to point out to you that we are talking about the estimates hearing involving the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations. I ask you to ensure you are speaking to the Appropriation Bill.

Mr POWER: Certainly. I am quoting directly from the questions and answers that were put to the Speaker at the estimates hearing.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Thank you very much. I am in charge of what happens in the chamber. I have already addressed this with the member for Logan and I think he is quite capable of taking my advice.

Mr POWER: The estimates hearing exposed the priorities of the former treasurer in the Newman government. I chose to ask questions about what this budget was doing to lift up Queenslanders. The member for Clayfield asked about irrelevancies and had little time for questions about the budget. The questions he asked were about irrelevancies. Instead, I tried to ask about things that would lift up Queensland.

As the member for Logan, my job is to find out how this budget would help. That is why I asked the Premier to advise the committee on the process for the category D application for communities devastated by severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. The Premier said that Cyclone Debbie caused devastation across such a large part of Queensland. She also said—

In fact ... we have a map that shows the devastation that was caused right across the state. The councils that were impacted by the cyclone and the aftermath of the floods nominated the projects that were included in my government's submission for category D, the business case.

It is a pity that the member for Whitsunday did not listen to my speech or the speech of the member for Waterford about the impact of Cyclone Debbie with the flooding of the Albert River and the Logan River. When I pointed this out, Lisa said about the member for Whitsunday—

I wonder if he would ... sit in a room and tell the 27 farmers impacted by Cyclone Debbie in Logan, 'You are irrelevant!' The losses on our farm impacted our 8 staff and their families!

Kirsty said—

We are 'lucky' we only rented so 'only' lost household contents that took nearly a week to clean out with the help of the Mud Army friends and family. Only to be told right on the heels of it all there's no accommodation for you.

Unfortunately, it seems that the Prime Minister also thinks the impact of Cyclone Debbie is irrelevant. We heard that formal NDRRA category D applications had been sent to the Prime Minister on 11 May for affected communities like Logan and, of course, Whitsunday, Mackay and Mirani. All of them are important. The application sought \$220 million, with the funding to be shared equally—fifty-fifty—by the Queensland government and the federal government. We expected matching funds of \$110 million—matching the funds in the Queensland budget papers. LNP members need to stand up to their mates in Canberra and insist that Queensland gets its fair share.

I also asked the Premier about lifting up Queenslanders through jobs. I asked the Premier what role defence plays in the economic and community life of Queensland. The Premier informed us that Rheinmetall had picked Queensland over Victoria as the preferred place for its headquarters to develop the new Boxers. This shows that the Queensland government, through the budget, is creating jobs and attracting jobs for others.

There are two choices in this place: either we can put forward a budget that lifts up Queenslanders or we can play cheap politics—politics that fails Queenslanders and fails to see where we can provide the jobs and the health services that Queenslanders need. The committee agreed unanimously to pass the budget because it lifts up Queenslanders.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.57 pm): It is fantastic to follow the brains trust who was meant to be speaking on the Finance and Administration Committee report. He addressed the wrong report. For the majority of his speech he was talking about the appropriation for the Legislative Assembly. Then I think he wandered off into a territory where the honourable member for Whitsunday was on the committee. It is difficult to understand how his contribution had any relevance to the Finance and Administration Committee report.

We all know—it has been said by the Leader of the Opposition—that the Labor government promised a jobs bonanza but instead has given Queensland a jobs crisis and a budget that is simply a con job. The Finance and Administration Committee hearing went from bad to worse for this government. The Premier continued with a culture of cover-ups and secrecy, dodging questions about the conduct of disgraced former energy minister Mark Bailey, described by the CCC to be 'a reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct'. The Premier avoided answering questions on this topic by parroting the word 'CCC' in a bid to absolve herself of responsibility for the questionable actions of one of her ministers.

The release of the Working for Queensland survey, conducted 12 months ago, was held over until after the Premier had appeared at estimates. Such is the conduct of the government, which is riddled with cover-ups and secrecy, that reports are held over until the Premier is not around to answer questions. Perhaps the Premier's attempts to hide the document was because the survey clearly shows drops in satisfaction with her department in terms of organisational leadership and development.

The Finance and Administration Committee again heard about the risks of the government's \$4 billion reckless raid on the Public Service superannuation fund. It was revealed during the estimates hearing that the Treasurer's own chief of staff used the terminology 'raid' or 'raiding the fund' in internal emails sent to the Treasurer and his office. This serves to show the short-sighted nature of the government's super plunder. After heavy questioning, the Treasurer finally revealed that the Palaszczuk government had hired Labor mate Craig Emerson to conduct a review into Trade & Investment Queensland. We now have a Palaszczuk government minister subcontracting out ministerial responsibility to former failed Labor ministers. It is a disgrace that approximately \$80,000 of taxpayers' money has been given to a Labor mate. The committee heard the former trade minister, the member for South Brisbane, did not seek the advice of trade policy specialists in TIQ prior to the damaging remarks about US President-elect Donald Trump. We would all recall that the Deputy Premier launched an extraordinarily politically motivated attack on the President-elect, saying that America could do better than having a bigoted man as their leader.

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: This from a government that does not support trade and investment! So disappointing. It is unprecedented that a Queensland trade minister would make such partisan remarks without consultation with the trade policy specialists. This tirade again showed that the member for South Brisbane has brought a level of cheap student politics to this House and is willing to put her personal views and interests ahead of all Queenslanders. The committee did not receive an answer as

to why both the Premier and the then trade minister did not attend the Premier's Export Awards as it has occurred in 2016 and 2017. The Premier's Export Awards is the annual flagship event for Trade & Investment Queensland, so it is disappointing that neither the Premier nor the then trade minister, the member for South Brisbane, attended this event to congratulate and celebrate Queensland businesses growing the state's economy through exports. The statement of reservation further outlines the LNP's concerns about the budget—a budget that promised a jobs bonanza but gave Queensland a jobs crisis. This budget is simply a con job. In the time remaining I want to congratulate and thank our Deputy Chair, Ray Stevens, the member for Mermaid Beach, for his conduct throughout the proceedings.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (3.02 pm): I want to thank the excellent Finance and Administration Committee chaired by my friend the member for Sunnybank for allowing me to be part of this estimates hearing overseeing the budgets of the Premier and Minister for the Arts, the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, and the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I acknowledge that the Speaker was also part of the Finance and Administration Committee hearings, albeit for a different bill, and want to say what an honour it has been to serve as Deputy Speaker under him and want to thank him for everything he has done for this parliament.

Estimates was a fantastic opportunity to hear yet again about the achievements of the Palaszczuk Labor government, about Queensland's really strong economic position under this government, about how we have created jobs, about the restoration of front-line services and about many other things that are really critical to Queensland's future. The figures in terms of our economy speak for themselves. Since we took office, the National Australia Bank monthly survey has shown Queensland businesses are reporting either the highest or the second highest confidence rating in the country. In June we saw that business in Queensland is the highest in Australia in terms of confidence about our future. Queensland is setting records for exports. As of June, 69,300 new jobs have been created since we came to government. In fact, we know those figures today are up to over 77,000. With a continued focus on programs and infrastructure investments to create jobs with a determination to reform the state's finances and pay down debt, we are now in a position to deliver on a whole range of initiatives that are important to the people of Queensland and the banks and the investors and the ratings agencies know this and they are responding.

It could not have been clearer on that day of estimates the contrast to the estimates committee of three years previously when the member for Clayfield was in charge of the bank. Essentially, there are three things that I think were stark and have proven to be stark contrasts in the three years since. The LNP under the member for Clayfield cut programs, sold things and sacked people. No matter what the member for Clayfield says he will and will not do if the LNP is returned to government, we know that he simply cannot be trusted. He says one thing and he does another. He told people in the Public Service that their jobs would be safe and then he sacked 14,000 of them. He told the people of Queensland that he would not sell assets and then he did. He told the most vulnerable people of our state that he would cap electricity prices and then he pushed them up by 43 per cent. The estimates hearing highlighted that Queensland simply cannot risk having an LNP government again. We have things back up and running and we cannot have those opposite mucking things up for Queensland.

Do members know what else we cannot have in this state? We cannot have a government that sits on its hands when it comes to opportunity for Queensland. I want to talk particularly about Cross River Rail, one of the main reasons I asked to appear at that estimates hearing for the Premier and also for the hearing the next day with the Minister for Transport. I want to make it clear to everybody that Cross River Rail is a huge priority for my community. The Premier talked about this at the estimates hearing. It is Queensland's No. 1 infrastructure project. It is going to create 1,500 jobs every year for the seven years the project is occurring. It is going to take 18,500 cars off the road. It is going to significantly cut travel time in South-East Queensland.

If the LNP does not realise now that traffic congestion is one of the biggest issues facing SEQ, then it is going to continue to disappoint Queenslanders in the way that it has for many years now. I cannot overstate how important it is that the government has serious measures in place to beat congestion, and Cross River Rail is the way to go. The LNP not only failed to lobby Malcolm Turnbull on this, who refused to give Queenslanders back their money to build this important infrastructure project, but it pandered. The member for Nanango was the key attacker. She would do anything to make sure that this project does not get up and asked question after question on the day of estimates. It was absolutely disgraceful. I want to congratulate the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Employment for their excellent performances that day, for what they have delivered for Queensland and in particular for what they delivered for the people of the Bulimba electorate.

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (3.07 pm): If you listen to Labor, it is telling Queenslanders they have never had it so good. The trouble is: if you travel around Queensland and talk to real Queenslanders, they will tell you that they are doing it tough, and that is what we heard about this budget and that is what we heard in these estimates. If you get past Labor's rhetoric and past the Treasurer's rhetoric, what you hear is that Labor is doing it badly for this state. We heard from Labor that this budget was a jobs bonanza. However, we know it was a jobs con. Unemployment was set to stay above six per cent. The latest ABS figures that came out after the budget showed it went up to 6.5 per cent on the seasonally adjusted figures. We are already stuck with the second worst unemployment rate in Australia, battling it out for the wooden spoon with South Australia for the worst unemployment rate in Australia. That is what we have seen, but Labor will tell people that they have never had it so good while people do not have jobs. Some 30,000 jobs were lost last year—a record for Queensland.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr EMERSON: I take that interjection from the Minister for Employment. She denies those figures. She says it is rubbish that 30,000 jobs were lost last year. This is the kind of minister who does not care about Queenslanders. She is the one who is out there telling all of those people who are unemployed or those who are worried about losing their jobs that it is rubbish—'Don't worry about that. Don't worry about that at all.' Unfortunately, that is what we hear and see.

I turn to infrastructure. What did this government do when it came to power? It slashed infrastructure by \$3 billion. What did this budget reveal? It left \$1.7 billion on the shelf. It would not even spend it to create jobs. It failed to do that as well. Of course, what do we hear in terms of debt? We hear about a record debt going up to \$81 billion. That is what we get from Labor: an unemployment rate that is the second worst in Australia, infrastructure being slashed and debt going up to a record \$81 billion. Labor tells us all the time, 'You've never had it so good.' The trouble is that people are saying to me, 'Tell Labor it's not good enough. Things need to change.' People are concerned. Last week, we had that disgraceful decision that was a job killer of 13,000 jobs on the Gold Coast. Over the past 12 months on the Gold Coast, we have seen 7,000 jobs lost and another 8,500 people giving up looking for work.

Queensland remains the business bankruptcy capital of Australia. I know the former secretary of the ACTU will know that Queensland is also the strike capital of Australia. Last year across Australia, under this government, almost 50 per cent of the days lost through strike action occurred in Queensland. Under this government people do not have jobs, or they are worried about their jobs. Infrastructure is not being built. Debt is going through the roof. Businesses are going bankrupt. We see strike action day after day.

During the estimates hearing we focused particularly on the government's raid of public servants' superannuation. We heard the Treasurer say, 'Don't use the word "raid". It is not a raid.' It was then revealed that the Treasurer's own chief of staff had used the word 'raid' in correspondence. The Treasurer's own office knows that it is a raid. His own staff know that it is a raid. He is the only one who is denying that it is a raid. Everyone else knows that it is a raid.

Finally, we heard the Treasurer announce his market-led proposal scheme. When I read out the criteria he said, 'That's great. That's perfect. That's exactly what we need to do.' I read out the LNP's plan that we had released months ago. The Treasurer has given up on his own plan—because he knows that it is a failure—and ripped off ours. That is the kind of Treasurer we have. That is the kind of Labor Party we have. They have no ideas, no initiative and no understanding. We hear Labor member after Labor member tell Queenslanders that they have never had it so good. They should talk to Queenslanders who are doing it tough. They will say, 'Not good enough, Labor.'

(Time expired)

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (3.12 pm): I thank the chair and the members of the Finance and Administration Committee for the opportunity to appear at the estimates hearing to discuss the 2017-18 state budget. I believe that the estimates hearings are a great process when they are focused on asking questions about the budget. We saw how the former government tore up that estimates process by running the estimates committee hearings concurrently to try to keep them away from the media's gaze. We know exactly why the former government did that.

The 2017-18 state budget is my government's third budget—our third surplus budget, our third budget that makes a record investment in both health and education, our third budget that makes an investment in infrastructure across our state. I am very proud that my government will deliver Cross River Rail for the south-east of the state. We will also deliver water that is needed in Townsville. We

will also deliver much needed infrastructure, especially roads, across Queensland. Queensland is a large state and we know how important that infrastructure is. We know it is important, because we listen to the people of Queensland. No matter where they live in our great state, we govern for the people of Queensland. Our third budget is also committed to helping disadvantaged and vulnerable people through rebates and concessions. Today, the ministers in my government highlighted that range of concessions and how we are working with families to reduce the cost-of-living pressures they are feeling. I described this budget as a jobs bonanza. It will support 40,000 jobs. Since the budget was delivered, we have had confirmation that, since the 2015 election, in Queensland 77,300 new jobs have been created. I am incredibly proud of my government's record.

Although the budget outlines a comprehensive plan for investing in infrastructure, services and people, the opposition was completely disinterested. The LNP members have turned their backs on the budget, just as they have turned their backs on Queenslanders. When the LNP members in Canberra shake their heads to reject Queensland's pleas for a fair go, the LNP members in Queensland nod in agreement. The LNP refuses to fund key infrastructure projects. It refuses to restore the cuts it made to health and education spending. Today, we heard how the health minister is making sure that we address mental health by bringing back the Barrett centre, which those members opposite cut so shamefully when they were in government.

Most recently, and shamefully, the LNP in Canberra refuses to match my government's commitment to category D funding for communities devastated by severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. In this day and age, that is disgraceful. We have communities out there who are hurting. The member for Indooroopilly came in here and tried to lecture us on listening to communities. My \$110 million is on the table. We are yet to see matching funds from the federal government.

The questions asked by the member for Clayfield rarely touched on the budget. On reading the statement lodged by the member for Mermaid Beach, one could be mistaken for thinking that the opposition had undertaken a forensic analysis of the budget. However, the opposition members could not find any fault with the budget and pursued other issues.

The jobs bonanza that is this budget is in stark contrast to the one delivered by the member for Clayfield five years ago. Back then, the budget that he delivered dismissed 14,000 government workers. His only alibi was that Peter Costello and the Commission of Audit wanted to cut 20,000. In his first budget speech, which he delivered on 11 September 2012, the member for Clayfield claimed that he was being generous and helping those workers by cutting them sooner. With a straight face the member for Clayfield explained the move—

To give Queensland public servants greater certainty, the Government has decided to bring all FTE losses into 2012-13.

The families whose jobs were cut and who were hurt by that budget still remember it to this day and they will never, ever forget. In contrast, I said that we would restore front-line services and I am proud of how we are doing that right across the state: 3,170 extra nurses, 1,190 extra doctors, 3,095 extra teachers and teacher aides, 330 extra police, 250 extra ambulance officers, and 205 extra fire and emergency services officers.

The questions that the LNP must answer are: which Queensland hospitals have too many nurses or doctors? Which Queensland schools have too many teachers or teacher aides? Which communities have too many police, ambulance or fire and emergency services officers? The opposition members should not come in here and lecture us on front-line services, when communities across every electorate—

(Time expired)

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.17 pm): Some time ago the employment minister for this Labor government said that there is not much that you can do about youth unemployment. Through the estimates committee hearing process she lived up to all of her own expectations. That little quote that I keep referring to, which she keeps saying was taken out of context—she has never really explained in which context she was talking—I tabled again. There is only one context we can take when the minister says that there is not much you can do about youth unemployment and she can show that there is not much you can do about youth employment. That is exactly what this employment minister and the Labor government has done. I think the Minister for Employment should be now affectionately dubbed the 'Minister for Unemployment', because that is that she has been able to achieve.

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I hear the Treasurer squawking. I refer to the figures released by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office on youth unemployment on the Treasurer's own department's website. It shows the following youth unemployment rate for June 2017: Brisbane east, up from 14.4 per cent to

20.5 per cent under Labor's watch; Brisbane south, up from 12 per cent to 14.4 per cent under Labor's watch; Brisbane west, up from 9.8 per cent to 15.2 per cent under Labor's watch; the Sunshine Coast, up from 9.4 per cent to 10.2 per cent under Labor's watch; Townsville, up from 16.5 per cent to 21.8 per cent under Labor's watch; and Wide Bay, up from 21 per cent to 23.5 per cent under Labor's watch. Only in the past few days I was in the Wide Bay and Burnett region talking to people who could not get jobs and hearing that electricity prices for businesses have tripled. I have to say that the people in the Burnett-Bundaberg area did not speak very highly of the member for Bundaberg.

Under this minister for unemployment, unemployment in outback Queensland has gone from 36.5 per cent to 56.2 per cent. Nearly 60 per cent of young Queenslanders are unemployed in outback Queensland. When asked how the minister for unemployment rated the success of the program she said she does not rate the measure of its success by the unemployment numbers. I asked the Under Treasurer, when the minister announced that they were going to apply this program throughout all of Queensland and not just regional Queensland, 'How do you choose now to apply it to South-East Queensland?' and he said, 'We apply the program based on the unemployment rate.' To instigate the program in Queensland they base it on the unemployment rate, but they do not judge the success of the program with the unemployment rate. If they did it would show it is a complete failure. They cannot judge the success of this program because the unemployment rate for youth unemployment is skyrocketing.

How do they judge the success of the program? The Under Treasurer is saying we need the program in South-East Queensland because of the high unemployment rate or, in the minister's own words, 'the unique challenges facing regional Queensland that are now facing South-East Queensland'. They will apply it because of the huge unemployment rate but they do not judge the success by the unemployment rate. If it were a success one would think that the unemployment rate would be going down, but it is not going down. Under the minister for unemployment the unemployment rate continues to skyrocket. Unemployment all throughout Queensland is on the rise.

I have talked about the Back to Work program. A year ago the minister for unemployment came in here and said 'It does not apply to South-East Queensland because it does not have a very high unemployment rate.' In her own electorate over 20 per cent of young people are unemployed. Now, of course, the Back to Work program applies in South-East Queensland. Why? Because the unemployment rate not only in outback Queensland and regional Queensland is skyrocketing, it is skyrocketing everywhere and yet they are investing all this money and talking about jobs being created. If the jobs were being created the unemployment rate would be going down, but it is not because young people have given up looking for work. Young people have given up on this minister. She said there is nothing you can do about youth unemployment. She has lived up to all her own expectations and, boy, I tell members, they were low expectations, even for the Labor Party. She has lived up to all those expectations.

In relation to this program she did not even consult with the CCIQ. Plenty of unions were in her diary, I assure members of that, but there was no consultation with the peak industry body, the CCIQ. The fact is that the Labor government has failed young Queenslanders. It has failed all Queenslanders. Unemployment continues to rise and the only way we can change it is to elect a LNP government.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (3.22 pm): Continuing on the avian theme today, the member for Kawana is a great example of going from a rooster to a feather duster. Just to pick up on a couple of the points made by the member for Kawana, there is no statistical division which deals with cherrypicking. If there were, he would be the only person in it, maybe along with the member for Indooroopilly. Let us look at the figures. When we came to office Ipswich was at 17.6 per cent unemployment. Youth unemployment is now down to 12.7 per cent. In Brisbane North it was at 13.4 per cent and is now down to 10.8 per cent. In Moreton Bay North the unemployment rate was 16.7 per cent and it is now down to 13.2 per cent. On the Gold Coast, the unemployment rate was at 14.6 per cent and is now down to 10.2 per cent. In Cairns the rate is down from 21.5 per cent to 17.2 per cent. This really is a cheap shot by those opposite. I do not know how they can come into this place and talk about unemployment with a straight face.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Minister for Industrial Relations, member for Kawana, would you please cease your interjections and conversations across the chamber.

Mr PITT: I also noted that in today's debate the Leader of the Opposition again talked about debt levels, as did the shadow Treasurer. The hypocrisy alarm really should be going off. The member for Clayfield boasted in his first budget about getting non-financial public sector debt down to just \$82 billion

by 2014-15. He said this amount would show that debt was 'stabilised'. Not long after that the state was given a negative ratings outlook by Moody's credit rating agency. It looks like we have cleaned up the LNP's economic mess on a number of fronts. We have the stable rating back under Moody's, check, and reduced debt to a sustainable manageable level, check. In 2017-18 general government sector debt is expected to be more than \$14 billion lower than was forecast in the former treasurer's last budget in 2014-15 and non-financial public sector debt, which includes government owned businesses, is expected to be \$10 billion lower than they forecast.

The member for Clayfield boasted about how debt reached \$82 billion two years ago and that it was stabilised. Now, five years later, he says \$81 billion in debt is a problem. The member for Clayfield only talks about debt because he wants to scare Queenslanders again into a fire sale of our income-generating assets. That is the only reason those opposite go there.

Three weeks ago the Finance and Administration Committee scrutinised my portfolio areas of Trade as well as Treasury and Investment as part of the overall analysis of our budget. All three budgets are built on a responsible and disciplined economic plan. In less than three years our plan has strengthened business confidence, restored front-line services and helped people get back to work—77,300 net new jobs have been created since 2015 when we came into office. This third budget aims to create even more. Queenslanders have every reason to be optimistic as our state economy continues to be heading in the right direction. Jobs are up. Growth is up. Debt is down. Since estimates we have seen confidence in Queensland's economy continue to grow. Today we saw the NAB Monthly Business Survey for July 2017, which puts our trend business confidence as the highest amongst all states in Australia—again—at plus 13. For 29 out of the past 31 months Queensland has had the highest or second highest trend business confidence of all states in Australia.

Despite the strong economy and the crucial role the state budget has played in this success, the opposition again comes to estimates with little preparation attacking the government's strong economic record while consistently failing to outline any kind of alternative economic plan. The Debt Action Plan has proven to be a success and I have talked about those debt reduction levels. In the 2016-17 budget we announced plans to repatriate \$4 billion from the defined benefits scheme, which was overfunded, and put \$2 billion towards job-creating infrastructure projects and a further \$2 billion to retiring debt across the forward estimates.

That was the last budget. That was not the 2017-18 budget. The member for Indooroopilly spent so long talking about last year's budget that I was surprised if he had done any work in preparation for this budget. There will be no impact on members of the defined benefits scheme. I should not have to come into the House again to allay people's fears, but ultimately it is reckless scaremongering from those opposite. Members of that scheme know that the government guarantees it every step of the way. It is absolute nonsense being peddled by the member for Indooroopilly. I would say he should know better, but I do not think he does.

On 4 May we saw the review of the defined benefits scheme as at 30 June 2016. It found that the scheme remains in a very strong and healthy position, with Queensland unique among Australian jurisdictions in fully funding our defined benefit scheme. Compared to the super liabilities of other states we are in a very, very healthy position indeed.

Those opposite also attacked our state owned power generators, the very generators that the member for Clayfield was focused on making look as profitable as possible in preparation to sell them off. We know that they were very hands-off in government. They were all about fattening them up for sale, allowing them to run riot particularly around the wholesale electricity price. The strong financial performance of the state owned assets has allowed us to invest in new infrastructure projects. I am very pleased with the budget as it stands.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.27 pm): As members will notice from the strong non-government statement of reservation to report No. 43, the non-government members thought it was one of the poorest budgets that could have ever been presented by the Treasurer to the Queensland people. It was claimed by the Premier and the Treasurer that this was going to be a budget based on jobs. As we know, in the regions that is probably the most important issue for everyday Queenslanders. What did we get? We got a \$2,000 million commitment to Cross River Rail in the electorate of South Brisbane that may help—'may', mind you—the member for South Brisbane, the Deputy Premier, get re-elected. I wonder what people in Townsville and other regions think about \$2,000 million and what it could do for jobs in their particular areas and what other programs it could go towards that the federal government has said that they would join with the state government in expending money on—major infrastructure building assets, rather than being committed to an \$80 billion budget.

Queensland taxpayers are locked in, Eddie, to an \$80 billion budget. The number of public servants has gone up to 214,000, which is, as I understand it, at least 14,000 more public servants. This government's answer to rising unemployment is to hire more people for the Public Service at the expense of the Queensland taxpayers. That is almost \$1,000 million a year in extra expenditure on public servants trying to prop up the employment numbers for this government.

While the government is going ahead with this half-baked Cross River Rail project, I have been talking to the people of Mermaid Beach and other areas of the Gold Coast and they do not even know what Cross River Rail is. The government has committed \$2,000 million to Cross River Rail, which will probably get them one-third of the way across the river. Where will the rest of the money come from? I am sure the federal government will not stump up for this government's crazy programs.

I note that the budget does not even contain one dollar for the alternative to the M1—not even funding for a study. On Friday we saw what happens when a big crash cuts off the M1. Thanks to the member for Maryborough, we also know about the disastrous debacle that we will see during the Commonwealth Games next year. To him I say: well done for telling the truth in the Labor Party. I hope telling the truth in the Labor Party, which is not a great career move, does not cost the member for Maryborough his job.

I wish to comment on the racing minister's failure at the estimates committee hearing to explain why her oversight of Racing Queensland has seen the debacle that is the Eagle Farm track, which has cost the racing industry millions of dollars. The minister failed miserably to explain that away. She tried to hide the fact that it is her department, under her watch, that oversaw that disaster. Two people lost their lives on that project. This has nothing to do with the Brisbane Racing Club or Chairman Neville Bell. This is all about the minister's department and her failure to properly oversee racing. She has put in her watchdog, Mr Ross Barnett, who spent millions of dollars on the terrible problems that we had in the greyhound racing industry. They spent a truckload of money—millions of dollars—of thoroughbred racing industry money and have now put the steward who was in charge of policing the dogs in charge of the whole shooting match for racing in Queensland. He is still there today. He is on leave. He has not been officially appointed. I take it that he is still being paid. It shows how incompetent the racing minister is when it comes to looking after racing in this state, which will go down further if the Labor government stays in power and this minister stays in charge of racing, which is one of the most important industries in the state.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (3.32 pm): I can tell the member for Mermaid Beach that that is not what racing industry participants say to me. They reckon that I am probably one of the best racing ministers they have seen in recent times. I can tell the House that we are delivering in spades. No matter how much spin the member for Mermaid Beach puts on it, the reality tells a different story, because that track was laid when the LNP was in government. Dale Monteith's report clearly states that government funding cutbacks to the program was one of the major reasons they had to compromise. It started with the grass, the sand and the maintenance, when we were not even in government. The member should not come in here and put the blame for the Eagle Farm track on me as minister. Members should read that report, which is available publicly. What it says is the complete opposite of what the member for Mermaid Beach said. I will stake my reputation on getting that track back on track, the way that Labor does things, that is, sensibly, through listening and by getting in the experts. By the end of it, we will have a first-class Eagle Farm track because we will deliver on expert advice, rather than on cutbacks and the shambolic ad hoc arrangements such as were put in place by the previous LNP government.

The LNP members' questioning at estimates and their statement of reservation in the final report show just what a lazy and incompetent opposition they are. They are an opposition that is still in denial about their abysmal jobs record. I would love to have seen the member for Kawana's enthusiasm for jobs when they were in government. It is interesting that they come in here and talk about jobs, jobs, jobs, yet their record is disgraceful, sacking 14,000 public servants. They cherrypick figures. They say, 'You've lost this many jobs' or 'You've lost that many jobs', but the substance of their argument is pitiful. There is no substance whatsoever in what they say.

The figures and the percentages are undeniable. For their benefit, I remind them of the facts. According to the ABS, in trend terms, 77,300 new jobs have been created in Queensland since we were elected in January 2015. If you take the figure when we started and the figure as it stands now, the difference is 77,300. Maybe the member for Kawana can take note of how to do those figures

properly. That figure is more than double the figure of 29,100 from the LNP's whole term in government. They come in here crying that the ALP is doing nothing about jobs. They have more front than Myer to come in here and talk like that after their abysmal record. In fact, over the past 12 months, 43,300 new jobs have been created. In trend terms, in June 2017 employment rose by 7,000 jobs. The really good-news stuff that they do not want to cherry-pick is that, of those 7,000, 5,100 were full-time jobs.

Our Back to Work program is all about secure full-time and permanent part-time positions. So far, 6,234 jobs are being supported under the program. The member talks about youth. Do members want to know how many jobs we are providing for youth under that program? It is now 3,462 jobs. Because of its success, we have brought the program into South-East Queensland. You cannot make those opposite happy: when it was a regionally based program, they would complain that we had not brought it into South-East Queensland; now that we have brought it into South-East Queensland, they complain that we have done that. However, I am not here to make those opposite happy. I am here to do what Labor does best, that is, deliver for Queensland, employ people and get them into jobs, and we are doing that in spades.

We have a great multicultural policy. The CALD community is obtaining jobs. Our charter and our action plan are delivering for those in the multicultural community. The racing community has never had it so good, even though the LNP left me with one of the worst 30-year deals. Who does a 30-year deal these days? I will tell members who: the LNP! That is one of the reasons they are sitting over there. The fact is that we have delivered the Racing Infrastructure Fund and racing will only go from strength to strength.

(Time expired)

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (3.37 pm): The most remarkable thing about this year's budget was, in fact, how unremarkable it truly was. As soon as it was uttered, it was forgettable and it has already been forgotten. In respect of the budget hearings process before the Finance and Administration Committee, the performances were equally forgettable. The process did not start well, with the Treasurer's responses to the prehearing questions on notice arriving after the deadline of 10 am, before the committee hearing date. It did not get off to the very best start and from there, if possible, it only got worse.

As I understand it, the estimates process is designed to help the parliament in its scrutiny of the expenditure of the government of the day. However, on this occasion, all the estimates process helped do was prove that the government is ill equipped to properly manage Queensland's finances. Under questioning from the shadow Treasurer, the estimates hearing revealed the political prevarication and bureaucratic uncertainty in connection with the raiding of \$4 billion from QSuper's defined benefits scheme. The hearing revealed that the government continues to spend away our children's future, burdening Queensland with an unprecedented level of debt. As the shadow Treasurer enunciated, that is trending towards \$81 billion.

The hearing revealed nothing to suggest that the alleged jobs bonanza would positively impact the unemployment rate—already the second worst in Australia. If I heard correctly, the member for Kawana said that in outback Queensland today the youth unemployment rate is 56.2 per cent. That is an unbelievable figure. If I heard correctly, in Townsville we have seen a remarkable increase from 16.5 per cent to 28.1 per cent. Even in the Toowoomba and Darling Downs region, which is booming in many respects, the unemployment rate for youth and young people seeking work is well over 10 per cent.

Throughout the budget papers—and again during the estimates hearing—it is as though small business does not exist, let alone be a key driver of the Queensland economy and the employer of Queensland people. If the last couple of weeks have shown anything, it is the fact that federal Labor has not forgotten small business as they are proposing a small family business tax increase of \$4.1 billion on family businesses that work through discretionary trusts—a tax on small family businesses that put everything on the line to give it a go. Between this Labor budget and the antibusiness agenda of the federal Labor opposition, we have seen confidence among small and medium sized business owners in regional Queensland fall 16 points, second only to that in the Northern Territory.

There are concerns in relation to our credit rating. The CBA modelling of the S&P rating methodology indicates a leap in rating from one to three in the budgetary performance profile measure. This is an alarming trend. All this comes from a government or a Labor Party that oversaw the loss of our AAA credit rating during the height of the mining boom.

Again, in the estimates hearing we saw the shadow minister for industrial relations pursue his opposite number—the recently self-proclaimed greatest racing minister of all time, if I heard correctly. What we saw was why the Labor government will not chase down union bullying and intimidation. The shadow Treasurer has just outlined that we are the strike capital of Australia. During the September quarter there were over 14,000 days lost to strike action, which takes us to over 53,000 days lost for the past year.

Above all these revelations, the most alarming part of the estimates hearing process was that it revealed the government has no plan, no courage and no imagination. It has no plan to lift the stocks of regional Queensland in the face of unemployment, crime and a lack of confidence. It has no courage to say that without coalmining royalties the budget would look very different—that is \$3.4 billion different for those who would see the closing down of the coalmining industry. Worst of all, they have no imagination to address stagnant family incomes, deliver tax relief, or build a bigger, bolder and better Queensland. Only the LNP has that imagination.

Report adopted.

Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): The question is—

That the report of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee be adopted.

 **Mr PEARCE** (Mirani—ALP) (3.43 pm): The Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee is a portfolio committee of the Queensland parliament. The committee members will summarise and make comments on the proceedings. The committee's areas of portfolio responsibilities are: Transport, Infrastructure and Planning, State Development, Natural Resources and Mines, and Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. The committee also has oversight responsibility for the Family Responsibilities Commission.

The aim of this report is to consider: budget papers; answers to prehearing questions on notice; evidence taken at the hearing; and answers to questions on notice taken at the hearing. The report summarises the estimates referred to the committee and highlights some of the issues the committee examined. Prior to the public hearing members were entitled to submit questions on notice.

As chair of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee, I feel that I am obligated to talk to some issues that I consider important to the integrity of the estimates committee process. Budget estimates hearings are a necessary process for government accountability and transparency. The process is about the detailed questioning of the decisions, actions and advice of ministers and public servants. It is this point that I want to speak to in more detail. With my experience in this place, I consider some aspects of the process simply a waste of time. In fact, in terms of the Queenslanders watching the process, I think that as elected members we should be embarrassed with the way some of the hearings went.

Estimates hearings are an opportunity—an opportunity to hold the government to account for its spending of Queensland taxpayer dollars. The hearings allow for the opposition to proceed with the examination of public expenditure that they would not normally get the opportunity to examine. I am of the view that some opposition shadow ministers have duded taxpayers, who want to hear where and how state revenue has been expended, if the expenditure was justified and if there has been a fair and reasonable disbursement of funds. I think the community also wants to know why funds have been cut from government spending programs, which programs are to continue and why funds have been allocated to new programs. That is what the community wants to hear.

I also believe it is time to recognise the use of Dorothy Dixers—questions without notice from government members. I consider that our government ministers are more than capable. They are backed and surrounded by competent public servants, staff and resources. There is no more beneficial learning process for elected members than to do their own research and ask questions relevant to the electorate and the demographics of the electorate that they represent.

It is important for me to express my appreciation to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee members. I know, being the chair, that this is a busy committee and it calls on members to commit hundreds of hours over and above the work they do in their electorates. I am always amazed by the outstanding job done by the committee secretariat. As the chair of this committee, I am in touch with the research, the preparation of relevant documents, hearings both in parliament and

outside, and the writing of reports. Sometimes there are two to three matters to deal with at the same time. The secretariat not only have to be patient but also have to be competent. We are certainly blessed to have such good people doing that work for us. I must also thank Hansard for travelling with the committees when they are out in regional areas talking to people at the grassroots level.

The committee system is one that, if encouraged to be, can be effective and achieve the desired outcomes. It is up to the members who are part of the committees to be committed to making the system work.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.48 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the report of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee. This Labor government promised a big jobs bonanza. We all know—and we have heard it many times from this side of the House—that it has given Queensland not only a jobs crisis but also a budget con job. We have seen 30,000 jobs lost just last year. We have the second highest unemployment rate in the country—it is worse than Tasmania's. We have 56.2 per cent youth unemployment in the outback. We have something like 28 per cent unemployment in Townsville. These are unacceptable figures. It is something that those on the other side of this House are not taking seriously. We were able to expose through the committee process the details in the budget that prove these figures—that prove that Queensland is facing higher unemployment, higher costs of living, fewer projects start and delivered, and more and more job-stifling red tape.

In another display of secrecy and selective release of information, we uncovered that Building Queensland, an entity whose responsibilities include developing rigorous business cases for projects, did not even consider the 16 per cent fall in rail patronage from 2008 to 2016 whilst they were developing the business case for Cross River Rail. Additionally, Building Queensland did not consider the information held by the Department of Transport and Main Roads that shows that the estimated passenger load has declined on the Merivale Bridge in the morning peak from 5,989 in 2011 to just 5,426 people in 2016.

The data clearly demonstrates that there is significant capacity available on the Merivale Bridge and the trains that currently cross the bridge during morning peak. Instead of using actual patronage data, Building Queensland has used a crystal ball to forecast a tripling of demand for rail services to justify and support the Deputy Premier's No. 1 infrastructure project for Queensland. We all know that the projections—and this came through the committee—are not supported by the available public data for rail patronage since 2008 and casts serious doubt over when a second heavy rail crossing will be required.

During the hearing the government was unable to provide the cost-benefit ratio of the upgrade to the Beerburrum to Nambour rail line despite Building Queensland completing the business case for the project back in 2016. The information provided to a question on notice taken during the hearing confirms the suspicion of this side of the House that the upgrade to the Beerburrum to Nambour rail line has a higher cost-benefit ratio than does Cross River Rail. In effect, this means that, for every dollar of taxpayer funding invested, the return is higher for the Beerburrum to Nambour rail duplication project, despite the Palaszczuk government not committing any funding to the duplication of that line.

Although the CEO of the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority was listed on the witness list tabled in the parliament, the Deputy Premier and the member for Bulimba claimed that the witness list did not include the CEO. The member for South Brisbane later clarified this misleading statement and then claimed that the acting head of the Cross River Rail, announced on 15 June 2017, was not the CEO. The LNP notes that the parliament passed the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Bill at the end of 2016, yet after nearly eight months the Deputy Premier has been unable to recruit a CEO. This is for the supposed No. 1 infrastructure project of the Deputy Premier, who thinks Boulia is Biloela.

I move on to the portfolio of State Development. The budget papers show that this do-nothing Palaszczuk government has again failed to deliver almost half of the projects it promised under the Building our Regions fund. There is nothing new there. We know that it is an anaemic replacement of our much loved Royalties for the Regions program. The committee also discovered that this government has not funded any projects in the local government areas of the Lockyer Valley, Southern Downs, Goondiwindi and Somerset which overlap LNP seats. It is obvious that those on the other side of the House have no clue about Queensland.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (3.53 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee estimates committee report. I thank the chair, the member

for Mirani, and the other committee members for their contribution. I am incredibly proud of the work we have done across my portfolios of Infrastructure and Planning and Transport to deliver jobs and improve the lives of Queenslanders. I especially would like to focus on the progress we have made to fix the trains and get Queensland Rail back on track.

Since October last year, Queensland Rail has offered 263 successful applicants trainee guard positions and 107 successful applicants trainee driver positions after a widespread internal and external recruitment process. This has resulted in an additional 77 guards and 28 drivers graduating from training and working on the rail network. During estimates, I announced that Queensland Rail would take the next steps in its plan to recruit more drivers, opening recruitment for external applicants this month. We have also overhauled and modernised driver training without compromising on safety. Additionally, due to fast-tracking and recognition of prior learning from guard training, the driver training duration has reduced from 18 months to just over 13 months.

Let us not forget that the cause of our problems on our rail network can be traced back to the actions of the Liberal National Party when they were in government and when the member for Clayfield was the treasurer. They slashed driver trainers as part of their plan to privatise and sell off Queensland Rail. Unfortunately, what was made abundantly clear throughout my estimates hearing is that the LNP and this opposition leader still have no ideas for the people of Queensland other than to cut and sell. This was made especially clear during their questions about Cross River Rail—Queensland's No. 1 infrastructure project. While the Palaszczuk government will get on with the job of delivering this project, getting people home faster, ensuring more trains more often and unlocking the bottleneck across the Merivale Bridge, a Nicholls government will cut it. Let us be clear: they have cut it once and they will cut it again. While industry and the public are calling out for Cross River Rail to finally be delivered, the LNP do not get it, do not care and ultimately will cut it for a second time.

The other thing they do not get is Works for Queensland. This is a program that I am incredibly proud of. It is an important program to regional Queensland communities and it is one that is delivering thousands of jobs across regional Queensland by partnering with local government. As I travel across the state, mayors from all political persuasions tell me wherever I go that this program is transforming their communities, delivering jobs and vital community infrastructure.

Meanwhile, sitting in a committee room in Brisbane taking cheap political pot shots, the Liberal National Party members made it very clear that if they won government at the next state election this would be one of the first programs they would cut. It does not matter what regional Queenslanders are saying. It does not matter what regional councils are saying. What they did was make it very clear that the projects that council put up for funding through Works for Queensland are to be ridiculed and dismissed and if they were to win government after the next state election they would cut this program.

Regional Queensland simply cannot afford a Liberal National Party government. They cannot afford an opposition leader, the member for Clayfield, who will cut services like he did previously, cut jobs like he did previously and sell off whatever is not nailed down like he wanted to do last time. The member for Clayfield has done it before and he will do it again. This report makes it clear: it is only the Palaszczuk government that will deliver infrastructure, jobs and a bright future for Queensland.

Finally, I would like to make a minor correction to the record on a statement I made with regard to the WoodLinks State School bus service. I incorrectly stated that the morning service trial is free. It operates under the go card system like all other school services and is free if the student is receiving STAS. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (3.58 pm): The day before the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee estimates hearing the results of the 2016 Working for Queensland survey were released. The results for the Department of Natural Resources and Mines showed a loss of confidence in departmental leadership in the areas of responsibility, engagement and innovation. It is a concern that staff in this key economic development agency have expressed declining confidence in its leadership. This department should be driving outcomes for the agriculture, mining and property sectors, which are pillars of the Queensland economy. Unfortunately, this result is not really a surprise when the department has been sidelined from key policy debates. Imagine what it would do for your morale in your department when your minister is publicly stripped of responsibility for key legislation and replaced as the government spokesperson by the likes of the Minister for Environment. The minister could not explain why his own departmental officers were losing faith in him and his senior executives. This portfolio should be a powerhouse for new projects and job creation, particularly in regional Queensland, but the reform process started under the previous government has stalled under Labor and red tape is making a comeback.

The Minister for Environment loomed large and ominously over the estimates committee hearing for the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee because that particular minister is running a bit of a political campaign to discredit the self-assessable vegetation management codes which have been implemented for routine land management practices. During the course of the committee I referred to the 2015 State of the Environment report, which makes misleading claims about these vegetation management activities. The Minister for Natural Resources should be working to maintain confidence in the self-assessable codes which are used for purposes for which they are named such as thinning, encroachment and regrowth, not perpetuating the fearmongering information being peddled by the environment minister. It is no wonder his departmental staff have very little confidence in him when he does not defend the work of that department.

The management of water is another area where the minister is struggling to maintain credibility. Almost 11 months after the EIS process for the IFED project lapsed, the Palaszczuk government has failed to release 467,000 megalitres of water for economic development opportunities in the Gilbert River catchment within the gulf water resource plan. Local farmers and landowners have every right to be anxious about Labor's proposal to only release 18.4 per cent of the available water in the Gilbert River catchment at a fixed price later this month. The minister claims to have consulted with the local community regarding this strategy, but at least one agricultural group within the catchment has since contradicted his assertion. The minister says his fixed price sale approach is based on recent prices for water allocations released in the Flinders catchment, but obviously the Gilbert catchment is a completely different system. The logic behind using the price achieved through a tender process in the Flinders for the release of a large volume of water in the Gilbert is certainly not clear. The current demand for water in the Gilbert catchment cannot be properly tested without a full release of unallocated reserves through a tender process. The minister's excuse about holding back unallocated water for future shovel-ready projects is a red herring as applicants can be required to demonstrate their capability to use water as part of a normal tender process.

Finally, the estimates committee process also revealed that Labor's resource sector policies are all spin and no substance. For example, none of the Palaszczuk government's policies to deliver gas to the domestic market are currently delivering any additional gas to domestic customers. In fact, Labor's gas supply and demand action plan is already 18 months late. The Minister for Mines admitted to the committee that no modelling has been done to determine if its policy initiatives will have any impact whatsoever on domestic gas prices or supply. Despite all the hype and spin, the minister has no idea if the Palaszczuk government's tenure reservation policy will have any impact on the domestic supply or price of gas.

I asked the minister a straight question: when will those gas tenures released under Labor's policy first produce gas for consumers in the domestic market? The minister admitted to the committee that the tender process for these gas tenures had not yet been completed and that the market would ultimately determine when the gas would be produced. The fact is even if Labor sets aside areas of domestic gas supply, this does not mean that those reserves will be developed if there is no commercial return on the risk and capital outlay.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.03 pm): It was very clear at the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee estimates hearing that the LNP's Royalties for the Regions program was a complete and utter failure. On every measure the LNP's Royalties for the Regions program pales in comparison with the Palaszczuk government's strong Building our Regions program, which is delivering jobs and improving the lives of regional Queenslanders. Our program is ensuring that the royalties which are generated in Central Queensland are being reinvested into critical infrastructure and job-generating projects in our great region.

At the estimates committee hearing the LNP conveniently forgot about the Auditor-General's scathing report into their Royalties for the Regions program. The Auditor-General's report found that the LNP's Royalties for the Regions program did not represent value for money. The Auditor-General said that the LNP's program did not always sufficiently assess the eligibility and merits of all applications, nor did it consistently assess the costs and benefits of the projects. The Auditor-General found that the member for Callide, the former minister for state development, funded council projects that did not align with his own program's guidelines. The Auditor-General found that council projects which met the guidelines missed out on critical funding. Projects which were not even assessed by the department were funded. Value for money was not considered. Councils including the Rockhampton Regional Council, which submitted applications for good, value for money, meritorious projects, wasted

their time submitting applications which were entirely ignored. The Auditor-General said that many councils unnecessarily invested their time, resources and money to demonstrate the value of their applications against criteria that were apparently irrelevant—irrelevant according to the LNP, but actually compliant with the criteria of their very own program.

Last time the LNP was in power in addition to sacking 14,000 public servants their Royalties for the Regions program was an absolute failure. Regional Queensland was absolutely ignored. Central Queensland was absolutely ignored. The LNP's Royalties for the Regions program splashed cash in LNP electorates. They splashed cash in South-East Queensland despite it being a regional Queensland program.

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs LAUGA: They splashed cash and wasted money—how many projects were funded in Rockhampton Regional Council? Zero! How many projects were funded in the electorate of the member for Callide? Three—three airports in fact. The LNP splashed cash and wasted money on projects which were not even considered good value for taxpayers' money. They splashed cash on projects for which an application was not even submitted—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! Those on my left and my right, we will hear the member for Keppel.

Mrs LAUGA: The LNP splashed cash on projects for which an application was not even submitted. How many airports in the electorate of the member for Callide were upgraded? Not one, not two, but three airports in the electorate of Callide were funded by the program. How many projects were funded in Rockhampton Regional Council? Absolutely none! The LNP completely ignored Rockhampton and if they have the chance, they will do it again.

The Palaszczuk government is investing in our regions. Our \$375 million Building our Regions program is delivering critical infrastructure in regional Queensland. Almost 1,300 jobs will be generated with 93 projects across the state in the first two rounds. The Palaszczuk government has committed \$375 million in program funding for Building our Regions. The LNP's Royalties for the Regions program was \$174 million. To date, we have leveraged investments of \$350 million compared to the LNP's \$171 million. Our total capital expenditure is \$580 million compared to the LNP's \$346 million. For every dollar we have invested with our Building our Regions program we have leveraged \$1.56. For every dollar the LNP spent, they got 99 cents back. That is 1,762 jobs versus the LNP's 1,054 and 174 projects versus the LNP's 79.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting local jobs and delivering the critical infrastructure that improves liveability for our communities in Keppel and across Central Queensland. These include sewerage and wastewater, economic development, tourism and recreation facilities, and upgrades to transport infrastructure.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.08 pm): I, too, rise to address the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee's consideration of this year's appropriation bills. I want to pick up where the member for Keppel left off and comment on the rank hypocrisy of the member for Keppel and of those members opposite. If members want to see hypocrisy around a funding program they need to look no further than the way this government has fudged the job-creating figures around the Works for Queensland program. We are talking about a \$200 million program that the Labor government claimed is supporting 6,000 jobs. I want to commend the Deputy Leader of the Opposition because at the estimates hearing she began by exposing just how farcical those figures are. Three rubbish bins would be placed in a council area at a cost of \$5,000 and that would support two jobs—for about five minutes. Also, \$20,000 worth of signage would be erected at a dog park and that would support three jobs—maybe for five minutes. Top dressing a sporting oval was apparently going to support five jobs—maybe for two days.

When we asked the director-general of the Department of Local Government what they did to check these figures, he said that the information was provided by the councils. When I asked him if he checked it Mr Carroll replied, 'We believe council's information as it is provided to the department.' I continued, 'You take it as read?' Mr Carroll said, 'Absolutely.' We can announce that 11 jobs were created by spending \$5,000 to place three bins in a council area, \$20,000 worth of signage in a dog park and top dressing a sporting oval. I find it absolutely hypocritical of those opposite and a laughable way of claiming that they created jobs across this great state.

I want to commend the Deputy Leader of the Opposition on her questioning around Cross River Rail. As she mentioned earlier, she exposed the decline in patronage and the fact that we have had a 16 per cent fall in patronage on rail from 2008 to 2016. In five years since 2011 the number people on trains, the passenger load, has declined on the Merivale Bridge in the morning peak from nearly 6,000 down to less than 5,500. The data demonstrates there is significant capacity available on the Merivale Bridge and on the number of trains currently crossing the bridge during the morning peak. I think that was an excellent line of questioning by the deputy leader.

Turning to more transport issues, we asked a number of questions concerning preparation for the Commonwealth Games and we have continued that line of questioning this morning. For the benefit of South-East Queensland commuters across the entire network and not just on the Gold Coast line we tried to ascertain what the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games train timetable would look like. The CEO of Queensland Rail, the minister and the director-general of DTMR could not give us a straight answer on what the timetable would look like. They could not give us any guarantees. To be blunt, I cannot take this morning's guarantee from the Premier that NGR trains will be on the tracks for the Commonwealth Games at face value either as a result of what we have seen from the Deutsche Bahn report which was released today. We had questions about New Generation Rollingstock. Again, as we heard today, 10 of the 15 NGR units that are actually in Queensland have had zero on-track testing time. That is very concerning given the commitment that the Premier has made today.

We heard about train driver recruitment and we heard about how a union official was able to return to a train driver's job after being away from that role since 2006. In contrast, a qualified freight locomotive driver who passed the test to drive on Queensland Rail's network in 2008 was rejected by Queensland Rail HR and found to be unsuitable for a position. We asked how many others were on the same kind of leave this union official was on, and the answer we eventually received through a question on notice was that he was the only one of a kind.

Mr Cripps: A bit sus.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Hinchinbrook. It is very sus, but it goes to show that this is all about jobs for union mates, not jobs for Queenslanders. There has been no effort whatsoever to fix the rail fail that is going on in this state. That rail fail is still hitting commuters hard, with 1,800 services a month cut from the timetable. We see no end in sight for commuters in South-East Queensland.

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (4.13 pm): I rise to contribute to the estimates process for the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee. I want to acknowledge the chair, the member for Mirani, and members of the committee as well as our secretariat.

During the Deputy Premier's session there was a great deal of discussion and questions around Queensland transport and Cross River Rail. The opposition tried time and time again to discredit Cross River Rail. As a Far North Queensland, even I can see the need and the benefits of Cross River Rail. The LNP are trying to put a case that Queensland does not need it. We saw concerted attempts to find a 'gotcha' moment which never eventuated. Instead, I observed a Deputy Premier and department of senior executives who understood what needs to be done to deliver this important project and an opposition committed to canning it. Cross River Rail benefits all Queenslanders, not just those in the suburbs of Brisbane. There has been speculation in this House by some members that if we have Cross River Rail it will somehow be at the expense of infrastructure in regional Queensland. I find that to be untrue and difficult to believe.

A large proportion of travelling regional Queenslanders—especially Queenslanders from the Tropical North—use Brisbane Airport and its airport train to connect between Brisbane city, its southern suburbs and the Gold Coast for work, for leisure and for medical appointments. Regional Queenslanders need Cross River Rail so that we can commute through this city and around this city well into the future so that regional Queenslanders can travel with ease by train to connect with the Gold Coast and other parts of the south-east. It is the kind of serious transport infrastructure that other cities have. It is the kind of serious transport infrastructure that this city needs, and those opposite should back it.

Another area of robust discussion was the Palaszczuk government's Works for Queensland package. The LNP just does not like it. The LNP wasted time trying to pull threads on Works for Queensland, trying to pin down public servants and argue about how many jobs will be created by installing a \$5,000 rubbish bin. It was total time-wasting. The reality is that Works for Queensland is a job-generating project. You simply need to go and talk to any regional mayor or CEO and they will tell

you that, whether it is a \$5,000 rubbish bin or a \$5 million park, it all counts and it all adds up. I take the comments from the member for Glass House about three bins and top dressing the sporting oval and I say this: go and look that person in the eye who installed those bins or top dressed that sporting oval and tell them that what they did is not worth it.

Those opposite just do not get it. Every mayor and every council CEO that I have spoken to in the far north praises Works for Queensland. They praise its simplicity, its streamlined process and how it allows councils to decide their own priorities. It allows councils to use labour as they see fit to use labour in their patch. That may be internal staff or it may be contractors, but the key point is that when you spend \$200 million across regional Queensland jobs will flow from it in every corner of this state. The LNP simply cannot stomach the fact that they did not think of it first. Works for Queensland is a blueprint for how our local governments want to see state government grants, and they are not slow in coming forward to say so. The LNP needs to listen to regional mayors and councils. If they listened even for a minute, they would hear that regional Queensland likes Works for Queensland. They would hear that Works for Queensland has generated and stimulated economies in regional Queensland and that jobs do actually flow from that work.

In the final session of the day our committee heard that the commissioner of the Family Responsibilities Commission, Mr David Glasgow, is staying on with the commission. This comes after our committee visit to him in Cairns and a tour of Aurukun with the early news that he was stepping down, so it is good to hear that he is staying on board.

The 2017-18 state budget is the Palaszczuk government's third budget. It is our third surplus budget. It is our third record investment in health and education, our third investment in infrastructure across the state and our third commitment to restoring front-line services devastated by the LNP. Since the budget was delivered we have had confirmation that 77,300 new jobs have been created in Queensland since the 2015 election. The LNP turned its back on the budget just as they have turned their back on Queenslanders.

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (4.18 pm): I rise to make some comments about the Royalties for the Regions program which has been the subject of some ventilation within this committee and comment by members here today. There is no doubt that I and everyone else who represents regional Queensland knows that the Royalties for the Regions program was the greatest thing that happened in regional Queensland for a long time. Five hundred million dollars was invested into infrastructure which the communities themselves identified. It is interesting to listen to the member for Keppel stand up and bag the program, because one of the biggest projects that we funded was in the member for Keppel's electorate. It is called Panorama Drive and it is a northern strategic road link. It cost \$30 million to build a road that the local community had been wanting for 50 years. I was there the other day. I drove up the road and had a look at the construction that is still going on, and I would suggest that the member for Keppel might like to do the same. We delivered projects all across the state.

There has been a lot of comment about airports. I inform the House that the Royalties for the Regions program updated 17 regional airports. If your electorate is only 20 kilometres across, you cannot quite get your head around the concept of three airports in one electorate. When your electorate is 600, 700 or 1,000 kilometres across, it is not hard to have three airports in your electorate. We upgraded 17 airports from Lockhart River to Birdsville. Three of them were in the Callide electorate, but there are more than three airports in the Callide electorate. We were going to upgrade some more airports in the Callide electorate, but we did not get the opportunity to do it. This government cut the program and replaced it with what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition described as an anaemic, hollow alternative.

I have watched that anaemic, hollow alternative allocate funds across Queensland. I was very interested to get the press release that said that Gladstone gained \$4.4 million for local infrastructure from this program. When I looked to see what they funded in Gladstone I found 'at Biloela, fencing and runway lighting at Thangool Aerodrome'. Thangool Aerodrome is in the Callide electorate! Now we have upgraded four aerodromes. That makes a nonsense of all of the attacks this government have tried to run against me and the Royalties for the Regions program. They are finishing the job of upgrading the airports in the Callide electorate! There are a couple more to go. I need to talk to the minister about it.

That makes a nonsense of the trumped up Auditor-General's report that took them 12 months to cook up by providing false information and providing not a lot of information about how those projects were assessed from council applications. They were also funded by dint of a cabinet decision outside of the council application process. That was completely ignored by the Auditor-General, by the current

minister and by this government as they fought desperately to discredit the program that everybody else in regional Queensland wants to see returned—and will see returned with the election of an LNP government.

The other issue raised by the member for Keppel and the minister relates to Gladstone and Rockhampton missing out. Too right they missed out, because the program was about ensuring that smaller regional communities with smaller councils that did not have the financial capacity to provide this infrastructure were able to deliver projects in their communities. Places like Gladstone, Rockhampton and Mackay—the big city councils that for years have sucked the money out of programs like TIDS—did not have that opportunity with Royalties for the Regions.

We will return Royalties for the Regions. In the meantime, I ask the minister to keep upgrading the airports in the Callide electorate. There are a couple more to go. There is one at Taroom that badly needs upgrading. There is a strip at Baralaba that the flying doctors badly need to be able to use. I am more than happy that the absolute nonsense that has been exposed—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (4.23 pm): I am sincerely moved by the member for Callide's talk about Building our Regions. I note that he talked about Gladstone and the other large regional centres that he said should not be funded out of Building our Regions. Let us talk about the small centres. What about Paroo? Paroo did not get a cent under Royalties for the Regions. Where was the member for Warrego when Paroo did not get a cent? Where was the member who represents Longreach? The deserving town of Longreach never got a cent under Royalties for the Regions. Townsville did not even ask for or make an application for funding, but those opposite provided funding based on political motivation.

I thought Winton was a small town out west. The member for Callide probably has never been to Winton. Poor old Winton missed out under your program, so do not lecture me on which towns missed out. Seventeen shires throughout Queensland missed out completely under your shambolic program.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! Minister, I ask you to address your comments through the chair.

Dr LYNHAM: Sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker. It was a pleasure to appear at the estimates hearing. I and my team of senior departmental and ministerial staff appeared before the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee on 19 July for a detailed hearing about my portfolio areas of State Development and Natural Resources and Mines. It was an absolute pleasure to be able to talk about how the Palaszczuk government is driving jobs in this state—77,300 jobs created under this government. However, from the questions asked by those opposite, there was little interest in building the economy or creating jobs. They seemed to be still focused on the old agenda of asset sales and cuts, cuts and more cuts.

The committee heard how our wonderful Building our Regions program was delivering critical infrastructure and 1,760 jobs across regional Queensland, all the way from Torres Strait to Eromanga. There are 300 more jobs in Bundaberg alone compared to the discredited and ridiculous program of those opposite. I refer to the \$40 million Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund. The projects currently committed, approved or under construction have potential to generate more than 900 new jobs and \$220 million in capital expenditure here in Queensland.

I was also able to inform the committee how the budget funds more positive initiatives that will support the next generation of resource development here in Queensland. That is exploration initiatives, resource development policy and the North-West Minerals Province blueprint—\$39 million. Under our policies, employment is growing in the resources sector, with around 3,000 more people employed in the sector over the past six months and 1,800 more to come in the next few months.

I turn to an issue that the member for Hinchinbrook found so thrilling to talk about—that is, the water release in the Gilbert and the Flinders. I will not take advice on water release from an incompetent former minister who released over 90,000 megalitres in the gulf. Currently, less than 10 per cent of that water is used. Less than 10 per cent of the water he released is currently being used. I will not stand for that. Water released by the Palaszczuk Labor government in the Gulf of Carpentaria, in the Gilbert and the Flinders, will be used. We want that water to be used for projects that are ready to go.

I would also like to reflect on the resources sector. The Newman-Nicholls government saw exploration plummet by 70 per cent under their watch, in an era when the resources sector was on its knees. When there was a downturn in the resources sector, what was the first thing they did when they came to office? They increased royalties. The sector was struggling, yet the first thing they did was increase royalties to make it even more difficult for the sector to thrive.

I would have liked to inform the committee about what we are doing to secure domestic gas for Queenslanders, but those questions were simply not asked because those opposite are simply not interested.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (4.28 pm): I take great pride in rising to speak about my contribution to the estimates process. I say at the outset that I concur with some of the other speakers when they say that the estimates committee process is fundamentally important to democracy. I take the opportunity to thank the committee members and the staff, particularly—I know that his name has been mentioned here previously—David Glasgow. He was an absolutely first-class person to conduct the estimates process with.

I made it clear when I was addressing the minister sitting across the chamber that, wherever practicable in this particular shadow ministerial portfolio as it pertains to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, there always should be as much reach as possible in relation to trying to find areas of commonality. Again today I give that commitment to the minister.

As I have said already, the estimates process is a very important process. It gave me the opportunity to ask some questions. I will go through some of them. I referred the minister to Budget Paper No. 4 at page 73 with regard to the issue of the 'Indigenous performance' budget allocation. I asked the minister if he could tell me what specific performance indicators were in place to measure whether this money is indeed well spent—in other words, the effectiveness of this particular spend. For the benefit of the House, it is just over \$2 million. The minister's response was—

Rather than take up time now, we will take that on notice and get back to you about that.

I was hopeful that there might be some kind of response along the lines of a great report that was produced by Sara Hudson from the Centre for Independent Studies. I think her report encapsulates it quite well. I was expecting the minister to maybe come back with something like this. She said—

There is a level of frenetic chopping and changing, and policy pulsing, that comes with electoral cycles and as the political pendulum swings from left to right ... decision-making in Indigenous policy feels much like a merry-go round ...

I was hoping for a little bit more detail in relation to the minister's response, but I moved on because what I really wanted to get at the very heart of was some kind of meaningful response to a follow-up question I had in relation to closing the gap. As I have previously stated in the chamber, the Closing the Gap report is a very sad indictment. There are seven key indicators and areas, six of which are not even close to being closed. As I also raised in the estimates process, collectively between the feds, the states and the territories over the last decade as a society we have spent well and truly in excess of \$40 billion. I was hoping to get some kind of inkling or undertaking from the minister, at least from Queensland's perspective, as to how effectively this money is being spent. I then followed that up with a line of questioning in relation to possibly looking at a whole-of-government approach and maybe making sure that this particular department was given the full impetus of maybe perhaps coming underneath the purview of the Premier's department directly—in other words, a whole-of-government buy-in. When I put that questioning to the minister, his response was—

I might refer to the director-general on that.

I will cut to the chase here: at the end of the day it seems to me a procession of ministers come to this place with each and every budget and they look down the camera lens or to the Speaker or to people in the public gallery and they give their heartfelt plea that they will try and do something different. I put it to the minister that it indeed is time to try and do something different because in the last few weeks and beyond that I have had dialogue with Aboriginal elders in Hope Vale, Wujal Wujal and Mossman and they are all saying the same thing: rather than give their collective communities, say, \$100,000 on some program that comes and goes based on the budget cycle, give them maybe only \$10,000 towards something that their communities want. We need to change this space. In that regard I again reiterate to the minister: whatever it is that I can do, as much as practicable, in a bipartisan approach I will do so but, at the end of the day, we need to get serious. We have had over a \$40 billion spend and over 10 years we have very little to show for it as a collective society. It is about time we got fair dinkum with this particular approach. Really, you could pick up a blank bit of paper and use that as a metaphor to start from scratch. We need to get serious.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (4.33 pm): I rise to speak on the estimates hearing on the budget. I put a question to the Deputy Premier asking why Cross River Rail was prioritised over other major infrastructure projects in Queensland. It is very disappointing that a project that will cost more than \$5 billion, if not more, but which will only save about five minutes in terms of transport times can be prioritised. With that costing and those figures, that could create five major water infrastructure projects

in rural and regional Queensland. The government did come up with some perception that it was going to upgrade Burdekin Falls Dam and develop a hydro-electric scheme as well as a hydros scheme at the Lower Burdekin by raising the dam wall with the support of the federal government, but I believe that the government has taken this position as a result of its no new dams policy. It sees aspects of these projects so that it appears that it is delivering something, but it is not necessarily delivering anything. With regard to hydro power, it is talking about 50 megawatts. Given the amount of money and the cost factor to provide 50 megawatts, the water drawn to be used for that hydro scheme will be to the disadvantage of the landowners and irrigators in that region.

There is an opportunity to look into Hell's Gate Dam, which will gravity feed water to Townsville. It will provide water security in the Charters Towers region. It will open up that area for development. It will also provide water infrastructure and water security in the Burdekin region for the term of its natural life. Looking at something that is right down the bottom end means that you are only going to pump water back to Townsville when there is the opportunity to construct Hell's Gate Dam. I have to acknowledge that the Minister for Natural Resources did say that he will be communicating—and he has—with Townsville Enterprise to include Big Rocks Weir into that feasibility study. That is possibly a good thing because Big Rocks Weir is only a \$20 million project but will provide 10,000 megalitres of water to the Charters Towers region and naturally provide recreation and the potential of opening up the area for agriculture. Not only that, it may provide security for a meatworks.

I note that LNP members were talking about all the things they had contributed in that three years. There is the big Taj Mahal across the road, but that is all that I can see. I have been searching to try to find what the LNP delivered in my electorate in that last three years. I have asked the Parliamentary Library to search for this and it is still searching. There is nothing. There is nothing at all. With regard to their contributions and good government, yes, we are selling our energy assets and they sacked 16,000 public servants. The minister came into my electorate every week criticising and saying that I could not do anything or that I could not deliver anything. That is because the LNP delivered nothing for that region anyway. I do not think that this budget has been a good budget. However, if we compare this budget with the previous government—given that I am still searching—those on that side of the House should not be pointing fingers at the present moment. I wanted to bring that to the attention of the House.

 **Hon. M FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (4.37 pm): It is my pleasure to speak on the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee budget estimates report and I commend the chair and members of that committee for their stewardship of that report. This is a budget that is about creating opportunities for people in communities right across Queensland. In particular, this budget focuses on closing the gap on disadvantage for our first Australians so that they have access to the same opportunities as every other Queensland—things like aspiring to own your own home, getting an education, having clean drinking water and safe waste disposal. In our third surplus budget I am proud to say that this government is investing more than \$25.7 million in the 2017-18 budget to help close the gap on disadvantage in education, skills, jobs and economic opportunity among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. We are investing \$120 million over four years for water and waste infrastructure for Indigenous councils and their communities. We have also increased the State Government Financial Aid program for Indigenous councils to more than \$33.7 million and restored the indexation the former Newman-Nicholls government scrapped.

Conversely, there is a difference between this side of the parliament and those opposite. They cut, they cull, they slash and they sell. Time and time again in this House they have shown they simply do not care about Queenslanders. In the opposition's statement of reservation in the estimates committee report the members talk down the great work that is being done across government to benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. This is despite the member for Chatsworth undertaking to provide bipartisan support of this portfolio. It is actually sad that it has been 175 days and still no question from the member for Chatsworth during question time about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. His colleague from Glass House is worse. It has been 455 days without a question on local government. I welcome the fact that the LNP has finally shown some interest in the portfolio area of local government through its statement of reservation in the estimates committee report. What it really shows is that they have no grasp on what the portfolio entails. This lazy LNP opposition cannot even bother to read the charter letters of the Deputy Premier and myself. This lazy opposition did not even know which minister was which, exemplified by the fact that the member for Glass House had to actually ask what his portfolio entailed. All he had in his arsenal was a few critiqued, edited quotes from *Hansard*. The poetic licence he has taken is quite extraordinary. The LNP are yet to offer any policy vision, let alone for local government, for the people of Queensland to examine.

Let me help those opposite out and run through just some of the great things we are doing in local government across Queensland, welcomed by the LGAQ and the mayors across the state. In this budget we have allocated \$5 million over two years to help small councils add fluoride to their water supply if they choose. The Deputy Premier's Works for Queensland program, which we have heard quite a bit about this afternoon, has been a huge hit with the mayors. There is an extra \$200 million over two years to continue this great work. It has already created thousands and thousands of jobs since the budget announcement. There have been 77,300 jobs created since Labor has been in government. There is close to \$29 million for community infrastructure works under the Local Government Grants and Subsidy Program. Last year alone this program supported hundreds of local jobs in the regions where we know jobs are needed the most. In our third investment in infrastructure we see the results that are being delivered right across this amazing state.

While the LNP wants to stay silent on supporting these regional communities and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, the Palaszczuk government is speaking up. I talk to the mayors and councillors on a regular basis. I hear time and time again about the support of the grants funding that this government is providing. Through this budget we are giving local communities the support they need to create jobs, build infrastructure and enjoy everything our state has to offer. Alternatively, the LNP opposition turn their back on this budget and Queenslanders in general.

Report adopted.

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): The question is—

That the report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee be adopted.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (4.43 pm): I am pleased to speak in relation to the estimates hearings and also the report of the committee of which I am very happy to support. Consideration of the budget estimates is very important in this parliament because it allows for the public examination of responsible ministers and the chief executive officers of agencies within the relevant committee's portfolio areas.

I want to particularly thank the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, and also their departmental officers, for their cooperation in providing information to the committee throughout the process. I also want to thank my fellow committee members: the deputy chair, the member for Coomera; the member for Pine Rivers; the member for Capalaba; the member for Currumbin; and also the member for Broadwater who was a substitute member for the member for Beaudesert. I hope he has made a timely recovery.

When one considers this report I think it gets very interesting near the end. I will talk later about some of the important budget initiatives that are particularly relevant and important in my view, but when one turns to page 32 of the report, at the beginning of quite a lengthy statement of reservation that is signed by the member for Coomera, the member for Beaudesert and the member for Currumbin it gets very interesting because the first bold item is 'The greatest risk Queenslanders face today is job insecurity'. I must admit I was quite surprised to read that coming from those three members. They were all members of the former LNP government that sacked 14,000 public servants. It is a bit rich coming from those three members. I do not recall hearing those three members talk about job insecurity while 14,000 public servants were being sacked. It seems as though they have finally woken up to that being an issue.

It gets even better. If one turns to the last page of the report, page 35, members will not believe this. I was quite surprised. Does anyone remember the four pillars? No-one from the opposition is remembering. I think they want to forget. It seems that the four pillars have now become the six drivers.

Mr Mander: Remind us!

Mr PEGG: I take that interjection from the member for Everton. I hope he does not become one of the six drivers. Let us go through them. Let us compare and contrast the drivers with the pillars. The first one is tourism. It is a driver and it was a pillar as well, so tick that one. What about agriculture? It is now a driver. It used to be a pillar. That pillar has become a driver. The third driver is resources. Again that is a pillar that has become a driver. The fourth is construction and manufacturing. Construction was a pillar, so tick again. What are the extra two drivers? I am sure everyone is waiting

to hear this from the towering intellects opposite. The first of the two extra drivers that the LNP has finally discovered is services, science and technology. They are quite right. They are very important components of the economy—something that our government identified a long time ago. Those opposite have finally worked out that that is an important component of our economy. Guess what the sixth driver is?

Mr Stevens: Education!

Mr PEGG: Education! The member got it. I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. Fantastic! They have finally worked out that education is a key driver of the economy. Those opposite are very slow on the uptake but they finally have worked it out.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr PEGG: I have heard some interjections from the member for Everton and the member for Kawana. The member for Kawana had trouble making his questions compliant with the standing orders. I tried to assist him where I could. I did not think it could get any worse until the member for Everton stepped up. Didn't he embarrass himself? How many own goals did the member for Everton kick? Of the six drivers on the bus he is not going to be one of them. The member for Everton assured me the Twitter ref would be going through game after game during State of Origin, but what happened to the Twitter ref? If you check out the hashtag on Twitter you will see a tweet from the member for Everton on 31 May 2017, game 1—

Due to technical challenges (50000 fans trying to tweet at once), #twitterref will not be operating tonight. Sorry ...

Member for Everton, 50,000 people at Suncorp Stadium were not tweeting, but at least you were polite enough to say sorry. I table that for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 31 May 2017, from the Twitter profile of the member for Everton, Mr Tim Mander MP [\[1247\]](#).

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (4.48 pm): The chairman of the committee just spent five minutes prosecuting the LNP's good policies. He spent more time talking about the LNP's six drivers than he did about the Labor government.

Mr Crandon: We could send that out to our constituents.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Coomera. We on this side of the House could grab that speech from *Hansard* and send it off to help our re-election chances. He went on about the six drivers and when the honourable member for Mermaid Beach interjected about education, the member for Stretton said, 'Fantastic!'—it is a fantastic policy that the LNP have. He is the chairman of the committee. Maybe he was taking notes or learning a lesson from the member for Bundamba because if you saw her performance during estimates you would probably think she was a member of the opposition or crossbench, not necessarily a government member.

I do note that in all the committees after the first day—because the Premier had not quite worked it out but the Deputy Premier certainly did—those opposite realised that the member for Bundamba was going to cause some issues for the government and the Deputy Premier did not want to have any part of that so they kept stacking more Labor members on the committee to reduce the time the member for Bundamba could ask questions. I remember commenting, 'Poor Jo, the member for Bundamba, being stacked by her own party.' It was because the Labor government could not trust the member for Bundamba as she was going off the reservation, and so she should.

The committee looked at apprenticeship numbers under the Attorney-General and Minister for Training and Skills, which are on the decline. In estimates the Minister for Training and Skills said that we have to look at the completion rates, because they would have started under the LNP so they are only completing now. I also looked at the commencement rate of apprenticeships and traineeships in the 2½ years that they have been in government and they are dramatically on the way down. It is not just about completion rates; it is also about commencement rates. Fewer young people are going into apprenticeships and traineeships, because they do not have confidence that the Labor government has the policies in place. The TAFE sector needs rescuing, but there is \$200 million surplus sitting in the bank.

Ms Boyd: From you—they needed rescuing from you.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will get to the member for Pine Rivers in a minute. They said that TAFE needed rescuing, but from what? They have \$200 million sitting in a bank account for a rainy day. They have fewer TAFE teachers under their watch. They are sacking TAFE teachers.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member for Pine Rivers says that that is not right. Perhaps she should look at her own budget papers, because in the next two years there will be a reduction of about 10 TAFE staff. That is a sacking. There are fewer TAFE teachers under their watch. If they were rescuing TAFE, I would have thought they would have more students, more teachers and more buildings, but no; for TAFE there are fewer teachers, fewer students and fewer buildings under the Labor Party's watch.

We have underutilised campuses, such as at Gympie. Philosophically, the Labor Party would rather have a TAFE campus without students than give it to a university or partner with a private sector and actually fill it with students who are learning and earning. They would rather have an empty TAFE building, because it is a TAFE campus. Because it is a TAFE building, they think it is okay that it is empty.

What are they doing with the campus at Mount Gravatt, in the electorate of the member for Mansfield? The Minister for Training and Skills keeps talking about a strategic asset management plan. Where is the report? How long does it take to finish a strategic asset management plan? I will tell you how long it takes. The director-general of Education said that they want to ensure that the TAFE sector is applicable for generations to come. I asked, 'Which generation?' For which generation of young people are we actually going to get the strategic asset management plan?

The member for Mansfield will talk about this in his contribution as well: I have a feeling that, after the election, they have it on the agenda to sell off the TAFE campus in Mount Gravatt and they are keeping the report secret. They are not releasing the report, because they do not want the public to see what is in it. Why have not they released that report? The Minister for Training and Skills has form when it comes to not releasing reports and when she does she blacks out a lot of it. I call on the government to release the strategic asset management plan. Let us not wait for generations. Let us find out now what is happening. God only knows that TAFE did need rescuing but not from the LNP. TAFE needs rescuing from the Labor government. They are sacking TAFE teachers, there are fewer students in TAFE and TAFE has money sitting in the bank.

The LNP has a \$100 million plan to create 20,000 jobs across Queensland: 10,000 new apprentices over the next four years and 10,000 young people who do not have jobs will get a job under our positive plan for the future. I do not have to reiterate the six key drivers, because the member for Stretton did that for us.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (4.53 pm): Firstly, I congratulate the member for Stretton for his chairmanship of the committee during the estimates process. I also thank the committee members, Hansard, the secretariat, the ministers involved—

An opposition member: You asked the same question twice.

Mr BROWN: I take the interjection. If the member goes back to *Hansard*, he will see something different. He should not just read the *Courier-Mail* but check *Hansard*. I also thank the directors-general, the CEOs and staff, who all put in a lot of effort for the day. I thank them for that.

The biggest thanks of all goes to the member for Everton, who gave us the biggest own goal that I have seen in three years of attending estimates hearings when he addressed the lack of diversity on the Parole Board with 67 per cent female representation. We need only look around the chamber to see that, of their caucus, 80 per cent are male. Afterwards he had the hide to double down on a tweet by saying that there was not enough diversity and the members of the Parole Board were not elected on merit. That was shameful and the member doubled down. He said, 'It was just the heat of battle,' but he actually doubled down on a tweet afterwards. The gift kept on giving when, the next day, he had to apologise for his behaviour.

This debate gives me the opportunity to talk about TAFEs, which the member for Kawana also talked about. There is a great contrast here, as I never hear him bang on about the current federal LNP cuts to TAFE. The federal government has refused to renew or extend the National Partnerships Agreement on Skills Reform, which delivered \$105 million last financial year. This year, it has also ripped \$63 million from Queensland TAFEs.

Ms Boyd: Shame.

Mr BROWN: It is shameful; I take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. We need only look at the Alexandra Hills TAFE in my own electorate. When I was first elected, I went there and spoke to the two teachers left in SkillsTech. They showed me the classrooms that they could not get into, equipment that they could not use, broken equipment and equipment that was to be given away. I saw students being taught in an open-air shed in the middle of winter because QTAMA would not allow them to use the classrooms for their rote learning. It was shameful.

Two years on, I can report some very good news, for which I thank the Attorney-General. Since the Newman era 2014-15 financial year, Alexandra Hills TAFE SkillsTech has seen a 96 per cent increase in enrolments. We have doubled it. SkillsTech has an extra 23 teachers, up from the two with whom I initially met. At Alexandra Hills SkillsTech, competencies have increased by 175 per cent since the Newman era. I thank the minister for going further than that. In July and August, even more students enrolled in plumbing and carpentry. We are supporting those apprentices, who will go on to get jobs. In an answer to a question that I asked of the Attorney-General, she stated that there are further plans to expand SkillsTech at Alexandra Hills, for which I am very thankful.

I compare that with what the LNP did to Alexandra Hills TAFE. They sacked teachers, they increased fees, they drove down student participation and they had it ready to be sold off. We are doing the exact opposite. We are partnering with the private sector to deliver Queensland's first autistic school. We have doubled student enrolments for Alexandra Hills TAFE in the SkillsTech area and we are going to expand it even further, delivering apprenticeships that will deliver jobs for the people of the Redlands.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.58 pm): When we reflect on the estimates hearings that we held for the Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Corrective Services there is a smorgasbord of things to choose to talk about in the short period that we have, but it is very difficult to go past the weakening of the bikie laws that the LNP government successfully implemented at the end of 2013. In this short address, I want to highlight a statement made by the police minister in parliament on 24 May. That statement was then repeated by the Premier. He said—

Due to Taskforce Maxima's relentless pursuit, the number of OMCGs in Queensland has almost halved. Patched OMCG membership has plunged from 1,158 in late 2013 to 695 as of last week ...

From late 2013 to now, it has plunged to 695. At the estimates hearing, I asked the minister if they could provide the figure of the reduction since the Labor Party's new legislation came in. They could not provide that straight away, which is fair enough, so they took it as a question on notice. The answer came back a week or so later. It was that 94 per cent of that reduction occurred because of the LNP's tough anti-bikie laws. They are proudly claiming that, unwilling to confess that it was the tough anti-bikie laws that the LNP brought in that led to this reduction. There have only been 27 bikies who have disassociated themselves since the new legislation has come in. Is it any wonder when we look at how those opposite have weakened the legislation and what they have brought in instead?

The other questions I really wanted answered related to the consorting legislation, the warnings that are given and how somebody can be charged with a consorting offence. That was quite—

Mr McEachan: How is that working in New South Wales?

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection about how that is working in New South Wales. That was quite enlightening as well. I put this proposal to the Police Commissioner and asked whether it is a true and accurate position. To be charged with a consorting offence one needs to be in the company of two other people, the same two people on at least two occasions and those two people have to at least have been convicted of an offence that had a five-year prison sentence, but that is only if it has not been expunged under the rehabilitation of offenders act. A normal cop on the beat is walking around trying to implement this law. How can anybody do that easily? That is why there has been one conviction.

A government member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Order! Member for Logan, if you are going to interject please sit in your allocated seat.

Mr MANDER: How in the heck can these laws be effective if a policeman on the beat has to go through that sort of process to lay a charge? Is it any wonder that most of the charges have come from Taskforce Maxima?

The other interesting thing was that the minister wanted to give me a lesson on the consorting laws. He said that I probably do not understand how this work. I quote from *Hansard* where he said—

They literally sit down with the offender and say, 'You cannot consort. You cannot associate with these people'—there are photographs on a board—and you are required to comply with that notice.'

'You naughty little children; you are not to be with these people whose photographs are on the board.' He said that they are serious about the warning. These new laws are a joke. They are treated as a joke by criminals on the Gold Coast. Is it any wonder that the Comancheros have now established

a presence on the Gold Coast? Is it any wonder that Satudarah, the criminal motorcycle gang that originates from the Netherlands, have a presence on the Gold Coast as well? Is it any wonder that the Mongrels are back on the Gold Coast as well?

These laws have been weakened and are ineffective. Only the LNP will enact laws that make sure we give a clear message to bikies that they are not welcome on the Gold Coast, that they are not welcome in Queensland and that we will drive them into the ground and rid them from our state.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (5.03 pm): I think it is appropriate that I talk about all of the good work that happens through the estimates process and all of the staff who support it, but I want to touch for a moment on what the previous speaker, the member for Everton, said. There was a lot that he covered during the last five minutes, but there was a lot that he omitted. One of his omissions overtook the estimates process in terms of what was reported in the media. It is quite sad that all of the good work undertaken by the legal affairs committee in its consideration of the portfolios it is responsible for examining was overrun by some of the remarks made by the member for Everton.

I subscribe to the old adage that forewarned is forearmed. Certainly my parliamentary colleagues gave me the hot tip. I had heard of the legend of the member for Everton's performances during estimates before we went into the room. I thought that it was perhaps a bit of a hangover from his old footy days—somebody who likes to get the jump; somebody who is used to running for their job.

While I respect the job that the member for Everton did on the footy field, I have never quite observed such a 'brain in neutral, mouth in overdrive' moment as I witnessed from the member for Everton during the estimates process. It was a beauty. The member for Currumbin's face and body language said it all as she sat next to him. The member for Everton slammed the government for a merit based selection process to the state's Parole Board. He slammed the minister for having too much female representation on the board, for having a major gender imbalance and for not being diverse at all.

Helpless looking on, the member for Everton continued to do himself over with the defence for his commentary and the continuation of his questioning. What is worse is that he did not even apologise. He had to be told the next day to come out and apologise unreservedly. As a woman sitting through that estimates process that day, I found the views expressed by the member for Everton archaic and offensive. I do not think there is a place for that whatsoever in this parliament.

That said, I will use my remaining time to look at the positives during the committee process. I certainly thank our wonderful ministers—Minister D'Ath and Minister Ryan—for their attendance and for their thorough answers to questions. I would like to thank the ministers' staff, the DGs, the CEOs, the secretariat, Hansard, opposition members, our astute chair—the member for Stretton—and my colleague the member for Capalaba. From my perspective, the estimates process saw full and thorough responses to questions and ensured that the new measures in this budget were thoroughly explained and continue to build on the successful programs and initiatives reinstated under the Palaszczuk Labor government. A lot of those were reinstated after they were cruelly cut by the Newman-Nicholls government.

It was a pleasure to be part of this process that will see true Labor initiatives come to life. Such initiatives include: transition of 17-year-olds out of adult prison and into the youth justice system; implementation of the much needed recommendations from the Sofronoff report; various measures to reduce recidivism for those most at risk, like offender programs, court diversion programs, intervention initiatives; funding to Legal Aid Queensland and the much needed reinstatement of the Drug Court; provision of \$33.3 million so our essential community legal centres can continue to service the demand that they have in the face of federal LNP cuts from Malcolm Turnbull, which is something that I am very passionate about and spoken at length about in this place.

Other initiatives include: counterterrorism measures to keep Queenslanders safe, including the construction of a centre at Westgate police academy; expansion and enhancement of our Transition to Success program—and it was wonderful to hear from the Attorney some of the real life success stories; successful measures to stamp out alcohol fuelled violence in our community; measures to protect, promote and understand human rights; and ongoing work on implementation of the *Not now, not ever* report recommendations. We heard a report back on the offence of strangulation. There is so much more. My list is long and varied, but I have run out of time. Congratulations to the ministers. It was wonderful to be a part of the process.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Mansfield, I would like to apologise to the member for Logan. Earlier I said that he was interjecting and not from his seat. In fact, he was not interjecting; it was someone in front of him. I apologise to the member.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (5.08 pm): It was interesting to hear the contribution of the member for Pine Rivers. She seemed to be at a different estimates hearing to the one I was at. We had an Attorney-General before us who has had what can only be described as a year characterised by scandals, bungles, dithering and delivering a youth justice system that is in constant upheaval. The estimates process shone a light on the disaster that is our youth justice system.

We have had a report that took six months to try to get to the bottom of whether there is institutional abuse in our detention centres but found that its terms of reference were so narrow that it could not make that critical determination. This is despite the fact that I had written to the Attorney-General pointing out that those terms of reference were too narrow and that legal commentators and members of the legal profession had said the same. She continued to present a report that did not get to the nub of the very issue that the commission was set up to find out about. Our youth justice system has seen detainees on the roof of the detention centres at both Cleveland and Wacol, making demands after doing \$1.2 million worth of damage to property, which the Queensland taxpayer has had to pick up the bill for, and terrorising and severely injuring staff in the process.

Talking about the McMillan report—the one that had initially a third of its contents redacted—what did it say about the crucial issue that the member for Pine Rivers referred to of transferring 17-year-olds into the youth detention centres, a policy that this government has adopted without any plan as to how to do it safely and efficiently? Firstly, the report said it could not determine whether there was sufficient room in the existing centres to accommodate 17-year-olds. Secondly, a key section initially redacted from the report referenced a departmental briefing in 2015 which advised that even without the transfer of 17-year-olds the system needed an additional 20 beds by 2020 and 50 beds for every seven years after that. We heard from the Attorney-General at the estimates hearing that the current budget allocation will deliver only 12 new beds. Then she upped that to 16—just over half of what is needed by 2020 without any allowance for the 50 or so 17-year-olds who will commence transferring this coming November.

How does the government plan to deal with this crisis? The Attorney-General's answers at estimates finally gave the game away. What we will see is a smokescreen of a new policy purportedly to deal with rates of youth detention but in reality a policy that is about covering up the government's failure to plan for the existing needs—that existing growth that has already been told to them that they need—and its failure to have any plan at all as to how to accommodate the 50 people presently in detention in the new 17-year-old cohort.

There was a \$16.9 million allocation for capital upgrades to the youth detention centres, yet the Attorney-General is still working out how they are going to spend that money. The Attorney-General's handling of our youth justice system has been nothing short of appalling. The staff at our two centres have morale issues. They are concerned about the addition of the 50 or so 17-year-olds due by mid-November this year.

It is already a volatile situation at our youth detention centres and what the government is planning to do in moving 17-year-olds into youth detention, I will say now, is throwing kerosene onto a fire. Those centres have kids as young as 10 in them, and they need to be given the best chance possible to turn their young lives around. That is not going to happen when we have the poor policy that we see from the government at present.

I turn to a key concern in my own electorate which came to light during this hearing, and the member for Kawana referred to it. The Labor Party campaigned loud and long in my electorate about 'saving' the Mount Gravatt TAFE. I have asked for assurances by way of a question on notice from the Attorney-General that the Mount Gravatt TAFE will be saved, and I have not got them. I went to a strategy planning day at the TAFE in Mount Gravatt in May 2016 where I was told that all options were on the table for the site, including the sale or the development of the site for housing. The Attorney-General at estimates confirmed that the government still has no plan for this key site in my electorate. She can settle the issue today or at any time by simply saying, 'Yes, we will keep our election promise and secure the Mount Gravatt TAFE for TAFE purposes and no other.' I challenge her to give that assurance to my community today.

This is probably tied up in the strategic training asset management review—the review that has cost about a million dollars so far. It has reportedly finished consultation but the Attorney-General will not commit to releasing it before the next state election, saying that it will be released in 2017-18. My community wants to know what is happening with the Mount Gravatt TAFE. May 2016 was when the consultation took place. The Attorney-General should be able to tell us and reassure my community.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (5.13 pm): I am not on the committee and I was not there on the day of the estimates hearing, but there seems to be two different realities going on here. I have read the *Hansard* and I have read the report.

Mr Crandon: You weren't there.

Ms HOWARD: The *Hansard* does not lie. What I saw from the opposition during the estimates hearing for training and skills was two things: firstly, they do not care. They chose to spend their time and their opportunity to ask about training and skills to instead ask about issues in a different portfolio, even when they knew they had time allocated to the statutory bodies in the very next session. They also showed that they do not know and do not care about the impact being felt by the significant cuts from the budget. They either refuse to admit or do not understand that when the federal government rips money away from training and funding apprentices it creates an environment where there is mass uncertainty for providers and those wanting to train in Queensland.

Secondly, the member for Kawana showed he actually does not care about training and skills in Queensland. Instead of spending his allocated time asking questions that were relevant to the portfolio of Training and Skills, he wasted everyone's time with a series of questions that no-one could say was in any way related to training and skills. He then followed this up with his typical behaviour so that when he did ask a question he did not bother to listen to the answer.

Had he taken the time to actually listen he would have heard how the Palaszczuk government is increasing its contribution to training and skills while federal funding falls. He would have heard how the Rescuing TAFE package has helped nearly 12,000 Queenslanders access second chance funding and restored vital support services for students. He would have heard how students are coming back to TAFE facilities that those opposite had gutted as that part of their crusade to sack nearly 2,000 staff from TAFE Queensland.

As the member for Ipswich, I am so proud that Jobs Queensland is based in the Icon building right in the Ipswich CBD—a move that I advocated for and a recognition of the Ipswich area as its own economy with its own skilling needs and its own profile. Jobs Queensland is a very important part of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to training and skills in this state, and it is working with multiple industries on projects in advanced manufacturing, apprenticeships, Commonwealth Games, as well as regional skills plans for Ipswich and Wide Bay.

Jobs Queensland has been hard at work on a wide variety of projects, and it was pleasing to see one of those projects released on the morning of the hearing. The Tourism Workforce Plan is an important document that spells out the needs of the tourism and hospitality industry and how the government needs to act to ensure these needs are met. This report will be followed by 13 regional reports and will identify the specific job and skills needs for each region, recognising that the Gold Coast will have different needs for their tourism workforce than Ipswich might. With 20,000 extra staff forecast to be needed by 2020, this work of Jobs Queensland is vital to ensure we position the industry for future growth.

I also want to take the opportunity to speak about the great success of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work project in the Ipswich area. In the Ipswich local government area, we have invested nearly \$14 million on 50 Skilling Queenslanders for Work projects, targeting long-term unemployed, at-risk people, ageing workers and at-risk youth—to name just a few. From that, 1,350 people have completed projects and 829 have already gained employment. I am very confident that as more people complete programs this number will continue to rise.

It is clear that the opposition have no plan for training and skills in Queensland. Will they cut Skilling Queenslanders for Work again? Will they re-embark on their effort to reduce TAFE to a shell of itself? There have been ample opportunities for them to come clean with the Queensland community, yet they still will not. Is this because they do not want people to know or is it possible that the member for Kawana simply cannot be bothered?

I want to touch briefly on some of the fantastic initiatives being rolled out across the Justice portfolio. I am proud to be a part of the Palaszczuk government. We are reinstating the Murri Court and the Drug Court to build a safer community. We are taking offensive slogans and pictures off our roads with the Wicked Campers legislation. We have increased funding for our justice system to provide an accessible and fair justice system for all Queenslanders, including \$31.6 million over five years to expand and upgrade the audiovisual equipment in courthouses which will improve court efficiencies, give greater flexibility to the vulnerable or distant witnesses and cut the cost of transporting prisoners to and from trials.

The Palaszczuk government is also expanding the domestic and family violence court, which was successfully trialled at Southport. It is a \$69.5 million investment over four years to continue the domestic and family violence court at Southport, as well as a further rollout to Beenleigh and Townsville, with circuit courts to Mount Isa and Palm Island.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (5.18 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to talk on the 2017-18 budget estimates report No. 60 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I thank the secretariat for all of the hard work that they put in and also the very balanced way in which the member for Stretton, the chair, managed affairs on the day in relation to the fairness of time et cetera. We did work well as a committee in the actual process itself. It has been interesting to listen to the comments from those opposite, in particular the member for Pine Rivers. She said she was going to spend a minute on a particular issue in relation to the member for Mansfield and then spent three minutes on it.

I will just add to what the member for Mansfield said about the consorting laws. I recall asking the Police Commissioner a question on the consorting laws to get some clarification. I asked, 'If we're trying to keep one old mate away from the bikie gangs and he's consorting with one individual who fits the bill but he's not consorting with another individual who necessarily fits the bill, but the other individual is coming in and he's being groomed as well, is that okay?' The answer was, 'Yes, that's okay. They can do that.' All of them can be given a warning and he can go away, and then another guy can come in and he can do the same thing and the same thing and the same thing. They have their master—this guy who fits the bill—but he is not breaking any laws. No-one is breaking any laws because they are just bringing these new guys in—the ones we do not want coming in—and they can just come in and consort with him and go through the training process. It is a very interesting set of circumstances and I wonder how the police manage to get around it.

My main contribution relates to my question to Ian Stewart, the commissioner, on how he is going finding land on the northern Gold Coast to build a new police station. I was waiting with bated breath because I had heard on the ground out in the marketplace that they were out and about looking around. He eventually deferred to Assistant Commissioner Brian Codd, and Brian did confirm that, yes, indeed they are looking around. Sadly, they are looking a bit too far south. Some members may recall me making the point in here before that we have had 10 new schools in 10 years on the northern Gold Coast and we have had a massive bump in population—with 20 per cent year on year and projections over the next 10 years of more than 10 per cent growth in population on the northern Gold Coast—yet they are still not looking for land to build a police station on the northern Gold Coast. Instead they are talking about building something central on the Gold Coast which would be a long distance away and that traffic jam on the M1 would cause all sorts of havoc for them when they are trying to get to any jobs on the northern Gold Coast.

If they are looking for somewhere to warehouse particular vehicles et cetera, I have to say that we already have it. We have already got Coomera and there is more than enough room at the Coomera Police Station to start building for that 50 extra police that I have been calling for. In fact I suggest that Brian Codd has also alluded to this because he is talking about an additional RAP squad coming. A RAP squad has 50 officers in it, so I think that is his way of saying, 'Michael, you're going to get your 50 police.' I just want to get them on the northern Gold Coast.

Once they have done that, they could actually go to the second part of what Brian Codd talked about in estimates and they could start working with Fire and Emergency Services, the ambos and so forth and build a three-way facility in Yawalpah Road where there is already land for emergency services in place and earmarked from our days. If they built that, the Fire and Emergency Services, the ambos and the police would all be warehoused right there. It looks like the minister is enthusiastic about this and that he is going to get up and make an announcement about this today because I can see him nodding his head. That is great. We are now going to see something in the Pimpama area in the Coomera electorate on the northern Gold Coast. This is the fastest growing region in Australia with 180,000 people there already, which is almost equivalent to Ipswich—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (5.23 pm): I start by putting on the record my thanks to all of the departmental staff from the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Queensland Corrective Services, the Public Safety Business Agency and the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management for their contribution to the very important estimates process and their support of me during that estimates process. I have often said that I am very proud

to be their minister, and this estimates process just reinforces to me the great people we have got working across those agencies here in Queensland. I thank my ministerial staff for their support of me during the estimates process. I also thank all members of the committee including the chair, the member for Stretton, for a great estimates process. I am sure all Queenslanders appreciate the importance of this process.

The Palaszczuk government's first and most important priority has always been, and will continue to be, ensuring the safety of Queenslanders. That is why our government has increased funding, resources and officer numbers for police, Fire And Emergency Services, and Corrective Services since we came to government. Since March 2015, our government has been putting police back on the beat and we have increased the size of the Queensland Police Service to more than 11,800 police officers. That is an extra 332 police officers who have been recruited, trained and allocated across the regions in our state. That is in stark contrast to the previous government, the Nicholls-Newman regime, which saw the dismissal of 106 senior police officers while the member for Clayfield was the treasurer.

In the 2017-18 budget, the Palaszczuk government has committed \$32 million over four years for an extra 30 counterterrorism police officers, 20 rapid action patrol officers for Townsville and an additional 20 police officers for other regional hotspots across Queensland. The jobs bonanza does not stop there, with a \$46.7 million world-class Westgate counterterrorism precinct to be built at Wacol. This state-of-the-art facility will generate more than 130 jobs during construction.

Another \$66.5 million over three years will improve working conditions for officers as part of the Queensland Police Service certified agreement which was concluded last year. I emphasise that because it is in stark contrast to those opposite who, when in government, treated our police with disdain and even considered taking two weeks leave from our police officers as part of the enterprise bargaining discussions that they engaged in. Our support for our police officers is unwavering.

We have also allocated \$8.5 million over four years for additional prosecutorial staff as part of the specialist domestic and family violence courts and \$532,000 over two years to provide additional prosecutors to support the specialist high-risk youth court in Townsville. There is \$7.4 million in additional funding over five years to continue the highly successful Project Booyah early intervention youth program and \$7.5 million over four years for policing activities associated with the transition of 17-year-olds to the youth justice system.

The Palaszczuk government is also supporting our brave firefighters and Rural Fire Service volunteers, with more than \$47 million to replace and purchase new vehicles for them. This includes \$30.1 million for our Accelerated Rural Fleet Program which will see 60 Rural Fire Service appliances replaced during 2017-18 and many more in the next financial year. All up, our contribution to Queensland Fire and Emergency Services from a capital perspective is \$107 million, and this includes new facilities, vehicles, communications equipment and other equipment to support our brave emergency service officers.

We have also committed significant funds to support our reform of the probation and parole system in Queensland, including \$265 million over six years to implement the Sofronoff review, which includes a new parole board, a dedicated parole and assessment unit, expanded use of GPS tracking for up to 500 parolees and expanded rehabilitation and re-entry services. What is more, we are continuing to invest in additional capacity at our correctional centres, including the \$200 million capital investment for a minimum 164-cell expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.28 pm): I begin my contribution by acknowledging the tireless Queensland Police Service officers, the QFES officers and all of the volunteers across our great state, whether they are SES volunteers or rural fire brigade volunteers. I think everyone from both sides of the House would acknowledge that, without the work they do to keep our community safe, it would be a poorer place that we live in.

I only have five minutes to make my contribution, so I will not have the opportunity to canvass all of the issues that were raised during the estimates process. However, I am sure it comes as no surprise to members on this side of the House that a great number of issues were raised. One of the first things that was raised was with respect to the resources that will be available in the coming financial year and the resources that have been made available in this budget to the Crime and Corruption Commission. What we do know is that they are going to be assisting potentially the Queensland State Archivist with the investigation that they will be undertaking around Minister Bailey's deletion of his email account. Clearly it is a time when—

Mr Crandon: He's not 'Minister' Bailey anymore.

Miss BARTON: Stood aside Minister Bailey; I will take the interjection from the member for Coomera. Very clearly we should be concerned at this particular point that the resources for the CCC are being cut, and we have seen that very clearly in the budget. Not only do they do very important work when it comes to making sure that members of parliament and other elected officials are doing the right thing, but we have also seen the very important work that the Crime and Corruption Commission does when it comes to keeping organised crime at bay in Queensland and also when it comes to tackling child paedophile rings.

One of the other concerns that was raised particularly by the member for Kawana was the botched rollout of the ID scanners at licensed venues in entertainment precincts in this state. What we have seen very clearly is that this government is unable to make that system work. When we left government at the beginning of 2015 we had a very clear plan in place that was going to make sure that entertainment precincts were safe places for people to go out and have fun. Ultimately, that is what we want everyone to be able to do in these precincts: go and have fun. I can see the member for Toowoomba North—

Mr Watts: Totally incompetent.

Miss BARTON: I take the interjection from the member for Toowoomba North—totally incompetent. Of course with his background, the member for Toowoomba North would know just how important it is that we get this absolutely right. One of the concerns raised particularly by the member for Kawana was the inability of the scanners that are currently in place to work out IDs where the date has been reversed, for example, American passports or other forms of American ID. The solution apparently is that things should be manually entered. What we do know is that venues in entertainment precincts can be incredibly busy on a Friday or Saturday night or even if there has been a special event, for example, after the State of Origin. There are grave concerns held by members of the opposition that this government just does not have the ability to roll this out properly.

The other thing I want to touch on—and coming from the Gold Coast I know that my Gold Coast colleagues join me in having grave concerns—is the fact that this Labor government has rolled out the red carpet to criminal motorcycle gangs and organised crime in Queensland. It is something that we particularly feel on the Gold Coast. We know that the LNP government put in place some of the strongest laws. We saw a Labor government in South Australia copying our laws. Gold Coasters felt safe and very clearly what Gold Coasters know is that Labor is soft on crime. Labor does not get the Gold Coast; it does not get law and order. I know that Gold Coasters are incredibly worried about what these weak laws are going to mean when it comes to organised crime on the Gold Coast. That is particularly concerning given that both the member for Coomera and the member for Currumbin were able to get information that suggested that resources were not going where communities need them to go. The member for Coomera touched on it and I am sure that the member for Currumbin will touch on that also given her great passion in this space and making sure that her Currumbin community is safe.

The only other thing I will touch on is on behalf of the member for Beaudesert, whom I represented on that day while he was quite ill with the flu. It was very concerning to hear confirmed that rural fire brigades in his electorate—and no doubt across Queensland—are being closed down. There are grave concerns. I know that many members who represent rural and regional electorates and even members of electorates like mine that have rural fire brigades are very concerned about the impact this will have on response times. The member for Currumbin also had concerns about the left-hand lane for trucks and the impacts that will have on rural fire brigades responding to emergency circumstances.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (5.33 pm): I would like to start by also acknowledging the contribution of the committee in all of the work that they do not just during the estimates process. I know that it is a committee that has the largest legislative portfolio and a significant workload. I want to acknowledge their great work throughout the year and also the secretariat that supports the committee.

I want to acknowledge the tremendous work of the staff from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in the preparation for estimates. An incredible amount of work goes on. Even those on the other side who have been ministers know how much is involved in that. I also acknowledge the staff with the Department of Education and Training. I thank both those departments for their assistance in the preparation for estimates and also their ongoing work. Of course, I thank my ministerial staff who work tirelessly all year long.

I listened to the contributions of those on the other side, especially those of the two shadow ministers. I have to say that when it comes to the member for Kawana and the LNP talking about commitment to training and TAFEs there is no greater hypocrisy. The LNP and the member for Kawana

talked about their big policy around training. I do not think the word 'TAFE' was mentioned once in that. What a surprise, because they have no credibility when it comes to TAFE. They want to go out with a scare campaign. The problem is no-one believes it. Have a look at where our TAFEs are today and the strength of our TAFEs today and the increased opportunity for thousands of people through the support we have provided with rescuing TAFE compared to what the TAFEs were like under the LNP. The member for Mansfield only raised two issues. When dealing with the huge portfolio of JAG he raised only one issue in his estimates speech tonight and that is around youth justice. Nothing else was talked about, but he talked about his local TAFE. I doubt the member for Mansfield talked about his local TAFE the entire time he was in government. He can go out and talk to his membership about what their future plans are with TAFE because the Mount Gravatt campus could not even get their air-conditioning fixed because QTAMA would not let them. I am eager to hear what the opposition's views are on TAFE Queensland going forward.

I listened to those on the other side about cuts to the CCC funding. I would love to see where they say in the budget there are cuts to the CCC funding. In relation to ID scanners I have to say there were very few questions. In fact, I do not think there were any questions specifically asking about the number of banning orders, how many had contravened them or whether there had been an increase in licensees. Under this government, in the last two years—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Order! Member for Coomera, the minister is not taking your interjections. I would like to listen to what she has to say.

Mrs D'ATH: There has been an increase in the number of liquor licences granted in this state under this government, yet those on the other side would have people out there believe that these laws are actually closing down businesses. However, we have seen the number of businesses actually increase under our laws. They do not want to talk about contraventions and banning orders. They also do not want to talk about the fact that people have been stopped from entering licensed venues in the safe night out precinct in Toowoomba because of our ID scanner laws along with other safe night out precincts right across the state.

I have to pick up on those opposite when they beat their chest and brag about VLAD. We all remember VLAD. We all remember their anti-association laws. They want to talk about South Australia. There is one thing South Australia did not copy: the worst element of the VLAD being the anti-association provision. They did not pick that up, but those opposite never mention that when they talk about these things.

It is this government that is investing in training, Skilling Queenslanders for Work and TAFE Queensland. It is this government that is supporting jobs through those training programs. It is this government that is taking action on child exploitation, boiler room fraud, domestic violence, supporting victims of crime and youth justice. It is this government that is establishing an independent crime stats body and the Sentencing Advisory Council and is bringing back diversionary programs that those on the other side cut and slashed.

Tim Nicholls, the Leader of the Opposition, is all about cut, sack, sell. We never saw more of that than in training where almost 2,000 TAFE staff were cut. We saw their assets being taken off them and we saw funding cut. Those on the other side have no credibility. They had very little to say tonight in relation to this portfolio. We have a very proud history in terms of what we have delivered already for the state of Queensland in these areas.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.39 pm): As I commented in my budget reply speech, the nodding and cheering during the Treasurer's speech resembled a shabby excuse for a rent-a-crowd beholden to their union gods as government MPs praised a disgraceful con of a budget designed to deceive and fool the decent people of Queensland. The same behaviour infiltrated the estimates hearing—the protection racket strategy was very evident—but the honourable member for Stretton's speech as chair of this committee takes the cake: he wasted five minutes talking about the LNP.

The con was played out again only last week during Labor's sham of a week of governance on the Gold Coast, where Premier Palaszczuk and her cabinet blatantly used every opportunity to trot out ALP candidates. The Premier was so desperate to get a full room at the Currumbin RSL that she resorted to robocalls to draw in a rent-a-crowd. Media reported the calls as a blurring of the lines between whether the meeting was a forum held by an elected official or a party political event. Everyone I spoke to said it was the latter, with the room awash with candidates' corflutes and brochures.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order. This has absolutely nothing to do with the budget estimates process and I suggest that the member for Currumbin come back to the topic.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): I will give you some latitude, member for Currumbin, but could we stick with estimates, please.

Mrs STUCKEY: I am sure that budget dollars were spent in some way—so much so that the candidate for Currumbin's helpers were so pushy that they were interrupting the audience trying to get them to write down their details.

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee estimates hearings were held on 20 July and it was a long day for all involved. I thank Hansard and the parliamentary staff, the agencies in attendance and fellow committee members. I realise that government committee members are relative newcomers in their first term, but the need to bring in agitators like the members for Logan and Bulimba to disrupt proceedings proved that Labor's protection racket is thriving. Estimates is meant to be a time when the opposition and backbenchers can ask the government some probing questions, but the minute the heat went up a bit in the kitchen they would interrupt with their frivolous points of order to deliberately sabotage opposition question time.

I utilised the hearing to ask the Commissioner about the appointment of a school based police officer to be shared between Palm Beach-Currumbin State High School and Elanora State High School. It is an issue that deserves proper attention. Support is strong from both principals and our local police. It is over a year since written inquiries were made, and I have to say that we were given a bit of a run-around. Under the LNP 15 SBPOs were appointed in 2012, and despite advice from the education department that none had been appointed since, I discovered that a new officer had been assigned to a Mount Isa school. During estimates we learned from the Assistant Commissioner that officers have been in meetings with principals to discuss a different approach rather than the appointment of a specific officer. What does that mean? Does that mean we are not getting one at all?

Labor is dumping an initiative which works at a time when it has been revealed that drugs and weapons are being found on primary and high school students, we had a bomb hoax at our largest high school and a 12-year-old was charged with an armed hold-up at a Gold Coast service station. SBPOs provide education and early intervention to help keep young people out of trouble, offering another layer of guidance from within the school compound. I question whether the principals are satisfied with this new approach, as I know that both would prefer an SBPO like the ones based in other schools. This sounds like yet another cost-cutting measure from a lazy, incompetent government desperate to prop up dwindling police numbers. Are they going to chop all 50 SBO positions? Labor have well and truly dropped the ball on student support, and we will pay the price for that in the future. Shamefully, they have chosen resources over student safety.

I also championed the cause of rural fireys. Currumbin has three rural fire brigades of which I am very proud—Currumbin Valley, Tomewin and Tallebudgera—all with very dedicated volunteers who spend countless hours undertaking training before they can attend fires. They were rightly concerned when they received a memo stating there was to be no exemption for RFS appliances using the M1, even if they were responding to an emergency. I asked the minister about the impact of new transport rules due to start on 1 August which would force rural fire brigade trucks to use left-hand lanes and if he was aware they were not exempt. The minister was unable to answer my question and said, 'Get them to come through Queensland Fire and Emergency Services or my office and we will chase it up.' Why couldn't the minister have taken the question on notice so I could inform my brigades directly? I am pleased to report that my direct advocacy resulted in rural fireys being able to apply for a special circumstances permit which will allow them to use whatever lane is available to them. Here was yet another example of oversight and poor planning as the countdown to the Commonwealth Games draws near. How many more things have gone unnoticed? Only the LNP have a plan to build a better Queensland.

Report adopted.

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): The question is—

That the report of the Agriculture and Environment Committee be adopted.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (5.45 pm): During the estimates hearing I asked the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development, Minister Byrne, to update the committee on the impact of the recent outbreak of white spot disease in prawns in South-East

Queensland and what biosecurity measures have been taken to address the outbreak. The minister's response was of great concern to me, as it should be to all people who have an interest in Australia's biosecurity.

As a result of the white spot outbreak seven prawn farms on the Logan River had to be shut down, resulting in multimillion dollar losses to the owners and massive flow-on effects for the local wild-caught prawn industry. The minister advised the committee that on 1 December 2016 the Queensland government first became aware of the presence of white spot disease on a Logan River prawn farm. Since then the Queensland government has been wearing the substantial costs of responding to what appears to be a failure of Australia's border security. He said it was clear that the Commonwealth failed in its biosecurity responsibilities and it had compounded this failure by not informing the Queensland government or the prawn industry that they had concerns about white spot coming in on imported green prawns. The minister said the Commonwealth should acknowledge that it did not live up to the expectation of intelligence regarding biosecurity threats to be shared with all relevant stakeholders. He said the state government made a substantial commitment to combating this virus and is continuing to assist through biosecurity assistance, testing and the provision of low-cost loans.

He said what is most concerning—and what should concern the committee—is that the Commonwealth knew of the threat posed by white spot disease on imported green prawns but failed to inform the Queensland government. Minister Byrne said he was appalled to find out that more than 12 months ago the federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources was in possession of enough evidence to approve a compliance program on the importation of green prawns—Operation Cattai—but did not inform state authorities. He surmised that the litany of cover-ups and secrecy continued unabated until June 2016, when positive samples of white spot were found in retail prawns. By August 2016 the Commonwealth had identified 25 out of 40 importers who were under suspicion, but yet again they continued to keep it all secret. At no point was the Queensland government told of these concerns, even though it raised such concerns more than a decade ago.

Minister Byrne said that as a pillar of good biosecurity there is open communication with governments, producers and industry when there are biosecurity threats. In this case it did not happen and it still is not happening. He said that while the Senate committee investigating the outbreak is yet to report and the Inspector-General of Biosecurity is still investigating, one would expect that the Commonwealth would take a precautionary approach to such matters—particularly around this issue—yet, without consultation the Commonwealth has allowed the importation of green prawns from overseas to recommence. As the Queensland Seafood Industry Association said, the blame for this biosecurity meltdown lays squarely at the feet of the federal government. Minister Byrne said that his department had been warning the federal government for over a decade of the danger of allowing imports of uncooked prawns from countries with white spot, but he said the main focus should now be on how this disease came into Australia in the first place. As white spot is not a native disease to Australia, it appears most likely to have come from a failure of biosecurity.

Minister Byrne's comments were echoed by Queensland Senator Barry O'Sullivan, who said that the white spot outbreak represents a catastrophic collapse of Australia's biosecurity arrangements. The senator went on to say that investigations revealed a number of importers engaged in a deliberate subversion of those processes, including deliberately mislabelling prawns as other products to avoid testing. He said the investigations also revealed that white spot testing at the border failed to detect infected prawns. While the federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources must accept responsibility for the outbreak of white spot disease, the efforts of Biosecurity Queensland to manage and control the disease need to be applauded. The tragedy of the white spot outbreak in South-East Queensland could have been avoided if best practice border security had been used.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (5.50 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of the Appropriation Bill 2017, in particular the Agriculture and Environment Committee estimates hearing report. The estimates hearing provided unequivocal proof that the agriculture portfolio under the watch of Minister Bill Byrne is the poor cousin when compared to other government departments. To see this, one needs look no further than the fact that the department suffered a budget cut of 3.2 per cent—from \$438.954 million to \$424.742 million this year, down \$14.212 million. Astonishingly, the minister gave evidence that there had been no cuts to the budget. That is right: no cuts. That begs the question: are the figures contained in the budget papers incorrect or is the minister misleading parliament? It gets worse, because the minister under questioning also stated that there had been no cuts to staffing, yet the budget documents clearly show a reduction in FTEs.

Earlier today the Premier stood in this place and crowed about the revenue generated by the agriculture sector in this state, yet here we have confirmation that the agriculture budget for this year has been cut to the tune of \$14.212 million—hardly a glowing endorsement of the agriculture sector in this state. This minister is not across his portfolio. During the estimates hearing I asked—

Minister, you clearly said 'no cuts' but, clearly, there have been. Are you saying that the figures in the SDS are wrong?

He replied—

I do not even know what to say to that.

That should be ringing alarm bells right around this state, because the reduction in the agriculture budget is a clear indication that this government does not care about the agriculture sector in Queensland.

The minister now incorporates in his title 'rural economic development', yet under questioning the minister could not identify the section within the Service Delivery Statements that relates to this portfolio area. It gets worse, with just 0.003 per cent allocated to rural economic development in the budget. Is that all our rural industries are worth to this government?

The figures do not add up, with funding under the Rural Economic Development package provided for Growing Queensland's Food Exports, the Rural Economies Centre of Excellence and a continuation of the department's one-stop shop. When I asked the minister how the amount of \$1.2 million would be broken up across these three initiatives this year, the minister responded that the one-stop shop will cost \$300,000, with \$1.3 million allocated over two years for Growing Queensland's Food Exports. Of course, the obvious question is: how much has been allocated to the Rural Economies Centre of Excellence? You would have to ask: is this another one of those doomed initiatives like the Office of Rural Affairs, which was put forward in last year's budget?

Farmers right across Queensland would have been horrified to learn that a question to the director-general regarding what new measures were introduced in the budget to help farmers in the agriculture sector tackle record high electricity prices was ruled out of order by the chair. At a time when spiralling electricity prices are crippling our farmers, this minister and his director-general do not believe it fits within the portfolio. Instead we had a rambling response from the minister including this little pearler—

... Minister Bailey has been an absolutely outstanding minister.

Who said that? Minister? The government has made a lot of noise around its Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance, yet under questioning this minister could not tell the committee how many jobs had been created under this initiative. What a disgrace. Is it any wonder the rural sector has completely lost confidence in this incompetent minister?

Earlier today we heard that six out of 10 youth are unemployed in our rural sector. Isn't that statistic damning of this government? Many of our rural and regional communities are facing significant challenges in maintaining their population base and addressing spiralling unemployment rates. I firmly believe in the agriculture sector and that it can save the day for many of these communities. All they need is a commitment for critical infrastructure such as water supply and roads and a reduction in the cost of electricity for irrigation. It is not that difficult.

Our farmers are the backbone of this state. Our primary industries are providing more and more revenue, yet this government has clearly shown in this year's budget that the agriculture portfolio is the poor cousin when it comes to funding.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.55 pm): I rise to speak in support of the report tabled on the budget estimates 2017-18 by the Agriculture and Environment Committee. The committee made one recommendation: that the proposed expenditure be agreed to without amendment. I would like to start by thanking the committee secretariat, Hansard and the parliamentary staff for their professional assistance on the day. I would also like to thank the ministers and their ministerial and departmental staff who assisted on the day.

This was my first time in the chair, and I admit that I was filled with some trepidation about the important task of chairing this committee, which covers fundamentally important portfolio areas. I was full of illness on the day of the hearing, and I felt that the members of the Liberal National Party may have come along with some passion for the agriculture portfolio, but their performance was

unimpressive and the shadow minister seemed more intent on sending out media releases than scrutinising the budget. I admit: it would be a tough job being the shadow minister for the environment, but I thought we may have got past some fairly pedestrian questions about emails.

A government member: You thought wrong.

Mr KELLY: I did think wrong. I take that interjection. I was pleased as chair, though, that other members of the committee pursued issues of importance to them and to the entire Queensland community. The member for Ipswich West pursued his ongoing interest in biosecurity, particularly in relation to white spot disease and tropical race 4. If you want to talk about passion for agriculture, do not get the member for Ipswich West started on the topic of weed research. There will be passion!

Rural economic development, fisheries and crocodile management were examined by the member for Mackay. The member for Bundamba questioned the minister over issues related to the beef industry—concern for the workers at her local meatworks and the entire beef industry. The member for Mount Isa continued the examination of multiperil insurance, an issue he has pursued vigorously.

Both ministers provided thorough answers to all questions put to them, demonstrating a deep knowledge of their portfolio areas. In both portfolio areas the themes were rather similar: the Palaszczuk government inherited a mess—a mess consisting of cuts to staff and cuts to programs. It was obvious that the ministers had diligently worked with their departments to rebuild front-line services and to re-establish programs cut by the member for Clayfield when he was treasurer.

I know that the agriculture minister will want to respond personally to much of the nonsense that was just peddled, but let us talk about some other cuts. Let us consider the magnitude of what the ministers were dealing with. I will take the example of Biosecurity Queensland. Twenty-six per cent of Biosecurity staff were cut by the member for Clayfield—one in four staff, gone. We live in a time of ever-expanding movement of people, produce, stock and vehicles.

Debate, on motion of Mr Kelly, adjourned.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Documents to be Tabled

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 21 February 2007, at pages 389 to 391, Speaker Reynolds made a comprehensive ruling in this House regarding the rights of members to table documents in the House, the duties of officers at the table and the powers of the Speaker. Other Speakers have made similar rulings. I refer to Speaker Mickel on 15 November 2011 at page 3611 and Speaker Simpson on 30 April 2013 at pages 1217 and 1218.

There is a duty on members to make sure that documents they table do not offend the standing rules and orders and practice of the House. I also remind members that they should not table in the House material which contains words that if spoken in the House would be out of order or would enliven the rights of other members of parliament to have withdrawn. The member for Cairns has sought to table material in the House and yesterday afternoon provided to the Clerk other material to table under standing order 32. Both sets of material have now been considered by the Clerk and me. The material sought to be tabled by the member for Cairns with further relevant redactions has now been tabled.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Referral of Auditor-General's Reports and Reporting Dates

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.59 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 194B that the Auditor-General report to parliament No. 18 of 2016-17, *Universities and grammar schools 2016: results of financial audits*, be referred to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee; the Auditor-General report to parliament No. 19 of 2016-17, *Security of critical water infrastructure*, be referred to the Public Works and Utilities Committee; and the Auditor-General report to parliament No. 20 of 2016-17, *Education and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*, be referred to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee. The committee has also resolved pursuant to standing order 136 that the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee report on the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017 by 28 September 2017.

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Policies



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.00 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for its politically motivated policy decisions creating investor uncertainty and destroying jobs for Queensland.

There is no greater example of this than the ASF decision made by the Premier last week on the Gold Coast. Queensland should be an economic powerhouse. That is the state that I grew up in and that is the state that the LNP wants to see. This state should be an economic powerhouse, but what is it under this incompetent Labor government? We are falling further and further and further behind. Why are we falling behind? Who would have confidence in investing in this great state with those incompetents opposite? A business trying to set up in Queensland would have no certainty due to this government and the way it changes the goalposts each and every day. There is no certainty for regulation. There is no certainty around the government and what decisions it is going to make from day to day. Its decision to scrap a multibillion dollar development at The Spit will have long-lasting negative impacts not just on the Gold Coast but across this great state.

Business community groups have come out and asked why they would invest in Queensland when this government is in power. It gives with one hand and takes with the other. Let us not forget that this decision was not a decision made with the coast or Queensland's best interests in mind; it was a decision made simply to stave off the threat of Greens in inner-city Labor held seats. Once again Labor's dominant left faction, worried about green votes, killed off a project that would have created thousands of jobs. It could have provided billions of dollars to the Queensland economy, but now Queensland is being seen simply as a costly and, unfortunately, an unattractive place to do business under Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk.

The ANZ-Property Council survey lists Queensland's Labor as the worst performing government in Australia. Let me say that again, because I know there are some people in the gallery: can you believe that this great state of Queensland is being listed as the worst government in Australia? We on this side of the House believe it because each and every day we are seeing the politically driven decisions that are made by this government and how they are hurting our communities. They are hurting the community on the Gold Coast. Those decisions are hurting the people in rural and regional Queensland and they are certainly hurting the whole state. The ANZ-Property Council survey says that Queensland Labor is the worst performing government. The Sensis Business Index shows that more than 80 per cent of businesses in Queensland believe Labor's policies either work against them or have no positive impact on them at all. According to the Resources Council survey, poor regulation and policy uncertainty is the biggest issue facing the mining industry. Major projects have stalled while engineering construction activity has almost halved in the last two years.

The ASF decision is just one of the latest projects that has been either stalled or killed off by a government whose decisions have seen upwards of \$20 billion of investment leave this state. Let me talk about some of those projects. There is ASF mark I. In 2015 Minister Lynham said—

I am pleased to confirm that the government and ASF have agreed to continue the IRD procurement process on a site located between Sea World and the Gold Coast Fisherman's Co-operative which formed part of the original proposal.

He then went on to say that it—

... is an important project for this state. As the people of the Gold Coast and the mayor of the Gold Coast have told me, it is a very important project for the Gold Coast.

Then what happened? There was a massive backflip by Minister Lynham and by the Premier who decided to rip the rug out from underneath anyone who wants to invest in Queensland due to the—

(Time expired)



Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (6.06 pm): The Palaszczuk government recognises that The Spit and Wave Break Island are close to the hearts of locals and visitors alike. The government has taken into account extensive consultation and research. We have carefully listened to recent community feedback. We have kept our election commitment to have regard to the importance of protecting environmental and community values. A decision has been made by the state to exercise its right to terminate the integrated resort development process with ASF. The process deed with ASF allowed the government

to terminate at any stage. The state appreciated the attempts made by ASF to work with the state during the IRD process. Going forward, the government continues to work with investors, employers and the community on the Gold Coast to create jobs ahead and beyond the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

The Gold Coast remains a hotbed of economic activity. The unemployment rate at 5.2 per cent is below the state average and we are investing \$875 million this financial year alone to support 2,400 jobs. This goes beyond the \$1.5 billion to deliver the Commonwealth Games and the more than 2,000 jobs being created during construction. I am also talking about \$5 million for a detailed business case for the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3A, \$23 million for the Coomera to Helensvale rail duplication, an estimated \$180 million for the M1 upgrade, a million dollars for a business case to expand the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, \$1.4 billion for the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service in 2017-18 and more. When it comes to the private sector, projects underway or in planning on the Gold Coast include the billion-dollar-plus Jewel apartments under construction at Surfers Paradise, the half a billion dollar Coomera Town Centre now underway, the \$850 million Star casino and hotel redevelopment, the billion dollar Ruby residential development under construction at Surfers Paradise and the \$1.2 billion Spirit tower on the old Iluka site. The list goes on, but time does not permit me to mention them all.

If those opposite are so concerned about supporting business confidence, let us look at their record and one of the big issues facing Queensland and Australia—that is, gas supply. Where were the members for Clayfield and Hinchinbrook for three years when they were cutting jobs and selling assets? They never activated the Australian market supply condition already in the petroleum and gas act. When we acted to release acreage to help secure gas for Australian users, they had a muted whinge about keeping it for Queensland. They cannot even understand the Australian Constitution in section 92. When their mates in Canberra launched their poorly designed, short-term effort to reserve Queensland gas to send it down south to the southern states—our gas down south—what did they say? What did they say? Nothing! Silence! Nothing! Not a word! When Queensland's \$70 billion gas industry needed support where was the Leader of the Opposition? He was hiding from responsibility, too timid to stand up to Malcolm Turnbull, too timid to speak up on behalf of all Queenslanders.

The head of the global energy giant Santos said he is worried about sovereign risk and warned the Turnbull government that retrospective intervention in the gas sector could see Australia mimic Argentina in crippling its own gas industry. What did the Leader of the Opposition have to say to that? Again nothing—silence, nil, zip. Speaking on a panel for the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies at London's King's College, Mr Gallagher, the head of Santos, said—

I see the risk of retrospective government intervention as a massive sovereign risk for Australia

He warned Australia is close to becoming known internationally as not just high cost but high risk because of the LNP's policy on gas in Australia. Did that put some backbone in the Leader of the Opposition? It did not! Still he does not stand up to Turnbull. It is the height of hypocrisy for those opposite to talk about supporting business confidence in this great state of Queensland when support for business is simply an optional extra for them.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. Member for Mudgeeraba, I can hear you loud and clear.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (6.11 pm): What a contribution from the Minister for State Development—no heart, no soul. He talks about continuing to work with investors and they listen carefully to community feedback. The government's own consultation through Donaldson Consulting basically had people coming back in favour of the ASF development. They limited it to particular community feedback simply because they wanted to save the member for South Brisbane from the inner-city Greens at the next election. He talks about a few million dollars for some prospective projects. They are tiny compared to the \$3 billion that the ASF project was pumping into the Gold Coast. The only project amongst all the private projects that he mentioned that involved anything to do with a state call-in or state land was the Jewel project in my electorate of Surfers Paradise. Importantly, that was one that the former deputy premier, the member for Callide, did call in that we approved, which really goes to show if we had not done it and it was up to Labor, it probably would have been rejected as well.

Last week the Labor government, being so Brisbane-centric, came down to the Gold Coast and had an horrendous week. They bumbled their way into the Gold Coast, sacrificed the future of the Gold Coast by scrapping the ASF development, hijacked the LNP's plan for a master plan and warped it so

it has a predetermined outcome. They came to our city and left a trail of destruction. They slashed jobs—7,000 have gone in the last year—and 8,500 people have given up looking for work. They have killed investment and sent the message that the Gold Coast is closed for business. They do not care about the Gold Coast because if they did they would not be using our city, the place where 10 of us on this side of the House call home, as a political pawn to save the member for South Brisbane at the next state election.

The ASF Consortium project is a project that Labor's own state development minister called 'an important project for this state'. He said, 'As the people of the Gold Coast and the mayor of the Gold Coast have told me, it is a very important project for the Gold Coast.' This time a week ago he called in the people from ASF and said, 'I am going to read you three lines and I can't say anything else.' He was there with his chief of staff, the director-general of the Premier and Cabinet. He read them three lines that said, 'We are terminating this project. Goodbye.' That is what this minister did to a \$3 billion project. On 28 September 2015 Treasurer Curtis Pitt said—

The proposed resort development and casino will generate thousands of new jobs during construction and thousands more long term jobs and training opportunities once operations started.

The people of the Gold Coast cannot be blamed for feeling let down when the Premier and Deputy Premier suddenly turn their back on our city and this project and were pictured hugging a green activist celebrating this job-destroying decision. I table a copy of that. How inappropriate!

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 2 August 2017, titled 'Yay! Labor celebrates as Coast loses' [[1248](#)].

I note that in the last election the Greens polled 7.72 per cent in Surfers Paradise and Labor 22.74 per cent. The LNP polled 61.06 per cent so who on earth do they think they are listening to? They are not taking advice from their own consultation process which showed community support. They bowed to the wishes of a noisy minority. The *Courier-Mail* today reported that the Premier will be vying for the 'hi-vis Premier' look during the election campaign. I am not sure how she is going to manage that on the Gold Coast where there will not be any opportunities if the Premier and the Deputy Premier have their way.

The mayor's cruise ship terminal will be next on the chopping block under this Labor-Greens government. A returned Labor government will never allow a Gold Coast cruise ship terminal to go ahead. The Premier has already stated that the Gold Coast does not need one—that was on 1 October 2016—and Minister Anthony Lynham has ruled out any use of the state land on The Spit for a cruise ship terminal. He said that on 23 May 2016.

I know that Gold Coasters have concerns about the post Commonwealth Games hangover that we are trying to protect ourselves from so that constituents do not miss out on jobs, infrastructure and tourism opportunities. Again we have been let down by a Labor government that has shown itself incapable of thinking past the political cycle and its desperate need to hold onto their own jobs. 'What will save us post the games?', the Premier was asked. The Premier said, 'Increased tourism, and we are going to give you \$5 million for a study into stage 3 of light rail.' There was no commitment to money for stage 3, just \$5 million for the study into light rail. We are replacing a \$3 billion project with a \$5 million study for light rail. This really is Labor voodoo economics. There will be a proper master plan under the LNP. There is a clear choice at the next election: Labor, which does not get the Gold Coast, or LNP members who want to make sure the Gold Coast stays the best place to live, work and raise a family.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (6.16 pm): I am very pleased to rise to speak against this motion because the subject of politically motivated policy decisions that destroy Queensland jobs gives me a chance to remind the House why those opposite are sitting on the opposition benches and why we are here delivering for the people of Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Thank you, members. If I cannot hear the speaker I know Hansard cannot. I can certainly hear you, Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I call the minister.

Mr de BRENNI: 'Cut, slash, sack and sell' is the philosophy of the LNP. Those opposite, led by the zealous economic extremism of the member for Clayfield, shocked Queensland to its core. Despite promises that public servants had nothing to fear from the LNP, 14,000 public servants were ruthlessly and degradingly sacked. We all remember the chaos and carnage in Tim from Clayfield's reign of terror, do we not? People were crying on the streets, many of them businesspeople. The hit squads engaged

by those opposite went through Public Service buildings and they gave people their marching orders. Regional centres in particular were hit hard. Jobs were ripped out of places like Townsville, Bundaberg, Rockhampton and Cairns, amongst others. Why? Because it was an ideological, politically motivated policy of the member for Clayfield, the king cutter. He cut, he slashed, he sacked and he sold. That is all those on the other side of the House care about.

Let us never forget the \$70 million spent on the member for Clayfield's Strong Choices campaign. That was taxpayer money spent to push a failed ideology down the throats of the people of Queensland. They did not buy it then and they are not going to buy it now. What was the result of the chaos of the member for Clayfield's economic reign of terror? As a result Queenslanders lost confidence. Business lost confidence. The member for Clayfield's stewardship of the Treasury was the single biggest act of economic vandalism we have ever seen in this state. It was asymmetric economic warfare inflicted on the most vulnerable people in this state. While the LNP are still maniacally focused on their ideology, on this side of the House we are putting Queenslanders first. We are backing Queensland jobs. As the state accounts released by the Treasurer this morning show, our economic plan is working for Queensland. We saw the best quarterly economic growth result in Queensland in five years. The four quarters to March show trend gross state product of 3.9 per cent compared to 1.2 per cent for the rest of the nation. Before Labor took office, under those opposite, the LNP, growth was just 0.8 per cent in the four quarters to December, which was the lowest since the GFC.

We are working with Queenslanders to deliver policy that makes all the difference. We stopped the LNP's privatisation of 90 per cent of the public housing portfolio—the member for Everton will remember that—and delivered a \$1.8 billion Housing Strategy that sees us live up to our responsibility to provide services for Queenslanders. Through our \$1.6 billion Housing Construction Jobs Program, we are supporting subbies, tradies and family construction businesses right across the state, which means Queensland jobs. This is real investment and creates a real pipeline of work for Queensland families. We are making sure that that work is done locally.

Those opposite have a terrible record when it comes to managing Queensland investment in terms of procurement. Their miserable record was highlighted by the Queensland Audit Office report last year. We are not only making up for their mismanagement; we are keeping faith with the people of Queensland. We are putting Queensland government investment to work for local Queensland communities. Our Buy Queensland approach is unashamedly tipping the balance back in favour of Queensland businesses and Queensland jobs. If a company in Maryborough can do the work, they should have the opportunity to win the work. If there is a major project in Townsville, Townsville workers should get the work, just as is happening right now with the Townsville stadium. We are putting Queenslanders first and backing Queensland jobs and we will not step back from that.

What have we heard from the LNP on this? We have heard nothing but carping and scaremongering from their colleagues in Canberra. We know they do not care about jobs. As I said this morning, the Liberals do not care about small business and the Nationals have turned their backs on regional Queensland. The LNP should hang their heads in shame. On this side of the House, we are getting on with delivering for the people of Queensland. I oppose the motion.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Indooroopilly, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are now warned standing order 253A. I find your interjections were designed to disrupt the speaker. Member for Chatsworth, you are about to follow if your behaviour continues. That will apply to all members across both sides of the chamber.

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (6.22 pm): At least our side is a bit animated tonight, because I have never seen such an insipid performance from two ministers in this place. It was a pathetic performance. Their own backbench does not believe in them. They do not believe in what they are saying and their backbench does not believe in it either. We know, because we have seen the evidence over and over again, that they are the job killers. They destroy project after project. The member for Stafford does not believe what he says. Previously he said, 'This is an important project for the Gold Coast; it is a vital project for the Gold Coast; it is a transformational project for the Gold Coast.' Then, with a three-line death sentence he cuts it out and destroys 13,000 jobs. Over the past 12 months, the Gold Coast has lost 7,000 jobs and more than 8,000 local people have given up looking for work. What is his legacy? What does he do? He gives a three-line death sentence to the project. He axes it and kills off 13,000 jobs. Following him we heard from the member for Springwood, who is the guy who axed the Logan Renewal Initiative. That is another project that would have created thousands of jobs, but he axed it. Apparently, they do not need work or jobs in Logan. What a pathetic performance by two ministers who are all about axing project after project.

Shortly we will hear from the Treasurer, who comes from Far North Queensland. We should ask him about the AQIS project. No matter which minister or member stands up, they have all been behind axing and killing off project after project. That is Labor's legacy. Today we heard the Treasurer talk about the state account figures. If we want to see even more evidence that the Palaszczuk government's policies have cruelled business investment, we need only look at the Queensland Treasury state accounts which were released today. We have already heard the Premier and the Treasurer sing their own praises as they referenced those figures, but what do they really show? They show that business investment has declined yet again. Earlier we heard that in estimates the state development minister did not even realise that business investment had declined. He did not even realise it was going down under Labor.

What do the figures show? They show that construction activity is down across-the-board. Dwelling investment is down. Non-dwelling construction is down. Investment in machinery and equipment is down. Today the figures show that things are going down under the Labor government. Under Labor, infrastructure investment has been slashed by around \$2.5 billion. Can members imagine how many jobs that would have created? I know they do not care. I see the state development minister trying to utter some words of wisdom. The only words of wisdom he had for ASF were in that three-line death sentence to 13,000 jobs. That is what he delivered to that project on the Gold Coast.

Since the election, under the Palaszczuk government business investment has fallen by \$23 billion. Can members imagine how many jobs that would have created? These are irrefutable numbers that are detailed in the figures from Queensland Treasury. These numbers make it clear that we need investment and that we should be doing everything we can to get more development. At a time when we should be encouraging private investors into Queensland, the Palaszczuk Labor government is shutting the door on them. It is banging the door on the 10,000-plus jobs that that Gold Coast project would have created. They have no regard at all for the 7,000 jobs lost over the past 12 months. They have no regard for the more than 8,000 people who have given up looking for jobs on the Gold Coast. No matter where we look in Queensland, this government is out to stop projects and to send the message to investors, 'Don't invest in Queensland; we don't want it.'

The ASF decision is symptomatic of a government that does not want private investment. Let us think about those poor people on the Gold Coast who are desperately looking for work, having lost their jobs. The message being sent by this government is, 'Don't look to Queensland to invest; if you are a private investor, don't come here.' To people on the Gold Coast who are worried about what they will find after the Commonwealth Games, this government has said, 'No, don't worry about those 13,000 jobs; that's the end of it.' People are telling Labor that it is not good enough.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (6.27 pm): I am grateful for the chance to speak, particularly after the member for Indooroopilly. As great a shadow Treasurer as he is, he has not bothered to read the budget papers. I am not sure he knows how to read the state accounts from today, either. If he went to page 37 of Budget Paper No. 2, he would see what has happened in terms of public final demand, private final demand, private investment and business investment. Taking business investment, for example, in 2015-16 the actual was minus 26. Of course, coming off the highs of the mining and construction boom, every expert and economist in Australia predicted that that would be the case. By 2018-19, we end up at 3¼, in positive territory.

In Queensland, everything is headed in the right direction and not in the wrong direction, as the LNP claims. This is nothing more than a scare campaign such as we have seen time and time again. A few of us were here in the last term of parliament. I see the member for Rockhampton, who would remember the former member for Ashgrove and former premier saying, 'Cue scary music.' We all remember that. This is nothing but an old-fashioned scare campaign, which is exactly what we have come to expect from those opposite.

It will upset those opposite that investment in Queensland is alive and well. Queensland's economy has an annual value of in excess of \$300 billion and is moving to \$350 billion by the end of the forward estimates. That is an economy that is growing. That growth has been spurred on by a long queue of investment projects in Queensland. For example, the most recent Deloitte Access Economics Investment Monitor report from June this year concluded that \$158 billion of definite and planned investment projects were on schedule in Queensland. That does not sound like investment disappearing from our state. In fact, it says that we are well and truly back and on the rise.

The member for Indooroopilly needs to start doing some homework instead of coming in here and throwing around a few lines that his advisers have given to him. If we listened to those opposite, we would believe that the whole world is coming to an end. We know there is plenty of investment on

the table and plenty more to come. For example, in tourism, Queensland is home to almost two-thirds of all hotel and resort developments across Australia. The Queensland tourism infrastructure pipeline is backed by this government and, in particular, by the tourism minister. More than 30 significant infrastructure projects, from the Gold Coast to Cairns, are slated for development between now and 2022.

Key projects in the pipeline include: \$3 million for Queen's Wharf; \$600 million for the Lindeman Island upgrade; \$2 billion for the Laguna Whitsundays upgrade; \$600 million for the Songcheng Group theme park on the Gold Coast; \$1 billion for the Jewel development on the Gold Coast; and \$100 million for the Brisbane International Cruise Terminal. Also, close to \$3 billion of investment is helping to drive recovery in the Whitsundays region, which has bounced back remarkably after severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

Those opposite are crying crocodile tears when it comes to the Gold Coast, but they cannot beat down the investment on the Gold Coast with a two-by-four. There is so much interest on the Gold Coast. That is exactly what we took away from last week when we were governing from the Gold Coast. We only need to look at the private sector construction projects which have commenced or are about to start. They include: the \$850 million Star casino and hotel redevelopment, with construction commencing in 2018; \$500 million for the Coomera Town Centre, commenced in early 2017; the Ruby residential towers in Surfers Paradise, under construction and worth \$1 billion; the Empire Industrial Estate, under construction and with an estimated value of \$1 billion; \$1.2 billion for Spirit tower on the old Iluka site; and \$800 million in end value for the Queen Street Village on the old Gold Coast Hospital site.

Let us not forget the government backed projects. We are putting massive investment into the Gold Coast for the Commonwealth Games. Then there are the projects that are going to inject further confidence into the economy—projects that those opposite want to kill. There is \$5.4 billion for Cross River Rail which will flow on from the Queen's Wharf development. We are going to see between five and seven years of construction work. That is great certainty for construction. It means lower costs of construction. It means that we are going to be able to mobilise the workforces more easily.

Those opposite clearly have no understanding at all about how to generate private sector interest in this state. Clearly nothing happened for three years under them. Their only MLP was the one that they did for 1 William Street, which is one of the worst financial disasters we have seen in this state. Those opposite should not come in here and lecture us on what is happening in terms of attracting private investment. We are well and truly on the swing. We are doing very well.

They talk about the resources framework. The resources development framework that we put in place has secured the final investment decision for the Adani Carmichael mine. It is going to be a big jobs generator for regional Queensland. There is also the other great work announced, including the announcement made by the Minister for Mines today. There is no shortage of private sector investment in this state. In fact, it is going from strength to strength.

Those opposite have a real hide coming in here and trying to tell us about private sector investment. Things are happening in Queensland. It is because there is a Labor government in Queensland.

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, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

NOES, 42:

ALP, 41—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

INDEPENDENT, 1—Gordon.

Pair: Miller, Springborg.

Resolved in the negative.

Sitting suspended from 6.37 pm to 7.40 pm.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Report

Resumed from p. 2009.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.40 pm), continuing: I was speaking about cuts to Biosecurity Queensland and the impact that they have had and the mess that the ministers were cleaning up. It is quite a complex area. Someone could be trekking through a field in Africa or Asia one day and flying to Queensland for a backpacking holiday within 24 hours. The biosecurity risks are very real. The only way to deal with this is to have the resources and programs in place. What was the previous government's response to this type of environment? They chose to cut one in four staff. I am not sure I would use the adjective 'strong' to describe that choice.

There are so many aspects of this budget that are exciting that it is hard to know what to talk about. Perhaps I will focus on an issue that I discussed recently during a committee visit to Western Queensland. I had the great privilege to spend time with a man who owned a sheep property. He explained to me what a difference the wild dog fencing had made to the sheep industry. He put it quite simply: 'We have sheep back in Western Queensland and properties like mine are once again viable. That has been achieved because your government listened and acted.' I am pleased to see that we are continuing that action on wild dogs with initiatives continuing to be funded in the budget.

I could go on about the agricultural budget initiatives such as the Rural Economic Development package or the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, but I should turn my attention to the environment portfolio. Again, the minister is cleaning up a mess left by the previous government. His department had 20 per cent of its staff cut by the member for Clayfield. I was pleased to see the \$9.3 million investment for more officers identifying environmental risks—60 new front-line staff and many of those jobs are in regional Queensland.

Estimates hearings have demonstrated that the ministers continue the task of cleaning up the mess left by the previous government. More importantly, the ministers have the vision and the programs that have led to record agricultural exports and a sustainable environment. I commend the report to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (7.42 pm): I rise to address the recent budget estimates and the Appropriation Bill 2017 and specifically the Agriculture and Environment Committee's area of responsibility in consideration of the Labor government's proposed expenditure. The first matter I wish to draw to the attention of the House is that of transparency, accountability and contemporary governance frameworks. With this year's estimates hearings being held in the period of time immediately following the Premier being forced to remove then minister Bailey, while investigations were undertaken into whether then minister Bailey had acted corruptly, it was timely for the committee to discuss the contemporary governance and accountability frameworks surrounding the operations of those departments under the direction of the Hon. Steven Miles MP and the potential misuse of private email accounts to bypass transparent and accountable processes.

Both the non-government members of the committee and I as shadow minister noted that the director-general was prepared to take on notice a request for information pertaining to this matter; namely, whether either the director-general and/or departmental officers of Environment and Heritage Protection had ever been requested to send an email to either the minister's private email address or the personal email of a ministerial staffer. The fact that the minister and the chair of the Agriculture and Environment Committee then colluded to have the question ruled out of order, despite the director-general indicating he was prepared to be open and accountable and furnish the committee with a response, demonstrated to me and the non-government members of the committee an obvious concern that the minister's public account to date about his use of private email accounts may potentially be incomplete.

Mr KELLY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think that is a reflection on the chair, suggesting that I 'colluded' with the minister.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Linard): Member for Moggill, the member for Greenslopes has essentially taken personal offence—

Mr KELLY: I ask that it be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:—and asked that it be withdrawn.

Dr ROWAN: I withdraw. The next issue I wish to bring to the attention of the House is the twisted logic that exists in the minister's mind with respect to our much maligned resources sector. It was truly amazing to hear just how it is the minister justifies coal exports in the face of Labor's long record of decrying the coal industry as the major cause of global warming. To his credit, the minister displayed some mental nimbleness and flexibility when it came to questions surrounding his support of the Adani Carmichael coalmining project.

Green voters and supporters across our state will no doubt be happy to hear that, whilst Labor fully supports the exporting of coal from Queensland to India, the minister argues resulting carbon emissions are not counted as a contribution to global warming here in Queensland; they are accounted for in India. That is right. Coal mined in Queensland does not count here with respect to the measurement of carbon emissions. It belongs to the country in which it is sent to, according to the minister. If only the people of the minister's soon-to-be-former Mount Coot-tha electorate knew this. I am sure many green groups and supporters in the electorate of Murrumba and across Queensland will be fascinated to hear how this works according to Minister Miles.

This policy position seems to have a bizarrely twisted seam of logic to it, and the minister should be thanked for revealing how it is he justifies his support for ongoing coal exports from Queensland given his philosophical opposition to fossil fuels and his different messages and positions depending upon the relevant audience. Now we all know how the minister sleeps well at night. His department can approve hundreds of coalmines right up and down the Queensland coastline—and that is being a good environmentalist because as he sells the coal overseas he can then say he has not done anything to cause global warming as it is someone else's fault that they burn it. It makes you wonder though what it is he thought they were going to do with the coal if they did not use it to generate power. Let us not push the minister too far, as it has taken him 2½ years to extend his logic to this point.

Another area I wish to touch on relates to the online booking service for permits within national parks. The non-government committee members and I are concerned about the vague response given with regard to the rollout of the online booking service. Despite numerous attempts to ascertain when the project will be completed, the committee was advised it remained a 'work in progress'. Given Labor's track record in Queensland of bungling IT projects—who will ever forget the Health payroll debacle?—the non-government committee members would have appreciated the minister providing more details as to the time frames around the contract and the project, what changes to the project scope have occurred and why, as well as if there is going to be any variance in the cost of the delivery of the project.

We also discovered that Labor has slashed funding for pest and weed control in national parks by 30 per cent. The minister was forced to admit a paltry \$5.9 million will be spent across more than 13.5 million hectares of our protected estates in 2017-18, amounting to just 44 cents a hectare. It is no wonder our national parks are becoming a haven for wild dogs, cats, pigs and invasive weeds.

Finally, we know Queensland is trailing other states under this do-nothing Labor government, with Queensland now equal to Tasmania in terms of economic growth. Construction work in Queensland is down and so is business spending according to the July CommSec *State of the States* report. Labor's market-led proposal framework is an unmitigated failure, and Labor's superannuation raids and its lack of a comprehensive job plan that delivers real results is leading to terrible rates of youth unemployment right across Queensland. Labor's legacy will be one of job losses, higher cost of living and failed management.

Only the LNP has a plan to build a better Queensland. We have our \$100 million Get Queensland Working package, our pledge to freeze family car registration for another three years and a workable market-led proposals framework which will enhance investment in Queensland. The LNP has a range of additional policy announcements on the environment to be released in due course, along with our already announced positions and policies on a container deposit scheme, a single use plastic bag ban, our comprehensive crocodile management plan and our plans to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (7.48 pm): On behalf of the Mackay community, I would like to send our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Daniel Springer, who tragically died as a result of a workplace accident at the Goonyella Riverside mine. Our thoughts and prayers are especially with his wife, Carmela, and his infant son, Wolf.

The Agriculture and Environment Committee examined the budget estimates for 2017-18 and wrote report No. 38. The committee's areas of responsibility are Agriculture and Fisheries; Rural Economic Development; Environment and Heritage Protection; and National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef. The committee recommended that the bill—

Mr Butcher: It's a great committee.

Mrs GILBERT: It is a great committee. The committee recommended that the Appropriation Bill 2017 for the committee's area of responsibility be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

My electorate of Mackay is surrounded by agriculture and fishing, both recreational and professional. The agricultural sector knows that it needs to diversify and take opportunities to modernise to be competitive in world markets. The food producers of Queensland are looking at ways to value-add to their cropping land and produce high-quality and high-yielding produce while protecting their valuable land. The sugar industry leaders know that, to sell sugar on the world market, buyers will be searching for products that are grown using environmentally and socially sustainable practices. Producers in all agricultural areas are keen to expand their markets. Strategies to achieve this include: increased information flow on export market requirements, additional investment in research to support new market access and more efficient and profitable supply chain systems.

The DAF has commenced market access research to provide complete datasets for the development of new or improved market access protocols for apple, avocado, strawberry, citrus, mango, table grapes and many vegetable products. The DAF is also working to make sure that our research meets all international standards for market access by participating in technical working groups.

The DAF budget supports the agricultural industry to keep moving forward as world leaders of best practice and innovation on the land: by implementing the *Agriculture and Food Research, Development and Extension: 10-Year Roadmap* and action plan, which aligns with the Advance Queensland agenda and drives innovation in Queensland's agricultural industries; by implementing the technology commercialisation fund, which is aimed at attracting private sector capital into agriculture and food research and development undertaken by government and government research partners and increasing the commercial success of the department's and its research partners' intellectual property; and by continuing to support agricultural industries in reef catchments to improve Great Barrier Reef water quality outcomes by ensuring coordinated on-ground support services, including extension capacity building and collaboration, and specialised extension services such as economic analysis support the industry-led best practice programs.

Our agriculture and fishing industries must be vigilant to guard against attack by introduced diseases and pests. The industries will be supported by implementing the Queensland biosecurity capability program, including releasing the five-year biosecurity strategy and action plan that embeds shared decision-making and outlines roles and responsibilities of all key stakeholders within the biosecurity system.

I am pleased that the minister was able to report that our net-free zones are doing well. Our local fishermen are saying that there are more fish and larger fish in those areas and that the dolphins have started to come back. We also have a lot more bird life. This has been a great achievement. I would like to thank the minister for his great work in achieving this for our local area.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (7.53 pm): I rise to speak to the report on the Agriculture and Environment Committee's estimates hearing as the deputy chair of the committee. During the hearing, it became plain to us that, as far as the agriculture portfolio is concerned, the Labor Party have once again shown they are no friend to agriculture. We saw in the budget papers for another year another cut in the agricultural budget, a cut of 3.2 per cent. Whilst the minister seemed to be in denial about this fact, the figures are there in black and white. There was \$438.95 million for 2016-17 and \$424.74 million for 2017-18, down \$14.2 million. It is the same with staff numbers, with fewer staff in the department now than when the LNP left government in 2014-15. While the minister might like to deny this, those figures are there in black and white.

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr Millar interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Linard): Minister and member for Gregory, can you stop your conversation across the chamber so we can hear the member for Condamine.

Mr WEIR: This once again shows the value that the Labor Party put on agriculture. Another part of the report that concerned me was when the shadow minister, Dale Last, attempted to ask a question regarding electricity. This question was initially ruled out of order but it was then allowed when we convinced the committee that electricity costs do fit within the portfolio. Electricity well and truly does fit within the portfolio. Whether it be cane, cotton, horticulture, dairy, beef or meat processing, there is no greater impact on agriculture than the cost of electricity. One thing this government has done is drive the producers and the irrigators in this country away from electricity. Out in the area that I come from, irrigators are going back to diesel. They are switching off their electricity pumps and installing diesel motors. When we look around the plains at Condamine, we see big plumes of black smoke coming out of diesel motors because they cannot afford to turn on their electricity pumps.

Research is another very, very important area. We saw once again the delay in the purchase of another property for QRDC. This is the second year this figure has been in the budget. We hear the minister talk about the growth in exports and the returns this brings into Queensland, particularly chickpeas. Research and development is incredibly important with pulse seeds. We have a large chickpea crop in the ground once again, but already it is suffering due to the disease ascochyta. More research and development needs to be spent on this to contain it, and that research needs to be spread across the state. Central Queensland farming practices are very, very different to those in the south so it needs to be spread much wider.

There was a question about sugar. There is no doubt that if the Labor Party wins the next election the sugar growers will once again be the victims of Wilmar's marketing monopoly. That was very, very apparent. These are not just my opinions. We saw editorials from both QFF and AgForce describe this budget as underwhelming and one that outlines no clear vision for the agricultural industry. I support those words.

I will move on to Environment and Heritage. As the shadow minister, the member for Moggill, mentioned, it was good to see the minister supporting the Adani coalmining project. That is great to see, with much needed jobs in that. One of the big concerns that we have with the environment is the money that is being spent on pests and weeds. We heard that the budget will be much the same as it was last year, and we worked out that that equates to 44 cents spent on pest management per hectare across our national parks. In the area I come from, there is the Bunya Mountains and they are infested with wild pigs. There is no doubt there will be no hatching of scrub turkeys or bowerbirds in that mountain range. They have been absolutely decimated by wild pigs.

The minister pulled another stunt when he brought in a large crocodile mat showing the length and size of a crocodile. It was one of the Labor members who actually pulled him up on the stunt and asked that that be removed.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr WEIR: It was very, very fair. Prickly acacia is another matter that was raised. The committee was up there recently and we saw the damage this is having through that area and spreading into the Channel Country. This is something that needs to be addressed with the utmost importance. Once again, agriculture is the poor cousin—

(Time expired)

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (7.58 pm): I rise tonight to contribute to the estimates debate that we are having for the Agriculture and Environment Committee. It was a pleasure to be part of that committee as the chair in the previous 12 months before that, so it is great to be here tonight talking about it. As a former chair of the committee, I still pay close attention to the goings-on and the great work that the Palaszczuk government is doing with agriculture and fisheries in this state. In my maiden speech, I reflected on the fact that 'agriculture continues to play an important role in the Gladstone economy' and that 'primary producers are at the mercy of Mother Nature and it is important that these areas are supported by government outside times of crisis'.

The Labor government has supported our primary producers in times of drought and in assisting producers to tackle the wild dog problem in our western communities, and I had the pleasure of visiting some of those communities talking about wild dogs in my role as chair. I note that page 7 of the SDS highlights that the government will—

Continue to assist regional collectives and landholders to better control weeds and pest animals affecting regional communities including:

- construct cluster fencing to control wild dogs

This government commitment has helped facilitate over 5,000 kilometres of exclusion fencing. This fencing is having a real impact on bringing sheep back to Western Queensland. Furthermore, the Queensland government has also provided a one-off loan of \$18 million to the Longreach Regional Council that will lead to the construction of 2½ thousand kilometres of fencing to protect 900,000 hectares of productive grazing land from wild dog predation.

According to the Longreach Regional Council, this fencing will result in a further increase of 200,000 sheep in the Longreach region over the next five years and a potential increase of over 130 jobs in the region along with a potential population boost of around 500 people related to the sheering, crutching, contracting, lamb marking and associated sheep and animal husbandry jobs. The minister reflected on the delivery of Labor's election commitment. He stated—

We said that government might like to do something to encourage fencing programs going forward. That is what we took to the election and we have put more money into that going forward. Premier Palaszczuk has been incredibly enthusiastic about supporting Western Queensland and supporting the wool and sheep sectors. We think there is real merit and opportunity going forward, not only in the traditional wool area but also in protein production.

This year's budget includes an additional \$1.25 million which is allocated to drought affected landholders to better control weeds and pest animals. The Palaszczuk government has met and exceeded the election commitment on wild dogs and in many of those electorates they welcome the investment that this government has made to biosecurity that will have a benefit for many years to come.

I have no doubt that the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy announced as part of the 2017 budget—and the minister was there in Gladstone with me to make the announcement—will also have a lasting legacy. It is a plan to reform management of Queensland fisheries to ensure that they are viable for future generations to enjoy in this wonderful state on the east coast. The Palaszczuk government has committed more than \$30 million to help implement this strategy, and \$20.3 million of that is brand-new money into Queensland. This funding will ensure that Fisheries Queensland will be able to transform its data collection and research capability.

I am delighted that as part of this reform there will be a 20 per cent increase in the number of Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers in Queensland. The recruitment process is nearing completion. It will not be long before the extra 20 staff will start work to ramp up fisheries compliance throughout the state. They will focus on compliance by recreational and commercial fishermen, gather intelligence to support prosecutions of offenders and educate the community about responsible and sustainable fishing. People in my electorate of Gladstone have one of the highest percentages of boat ownership in Queensland. They are passionate about their fishing and there is a sizable commercial fleet operating right out of the Gladstone Harbour. There have been no QBFP officers based in Gladstone since the local office was shut under the LNP. This is something that I raised with the fishing minister and I am delighted to say that not only did he and the previous minister listen, but they have delivered in spades for Gladstone. The Gladstone office will be reopened in a matter of weeks with four permanent officers based right in my city of Gladstone. The new offices in Gladstone will mean that the officers currently based in Yeppoon and Bundaberg will be able to spend more time in their own areas.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (8.03 pm): I rise to contribute to the estimates debate on the Agriculture and Environment Committee's report. I also thank all the committee staff for the hard work that they do. The Labor government's third budget for Agriculture is a document with no long-term vision for one of the state's most important industries. Agriculture is the state's wealth creator. It has been the unsung economic hero in the state. With the mining downturn, agriculture has been there for Queensland. It is not only putting food on our table and fibre on our back; it is also generating massive export dollars for Queensland. Under Labor, agriculture is not even a priority. Labor is more interested in the \$5 billion Cross River Rail project which we do not need. Could honourable members imagine if we spent some of that money in Agriculture?

The agriculture minister claimed staff numbers in his department had been maintained when the budget papers clearly show they have not. I table these documents which detail the 2014 budget, the last budget of the LNP, and the latest budget from the Labor Party, which shows a significant decrease in staff numbers.

Tabled paper: Extract from 2017-18 Queensland State Budget—Service Delivery Statements—Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, page 17 and extract from 2014-15 Queensland State Budget—Service Delivery Statements—Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, page 7 [[1249](#)].

The minister made a boastful opening statement claiming Labor had not cut funding for the department of agriculture and the staff numbers had been fully maintained. However, the budget papers for 2014-15 prove otherwise, clearly showing staff numbers at his department had fallen by 79 full-time

equivalents. Either the minister is correct or his own budget papers were wrong. He cannot have it both ways. During the estimates hearing we tried to get a straight answer out of the minister, but none was forthcoming. Initially he refused to answer. Then he rambled about flexible numbers. He cannot have it both ways. His own budget papers prove staff numbers at the department of agriculture are lower than they were under the last year of the LNP government. Surely he would have seen this. Surely he would have checked this. Compared with the last LNP budget there were 69 fewer FTEs in Agriculture and 37 fewer FTEs in Biosecurity Queensland but overall it came out that there were 79 fewer FTEs from the last budget. Either the minister's budget papers are wrong—how does he explain?

Mr Byrne: I have explained it to you twice.

Mr MILLAR: Here is the thing, Minister. The Labor Party has claimed 15,000 extra Public Service staff have been put on since Labor came in, but no staff—not one staff member—has been put to the department of agriculture. Not one staff member has been put to the department of agriculture. The minister has been gloating about putting staff on, but not one staff member has been put to the department of agriculture. Likewise, funding for the department is well down and again the minister is in denial. Not one staff member has been put to the department of agriculture.

Ms Donaldson interjected.

Mr MILLAR: The member for Bundaberg was previously the minister for agriculture. Did you employ a staff member? Did you ask Jackie Trad, the Deputy Premier, 'Where is my staff? Where is the extra staff?' Did you ask? No.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Linard): Order! Member for Gregory. Please direct your comments through the chair.

Mr MILLAR: It is hardly any wonder that key stakeholders—groups such as AgForce and the Queensland Farmers' Federation—have labelled this budget 'underwhelming' and 'lacks any vision'.

I turn now to the environment minister. The environment minister, Steven Miles, confirmed he has no plans to deal with the looming environmental disaster of prickly acacia invading Queensland's iconic Channel Country and the Lake Eyre Basin. I asked the minister what he and his department were doing to protect the environment of the Channel Country and the vast flood plains of the Thomson, Barcoo and Diamantina rivers. The Minister for Environment said he had no plans. Yes, I do acknowledge that the minister does recognise prickly acacia is a problem, but the Minister for Environment has no plans. It was very disappointing to hear his reply that this massive environmental issue is not on his radar. The minister loves nothing better than to lecture us about the Great Barrier Reef, climate change and crocodiles. However, when it comes to plans for protecting some of the cleanest and best cattle-fattening country in the world, he is not interested. It is some other department's issue; it is for some other department and is nothing to do with Minister Miles. Minister Miles might like to have a great photo opportunity with reefs, turtles, koalas and crocodiles, but the environmental health of the Channel Country is absolutely critical to Western Queensland, our beef industry and the Lake Eyre Basin beyond. The beef industry in the Channel Country is just as important as the Great Barrier Reef. It is iconic and it needs to be protected. The Minister for Environment needs to make sure he protects it.

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development) (8.08 pm): I thank the committee for its recommendation that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2017 for the committee's area of responsibility be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. I also sincerely thank the secretariat for its excellent and diligent work throughout the estimates process. I must point out that I explained in my budget reply speech precisely the budget papers and many of the issues that have been raised here. We again explained in detail the situation in terms of the budget papers and what was contained within the SDS.

We have put the situation very clearly on the record twice already. What we have seen tonight is a Homer Simpsonsque performance by members of the opposition: 'Fire. Hot. Ouch. D'oh. Fire. Hot. Ouch. D'oh. Fire. Hot. Ouch. D'oh.' Repetitive statements about the heat or otherwise from those opposite brings no illumination to the debate, and I will get on to some of this and a little bit more.

We have seen here tonight in this debate on the committee report the same assertions made as were made in the budget reply speeches and asserted during the budget debate. They are completely and utterly false. I put the facts on the table at all of the committee hearings and here in the House. More importantly, if they had any spine they would put me up in front of the Ethics Committee for misleading the House. They are happy to stand up here and mislead the House and everyone else.

They asked my director-general the same question they inferred here, and she said unequivocally there were no cuts, nothing of the sort. She explained it in detail as contained in the SDS, and those opposite are still unable to reconcile the facts with the budget papers.

I will tell you what I will do for you. I will give you overnight to think about what you put on the record here and I will give you a chance to retract it, otherwise I will be placed in the position of having to put you before the Ethics Committee simply because you have misled the House for the umpteenth time about the budget papers. Apparently you believe that the director-general, Dr Beth Woods, stood in front of a committee of this House and lied. That is what you have essentially said tonight. You dragged her reputation through the mud. It is quite all right for you to attack me—I am okay with that—but then you ask a direct question to the director-general, whose reputation is beyond reproach, and basically one after another stand up in this House and make totally false assertions about the budget papers. Show me one employee from DAF who has been cut. Give me one name. There is not a single name. You cannot produce a single person. I can give you 14,000 names from when were you there. I can give you the names of 14,000 people who were cut. You cannot produce the name of one person to back up the nonsense you have just said—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Linard): Order! Member for Gregory, you have continued to yell across this chamber consistently. If I have to mention your name once more, you will be formally warned under standing order 253A. I ask that you allow the minister to be heard.

Mr BYRNE: The members of the party opposite reduced the full-time equivalents of the department of agriculture during their disastrously short tenure. They started out with 2,589.1 people and by the time they had finished it was 1,973. That is a reduction of 615 staff in three years. That is your contribution to the department of agriculture. Twenty-six per cent of Biosecurity Queensland got speared by that mob; 28 per cent of Fisheries got speared. The impacts of those cuts were savage and most keenly felt in the regions. For positions outside of the Brisbane CBD, 555.4 people got the spear from those opposite in three years of their chainsaw economics. That is an entire battalion of infantry being marched into the canons by this mob.

They would not know the first thing about agriculture. They would not know the first thing about how to read a budget paper. They would not know the first thing about policy settings. They run around the bush pretending they are the mates of everyone. They cannot even speak on public policy. I bet they have never read the food and fibre policy that we came to the election in 2015 with and, as we saw with the sugar bill, their actions have been nothing but subversive. The member for Burdekin is under the pump. In the next little while he is going to have a whole lot of pain coming his way because all of their shenanigans with reregulating the sugar industry are going to come home to roost for him big time. I can tell you what: Mr Cox is coming for you, member for Burdekin. He is coming for you and the sugar growers are backing him. That is what we are hearing. They are backing him. All of your shenanigans have got you nowhere. I will give you a little while to think about it. You'd better retract your statements, because otherwise the consequences will be severe.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (8.14 pm): I rise to speak on the budget estimates report No. 38 from the Agriculture and Environment Committee. Agriculture and fishing are pillars of the Queensland economy. A reasonable person would assume that the Labor government would support these productive industries by reducing red tape and overheads, making it safer, easier and cheaper to transport goods to markets and tackle feral pests and invasive weeds. That reasonable person would therefore be shocked by the contempt shown by the minister for the estimates process and for the agriculture and fishing sectors. Estimates was clearly an irritant and inconvenience to the minister, who debated issues and employed time-wasting and delaying strategies to duck questions.

Nothing has changed despite the revolving door of ministers overseeing this policy. Previously, an incompetent minister did not know what was going on. Now we have a minister who is not interested. The minister preferred to answer Dorothy Dixers about the relocation of a federal government pesticide and veterinary medicines authority from Canberra to Armidale or talk about imports and trade, even while acknowledging it was not within the portfolio. Meanwhile, the Labor committee chair ran protection, including ruling out of order a question on what measures were introduced in the budget to help farmers tackle record high electricity prices. This is despite the QFF saying that the No. 1 issue across agriculture and for many other regional businesses is unsustainable electricity prices. Growcom said—

For our growers, whilst electricity prices are so high and continuing to spiral upwards, pretty much everything else is a secondary consideration.

The Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation said that one of its biggest issues remains electricity prices.

Commitment to rural and economic development stops at the minister's title. When asked where it was in the SDS the minister said, 'I think the allocation is there.' He then proceeded to get tied up in knots about a three-year \$5.2 million allocation equating to \$1.2 million across three initiatives. The minister could not even provide a break-up of the only program which references the minister's title and responsibilities.

The government promised a jobs bonanza. This is supposed to be a jobs budget, yet the minister could not identify how much funding was allocated to the Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance. He could not identify it in a line item and refused or, more disturbingly, could not even name how many jobs the government created in the sector in the last financial year. The following exchange says it all—

Mr MILLAR: ... the minister has gone on now for about six or seven minutes without actually giving a figure of how many jobs have been created.

Mr BYRNE: How long is a piece of string?

Mr MILLAR: Say yes or no.

...

Mr BYRNE: What a bloody ridiculous question to ask.

Mr MILLAR: How many jobs have you created?

...

Mr BYRNE: ... How long is a piece of string?

...

I certainly do not seek briefs and aggregation of their efforts, and why would I? What I receive is feedback about the success or otherwise of the intent of the program.

...

As far as I am concerned about government expenditure, that is exactly what I want; it is exactly what the government wants.

...

I am not going to get down into how many jobs, in which month or where they are. It is doing exactly what we expect it to do and I am very pleased about it.

Here is a minister who is happy to spend money but not ask about whether it is being spent prudently or wisely; a minister who cannot name how many jobs have been created but still claims the program is successful. No wonder both the QFF and AgForce said that this budget is underwhelming and outlines no clear vision for agricultural industries.

The Minister for Environment and National Parks confirmed that Labor will strangle rural landholders with anti-agriculture tree-clearing laws while funding groups which relentlessly campaign against landholders using questionable vegetation clearing rates which do not mention regrowth and thickening. This same department has budgeted \$8.5 million to conduct pest and weed management in 13.5 million hectares of national park—which equates to 44 cents per hectare—while relying on graziers who hold leases in national parks to routinely keep them free of weeds, feral animals and reduce fire loads at no expense or cost to the taxpayer. The agricultural sector needs the right framework to grow and realise its potential. Queensland is stagnating. The community needs leadership, and all we have is a government that does nothing. We urgently need a common-sense government that listens, plans and acts to build a better Queensland.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (8.19 pm): On 21 July the Agriculture and Environment Committee held a detailed hearing across my portfolio areas of Environment and Heritage Protection, and National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef. My third budget was well scrutinised by the committee. The committee heard me advise that we have increased the operating budget for the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection by \$23.5 million over four years, to \$231.1 million. They heard my detailed explanation of a plan that is focused on bolstering and supporting the work of our environmental regulator. I spoke in detail about our focus on restoring and rebuilding front-line services, including 60 new front-line and front-line support jobs for the regions, after a program of savage cuts inflicted by the former Newman-Nicholls LNP government. I also advised the committee about the budget that was being spent on things Queenslanders care about, like healthy koala populations in the south-east and putting \$40 million into national parks to create a new ecotourism industry. Those priorities all aim to create jobs, protect the environment and protect the Great Barrier Reef.

We had a truly great budget story to tell, which opposition members tried and failed to drown out in a sea of noise. That is no wonder, because their record on environment and heritage protection is woeful. The member for Moggill saw no irony in his first question, which was about staff morale across the environment department. According to the first annual opinion survey of this government, staff confidence soared when we came to office after the cruel, painful cuts his government imposed. Then after only two questions the opposition members ran out of questions about the budget. They chose to fixate on matters that were not relevant to the budget and had nothing to do with the administration of the state.

Then the member for Moggill, a known climate change denier, desperately tried a straw man argument when asking about the government's approach to tackling climate change, ignoring his own head-in-the-sand, denialist approach. I suppose I should be flattered that the LNP thought I had mental nimbleness when it came to explaining our policy settings and targets, but for their benefit let me say: it is actually quite simple. I am happy to go through it again for the benefit of the members for Moggill and Condamine and all those others opposite.

It is clear that coalmining will continue here in Queensland for decades to come. However, the science tells us that by the second half of the century developed countries will need to achieve net zero emissions. That means their energy production will have to be, as far as possible, delivered by renewable energy. That is why we have a 50 per cent renewable energy generation target by 2030. The steps the Palaszczuk government has taken to address climate change impacts have been endorsed recently by none other than former US vice-president Al Gore. Mr Gore was in Melbourne recently to premiere his new movie about climate change. While he was here he said that he was impressed by the way the Palaszczuk government was handling climate change, particularly transition issues. With the backing of such world leaders as Mr Gore, I make no apologies for saying that Queensland will be a leader in the low-carbon economy, delivering new investments and jobs to our state.

The member for Condamine missed his own hypocrisy in asking about funding for pest and weed management in national parks. I do not recall him—not once—speaking out on behalf of national parks when the opposition leader and the LNP were in government and they were busy slashing ranger jobs and cutting funding. As the 60 rangers who lost their jobs under the LNP can attest, those savage cuts directly affected the ability of staff to manage those parks, including for fire, weeds and pests.

As for the opposition's tabling of a photo they claimed was of my ministerial car, well, that was the most embarrassing moment. Since I have taken delivery of my new ministerial car, a Toyota Camry Hybrid, not only has my fuel usage dropped by two-thirds but also I am now filling up only once a week, which is saving taxpayers money. If members opposite were hoping this topnotch research would result in a mic drop moment, they were sorely disappointed. It would have been quicker and easier to just check the car park or to contact the Ministerial Services Branch. That would have saved them at least some embarrassment.

It is concerning but not surprising that the members for Moggill and Condamine have tried to rewrite history tonight and erase the last three years of their woeful government. I would like to thank the secretariat and all members of the committee for their work.

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (8.24 pm): The first issue I raised at the estimates hearing was multiperil insurance. I was very pleased to be a part of the push for that with the Rural Debt and Drought Taskforce. We were pleased to hear that a million dollars in grants came through in the 2016-17 budget and that work has been done in that area. Multiperil insurance is really how we tackle the need to give out drought assistance in the future. It allows farmers and primary producers to cover themselves, but the cost is prohibitive at the moment—until they get assistance to get more financial data on the ground. That is what the million dollars in grants is for. I think it is an excellent incentive. I am pleased to have been part of initiating that with the government. That is something positive that came out of that.

The next issue of interest to me was prickly acacia. The Desert Channels estimate that the cost to production in their region alone is about \$24 million. That represents only a portion—perhaps a third or a half—of the region that is covered by it. We heard in the media last week that Robert Hacon is spending \$140,000 a year and most people are spending anywhere between \$50,000 and \$100,000 a year to try to stop this weed and do the job the government would typically do in helping to combat weeds. This weed covered zero hectares in the 1960s, but now 20 million hectares are infested. It is a bit hard to hear so much about the Great Barrier Reef when western areas are facing problems with feral cats and prickly acacia. This weed taking over represents an environmental disaster. We heard that there is only a million dollars in the budget for measures to address this weed. That falls hopelessly short of what is required to fix the problem. Talk is cheap and we need more money into that area.

The next thing I asked about was water allocations. This is perhaps one of the most critical things in terms of the prosperity of the western areas, particularly in the north-west, where enormous volumes of water go through our river systems only in a short period of the year. The Murray-Darling system has 50 per cent of its water taken out when it is there. We are taking about three per cent out of our river systems. We know now that this government and governments before it have taken \$10 million in tenders—people buying water that still has not been used. There is no infrastructure associated with that—no dams are built, nothing—but the government is taking \$10 million off people to apply for water that has never been used or developed. The problem is that the water is priced. It does not need to be priced. The water should be given away. There is nothing to be gained from it. No-one is developing it. All we want is access to that water so that we are more productive in those areas and we can better ride out the droughts. We need only 10 per cent of that flow, not 50 per cent like the Murray-Darling takes. Ten or 20 per cent would give us enough to start farming in these little towns and create those critical 10 or 20 jobs per town that would be just wonderful to have. I appreciate the efforts of the Minister for Natural Resources in consulting with us in trying to get those tenders out, but it is just not working. The price is the problem.

I am very proud that the KAP has been pivotal in delivering, along with the government, intergenerational farm transfers. That has led to 592 transactions and has saved \$22.4 million so that kids could take over stations and stay on the land, so that properties were not handed over to big corporations or amalgamated into bigger entities that are then out of reach of smaller people and families. That is something that is appreciated and that I was pleased to see.

I asked the agriculture minister a question about dairy cooperatives. I appreciated his response that he respects the right to collective bargaining for workers so therefore he should for farmers as well. That is a principle of our party that I hold very dear. I appreciated those comments, because I think a lot of work can be done with cooperatives in the dairy industry. There is research that we look forward to being funded by the government to help that.

Lastly, I refer to national parks. There are little councils in our area. Everyone loves building these national parks, but no-one gives these poor little councils the wherewithal to cope. Many thousands of cars every year now go down Lawn Hill Road to Boodjamulla National Park. Bourke Shire Council cannot keep up with it and is paying the price for an asset that the rest of Australia gets to appreciate and keep. They do not get rates from that, either. Something needs to be done about the national parks to help the councils.

Report adopted.

Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee

Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Linard): Order! The question is—

That the report of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee be adopted.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (8.29 pm): This evening I rise to speak to the estimates report for the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee. Firstly, I want to acknowledge and thank the secretariat staff—committee secretary, Sue Cawcutt, and assistant secretary, Maureen Coorey—for their work and also acknowledge all members on the committee for the work they have done. I also want to acknowledge the various directors-general, CEOs and public servants involved in the estimates process for the outstanding job they did in preparing for estimates hearings. The other people we need to acknowledge are of course the ministers—the Hon. Kate Jones and the Hon. Leanne Enoch.

There was a plethora of great news in the Education portfolio. I have selected a couple of the key ones that I want to go through with the House's indulgence. The first is the \$154.5 million as part of the \$200 million in total funding for the construction of new halls through the Advancing Queensland State Schools program which also includes upgrading of existing halls and land acquisitions for new schools and capital investment in school facilities and job creation. There is not a single member in this House who said that that was a bad idea. I draw the attention of members of the House to the preparation of the senior assessment tertiary entrance system by investing \$27.6 million of \$72.9 million over five years to implement the new senior school assessment and tertiary entrance system for students entering year 11 from 2019, and the minister introduced a bill dealing with that earlier today.

The other issue I want to highlight is the performance of Queensland schools and their NAPLAN targets. We have celebrated and acknowledged that again today, but teachers are using NAPLAN to inform their everyday teaching and learning programs to deliver quality learning outcomes for every single child in their classroom by continuing the three-year \$152.4 million investment into hiring an additional 875 teachers. We talk about a jobs bonanza. When it comes to hiring extra teachers in our schools, this is well received in every one of our schools right throughout our communities. On top of this is the additional \$150 million over three years from 2018-19 and ongoing funding for investment in teacher attraction, quality and leadership, as well as building staff capability and capacity in response to the disability review.

When it comes to tourism and events the minister highlighted how she is providing \$3.5 million for the rebuilding and redevelopment of tourism infrastructure in the Whitsundays and surrounding areas that were devastated by ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie. She is also continuing to implement the Advancing Tourism 2016-2020: Growing Queensland Jobs strategy including facilitating investment in tourism, infrastructure and experiences; showcasing the Great Barrier Reef and other natural assets; encouraging the development of ecotourism and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tourism products, events and experiences; and attracting new aviation services to Queensland. Of course, Townsville was one of those picking up Tiger Air and Air Niugini coming into Townsville. When it came to the Commonwealth Games, the minister spoke about the successes in terms of the preparation for the Commonwealth Games in 2018 where she outlined the completion of Commonwealth Games venues including \$519,000 allocated to the State Velodrome for track cycling. The Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games clearly articulated how she focused on improving the learning outcomes of Queensland students, growing the tourism and events industries and is thoroughly prepared and ready for the Commonwealth Games.

Unfortunately, when it came to science and innovation, those opposite cited that they wished to interrogate the State Archivist during the estimates hearing and their demands were refused by government members on the committee, and rightly so. Under standing order 181(d), a committee member may ask the minister, the director-general or the chief executive officer questions only. Schedule 7 of the standing orders outlines exactly who those chief executives are, and that is on page 96 if anyone wishes to have a look at that. Even if the State Archivist were there for the hearing, they could not have been asked a direct question by the committee. These are the standing orders of this parliament agreed to by the members of this parliament, including those opposite. It seems that those opposite want to bend and change the rules only to suit themselves. That is what Queensland learned during the Newman government and that is what Queenslanders can expect under a Nicholls-led LNP government—one set of rules for Queensland battlers and a different set of rules for the big end of town.

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (8.34 pm): In estimates we saw a bumbling, fumbling performance—an embarrassing performance—by the Minister for Small Business. It started when she was quizzed about the Small Business Champion. As even her own Labor colleague acknowledged, basically she had outsourced her own responsibilities and she had outsourced the responsibilities of the highly paid director-general for the department in a performance that culminated in her citing the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland's own Pulse survey. She started citing that—unprompted by any questioning from the opposition—and the best line from her was that business confidence was now at its highest level since December 2014. She acknowledged that business confidence had been below what it had been in the LNP's time in government throughout the entire time of Labor's time in government. That is an extraordinary own goal by a minister who clearly did not understand what she was reading in terms of what her adviser had given her. She just mindlessly read it, but it clearly acknowledged that Labor had failed small business—had failed business—and she acknowledged herself that business confidence had always been low throughout the time of the Palaszczuk Labor government. It was truly a bumbling performance.

When she was then quizzed and scrutinised about the Pulse survey, this minister wanted to go to the Sensis survey. It was like she thought, 'Don't look at that Pulse survey. I know I raised it—I talked about it—but go to the Sensis survey. Have a look at the Sensis survey.' The Sensis survey that was current at the time of estimates cited the Palaszczuk Labor government as the worst government in Australia. She cited the Pulse survey which showed that confidence was always below the LNP ever since the Palaszczuk government came into power and then she cited the Sensis survey—a survey that at the time said this was the worst government in Australia. There was some good news for the government when the new Sensis survey came out because things had slightly improved. When the

new Sensis survey came out a couple of days later it had this government as only the second worst in Australia, and it was interesting to look at the figures because these are the figures we see over and over again from small business out there talking about the performance of this government.

The Sensis Business Index showed that the state's business confidence was lagging behind other states and territories. It was an indictment on the Labor government's bad budget and its failure to deliver and particularly its failure to deliver in regional Queensland. In the latest Sensis survey Queensland's business confidence fell by nine points—the second worst result behind a 12-point fall in the ACT. That shows how Labor's policies are hurting Queenslanders' chances of getting a job. What was worse was that confidence amongst small and medium business owners in regional Queensland had fallen 16 points, second only to the Northern Territory.

According to the Sensis survey, Queensland small businesses—this is the survey the minister wanted to talk about because it is a better index than the Pulse survey, which had such appalling figures for the government—are less confident than those in Tasmania. That is further evidence that Labor cannot manage the economy, does not have a plan and Queensland is now below the national net business confidence average, and that is hurting jobs and it is hurting Queensland families. The drop in regional business confidence is a reflection of the Palaszczuk government's inaction in regional Queensland. We saw a minister who did not know her brief and who does not understand the figures that she had been given by her advisers, but clearly at least she did reveal something. As the member for Maryborough would say, 'We can't no longer tell the truth on this.' Business confidence is below where it was under the LNP. Business has no confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government. People out there are saying to Labor, 'It's not good enough. A change needs to be made.'

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (8.39 pm): After that drivel, I would like to thank yourself as chair, the members and the secretariat of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee. You all did a wonderful job. After listening to the member for Indooroopilly, he should be a writer for Wikipedia because he changes history. What I love about the mob on the other side is that they sit there and purport to be experts on small business. They would not know how to run a small business! During the Newman-Nicholls era small business was on its knees. It was like in early France with the guillotines—everyone was waiting to get their necks lopped off. We have a small business minister who is very passionate and has visited my electorate and spoken to small business people. Where were the mob opposite after Cyclone Debbie? The small business minister was talking to small business people, giving out grants and getting them back on their feet. One thing I love about the LNP, and I have been around politics for a long time, is that they are all wafflers. They can talk the talk, but not one of them can walk the walk, especially the member for Indooroopilly. He is a disgrace. We are never going to let those opposite forget what he has given us.

The Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee is a wonderful committee. Education is the cornerstone of improving people's lives. We need education. I had the privilege of addressing delegates from the QTU at their regional conference. It was great to talk to educators who were so happy with the Palaszczuk government, the education minister and what is going on. I know from my own electorate what is happening with education. The mob opposite cut education to the bone. They talk the talk, but they cannot walk the walk. The whole lot of them are frauds. They are a disgrace to this state. They should never, ever be in this place. We will make sure that they will never get re-elected.

This is the biggest budget ever for education. What did those opposite do? They cut teachers and teacher aide hours. All they know is cut, cut and cut. 'Sell, sack. Sell, sack' is their mantra. I keep telling everyone that you get what you wish for. Anyone who wishes for an LNP government in this state has rocks in their head because leopards do not change their spots. Those opposite will never, ever change. We have two great ministers—our small business minister and our education minister—and they care about Queenslanders.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: Listen to those opposite! When we talk about education they laugh. That is the disgust they show educators who are trying to improve the lives of Queenslanders by giving kids a better job in society. They sit here and laugh. Shame on them.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I agree with the member for Lytton that it is a disgusting attitude. It is an absolutely terrible attitude. There are wonderful things that have happened in my electorate thanks to education. There is a \$4.5 million hall to be built at Maryborough High. That has given the principal a chance to work with USC. The principal will have a great education facility in the great city of

Maryborough. That is all due to the Palaszczuk Labor government. Those opposite talk about regional Queensland. Maybe they should pick the phone up and talk to the people I talk to in regional Queensland because they dislike that mob over there. They cannot stand them.

Mr Madden: They hate them!

Mr SAUNDERS: They absolutely hate them. I will take that interjection from the member for Ipswich West. They hate them. They cannot stand them. The Palaszczuk Labor government has spent more on regional Queensland than this mob ever has. This government is a great government for regional Queensland and a great government for Queensland. I am so proud to be part of it.

Ms DAVIS (Aspley—LNP) (8.44 pm): There is nothing more important than the education of our children because it sets the foundation for their future. It is why the scrutiny of the Education budget through the estimates process is so important and one that the LNP takes very seriously because our children deserve no less. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about the Labor government and its part-time Minister for Education. During the line of questioning regarding the process of allocating funding for school halls, the minister dismissed the concerns of angry parents who pay for their children to attend the Kelvin Grove State College's Tennis School of Excellence, an extension program of the school which is being jeopardised by the government. As a former pupil, the minister would know this school well and one would think she would be sympathetic to the concerns of the tennis parents, but instead of allowing her director-general to answer questions on this matter, she thought it funny to launch into a rendition of the school song. It is one thing to be proud of your former school, but this was just tacky, particularly given there were concerned parents in the gallery and watching the proceedings online.

I can assure the minister that while she thought she was amusing, these parents did not find her antics amusing in any way. They wanted answers to their concerns. As it turns out, we have a half-funded facility being built at the Kelvin Grove State College that will exhume the newly refurbished tennis courts on the school grounds and have children travelling by bus to other locations to undertake this extension program. This is valuable on-court time lost for these children and the parents are not happy.

The reality is that the \$200 million splash around on school halls is ad hoc and politically motivated. It is a pork-barrelling exercise to try to shore up votes for nervous Labor members. Last year we had the minister downplay the level of assaults on teachers in schools. This year the minister rationalised the prevalence of drugs in state schools. This is despite her own answer to a question on notice that showed since January 2015 there were 5,796 drug related incidents in schools. The minister passed this off as somewhat of a triumph due to student population growth. As I said earlier today, this is not a proportionality test. This is a most serious issue that our hardworking teachers are dealing with every day in our schools. When pressed, it was clear that there is no plan to manage or respond to these unacceptable statistics. If we are to get the foundations of our education system right then we need to make sure our students are safe and free to learn without the spectre of drugs and weapons infiltrating our schools.

This is a government that talks up education funding, but each year the minister is an enthusiastic contributor to the Treasury coffers through the reprioritisation program. This year the minister has cut \$75.6 million from the Education budget, on top of the nearly \$200 million in cuts last year. We learned that schools continue to go without security upgrades. Of 65 requests for CCTV, only 20 were being scoped with no guarantee they would be funded, which is no surprise. Because of the \$9 million budget, only six schools last year had CCTVs installed.

With regard to students with disability, I am still waiting to hear as to the number of times restrictive practices have been used in the classroom given this was the catalyst for the Deloitte review and yet we still are no wiser as to how this will be resolved. We learned that mandatory student plans, the plans for students with disability, were not being monitored to ensure they are being completed. This is extremely concerning because these plans are designed to assist teachers to support students with additional support needs and it is imperative the plan is created for each and every student with disability so that they can have an inclusive educational environment that provides them with the learning experience that they deserve.

From growing numbers of drugs and weapons in schools to cutting millions upon millions of dollars from the Education budget, to pork-barrelling funding for her mates, to capital works projects delayed and off budget, is it any wonder why this minister would rather be as far away as possible from her responsibilities. Our children deserve better than this. They do not deserve an education minister who plays politics with education funding. They do not deserve an education minister who gives less than 20 per cent of her time to the 570,000 students studying in Queensland state schools.

I would like to conclude my remarks by thanking the committee, departmental staff and representatives from other government bodies who participated in this year's estimates hearings and consideration of this most important portfolio area.

 **Mr WILLIAMS** (Pumicestone—ALP) (8.49 pm): I rise to speak on the estimates hearing for the examination of the budget appropriation bills, held on 25 July 2017 by the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee. Consensus was reached on the expenditure, unlike last year when the rabble opposite opposed consensus as they tried to manoeuvre Crisafulli into the seat of Broadwater. Last year we heard nothing about the economy. This year, for the entire day, the most important issue for the opposition seemed to be getting the State Archivist to attend the hearing in a feeble attempt to circumnavigate due process by not allowing matters to remain before the CCC and the archivist. They wasted much effort trying to get that done.

I want to talk about trains, but firstly I should mention the train wreck that was the media interview with the member for Mansfield, who has never understood anything about the separation of powers. Maybe he has learned by now. On the Commonwealth Games and the trains, those opposite would save a dollar and cost the state a fortune. They presided over a \$4.4 billion fail with the Indian trains. Finally, following the LNP debacle, we have it down to 41 faults. Those trains will be ready on time, despite the efforts of the LNP, such as sacking all the driver trainers. The trains will be on time for the Commonwealth Games.

Pumicestone is achieving under the Palaszczuk Labor government. At the hospital, a 300-space car park is being built right now; it is not just a promise. The emergency department will be doubled in size with \$19 million being spent. It is all happening. We have funded \$13.3 million for 32 beds in the hospital, which were opened recently. We have \$16 million going into a new police station and \$6 million going into an upgraded watch house. This is all because of three good budgets from the Palaszczuk Labor government. With roadworks and education, we are getting on with the job and not just making hollow promises, such as those opposite made and continue to make.

The political gamesmanship, pointscoreing and, in fact, the absolute shambles engineered by the LNP Nicholls opposition is reckless and disgraceful behaviour before the people of Queensland. Recently, opposition leaders visited Pumicestone to talk about their great plan with their candidate and the constituents. The member for Clayfield spoke to a massive audience of 12 people. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition spoke to an audience of one. A whole heap of others bailed out. They were not game to go, because they do not have a plan. The people know that they are frauds and they know that they do not have a plan. They set the electorate on fire. People really didn't want to come out and hear them! They did not even bother to tell the candidate about illegal signs. That is typical of an opposition that thinks it is above the law and born to rule.

Miss BARTON: I rise to a point of order. With respect, the member should be speaking to the committee report from the education committee. I am not sure this is relevant to the estimates report as tabled by the education committee and yourself.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Thank you, member for Broadwater. I remind the member for Pumicestone to direct his comments through the chair and relate them back to the estimates.

Mr WILLIAMS: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will be writing to the Speaker or speaking in this House on matters pertaining to contempt of parliament by their candidate. In its third budget, the Palaszczuk government is doing a great job for Queensland with the creation of 77,300 new jobs and Queensland growth at about 3.8 per cent, which is in contrast to the nation's position of 0.3 per cent adjusted. Once again Queensland is carrying the country. Queensland Labor governments continue to do that. I commend the appropriation bills to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (8.54 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank you for your chairmanship of the committee. With less than 240 days until the Commonwealth Games, you can well and truly say that we are on the home stretch until athletes and visitors descend on our city. You can feel the excitement and optimism on the Gold Coast, which is why I have always been a strong supporter of the Commonwealth Games. We want the 2018 Commonwealth Games to be the best ever. The LNP is proud to have worked hard to fund the games after the former Bligh government won the bid without a plan for how Queensland was going to fund it. Most of all, as residents we want to ensure that the Commonwealth Games is going to be the gift that keeps giving to our city. We want more jobs, infrastructure that we will be able to use for generations to come and a reputation for being a great family holiday destination.

What we do not want is a post-Commonwealth Games jobs hangover. We do not want to be paying for infrastructure overspend with our hard-earned tax dollars for years to come and we certainly do not want to have a reputation for being a city where it is hard to get anywhere, whether you are using

our trains, buses, roads or the M1. It is really disappointing that a frank report on the progress of the transport plan did not come from either of the ministers for the Commonwealth Games or transport. It came from the member for Maryborough. On Triple M Fraser Coast Radio, he said—

I'm on the Commonwealth Games committee and inside the Labor Party and we're pulling our hair out at the moment.

...

We are going to have a transport debacle.

Whilst we might be headed for a public transport debacle, Queenslanders cannot even be guaranteed that they will be able to get to the Gold Coast by car. Last week's truck explosion at Loganlea, which shut down the M1 southbound, is a prime example of what we need to prepare for so that we can avoid shutting down our key arterial road during the games. The Commonwealth Games Federation has expressed concerns about the transport planning for the games, with reassurance from Goldoc that it is going to be okay, but we can see that there are significant issues.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! One moment please, member for Surfers Paradise. Members in the House, there is far too much noise. Member for Maryborough, do not have conversations across the chamber.

Mr LANGBROEK: On Channel 7, the RACQ said—

I think everyone involved in the Commonwealth Games is very, very well aware of the sensitivities of the M1.

It seems that everyone is aware, except for the Brisbane Labor government. It was disappointing to hear that last Friday the minister said that she did not know anything about that particular incident on the M1. She said, 'I don't know about that, sorry, because I've been in meetings all day'. Whilst Labor managed to venture outside Brisbane for a week to visit the Gold Coast and probably travelled along the M1 outside peak hour to get there, they failed to see what locals have to put up with day in, day out. If this is a potential consequence of the transport plan, I can see why the member for Maryborough is so worried.

On the day of the Commonwealth Games estimates hearing, the minister made a significant announcement about a public register for Commonwealth Games tickets. She advised that the policy was not developed in light of issues between Goldoc and the Gold Coast mayor, but has been a work in progress and a consequence of work done over a number of months. However, on 9 June, just over a month before the announcement, I received an answer to a question on notice about their ticketing policies. In part, that answer states—

The Queensland government is currently considering its ticketing requirements for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Answer to question on notice No. 548 asked on 10 May 2017 [[1250](#)].

I am concerned that the minister has misled us, perhaps by omission, given that she told the hearing that the government had been working on this public register for a period of some months, yet only the day before the budget was announced I received that letter stating that the government was still working on its ticketing strategy. I think Gold Coasters and Queenslanders deserve up-front answers about the games. It was unprecedented to hear the chairman of a statutory authority engaging in political debate—that is Peter Beattie with Tom Tate about the ticketing requirements of the Gold Coast City Council. I asked the minister whether there was any other statutory authority for which she was responsible where she would consider it appropriate to have the chair engaging in political commentary. She would not accept it from the Queensland College of Teachers, the Curriculum and Assessment Authority or TAFE Queensland, so why on earth is it appropriate for the former premier and chair of Goldoc to be doing that? What I think it shows is that he is the real Commonwealth Games minister.

My constituents, my neighbours, friends and family want and need a great Commonwealth Games. In order to make this happen, we need a minister who is going to be up-front with us and not take a step back when things get tough.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (9.00 pm): In rising to make a contribution to the committee report on the budget estimates, I note as the member for Beaudesert that in terms of the education budget there is nothing but neglect from this government for our local schools. I will always support our schools. I know they love the autonomy that they were given under the stewardship of the former minister for education and the Great Results Guarantee. It allowed them to specifically target the literacy and numeracy needs of their school communities.

Not even Beaudesert State High School, which is going to be bursting at the seams in the future, received any attention in this education budget. It needs more land, better parking and more buildings to cater for its growth. We also need to ensure the school is properly equipped to deal with bullying issues that have been raised with me—strong policies to stop bullying, support for principals and the other staff and resources to back the plan.

Not one cent from the \$200 million package for schools that was announced earlier this year came to my electorate. The announcement that some work might be done on a pedestrian crossing outside the Beaudesert State High School comes after two years of representation. It is still not a certainty whilst an easy fix to the exit of that state high school remains unfunded.

There are other issues around the electorate as well, including at Harrisville State School and Canungra State School where flashing school zone lights are required. Access at Canungra State School is a real issue for parents and carers on a daily basis.

I welcome the increase in support for Beechmont State School to look after their grounds. It is a smallish school that has very large grounds. The grounds grow very fast. They need a little extra help to look after the grounds. It is something I have been lobbying for ever since I came into this place. It is good to see that that support is being given.

Overall, this budget fails the schools in my electorate. They need more support. They need more investment for a growing region. I will keep on fighting for them from Beechmont in the south to Grandchester in the west.

I turn now to the tourism portfolio. Last week's decision about the ASF proposal on the Gold Coast says much of what we need to know about this government and tourism. Tourism needs investment in attractions, in hotels and in infrastructure to unlock the potential of all of Queensland's tourism.

Leading an investor into several years of negotiations, proposals, inviting them to spend their cash—several million dollars apparently—on a proposal and then turning around and slamming the door in their face is no way to grow investor confidence for potential tourism infrastructure. It has been done on a number of occasions now by this Labor government. It is the way they treat proponents on the Gold Coast, in Cairns and on Great Keppel Island. It simply flies in the face of all the rhetoric we hear about this government being about jobs, jobs, jobs.

We found out in estimates that Labor knew and TEQ knew before it happened that China Southern was cancelling their charter flights into Cairns for Chinese New Year this year. Did anybody from TEQ or the government have the guts to tell the businesses in Cairns that were planning on a bumper season? No, nobody. We even had the Labor candidate on the board of TEQ at time. Did he tell local businesses about this? I do not think so. They only found out about it through the media in January.

If tourism and other businesses in Cairns think their local Labor candidate is going to be their advocate, their voice, they are sadly mistaken. Like so many people opposite—except the member for Maryborough, who has been very candid with the public of Queensland in the last couple of weeks—he was missing in action when the tough decisions and calls were made. Maybe he had the flu that day; I do not know.

There have been other comments made by the Labor candidate for Cairns in recent days. He has said that he does not want another Cairns casino or integrated resort. It is a bit like the Premier who made comments in last six or 12 months that when she goes to Cairns she hears comments that they do not want more tourists in Cairns because they are full up. That is not what I hear when I go to Cairns. They want more tourists. They want more planes coming in. They want more people going there and spending money. It sounds like the Labor candidate for Cairns will not be the voice for Cairns, but will actually be Brisbane's boy in Cairns—Labor's man in Cairns.

This government is all about talk and no action on tourism. Queensland continues to slip behind New South Wales and Victoria because this do-nothing government has failed to capitalise on a tourism boom that Australia is experiencing right now. We continue to slip behind New South Wales and Victoria on a number of key indicators. That is because this government is a do-nothing government that cannot capitalise on the boom that we are experiencing in tourism right now. It stands to be condemned for that record.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (9.05 pm): I would like to thank the committee for their efforts. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the government members of the committee who spent the time at estimates actually asking questions about the Appropriation Bill. I appreciate that attention. It is a very important conversation to be had.

Some 2½ years ago the Palaszczuk government was elected, in no small part, on a platform of keeping public assets in the hands of Queenslanders and diversifying our state's economy. In the time since the election, the Palaszczuk Labor government has got on with the job of delivering on those promises. We have done this in a collaborative and deliberate manner, in stark contrast to the slash-and-burn policies of the former government.

One program that exemplifies these principles is our \$420 million whole-of-government Advance Queensland initiative. Advance Queensland has been co-designed with local innovators, researchers and experts and is based on world's best practice recommended by global experts. As I shared with the committee, over two years through to 30 June 2017, we have committed \$205 million to Advance Queensland and leveraged a further \$100 million in co-investment from partners. This investment is delivering results now, preparing our economy for the future and changing lives for the better. Through Advance Queensland we have delivered more than 20 funding programs that are helping some of Queensland's best and brightest minds turn their great ideas into reality.

Meanwhile, our support for 1,650 innovators, entrepreneurs and researchers is driving the creation of 4,821 jobs right across our state. As the Chief Entrepreneur points out, this is just the tip of the iceberg. We are changing the way researchers and industry collaborate, helping to solve the current issues we face as a community while preparing us to meet challenges of the future. We are fostering an environment in which we support and encourage entrepreneurialism, to create new businesses, deliver new jobs and stimulate emerging industries. We are providing our children with the skills they are going to need in the future to keep our state at the forefront of the global economy.

In this time of rapid change, it is not enough to just do what we have always done and hope we will maintain a strong and vibrant economy. We must take action to stay ahead of the pack. This transformative agenda is about more than just the economy; it is about making the lives of Queenslanders better.

For example, through Advance Queensland we are assisting researchers seeking cures for cancer and those making early detection of cerebral palsy in newborns. We are helping to improve long-term prospects for people suffering from heart disease and providing funding for next generation wheelchairs to be designed and manufactured here in Queensland. We are also getting on with the job of improving the delivery of government services online to make it easier for Queenslanders to access vital information when they need it.

When it comes to small business, we are delivering more programs through the Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy to help Queenslanders start a business, grow their business and employ more people. We have grant programs to help small business engage in the digital economy, to get through those difficult first early years of operation and prepare their businesses for the next stage of growth.

We are also expanding the popular and widely successfully Mentoring for Growth program. We know that this work and the programs that I have mentioned have been having an impact, with 414,000 small businesses now operating in Queensland. That is an increase of 8,000 in 12 months. We have also seen a three-year high in the number of small business entries and a three-year low in the number of small business exits.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is getting on with the job of diversifying our state's economy and creating the right environment for business and innovation to thrive. Of course the opposition would know this already if they had used the estimates process to examine the budget delivered by the Treasurer. Instead, what we saw from those opposite was an exercise in cheap political pointscore, often at the expense of what is natural justice. What we saw from the member for Mount Ommaney during the estimates hearing was a clear display of her character in the line of questioning that she pursued. It was base, it was crass and it demonstrated not just the member for Mount Ommaney's complete disregard for the estimates process but that of the entire LNP.

We should hardly be surprised by this. The budget delivered by the Treasurer in June was all about building and growing our state—an approach the LNP have absolutely no interest in. We are still to hear any policy with regard to innovation from those opposite other than one aquarium at South Bank. We have still not heard any real policies with regard to small business. They spent a lot of time during estimates not talking about the budget but trying to take political pot shots at the whole system. When we actually hear something from them that is about innovation or small business, we will be all ears.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (9.10 pm): When this government was elected it promised to be transparent and accountable to Queensland voters.

Mr Cramp: Ha, ha!

Mrs SMITH: Exactly. Since the election they have done everything in their power to run a protection racket for a range of ministers and Labor appointed public servants who get caught out violating ministerial guidelines or just plain, good old-fashioned misconduct. We have seen a protection racket for former minister Bailey and his mangocube handle deleting emails all over the shop. Mr Bailey has only been stood aside after the Crime and Corruption Commission found a reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct.

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

Mrs SMITH: I have not even got into a minute of it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! What is your point order?

Mr BAILEY: As fascinating as the member for Mount Ommaney's fictional attempt at debate is, it has absolutely nothing to do with the budget. I urge her to get back to debating the budget, which is what we are supposed to be here for.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Excuse me. Member for Mudgeeraba, if you continue you will be warned. I ask for the point of order to be repeated. Because of the interruption, I could not hear the member's point of order. Can you make it brief, please?

Mr BAILEY: Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. As I said before, as fascinating as the member for Mount Ommaney's contribution was, she is not addressing the budget, which is what the standing orders require. I urge her to get back to the budget.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mount Ommaney, I remind you that you need to address the bill.

Mrs SMITH: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will be getting to that very shortly. As I said, Mr Bailey has only been stood aside after the Crime and Corruption Commission found—

Mr CRAWFORD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. You gave a very clear direction to the member. The member has not adhered to it. I ask you to rule.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Maryborough, if you continue you will be warned. I am just getting some counsel from the Clerk. I expect you to sit there quietly, thanks. Member for Mount Ommaney, I again direct you that your comments need to be directed back to the appropriations that we are examining under the Education and Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy portfolios.

Mrs SMITH: I will be getting to that with the State Archivist, who was a point of interest at the hearing that day. I turn to that because Mr Bailey, as we all know, on a reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct, has only been stood aside from his portfolio, not sacked from the ministry or asked to resign from parliament—merely stood aside.

The State Archivist, who is primarily responsible for managing public records and government record keeping—that is, ensuring the government of the day is transparent in its dealings and accountable to the Queensland public—was prevented from testifying about their role in keeping the government transparent and accountable. The ALP blocked the State Archivist from fronting estimates to answer questions about how many and which emails they permitted Mark Bailey to delete. The archivist was blocked from answering any questions and blocked from providing a time frame to the Queensland public as to when the 'reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct' and breach of the ministerial code of conduct would be investigated.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members from all sides of the House, I ask you to please come to order and listen to the member for Mount Ommaney, otherwise I will have to start naming people.

Mrs SMITH: One of the key questions I would have liked to ask the State Archivist was about their being blocked from providing a time frame to the Queensland public as to when the 'reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct' and breach of the ministerial code of conduct would be investigated. As I said at the committee hearing and as I say now, justice delayed is justice denied.

As we have seen tonight, the ALP has continued to run a protection racket for the Minister for Mines, Dr Anthony Lynham, given that he also confirmed that he had used a private email server to conduct ministerial business, yet he retains his portfolio. Of course the ALP led a protection racket when I asked to question the Chief Scientist and we found out that day that there were a few matters of charges. How can the government be accountable when the members of the government making decisions are not available for questions? How can the government be transparent when their dealings are kept from the public eye, the progress of investigations is kept secret and even how much funding the investigation has been assigned is hidden from view? As I asked the question—

Ms Jones: How's Darra going? How's that working for you?

Mrs SMITH: I can see that those opposite are starting to get rattled now and we have more protection rackets. If we have a budget estimates process and we have money allocated in the budget yet they say they do not know how much an investigation is going to cost, how many resources they are going to need and how long it is going to take, I honestly do not understand how the money can be allocated in the budget. We did not get any answers at the estimates hearing. The minister wanted to spout about how Advance Queensland has purportedly created 4,821 jobs. However, the minister was not able to confirm through answers to questions on notice how those jobs have been calculated or whether those jobs are full-time, part-time, casual or contract.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (9.18 pm): I am so proud to be the Minister for Education in the Palaszczuk Labor government. Unlike those opposite—and we know the shadow minister's form when it comes to cutting Public Service jobs. When she was child safety minister, she thought it was a good idea to cut 200 child safety workers.

Ms Fentiman: Two hundred and twenty-five.

Ms JONES: Two hundred and twenty-five child safety workers. I take the interjection from the Minister for Child Safety. We know what she did in Child Safety and we know exactly what she would do if she were the Minister for Education. That is right; the LNP have form. They cut 500 teachers from public schools in Queensland. That is what they did. She has form. The former child safety minister comes in here crying in the parliament and she knows that when she was minister she cut 225 child safety officers.

Ms BATES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. We are not debating the child safety estimates—we will get to that. We are debating education, and I ask you to bring the minister back to her own portfolio, if she remembers what it is.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): The minister was actually talking about the 500 teachers so that was about education. Minister, I do counsel you that you need to remain on the estimates please.

Ms JONES: I am talking about the contrast and the fact that the LNP think they could deliver improvements by cutting workers. In Child Safety they thought they could improve outcomes by cutting 227 child safety workers, and in Education they cut 500 teachers.

We have seen the best NAPLAN results ever in Queensland. Do members know what one of the stand-outs was? Our record investment in teachers and teacher aides and putting back the front-line services that they cut gave us a standout in NAPLAN data in numeracy. We had the best results ever in numeracy. I would like to go through some numbers. Since I have been the minister this year, do members know how many schools I have visited as a 'part-time' minister? I have been to 71. Do members know how many schools the shadow minister visited? It is about 27. I have visited three times as many in my 'part-time' role. I actually quite like the member for Surfers Paradise—he is a good guy—but do members know—

Mr Dick: No, he's not.

Ms JONES: I take that interjection. Do members know how many schools the member for Surfers Paradise has visited? In the last six months that he was the education minister, do members know how many schools he went to? He went to 20. I have been to more than they have been to combined. Do members know why? It is because Labor cares. Labor cares about education. We know to make a real difference—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, I am having a hard enough time listening to the Minister for Education. If you continue to interject, I will be naming people under standing order 253A. Member for Mudgeeraba, you are now warned under standing order 253A. Should you continue with your behaviour, you will be removed from the parliament.

Ms JONES: There is a stark contrast between Labor and the LNP. We know that education makes a difference. We know that investing in teachers and front-line services will improve educational outcomes. We know that every child in Queensland gets a better start in life when we fund education. We will never be a government that cuts teachers, like the LNP. We will never be a government that cuts child safety workers, like the LNP. We will never be a government that cuts nurses, like the LNP, because we know that every single one of those workers improves the lives of those kids who need us most. Those kids need a government that will stand up for them, that will intervene when their family does not. That is what Labor believes. That is why every single time that we put—

Mr Mander interjected.

Ms JONES: I will. That is right. Unlike those opposite, we give a damn. We believe—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Education, you need to direct your comments through the chair. Member for Everton, I remind you that if you continue with those interjections you too will be warned under standing order 253A.

Ms JONES: I thank the member for Everton for his interjections because it just highlights my point and the contrast between a Labor government and the LNP. We will put people first; we will step in when families abandon children. That is why we have reinstated the teachers that you cut. When the opposition sat around that cabinet table, they cut our teachers, they cut our teacher aides, they cut our nurses, they cut our child safety workers and they cut our doctors in the public hospitals. That is what they did. Labor will never stand for that. We know that everyone has a right to have a job. Their statement of reservation talks about unemployment. Are you kidding me? They had the highest unemployment rate in the last 10 years at 6.7 per cent.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Maryborough, I have given you a warning. You are now warned under standing order 253A. If you continue, you will be removed from the parliament.

Ms JONES: The LNP put a statement of reservation about unemployment. Is that a joke? Is that a joke to the public servants who came to our offices crying before the last election because people sacked them? Is it a joke to the public servants who survived but had to decide who was on the hit list? Unemployment was 6.7 per cent and that was Tim Nicholls' record. That is what he did. He sent more people to the scrap heap than anyone in 10 years. We know he will do the same if he ever sits on this side of the House again. I stand here very proudly tonight as part of a government that will restore front-line services, support jobs and build the Queensland economy.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Broadwater, I remind members in the House that I have warned you several times and I have already named several people. If this continues, I will continue to name people and you will be removed from the parliament.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (9.25 pm): At the beginning of my contribution to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee's report on the estimates, I acknowledge my colleagues the members for Albert and Hervey Bay. Due to the time restrictions on the debate of reports, I am not sure they will get the opportunity to make a contribution to tonight's debate but they certainly made very worthy contributions to the estimates hearings and they made worthy contributions to the report we put together. Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, as I am sure you would be well aware, many issues were raised in our estimates hearing and it was a long day. I acknowledge the shadow ministers who were there, as there were many shadow ministers covering a range of portfolios.

One of the issues that was canvassed in estimates on that day was the public spat between the democratically elected mayor of the Gold Coast and the Labor appointed chairman of the Goldoc board. The member for Surfers Paradise particularly wanted to know what impact that had had with the Commonwealth Games Federation and the confidence that the federation has. Concerns were also raised with respect to the distribution of tickets for stakeholders and sponsors and what that meant for the tickets that had been made publicly available in the ballot. Like many Queenslanders, I put in for the ballot, and unlike many Queenslanders I was successful. Serious questions need to be asked about how many tickets have been set aside by Goldoc for sponsors that would have otherwise gone to Gold Coasters and other Queenslanders who would like to go.

Another issue we discussed in relation to tourism and major events was the loss of flights from China into Cairns for Chinese New Year. We talked about the fact that this government is walking away from its traditional tourist markets like New Zealand. We talked about the failure of the Baroque festival and what the government has had to do to step in there.

When it comes to education—which is one of the largest portfolios in terms of budget funding—we talked about drugs in schools and the pork-barrelling in Labor electorates when it comes to infrastructure and capital works programs. We also talked about CCTV. This is something that I know the member for Albert is incredibly passionate about because he has had a number of schools which have written to the minister asking for CCTV after she said that any school who asked for it would get it. One of the things we discovered was that the schools that are asking for CCTV cameras are simply not getting them.

When it came to the science, innovation and digital economy component of the portfolio, we talked about the fact that Advance Queensland is not creating the jobs that it says it is. We know that a lot of taxpayer dollars are being spent on Advance Queensland and quite simply the jobs that they say are being created are not there. What we are seeing, which was highlighted by the member for Mount Ommaney and the shadow minister, is that this money is not being invested in local Queensland businesses and the money is not going to where it needs to go, which is on the ground.

Another thing we talked about in relation to that particular portfolio was the role of the State Archivist in its current inquiry into Minister Bailey. It is very disappointing that, despite being given three opportunities, the Labor members of the committee decided they were not going to be transparent and accountable and they were not going to give the parliament of Queensland an opportunity to ask the State Archivist whether or not they were properly resourced to conduct that inquiry and whether or not the State Archivist themselves—

Mr WILLIAMS: I rise to a point of order. I was in that hearing. The member is misleading the House. It was put to a vote earlier in the morning. She is misleading the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Pumicestone, there is no point of order.

Miss BARTON: I thank the member for Pumicestone for reminding the House that Labor voted no when it came to transparency and accountability. What we wanted to do was ask the archivist whether or not they were appropriately resourced, and again we saw Labor try to run a protection racket.

The last portfolio that we as a committee considered was that of Small Business. We on this side of the House know that small business is the backbone of the economy. What we discovered is that small business confidence has been shockingly low through Labor's entire time in government and is only now reaching the levels that it was at when the LNP was in government. We also looked at whether or not the small business champion was doing their job. We know that, if we work it out on a full-time-equivalent rate, the small business champion is paid more than not only the minister but also the director-general to do the job of the minister—the minister who will not even pick up the phone to the federal small business minister to talk about small business in Queensland. This government is a disgrace. We know that only the LNP can deliver for the people of Queensland.

Report adopted.

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

Report

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! The question is—

That the report of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee be adopted.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (9.31 pm): I rise to speak on the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's report on the 2017-18 budget estimates process. The committee made one recommendation: that the proposed expenditure be agreed to. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to once again chair the estimates hearing for the portfolio areas of Health, and Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services—the services Queenslanders need and depend on when they are at their most vulnerable.

In 2017-18 the Queensland Health budget will exceed \$16 billion, in addition to an over \$900 million capital program. This budget, like the two that came before it, continues to invest in the front-line services and world-class health and hospital facilities that Queenslanders demand including \$126.5 million to continue to reduce specialist outpatient long waits, \$68.9 million for a new adolescent mental health facility at the Prince Charles Hospital and \$3.3 million for the establishment of a step-up step-down mental health facility at Nundah to support the recovery of patients in the community.

In the Ambulance Services portfolio, there is a budget of over \$719 million to recruit an additional 75 ambulance operatives, for the planning or delivery of new and replacement ambulance stations, for new vehicles and equipment and for investment in systems and service improvements across Queensland. My electorate of Nudgee and all of Queensland will be well served by these investments in Health and Ambulance Services.

Few areas of policy invoke more emotion than that of child safety. None of us can help but be moved by it and we must all be moved to greater action, which this budget seeks to deliver. The committee heard that the total operating expenditure to deliver targeted early intervention, support and recovery services to vulnerable Queensland families will again exceed \$1 billion in 2017-18 out of a total departmental budget of over \$3.6 billion. This will include an additional 236 child and family services staff in 2017-18, increasing to 292 in 2018-19; \$1.4 million to establish a new child safety service centre in Morayfield; and \$7.4 million to support families affected by the drug ice.

Across the communities portfolio more generally there is: \$290 million in concessions including the electricity rebate, pensioner rate subsidy and SEQ pensioner water subsidy schemes to ease the cost of living for eligible Queenslanders; \$7.3 million to continue the upgrade and construction program for multipurpose and neighbourhood centres, often the absolute lifeblood of local communities—I know they are in my electorate at Nundah and Zillmere; and a further investment of \$9.2 million on top of the already committed \$89.5 million for domestic and family violence prevention measures.

Over \$1.9 billion will be spent on the delivery of disability services in 2017-18, including the rollout of the NDIS to Ipswich, Bundaberg and Rockhampton; readiness initiatives; supported accommodation and respite services; and aids and equipment to assist people with disability to access and participate in their respective communities.

I would like to acknowledge and thank ministers Cameron Dick, Shannon Fentiman and Coralee O'Rourke, their directors-general and chief executive officers for the genuine willingness they displayed to answer questions related to their portfolios. I would like to acknowledge and thank our secretariat, my fellow committee members, Hansard and the Auslan interpreters for their valuable assistance on the day.

It would be remiss of me not to reflect for just a moment on the statement of reservation tabled by my opposition colleagues following the hearing. The first line of the statement makes the claim of a 'jobs crisis' and of Queensland falling behind other states with regard to job security. They are not wrong. Since being elected, this government has consistently invested in rebuilding front-line services across Queensland following the savage cuts experienced under the former LNP government. Where they cut, we have employed an additional 3,172 nurses, 1,191 doctors, 882 allied health professionals and 250 ambulance operatives.

Most disappointing was the attack on the professionalism of the director-general of communities, child safety and disability services. Here is a man who has served under both the previous LNP government and the current government. When members opposite did not get the answer they wanted when he confirmed that the cuts under their previous government did impact on front-line service delivery, they sought to besmirch his professionalism. However, that wrong is reserved wholly and solely for their former government. This is a budget that puts jobs and Queenslanders first. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (9.36 pm): One of the great things about being in the parliament is we see things happen over the years and we tend to think, 'I wonder if this has happened before.' I vaguely remember back in 2007 being the shadow health minister and making some inquiries about Queensland Health in relation to the budget papers and the SDS. I remember there was something about three regions in Queensland Health and I asked about the breakdown of funding for each of the regions. After some questioning, finally I got the answer back from the then Department of Health bureaucrat that the figure in the SDS was actually billions and not millions. It was a fairly significant error in the budget papers and certainly made the then minister, Stephen Robertson, pay a bit more attention than he had been to my supposedly gentle questioning. It was pretty significant that there were lines in the budget papers back then that had been represented as millions when the amount was billions.

This year it was very interesting to ask the minister whether he stood by the budget papers and the amounts that were in the budget papers for each of the 16 HHSs in the Queensland health department. He assured us that the amounts that were in the SDS were correct. Then I asked the director-general if all the amounts in the SDS were correct and then I asked the CEO of the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service if the amounts were correct. It turned out that there was a

duplication in the budget papers that were presented in here on 13 June for the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service which were the same financial reporting measures as for the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service. It had never been detected; it had never been corrected until the end of the hearing when the minister finally corrected the tabled version. It was fairly significant to see that at all levels of governance, right down to the HHS, no-one had detected that the statistics for the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service were exactly the same as those presented for another region. One region has about 5,000 employees and one has about 2,000.

It was fairly indicative of the lack of respect of the minister for the proceedings of the parliament. I had been down to the Table Office to check a number of other budget papers—unsealed so that I could open them to see if the mistake was there, and that is exactly what had happened. That is one of the administrative issues that was uncovered. Finally, at the end of the day the minister presented the correct tabled version. As I understand it, the department had become aware of it within a few days of the budget being brought down, but there had been no communication with the ministerial office so a correction could be tabled out of session, which I understand the police minister did for some explanatory notes for a bill.

In fact, out-of-session tablings happen all the time. That was a significant issue which took up a fair bit of time in the first section of questioning. When we got down to the practical aspects we found out that we have a mental health system shrouded in secrecy, the return of ramping—which the minister's own constituents have been impacted by—the incorrect labelling of blood tubes potentially leading to misdiagnoses and payroll issues rolling on and on for frustrated current and former Queensland Health employees. To members on this side of the House who have presented cases to me, can I say that those people who are prepared to make the effort will apparently get a hearing from Queensland Health if they are prepared to have you make representations on their behalf. We have been able to get good results for some of those people whose cases we brought up at the hearing.

I am greatly concerned the minister acknowledged that he does not speak to board members of the hospital and health services: he speaks to the CEOs and the chairs. He does meet with the unions, of course. I think it fairly beggars belief that the minister will not meet with board members. He had not foreseen the unprecedented \$80 million cost blowout at Cairns that we identified in the previous budget which finally came to light at around this time last year in Cairns. They are the sorts of things you find when you are out on the ground speaking to people, while the minister denies any and all responsibility for anything that happens within the hospitals he is supposed to be overseeing. We have seen concerns about communication with the department, which is why he did not know about the errors in the budget papers. There is the seemingly small issue of the government not providing Queensland flags to ambulance services. They are little issues but they are important ones that add up as well.

 **Ms DONALDSON** (Bundaberg—ALP) (9.41 pm): Firstly, I would like to thank the committee chair and fellow government committee members as well as the hardworking committee secretariat and all the members of the Public Service who spent countless hours preparing. I would also like to thank the ministers and staff for their efforts to support Queenslanders who access health and ambulance services, Department of Communities, Disabilities and Child Safety services and all of the staff who provide services across Queensland to Queenslanders needing care and support.

There were a number of highlights discussed by the Minister for Health which saw an increase of \$1.28 billion for 2017-18. There were new measures and funding which were again a breath of fresh air compared with the slash and burn mentality of the former LNP government and treasurer of the Newman government, the member for Clayfield. There are highlights such as: \$20 million over three years to fund the Healthy Futures Commission Queensland; \$88 million for the Making Tracks investment strategy for Indigenous-specific health initiatives; an injection of \$126 million to support tackling specialist outpatient long waits and conversion to elective surgery; and \$6 million to tackle the ice epidemic in Queensland, amongst many, many more good-news stories.

Let us turn to capital investment. We cannot forget the Newman LNP government, which tried to pull the wool over Queenslanders' eyes by telling them they could not build new hospitals without selling assets. Guess what? We in the Palaszczuk government are very pleased to see new hospital facilities being built and refurbished in regional Queensland without selling assets. The cuts to health services under the former government such as BreastScreen and the sacking of 320 nurses in the Wide Bay area have not been forgotten. People in my electorate know what the member for Clayfield means when he talks about 'right sizing' the Public Service, which is LNP code for sacking nurses and teachers, cutting services and selling assets. I am very pleased to see a new step-up step-down facility in Bundaberg as well as a reduction in waiting lists and the building of a new ambulance station in Bundaberg amongst many other wins for patients in my community.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I ask that members cease their conversations across the chamber. The member for Bundaberg has the call, and all members should give her the respect of listening to what she has to say.

Ms DONALDSON: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Moving to the communities portfolio, firstly I would like to make mention of the concessions which have been so warmly welcomed in my electorate and which were so harshly ignored by the previous LNP government. The increase in funding of 9.8 per cent on the previous financial year's budget to fund and support front-line workers in the child protection system, as well as the increase in funding to support families affected by ice, shows that the Palaszczuk government is standing up for regional communities like mine instead of pretending to care whilst sacking, cutting and selling anything that is not nailed down. The Palaszczuk government is standing up for regional communities. We have not forgotten that the member for Clayfield was the architect of policies that showed just how out of touch the LNP is with regional Queensland and how much they take the regions for granted.

Speaking of taking the regions for granted, it has taken a Labor government to bring the NDIS to Queensland after the former LNP government left Queensland as the only state without a trial. I am very pleased to see a minister who is rolling out the NDIS to communities like mine, which have a high need for services to support people with disabilities. It is not just disability services that people are looking for; it is also support for victims of domestic and family violence, supporting our multicultural communities and supporting those impacted by natural disasters.

It is interesting to note the statement of reservation from the non-government members, who seem to have forgotten that chaos reigned under them. Their uncanny ability to alienate almost every section of the community—I think that talent is a speciality of the LNP—and the cut, slash and sack mentality of the LNP will never change. It is part of their DNA. The statement of reservation raised questions that the opposition members seem unable to raise directly with ministers. It seems like the statement of reservation was an arbitrary exercise they scrambled to put together when they were either too uninterested in issues or did not think they were important enough to raise on the day with the relevant minister. Despite what the members opposite keep telling themselves, the feedback from across my electorate and other communities such as those in the member for Burnett's electorate is that they are pleased to have a government that is keen to engage with them, keen to work with them and not pick fights with them or sack them, cut their services or sell their assets out from under them. Let's be honest: the member for Burnett is doing a pretty good job of selling the message of the Palaszczuk government's achievements.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (9.46 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's report on budget estimates 2017-18. This year's estimates showed the child safety crisis has gone from bad to worse under the Palaszczuk Labor government and this Minister for Child Safety. It showed that Queensland children remain at risk, the system is continuing to fail them and carers are still not being supported.

Queenslanders saw in this year's estimates proceedings confirmation that this is an out-of-touch, secretive, do-nothing minister who is not across her brief. We saw that both the minister and her director-general were not equipped to answer crucial questions about whether our children are being protected and whether important sources of funding are being maintained. Queenslanders could be forgiven for thinking that the director-general's comments during the hearing were at best inflammatory and at worst blatantly political. We rightfully expect senior public servants in this state to be apolitical and leave the politicking to their ministers, but what we saw time and time again as the director-general attempted to answer the committee's questions was a political blame game. I have never in my eight years in this place seen such a flurry of Post-it notes and briefing notes flying everywhere—not from a director-general, but to a director-general. It was quite extraordinary.

Whilst the majority of the committee's crucial questions were avoided by the minister and her director-general, this did not stop them from disgracefully spending their time talking about budgets from half a decade ago. Rather than talking about the very real child safety crisis affecting real children in Queensland right now—today—we saw the minister attempt to drag up and rehash the past in a desperate attempt to distract from her own shambolic performance. This is not good enough for the kids with broken hearts who are still waiting helplessly for Child Safety to come knocking. It is not good enough for the carers who are leaving the system because they feel so let down they are giving up their important work.

Of great concern are the director-general's worrying comments about the child related cost budget. The CRC budget is specifically designed for children in out-of-home care and for children residing at home. It is designed to enhance a child's safety and wellbeing and minimise the need for more intrusive child protection intervention. They are cost specific to a child's needs as recorded in the approved case plan and are in excess of financial support provided by routine allowances, but we are seeing funding being ripped out of the child related cost budget to fund the minister's new mandatory drug testing. The CRC budget already experiences overspends. We also saw that question on notice 11 remains unanswered.

Almost a month into the new financial year, the budget allocated for each child safety service centre has not been finalised. This is beyond belief, is completely unacceptable and reeks of a cover-up of potential budget cuts in some areas. We know that some child safety service centres are being stretched to the limit, and Queenslanders deserve to know which service centres are experiencing cuts under Labor. Finally, we saw no evidence of a plan to reduce the overreliance on residential care in Queensland. This is a service which now costs more than \$200 million per annum, at an average cost of \$300,000 per child.

Meanwhile, in domestic and family violence prevention we saw a measly two per cent increase in funding in areas like the south-east region on the Gold Coast, despite the double-digit increase in domestic violence incidents. That is not good enough as we continue to see women, children and men leaving domestic violence with nowhere to go. We see them put up in unsafe motels, at a seven-figure cost to the state, where they remain at risk and usually end up with no choice but to return home, where retribution will always follow.

Queenslanders with a disability will be rightfully appalled by this year's estimates. Questions were raised about poor record keeping by Disability Services Queensland after a number of client files were rejected by the NDIA. The minister could not say if clients who had incorrect contact information were still being given support. When it comes to forensic disability services located at Wacol, a number of crucial questions could not be answered at the estimates hearing about the service's operation.

We know that there are still more than 18,000 people with a disability who are languishing on the register of need. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government there is no plan to support them whilst they wait for the NDIS to roll out in the remaining parts of Queensland.

I would like to thank the non-government members of the committee—the members for Caloundra, Cleveland and Gaven—for their hard work in holding this government to account during the estimates this year. I do thank the chair, the member for Nudgee, for doing her best to protect her incompetent Minister for Child Safety. Queenslanders deserve better than what they saw in this year's estimates. They deserve a government that will build stronger families—

Mr WHITING: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Certainly that is unparliamentary language and I ask you to advise the member to change her language.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! There is no point of order.

Ms BATES: Only a Tim Nicholls led LNP government will build a better Queensland.

 **Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (9.51 pm):** I rise to speak on and support the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's report on the 2017-18 budget estimates process. The committee made one recommendation: that the proposed expenditure be agreed to. I acknowledge all committee members and those who came before the estimates committee for their work. I also acknowledge the secretariat and all ministers.

This year's estimates process examined some of the most vital services our government provides to Queenslanders. One of the most common themes that was apparent to me is that our most valuable asset is indeed our people—those dedicated front-line staff in these vital areas of service provision who provide care, compassion and skill to Queenslanders when they need them most.

In 2017-18 the Health budget is over \$16.5 billion. That represents an 8.4 per cent increase on the 2016-17 budget. It is apparent to me that we are building and maintaining the hospitals our communities need. Since being elected the Palaszczuk government has employed an additional 3,172 nurses, 1,191 doctors, 882 allied health professionals and 250 ambulance staff. This is in stark contrast to the Newman-Nicholls LNP government, which sacked thousands of front-line staff. It is apparent in this budget that the Palaszczuk government is investing in restoring our front-line services. This is something that we know is needed as our population both grows and ages.

Great work is being done in our hospitals and we have budgeted accordingly. There is \$126 million to continue to reduce specialist outpatient long waits; \$2 million for a suite of mental health initiatives for health professionals; and \$88 million under the Making Tracks investment strategy for

Indigenous health initiatives. In Townsville we have our tertiary hospital and a great hospital and health service. I am pleased to see \$18.8 million growth funding to meet projected increases in activity, emergency department presentations and elective surgery. We will also complete the \$6.6 million expansion of the Townsville Hospital paediatric ward.

The Queensland Ambulance Service received a record budget of \$719 million. This funding will be used to recruit an additional 75 ambulance staff, taking the total to 250 since we were elected. There is \$16.9 million for planning and delivery of new and replacement ambulance stations and \$21 million for 150 new and replacement ambulance vehicles. I and the 44 staff at Kirwan Ambulance Station in the electorate of Thuringowa are pretty happy to see the delivery of the \$5 million redevelopment. I thank the health minister for that.

Child Safety is an absolute priority of the Palaszczuk government. That stands in stark contrast to the LNP, which sacked over 200 staff in Child Safety. Our government is again restoring these vital services. I commend Minister Fentiman for the \$200 million over four years to fund and support front-line workers in the child protection system including 236 child and family services staff, increasing to 292 in 2018-19. I am glad that the department is also addressing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in the child protection system.

The member for Hinchinbrook, who will speak after me, raised with Minister O'Rourke the cost of electricity. The hypocrisy of this member, who continued to question the minister on electricity prices, knows no bounds. He should remember the figure of 43 per cent. The LNP delivered nothing in terms of infrastructure, nothing in terms of electricity generation and nothing in terms of water.

As I said recently, \$690 million in infrastructure is budgeted—not pledged, as those opposite did—for water infrastructure and there is \$386 million for the Powering North Queensland Plan, which will see hydro-electricity generated on the Burdekin and, importantly, the building of a transmission line to connect all of those renewable energy projects like the \$225 million Ross Solar Farm in my electorate—or Clare or Collinsville or Kidston. The benefit of these projects is that they will create thousands of jobs. Our plan will increase local supply and put downward pressure on wholesale prices. We are generating North Queensland energy for North Queensland. We will keep prices down so that we do not experience the double-digit price increases we are seeing around the country. Why is that happening? It is because those opposite sold our assets.

I have said in this House before that anyone who opposes—the crossbenchers opposed it—the \$690 million budgeted for our city of Townsville should drive up to Townsville and tell us that we are not worth it. That is what they are effectively saying. I find it staggering that someone would oppose \$690 million of infrastructure for our city. They are effectively telling us that North Queenslanders do not deserve it. We do, and the Labor government of this state is delivering that infrastructure for the residents of Townsville.

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (9.56 pm): For the third year in a row I have attended the budget estimates committee hearing of the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland in an attempt to establish exactly what the minister is responsible for in relation to North Queensland. As a result of previous estimates committee processes we know that the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland is not responsible for any legislation, any budget allocations or any public servants in her role representing North Queensland.

For three years now estimates committees have been expected to scrutinise the performance of the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland without any service measures being included in the state budget papers for her role relating to North Queensland—unlike every other cabinet minister. This is a disgrace. As I have previously observed, this abysmal failure of transparency demonstrates a contempt for the obligation of the executive to be accountable to the parliament.

Given that for the third year in a row there were no service area objectives, no service area descriptions and no service measures in any Service Delivery Statements associated with this minister in that capacity representing the Premier on North Queensland, this year I tried something different. This year I decided to ask the minister a series of questions about key issues impacting on the region that she is supposed to represent and about which she has previously made statements, just to give her a head start. In doing so, what became clear was that this minister has been making unsubstantiated claims that are a long way from the reality of the situation. I did not have a lot of time available, so I decided to concentrate on unemployment, crime and electricity costs, which are all major issues in North Queensland.

The minister made a statement on 24 May this year claiming that the Palaszczuk government's first two budgets had created jobs in North Queensland. Despite this claim, the fact is that unemployment rates in Townsville, particularly youth unemployment rates, have increased. I asked the

minister why, but the minister was unable to explain why Labor's policies had failed to lower unemployment rates in North Queensland, despite her statement earlier in the year and despite the fact that they have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on taxpayer funded programs in that region.

On 9 December last year the minister told North Queenslanders that juvenile offenders would be held accountable and made to fix the damage they caused when committing a property crime, and this was an initiative because of the shocking youth crime rates in Townsville and North Queensland. I asked the minister how many youth offenders had been issued with these orders and it turns out that none of the 17 high-risk youth court orders issued since February appear to have involved the young offender fixing the damage they caused to other people's property in the course of their sentencing—zero—despite the minister's claims.

At the estimates committee I noted that on 2 June 2017 the minister had asserted that the Powering North Queensland Plan would stabilise electricity prices in North Queensland and I asked a simple question of the minister: how and when will this occur? In her answer the minister appeared to claim that the government's Powering North Queensland Plan had already stabilised power prices in North Queensland but, despite being asked twice, the minister was unable to advise the committee when this price stabilisation had occurred. The power bills being paid by North Queenslanders would certainly appear to contradict her claim. For three years now I have been saying that the lack of clarity around the role of the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland and in particular the annual estimates process in relation to these particular responsibilities is a complete farce. It finally seems that the minister's cover has been blown. The editorial in the *Townsville Bulletin* on Thursday, 27 July this year made the following observation in relation to the minister's performance at the estimates committee the day before. It stated—

Ms O'Rourke has three ministerial hats—Disability Services, Seniors and 'Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland'.

It is in the last role that Ms O'Rourke has bitterly disappointed people in this region—many of whom voted her into a shock win against David Crisafulli in 2015.

And last night we witnessed another bumbling performance that reminded us how out of touch—and out of depth—she is for this role.

When Hinchinbrook MP Andrew Cripps pressed Ms O'Rourke on vital issues to our region—energy and crime—she betrayed an embarrassing ignorance. She could not answer the most basic questions about power prices and law and order.

I table that article for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 27 July 2017, titled 'Region loses a powerful supporter' [[1251](#)].

I could not have said it better myself. The minister for North Queensland is a bitter disappointment to the region that she is supposed to represent and she is certainly—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.01 pm): Anyone listening to the opposition members at the Health and Ambulance Services estimates hearing could be forgiven for thinking that the two greatest issues facing our health system were flags and photocopying. Those of us who have been long-term followers of Queensland politics are well aware of the LNP's political pattern—reckless and brutal in government and lazy and inept in opposition. However, this year's Health estimates were different; they were just plain weird. There was not a question from the LNP on the list of those Queenslanders waiting longer than clinically recommended for a specialist outpatient appointment. That is hardly surprising perhaps because we have cut that list by 63 per cent since we came to government. There was not a question from the LNP on the list of those waiting longer than clinically recommended for elective surgery. Again, that is hardly surprising since on 1 July this year only 99 Queenslanders were waiting longer than clinically recommended for elective surgery—the lowest monthly long-wait figure ever recorded in Queensland, the lowest figure ever recorded since this measure first started being recorded 15 years ago in 2002.

There was not a question from the LNP on financial performance. There is no surprise there either since we have once again delivered a surplus across the system, including across our hospital and health services. Indeed, members may recall the former health minister, the member for Southern Downs, in his speech on the budget proudly saluting his achievement by declaring that under the stewardship of his financial genius the HHSs delivered a collective surplus of \$19 million. One can only imagine how thrilled he will be by the news that the collective surplus delivered by Labor across all 16 HHSs in 2016-17 was double that, more than \$38 million.

The LNP had nothing to say about our record \$16.554 billion investment in Health in this year's budget, a 21½ per cent increase on the allocation provided in the final budget of the Newman government, or the fact that 84 per cent of our budget has been distributed to our hospital and health

services for the delivery of health services directly to Queenslanders compared to the 80.8 per cent the HHSs received under the LNP. There was not a question from the member for Surfers Paradise about our Enhancing Regional Hospitals program and the \$138.4 million we will be investing this year to redevelop hospitals in places like Kingaroy, Blackall and Sarina—communities completely ignored by the Liberal National Party when it was in government. As I have said in this House before, there is no greater friend of the bush when it comes to health care than the Australian Labor Party. There was not a question about front-line services and the 1,200 doctors and 4,300 nurses we have employed since the election. Again, that is not really surprising since the LNP's way of dealing with the provision of health services was to sack 4,400 health workers including 1,800 nurses and midwives.

Government members interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjections from government members: it was a disgrace! There was not a question from the LNP either about the \$68.5 million investment in our new adolescent treatment facility for young people with chronic mental health issues, and no wonder after its catastrophic decision to close the Barrett Adolescent Centre against expert advice without having a replacement. There was not a mention by the LNP of the successful opening of the \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital. Again, that is not hard to understand when we compare it to its botched opening of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. There was nothing about research; nothing about how our nurse navigators are out in the community changing the lives of those suffering from chronic illness; nothing about our plans to build capacity in our public hospitals in areas of high population growth in Logan, Ipswich and Caboolture; nothing on the devastating 84 per cent cut by the Commonwealth to the annual funding of our national partnership agreements; and nothing—not one thing—from the member for Surfers Paradise nor other LNP members on the challenges our health system faces from increasing demand and an ageing population.

The burning issues for the shadow minister for ceremonial protocols and office administration were how many Queensland flags were flying outside ambulance stations and who got the photocopying wrong on three out of 257 pages in the Service Delivery Statements. In survey after survey Queenslanders nominate the Australian Labor Party as the party they most trust to look after their health needs. After the dismal effort at estimates by those members opposite, is it any wonder why?

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (10.06 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the report before the House and start by acknowledging my fellow members of the committee, both on this side of the House and government, the shadow ministers and the secretariat who do phenomenal work on behalf of all committee members to get us together and functioning on the day and elsewhere. I want to start by making a comment in relation to the health minister's contribution. It would appear that when you listen to the health minister the whole health scenario came from him, the perfection came from him. Those of us who were here in 2012 well remember the debacle of the payroll, the debacle of the waiting list for the waiting list, the debacle of ramping, the debacle of the dental waiting lists and the debacle of the Bundaberg Hospital. Those rolled through the Labor government until such time as Lawrence Springborg took the helm in 2012 and cleaned that mess up. He cleaned that mess up and he handed a health department—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Caloundra, I ask the member to refer to other members by their correct titles.

Mr McARDLE: Certainly, Madam Deputy Speaker. As I said, the member for Southern Downs took the health department and made it whole again. He made it well again and passed it on to a minister who looks more in the mirror than do other members of the House, in a better state than we ever got it in and the good work that he did should be acknowledged. I start by saying this: the health minister in his contribution to the estimates committee made a very telling comment. He said that category 1 patients in our EDs are increasing in presentations by 10.4 per cent a year and that category 2s are increasing by 7.1 per cent a year.

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I realise members on my right are very excited by what the member for Caloundra has to say. However, he is not taking your interjections and I can barely hear him. Please keep your interjections to a minimum.

Mr McARDLE: I will start again, Madam Deputy Speaker. He said that category 2 patients are increasing by 7.1 per cent across Queensland and made the comment that we can imagine the resources and the intense focus on those patients. That is absolutely right: our population is increasing, our ageing population is increasing and chronic disease is increasing right across this state.

I pose the question: why are we not using Caloundra Hospital better? Why are we not using the services of Caloundra Hospital better when we know the impact the category 1 and category 2 patients are having upon SCUH at this point in time? In fact, Caloundra QAS can attest to the fact that they attended in 2015-16 6,508 code 1 and code 2 patients and in 2016-17 7,272, an increase of 764 or 11.7 per cent. Those category 1 and category 2 patients are going to SCUH yet we have a 12-hour, seven-day-a-week minor illness and injury clinic at Caloundra. That is insane. At a time when we need to open better facilities, more facilities, we are shutting them down. A petition will be filed in this House some time this week, I understand, asking for that to be changed to a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week facility so that Caloundra can help soak up the stress that SCUH is under and, in the minister's own words, will increase.

The CEO of the Sunshine Coast HHS advised the committee of a purchase of a motor vehicle used to transport patients between the public and private hospitals at Kawana. These hospitals are only metres apart however transport is required. A 2006 motor vehicle was bought by the HHS at a cost of \$30,000 and then refurbished at a cost of \$50,000. It is a 2006 motor vehicle—11 years old—to transport patients from public to private, private to public hospitals within metres. Why were patient transport vehicles owned by the QAS not used for that purpose? Why did we have to go out and buy another vehicle at a total cost of \$80,000 to transport patients who could have been transported by QAS patient transport vehicles? It is an absolute waste. I could not find a picture of what the vehicle looked like, but I think the registration number is ECTO 1—the Ghostbuster's vehicle—at a cost of \$80,000. I table that for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting a vehicle with registration number ECTO-1 [\[1252\]](#).

It amounts to an old vehicle at a cost of \$80,000 for the sake of transporting patients. What an absolute waste of money when patient transport vehicles would have been readily available and able to be used by the hospital at that point in time. It is an absolute shame that that money is now down the drain. Very quickly can I say that the Sunshine Coast University Hospital—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.12 pm): I am very pleased to respond to the report of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's consideration of my department's budget for 2017-18. I thank the committee chair, the member for Nudgee, committee members and committee staff. Key priorities for the government in child safety include more child safety staff, bringing the total this term to more than 400 front-line and front-line support staff; \$7.4 million to support families affected by ice; and \$6.9 million to support our wonderful foster and kinship carers through the non-government sector. Our key funding to tackle domestic and family violence includes \$5.8 million for support associated with specialist DV courts; two new shelters—and let us remember it was the Palaszczuk government that delivered new specialist refuges for women and children escaping violence in more than 20 years—and \$8.2 million over four years to establish high-risk teams.

In addition to the 400 child safety staff we have funded this term, our investment in the community sector has resulted in hundreds of new jobs, restoring community services and supporting organisations that were gagged and cut by the previous government. Opposition members of the committee were not interested in jobs or community support or even safety for vulnerable women and families. I note the member for Mudgeeraba spoke about domestic and family violence in her contribution to the debate tonight, but there was not one question from the opposition members on domestic and family violence—not one question. In fact, the member for Gaven's entire contribution during estimates was 12 words. As usual, their statement of reservation would give members the impression they were at a completely different hearing.

Firstly, let us talk about drug testing for parents suspected of using ice. I make no apologies for this tough new measure to keep kids safe. Let us set aside that this is the fourth or fifth position we have heard from the LNP on this policy and deal with the concern that they have raised. Yes, the tests are paid out of child related costs. That is because it is absolutely fundamental to the safety of the child that our child safety officers get the information they need to know, which is whether a parent is using ice. Let me be very clear though: there has been no reduction in child related costs for children as a result of this mandatory drug testing. Child related cost budgets are adjusted annually in response to need. The hypocrisy of the LNP is astounding because child related costs were cut by the LNP when it was in government by over \$1.9 million. The Palaszczuk government has restored these cuts with an extra \$2.6 million budgeted over the last two years. The opposition does a lot of talking about this, but it is the Palaszczuk government that has taken action.

Secondly, opposition members suggest that there has only been a two per cent increase in domestic violence support in the south-east region. The problem is it is simply not true. The opposition is reinterpreting information to try to suit a story it is trying to tell, but I want to be very clear for the House. The opposition asked a question on notice about funding to existing shelters only, then tried to present that as the total domestic violence funding for the Gold Coast. Rather than an increase of 2.1 per cent let us be clear it has increased by 42.33 per cent since we have come to government. That is because when those opposite were in charge they cut funding to the domestic violence prevention centre on the Gold Coast by \$150,000. That is absolutely disgraceful. We would expect such misinformation from those who spent their time in government cutting domestic violence services and gagging them from speaking out on behalf of some of our most vulnerable.

Finally, the opposition in their reservation statement also ridiculously claim that there was no evidence of a plan to reduce reliance on residential care. No evidence, except for a press conference, a media release and stakeholder endorsement. In fact, it was just days before the estimates hearing that I stood with child safety experts and outlined our plans for an investment in professional foster care, the very thing that will help pull vulnerable at-risk children out of residential care. Again, the underwhelming opposition is just not interested in the facts. Those opposite missed an opportunity to genuinely engage and scrutinise the budget. They did not do their job. They asked questions about whether or not front-line staff were cut and they got the answers. They did not like them, but they got the answers. The Palaszczuk government is restoring child safety.

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (10.17 pm): This Palaszczuk Labor government budget shows higher unemployment, higher costs of living, less projects started and delivered and more and more job-stifling red tape. Instead of leading the way in job creation and job security, Queensland is falling behind the other states. The Health portfolio has a budget of \$16.5 billion yet Labor allowed a significantly short period of examination for the health and ambulance services, the single largest part of the overall state budget. This demonstrates a severe lack of accountability on behalf of both the government and, more specifically, the health minister. As per the opposition's statement of reservation, at least three pages of the service delivery statement were proven to be wrong. The minister sought to blame the Treasury for the error despite the fact he signed off on the budget and it remained uncorrected on the parliamentary record for five weeks.

Since Labor returned to government my office has regularly fielded phone calls concerning hospital wait times. Constituents are being told they have years to wait before they will even get close to the inside of a theatre. Some are choosing to access their superannuation because the alternative is not being able to work and having to receive Centrelink benefits. Is that the kind of society that this Labor government wants us to live in? By comparison, under Lawrence Springborg, who I might add was an exceptional Health minister who I worked under in the Ambulance Service, Queensland cut its 2012 surgery waiting list of 6,485 patients to 76 patients in less than three years.

Government members interjected.

Mr CRAMP: Don't those opposite hate the facts? Long wait dental waiting lists went from 61,405 to zero. That is correct—zero! The waiting list for specialist outpatients, which had grown by 90 per cent during the previous six years under the Beattie-Bligh governments, was reduced for the first time. On-time delivery of urgent surgery rose from 86 per cent to 98 per cent, semi-urgent surgery from 73 per cent to 94 per cent and nonurgent surgery from 90 per cent to 97 per cent. The tangible evidence is exceptional.

As a former ambulance officer, I know how hard our paramedics and emergency medical dispatchers work, so it is disappointing to see that the paramedics are still not able to have their designated rest and meal breaks, with missed meal payments in the 2016-17 period totalling \$19 million. This government continues to ignore the welfare of paramedics, disregarding the fact that \$19 million spent in meal payments could hire in excess of 200 paramedics, which would certainly alleviate the clear difficulty this Labor government is having in paramedics receiving their rightful entitlements. The issue will only be further exacerbated with ramping now returning in almost every HSS area and this do-nothing Labor government has no plans to address it. There are also serious concerns about the planning, if any, surrounding ambulance officer deployment for the Commonwealth Games, especially with regard to having no concrete plans for where the officers will be drawn from. The Commonwealth Games draw closer and closer, and yet so little planning has been done to service the event and, at the same time, ensure our regional communities are not adversely impacted with service delivery issues.

With over 9,000 nights of emergency accommodation required for victims of DV last year, it is devastating to see that the Palaszczuk Labor government is absolutely failing victims of DV, with government figures showing only a two per cent increase in funding—to the minister I say: those are your figures, not ours—including in the south-east region. Add to that the witch-hunt of the Minister for Housing and Public Works to shut down private DV emergency accommodation on the Gold Coast last year and it shows just how little Labor cares for DV victims. He may well grin, but I can assure the minister that DV victims on the Gold Coast were not laughing and grinning.

As per our statement of reservations, budgets for child safety service centres in Queensland still have not been finalised, which means critical centres such as the one at Nerang are still unsure of how many children they can assist in the coming financial year. This budget shows us that across each area of this portfolio, while spending is increased, what is of greatest concern is the fact that many key performance measures have declined. Throwing money at the issue is not fixing it. That was tried under the previous Bligh Labor government. Many of the ministers sitting here today were a part of that government, which failed miserably. We can only hope that, for the health and welfare of Queensland, this is the last budget of this do-nothing Labor government.

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (10.22 pm): On 26 July, the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee conducted a hearing across my portfolio areas of Disability Services, Seniors and Assisting the Premier on North Queensland. I thank the members of the committee and the secretariat for their work this year. As I stated at the hearing, this budget was a great budget for Queenslanders with disability, seniors and people in the north. It was a budget that again delivered a surplus, a budget that again delivered record investment in health and education, and again we delivered in infrastructure across the state and continue to restore front-line services devastated by the LNP.

The Disability Services budget of \$1.887 billion represents more than a 10 per cent increase from the previous year. 2016-17 saw the first full year of the National Disability Insurance Scheme transition in Queensland. I am pleased that 12,334 Queenslanders have entered or are engaged in the NDIS in the first year. It is not forgotten by Queenslanders with disability that the previous LNP government was extremely reluctant to commit to being a part of the NDIS, which meant that Queensland was the only state not to have an NDIS trial. People with disabilities, carers, families and friends have not forgotten the three years of the LNP government when Tim Nicholls delivered budgets that saw more than 600 positions cut from Disability Services and a net fiscal reduction in Disability Services funding of \$72.1 million. We saw the results of this from 2012 to 2015 when the numbers of people with disability on the register of need grew from 5,967 to more than 17,000. I was happy to report to the committee that, in 2016-17, for the first time since the introduction of the NDIS we saw a decrease in the number of people with disability on the register of need. That is something that will continue as the NDIS rolls out, eventually seeing all people with disability access the supports they need and the register of need reaching zero.

I answered questions about North Queensland in my role assisting the Premier. The committee heard me outline economic programs and projects that support our Advancing North Queensland framework priorities, which are in stark contrast to three years of frontline service cuts when the only plan from the LNP to diversify and strengthen the north's economy was to sell income-generating assets. Instead of trying to sell our assets, the Palaszczuk government is investing in economic growth, diversification and jobs through infrastructure and a clear plan for our future energy needs with the Powering North Queensland Plan. At the hearing, opposition members voiced concerns around the stabilisation of electricity prices. The facts are clear: across Queensland, household bills will have increased by just 1.9 per cent per year on average under the Palaszczuk government, as opposed to the 43 per cent increase inflicted under Tim Nicholls and the previous LNP government. It is the Palaszczuk government that understands and is committed to stabilising electricity prices and supporting Queenslanders by giving electricity price increase relief by investing \$770 million to cover the cost of the solar bonus scheme and increasing funding for concessions, including electricity, gas, water and rates, by \$27.9 million from last year to \$290 million.

I also addressed questions about crime in Townsville, which is another area where the Palaszczuk government has delivered outcomes. With additional police resources and the implementation of the five-point plan, including the Stronger Communities Action Group and the Community Youth Response, we have seen a drop in crime for the period October 2016 to May 2017, compared to the previous period of October 2015 to May 2016. I spoke about the recovery following cyclone Debbie and I remain concerned about the federal government's lack of commitment to category D funding.

Finally, the committee may not have asked any questions about Queensland seniors, but they can rest assured that the Palaszczuk government has not and will not forget them. This year, we are spending \$12 million to fund seniors services, which is an increase of more than 22 per cent from last year. I am proud of what this government has delivered in all of my portfolio areas. We have not been arrogant like the previous LNP government. We have listened and, importantly, we did not cut, sack or sell; we have delivered.

Dr ROBINSON (Cleveland—LNP) (10.27 pm): I rise to speak to the budget estimates of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. The committee's areas of responsibility are Health; Ambulance Services; Communities, Women and Youth; Child Safety; Multicultural Affairs; Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence; Disability Services; and Seniors. The committee also has a monitoring and oversight function in relation to the Health Ombudsman. The Palaszczuk Labor government's third budget fails to address the needs for infrastructure and services in the Cleveland district, as it does for the whole of Queensland. It promises thousands of jobs that will never happen, just like the Broadwater Spit development that Labor said would generate thousands of jobs. That was just another hollow Labor promise.

In terms of Health and Ambulance Services, with a budget of \$16.5 billion the time available to scrutinise the Health budget was limited. However, it was embarrassing to watch the health minister try to defend this budget. He proclaimed his confidence in every word, line and page of the service delivery statement, only to find out that at least three whole pages that he vouched for were proven to be wrong.

A government member: Photocopied wrong, mate.

Dr ROBINSON: Three whole pages, that he said were right, were wrong. In true Labor fashion, the minister sought to blame Treasury officials and others for the bungle, despite signing off on it himself. He was so out of touch that for five weeks those gross errors remained uncorrected on the parliamentary record. Evidence produced showed that Labor's disastrous nurse payroll fiasco continues to hurt current and former nurses who are being chased for overpayments. The bungles continue in the form of incidents of wrong blood in tubes for the previous period. The minister's lack of transparency around these figures is typical of the approach of this government to redact and hide bad news. Ambulance ramping is back under Labor in almost every HHS area and there seems to be no will or plan to address the problem. This is certainly the case at Redland Hospital in the Cleveland district. Our residents deserve better.

I was shocked to learn that after three budget years, no plan for local solutions exists to deal with the intensive care patients at Redland Hospital. When Labor first came to government in early 2015 they knew that an intensive care unit needed to be built at Redland Hospital as thousands of local patients were having to be redirected to other hospitals, delaying the time it takes to fully treat them and potentially placing lives at risk. They knew that in early 2015.

Under questioning the minister admitted that three years on still no plan even exists to address the intensive care issues at the Redland Hospital. This is an unacceptably low standard of health that should not be tolerated by local Redlands people. Anecdotal evidence also exists that emergency department times are blowing out since Labor came into government. The LNP finished construction of the new emergency department. Unfortunately, we found that there was no funding for capital expenditure, no funding for staffing. We could open a new emergency department, but not operate—how ludicrous. We had to find additional funding—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Dr ROBINSON: Like *Yes Minister*. I take that interjection. I will continue to fight for our fair share of health funding for Redland City residents, having been sold out by Labor.

I turn to the portfolios of Communities, Women and Youth; Child Safety; and Multicultural Affairs. With respect to the serious issue of child protection and the gross failures of this government, it was disappointing that the minister focused her time on five years ago rather than the current crisis in child safety. Estimates questioning highlighted serious concerns about the level of funding to domestic violence support in some areas.

In terms of the Disability Services and Seniors portfolios, poor record keeping by Disability Services Queensland was raised after client files were rejected by the NDIA. Unfortunately, questions were not answered about the operation of the Forensic Disability Service in Wacol. There are still over 18,000 people living with a disability on the register of need. This government does not seem to have a plan to support them whilst they wait for the NDIS rollout. Labor's third and thankfully final budget of this parliamentary term fails.

(Time expired)

Report adopted.

Public Works and Utilities Committee

Report

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): The question is—

That the report of the Public Works and Utilities Committee be adopted.

Mr KING (Kallangur—ALP) (10.32 pm): I rise tonight to speak about the Public Works and Utilities Committee's estimates committee report on its consideration of the Appropriation Bill 2017. The committee managed to set the times for the estimates quite easily this year. We were able to agree on the timing, order and conditions for the examination of each portfolio area fairly quickly. We did have a bit of a hiccup with some changes to ministerial representation for the day, but it all worked out well. I thank the Treasurer and the Minister for the Environment for stepping up and not only doing a second round of estimates but being all over the portfolios with only eight days preparation.

I would like to thank all committee members: deputy chair, Rob Molhoek; Joan Pease; Chris Whiting; Jason Costigan; and Matt McEachan. I thank our proxy member for the day, Duncan Pegg, for standing by to fill in if I lost my voice as I had a particularly bad flu on the day. I would like to thank again the ministers, their staff, the directors-general, their departments and GOC executives for their participation on the day.

We had a number of non-committee members who attended on the day to question the ministers, directors-general and CEOs. I would also like to thank them for their participation. Thanks also to Hansard, the attendants and the Public Works and Utilities Committee secretariat for their hard work in preparing for the hearing and their hard work on the day. Kate, Rachele, Mishelle and Lynn, thank you very much.

We started with the examination of the Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports portfolio. Some of the highlights were: completing the Boundary Road interchange upgrade; progressing delivery of the Commonwealth Games upgrade package; and continuing works on the Gateway Upgrade North package. Some of the issues discussed included funding in QTRIP. An opposition member tried to be a bit cute by cherrypicking figures from one year in QTRIP to make the funding look skewed. However, as explained by the minister and director-general, the funding is over a four-year period. To quote the director-general—

To make a comparison year on year can be a bit difficult because you should be comparing four years with four years.

Once we had sorted this out to everyone's satisfaction we had some questioning about local funding of particular interest to me, that being the Petrie roundabout works which, as I have stressed, are quite urgent because the new University of the Sunshine Coast campus is coming to the old Petrie mill site in my area. The only disappointing part of this session was that the member for Whitsunday was apparently not aware that it was not only the people of North Queensland who suffered tragedy during recent Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

We moved on to the Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply portfolio. The member for Burleigh appeared to struggle somewhat with the government direction to Stanwell Corporation being under the energy act and not the Corporations Act. He also seemed to have a bit of a problem with the way government owned corporations raise revenue and the fact that their bidding strategies are commercial-in-confidence. If former treasurer and now opposition leader Tim Nicholls had his way they would have sold these entities and there would have been no opportunity to question them at all. We have retained government ownership, as we promised. They still have their commercial-in-confidence business decisions. I suggest the member for Burleigh studies the standing orders regarding GOCs before the next estimates.

The member for Burleigh also tabled a bill from Dodo, with no names or explanation, but showing a rise in electricity prices. It did not say whether it was a large business or a residential premises. I do not know what it was supposed to prove other than that a private retailer had raised prices. That night on the news it was clarified that it was an erroneous bill. I am glad for the consumer involved that it has all been sorted out. Questioning continued. I thank members for their contributions and questioning about the fantastic Powering Queensland Plan.

We then moved on to the Housing and Public Works portfolio. We had some robust questioning about the rollout of the 10-year, \$1.6 billion Queensland Housing Strategy. We finished off with the Sport portfolio, where some of the highlights were \$20.6 million over four years to support Stadiums Queensland and \$64.3 million to support grassroots sport and recreation participation. The member for

Beaudesert showed his love for cricket by referring to each questioning session as an innings and his apparent obsession with drop-in pitches. I would like to thank members for their rigorous questioning of this portfolio.

As always, there was a lot of ideology and political game play carried out by the opposition. As well as their usual tired slogan, their statement of reservation—or rhetoric, as I see it—appears to be a political campaign piece more than an account of what happened on the day. Sadly, this is what we have come to expect from this lame duck opposition.

I still managed to give opposition members a far larger share of the time allotted—actually 53 minutes longer. The member for Whitsunday giving me a clock for some reason at one stage was obviously his recognition and thanks for this. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (10.37 pm): That was a good report, Mr Chair. No-one can have any confidence in the department of public works following the lack of clear and meaningful answers that we received from the minister at estimates. Sadly, the minister failed to answer a whole range of important issues, including the minister's unbelievable and arrogant dismissal of questions on public health and safety relating to the potential fire risk of aluminium external cladding on public and private buildings across Queensland that have been identified in the wake of the London Grenfell tower tragedy. The minister refused to release a list that he apparently has of more than 40 buildings in Queensland that potentially have dangerous cladding. The LNP is very concerned by Minister de Brenni's cavalier attitude. We will continue to pressure the minister and the Palaszczuk government to properly act to deal with this important issue in a timely and effective manner.

Confidence in leadership in the Department of Housing and Public Works has taken a dive under the Palaszczuk Labor government as plainly shown by the Working for Queensland survey. The government's own survey of staff in the department found that key indicators associated with integrity, management, behaviour and development commitments have declined in the Department of Housing and Public Works. Minister de Brenni claimed no knowledge of his department's own survey and arrogantly dismissed the findings. Given this attitude by the minister, the obvious question really needs to be asked: what is the cost ultimately to taxpayers of conducting the survey and why would anyone bother given the very arrogant and dismissive response of the minister which continues tonight?

Again, the minister's unbelievable and arrogant dismissals of questions related to staff cuts in the Procurement Services section of his department when budget papers clearly show that staff numbers have been slashed from 111 in 2014-15 to 59 in 2015-16 and with only a marginal increase since, despite the very damning Auditor-General's report of the failure in the department—the report and findings also arrogantly dismissed by the minister, blaming everyone else including the previous government when he has been at the helm for nearly 2½ years. The facts show that the minister has gutted Procurement Services—a key section of his department that is supposed to be responsible for coordinating purchases and supplies across departments and delivering value for money.

Other key concerns were the minister's poor explanation of what is planned with regulations that could see all metal roofs in Queensland having to be installed by licensed plumbers with a huge potential increase in home and commercial building costs. From the very poor explanations from the minister, it is plain that the Palaszczuk Labor government is failing to deal properly with the important issue of payments for building contractors and subcontractors, even with projects that are being directly overseen by the Department of Housing and Public Works, with the minister failing to provide clear details to the estimates hearing about security of payments—something he claims to be the champion of. What was most disturbing was the minister's arrogant dismissal of evidence that the department was withholding retention moneys from subcontractors and even using the other person's retentions to fund other government projects—something that should be banned.

Estimates pre-hearing questions on notice confirmed our concerns about the management and leadership of the department, with 8,500 homes underoccupied—which is nearly 16 per cent of the total housing stock in Queensland—and nearly 1,200 homes sitting vacant. That does not instil confidence when vulnerable Queenslanders are still on the waiting list for crisis accommodation.

Budget blowouts were clearly evident throughout the budget papers—employee expenses up by \$20 million from the previous year. It is clear that the minister has given up trying to rein in expenditure by forecasting an operating deficit of \$170 million in 2017-18. In 2015-16 he inherited a deficit of \$50 million. It has blown out to \$182 million—nearly fourfold in two short years.

It was no surprise that even after taking a question on notice to release an important QBCC submission, tabled on 31 March 2016, to the initial discussion paper on security of payments the minister has refused. This continues a long list of cover-ups that are becoming an all too common trait for this Labor minister and the government.

Estimates also confirmed the extent of the sale of government assets—something they all want to talk about, but let us remember that we sold nothing. This minister continues to sell social and government employee housing. Over the last two years the minister has personally overseen the sale of a quarter of a billion dollars in public assets.

We see staff increases in the Residential Tenancies Authority of 18 per cent, with an explanation that front-line services were increased to process rental bond transactions. If we were to believe anything that was actually said at estimates, the increase was that additional front-line staff were required to process rental bond transactions. If this is the case, it is interesting that the department expect a lower level of disputes to be resolved from the 80 per cent target in 2017-18 to 70 per cent this year—a target that is 14 per cent lower in transactions but achieving it with 20 per cent more staff.

The Housing Strategy continues to fail to acknowledge any innovation or changes from the failed policies of the Bligh and Beattie governments in delivering housing solutions for Queensland. We see a fixation on government-led delivery which delivers less and costs more but, more disturbingly, locks Queensland out of tens of millions of dollars of Commonwealth money that should be reinvested into the housing crisis being administered by those opposite.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (10.42 pm): I begin by acknowledging the work of the committee during this year's estimates and in particular acknowledge the work of its chair, the member for Kallangur, who has been a tireless advocate for transport investment not just in his own Moreton Bay Regional Council area but in fact in locations right across the state. I wish to thank all committee members for the spirited and at times robust debate on the day.

Make no mistake: the Palaszczuk government is yet again delivering a record spend on road and transport infrastructure. QTRIP, our investment pipeline, outlines a four-year schedule of transport and road infrastructure investment worth approximately \$21 billion and supporting an estimated 16,950 direct jobs—\$16.5 billion of this is specifically allocated to roads and maritime infrastructure across Queensland. In 2017-18, this includes \$400 million to rebuild impacted roads across the state damaged by Cyclone Debbie and associated flooding.

QTRIP is a four-year program. The reason we have a four-year program of works is that spending on specific projects changes from year to year as projects progress. The value of the capital program varies from year to year in accordance with program and project cash flow requirements which are dependent on a number of factors, such as the phase of project delivery and general economic environment.

At present, for example, current market conditions are reasonably competitive, with generally lower tender prices for works to be delivered. This is allowing us to deliver better value for Queensland. With this in mind, TMR has developed an achievable capital program for 2017-18 that reflects market conditions. The LNP made some clearly inaccurate and disputed claims that the Palaszczuk government is cutting roads funding. These claims are incorrect. The Newman-Nicholls LNP government in fact slashed roads funding by a massive \$600 million during their three years in government.

In addition to cutting this much needed roads funding, the previous LNP government, when the member for Clayfield was treasurer, wasted more than \$100 million preparing for privatisation and on their Strong Choices propaganda. Of that, \$30 million was diverted from the roads and transport budget to bankroll their bid to sell Queensland's assets and outsource services—all without asking the people of Queensland for a mandate. They have failed to articulate which projects they will cut as a result of their vehicle registration policies. The LNP needs to come clean on the black hole of almost \$300 million their policies will create.

We have put forward a program of works that reflects a number of key economic factors, including our natural disaster recovery works and a softening in construction costs. We are delivering a four-year program that is higher than any QTRIP delivered by those opposite. We are also getting on with the job of delivering projects that are jointly funded with the Commonwealth and have struck a \$500 million deal for the two M1 upgrades—the Mount Lindesay Highway upgrades and the Walkerston bypass.

We are repairing the damage done by the LNP, including thousands of jobs cut in the Department of Transport and Main Roads under Tim Nicholls—a shocking 22.4 per cent reduction in overall staff. We are getting on with the job of building our roads network, boosting productivity, future proofing the state, creating jobs and fostering economic growth.

The Palaszczuk government knows investing in infrastructure is fundamental to delivering local jobs and ensuring economic growth. Through QTRIP we are funding key projects that will keep our economy moving. The Bruce Highway continues to be a key priority for the Palaszczuk government. We are committed to continuously improving road safety, flood immunity and capacity through projects such as the \$929.3 million Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway upgrade. Bruce Highway upgrades across the life of the forward estimates are worth \$5.59 billion in joint funding, with \$510.5 million allocated for 2017-18 and supporting 2,394 direct jobs.

There is also the \$497.8 million for the Mackay ring-road and construction of the Walkerston bypass, and of course preparation is well underway for the Commonwealth Games. This financial year we will complete the \$160 million package of works. Unlike the LNP, we do not see cycling as gold plating. We have committed over \$182 million over the forwards for high-priority cycling projects. Across Queensland we are delivering projects, building infrastructure and supporting jobs in local communities.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.47 pm): In rising to make a contribution this evening, I want to reflect on a couple of the contributions that have preceded me—firstly that of the chair of this committee, the member for Kallangur. I do reflect on the fact that the chair was quite unwell on the day, but clearly he was a lot more unwell than we all thought because he was delusional if his report is any indication of what he thought actually occurred on the day. It certainly was not the case.

Secondly, I come to the contribution just made by the Acting Minister for Main Roads because the previous one bailed—sorry, he has not been bailed yet; he was stood aside. He was not only laughing in the faces of mums and dads and Queensland families when it comes to the 3½ per cent increases year in, year out on their car registration but doing it while also cutting road funding in this coming financial year. I will start there. The minister can spin the four-year QTRIP program any way he likes, but we know that under Labor the four years are used to prop up budgets and make them look like they are increases when in reality they are hiding annual decreases in actual road infrastructure construction.

We saw that, because if we compare what was spent in 2016-17 with what was spent in 2017-18—and that is a fair comparison—we see extraordinary reductions in spending across the roads budget across the state. The reductions are as follows: the Darling Downs is going down \$134 million; the far north region, down nearly \$35 million; Fitzroy, down nearly \$27 million; Mackay-Whitsunday, down just over \$16 million; the metropolitan region, down \$33½ million; the Sunshine Coast region, down \$63 million; the northern region, down \$17½ million; the north-west region, down \$15 million; and the south-west region, down almost \$8 million. They are real cuts. If the government is making savings because it is getting a better dollar figure for its contracts, then it should reinvest that money back into the infrastructure that is actually needed now.

Further proof of that can be found with some of the road reliability and productivity targets that are in the SDS. When questioned on this, both the minister and the director-general could not answer why not only are those targets not being met but the targets are being lowered for future years. They have basically thrown their hands up in the air, accepted the fact that rail fail is here to stay under this mob, accepted the fact that they are cutting funding from road infrastructure and construction across the state and said, 'Too bad. Our network reliability and our network productivity is out the door. We're going to lower the standards to match what we can achieve.' Guess what. We suspect that next year they will have to lower them again because they will not hit the mark again.

I want to turn to one interesting story that developed as a result of questioning on the day and it was in the ports part of the portfolio. It concerns what is appearing to be an increasingly farcical set of events that has led to the Port of Gladstone dredging the wrong part of the port of Bundaberg in preparation for the HMAS *Tobruk* to come and be prepared for sinking. They spent \$330,000 to dredge a component of the port of Bundaberg. They then went out and consulted and found that is probably not where they should put the HMAS *Tobruk* and that it would be put down next to the molasses port instead but it was all okay because they were going to use that part that was dredged sometime in the future. When I called back the CEO for the Port of Gladstone and asked him when exactly they envisaged using that part of the port, he could not give us an answer. It certainly was not weeks and it certainly was not months; it was a matter of years.

The next question was whether the port has done any hydrological surveys to determine how quickly that part of the port is going to silt up again. The CEO said that he could not provide that on the day but he was more than happy to take it as a question on notice, except he was overruled by the minister because the minister did not want the truth coming out. The truth is that this government has

spent \$330,000 dredging the wrong part of the port of Bundaberg. Whilst it might be needed in the future, it is going to be silted up by the time they do need it so they will have to spend the money again to dredge that part of the port.

This goes to show how incompetent the Palaszczuk Labor government are. They do nothing in just about every other facet. In this case, they have actually done something but they did not ask whether they should do it in this place before they did it. Now that they have done it, they have wasted the taxpayers' dollars. That sums up this part of the portfolio in this Appropriation Bill.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (10.53 pm): I rise today to speak to report No. 42 of the Public Works and Utilities Committee on the 2017-18 budget estimates. The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2017 for the portfolios of Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports; Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply; Housing and Public Works; and Sport be agreed to without amendment.

Firstly, I would like to thank the committee and of course the chair, the member for Kallangur, for his outstanding leadership of the committee during the hearings. I thank my parliamentary colleagues on both sides of the House and the secretariat for their continued professionalism. I acknowledge the following ministers: the Acting Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports, the Hon. Steven Miles; the Acting Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, the Hon. Curtis Pitt; and the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport, the Hon. Mick de Brenni—all of whom displayed an outstanding, in-depth knowledge of their portfolio area during the estimates hearings. I would also like to acknowledge the chief executives and departmental officials who assisted in the inquiry process and all of the departmental staff who worked on the estimates process.

This budget is a commitment to Queenslanders, delivering the Palaszczuk government's third surplus budget. The process of estimates, as you know, is an important one, providing an opportunity to hear in detail about government expenditure for the coming year. In fact, the parliamentary website states—

The estimates process aids the Parliament in its scrutiny of the Government's proposed expenditure. Since 1994, committees of the parliament have undertaken the estimates process, by examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill ...

Therefore, Madam Deputy Speaker, you can imagine my disappointment that, rather than examine the expenditure, the LNP turned their back on the budget, just like they have turned their back on Queenslanders, including baysiders. Baysiders know that the LNP have a record of doing just that. In my electorate of Lytton, the former Nicholls-Newman government slashed services—the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit, closed; the department of housing, closed; the child safety department, closed; the bayside tenancy advice service, closed across the whole state, not just in my electorate; the manufactured home advisory service, closed; the 24-hour primary care clinic, closed; and the mental health services, closed. These were services that were so important to my community. Our local traders also felt the impact, with fewer customers and fewer locals with less money to spend.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Lockyer, the member for Lytton is not taking your interjections—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not ask for your opinion on what I have just told you.

Mr RICKUSS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. She is talking about some past budgets.

Mr Pegg interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am going to wait for all members to settle down. We do not have conversations across the chamber, we do not make interjections that are not being accepted by the member speaking and we do not speak back to the Speaker.

Ms PEASE: Let me talk about the contribution by those opposite to the estimates process and in particular the member for Whitsunday. Members will know that I am a huge footy fan, but like many fans I turned the volume down whenever he was commentating. When the member for Whitsunday was commentating and the member for Everton was refereeing, it was a perfect storm. Speaking of storms, I wish I could have turned the volume down when, shamefully, the member for Whitsunday attempted to assert that my area was not affected because the terrible storm was 1,000 kilometres away from where the devastating Cyclone Debbie hit.

Mr Pegg: Did he get his numbers right?

Ms PEASE: Thank you for that interjection, member for Stretton. Member for Whitsunday, it is actually 937 kilometres away to be precise, but this is not the first time that the member for Whitsunday has been sloppy. My local area was certainly affected by the cyclone. I spent many hours helping with sandbagging and assisting people who were extremely concerned about the effect the weather conditions would have locally and on our neighbours in the Logan region. I delivered food and toys that were supplied by my community to the evacuation centres to help our neighbours in the Brisbane region. Next time the member for Whitsunday gets a silly idea, he should perhaps press the mute button.

The Palaszczuk government supports all Queenslanders—concessions have increased across the state, the advocacy and advice services for tenants and manufactured home owners have returned, there are new protections for residents in retirement villages and manufactured homes, and, importantly, we have seen the return of bayside housing to bayside residents. Let us not forget we returned the 24-hour primary care, mental health services and other front-line services. The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering quality front-line services across our great state that were devastated by the LNP. The Palaszczuk government is committed to helping disadvantaged and vulnerable people through rebates and concessions.

Mr HART (Burleigh—LNP) (10.58 pm): The estimates process for the Public Works and Utilities Committee was nothing short of a debacle. It was a protection racket. It was a secret society. The LNP were mostly prevented from asking questions about the very important issues revolving around the electricity sector in this state. We have seen wholesale electricity prices rise by over 70 per cent since this government has been in power. Would one not think that, in a portfolio that consists of well over \$60 billion worth of assets that has income and expenses in the billions and billions of dollars, we would get the opportunity to talk to and question the CEOs of our major GOCs and our ministers? Unfortunately, in this instance we had a minister missing in action. He has been stood down because he is under suspicion of corruption and is being investigated by the CCC. In his place we had the Treasurer filling in in his portfolio, a Treasurer who had had five days to go over the portfolio and had just arrived that morning from Asia. It was very interesting when we endeavoured to ask the minister questions about those particular things.

To educate the member for Kallangur about the processes of estimates hearings it probably helps to read part of what happened on that particular day. I was talking to the CEO of Stanwell. I said—

Mr HART: Wholesale electricity prices have spiked by 60 per cent in 2016-17. Has Stanwell been using its market power to drive up electricity prices?

It was a fairly straightforward question. He replied—

CHAIR: I think there is a bit of an imputation in that question. Can you rephrase it?

Mr HART: I am sorry, but there is no imputation in that question. It is a clear question.

CHAIR: I believe there is.

Mr HART: In recent days, the chair of the ACCC has said that government owned corporations may well have been gaming the system by altering their bidding practices to push up the price of electricity. Do you agree with that statement from the chair of the ACCC?

CHAIR: I am sorry, member for Burleigh, but you are asking for an opinion. Also, you are not allowed to ask them—

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order. It is the ACCC not the ACC.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! There is no point of order.

Mr HART: I said ACCC. The chair went on to say—

Also, you are not allowed to ask them about their business. They run their business as they see fit.

Is that something we should be looking at during estimates committee hearings—how our GOCs run their businesses, how they make money for the people of this state and how they spend the money of this state? Is that not exactly what we are doing at estimates? No, we are stopped by the chair from asking those questions. I said to him—

Mr HART: I am sorry? I am not allowed to ask about their business?

CHAIR: You are allowed to ask questions that will otherwise assist the committee to determine whether public funds are being spent efficiently or appropriate public guarantees are being provided. I ask you to rephrase the question.

It went on and on from there. Later in the day I tried to elicit from the Treasurer whether he was aware that the electricity generators in 2015-16 had earned \$382 million, their budget in the next year 2016-17 was \$482 million but they had in fact made \$892 million. One would think that as the Treasurer of this state he would not be waking up one day and saying, 'I have an extra \$420 million lying under my pillow or in my bank account. What am I going to do about this? Where has this money suddenly come from? Why are the generators suddenly earning so much money? Maybe they are gaming the system. Maybe they are doing something to push up the income here.' This government has been taking advantage of the people of Queensland for far too long. It is about time that the people of Queensland were made aware of exactly what they are doing. Instead of that, they run a protection racket at estimates, they stop the LNP from asking legitimate questions and they stop the people of Queensland from finding out exactly what they are doing to this state.

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (11.03 pm): I point out to the last speaker that no-one stopped those opposite asking decent questions. The only people that stopped them asking decent questions were themselves. I rise to support the public works committee report—there is another point I want to make. They have been wheeling out this misnomer or misleading statement about the cuts from year to year. I point out once again that it is a four-year program. As was pointed out more than once to them, they should compare a four-year program to a four-year program. That is the way to do it. They cannot compare year to year. Within that four-year period there are federal payments coming through, projects being completed and a variety of other things that alter those long-term projects in that four-year time frame. Comparing year to year within QTRIP is misleading.

I found the process of the estimates was invaluable in actually revealing the extent of the LNP cuts that have affected the power industry and also the roads program. We learned that the LNP had slashed \$600 million from the QTRIP program.

Ms Boyd: Shame!

Mr WHITING: Absolutely! We talked about missing line items, things that had just disappeared over the years. When I came in as the MP I asked, 'What happened to the Deception Bay Road widening and overpass?' It just disappeared one year while the LNP was in government. It was just taken out. That had to be put back in in the form of this project that we now have. We are putting in \$30 million towards the \$150 million Deception Bay Road overpass program. What I found really interesting though is that the LNP candidate in Bancroft started a petition for us to put money into the Deception Bay Road overpass program. I found that incredible because that is a project that those opposite cut from QTRIP. The candidate was campaigning to restore a project that they had cut. That is wonderful. That is great coordination that they had.

A government member: Great for you!

Mr WHITING: It is very much good for me. One of the other things we learned, as has been touched on before, is that those opposite oversaw cuts of more than \$100 million from cycling infrastructure and they ripped out \$25 million in cycle network grants. They disregard the needs of the 820,000 Queensland cyclists who ride each week and those people who transport themselves that way. Compare that to Labor's record. We can look at the Moreton Bay Rail Link, where there are 12 kilometres of cycle path and even more will go in when the Boundary Road overpass is done. I found it useful to learn that there were no cuts, but we have increased spending on transport to a record \$21 billion, and \$16.5 billion of that is in road infrastructure. We will keep on increasing this because, as we learned, an extra 140,000 cars were on the road in Queensland in the last year. We will keep on investing in that road infrastructure.

When we talked about the issues of power we learned about the Powering Queensland Plan—a \$1.16 billion plan to put downward pressure on energy costs and deliver new jobs and investment, particularly in regional Queensland. Through that \$770 million commitment we made in the budget we are shielding Queenslanders from the worst of the rise in electricity prices that we are seeing all around Australia. Obviously we are in a much better position.

We found this to be the weakest performance by the LNP opposition during the time we have been here. They did not trouble a minister; they just battered away the questions. I have to say their performance was tepid, morose and uninspired. They started off with these aggressive questions that went nowhere. We explained to them things, but they did not get it or chose not to take any notice. What we saw was an LNP opposition that was ill prepared. I state once again that they complained about the four-year program—the idea of funding cuts is absolutely ludicrous. They could not be bothered to put in an effort in estimates. If they got into government, they would not be bothered to put in a real effort as well.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (11.09 pm): I rise to make some brief comments about the committee's examination at the estimates hearings of the Sport portfolio. In particular, I refer to the statement of reservation and the issues raised therein. In response to a question about whether the minister was advocating for a new government policy that would punish clubs that do not comply with United Voice industrial relations demands, the minister simply stated that the government has no policy on the matter. He did not say he was not advocating for it. He did not say he did not support punishing clubs that did not comply with United Voice demands. I know that many clubs are concerned about this. Minister, are you going to push for a policy that will strip clubs that do not comply with United Voice demands with regard to industrial relations? I think clubs across the state—

Mr WHITING: I rise to a point of order. This does not relate to any part of the estimates that I experienced the other week.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): I missed the contribution of the member. I am willing to give you the benefit of the doubt. I would ask you to stick to the report at hand.

Mr KRAUSE: I think clubs across the state deserve a clear and unequivocal answer to this question, because obviously the minister controls a lot of grants when it comes to sports clubs and he is a very vocal member of United Voice. We traversed that question at the estimates—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Beaudesert, can you point out to me how what you are saying is relevant to the estimates hearing?

Mr KRAUSE: It was put on the record during the estimates hearing. It is a matter of the grants that are made to sports clubs and the policy that will be advocated by the minister in relation to those grants as it relates to industrial relations arrangements. I will also take this opportunity to make other comments in relation to sports policy and the Sport portfolio. In particular, I pay tribute to a wonderful local athlete from my electorate of Beaudesert.

Tomorrow morning Riley Day is making her debut in the Australian international senior athletics scene for the first time at the international athletics championships in London. She is a terrific local athlete who joins a long list of terrific athletes from the Beaudesert electorate. I table an article from the *Australian* which tells the story about Riley Day and her beginnings at the Beaudesert Little Athletics Club.

Tabled paper: Article from *The Australian* online, dated 3 August 2017, titled 'World Athletics Championships: Riley Day and Ella Connolly to make senior debuts' [[1253](#)].

The Beaudesert Little Athletics Club is a terrific club which has benefited greatly from the Get in the Game program that the LNP instituted. Many people have benefitted from the Get Started vouchers that were put in place by the LNP government in the last parliament, and we should all wish her well because she is a rising star of the Australian athletics scene.

I would also like to take this opportunity to make some comments about the sport of racing. Clearly there is more to the story of the appointment of Jamie Dart than meets the eye. The Queensland Racing Integrity Commissioner, Mr Barnett, told the committee that Mr Dart was not formally appointed to the role—

Ms GRACE: I rise to a point of order. I rise on the matter of relevance. We have already dealt with the committee that handled the Racing portfolio. This is now a completely different portfolio, yet the member is referring to something that has already been debated in this House and passed. I ask you to draw the member on the issue of relevance to the current estimates that we are debating at the moment.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already raised that issue with the member. I trust that the member for Beaudesert will continue to observe the estimates committee that he was involved with.

Mr KRAUSE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I am talking to the budget. I am talking to the Appropriation Bill, and that refers to the Racing portfolio as well as—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: For this particular committee.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, thank you for all your suggestions. I will have a conversation with the member for Beaudesert. Could I ask you to keep your comments to the estimates committee hearing which we are currently debating.

Mr KRAUSE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I am happy to do that. I am sorry that the Minister for Racing does not want to hear any comments about the Racing portfolio. Obviously she does not want to hear those comments because she is clearly flailing in her portfolio, but we will move on. We also

heard other things in the Sport portfolio about the delay to the delivery of the Queensland netball centre. It was a project announced by the former government in late 2014. Now we have heard that it will not be delivered until late 2018, and that is a terrible delay. It has been delayed, and I think that people are quite entitled to wonder whether it will be delivered in the time frames that have been suggested by the minister, given that it has been delayed already and given the record of this government in delivering projects out of their designated time frames.

I want to make some comments about electricity in particular and I will pick up on the comments of the member for Burleigh. We know that the Labor Party drove up power prices through Andrew Fraser's cash grab in 2010 going all the way through to 2015. He wrote to the Australian Energy Regulator in 2010 asking for permission to charge Queenslanders more for electricity, and that is the reason that all Queenslanders have been paying more for their power since 2010 through to the present day. The biggest booby trap ever set by Labor was Andrew Fraser's letter to the AER back in 2010. They spent and spent and spent and asked the AER for permission to charge Queenslanders more, and they are still paying for it today—farmers, families, households and everybody else.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (11.16 pm): Estimates is an important part of our parliamentary system. It is something that I am sure we all look forward to and something that I and others, I am sure, enjoy as an important part of our democracy. Enabling other parliamentarians to ask questions of ministers and senior departmental officers is hugely important, which is why so many of us—myself included—are disappointed at the cynical approach that was taken by opposition members to the Public Works and Utilities Committee estimates and, as we have seen, continued here tonight. Opposition members, as the member for Murrumba pointed out, were almost lifeless on the day, but since the hearing the spin doctors have been out in full flight. They have taken over and we are seeing estimates revisionism in full force. What has been delivered is a statement of reservation so removed from the reality of the estimates committee hearing that it would be laughable if it were not so serious.

Let us take the discussion of cladding on buildings as a starting point. I had a very full and open exchange with the member for Burnett about the work of the audit task force that I set up in Queensland. In response to his questions I outlined the response of the audit task force. I outlined how many government and non-government buildings were being examined and that all health facilities were being examined. In response to his questions, I said that 23 government facilities were being looked at as well as 21 private facilities, and I said that totalled 44 buildings. On the following Sunday in the wee hours of the morning the member for Burnett put out a media release saying that he is 'shocked by media reports revealing that a number of buildings are clad with potentially dangerous material'. He said that he was 'shocked'. He could not have been that shocked, because I told him about it here in this parliament. He even asked me to confirm it. *Hansard* states—

Mr BENNETT: Just 23 government owned buildings have been potentially identified and 21 privately owned? Can I clarify that?

I went on to clarify that. What changed between his question on Thursday and his apparent shock so early on Sunday morning? The spin doctors moved in, that is what happened. They decided that it was time for a scare campaign, which the opposition is so good at. Suddenly, at 5.22 am on Sunday morning, the member for Burnett is 'shocked' by reports of something I told him at about 4 pm the Thursday before. Despite what was said in the statement of reservation, I did not refuse to provide information; I simply was not asked. It is a matter of record that, as we all know, the member for Burnett has form in outsourcing his parliamentary work, but you would think they would outsource it to someone who was at least willing to read *Hansard*. It is pretty low-grade acting.

As I clearly expressed, the 44 buildings do not necessarily have questionable cladding let alone anything of concern. In any case, as I said on the day—and continue to say—we will and are examining all buildings brought before the task force.

The statement of reservation goes on to attack—they did it tonight—the senior leadership of my department. We all know that the LNP has form when it comes to undermining public servants. Its claims, however, just do not add up. In fact, according to the very same survey referenced by the opposition when they made those outrageous claims, confidence in the leadership of my department is higher than it ever was under the LNP. It is a full 18 percentage points higher than it was in 2013, when Tim from Clayfield and his mate Campbell Newman were too busy gutting the Public Service to provide any real leadership themselves. If the leadership of my department is clearly performing far better than it did under the LNP, why on earth is the opposition attacking them? I have a hunch. Could it be because four out of five of the executive leadership team are women? They are not just women but women who

are professional, accomplished and probably quite intimidating to the members of the boys' club opposite. The boys' club opposite seems to have appointed the member for Everton as its foghorn. It is just a shame that the opposition's efforts have ended in such baseless, cynical spin.

Once again, we are seeing confusion from the member for Southport on the Housing Strategy. It is a \$1.8 billion package over 10 years. There is \$200 million for services and \$1.6 billion for capital, with \$1 billion of that in the first five years. It is all new money.

I thank the member for Burnett for tonight outlining for the record his plan to privatise the social housing portfolio. The shadow minister has finally announced the LNP's housing policy and it is the same old privatisation policy. It is clear that the opposition are out of ideas. That is ominous for Queenslanders. All they cared about was attacking—

(Time expired)

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (11.21 pm): I rise to speak to the budget estimates report by the Public Works and Utilities Committee. I have to say that, in spite of some of the negative comments made by members in the House this evening, I enjoyed my day at estimates. I thought there were moments throughout the day that were quite productive. I particularly acknowledge the role of the chair, who was particularly generous in giving more time to the opposition, albeit that some of the government ministers chose to chew up that extra time with policy statements, long-winded explanations around strategies, a lot of waffle and muddled statements.

My understanding of the estimates process is that it is a day to ask the hard questions. The disappointing thing about the day for me was that every time we tried to ask the hard questions the chair protected his ministers. Of course he would, because two of them were just filling in for the day to cover for the former disgraced minister who is no longer there. There was a lot of protection going on on the day and a lot of frustration on our part as our shadow ministers tried to ask some of the hard questions.

I want to respond to the comments by the Minister for Housing around the Queensland Housing Strategy. I think I heard the minister a few minutes ago accuse the LNP of being spin doctors in our statement of reservation. I can assure members that the Queensland Housing Strategy is spin at its best. It is a great big shiny bauble—a cruel, shiny bauble that has been hung out in front of those many hardworking social welfare organisations and community support organisations across the state with the promise of more housing, better housing and better support in public housing.

As with so many of the figures we heard on the day during the estimates hearing, the numbers just do not add up. One of the questions I asked the minister and the director-general was very simple. For the past four or five years the government has spent somewhere between \$400 million and \$500 million a year providing public housing assistance grants to community organisations across the state. If you do the maths, it is about \$450 million a year. The Housing Strategy is worth \$1.8 billion—or in the document \$1.6 billion. It seems to contradict itself. I am still struggling to understand the variance. I am looking forward to the department's briefing on the Housing Strategy at our next committee meeting. The simple question is: if it is additional and new money, can the housing providers and the welfare organisations across the state that are looking forward to this Housing Strategy look forward to an average spend of somewhere between \$500 million and \$700 million a year? We did not hear the answer. That is what concerned me on the day.

Mr McEachan: They were panicked.

Mr MOLHOEK: They did look panicked. They struggled to answer the question. There were furtive looks between the minister and the director-general. You only have to look at *Hansard* to see that that question was not clearly answered on the day.

I understand that the estimates process is about interrogating the government. That is what we attempted to do on the day. I commend the member for Burleigh for his questioning around energy prices. Again, we did not really get the answers we wanted from Stanwell Corporation about the excess dividends and where that money was going to be spent.

Across-the-board, the day was in many respects disappointing. It was a great opportunity to ask questions. My sincere hope is that in future estimates hearings there will be less government rhetoric and less opportunity for the government to waffle on, make great platitudes and hang out its shiny baubles and that ministers will be prepared to answer the hard questions, just like any corporation would expect of their boards of directors at budget time.

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (11.26 pm): I rise tonight to contribute to the debate on the Appropriation Bill specifically as it pertains to the Public Works and Utilities Committee estimates hearing. In the first instance I acknowledge the dedicated professionalism of the committee secretariat. I also acknowledge my colleagues the members for Kallangur, Southport, Whitsunday, Lytton and Murrumba. I also acknowledge the incisive questioning from the respective shadow ministers.

If there was any doubt that Redlands was being duded by Labor during budget week, estimates has erased that doubt. I asked the Acting Minister for Main Roads why the road funding envelope had got smaller over the estimates for metropolitan east, which includes Redlands. The minister's response was, it is fair to say, hostile. He claimed that I did not really understand the process. He intimated that things come and go, that sometimes they are in the budget estimates, in QTRIP, and sometimes they are not. The minister said that maybe the LNP should not have wasted money informing the public about the asset leasing program. That gave me pause. I pondered that comment for a while and then I realised, of course, that Labor's example is to lie to the voting public about the sale of public assets, including Golden Casket, Port of Brisbane, Queensland Rail, energy retailers, Queensland forests and most recently the world-class Mount Cotton driver training facility.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Madam Deputy Speaker—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I am sure that the Leader of the House is going to remind me that I have just missed something, which was the word 'lie'. It is unparliamentary and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr McEACHAN: I withdraw. Most recently, the world-class—

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the House and member for Hinchinbrook, we do not need any conversations across the chamber.

Mr McEACHAN: This income-producing asset was sold without any public consultation, with the money raised going to government advertising—that is right, advertising—not roads or some other worthwhile infrastructure. I know that Redlanders would have liked to at least be told and have a say, but a hallmark of a socialist outlook is the pervading patronising attitude that government knows best, an attitude honed in the minister's case by the intellectual whetstone of a PhD in union encouragement. I shudder to think what other socialist sanctimony lies disguised in the minister's mind, lurking like a Brezhnev Uncle Fester.

The upshot is that Redlands is allegedly getting a taxpayer funded study of intersections on Cleveland-Redland Bay Road—intersections that are already studied and are slated for upgrade, not by the taxpayer but by a developer undertaking a master planned development. That is Labor's contribution to one of Queensland's largest cities in respect of roads.

Not to be outdone in patronising sanctimony by the Acting Minister for Main Roads, the Minister for Housing and Public Works took the chair. The minister kindly volunteered information letting me know that I would be delighted to learn that 492 new dwellings would be built for public housing in Redlands. Delighted indeed I was as a child who was housed at various stages in my early life by the generosity of the community. I was less delighted to be told by the minister that I would be delighted though. That kind of thing I can work out for myself!

Government members interjected.

Mr McEACHAN: It is sanctimonious because the minister tells other people how to think and he tells people how to behave. Recently the department of housing purchased house and land in Victoria Point—an 800-metre square block. The dwelling is unfit for purpose and is to be demolished at an extra cost to taxpayers. I had the block independently valued and it came in at \$450,000 to \$460,000 plus demolition. What did the department pay? It paid \$660,000 plus demolition. The department under this minister has paid some \$200,000 over the odds for this block. If we extrapolate that by 492 dwellings earmarked for Redlands, that is \$98.4 million wasted if this trend continues, and there is nothing to suggest it will not. Equally important is the impact on the already strained infrastructure—schools, hospitals and health services. Some 492 dwellings will likely mean an extra 1,000 cars and 3,000 people, many of whom have extra need. How much has Labor invested to cope with this further influx into Redlands? Nothing. This Palaszczuk Labor government stands for nothing, has done nothing and will continue to do nothing. Paradoxically, nothing comes at a cost. As King Lear said, nothing will come of nothing and Redlands is paying a heavy price of a do-nothing Labor government.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.31 pm): Queensland Labor always backs consumers when it comes to cost-of-living expenses, and this is the case now as it was under the previous Bligh government. I am responding in particular to the member for Beaudesert's claims that the 2011-12 midyear fiscal and economic review total of \$1.145 billion was identified as reduced capital requirements over the forward estimates period as a result of the Electricity Network Capital Program Review, or ENCap. The Bligh government issued Energex and Ergon Energy with a direction in February 2012 to pass these savings on to consumers by reducing the annual regulated revenue allocated by the AER. This was something that the Newman-Nicholls government could have done but did not, instead keeping the profits to fatten up the energy businesses for sale as part of Strong Choices. Our direction to Ergon and Energex in 2015 meant that network prices decreased. Members can see a pattern here in terms of what Labor governments do versus what LNP governments do.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the committee for its efforts, thank it for adopting me as an acting minister through the process and congratulate the member for Kallangur for his work as chair and acknowledge all members of the committee and staff involved. I also want to address issues raised by members of the opposition in their statement of reservation which unfortunately once again raises a number of broad and inaccurate allegations which betray their lack of understanding of the national electricity market. The suggestion that the government has hidden behind commercial-in-confidence to avoid scrutiny of government owned generators like Stanwell is based on a very poor understanding of the commercial nature of those businesses. Both Stanwell and CS Energy are run in accordance with the requirements under the Government Owned Corporations Act. These corporations operate commercially in a highly competitive market and hold commercial-in-confidence information that cannot be released without compromising the commercial position and degrading the value of this public asset.

Members opposite also took the opportunity again to suggest that power prices are somehow an issue unique to Queensland or are caused by our government owned corporations. Their reasons seem to change every time. Somehow they never seem to land on the underlying cause of volatile power prices, and that is the complete failure of the Turnbull government to deliver coherent and integrated climate and energy policy. The inconvenient fact of the volatile power prices are a NEM-wide issue and that by keeping our government owned generators in public hands we have been able to shield Queensland households and businesses from the much higher price rises we have recently seen across other NEM states. Both the AEMO and AER analysis of Queensland's high-price events last summer were due to a combination of high electricity demand and heat related network and generation constraints. The selective statistics quoted in the statement of reservation make the misleading suggestion that Queenslanders are paying the highest electricity prices in the NEM when the truth is in fact the opposite. The fact is Queensland had the lowest increase in wholesale prices of any mainland NEM state over the term of this government—77 per cent as compared to between 103 per cent and 177 per cent in other mainland NEM states—compared to increases of 81 per cent under the previous government compared to between 11 per cent and 30 per cent in other states.

Keeping electricity generators in government hands also allows us to maintain downward pressure on prices and create jobs and delivered an electricity price increase of only 1.9 per cent per annum over this term of government in contrast to the 43 per cent increases households experienced under the previous Newman government. The misleading suggestion that the success of our direction to Stanwell was in some way an admission of guilt is once again an attempt to direct attention away from the fact that maintaining our generator assets in public ownership has been a key factor in our ability to place downward pressure on electricity prices. The ability to take steps to counteract higher wholesale prices and volatility during peak demand is a direct result of the Palaszczuk government's decision to retain generation assets in state ownership.

We have already seen the benefits of our direction to Stanwell to alter its bidding strategies, with forward wholesale prices in Queensland on the futures market dropping by more than 15 per cent below prices prior to the announcement. Bringing Swanbank E back into service this summer will also help reduce future price volatility and reinforce the state's energy security. These actions add to the success of our decision to invest \$770 million to remove the cost of the Solar Bonus Scheme from power bills and it is expected that this decision will save a typical household \$56 a year. We have also expanded rebates to healthcare card holders, providing support to an additional 157,000 Queenslanders, the most vulnerable in our community—another reform the Newman government could have done but choose not to. I note that those opposite did not seek to ask any questions about water supply during the estimates hearing. This is indicative of their addiction to sensationalism and hysteria over sound public policy. That is an approach which shaped opposition questions to the committee which were solely about electricity prices.

In closing, I am very proud to represent a government that has taken sound and decisive action in relation to electricity prices. Electricity prices for consumers today are lower than they would have been under an LNP government because of the positive actions of our government which have underpinned more stability in energy prices. I was very happy—

(Time expired)

Report adopted.

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.37 pm): I move—

That the bills be now read a third time.

Division: Question put—That the bills be now read a third time.

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106.

Bills read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.40 pm): I move—

That the long titles of the bills be agreed to.

Question put—That the long titles of the bills be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.44 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

North Queensland, Feral Pigs

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.44 pm): As members are no doubt aware, in recent weeks there has been a second outbreak of Panama disease tropical race 4 on the Mackay family's banana farm at Tully. Panama TR4 is a devastating disease that has the potential to wipe out the banana industry in North Queensland. To put that into perspective, this is a \$600 million industry that provides 95 per cent of the bananas sold in Australia, which equates to 393,000 tonnes a year. Importantly, 400 B-double trucks transport this produce south each week with these trucks backloading into North Queensland for companies such as Coles and Woolworths. What does that mean? It means that if the banana industry in North Queensland is wiped out freight charges on everyday grocery items will skyrocket which will be subsequently passed on to customers.

The question of whether TR4 can be eradicated is a difficult one. Whilst I appreciate that banana growers and Biosecurity Queensland are doing everything they can to prevent the spread of this soil-borne disease, the longer term ramifications are unknown. What we do know is that it is vital appropriate measures are put in place to prevent the transfer of soil from one property to another and this is where the issue of feral pig control becomes relevant.

The number of feral pigs in the Tully-Innisfail area has exploded in recent years, which is not surprising considering the location and the ad hoc approach to feral pig control. As members would appreciate, feral pigs can easily travel 20 to 30 kilometres in a single night and the risk they pose to farmers in terms of spreading TR4 disease is substantial. I am told the local council has 18 traps and that DAF have produced a guide to landholders on how to trap pigs, but it needs to be much more than that. There needs to be a coordinated and sustained effort to eradicate feral pigs from this area and the government needs to take a lead role in organising and managing this program. This is a task beyond the capacity of local pig hunters and a few banana growers.

Given that the gestation period for a pig is around four months, this is not something that can be done sporadically. There is a need for a well-organised and funded program to be initiated and I am calling on the agriculture minister to step up to the plate and urgently implement an ongoing program aimed at eradicating this pest.

At a recent meeting with banana growers in Tully they specifically asked me to come down here and address this issue in parliament and call on the minister to assist them with the eradication of feral pigs in this area. Banana growers and Biosecurity Queensland staff are doing their best to contain the latest outbreak, but one has to question the effectiveness of their efforts when we have thousands of feral pigs roaming around the area. For the sake of our banana industry this issue needs to be addressed and it needs to happen now.

Townsville, Water Security

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (11.47 pm): I rise this evening to talk about the Palaszczuk government's commitment of \$225 million to Townsville for water security solutions. Townsville has not had a good wet season for four years. That has had an impact throughout the city. We are on level 3 water restrictions. The Premier announced in the budget this year there was \$225 million to solve our water security problem. That means a long-term solution, not just a bandaid solution. This will be a solution that will last us for up to 100 years.

The water task force was commissioned under the Townsville City Deals. It was chaired by independent chair Mr Brad Webb, who is a well-known identity throughout Townsville and a well-respected businessman. He was charged with developing short-term, mid-term and long-term water solutions and water security for Townsville. He was also asked as part of his charter to present a solution by the end of the financial year. The task force carried out extensive community consultation and commissioned a range of engineering and technical analyses, the main issue being the need for a clear plan to meet future growth in water demand given a projected population of around about 300,000 people. That is an extra 100,000 people in the next 20 years. By 2035 Townsville is expected to have 300,000 people. We need to make sure we have water for that population.

Some of the issues were water uncertainty leading to adverse economic and social impacts, water affordability and suitable pricing to accommodate the dry tropics that we live in, particularly given that we have only had small amounts of rain this year. The water task force also looked at concerns around efficient water use and long-term regional water source reliability.

The task force presented its interim report on 30 June with several recommendations including building an additional 1,800-millimetre steel pipe and installing additional pumps of 235 megalitres per day capacity from the Haughton pump station to the Ross River Dam, the Townsville City Council to also initiate and implement a water wise program and review and adjust as appropriate the existing water tariff scheme to make water more affordable and specific to the needs of the individual user.

I pass on my thanks to Mr Brad Webb and all on the water task force committee for their outstanding job and also for the work that they have done in putting together this particular report. The report reflects our procurement policy of local jobs for Queenslanders. That is great news for Townsville.

Mooloolah Valley Community Centre

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (11.50 pm): Some time ago I rose in the House to talk of the Mooloolah Valley Community Centre. Tonight I want to return to that topic. Members may recall on the last occasion I asked the Minister for Education to consider a long-term lease in relation to the centre to allow them to grow the needs of Mooloolah and to cater for its needs long-term into the future. It is a topic that is very dear to the people of Mooloolah and, indeed, the volunteers who operate the centre. I again ask the education minister to consider closely allowing that extended lease because these men and women work very hard to assist men, women and families in Mooloolah who are finding it very hard to make ends meet.

The centre itself opened its doors in May 2008 and operates from 43 Bray Road, Mooloolah Valley. In 2009 it opened its own op shop. That op shop has become the mainstay of the centre. Currently it has 50 volunteers. Often in this chamber we talk about the benefit of volunteers, not just to our communities but also to the volunteers themselves. Being a volunteer can help people to deal with the social isolation and loneliness that affects many older people. The centre itself generates a sense of friendship networks and also provides networks into our community of Mooloolah to ensure that people who are in need of assistance get the help that they need.

The centre operates a monthly barbecue, together with a mini market where people can make and bring their own produce to sell to other members of the Mooloolah family. The centre is involved with the Uniting Church, Foodbank, Church on the Rise, Morris House, the Mooloolah quilting group and Mooloolah State School, to name but a few. They regularly provide the services of a justice of the peace and in 2014 they formed a welfare team. They provide vouchers to IGA and Telstra and for petrol for those who need assistance. They also provide the help of two psychologists.

However, they need security of tenure. They need a longer term lease to meet long-term needs as time goes by. With a long-term lease they can obtain a capital grant or capital grants to build an extension to the op shop, to build a commercial kitchen and a larger meeting area. The kitchen will allow them to operate a Meals on Wheels service. A petition was prepared and lodged, but it was rejected by the minister on the basis that the centre is on Education Queensland land. I ask the minister to reconsider her position. This centre provides long-term benefits and meets long-term needs for people in the region. The lease will provide greater incentives for greater outcomes across the region.

Sciacca, Hon. CA, AO

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (11.53 pm): Tonight is the first opportunity after the winter break that I have had to rise in this place and send my condolences to a kind-hearted and larger-than-life character, Con Sciacca. Con Sciacca was Sicilian born but raised in the Redlands. He went to Capalaba State School. He was the member for Bowman from 1987 to 2004, with a short interval. I do not think anyone noticed that he was not the member during that time as he still took everyone's queries and issues on board. My family and I were Sciacca backers from the start. I can recall my father telling me a story about when Con was first elected. At the election after party, Con's father, Sam Sciacca, was singing Sicilian communist farm songs because he was so happy that Con had been elected to the federal parliament.

Although I came from the other side of the Labor family, Con always looked after me and helped me out wherever he could, whether it was fundraising for the last election or just giving advice about the local area. He was always there for me in times of need. I appreciated being able to give back to Con in a small way during my term in parliament. For those who do not know, the Capalaba sporting fields that host the Capalaba Bulldogs soccer team and the Capalaba Warriors are named after Con's late son, Sam Sciacca, whom he loved very much. Unfortunately, the sign was destroyed and not replaced by council. I was happy to intervene to have the sign replaced, which meant a lot to Con and his family.

What I most admired about Con was his love for the people, which was most telling when he left office. He would turn up to the speech nights at Birkdale State School to hand out the Sam Sciacca Award. Last year he was too sick to do so, but for 13 years he did that. Every single year after he left office he donated to the Steve Rowe memorial golf day. He was the patron of the Capalaba greyhounds.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Con's family: his father, Sam; his brothers, Joe and Phillip, and his sister, Sarina; his daughter, Zina; his beautiful granddaughter, Grace, whom he loved; his beautiful wife, Karen; and Nicolas and Dan. He will surely be missed.

Mayfield State School

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (11.56 pm): This evening I wish to raise a serious concern about a school in my great electorate of Chatsworth. Undoubtedly, all of my colleagues in this chamber understand the importance of road safety, particularly when it comes to our littlest Queenslanders. I still remember holding the hands of my two sons when they were young and reminding them to look left, look right and then left again before crossing a road. While I can tell my children until I am blue in the face to check both directions before crossing a road, I cannot tell a car to slow down or to look out for a small child. I cannot remind a person in a car while they are travelling home from work, heading to a meeting, getting groceries or even just going for coffee that children are unpredictable. It is those factors that I cannot control that greatly concern me.

Mayfield State School is a wonderful school in my electorate, situated in the suburban streets to the west of Creek Road. Its main drop-off and collection gate is accessed via Rickwood Street, adjacent to Kordick Street and is at the top of a hill. Rickwood Street is a popular local thoroughfare, which, as a result of student numbers at Mayfield State School, sees a high volume of traffic during school hours. It is due to mounting congestion that Brisbane City Council saw fit to install a small drop-off zone to the benefit of parents. However, this drop-off zone has not fixed the problem of road safety; rather, it has improved the flow along the street for motorists.

It is for this reason I met with the school principal and a representative of the P&C, who voiced their concerns about the lack of a lollipop person for Rickwood Street. I was shocked when I learned that the school had applied for one on several occasions, simply to be rejected as apparently too few students cross the road. I visited this school during peak hour and witnessed firsthand the number of cars that use this street. I witnessed cars rolling through the stop sign on Kordick Street and pulling straight into the school crossing, motorists not paying attention and slamming on the brakes, and children sprinting across the street after their friends when there was a break in the traffic. Needless to say, as a parent, this struck a chord with me.

I am simply appalled that the government would put children's lives at risk simply because they do not believe there are enough children crossing a street. Essentially, it appears that more children need to be put at risk before this government believes there is an issue. How many lives need to be lost before this street is considered dangerous enough to warrant a lollipop person? This concern led me to launch a petition, which received more than 250 signatures, calling on the Acting Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports to urgently have a lollipop person assigned to Mayfield State School. I now table this nonconforming petition.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding Mayfield State School lollipop person [[1254](#)].

Without someone to guide children and control traffic along the street, I remain concerned that I will receive a phone call from the hard-working principal advising me that an accident has occurred.

Nudgee Electorate

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (11.59 pm): It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to update the House on some recent events in my electorate. Last month the Treasurer attended my third annual Nudgee business breakfast as the special guest speaker. It was wonderful once again this year to have a room full of local businesses and community groups as diverse as the business and industry profile of the electorate.

The Treasurer outlined the Palaszczuk government's third budget—a budget firmly focused on job creation, on building the infrastructure that Queensland needs to keep moving ahead and on delivering the vital services Queenslanders deserve. I take this opportunity to again thank the Treasurer for attending this annual event which continues to grow year on year.

I also had the pleasure last week of hosting a meeting with education minister, Kate Jones, and principals from across both state and Catholic primary and high schools in my electorate. The minister provided principals with an update on what is happening across education in Queensland, but importantly sought their feedback and their input on key policy initiatives. Who could possibly know more or better than the very people leading the delivery of education and services in our schools each and every day? The minister spoke at the meeting of her deep commitment and the commitment of this government to continue to improve education outcomes for every child and to support our hardworking teachers.

A Labor government will always prioritise education because we know it has the power to change lives and create opportunity. We are focused on more teachers in our classrooms, better school facilities and more classrooms where and when we need them. Since we were elected we have employed 3,400 new teachers, including 875 above enrolment growth.

We are building new schools to meet growth and we are investing in our existing schools. Some \$200 million is being spent to fast-track 98 school projects, new halls and hall upgrades, including in my own electorate at Wavell State High School. We are delivering more guidance officers as part of our supporting students election commitment, including at my former high school, Earnshaw State College. We are investing over \$138 million to provide dedicated IT support in state schools, something regularly raised by local principals in my electorate. We are employing STEM specialists in primary schools and we are investing in our teachers—\$150 million to support teacher leadership.

As I said in my inaugural speech, children deserve the very best education. It is the single greatest investment we make as parents in our children and as policymakers in the citizens of this state. I will always stand up for my local schools, for my local principals and for my local families. I am proud to be a member of a Labor state government that will always stand up for the very best educational outcomes, facilities and support for teachers to ensure that every child benefits from a quality education across our vast state.

Twin Waters West, Proposed Development

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.02 am): I am aware that local residents are concerned about the proposed amendment of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council's town plan to permit development at Twin Waters West on former cane land abutting the Sunshine Motorway. While this area is within the urban footprint of the SEQ Regional Plan, it is not within the current urban area of the council's town plan. However, the council has voted to include it, subject to state government approval.

There are two main concerns—traffic and possible flooding. While these issues are often dealt with at the development application stage when a detailed plan comes forward to council, understandably people are concerned and do not want any inappropriate development which will be of a lesser standard than where they live now or which may negatively impact them.

As part of the state interest checks in this process, I am pleased that the state government has agreed to provide scrutiny of the council's flood model to ensure rigorous and independent assessment. This is important not just for this site but anywhere in the catchment as flood modelling is complex and requires great care and technical rigour.

People have a right to know that any approval of future developments on the coast protect their interests and will not cause a worsening of flooding impacts on their properties or a perception of a worsening of flooding impacts. I remember walking through the floodwaters in the 1990s, which particularly impacted the Pacific Paradise community, and talking with local residents who had been affected. As a result, I fought hard to help get improved flood mitigation works such as bunding around Pacific Paradise and improved major drains which have greatly assisted the overland flow issues in this area.

As part of this drainage plan, the last Twin Waters development also undertook significant extension of the drains and canals which has been a major improvement. It is vital that these improvements are not undone and in fact that there be further works to improve localised flooding issues in some of the older communities where there have been issues with different fill levels between individual properties.

I want to keep the Sunshine Coast beautiful and protect our precious natural environment with a balanced and sustainable approach to development. I welcome the review of the council's flood modelling. These matters are complex and require technical expertise which individuals in the community are not able to provide. It is important that people are empowered with accurate information so that they are best placed to ensure that in upholding the town plan and upholding their local community they get the best outcome.

Cost of Living

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.05 am): I know how hard it can be to make ends meet. Working in the underpaid childcare sector I experienced it firsthand. Then as an official with United Voice I met so many early educators, aged care workers, cleaners and teacher aides who had the same experience as me. They work long, hard hours for little pay and are hard hit whenever prices go up.

We have a crisis of wage stagnation in Australia now and limited wage growth. There is no denying this is a structural problem for our whole society. Part of the solution to this is federal, but I am pleased that in the meantime in Queensland we have a compassionate government working to reduce the pressure on people.

There is a stark contrast between the 43 per cent power price increases we saw under the Newman-Nicholl's LNP government and the 1.9 per cent per year on average increases under the Palaszczuk government. This combined with the expansion of electricity concessions to 157,000 extra Queenslanders eases this burden considerably. We are in a very fortunate position in comparison to other states and are managing the transition to a new energy future because we kept our power generating assets in public hands. I commend the government on its new Powering Queensland Plan. I would encourage our federal government to have as much foresight on energy matters.

Transport is a significant cost to the household budget. That is why our fairer fares savings will make such a difference. Weekday commuters from Pine Rivers will save just under \$900 a year—a significant part of a worker in my electorate's take home pay.

People in my community are starting to see the benefit of the foresight of previous Labor governments on water infrastructure, with a lowering of increases in water costs driven largely by the levelling out of bulk water prices in the Moreton Bay area. Drought proofing South-East Queensland was expensive, but now that it is done we have the infrastructure there for generations to come and in a timely fashion to ease the pressure of water charges.

Recently the compassion of this government was on full display. Hospital car parking is an outrageous burden on patients and their families. I am proud that our government has acted and will work to provide an additional 100,000 free and concessional car spaces at hospitals.

Also in the health transport space, we recently saw the government reinstate the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme for NDIS participants. This was to meet a shortcoming of the NDIS. The reinstatement will provide two extra years for the NDIS to work itself out without disadvantaging people in our community who have a disability and need travel support.

Beyond supporting the mere essentials of electricity, water, health and transport, we also reduced the cost barriers of participating in community sport. Every family knows that kids sport is a considerable expense, but also knows that we should encourage activity for our young people and community participation. That is why I am pleased we have been able to continue the hugely popular Get in the Game sporting vouchers throughout my electorate with 2,218 vouchers redeemed at a little over \$329,000 value to our community.

Hanlon, Mrs L

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.08 am): Lila Hanlon, a long-time resident of the Mount Tyson area and a stalwart of the National Party and now Liberal National Party, passed away recently after a long illness. Lila was an inspiration to young and old alike. She was a mine of information and she never took a backward step in her life. It is with great sadness that I rise today to honour the life of Lila.

I am sure all would agree that it is your parents who play one of the most formative roles in your life. It was my parents who instilled in me in my formative years my values, principles and work ethic. The other person who had an enormous impact on my life was Lila Hanlon. Lila literally changed the course of my life.

I first met Lila in 2003 when I attended my first meeting of the Cecil Plains branch of the National Party. When I left that meeting, Lila, who held the position of zone chair, had signed me up as a member of the party and nominated me as a delegate for the Cunningham electoral council. Lila and I became close friends from that time on and spoke regularly. Lila had more plans in store for me and within a few months had encouraged me to become the branch chair. Over the next few years I went on to hold a number of positions within the party, including the south-west region chair and I sat on the state executive of the LNP. All of these positions were at the urging of Lila, and she was always available for any help and assistance or advice I needed—but Lila was not finished.

When the former member for Condamine resigned from the party to sit on the crossbench I received a phone call early the next morning. The call was from Lila Hanlon. She said, 'Pat, you are going to stand for Condamine, aren't you?' After some urging and a lot of support from Lila I did stand for preselection and won the seat of Condamine. Lila was not an easy person to say no to and, as I stated earlier, changed the course of my life.

Lila was also a big supporter of the other members in the Darling Downs area. She was a big supporter of Trevor Watts in his campaign for Toowoomba North and also John McVeigh and David Janetzki—all of whom were present at Lila's funeral in Pittsworth. I also recall Lila introducing me to a young man who was studying at the university whom she said we needed to encourage further into the party. That young man was Andrew Cripps, the current member for Hinchinbrook.

Lila was awarded a life membership of the LNP—an award that was never more deserved. I would like to extend my sympathies to the Hanlon family, to Lila's husband, Len, who is suffering ill health himself and to the extended Hanlon family. I speak for all members of the Darling Downs former National Party and now LNP in expressing my sympathies for the loss of Lila Hanlon.

Waterford Electorate, *Poncho*

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.11 am): I rise today to formally welcome to the community of Waterford our new pint-sized bus *Poncho*. *Poncho* is a Queensland and, I believe, an Australian first. It is a small but disability accessible bus that now services the suburbs of Waterford and Holmview in my electorate. *Poncho* runs on bus route 567 through these suburbs, collecting people for school, work, shopping and appointments.

Before now, a large and growing section of the Waterford community had not had access to public transport. With semirural land being turned into housing estates and more families calling Waterford home, the need for this growing corridor to have public transport was urgent. However, there

was one big barrier to getting public transport to these new areas and estates—and that was the size of the streets. Despite developers of these estates strongly implying to potential residents that buses would service the estates, they had not designed the streets wide enough to fit buses through the estates.

When I was a candidate for the 2015 election, I stood at residents' doorsteps and sat at their tables and listened to their frustrations about not having access to public transport. I heard of kids needing to get to school who had to use taxis and people wanting to go to Brisbane or the Gold Coast having to sit in their car in traffic instead of being able to hop on a bus and connect to the train network.

One story that will always stick in my mind was from Adam and Sam Channing. Sam is a local nurse and loving mother of Adam. Adam is a happy and positive young man who enjoys his job and helping out his mum. Adam cannot drive for medical reasons and needed either his mum to drive him to work or to catch a taxi. He only works as a casual, so they found this difficult.

Sam, being a nurse, would often have to be at work herself. With this new bus, Adam and everyone else in the local community can now get to work using public transport. This is a massive relief for both Adam and Sam, and it is an extra special win for them as they were two of my chief petitioners, collecting pages and pages of signatures for this new bus during our campaign. They even had to drop into my office on several occasions to get more copies of the petition.

It is because of this wonderful grassroots campaign I was proud to lead that we were lucky enough to find this solution and deliver a new bus for the community. I want to place on record my appreciation to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport, Jackie Trad, and her office for their help; to TransLink for helping to find a solution and educate residents about the new route; and, last but not least, to the residents who joined me for this fight. I am so proud we have had this win and that none of us took no for an answer.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12.14 am (Wednesday).

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Crawford, Cripps, D'Ath, Davis, de Brenni, Dick, Dickson, Donaldson, Elmes, Emerson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Gordon, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pyne, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams