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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 22 March 2018

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THURSDAY, 22 MARCH 2018

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.



Mr Speaker (Hon. Curtis Pitt, Mulgrave) read prayers and took the chair.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge that we are sitting today on the land of Aboriginal people and pay my respects to elders past and present. I thank them, as First Australians, for their careful custodianship of the land over countless generations. We are very fortunate in this country to have two of the world's oldest continuing living cultures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, winds and waters we all now share.

PETITIONS

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

One Mile Creek, Dredging

Mr Dametto, from 1,355 petitioners, requesting the House to urgently address the dredging of One Mile Creek [\[412\]](#).

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

Wynnum Road, Upgrade

From 250 petitioners, requesting the House to intervene in the Wynnum Road corridor upgrade Stage 1 and stop the BCC from proceeding further [\[413\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon Dr Lynham)—

[414](#) Letter, dated 21 March 2018, from Hon. Dr Lynham to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, requesting tabling of the Queensland Mine Safety Framework Decision Regulatory Impact Statement, March 2018

[415](#) Queensland Mine Safety Framework Decision Regulatory Impact Statement, March 2018

SPEAKER'S PAPER

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

Speaker of the Queensland Parliament (Hon Pitt)—

[416](#) Oaths or Affirmations of Allegiance taken by Members of the 56th Parliament

REPORTS

Auditor-General



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General report No. 13 of 2017-18 titled *Local government entities: 2016-17 results of financial audits*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 13: 2017-18—Local Government entities: 2016-17 results of financial audits [\[417\]](#).

Register of Members' Interests



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I table the 31st report on the Register of Members' Interests.

Tabled paper: Thirty-First Report on the Register of Members' Interests [\[418\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Props in Chamber

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I remind all members again today that props are not allowed to be displayed in the House. Members using props are being disorderly and may be warned. The only exception is when the prop is explanatory in nature, such as a graph, and then the document should be tabled. I do note this week that there have been a number of photos or screenshots blown up and laminated, the tabling of which serves very little purpose. I would ask members to carefully consider the items that they are tabling given that such items when tabled have to be stored at public expense forever. I repeat that: those items must be stored forever, and forever is a long time. It is simply not necessary to table such documents and I ask for members' cooperation in this regard.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Whitsundays, Helicopter Crash

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): We are all shocked and saddened over the deaths of two international tourists, a man and a woman, in a helicopter crash in the Whitsundays. Visitors come to our state for its beauty and its safety. Their families should know how deeply we feel their loss. Anyone who works in our tourism industry—in fact, I am sure all Queenslanders—feel a special obligation to care for people who visit us. Police and air safety investigators are already determining exactly what went wrong. We do not take that obligation lightly. Reports from the scene tell a story of utter tragedy but also of those who went to help.

The Airbus H120 crashed on landing at the Hardy Reef heliport at about 3.30 yesterday afternoon. Reports are that the helicopter was completely submerged. With emergency services on the way, bystanders risked their own safety to rescue those inside. They performed CPR under instruction from emergency workers on the phone. Two passengers and the pilot were saved. They have non-life-threatening injuries. My tourism minister, Kate Jones, has already spoken to the Whitsunday mayor and Whitsunday tourism chief. She will meet with them in Bowen tomorrow. This area is known for Heart Reef. It is shaped like a giant heart in the ocean. I flew over it just a few months ago. Queenslanders are also known for our big hearts. We feel for those affected by this tragedy.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): There are just 13 days to go until the Gold Coast hosts the biggest sporting event in its history, and I am pleased to report that a very big wave of games fever is making its way across the Gold Coast and Queensland. Gold Coasters are excited, games staff and volunteers are excited and we on this side of the House are very excited about the 12 days of world-class sport, cultural events, trade and business opportunities ahead.

Our games infrastructure is in top shape. The final overlay of games venues is almost complete. The spectacular line-up of arts and cultural entertainment for Festival 2018 is ready to swing into action and thousands of athletes, officials, trade delegates and visitors are busy packing their bags for the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns. We are well and truly ready to show off the very best of the Gold Coast and Queensland to the world.

My government wants this to be the best games ever and we want to build a legacy on the Gold Coast that will help this region flourish long after the last medal is presented and the last athlete leaves the village. We will deliver lasting infrastructure and social and economic benefits that will transform the Gold Coast and put it on the map as one of Australia's greatest cities. I want all Queenslanders and Gold Coasters to embrace this games, the benefits it will bring and of course games fever. We have already sold one million tickets—more than Melbourne did in 2006. There are still plenty of opportunities to get a ticket courtside, poolside or trackside to watch some of the world's best athletes or even take in some clever and creative arts and cultural experiences as part of the Festival 2018 program.

The games will be viewed on television by an audience of up to 1½ billion people. This is the first time a regional Australian city has hosted the Commonwealth Games, and I am incredibly proud of this fact. This event will inject billions into the economy of the Gold Coast, and Queensland more broadly, and support up to 30,000 jobs. Games fever will not be limited to just the stadiums, pools and arenas;

for some events you do not even need a ticket. Cycling enthusiasts can set themselves up along the kilometres of prime vantage points to watch the adrenaline charged cycling road race or the cycling individual time trial, which starts and finishes along the beautiful Currumbin beachfront.

While people are making their way to and from venues, there will be themed entertainment at public transport stations—like Helensvale’s newly upgraded bus station—to keep passengers entertained and provide a memorable experience as part of Festival 2018. The first stage of the station’s \$14 million upgrade is now complete. As one of the key transport hubs of the games, Helensvale station provides a seamless interchange between heavy rail, light rail and bus services between the Gold Coast and South-East Queensland more broadly. The upgrade is a significant investment in public transport infrastructure for the Commonwealth Games and a long-term legacy investment for Gold Coast residents and future visitors.

As we know, Gold Coast Light Rail is a resounding success, with customers voting with their feet. Stage 2 was built by my government with the support of all three levels of government working together, and once again I am incredibly proud of that fact. Since stage 2 opened late last year patronage has increased by 27 per cent—an extra 510,000 trips on a year earlier. Since stage 2 opened, a total of 2.37 million trips have been made on light rail. Light rail stage 2 and the Helensvale bus station upgrade are just part of the \$1 billion in road and transport infrastructure that has been delivered on the Gold Coast ahead of the Commonwealth Games. These legacy infrastructure investments will support continued economic development on the coast for decades to come.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Royal Visit

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): During our 12 days in the world’s spotlight, I know that Queenslanders will also deliver a very warm welcome to the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. In addition to their official duties, their Royal Highnesses will take in some of our most iconic natural wonders during their stay, and the Prince of Wales will also travel to regional centres including Bundaberg and Cairns. I am very honoured to be hosting the Prince of Wales at a community festival reception at Bundaberg’s iconic Rum Distillery. I know that the Bundaberg community is ready to once again roll out the red carpet for the visit—

Mr Bleijie: My grandparents live in Bundy. I’m going to be there that weekend.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I might forward an invite if the member is good today. I know that the Bundaberg community is ready to once again roll out the red carpet for the visit, with many locals recalling His Royal Highness’s first visit to the Bundaberg Rum Distillery in the 1980s and his visit to the Burnett River in 1994. As we all know, Bundaberg and Wide Bay residents have proven themselves to be a very resilient and tight-knit community, so I am also delighted that His Royal Highness will be able to hear firsthand stories of how the Bundaberg community has triumphed over its share of adversity in recent years.

While in Queensland, the Prince of Wales will also attend a meeting on coral resilience in the southern Great Barrier Reef and a forestry round table in the World Heritage listed Daintree rainforest. These visits will shine the world’s spotlight on some of the most beautiful places in our state as well as the great progress that our state is making to ensure that we preserve these natural assets for generations to come.

While in Cairns the Prince of Wales will also tour the Royal Australian Navy’s impressive 71-metre HMAS *Leeuwin*, which was built by Cairns shipbuilders NQEA, and the local Royal Flying Doctor Service base and will take in some of the Commonwealth Games women’s basketball competition at the Cairns Convention Centre. Next week I will have some further announcements on the royal visit to our great state. Let us all embrace the games. They are almost here.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Festival 2018; Whitsundays, Helicopter Crash

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.41 am): Seven years ago we said that Queensland would host the best Commonwealth Games of all time. With just 13 days to go until the opening ceremony, I can say with certainty that we will deliver on our promise.

I urge all Queenslanders to be part of history. Sports fans can still snap up great tickets to the games. Today I announce that we will be releasing more than 6,000 additional tickets to the swimming, including the finals. This is really exciting news, because I know that many of us, including members across the chamber, were not able to secure tickets to the swimming. From 28 March, these 6,000

additional tickets will be released as we finalise the overlay at the Optus Aquatic Centre. As I said, these tickets include tickets to the final. We expect thousands more tickets to be sold in the coming weeks. As the Premier said, as we head towards the games we are seeing momentum building.

It is not just for sport that people come to the games. Festival 2018 includes hundreds of events across the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Townsville and the centre of the universe, Cairns, with the likes of Cold Chisel's Ian Moss, Amy Shark, Kate Miller-Heidke and the Cat Empire as our headline acts. I am very proud to say that when it comes to our Festival 2018 program we have put Queensland performers first. I encourage all Queenslanders to embrace the games, to experience all that the games has to offer, whether that is on the Gold Coast or in the other event cities across Queensland—Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville. We are in for 11 incredible days of sport, arts and action.

I would also like to join the Premier in her comments with regard to the tragic helicopter crash that occurred yesterday in the Whitsundays. I am sure that I speak on behalf of all members when I say that, as a parliament, we pass on our condolences. Our thoughts and prayers are with those families and the people who work for the company. As tourism minister, I will continue to support tourism operators in the Whitsundays. As the Premier said, I will be meeting with the mayor and representatives of Tourism Whitsundays tomorrow.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Indigenous Involvement

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.44 am): It is very exciting to rise to speak today, our last sitting day before the Commonwealth Games on the fantastic Gold Coast. The majority of Commonwealth Games events are happening on the traditional land of the Yugambah people, who have made their homes on the Gold Coast for thousands of years. The Palaszczuk government acknowledges the incredibly important role that first nation Queenslanders have to play in the Commonwealth Games. That is why the Office of the Commonwealth Games has worked side by side with my Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships to deliver the Reconciliation Action Plan, referred to as the RAP, which is driving inclusive participation and delivering meaningful opportunities for first nations people.

A key action of the Gold Coast 2018 RAP is to develop partnerships to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses to secure Gold Coast 2018 procurement opportunities. One of the most successful of these partnerships is the Parklands redevelopment project, which has awarded over \$3 million worth of contracts to Indigenous businesses and 130 employee opportunities have been provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This success has been replicated across the games, with Goldoc awarding 103 contracts to Indigenous businesses with a total value of more than \$2.7 million, generating jobs for almost 50 Indigenous Queenslanders.

Relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Queensland are also being strengthened through projects that explore Indigenous culture and history. One exciting project, Skylore, is a new installation on Indigenous astronomy to be installed at the Brisbane planetarium. Similarly, traditional Indigenous games signs will also be installed in public parks across six local government areas in Queensland, including at the Commonwealth Games Village.

The diversity of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture will be showcased as the Queen's baton continues its journey across the state, with community celebrations to be held along the route, including welcomes to country and the recognition of traditional owners. For the first time in history, first nation elders Ted Williams and Patricia O'Connor participated in the Queen's Baton Relay commencement ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

We have also worked with Aboriginal artists such as Delvene Cockatoo-Collins, who designed the artwork for the Gold Coast 2018 medals.

A government member interjected.

Ms TRAD: I take that interjection. Delvene Cockatoo-Collins is a cousin of the member for Algester, the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. The Indigenous creative agency Gilimbaa designed the lead image of the Gold Coast 2018 RAP, which has been utilised in an array of areas including volunteer uniforms, the Australian Commonwealth Games team uniforms and venue signage.

Other countries have also jumped on board, working with first nations artists to bring local Indigenous heritage into their own teams. In the build-up to the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, team Scotland collaborated with local Gold Coast artist Leeton Lee to develop its design theme

for the games. Team Chef de Mission, Jon Doig OBE, said that this exciting initiative was part of the team's acknowledgement and mark of respect for the first nations people of Australia and specifically the Yugambah people.

I am incredibly proud of the work that we have done to make sure that the Commonwealth Games incorporates genuine engagement and economic opportunities for first nations Queenslanders. Bring on the games!

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Legacy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.47 am): During the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Queensland and the Gold Coast will be showcased on the world stage, but the games will be more than showcasing thrilling sporting achievement. The Commonwealth Games is about making sure that Queensland and the Gold Coast reap the long-term economic benefits of hosting this significant event.

The Gold Coast health and knowledge precinct is a prime example of this legacy being actioned. It is a unique 200-hectare site that incorporates the Parklands priority development area, which is already home to world-class research and allied medical facilities employing almost 10,000 people, and is also home to almost 20,000 students. The completion of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games will bring forward an exciting new stage for the precinct. The Commonwealth Games athletes village will be transformed into a vibrant \$550 million mixed-use community, where residents can live, work and learn in the city's largest ever urban renewal project. This project will incorporate a permanent residential community, with 1,252 dwellings that will comprise a mix of apartments and townhouses, with a 5,700-square-metre retail precinct and green landscaped spaces built around a village heart. Temporary games buildings may also be repurposed as innovation and incubation spaces. Economic Development Queensland is already in negotiation with two investors that will enable over \$70 million of construction work to commence after the games.

In addition, negotiations are taking place with Griffith University, which is proposing to develop an advanced design and prototyping technology building within the precinct. This knowledge based industry attraction and growth is critical to the city, region and state's long-term economic sustainability and will provide a valuable skilled labour force.

Once fully developed, the Gold Coast health and knowledge precinct is expected to inject \$2.9 billion into the local economy and employ up to 26,000 people. Supported by \$5 billion in infrastructure, including a world-class university and two major hospitals, the precinct will ensure a job-creating legacy for Queensland.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Transport

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.50 am): The Commonwealth Games are only 13 days away and what an exciting time it will be. When the Palaszczuk government came to office in 2015, one of our key challenges, identified early in the piece, was the lack of infrastructure planning and funding for the Gold Coast leading up to the Commonwealth Games. This was the void the LNP left us only three years from the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Minister for the Commonwealth Games, I know this is something you and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition are very passionate about, but I will not tolerate this crossfire that we have been seeing in the chamber.

Mr BAILEY: With a tight time frame, with only three years to the opening ceremony, we acted on these infrastructure issues to ensure that the 670,000 visitors coming for the games will get there. In our first term as a minority government we secured funding and built stage 2 of the light rail project worth \$420 million, the majority of which came from the state government. It was built in 18 months flat and links the heavy rail at Helensvale with the first stage of the light rail at the Gold Coast University Hospital, seamlessly linking Broadbeach with Brisbane by rail. We acted quickly to duplicate the heavy rail line between Coomera and Helensvale without which we would not be able to triple the trains for the games and run up to eight trains per hour.

Gold Coast roads also got a massive \$353 million injection by Labor, including upgrades to the Gooding Drive roundabout, Olsen Avenue, Southport-Burleigh Road, Nerang-Broadbeach Road and the Smith Street Motorway, and we started and finished the \$74 million upgrade of the Coomera

interchange at exit 54. Almost \$1 billion worth of infrastructure investment has been delivered on the Gold Coast by this Labor government, not just for the games but as a lasting legacy for Gold Coast residents for decades to come.

We have also started the early M1 works between Mudgeeraba and Varsity Lakes and at the Gateway merge. Given the long lead-in times and build times that are required for these huge projects, the decision by the previous LNP government to not spend a single new dollar on the M1 was a major betrayal of Gold Coast residents. There is no doubt that travel around the Gold Coast for the games is going to be very different in the lead-up to the games and during the games.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, there are too many interjections from an opposition that has not supported the games.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I will not take instruction from the floor. I remind all honourable members that this is a time to listen to matters of government policy and public affairs but it is not a time for debate. If there are questions to be asked of the government it will happen during question time.

Mr BAILEY: The key is being well informed in terms of preparing for the games, planning ahead and giving yourself extra travel time due to the number of visitors in the area. Now is the time to get online and check out what is happening. Whether you are going to the games or not, travel is going to be very different for the fortnight of the Commonwealth Games. It will be an exciting and a memorable time in the Gold Coast's history with 24-hour bus, 24-hour light rail and 24-hour heavy rail services as well as a huge free cultural program as part of the biggest sporting event in the nation in a decade.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, TAFE

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.54 am): As we have heard, the Commonwealth Games are fast approaching, but it could not happen without the support of the 15,000-strong TAFE volunteers. These volunteers were selected from more than 47,000 applications. They are aged from 16 to 91. These volunteers will be the heart and soul of the games, receiving real-life work experience. Leading up to the games, in total 360,000 hours of volunteer training was conducted by TAFE. This is a huge accomplishment and I acknowledge all of the staff and trainers at TAFE for their tremendous efforts. This training was needed for the roughly one million volunteer hours required of them during the 11 days of competition.

Shortly after the Commonwealth Games TAFE will be providing further support to almost 300 volunteers through its legacy project. TAFE Queensland want to make sure that the skills and experience gained by volunteers are put to good use. Through the legacy project TAFE will provide eligible volunteers the opportunity to have their experience counted towards a nationally recognised qualification and access to job search support, whether it be a diploma of project management, a certificate III in hospitality or a certificate III in catering operations. In providing volunteers with the opportunity to upskill or change into a new exciting career, this legacy will further boost employment opportunities for Queenslanders.

I also want to mention the outstanding TAFE students whose artwork is on display in the Commonwealth Games main media centre. Original artworks from 13 TAFE Queensland students will be on display to the world press. The artworks have been created by graphic design students from across Queensland: two TAFE students from North Queensland, two students from Nambour TAFE and nine students from the TAFE Queensland Coomera campus.

Furthermore, 2017 Outstanding Student of the Year and winner of the Gold Coast City Council's Student Design Award, Odin Lowsley, has had his artwork expanded to billboard size and unveiled on the Sundale Bridge in Southport. Odin graduated from TAFE Queensland's Diploma of Graphic Design when he was only 16 years of age and has now secured a place in a double degree in graphic design and marketing. I congratulate Odin and the other students on this amazing achievement, and I urge anyone who has the opportunity to go and check out Odin's artwork on the Sundale Bridge in Southport.

TAFE, in partnership with the Commonwealth Games, is showcasing the best and brightest Queensland has to offer. That is why the Palaszczuk government at the last election committed \$15 million to establish a TAFE legacy on the Gold Coast post Commonwealth Games. I end by acknowledging all of the hard work done by each of the 15,000 volunteers and I hope they enjoy every minute of what will be an amazing Commonwealth Games.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Parasport Program

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (9.57 am): As I am sure everyone is aware, South Korea recently hosted a very successful Winter Olympics in PyeongChang. As part of these games, the 2018 Winter Paralympic Games were held. Australia competed in alpine skiing and snowboarding and came away with one gold and two bronze medals. This is a tremendous outcome and shows the exceptional quality of our para-athletes in sports not routinely associated with the Australian climate.

Of course, the next really exciting event for para-athletes is the Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast. These Commonwealth Games will host approximately 300 para-athletes and 38 events across seven sports. This is a significant increase in both participation and medals compared with the last Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. The Gold Coast will proudly host the largest integrated parasport program in Commonwealth Games history. I am also excited that there will be an equal number of men's and women's events across all sports.

The streets of the Gold Coast will host the first ever wheelchair marathon at this Commonwealth Games. Let us just reflect on what that means. It does not just mean that athletes get to compete in a different event; it means that children and young people in wheelchairs watching this event will see that their future can be different from what they might have imagined. They can see that they could be involved in things that perhaps they thought were not possible. This is how we grow inclusiveness in our community: we show people what it looks like. What we will see from that is that they will start to demand and expect it.

My biggest hope out of these games is not medals for Queenslanders. While this would be absolutely fantastic, I want more. My biggest hope is that these Commonwealth Games plant a seed—a dream—for children and young people with disability; that their sporting heroes inspire them to participate in more; and that the audience cheering the para-athletes gives our children and young people with disability the strength to demand the right to participate wherever a barrier may be put up before them.

I encourage everyone to get along and very loudly support our para-athletes. Do it for the athletes and do it to show the world that Queenslanders know how to celebrate inclusiveness. I take this opportunity to wish all of the athletes from Commonwealth countries the very best, and go Queenslanders!

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Queensland Health

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.00 am): The Gold Coast Commonwealth Games are going to be the best Commonwealth Games yet and Queensland Health is well and truly prepared for them. The health department has been working closely with Goldoc, the Queensland Police Service and other partners to ensure all preparations are in place for the event. Our health system has been a key player in a series of integrated, multiagency exercises that tested our agencies' responsiveness. I have seen some of those training exercises firsthand and I am pleased to say that our hospitals are prepared for any disaster event, natural or otherwise, that could occur in Queensland at the same time as the games.

Free health care will be provided for athletes, officials and members of Commonwealth Games associations and federations. There will be medical services at all training, competition and non-competition venues, including the athletes village. The Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service has worked hard to ensure essential public healthcare services are maintained for residents of the Gold Coast throughout the games.

Of course, they have also been working hard to ensure staff face minimal disruption. Parking will be made available for staff at Pacific Pines State School, with a free shuttle bus to the Helensvale train station and light rail stop. The first 300 staff to register for that arrangement will be provided with a free go card with \$50 credit for public transport. There are also 200 car parks available in the multistorey car park at the Gold Coast University Hospital and 60 car parks at Robina Hospital for staff who carpool with three or more staff. For those who cannot carpool, car parks are also available for staff at a discounted rate, through salary sacrifice, for less than \$8 a day.

In the village, Goldoc is using Queensland Health's expertise to keep our athletes and spectators safe and healthy. We will be encouraging everyone to use the free hand sanitiser available at refreshment stations and check-in points at all competition and non-competition venues. The health department has worked tirelessly to ensure that it can provide a high level of service, manage demand and respond to any emergencies for the duration of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Festival 2018

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerster—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.02 am): It gives me great pleasure to update the House on Festival 2018, the Commonwealth Games arts and cultural festival that next month will bring 12 days of exciting performances to not just the Gold Coast but also Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane.

Festival 2018 will feature more than 3,500 performers participating in more than 500 events, leaving a lasting legacy. The event will see the arts take its place alongside sports as a major drawcard for visitors in a program spanning theatre, music, visual arts, dance, circus and more. Queensland talent will join world-class artists from across Australia and all parts of the globe, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories firmly in the spotlight. Festival 2018 will create a palpable energy, telling our unique Queensland stories and further enhancing our global reputation as a world-class destination.

Mr Speaker, you will be interested to know that in Cairns outdoor concerts featuring huge names such as Kate Miller-Heidke, the Cat Empire and Amy Shark will delight music lovers when they play the Main Stage at the Cairns Esplanade. The member for Townsville will be pleased to know that Strand Park is hosting the Uncontained Festival, featuring a towering art installation of 30 shipping containers and a hub for street art, live music and a broadcast of the games. In Brisbane, King George Square will host One million Stars to End Violence, an inspirational community project by the Museum of Brisbane featuring woven stars contributed by weavers across the world. At the Brisbane Powerhouse, the WOW—Women of the World festival 2018 will celebrate achievements, encourage dialogue and identify ways to support women and girls to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential.

Of course, the Gold Coast will be the centre of much activity, including the world premiere of the Festival 2018 commissioned *Intertwined*. Led by Grace Lillian Lee and featuring 11 collections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, it celebrates art, fashion, movement and song. The annual Gold Coast Bleach* Festival 2018 will be in full swing with *The Spirit of Churaki*, an epic music production inspired by the story of an Aboriginal man heralded as the Gold Coast's first surf lifesaver.

Festival 2018, funded by the Queensland government in partnership with the City of Gold Coast, Brisbane City Council, Townsville City Council, Cairns Regional Council and the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation, is truly a major achievement. By bringing Festival 2018 to the regions, the Palaszczuk government is demonstrating our commitment to the people of regional Queensland. I encourage all Queenslanders from right across the state to join in the celebrations.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.05 am): With the Commonwealth Games almost upon us, the world is about to see the results of the gold-winning preparation of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. The Palaszczuk government and QFES is committed to providing an enjoyable and safe experience for athletes, officials, spectators and visitors to the games. Our \$11.35 million QFES Commonwealth Games program includes the deployment of 850 personnel, comprising 400 staff and 450 volunteers.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of meeting some of those personnel attached to our dedicated QFES Commonwealth Games Office. Some of those staff have been working in that team for three years. I make specific mention of the work of Chief Superintendent Darryl King and Assistant Commissioner John Watson in spearheading the massive games effort. Their team has been liaising closely with games partners to ensure a collaborated approach to emergency planning for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

A key lesson learned from the Glasgow 2014 games by the Scotland Fire and Rescue Service was the importance of establishing early a project team to develop key partnerships and collaboratively plan and apply an integrated approach to emergency planning and response across the games. QFES has listened to those learnings and has adopted a meticulous, collaborative approach to ensure our organisation is well integrated with other emergency services and agencies, and is highly trained and well resourced to support public safety during the games.

Like all of us, excluding of course some of those opposite, QFES cannot wait for the starter's gun to fire on the games. Under our Operation Paratus, QFES has entered the fifth phase of preparations—that is, deployment. That phase follows 39 months of working on strategic planning, operational planning, preparedness and readiness activities. Already, the first batch of QFES personnel is setting up operational base facilities. They have established an on-site presence at the games village and other locations. Our personnel will continue deploying from Brisbane to the Gold Coast in the lead-up to 4

April and will be based at all games venues, as well as outdoor events and games festival celebrations. The presence of our highly skilled staff and volunteers will mean that, no matter what event you are attending, specialists in fire, rescue and emergency response will be on hand at all times should an emergency arise.

During the Commonwealth Games, the QFES workforce will participate in the equivalent of more than 3,400 operational shifts. Queenslanders should feel confident that, like the athletes who will take part in the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, QFES will deliver a winning performance through meticulous planning and hard work. Bring on the games!

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Homelessness Protocol

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.08 am): I too cannot wait for the 2018 Commonwealth Games to get underway. As the minister responsible, I can assure the House that on the Gold Coast people experiencing homelessness have not only been well catered for, they continue to be welcome in the community that they call home. Our government has been working closely with specialist services, under the auspices of the Gold Coast Homelessness Network, to make sure that our homeless friends are supported throughout the games. Our principles are to ensure that people have a meal; somewhere to charge their phone; a roof over their head; the right, like all citizens, to be part of this historic event; and, most of all, to assist people experiencing homelessness to live with dignity.

That is why I am pleased to advise the House that a key part of our response is the release of the homelessness protocol for people in public places. This protocol has been developed especially for the 21st Commonwealth Games. It will stand as a model for other significant Queensland events in the future as part of our Embracing 2018 Legacy Program.

In particular, the protocol guides our 19,000 games officials, volunteers and emergency services personnel on how to engage and assist people who are experiencing homelessness, as and if required. Through the Gold Coast Homelessness Network, we will ensure that all of these officials and volunteers are trained in the protocol and ready to reach out to people experiencing homelessness if needed.

The protocol recognises, like everyone else, Queenslanders experiencing homelessness have a right to enjoy public spaces. It is all about treating people with dignity. It is important that people experiencing homelessness feel welcome in their own community during the games. Our protocol is clear on these principles. We recognise that some of our lowest income Queenslanders may be squeezed out of their accommodation due to the influx of visitors for the games. I have secured emergency accommodation to cater for those experiencing that situation.

Our homelessness protocol is a key element of our Commonwealth Games Homelessness Action Plan prepared in close consultation with the Gold Coast Homelessness Network. This was released at the Gold Coast Homeless Connect on 2 August 2017. Given that it is a matter of historical importance and, I believe, a matter of public interest, I table the action plan and protocol.

Tabled paper: Document, dated March 2018, from the Department of Housing and Public Works, titled 'Homelessness Protocol for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games' [[419](#)].

Tabled paper: Document, undated, from the Department of Housing and Public Works, titled 'Delivering an integrated housing and homelessness response on the Gold Coast' [[420](#)].

We have built on learnings from the Victorian homelessness response for the Melbourne Commonwealth Games and our response in Queensland for G20. Our plan consists of 28 actions, accompanied by an additional \$1 million in Queensland government funding. This will ensure that the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games is an overwhelmingly positive experience for everybody.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games; Harmony Day

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.11 am): As members have heard, the 2018 Commonwealth Games will be the biggest event in Queensland's history, and I know that we are well prepared. Athletes and officials from 71 nations and territories have already started hitting the coast, host cities and pre-games training facilities. We are also going to see a massive influx of interstate and international visitors to Queensland. We are going to see Queensland at its absolute best.

As multicultural affairs minister, I want every single visitor to feel welcome and to feel a sense of belonging when they are in Queensland. 'Everyone belongs' was the theme of Harmony Day, held throughout Australia yesterday. Yesterday I addressed a breakfast here at Parliament House, which was attended by my parliamentary colleagues, to mark Harmony Day. It was hosted by the Ethnic

Communities Council of Queensland. Queenslanders come from more than 200 different cultural backgrounds, speak more than 220 languages and identify with over 100 different faiths. There is no doubt Queenslanders from a diverse range of backgrounds will be cheering on competitors from a variety of nations and territories.

Queenslanders who hail from New Zealand will no doubt be supporting athletes from across the ditch. I know the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland is heavily promoting the Commonwealth Games and that many of its members and supporters are hoping for a strong Indian medal haul. There are also a huge number of Queenslanders from the state's Pasifika communities who will be cheering on the colourful array of competitors from the Pacific nations. Of course, there are a large number of recent Queenslanders from the British Isles who will be supporting their nations and territories in their quest for gold. Of course, I will be strongly supporting the Australian team in all of the events they are involved in but welcoming the diversity of support from Queenslanders right across the state.

The Commonwealth Games is a great opportunity to showcase Queensland to the world as a united, harmonious and inclusive place. Let us make the most of it.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.13 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 1 May 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Conduct in Chamber

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, before question time commences I need to remind members of two important matters of procedure. Standing order 247 provides that members wishing to speak shall rise and address the Speaker. This means that members should not address each other directly across the chamber. All statements should be made through the chair. Members must also refer to other members by their correct title—either their ministerial or parliamentary office or their electorate. I have given members fair warning. Question time will conclude at 11.14 am.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Waste Levy

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.14 am): My question without notice is to the Minister for Environment. The Palaszczuk government's new waste tax will apply to the disposal of batteries and tyres, increasing the cost of the service of a family car. Why do Queensland families have to pay for Labor's waste tax?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. The Leader of the Opposition clearly does not understand what recycling means. The Leader of the Opposition is trying to hold onto her position as the Leader of the Opposition. What we see from those opposite is very different stories—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Chatsworth, you are pointing and having a conversation across the chamber. That is not related to the matters at hand. You are warned under the standing orders. Members, I am serious about ensuring we have free-flowing debate, but I will not tolerate a disorderly House.

Ms ENOCH: What we are seeing from the Leader of the Opposition is an attempt to hold onto her own position. What we see is different stories. We get one idea from the Leader of the Opposition. We get one idea from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. We have another idea from the member for Broadwater. They are all competing for the same position.

If the Leader of the Opposition understood what recycling is she would know that tyres and batteries are already regulated waste and do not go to landfill. The waste levy is related to landfill. That is what we are talking about. We want to redirect waste from landfill to recycling and ensure we create that kind of economy. The levy would not apply because those items are already regulated.

Waste Levy

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is to the Minister for Environment. Despite numerous light-on-detail promises to protect households, why has the Palaszczuk government not appointed any consumer or household representatives to the panel designing Labor's new waste tax?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. We are quite open to having consumers engaged in this. That is why a consultative approach has been taken to the development of this levy. Let us be clear, the only reason we are even talking about waste management in this state is because those opposite removed the levy and made us the only mainland state in Australia without a levy. They made us the dumping ground of Australia by removing the levy and putting pressure on our state.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, your disruptive interjections are not being taken by the minister. I warn you under the standing orders.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on the preparedness of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games and what the games will mean for the Gold Coast and for Queensland?

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gympie, you are warned. You spoke during the question. Questions will be heard in silence.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Gaven for that question. I thank her commitment to the Gold Coast. I know that the member for Gaven, as well as every other member of this House, knows how important the Commonwealth Games are for Queensland and how important they are for the Gold Coast.

Let me make this very clear for everyone. I said in my ministerial statement and I will say it again: this is the first time the Commonwealth Games are being held in a regional city in Australia. I am incredibly proud of the fact that it is happening on the Gold Coast. There are going to be many legacy items left from the Commonwealth Games. I mentioned transport this morning—stage 2 of the light rail, the upgrades to the bus stations, the duplication of the rail. We also now have world-class facilities on the Gold Coast that will be utilised for many years to come.

In just over 13 days time we are going to welcome thousands of athletes and thousands of tourists to the Gold Coast. I know that every bit of planning has gone on to create the best games ever. I want to pay tribute today to Goldoc. I want to pay tribute to all of the state government agencies that have been working around the clock. I also want to thank members of my cabinet and members of the Commonwealth Games subcommittee who have been meeting on a regular time frame to ensure that key milestones have been met.

Tonight I am also very pleased to join with executives of staff to launch the new The Darling on the Gold Coast. Just over a year and a half ago I was there with the Minister for Commonwealth Games turning the sod. There were over 500 construction jobs in building this new apartment complex. This shows very clearly that The Darling will provide high-end product for tourism. I think this is the start of many more of these types of buildings to be built right across Queensland, not just on the Gold Coast.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take the interjection from the Leader of the House in terms of the Queen's Wharf that is going to be developed here as well.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, we signed the contracts and we will deliver it. We signed the contract. We made the decision and we will deliver it. I look forward tonight to joining with the mayor, members of The Star team and others on the Gold Coast and hopefully members of the parliament on both sides as we go down to the Gold Coast to open this together because this is important for the Gold Coast. It is going to be a lasting legacy. I cannot wait for the games to begin.

Waste Levy

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Minister for Environment. Yesterday one of the members of Labor's waste tax advisory panel said, 'It needs to be much higher than it was last time and increasing over time.' Does the minister agree with her hand-picked adviser that the waste tax rate needs to be much higher and increasing and, if so, how much higher—100 per cent, 200 per cent or 300 per cent higher than the last time?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. I hope that the member has actually read the report because the report gives them guidelines about what is happening across the state. Again, as I said earlier, the only reason we are even talking about waste management in this state is that those opposite removed the levy, leaving this state as the only mainland state in Australia without a waste levy, leaving us to be the dumping ground for this country. Queenslanders do not want to be the state where everybody else sends their rubbish. That is why—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms ENOCH: In fact, I invite those opposite to go and talk to people in Ipswich who have to deal with this every day, who have to deal with the waste being trucked across the state's border as a result of the fact that they removed the levy. Where is the leadership and vision from those opposite? It seems to be dispersed. There are many different versions of what they would like to be focusing on.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I can hear you being particularly loud. I am issuing you a caution without issuing you a warning at this point. I ask you to heed that caution. Member for Gladstone, I can hear you interjecting across the chamber. You are warned under standing orders.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Thank you for your ruling, Mr Speaker, but there have been many Speaker's rulings about when a minister is directly attacking members of the opposition there is some leeway in terms of interjections in rebuttal, and the minister is clearly doing that.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I am allowing a significant degree of interjection to occur. If individual members are being targeted, of course I believe there is some element of provocation, and I will be taking that into consideration. However, if it is a general disagreement around policy between one side of the House and the other, that is not cause for every member to feel aggrieved. Member for Gladstone, take note of that warning.

Ms ENOCH: If those opposite had actually read the report, they would see that there is a suggestion that in terms of looking at the range we should be comparable to other states with the exclusion of New South Wales. We will be working on that range with the stakeholder group. Again, the only reason that we are even talking about this is that those opposite removed the levy, leaving our state the only state in mainland Australia without a levy.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Queen's Baton Relay

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on the progress of the Queen's Baton Relay?

Ms Palaszczuk: Great question.

Ms JONES: Surprise, surprise, Premier! We are going to Rocky tomorrow. I thank the honourable member for that question. I am absolutely delighted to be taking a question from the member for Rockhampton. I know how passionate he is about that wonderful city. I am very much looking forward to sharing with him and the mayor tomorrow at the celebrations in Rockhampton, where we are going to have 11 baton bearers from the Rocky community, including Grant Cassidy, who is a tourism identity in that local community. We will be joining together with the mayor and all of Rockhampton to celebrate the great leaders of the Rockhampton community.

This is the first time I have been back to Rocky since I launched the honourable member's campaign in Rockhampton, where we announced \$75,000 to start the feasibility study for the upgrade to Browne Park, which as everyone knows is the spiritual home of Rugby League in Rockhampton. I know that the local member is very keen to get this underway. Today I can announce that I will be doubling the commitment from the state with regard to lifting that to \$150,000 so we can make sure that we deliver this study. I can imagine that the federal local member will have something to say about that, as will the mayor in the future.

It is not just the Gold Coast and the host cities that are benefiting from the Commonwealth Games. Indeed, many communities across the state are, with more than 1,800 Queenslanders being baton bearers as part of the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay that is crisscrossing our beautiful state at the moment. One of the other things that has been happening is that of course there have been disruptions locally on the Gold Coast. We are all mad Rugby League fans here—Cronulla Sharks, for example! The Titans will be hitting the road. The Titans will be going to Toowoomba this Sunday and playing in Toowoomba as a home game because they have been displaced from Cbus at Robina. They will also be playing a home game in Gladstone against the Manly Sea Eagles.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Ms JONES: The mayor of Gladstone is here in the gallery. Hello, Mr Mayor! I look forward to seeing you. Both the member for Gladstone and the mayor of Gladstone have been huge supporters of ensuring that not only do we support the Titans as they are displaced from Cbus stadium but also regional Queensland and regional Rugby League fans benefit from those home games being taken on the road to those Rugby League loving communities across Queensland.

This just highlights the opportunities that are going to happen for Queensland as a consequence of the Commonwealth Games—\$320 million invested in 18 different sporting venues. The week after the Commonwealth Games the SportsAccord Convention will be in Bangkok. This will be the first time that we get to showcase the Gold Coast as a truly great destination to host international sporting events. We secured the Sudirman Cup, the world badminton championships.

Ms Palaszczuk: What a great success!

Ms JONES: It was a great success. It was the first time it was held outside of Asia, and this is just a taste of what is going to happen to the Gold Coast and Queensland as a consequence of the legacy of the Commonwealth Games.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Premier. On Tuesday the Premier promised journalists she was happy to ask Minister Bailey whether he appointed any other ETU director candidates to taxpayer funded positions. What was Mr Bailey's answer?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The minister has advised my office that there were no other CVs for board positions sent by the ETU to the minister's private email account.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Journey Planning

Mr KING: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister inform the House about how spectators can travel to the Commonwealth Games?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Kurwongbah for his ongoing interest in transport issues. The most important thing is the use of the games journey planner. For the benefit of the House today, I am going to become a real-life journey planner and outline the best way to get to the opening ceremony on Wednesday, the first day of the games. The opening ceremony starts at 7 pm so I know I need to get there by 6 pm to enjoy the atmosphere and the entertainment around the precinct.

I will head straight down from work and go to Central Station as my starting point. With just a touch on my games journey planner app on my smart phone, I have a bunch of options to choose from straight up. I could hop on the train at 3.52, 3.59, 4.14, 4.22 or 4.29 because we have tripled the trains to the Gold Coast. The list goes on. There are so many services.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left and some to my right also, I am having a difficult time hearing the minister. I would like to hear the answer.

Mr BAILEY: There is no need to top up my go card because I know that public transport will be free for everybody with a games ticket. The train departs on time at 4.29 from the recently refurbished Central Station, refurbished with \$6.3 million worth of investment by the Palaszczuk government. It is looking great for all our games visitors with so many friendly staff helping people along as we go.

We are picking up more excited games spectators along the way at South Brisbane, South Bank, Park Road, Yeronga, and we are off to the Gold Coast via a few express stops. We will go, for instance, through Banoon in the member for Toohey's electorate where one of our rapid response maintenance hubs is located which will house special teams that are ready to deploy quickly and respond to any issues that might occur.

As we proceed south we are now on the rail line duplication from Coomera to Helensvale delivered by the Palaszczuk government. There is no way we would get eight trains to the Gold Coast without it—a \$163 million investment for the Gold Coast and the Commonwealth Games. Here we are at Helensvale. While it is not my stop to get off, I can see the bus interchange and light rail—lots of choices there—a seamless connection delivered by Labor.

Now I have arrived at Nerang. I can either hop on an event shuttle bus or choose to walk to the stadium where there are heaps of event shuttles leaving all the time. The weather is so great I think I might walk because I will see all sorts of entertainment in the biggest festival in Queensland's history as part of the biggest sporting event ever in this state. It is going to be an exciting time for the Gold Coast and an exciting time for this state. I, like all Queenslanders, am looking forward to it. It will be an historic event.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Premier. I table a press release from the Crime and Corruption Commission finding that Minister Bailey breached both the ministerial handbook and the ministerial IT security policy.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 19 July 2017, from the Crime and Corruption Commission, titled 'CCC finalises assessment of Minister Bailey's emails—19 July 2017' [\[421\]](#).

What punishment did Minister Bailey get for those actions?

Mr SPEAKER: Member, please rephrase the question to ask that question through the chair. I gave fair warning this morning.

Mr HART: My question to the Premier is what punishment did Minister Bailey receive for his very foolish actions?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Minister Bailey was stood down from his position for the duration of that investigation. That is what happened, and the CCC thoroughly investigated that.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Jobs

Mr PEGG: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier and Leader of the Opposition, if you wish to have a conversation please take that outside. I have asked for silence during questions so that I, Hansard reporters and the Clerk can hear the question and so that I can fairly rule. Member for Stretton, please start again.

Mr PEGG: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister please update the House about how the Commonwealth Games will drive jobs and growth into the future? Is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Stretton for his question. Along with all members of the government, and I hope all Queenslanders, we are so excited about the Commonwealth Games which are about to commence. The games are upon us. The games will bring 1.5 million spectators, 1.5 billion television viewers across the world and a very close working relationship with businesses and trade partners who will be coming to Queensland to participate in our trade program. It is appropriate that this international sporting event, the bid for which was conceived, engineered and won by a Labor government, is being delivered by a Labor government. One thing we know about the games is that they could not have happened under the LNP.

The centrepiece for the Commonwealth Games is Metricon Stadium. It is the site of the opening and closing ceremonies and the track and field program. It is absolutely fundamental to the success of the games and was opposed by the LNP. The LNP leader at the time described Metricon Stadium as a waste of money when it was announced by the Labor government. That is pretty well what the LNP said about Gold Coast Light Rail which they also opposed. It is also what they said about the Gold Coast University Hospital, which the member for Clayfield said in 2010 should be reassessed. So entrenched are they in their opposition that is where they are: in opposition. A thoughtless, aimless, hopeless and clueless opposition; an opposition which is just less except in one area where they are the absolute gold medal winners, and that is talking down the Queensland economy.

This is a game changer for the Gold Coast, for the region and for Queensland. We will bring business interests from around the Commonwealth and some of the biggest economies in the world—Canada, the United Kingdom and India—to Queensland. All of our friends from the Indo-Pacific region will see our state, see what it offers and see the trade benefits of working with Queensland. That will deliver economic benefits and jobs not only to those communities but also, more importantly, to Queensland.

This is a genuine Labor legacy. It was a decision by the Labor government of Anna Bligh to go for the games. We got them, we are delivering them and, as a consequence, this will deliver for Queensland for decades to come. We have heard about the Gold Coast health and knowledge precinct. That gives commercial purpose to our health and knowledge facilities on the Gold Coast, building a platform for the Gold Coast to deliver knowledge based industry jobs that our state needs for the 21st century. As Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, I will be delivering jobs for the future.

(Time expired)

Cavendish Road State High School

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. Is the Premier aware of the Ethical Standards Unit investigation into fraud at Cavendish Road State High School while the member for Mansfield was its principal?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members! Minister for State Development!

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education! I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to look into that matter which the member has raised.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for State Development, you are warned under the standing orders.

Employment

Ms BOYD: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier inform the House about the state of employment in Queensland?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for that question. I know that the member for Pine Rivers, as with all Labor members in this House, is absolutely focused on making sure that we are creating jobs here in Queensland for Queenslanders. The labour force statistics for February are now out, and I am very, very pleased to report to the House that, since the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected in 2015, Labor has created more than 160,300 jobs here in Queensland. This is the result of our economic management of our state—our economic management that sees us investing in regions through job-generating programs and job-generating infrastructure and our economic management in regards to particularly driving tourism in this state. We know that these key industries are reaping big economic gains and big job opportunities for Queenslanders.

I am also pleased to report that employment rose in February by some 4,200 jobs and most of these were full-time jobs. More than 5,400 full-time jobs were created in this state and we did see a decrease in terms of part-time jobs. This means more economic certainty and more job certainty for Queenslanders going ahead.

This stands in incredibly stark contrast to what we saw from those opposite. In the three years they were in power, fewer than 30,000 jobs were created but more jobs were lost out of the Queensland economy. Through our economic management, we have created more jobs and we have invited and welcomed more industry into Queensland. We have also seen an increase in economic participation in our state. More people are confident and more people are seeking work in Queensland.

All those opposite knew what to do was to cut, sack and sell. On top of that, they also taxed households. We saw yesterday the Premier advise the House what those opposite did in terms of the duty on household insurance. What did they do? They hiked it up by 15 per cent. What did that mean for mums and dads? It meant an additional tax which saw more than a billion dollars returned to the state. These people want to talk about tax but they do not want to talk about their own track record.

While we are talking about tax, we should talk about Malcolm Turnbull's new tax on all of those online shopping parcels coming in from overseas. If those opposite want to stand up for Queenslanders, they should stand up in opposition to this new tax from Malcolm Turnbull.

(Time expired)

Cavendish Road State High School

Ms LEAHY: My question without notice is to the Minister for Education. I table two right-to-information decisions by the Department of Education refusing to release a 92-page report by the Ethical Standards Unit about fraud at the Cavendish Road State High School while the member for Mansfield was principal.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 27 February 2018, from the Legal Officer, Office of the Director-General, Department of Education, Mr John Hemsley, to the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Peter Coulson, regarding decision re Right to Information Act 2009 application [422].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 15 March 2018, from the Office of the Director-General, Department of Education, Ms Katherine Zaidiza, to the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Peter Coulson, regarding a decision in respect of an application for internal review made under the Right to Information Act 2009 [423].

Will the minister now release the Ethical Standards Unit report for public scrutiny?

Ms GRACE: I thank the honourable member for the question. What is not surprising is the low levels that those opposite will stoop to when it comes to questions in this House. This is a question from a member who was actually chastised by the Speaker because of her actions when she got elected into this House. This is from a member who leaked from a parliamentary committee and got chastised by the Speaker. If the member did not know the answer then and did not know the rules, let me inform the member of the rules.

In terms of RTI applications, I do not get personally involved. There are independent people who look at this, and they are the ones who make the decisions. Until that is finalised, I am not going to release any papers that I do not know about that are part of an issue to be looked at. I find it very, very interesting that we see this line of questioning already to try to besmirch the fine character of the member for Mansfield. Get over it. She won the election.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms GRACE: Get over it. She won—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I have not called you yet. Please resume your seat. I do not need any guidance from those from my left either. Members, I had great difficulty hearing the minister in her response and the minister is known for providing very, very good broadcast.

Ms GRACE: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I am listening very carefully to the minister's response and I do believe there is some provocation. However, it does not warrant the sort of cross-chamber crossfire that we are seeing today. Please allow this answer to be heard.

Ms GRACE: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your protection from those opposite. I will tell you one thing: I do not think the ex-principal of Cavendish Road who is now the member for Mansfield requires any such protection. She is a fine individual. What I say to those opposite is, 'Get over it.' She won the seat in Mansfield. They have their RTIs in. There is a process that will be followed. If it is going to be revealed, it will be revealed. We do not make decisions in relation to this.

The Ethics Committee found that the member for Warrego made an unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee. That was a ruling of the independent Ethics Committee here in parliament. It is the same way as the Ethical Standards Unit in the Department of Education is also independent and will make its findings and we will get back, as the Premier said in relation to the previous question by the member for Kawana.

There is no doubt that those opposite are fine at throwing mud. That is all they know what to do. They have now started on the member for Mansfield and are asking us to divulge information as part of a process. We are not going to play their game. We are not going to play their grubby little politics. We will let the process be done in a professional manner. When they get the information, they can do with it what they want, but I am not going to interfere and have them accuse me of that.

(Time expired)

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, School Students

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the minister provide an update to the House on how Queensland students have already benefited from the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Bancroft for that question. I know he is passionate about the schools in his electorate. I look forward to visiting many of those schools with him during my term as Minister for Education.

The Commonwealth Games legacy for Queensland will be measured by young lives inspired. As an aside, if students look to the members from the Gold Coast in this House—apart from the member for Gaven, I might add—they will not be very inspired judging by the body language they have shown today when we have been talking about the Commonwealth Games and saying what a fantastic event it will be for Brisbane. They have been sitting there slouched in their chairs, ignoring it all, not being inspired at all. Get excited! This is the Commonwealth Games and students right throughout Queensland are excited about it. Come on, members from the Gold Coast! They need to do something, instead of sitting there doing absolutely nothing in relation to these games.

It is not just those magnificent sporting arenas on the Gold Coast that the minister spoke about before. In classrooms right throughout Queensland, our students are being inspired by the Commonwealth Games. They have been 'Embracing 2018'. More than 1,800 state school students brought the core values of the games to life on stage last July at the Creative Generation—State Schools Onstage. It was awesome. Students from Weipa in the far north, Winton in the west and even Palm Beach down south embraced the games spirit through their spectacular performance. We have had 427 schools partner with the Queensland Academy of Sport through the QAS4Schools initiative to give students a chance to meet some of Queensland's greatest Commonwealth Games athletes. I thank the Minister for Sport, because these elite athletes were able to show students how to perform at the top of their game. More than 79,000 students participated in that initiative. It was fantastic.

Our teachers have been teaching according to the Australian Curriculum and, in a nationwide first for Australian events, a Reconciliation Action Plan has been developed for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. Our primary schools have also been supported to give students a better understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, languages and cultures as they participate in the Reconciliation in Queensland Schools program, and I acknowledge the minister and member for Algeester and the member for Cook. I understand in some areas students also learnt about South Sea islander culture and history, and I acknowledge the member for Mirani.

Last October Borobi boogied his way through Queensland schools—thousands of schools—and one million views on Facebook. It was wonderful. The students have embraced the Commonwealth Games. All I can do is urge the members on the Gold Coast to get on board—come on—and enjoy the Commonwealth Games.

(Time expired)

One Mile Creek Channel

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. I refer the minister to the fact that One Mile Creek channel in Port Hinchinbrook in Cardwell is inaccessible for up to six hours a day due to silt build-up. For a town that is 90 per cent reliant on tourism, this is a disaster for Cardwell. I table a document from the Cardwell Coast Guard outlining the vital concerns about restricted access in and out of this channel, preventing them performing their lifesaving opportunities.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 7 March 2018, from the Flotilla Commander, Cardwell Coast Guard, Ms Ann-Maree Goggi, to the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Nick Dametto MP, regarding coast guard access at Port Hinchinbrook [\[424\]](#).

I ask: in light of the government's ongoing desire to support tourism in Queensland and provide a duty of care for all Queenslanders using waterways, is the minister committed to dredging One Mile Creek channel?

Mr SPEAKER: Before the minister answers the question, member for Hinchinbrook, that preamble was extremely long. It is your first question. I will not caution you again. If you need some advice regarding the lengthy preamble, please seek that advice.

Mr BAILEY: I thank the new member for Hinchinbrook for his question. I congratulate him on his election to the chamber as a member of the Katter party, which is now the second largest North Queensland party after Labor. With three seats, that is more than the LNP's two seats, so it is the second biggest North Queensland party these days.

Of course the Palaszczuk government is committed to improving boating facilities in North Queensland. We have injected an additional \$30 million into marine infrastructure across Queensland. We certainly want boaties to enjoy our coastline. We have one of the highest levels of boat ownership of any state in the country because we have such a magnificent coastline.

In relation to the specific details raised by the member, I understand that sits within Minister Dick's portfolio responsibilities. However, I will add a couple of things for the member's benefit. The now Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning issued the original approvals for the resort to Williams Corporation in the 1990s. I am advised that a condition of the development approval required the developer to dredge access channels and maintain them into the future, and this responsibility has been inherited by the current resort owner. I also understand that the boat ramp is owned not by the state government but by the local council. This is a private responsibility, but I certainly look forward to working with the member for Hinchinbrook on these marine matters and other matters throughout the term.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Agriculture

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is for the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. I ask: will the minister advise the House what culinary delights await our international visitors to the Commonwealth Games and the benefits that will flow to our agriculture sector in Queensland?

Mr FURNER: May I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. I also acknowledge him for his ongoing interest in agriculture in and around Maryborough. It is now 13 days until we see the opening ceremony of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. I know all of us on this side are looking forward to those games. These games are showcasing not only the Gold Coast but also Queensland's world-class agricultural producers and produce to the world. We want to make sure that the 600,000 visitors who come for the games will be well fed while they are in the sunshine state. If they stick to local produce, that is exactly what they will get.

Mr Speaker, as you know, agriculture has been part of Queensland's way of life from the very beginning and is a key part of our economy. Agriculture continues to kick goals in Queensland. The total value of Queensland's primary industry output is forecast to be \$20 billion in 2017-18. Even though much of the state is still drought declared—some 66 per cent—this is a significant increase of 11 per cent over the five-year average. Prior to the games, I will be launching a snapshot of Queensland's agriculture and food industry sector—its performance, its place in the world and its relationship to the broader economy.

While the games attendees will be tucking into pork products from the Leader of the Opposition's electorate—and, once again, I tell no porkies on that; I leave that to those opposite—the snapshot will help highlight the outstanding opportunities available to the sector with the emergence of a food culture and an increasingly prosperous global market that values safe, ethical and sustainable produce. This is the very food that Queensland produces and exports globally. Queensland producers are central to the state's economy. Agricultural industries produce around \$20 billion in output each year—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South.

Mr FURNER:—about half of which is exported. Agriculture contributes—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Minister, please resume your seat. Member for Toowoomba South, you are warned. You are being completely disruptive in providing, essentially, a running commentary over the minister's answer. I warn you under the standing orders.

Mr FURNER: Thank you for that protection, Mr Speaker. Agriculture contributes more than 17 per cent of the state's overseas exports of goods. As the Premier outlined to the House yesterday, during the games we will have investors from across the globe including from India, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Canada and Malaysia. I will be hosting several delegations of agribusiness investors at both sporting events and more tailored briefings. This snapshot of our agricultural industries is intended for anyone interested in Queensland's agriculture and food sector. It is particularly targeting those who may be thinking of contributing to the future of this sector, whether that be investors, employees, suppliers, buyers, analysts or leaders. While our athletes are winning gold for Australia, our producers will be showcasing their award-winning produce for the world to enjoy.

(Time expired)

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Correction to *Record of Proceedings*

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.56 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. In relation to the answer to the question asked by the member for Warrego, I think I inadvertently used the word 'chastise'. I have just checked with the Clerk and the term relating to leaking information and giving false information is 'admonished'. I wish to correct the record. I did not intend to mislead the House.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for correcting the record.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. I will wait for silence.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Resumed from p. 672.

Eagle Farm Racecourse

 **Mr LANGBROEK:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Racing. I ask: how can Queenslanders have confidence that the minister will get Eagle Farm back on track given his record of blaming bureaucrats when things go wrong, just as at QR when 'rail fail' started?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for Surfers Paradise. I have attended a number of events with the shadow minister, including the Magic Millions sales launch event with the Thoroughbred Breeders Queensland Association on the weekend. I had thought we had seen a great level of bipartisanship in supporting the great and important racing industry here in this state. I do not want to accept any element of the premise of the question from the member opposite because I am making very clear that, in relation to the very challenging issues and the issues of great concern across the whole of the thoroughbred industry in relation to Eagle Farm and the Eagle Farm track, the blame game should be put into the past. That is not actually helping; continuing a blame game and finger pointing is not the way forward. I think the member for Clayfield and some former members of this House will be very pleased that we are going to put that sort of thing aside and move forward.

In answer to the question asked by the member for Surfers Paradise, I want to make it very clear that with the statement I made yesterday in this House I put Racing Queensland on notice. I made clear that, along with the other parties involved in addressing and dealing with the issue of the track at Eagle Farm, which has been out of action for too long, we need to knuckle down and get it sorted. I am taking responsibility as minister by stepping up and demanding that of the people involved.

Equally, it has been reported that the resignation yesterday of the former CEO of Racing Queensland, Dr Eliot Forbes, is directly associated with my statements and comments in relation to the Eagle Farm track. The reasons for Dr Forbes's resignation are not a matter for me; they are a matter for him. I do not believe they are directly related. It is important that we recognise the strong work that was done by Dr Forbes with the board of Racing Queensland to restore Racing Queensland to sustainability so it is able to make a positive contribution to the racing industry here in the state. I look forward to working with the board positively, including the chair, Mr Steve Wilson, on increasing and improving the future of Racing Queensland along with—

(Time expired)

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Queensland Athletes

Ms RICHARDS: My question is for the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Will the minister please advise the House how the Queensland government is supporting our current and future Commonwealth Games athletes?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Redlands for the question. I think it is acknowledged across the House and across the community that the member is an effective advocate for emerging sports stars right across the electorate of Redlands.

As many members of the House know, Queensland punches above its weight when it comes to sport—so much so that we have set a target for Queensland athletes to comprise at least a quarter of Australian national teams. With just 13 days to go until the Commonwealth Games, we are well on track

to reach that target of having over 25 per cent of the national team comprise Queenslanders. That is because in Queensland we support our athletes much better than any other state or territory. We fund our athletes better and we have better programs for our athletes. Nothing gives you a better head start than having maroon blood pumping through your veins.

The Queensland Academy of Sport is where we nurture our elite athletes. We do that through top class facilities, top class sports science and top class coaches. Yesterday I was joined by many members of the House to present our Commonwealth Games and Winter Olympics athletes with a Queensland Academy of Sport bonus grant. I want to acknowledge one of those athletes in particular: Queenslanders Simon Patmore. Simon brought home both gold and bronze from the Winter Paralympics. That was half of Australia's medal haul and our first gold in that event in 16 years. I would also like to acknowledge Paige Leonhardt, an exceptional para-athlete who lives in the electorate of Springwood—which I am fortunate to represent—who will compete against some of the world's fastest swimmers on the Gold Coast next month.

The bonus grants support our athletes at a difficult time in their lives when the notion of earning an income and being at the pinnacle of your sporting prowess are mutually exclusive concepts. I am proud that Queensland is the only state that offers this bit of support for athletes. Our games athletes are going to be in the spotlight next month for a matter of moments, but we all recognise that it takes years and sometimes decades to get to that point in their career. That is why the Palaszczuk government is committed to investing in grassroots sport as well as significant legacy infrastructure in this state.

Elite infrastructure like the Anna Meares Velodrome gives Queensland athletes the opportunity to perform and showcase their skills. Through our Commonwealth Games legacy the velodrome will also be available for grassroots competitors and athletes just starting out. In fact, I had my first track-cycling experience at the velodrome with the former Victorian premier and now chairman of Cycling Australia, the Hon. Steve Bracks. Next month our athletes will have the home-ground advantage. I know that Queenslanders will be behind them as they compete and I know they will do us proud.

(Time expired)

Eagle Farm Racecourse

Mr NICHOLLS: My question is to the Minister for Racing. Will the minister guarantee the return of regular racing at Eagle Farm by the end of this year and end the uncertainty over the future of racing at Queensland's premier racetrack?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I welcome the member for Clayfield back to the arena. I welcome his question on this matter after I raised it and after I put on the agenda my concern about the fact that the delivery of the track at Eagle Farm has not occurred within the time line I was originally briefed on.

Let me make it clear that, relating to Racing Queensland and others involved in this project, as I said yesterday in this House the blame game and the finger-pointing have to end. That is why I am not going to reach back into the past to point out people relating to this issue with the track at Eagle Farm. I am going to look forward—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Mermaid Beach, you are also warned.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: That is why I am so committed to receiving weekly briefings from Racing Queensland about the state of the Eagle Farm track, commencing with a meeting that I will have today with the chair, Steve Wilson, following briefings he will have this morning at the track. I will obviously go out and look at the track myself to check the progress and I will receive progress reports about the track. As a result of my understanding of where things are, at this point I cannot give any confident assurance about when racing will be back at Eagle Farm. What I have done, and what I will commit to, is making sure that it will not come back until it is ready and we are confident that the track will last. That is what occurred the last time, and that is why we are in the mess that we are in now. We need to make sure that we get it absolutely right, and that is the assurance I will give to this House. That is the assurance I will give to thoroughbred enthusiasts who love seeing racing at Eagle Farm right across the length and breadth of the state. That is what I will commit to.

I hope that the member for Clayfield joins us and works with us to make sure that this great iconic facility, which is in his electorate, has the support to get it back to being right. It is very surprising that the first time I heard from the member for Clayfield about the issue at Eagle Farm is here in the House after I raised it yesterday. I have not had a letter, not a word, not a comment.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

Ms LINARD: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the minister advise how children in out-of-home care have been given the opportunity to participate in the excitement of next month's Commonwealth Games?

Ms FARMER: I thank the honourable member for the question and I note the lifelong compassion and interest she has always shown in what happens to vulnerable children in our state. I also cannot wait for the Commonwealth Games. One of the really wonderful things about it is that it is an event for everyone. Before I talk about the children in care who are going to participate in the games I want to say, as the Minister for Women, what a landmark achievement it is that this is a games where there will be an equal number of medals for both men and women. Aside from the indisputable 'rightness' of this, the value of the message this sends to both female and male athletes, that the participation of females in sport and the achievements of females in sport are of equal value, is immeasurable. I think that is something we can tout right around the world. We are a role model for all future sporting events.

In my department we want to make sure that the games are inclusive for spectators as well, which is why my department purchased 150 tickets for some of the games. We have distributed those to our foster carers and their children in care through Foster Care Queensland. We want to make sure they are able to be part of the excitement of the games and part of the whole thing as well. I note that organisations like Foster Care Queensland and foster carers themselves never do what they do to be thanked or acknowledged, but this is a very small way for us to do that very thing.

Foster Care Queensland is headed by the wonderful Bryan Smith, a kinship carer himself. I thank him for his wisdom, for the tireless efforts his organisation makes on behalf of foster carers and for the really constructive way it works with government to ensure we do the best possible thing by the people who look after some of the most vulnerable children any of us in this House would ever know about. I know that I can speak on behalf of my predecessor when I say that their support and advice is beyond value.

Then we have the foster carers themselves. What can I say? They are absolutely amazing. We want to hear all the stories after they take those kids to the Commonwealth Games. We have already heard about how excited the kids are, and I look forward to hearing which is their favourite event. Further, two kids in care will be taking part in the games—one who is 12 who will be in the Queen's Baton Relay, and one who is 16 who will be dancing in the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games. Good on them. We are very proud to support them.

(Time expired)

Health Ombudsman

Mr McARDLE: My question is directed to the Minister for Health. On 5 January this year the minister touted the appointment of a new health sector watchdog in Rachel Hunter to the role of Queensland Health Ombudsman, but she lasted barely two months before being appointed director-general of the department of state development. Why has the important role of Health Ombudsman, which has been vacant for months, not been urgently filled?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for his question. I can confirm that the successful candidate for the Health Ombudsman's role has since been appointed to an alternative role in the government. She applied for that position, as is her right. She was successful in securing that position. She advised me and Queensland Health that she had applied for that position. We delayed her commencement and kept the acting Health Ombudsman in place to avoid unnecessary disruption. Now that she has withdrawn her candidacy for the Health Ombudsman's role we will move on with recruiting a candidate. Ms Hunter will make an excellent director-general and we look forward to appointing another woman to a very important role. She does not deserve to be attacked in this place.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will wait for the House to come to order.

Dr MILES: She was entirely entitled to apply for that role. She was successful in a merit based selection process. No doubt she will perform very well in that role. The acting Health Ombudsman, who has been doing a very good job, will continue to act in that role until the government makes a new permanent appointment.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Ambulance Service

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Would the minister please explain what the Queensland Ambulance Service is doing to prepare for the Commonwealth Games?

Mr SPEAKER: The minister has two minutes to provide a response.

Dr MILES: In two minutes it will be difficult to properly explain to the House how excited I am, like all the other government members, about the Commonwealth Games. It is the end of question time. How many questions have opposition members asked about the Commonwealth Games? They have asked not a single question. A third of the LNP caucus represents the Gold Coast, but there has been not a single question about the Commonwealth Games.

Ms Jones: They've got faith in me!

Dr MILES: Well, they have the ultimate member for the Gold Coast in the member for Cooper, who is doing an excellent job—as are all of our ambulance officers, who have worked tirelessly to prepare for the games.

I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question and his concern for the games. He comes from another Labor stronghold, in the north of course. The Ambulance Service has been planning for years to ensure that our paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers and ambulance commanders can deliver a seamless and coordinated response for the community and our international visitors at the games. More than 76 pre-games training exercises with police, fire, health and other agencies have been completed. The Ambulance Service has accredited 630 staff, including 460 paramedics, who will cover 3,707 operational shifts during what will be the largest sporting event in Australia. Officers have come from across the state to work on the Gold Coast as well as provide support in other games cities such as Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville. The ambulance response will be comprehensive and tailored to the unique nature of the Gold Coast and the individual games venues.

(Time expired)

QUEENSLAND COMPETITION AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 21 March (see p. 630), on motion of Ms Trad—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the first speaker on this bill, I acknowledge that visiting the parliament today we have students from Varsity College in the electorate of Mermaid Beach. Welcome to the Queensland parliament.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (11.15 am): I rise to speak briefly on the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018. The three policy objectives in this bill are: to amend the criteria for Queensland's third-party access regime to reflect changes being made to the national access regime; to ensure our regime continues to be easily understood and addresses the economic problem of natural monopoly in markets for infrastructure services; and to provide for additional accountability and transparency to assist in streamlining the process in relation to access undertakings.

The first objective refers to the third-party access regime, which is administered by the Queensland Competition Authority. It is about providing a way to seek access to services provided by significant infrastructure facilities which are owned or controlled by others and cannot be economically duplicated. Services include the use of infrastructure such as rail tracks, port terminals and channels. Currently it involves three services: the rail transport services provided by Aurizon Network's Central Queensland coal network; the coal-handling services at Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal; and the rail transport services provided by Queensland Rail's intrastate passenger and freight network.

The bill's objectives and the services impacted highlight the hypocrisy of the public position of the Labor government regarding privatisation. This is yet another case of how we should judge this government and the Labor Party on what it does and not on what it says. It was the Beattie government which privatised the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal 17 years ago, in 2001, and it was the Bligh government which privatised QR National seven years ago, in 2011. Privatisation is obviously not new to Labor governments. These two actions are the reason a private company holds monopoly infrastructure in Queensland and such access declarations are necessary.

While only the three services I mentioned are currently declared under the current arrangements, other services may be declared through the declaration process. Decisions about the application of access regulations are made on the basis of whether the service satisfies certain access criteria. It needs to satisfy whether access or increased access to the service would promote a material increase in competition in at least one market other than the market for the service, whether it can be provided safely, whether it would not be contrary to the public interest, whether it would be uneconomical to duplicate the infrastructure for the service and whether the infrastructure for the service is significant having regard to its size and importance to Queensland's economy.

The bill's primary goal is to amend these access criteria and reflect national changes. Proposals include amending the competition criteria by reframing them to consider whether declaration, rather than access or increased access, would promote competition. It seeks to amend criteria that confirm the natural monopoly test for access declaration criteria which is that 'it would be uneconomical to develop another infrastructure service if existing infrastructure could provide society's reasonably foreseeable demand at a lower total cost than two or more facilities'.

The bill proposes to omit criteria which require that access or increased access can be provided safely as this is a matter that can be considered under the public interest test. Finally, it proposes to reframe the public interest criteria in the affirmative by requiring that access must promote the public interest rather than not be contrary to it.

When the Productivity Commission reviewed the national regime, it found that the purpose of the public interest test should be 'to require that the community as a whole is likely to be better off as a result of the declaration'. Submissions on this bill raised concerns about potentially creating a period of uncertainty regarding the new access criteria in upcoming reviews of declarations which are due to expire in 2020. The QRC stated—

... changing those criteria and dropping them into a review process recreates quite a protracted period of uncertainty.

Similarly, the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal User Group said that the new criteria are 'new and largely untested' and 'creates a significant risk in requiring the QCA to carry out the proposed review process with little to no guidance, and has already caused investment uncertainty'. As the Queensland Resources Council pointed out, its industry relies on essential multi-user infrastructure services such as rail, ports and water which are monopoly businesses.

Effective regulation of this monopoly power is necessary to enable the resource sector to realise its potential for growth and contribution to the state's economy. The rail network services are a monopoly. There is no economic alternative to transport coal from a mine to an export port or a domestic point of sale such as a power station. The amount of rail access that a mine has dictates port access. In addition, the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal is Queensland's largest multi-user coal export terminal, is the only common user terminal for mines in the Goonyella region and is natural monopoly infrastructure.

While I do not oppose the bill, it is important that we are highly vigilant in how we administer and manage competition policy because it has a significant impact on the outcomes for some of our most productive industry sectors as well as the outcomes for businesses of all sizes and activities, for the workforce, for consumers and for the Queensland economy.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (11.21 am): I rise in the House in support of the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018. The explanatory notes to the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018 set out the policy objectives and the reasons for these objectives. Queensland's third-party access regime is contained under part 5 of the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 and the access regime is administered by the state's independent economic regulator, the Queensland Competition Authority. The regime provides a framework for access regulation of services provided by significant infrastructure facilities where there may be a lack of effective competition.

The following services are declared for the purposes of the regime: the use of coal systems for providing transportation by rail; the use of the intrastate passenger and freight network operated by Queensland Rail Ltd; and the coal-handling services at Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal. The primary objective of the bill is to amend these access criteria. These are intended to reflect changes being made at the national level to the access principles in the COAG Competition Principles Agreement 1995 and the national access regime established under part IIIA of the Commonwealth Competition and Consumer Act 2010.

The bill brings together the recommendations made by the Productivity Commission that were accepted by the federal government, triggering a process to make changes to the Queensland Competition Authority access principles and the criteria in the national access regime established under part IIIA of the Commonwealth Competition and Consumer Act 2010.

It is acknowledged that the Queensland access regime is separate from the national access regime and the amendments to access criteria in the bill are intended to reflect the revised criteria being introduced at the national level. The changes made to access criteria by the bill will also assist in ensuring Queensland's access regime continues to be easily understood and addresses the economic problem of a natural monopoly in markets for infrastructure services. Regulatory certainty is a key issue in regulated industries. The amended access criteria are intended to be in place for the authority's pre-expiry review of existing declarations under Queensland's access regime.

Other amendments will include changes designed to improve some of the regulatory processes contained in the Queensland Competition Authority Act, particularly in relation to the development of access undertakings. Access undertakings are an important element of Queensland's access regime as they increase up-front certainty for all parties in that they establish the detailed terms and conditions on which an access provider undertakes to provide access to access seekers. The legislation makes some targeted amendments and provides for additional accountability and transparency to assist in streamlining the process undertaken in relation to access undertakings.

The legislation also amends the matters the authority and the minister are to have regard to when the authority and the minister are considering this criteria. The legislation will also assist with the draft access undertaking assessment process by confirming the application of the pricing principles in the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill.

The pricing principles are set out under section 168A of the Queensland Competition Authority Act and relate to the price of access for a service. The pricing principles are included in the list of matters to which the authority must have regard when deciding whether it is appropriate to approve a draft access undertaking under section 138 of the Queensland Competition Authority Act and when making an access determination under section 120 of the Queensland Competition Authority Act. The amendments in the bill to the access criteria will allow the declaration reviews to proceed with certainty about the access criteria. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.26 am): I rise to address the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018. In a state the size of Queensland, it makes a lot of sense that when you build significant infrastructure like rail and like ports you only do it once or twice and ensure that all users ultimately use that one piece of infrastructure. At least that is what responsible governments should do.

On becoming the minister for environment I recall seeing a map of the state of Queensland produced by the then deputy premier, Jeff Seeney, the then member for Callide, showing a spaghetti network of proposed rail corridors crisscrossing the state of Queensland from new mining exploration areas such as the Galilee Basin and seeing new ports being proposed up and down the length of the Queensland coastline.

A responsible government, such as that in which both the then member for Callide and I served, should ensure that that spaghetti network is consolidated down into one or two corridors for rail and that existing ports' use is maximised first and foremost, and one of those ports in particular is the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal. It is important that when we do consolidate our infrastructure development, particularly around rail and ports and port channels, we allow third-party access to that infrastructure. That is why we do have a third-party access regime and we have it administered by the Queensland Competition Authority.

The original bill that established the Queensland Competition Authority explained in its explanatory notes—

In cases of natural monopoly, one facility meets all of a market's demand more efficiently than a number of smaller and more specialised facilities. Accordingly, it is not socially desirable that the infrastructure comprising a natural monopoly be duplicated. At the same time, the absence of competition enables a natural monopoly infrastructure owner to extract excessive profits through exercising market power.

When we only have one player in the market what we end up getting is the ability to create a monopoly unless we have Competition Authority oversight and these third-party access regimes.

The regime involves two steps. Firstly, it involves a declaration. It has to be determined to be that kind of infrastructure that requires this type of regime to be applied to it. Then there needs to be negotiation around the access conditions. The declaration is dependent on a number of prescribed

criteria. It does not provide a right for third parties to access the infrastructure, but it provides the ability to negotiate that third-party access. There are three such services around the state of Queensland: the transport services provided by Aurizon Network's Central Queensland coal network, the coal-handling services at the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal, and the rail transport services provided by Queensland's rail interstate passenger and freight network.

As others have said, currently, to make a declaration five access criteria must be met: there must be an issue around increased access to the service that would promote a material increase in competition in at least one market other than the market for the service; it would be uneconomical to duplicate the infrastructure for the service, as we were just speaking about; the infrastructure for the service is significant, having regard to its size or importance to Queensland's economy—and, certainly, the nature of rail infrastructure and port infrastructure fits that bill—access or increased access to the service can be provided safely; and access or increased access to the service would not be contrary to the public interest.

Following some reviews of this process, including a federal Productivity Commission report, the bill proposes to amend the first two and the last of those criteria and remove the fourth altogether. The first criteria, the competition criteria, will be reframed so that it considers whether declaration rather than access or increased access would promote competition. Rather than determine whether it is the access or increased access that makes it a significant piece of infrastructure; it is whether the declaration itself would promote competition.

The second criteria will be amended to confirm the test as an assessment of whether the infrastructure could meet the total foreseeable market demand at least cost compared to two or more infrastructure services. The last, the public interest criteria, will be reframed in the affirmative, requiring that access must promote the public interest rather than not be contrary to it. By removing the fourth criteria, that of requiring that access or increased access be provided safely, it is determined that this can be met through the public interest test itself.

There is broad support for this bill, although a number of stakeholders have raised business certainty concerns. In particular, Aurizon, Dalrymple Bay and the Queensland Resources Council have all asked that their existing declarations be extended. As I understand it, that is not addressed in what has been proposed today, or in any amendments.

The question remains: what is the Palaszczuk government going to do to give certainty to these businesses to make sure that, if they are not going to extend the declarations, there is a level of pricing determination provided that will ensure that these companies are able to make an appropriate amount of profit to provide for adequate maintenance? The last thing we want is to create a pricing determination on this significant infrastructure such that it creates an anomaly in the ability of businesses to have the money in their companies to maintain and improve that facility. We then get to a point where third parties will be looking to build their own infrastructure because they cannot rely on the services of, in this case, Aurizon or Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal.

It is interesting to note, as others have, that we would not have to worry about private companies taking advantage of monopoly infrastructure in Queensland if the ALP had not flogged it off. It is important that the people of Queensland be reminded that the only party in this state of Queensland for the past two decades that has sold publicly owned government owned corporations—

Ms TRAD: I rise to a point of order. Madam Deputy Speaker, I know this was tried on yesterday. I do not think it is consistent with the long title of the bill. I ask you to rule on relevance.

Mrs Frecklington: You hate the truth.

Ms TRAD: So does the member.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Member for Glass House, I draw you back to the long title of the bill.

Mr POWELL: The Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018 addresses specifically third-party access regimes that apply to two specific entities in the state of Queensland, one being the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal—

An opposition member: Sold.

Mr POWELL: It was sold by Premier Beattie in 2001. That is a statement of fact. Those opposite do not like it hear it, but we are talking about third-party access to a former government owned corporation that is now owned by the private sector, which was sold under a Labor government.

The other one specifically mentioned in the explanatory notes as being part of the Queensland Competition Authority's responsibilities and also in the committee's own report is Aurizon. That was flogged off as part of a fire sale along with our tollways, Forestry Plantations Queensland, the Port of Brisbane—

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr POWELL: They do not like to hear it. It was flogged off under then premier Bligh and the people of Queensland let the Labor Party know quite clearly what they thought of being duped at an election—being told by the then government that it had no plans to sell assets and then that government proceeding to sell five of them at the bottom of the market, including Forestry Plantations Queensland in the electorate of Glass House. I repeat: we would not have to worry about private companies taking advantage of monopoly infrastructure in the state of Queensland if Labor had not flogged it off. The only party in this state that has sold assets in the past two decades is the Labor Party. The people of Queensland must remember that, and will remember that. It is clear that even the Deputy Premier continues to—

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr POWELL: The Deputy Premier does not want to hear it, but the record is clear. It is the Labor Party that sold the state government's state owned corporations.

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (11.36 am): I thank the member for Glass House for his contribution. The people of the Gladstone electorate voted on the asset sale of the Gladstone port. The LNP put forward that it was going to sell the port from underneath them and, as a result, I received 65 per cent of the primary vote. I thank the member for Glass House for that and I thank the LNP for making my electorate of Gladstone one of the safest seats in the state.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order! The member is only just beginning to give his speech. Can we at least give him silence? Member for Gladstone, I call you back to the long title of the bill.

Mr BUTCHER: As the assistant treasurer, I rise to speak in support of the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018. Although this bill is not generally a topic discussed in the context of the Queensland economy, the Queensland government's approach to access regulation is necessary to ensure that there are positive investment incentives in significant infrastructure in Queensland.

Queensland access regulation greatly affects sectors of the economy where there is in place significant infrastructure that provides critical services such as rail and port services. The port services in Gladstone that I spoke of before are critical to the Queensland economy. The way we export coal and other resources is certainly a big part of this bill. For example, the Central Queensland coal network is regulated under the access regime. In 2016-17, our state exported about 270 million tonnes of coal. That figure is expected to grow to above 240 million tonnes by 2020-21. As I said, the Port of Gladstone plays a huge part in exporting that coal, with over 120 million tonnes leaving that port last year.

A robust access regime is not just about existing resource developments but also about the future potential for development. Investors and developers need to know that the Queensland economic regulation regime has solid foundations and that it will provide certainty for industry and the stakeholders involved.

The bill will make amendments to deliver certainty about the access criteria that is used to determine what may be regulated under the Queensland access regime. This is a key process in the regime. Recent confusion over the declaration process has brought this debate here today. It has become a more costly, more complex and more time-consuming path than it needed to be. Whilst this confusion occurred in the national context around the well-documented Pilbara railway access matters, the interpretation of the national access regime affects all state and territory access regimes.

A declaration process based on an assessment of prescribed access criteria that is longer than it needs to be costs the community and can affect certainty that access regulation is appropriately addressing market failure. One of these issues, which is a key part of the bill here today, is the interpretation of the uneconomic to duplicate access criterion. In the Pilbara decision the High Court found that a private profitability test should apply against this criterion. This test has been extensively reviewed, including by the Australian Productivity Commission. On this basis the Commonwealth government passed legislation in October 2017 which reframed the interpretation of the uneconomic to duplicate criterion to a more appropriate test based on the economics of natural monopoly.

The Queensland access regime operates simultaneously with the national access regime, so it is essential that the declaration process remains consistent. Inconsistency leads to the risks of forum shopping and, more generally, to uncertainty in economic regulation. This bill delivers consistency and it promotes economic efficiency and the welfare of the whole Queensland community.

The Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018 being debated here proves the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the resources industry in Queensland. We are the first state to review our access regime to reflect the approach in the Commonwealth legislation. This is a complex but necessary bill that clarifies the application of access regulation in Queensland, which is an important tool in the government's economic framework. Queensland will yet again be leading the way with this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): I issue a reminder of the members who are already on a warning: the member for Chatsworth, the member for Glass House, the member for Gympie, the member for Gladstone, the Minister for State Development, the member for Toowoomba South, the Minister for Education and the member for Mermaid Beach. Those are the members who are on a warning until lunch. You have already been warned, so you know what the next step is.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (11.42 am): I rise today to address the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018 as this legislation is very important to Queensland's economy. The key objectives of this bill are to, firstly, amend the criteria for Queensland's declared infrastructure third-party access to reflect changes being made to the national access regime; secondly, ensure Queensland's regime continues to be easily understood and address the problems of a natural monopoly in markets for infrastructure services; and, thirdly, introduce additional accountability and transparency to assist in streamlining the processes in relation to access undertakings.

Queensland's third-party access regime is administered by the state's independent economic regulator, the Queensland Competition Authority. Queensland's third-party access regime provides an avenue to seek access to services provided by significant monopoly infrastructure facilities owned or controlled by others. These are facilities that cannot be economically duplicated. Such services include the use of infrastructure such as rail tracks, port terminals and channels. Three services that are currently declared under the regimes include the rail transport services provided by Aurizon Network's Central Queensland coal network, the coal-handling services of the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and the rail transport services provided by Queensland Rail's intrastate passenger and freight network.

We would not have to worry about private companies taking advantage of monopoly infrastructure if the Labor Party had not sold off Queensland's assets. Two of the declared pieces of infrastructure falling under this legislation were sold off by the Labor Party that those members opposite belong to. Specifically, Aurizon's Central Queensland coal network, then under QR National, was sold in 2011 by the Bligh Labor government and the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal was sold in 2001 by the Beattie Labor government.

Aurizon and Dalrymple Bay have raised concerns about business certainty and would like their declarations extended. I would say to the Queensland Treasurer, the member for South Brisbane, that she should declare what the Palaszczuk government's plans are to give some certainty to these companies operating regulated infrastructure. The Palaszczuk Labor government needs to guarantee that a pricing determination ensures that these assets, particularly the Central Queensland coal rail network, is funded well enough to provide adequate maintenance works.

Under the current requirements a service may only be declared if the following five access criteria are met: (a) access or increased access to the service would promote a material increase in competition in at least one market other than the market for the service; (b) it would be uneconomical to duplicate the infrastructure for the service; (c) the infrastructure for the service is significant having regard to its size or importance to Queensland's economy; (d) access or increased access to the service can be provided safely; and (e) access or increased access to the service would not be contrary to the public interest.

The main objective of this bill is to amend the aforementioned criteria. These amendments are intended to reflect changes being made at the national level to the access principles in the COAG Competition Principles Agreement 1995 and the national access regime. While Queensland's access regime is separate from the national access regime, the amendments to the access criteria in the bill are intended to reflect the revised criteria being introduced at a national level.

The bill proposes to amend criterion (a), the competition criterion, by reframing it to consider whether declaration rather than access or increased access would promote competition. This is in line with the Productivity Commission's findings. The bill also proposes to amend criterion (b) to confirm the natural monopoly test for access declaration criterion (b)—

Natural monopoly test—that it would be uneconomical to develop another infrastructure service if existing infrastructure could provide society's reasonably foreseeable demand at a lower total cost than two or more facilities.

The bill proposes to omit criterion (d) that requires that access or increased access can be provided safely as this is a matter that can be considered under the public interest test. The bill proposes to amend criterion (e) by reframing the public interest criterion in the affirmative requiring that access must promote the public interest rather than be in conflict with it. In reviewing the national regime, the Productivity Commission found that the purpose of the public interest test should be 'to require that the community as a whole is likely to be better off as a result of the declaration'.

The bill establishes pricing principles for the price of accessing a declared service. Under the pricing principles, the price should generate expected revenue at least sufficient to meet the costs of providing access to the service, ensure a return on investment commensurate with the regulatory and commercial risks, allow for multipart pricing and price discrimination when it aids efficiency, not allow a related service operator to set conditions that discriminate in favour of the service; ensure an operator's downstream operations, or a related entity, except as justified by a higher cost; provide access for other persons; and provide incentives to reduce costs or improve productivity.

The bill proposes to remove the references to the pricing principles from the provisions dealing with differential treatment of service users or those seeking access differently. The bill, however, does not amend the provisions requiring the QCA to consider the pricing principles when making an overall access determination or approving a draft access undertaking. A service operator may treat those seeking access differently in negotiating access agreements if the differential treatment is easily justified or is expressly required or permitted by an access code, approved access undertaking or access determination. Permitting differential treatment in these circumstances does not authorise the service operator to engage in conduct to prevent or hinder a users access to the service or to propose a price for access that is inconsistent with the pricing principles.

I note that key stakeholders expected to be affected by the bill were consulted and the comments provided were certainly taken into account when finalising the drafting of the bill. Stakeholders consulted included Aurizon Network, DBCT Management, Pacific National, the QCA, Queensland Rail and the Queensland Resources Council. As such, I conclude by commending this legislation to the House because, as I have previously stated, this legislation will be important to Queensland with respect to markets and also in relation to infrastructure and our economy more broadly.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (11.49 am): It is with great pleasure that I rise to talk about the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill. It is also with great pleasure that I note that the member for South Brisbane has introduced this bill, because if there were anyone who did not believe in competition it would be the member for South Brisbane. She would want a one-party state with the commissars from the Left telling everyone what they should do, how they should think, where they should buy their food—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order! Member for Clayfield, I draw you back to the long title of the bill.

Ms Trad: I am actually enjoying this.

Mr NICHOLLS: Absolutely—member for South Brisbane, so am I. The competition bill introduced by the member for South Brisbane, who presided as deputy state secretary of the ALP at a time when her mentor was selling, selling, selling assets, is quite an act of breathless hypocrisy in this place. In fact, I am sure the briefing from the Treasury officials—I see them all sitting over there—would have been quite entertaining. They would have said, 'This is what competition means, Treasurer. This is how it is meant to work. These are why the principles are in place, Treasurer, just so you understand it.' She might also want to think about why they delayed introducing competition into the retail energy market for a year, with Minister Bailey at that time, despite all the obvious advantages that came forward. She might want to think about why we need to make these changes in the first place, because it was the Labor Party that, before the 2009 election, said, 'We don't have any plans to privatise.'

Mr Minnikin: Nothing to see here.

Mr NICHOLLS: Nothing to see here. When specifically asked on 612 ABC radio program one Friday morning by her good friend Madonna King, she said, 'No, we have no plans to privatise.' In this place we asked the question about Queensland Rail, one of the businesses the subject of this legislation. Who was the minister at the time?

Mr Bleijie: Rachel Nolan.

Mr NICHOLLS: That is right. In May, the former member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan, stood in this place and said, 'No, there are no plans to privatise,' but the next day, guess what? Whooshka! It is on the table.

Ms TRAD: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Whilst this trip down memory lane is quite entertaining, more so for the member for Clayfield than anyone else, I suggest that he remain relevant to the long title of the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, once again I draw you back to the long title of the bill.

Mr NICHOLLS: I am aware of the long title of the bill. For a proper debate in this House, Madam Deputy Speaker, and in no way reflecting on anything that you have directed me to do from the chair, I think it is important that we put things in context. I think that people would say that a debate out of context is not a debate; it is just a screaming match. That might be what some want, but I want to put this in some context, because this is one of the items that is specifically referred to in the legislation as a matter that is being regulated by the Queensland Competition Authority and by the legislation in place. If you do not understand the history of it, these changes do not make a great deal of sense.

We have to put it all into context, because a significant number of changes are being made here as a result of the decision in the Pilbara case. We heard the member for Gladstone talk about the Central Queensland coal network. As we know, the Central Queensland coal network is Aurizon. As we know, Aurizon exists because the Labor Party sold the Queensland Rail Network. The reason we have to make these changes is that, when they sold it, they sold the below-the-rail assets and the above-the-rail assets to one monopoly operator, and that was their big mistake. Instead of allowing access above the rail, where there would have been competition, they said, 'No, we're going broke.' The Labor Party in Queensland went bust in a boom; I remember that—\$80 billion. I remember that.

An opposition member: We're heading back there.

Mr NICHOLLS: We are heading back there. We will see where the Treasurer takes us. In order to maximise every cent—

Ms Trad: Today, 160,000 jobs reported. How many did you sack?

Mr NICHOLLS: Now I am really enjoying it, because we have the Deputy Premier up in arms. She is on the defensive now. They needed to squeeze every cent out of the sale of the Central Queensland coal network, because they had to pay down debt. They got all that money and do you know what? They did not pay down debt. It is still going up.

We have to make the changes that the bill talks about, because of the decision that was made that did not allow for competition above rail and because of the decision that the High Court made in 2012 in relation to the Pilbara case. That case involved four railway lines—not just one—in Western Australia, two run by BHP Billiton and two run by Rio Tinto. There was an appeal case to the Australian Competition Tribunal by Fortescue Metals Group, which wanted to get onto the railway line. The Australian Competition Tribunal made a finding in relation to the appropriate test to apply for competition. Then, on two of those, there was an appeal to the full Federal Court. The full Federal Court found that the test to apply under part IIIA of the Australian competition law was, in fact, in relation to what is euphemistically known as the 'private profitability test'—that is, another supplier can provide it, provided that they can make a private profit—it does not have to be a great profit—and then there is no reason to declare. They overturned the decision and remitted it back to the Australian Competition Tribunal and told it to apply the law as determined by the High Court. It went ahead and did so, involving billions of dollars being spent on below-rail networks in Western Australia in order to ship ore. Therefore, there is now an attempt to clarify what has come through the subsequent reviews in order to make sure that the principles are there.

Therefore, the LNP will be supporting this bill because we in the LNP support competition. We want to see more competition in all spheres. I have said for a long time that competition in all spheres delivers better results. It drives innovation, it drives investment and it drives better practices. In politics we have competition. I accept that, as we all do. We accept the outcomes, learn from them and go

about things in a better way. In business you have to do that as well. The problem with monopolies is that they become tied up, they do the same thing time and time again, they do not innovate, they do not invest and, ultimately, society pays the price.

The Labor Party would love to have Telstra back in its pocket. Look at how well that has worked with the NBN. How well did that go? Now we have competition for phone services, we have competition for internet services and we have competition for IT services across-the-board. No-one would argue that we would want to go back to waiting for the old Telecom to turn up to hook up your phone six weeks after you made application for it. Competition is vital here.

I have a couple of concerns with the bill in relation to some of the changes that are proposed. The test has been pretty solidly agreed upon in relation to the effective provision of services, rather than the private profitability test. The natural monopoly test has been more clearly defined, because it is notoriously difficult to define. It suffers different definitions depending on which economist you speak to on which day of the week and how they were feeling on that day. My concern relates to the time periods placed on the QCA.

There are six-month time frames being placed on the QCA in order to give its decisions and make statements in relation to them. This is a serious point that I direct to the Treasurer, in that often the QCA is gamed by those people who run private monopoly networks, such as Aurizon, which was sold off. Those companies can spend an enormous amount of money putting together huge submissions that simply overwhelm the QCA's ability to go through them. I have seen that occur in relation to the undertakings put forward and the access undertakings put forward.

I think the very real danger that should be guarded against, either in terms of resourcing the QCA appropriately or otherwise, is that the QCA and the system are not gamed in the manner by large corporates putting together huge submissions designed to confuse, to obfuscate and to not come to a clear outcome. There are no penalties in relation to the QCA not making its decision. There are no deeming provisions that I can see in here if it does not make its decision within six months. Nonetheless, I think it is a real issue that needs to be dealt with, because those companies do that. I am as much against monopolies by large corporates as I am monopolies by the state. They all fall into the same trap and they all seek to preserve their own patch without allowing for competition.

In conclusion, obviously, as the shadow Treasurer has indicated, we are supporting the bill. Obviously, it is necessary. There is a real concern about the time limit on the QCA. No-one in Queensland should ever forget that, when it comes to privatisation, Labor speak with forked tongue.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.59 am), in reply: The last point put forward by the member for Clayfield—about large corporations putting in large submissions to the QCA that plan to confuse and obfuscate—comes from an individual who, when he was the leader of those opposite, wanted to obfuscate and refuse to declare donations and took the state to court to continue to hide those donations. I seriously think we should hold him up by the standard he set.

I thank all honourable members for their contributions to the debate on the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018. Those opposite have put forward the argument with some sort of religious zeal that these amendments are necessary because of the privatisation that occurred in 2010. I have some information for those opposite. That is actually not the case. All monopolistic infrastructure of an economic value in this state has to be regulated to ensure competition.

Let me outline for those opposite, and particularly the former treasurer, the former leader of the opposition, embarrassingly, why this is the case. I refer to page 1 of the explanatory notes. It refers to the Aurizon Network and the intrastate passenger and freight network operated by Queensland Rail. Whether it is public or whether it is private, it is monopolistic infrastructure and it needs to be run competitively and people need to have access to it.

It is incredibly embarrassing that those opposite have put forward that argument here today. It actually demonstrates their lack of understanding and reflects very poorly on all of their contributions. When Queensland Rail was in public hands it was still subject to the Queensland Competition Authority Act. Let us get the facts on the table, guys.

Opposition members: Guys?

Ms TRAD: Yes, guys. In my opening remarks on this bill I emphasised the importance of Queensland's third-party access regime in terms of ensuring parties are able to obtain access to critical services provided by the state's most significant infrastructure facilities on reasonable terms and conditions. A clear and effective regime can drive development and economic growth in a state.

The bill refocuses and clarifies the regulatory regime ensuring it remains appropriately targeted. The main element of the bill is in regard to the access criteria. These changes have been comprehensively reviewed and were recommended by the Australian Productivity Commission. These changes correspond to amendments that have already been made to the equivalent criteria under the Commonwealth's national access regime, which passed the Australian parliament in October 2017.

Consistency with the national legislation in this regard is important for certainty and investment incentives in significant regulated infrastructure facilities. The Palaszczuk government is leading the way as the first state to align its access regulation laws with the national laws in this area, as a number of members on this side of House have mentioned today.

I would like to reflect briefly on some of the contributions made by members of the House during the debate. I will start with the member for Everton. He lacked a deep understanding of what he was actually talking to—

Mr Power: Embarrassing.

Ms TRAD: It was embarrassing. I take that interjection from the member for Logan. He did not seem able to stay on topic during the remainder of his contribution. The best part of his contribution was when he stood in this place and said that those opposite would be supporting the bill.

I thank the member for Logan for his thoughtful contribution. As he noted, it is vital that we strike a fair balance between promoting competition and allowing access to infrastructure, but also attracting investment and allowing the owners of infrastructure to make a fair rate of return on their investment. That is exactly what this bill seeks to do.

The member for Mermaid Beach, always an entertainer, was quite right when he noted that the bill is bringing the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 in line with changes that have been made to the national access regime. As he noted, that is an important thing to do so that we have a nationally consistent framework for competition laws. I thank him for his considered contribution and his strong support of the bill.

The member for Pine Rivers rightly noted the urgency of making these changes. As she pointed out, it is important to make these amendments now so that when the QCA comes to commence their pre-expiry review of the existing declarations that have been made under the act they are undertaking those assessments under the natural monopoly test rather than the private profitability test.

I thank all of the members who spoke during the debate for their contributions and the support that they have shown for the legislation. Access undertakings are an important feature of the Queensland access regime. They establish up-front detailed access terms and conditions which increases certainty for all parties and minimises the potential for access disputes to arise. They are complicated processes and the bill makes changes that will assist in facilitating more efficient and timely regulatory processes and outcomes. I conclude by thanking all members for their contributions. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 18, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.05 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.06 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Mansfield, I want to ensure that all members of the House are aware that the member has not given her first speech in this chamber. Consistent with previous Speakers' rulings and my earlier rulings, this will not be considered the member's first contribution to the chamber.

PRIVILEGE

Cavendish Road State High School, Audit

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (12.07 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Before winning my seat at the 2017 election, I was proud to lead the Cavendish Road State High School community and manage a multimillion dollar budget.

The Queensland Audit Office conducted an audit of my school, Cavendish Road State High School, in May 2017 along with a number of large secondary schools. The audit examined some travel expenses arising from a Harvard University scholarship and a Churchill Fellowship, which I was very proud to receive. Both of these were funded from outside of government. These experiences provided an opportunity to further develop my skills as a leader in this great state and as a leader of public education in Queensland. The Audit Office queried some travel expenses and found that the expenses were within departmental guidelines.

The audit found some minor expenses where the policies of the department were unclear. The expenditure considered in the Cavendish Road State High School audit included: the purchase of flowers for an elderly neighbour of the school who wanted to take her elderly husband, who was 92, to the hospital, only to find that a student had parked across her driveway; and food for an after-hours meeting to professionally induct and welcome beginning and new teachers to our school. I am advised that the QAO concluded its investigation.

I recently sought advice from Education Queensland about whether any further investigation would follow. In light of the explanations I have already provided, I have never been advised that an investigation is either current or pending.

The moment that queries were raised by the Audit Office I paid all expenses personally in order to ensure that the matter was beyond doubt. Even though I was found to be entitled to make these expenditures, I have always put the confidence of the school community in my leadership as a priority. I am advised that the QAO audits led to a review of Education Queensland policies to ensure staff were provided with clear guidance about purchases of this nature.

I am proud of my contribution to the education of Queensland children. It is a cause to which I have dedicated my life.

Mr Bleijie: Release the 92 pages.

Ms Trad: Be quiet, grub.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, you are warned under standing orders. That language is unparliamentary and uncalled for in a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Member for Kawana, I would appreciate it if you could cease your interjections during the member's contribution.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at what the Deputy Premier called me. I ask for a withdrawal under the standing orders.

Ms Jones: I think it's accurate.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Tourism, cease your interjections. Deputy Premier, will you withdraw?

Ms Trad: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Tourism, you are warned under standing orders.

Ms McMILLAN: These unfounded smears reflect more on those who make them than they do on me and my service to the education of our wonderful Queensland children in this state.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.10 pm): I seek leave to move a motion without notice that the House calls on the Palaszczuk government to release the 92 pages of documents with respect to the Ethical Standards Unit investigation into fraud—

Mr SPEAKER: Hold on, member. Manager of Opposition Business, you know full well that you must seek leave to move a motion without notice and not start into the substantive nature of that motion. Are you seeking leave?

Mr BLEIJIE: I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

In division—

Mr SPEAKER: I remind all members that if you have been warned under standing orders those warnings continue even during divisions.

AYES, 40:

LNP, 38—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 47:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Resolved in the negative.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 20 March (see p. 546).

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (12.17 pm), continuing: I had got as far as thanking all of the people who had helped me during the election campaign. I would like to thank my mother and father for the support that they have offered me over my years in politics. My mother was with me on election night and congratulated me and my family on being elected for a third time. Unfortunately, my father, who lost his battle with cancer recently, was not there to see it, and I greatly miss him. My brother, Christopher; his wife, Josephine; my sister, Joanne; and her husband, Brad and their family also assisted greatly during the campaign, especially on election day.

This was a campaign that unfortunately degenerated into a dirty campaign, I would have to say. Those opposite have a habit of coming out with such rubbish as 'cut, sack, sell'. Nothing was more prevalent during the election than my opposite number saying to people as they came up to the polling booth and as they came up to pre-poll, 'Save your assets. Don't elect the LNP. They will sell your assets.' Nothing could be further from the truth. As we have heard in the last day or so, the only side of politics in this state that has sold assets is the Labor Party. It was quite bizarre to be standing outside a building on the corner of Park Avenue and West Street in Burleigh that was the ECQ office but used to be a Queensland Health building. Guess what they did to it?

An opposition member: They sold it.

Mr HART: I take that interjection. They sold it and they rented it back for the election. We have heard the Deputy Premier numerous times over the last three years say, 'We are not selling assets that earn income.' I can tell the Deputy Premier, who has never been involved in business in her life, that a building which earns income is an income-earning asset.

Mr Watts: What a revelation!

Mr HART: It is pretty straightforward, isn't it? A building that earns income is an income-earning asset. I have no issue with the government selling a building that is surplus to its use and selling land that is surplus to its use. If you look at the LNP's history and the Labor Party's history, that is what has

happened on both sides of politics. The Deputy Premier has never articulated that what she is talking about selling is large-scale utilities that earn money for the state. When you get to that stage, it is very clear to the people of Queensland that the only side who has sold assets in this state is that side of the chamber over there.

I am going to borrow some words from the former member for Hinchinbrook, who was a great member in this House and is sadly missed. Just so I cannot be accused of plagiarism in the future, I will quote his words from one of his speeches last year where he outlined what the Labor Party had sold. He said—

The Energy Assets (Restructuring and Disposal) Bill 2006 facilitated the sale of Energex's electricity retail business, Ergon's electricity retail business—

Mr Watts: Did prices go up or down?

Mr HART: I take that interjection. Ever since then the prices have gone up. He continued—

... Energex's gas distribution business, Stanwell and Tarong's wind farms and Enertrade's merchant gas and gas transportation business.

They were all sold by the Labor Party, not the LNP. He continued—

In 2008 we had the Airport Assets (Restructuring and Disposal) Act and those opposite sold the Cairns Airport, they sold the Mackay Airport and the Port of Brisbane Corporation's interest in the Brisbane Airport.

They were sold by the Labor Party, not the LNP. Remember that these are the then member for Hinchinbrook's words.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Order! Member for Burleigh, I realise that you might be being a little provocative, but quite a number of members in this chamber have been warned. They know who they are. Take that into account.

Mr HART: The then member for Hinchinbrook continues—

Then there was the mother lode in 2009 when they had the Infrastructure Investment (Asset Restructuring and Disposal) Bill, where they sold Forestry Plantations Queensland and Queensland Motorways and the Port of Brisbane and Queensland Rail's above and below rail coal businesses and Queensland Rail's commercial rail services such as bulk freight and retail and regional freight and they sold the port corporation of Queensland's Abbot Point coal terminal.

Sold, sold, sold. Income coming in, debt reduction—no, that did not happen. We missed that one. That all went up against the wall. One of the other things they persisted with was this misconception that we sacked 20,000 public servants. For the first 12 months to two years in government they misled and lied to the people of Queensland and said that 20,000 public servants were sacked. That was completely wrong. When we left government there were 14,000 fewer public servants.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I say again that there are members in this chamber who have been warned. Be careful.

Mr HART: There were 14,000 fewer public servants. Some of those people took redundancies. Some of them left their positions and were never replaced. There were 14,000 fewer public servants; there were not 14,000 people sacked. This is the Labor Party rewriting history with its own version. At the end of this term, out of the last 31 years we will have had 26 years of Labor government in this state. It is a bit ripe for those opposite to blame everybody else but themselves because the Labor Party—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr HART: I take that interjection. The Labor Party have done nothing. They have managed to get the state into a huge amount of debt. They have managed to sell off half the farm. Half the farm is gone. What have they achieved from it? Nothing. What do they continue to do? They blame everyone else for their mistakes. At the end of this term out of 31 years we will have had 26 years of Labor government, but they will stand here and blame everyone else but themselves.

They blame the federal government for everything. It is the federal government's fault for everything. For health, education and Indigenous housing there were 10-year special deals where money was put on the table by the federal Labor Party. Without having the money to provide for those 10-year funds, they put that money out there. All of those things are expiring now. That is what is happening here. Instead of this government sitting down with the federal government in Canberra and

negotiating in good faith with them, they come in here and try to stab them in the back and blame them for everything. Everything is the federal government's fault: 'It is not me; I am not at fault here. There is nothing to see here.'

I want to cover off on something that the Minister for Housing has been telling us recently about Indigenous housing. The federal member has put out a statement saying that this government is not negotiating in good faith and that they have not sat down and talked about how much money this government is willing to stump up for Indigenous housing. The federal minister tells us that this minister cannot point at one house that this government has funded and built. There will be plenty of houses that they have built with federal government funding, but where is their money? This is the problem. Where is the state Labor government's money?

In the few seconds I have remaining I would like to thank the former leader of the LNP, Tim Nicholls, who would have been a great Premier of Queensland, for appointing me as shadow minister for energy and water supply and our current leader, Deb Frecklington, for giving me the portfolios that I have. I would also like to congratulate Lawrence Springborg on taking the sensible decision to get out of this place. He is the best Premier Queensland never had.

(Time expired)

Mr Power interjected.

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think you will find that the member has been warned and it is not lunch yet.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member has not been warned but he is sailing very close to being warned.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (12.28 pm): It is my great privilege to rise in this address-in-reply debate to deliver my first speech as the state member for Kurwongbah and a proud second-term MP in the Palaszczuk government. I will start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which this parliament meets.

When I rose in this place in the 55th Parliament as the member for Kallangur to give my first speech, I started by saying that to say my life had changed dramatically in recent times was an understatement. The adaptation from electrician to state MP is a huge one. I described it last term like being on the travelator at the airport where you cannot easily stop while dodging objects thrown at you all the time and trying to read up on a topic to be able to render someone some assistance. For the record, I still have my electrical licence and occasionally help out with some work, but sadly I no longer have the time to drop everything to replace a faulty switch or GPO.

The Electoral Commission's decision to redistribute Kallangur into Kurwongbah has created some angst and a little confusion for constituents. I have sadly lost the suburbs of Kallangur, Dakabin and Murrumba Downs where the Palaszczuk government had done so much work with residents to make real changes to better the community.

Apart from the intended sell-offs and cruel sackings of so many local workers, supported by my predecessor, when I was elected as part of the Palaszczuk government in 2015, the Kallangur electorate had pressing infrastructure and community needs that had been neglected and not listened to for the previous three years. It was only Labor that opposed and stopped the sell-off of the Kallangur State School, which is a much needed space for the school and community. There was a business-destroying arrangement which would have allowed the contractors, who were upgrading Dohles Rocks Road as part of the Peninsula rail line project, to divert 15,000 vehicles a day through our suburban streets in Murrumba Downs past two schools.

This arrangement was apparently supported by the then councillor for division 7 and my predecessor. I thank my good friend and our Deputy Premier, Jackie Trad, for her help and advice in getting this stopped and the upgrade done under traffic, as it always should have been. That work is now completed, with the local businesses intact and a community grateful for our intervention. We also opposed the former Newman government's lack of action which served to deny our waterskiers and recreational users satisfactory access to Lake Kurwongbah.

I am pleased to have handed over the reins to my friend the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services and the new member for Murrumba, Dr Steven Miles. He inherits a community that has seen and can look forward to the delivery of the infrastructure it needs, with Kallangur, Murrumba Downs and Dakabin receiving a brand-new community centre will be built in the Kallangur area. I thank the former minister for communities, Shannon Fentiman, for her help in getting the Arcadis report completed and heeding its recommendations.

This report highlighted the need for a new centre for community and youth services to meet the growing needs of the Moreton Bay region. This report was an election commitment I made in the lead-up to the 2015 election. This centre will be a great asset to both electorates of Murrumba and Kurwongbah. Judging by the meetings of residents which are held regularly, the idea has excited a community that desperately needed more services not less.

A brand-new car park will be built at the Kallangur State School on the spare oval. This project stands in stark contrast to the plans of the former government, where the LNP and their local member wanted to sell that oval. Two new train stations were planned, built and funded by Labor in Kallangur and Murrumba Downs. There is record funding for local schools thanks to the committed efforts of the member for Cooper in her previous role as minister for education.

Perhaps though the most anticipated project in the Murrumba and Kurwongbah electorates is the long-overdue upgrade of Dakabin Railway Station. Those who were here in the 55th Parliament would no doubt be sick of hearing me talk about the need for this upgrade. All the hard work to secure this upgrade will be evidenced this term as the station gets rebuilt. Labor has delivered what the LNP never would or could. More importantly, I said there would be no more band-aids at Dakabin station and that is what we have delivered—no more band-aids but instead a new station.

As the rail line and station forms the boundary between Kurwongbah and Murrumba, I will be very active in seeing it through to conclusion. I would also like to thank the hardworking activists, like Gemma Gale and her Dakabin Station Action Group, for their tireless work with me and the new member for Murrumba and the Palaszczuk government's departments. We look forward to working together to see its completion.

Before I move on from talking about my old electorate, I must mention the honour I did have in being present with my colleagues at the opening of the Peninsula rail line. Our community members were there too and it was a great day. It was a great Labor project instigated by federal Labor and commenced under the Bligh government with larger-than-life assistance from the Mayor of the Moreton Bay Regional Council, Allan Sutherland, who dressed the part on the day. We only waited 100 years for the project to come to fruition but it has been worth it. It has been a great exercise in showing what can be achieved when different levels of government put partisanship aside and work together to achieve a common goal. The electorate of Kallangur, such as it was, will forever be an important part of the history of this place and for me. I will always have the honour of being the last ever member for Kallangur.

The electorate of Kurwongbah is in its second incarnation, having been previously in existence from 1992 to 2009. It takes its name from Lake Kurwongbah, which was created when Sideling Creek was dammed in 1958. Kurwongbah is an Indigenous name meaning black duck and was chosen as the name of the lake following a newspaper competition in the 1950s.

This electorate has two titans of the Labor movement as former members—Margaret Woodgate and Queensland's first female attorney-general and my good friend, Linda Lavarch. At this juncture, I would like to thank Linda for the enormous contribution she made to my campaign. Linda launched my campaign and gave me wise counsel about the community that is Kurwongbah. I am convinced that her staunch effort and the long hours and then the scrutineering at Genesis Christian College in Warner that she did played no small part in delivering the booth for me—not an easy feat.

I would like to thank my friend and neighbour Mark Ryan, the member for Morayfield, for his representation and handover of many parts of his old electorate which have now been entrusted to me. I will work hard to look after them as well as he did. He has left big boots to fill. Wherever I travelled throughout Narangba Valley and Burpengary, everyone loved Mark—from schoolkids to seniors. I felt like I was in an episode of *Happy Days* and he was Richie Cunningham. They are big boots to fill.

This incarnation of Kurwongbah starts at the eastern border of Lake Samsonvale and contains the suburbs of Lawnton, Joyner, Petrie, Whiteside, Kurwongbah, Narangba, Narangba Valley and Burpengary. The electorate also features parts of Bray Park. Importantly, I now capture rural areas extending out to Rush Creek. The election campaign provided a humbling opportunity to become heavily involved in the new areas that I have picked up in the electorate. I am pleased to announce that my electorate office will be moving into the electorate shortly. The member for Murrumba cannot wait because he will get to move into my old office.

I have big plans for this term in the Kurwongbah electorate. During the life of the last parliament, my colleague the member for Bancroft and I petitioned the transport minister and successfully got the money for and saw the Boundary Road-Bruce Highway interchange planned and built. During this term, the member for Bancroft and I will see the planning and design and the start of construction of the New

Settlement Road and Deception Bay Road interchange. Unfortunately for our constituents and for commuters, we should have seen this finished earlier, except it was another unjustified cut by the former LNP government, with none of their local MPs in the region standing up for it. Labor has restored this funding. I know my friend the Minister for Transport is keen to see it commence construction, as are the residents of Narangba, Burpengary and Deception Bay.

Lastly, this term will see the metamorphosis of the old Petrie Paper Mill into the new Moreton Bay campus of the University of the Sunshine Coast. This will bring a positive change to our community, in particular to the lives of our young people, and it will offer opportunities forever. I am proud to have this brilliant facility being built in my electorate. I am working hard to make sure that the Petrie roundabout is completed before the university so that the area and traffic can complement each other and be ready for the precinct. Funding was provided and work will progress on restoring the dam wall at Lake Kurwongbah so that skiers, paddlers, rowers and other recreational users can enjoy our beautiful lake. I have worked hard with Seqwater to provide this outcome.

I would not be here in this place but for the trust that the constituents of Kurwongbah have placed in me. I thank each and every member of our community, whether or not they voted for me, for contributing to the great democratic traditions of this state. I also have to say thank you to the mighty Electrical Trades Union—a very, very popular union in this place. To Ongy, Stuey and Neisha, Chris McGaw, Matty and Gav, Chrissy and Andrew, Wendall, Irena, Lynchy, Gaz, Brenton, Scotty, Bateman, Michael Wright and all the interstate crew, Pat and Kerry—

Mr Power: Did you mention Stuey?

Mr KING: I did mention Stuey; I will take that interjection. And to Barry, Kathryn and Lachlan—thank you to all of the rank-and-file electricians and linesmen who helped in the months leading up to the campaign, and Allan and the ETU national office for always having my back. The Not4Sale message is one of trust and authenticity. When they said the LNP plus One Nation equalled asset sales, and my LNP opponent was a bit too close with Hanson's mob, people once again knew that their assets were more than likely up for sale under a coalition of cuts and chaos. The win by the Palaszczuk government has made sure once again that our assets are not for sale.

I thank the wider labour movement for their support of my efforts to return to this place—Gary O'Halloran at the Plumbers Union, Rohan Webb at the AMWU, Ros McLennan at the QCU and Gary Bullock at United Voice. Their members are well served under their leadership. The Queensland union movement is constantly demonised by those opposite but rarely thanked for the great work they do. I know their heart is in looking after workers and the things that make their lives and that of their families better.

No campaign is successful if the hard work is not put in at an organisational level. There is no one better in the ground game than the warriors at the ALP state office, particularly Evan Moorhead and Janine, Jon, Jaxen, Mitch and all the office team. Thank you; your contribution is immeasurable. It is comforting to know that we will still be in great hands with Jules Campbell taking over the helm.

I say thank you to my Moreton Bay region parliamentary and council colleagues: Senator Chris Ketter and Susan Lamb MP, member for Longman, my friend Yvette D'Ath and thanks again to Mark Ryan and Steven Miles as well as Chris Whiting, Mark Furner and Nikki Boyd—the members for Redcliffe, Morayfield, Murrumba, Bancroft, Ferny Grove and Pine Rivers—and their staff. Thanks for all your assistance and cooperation over the past three years and into the future. Campaigning is a hard business, but it is made easier when you can swap war stories and get real help along the way. We can do great things together and the future of the Moreton Bay region is a bright one with our team in the area.

To councillors Gillam, Charlton, Flannery, Sims and Grimwade, working with you is a pleasure and we achieve a lot together. I make special mention of Allan Sutherland, our mayor, whose vision for our region has been, and is, one that is outstanding. I have to say I admire the way he never wavers in his commitment to getting things done for our region.

To my friends the Doyles, who are more family than friends, the Kummerfelds, Eddie Bland for keeping life interesting as always, and the Mogridge family, I say thank you. To the amazing party members and in particular the Kallangur, Petrie-Lawnton and Narangba crew, I say thank you. In particular I say thank you to Bob, Veronica, Gary and Linda, Pat, Iris, Dianne and Lance, Helen and Wes, Craig who helped from Sydney, Jaxon, Bernie, Lynne, Sam, James, Michael, Vikki, Daniel, Joy, Corinne and family and so many loyal branch members. Thank you; you are the backbone and the heart of the Labor Party.

There was the Hervey Bay and nurse crew, John and Gail and Jeff and Anne, who never need asking; you just line up again and again. Thanks to local businesses for your friendship and support: thanks to Gary Bryant from Emilio's and Vinnie from Narangba Pizza; Andrew McKenzie and Maurice Blackburn; Shane and Village Motors for the great sign sites; and Narangba Tavern, Norths Leagues & Services Club and Kallangur Bowls for putting out my drink coasters.

I say thanks to my small campaign team who always put up with the madness: Jerry, Sheridan and Kerry, John, Kelly, Taylor and Kegan for helping to steer the ship and putting up with my particular style of madness. Your efforts are above and beyond and I am grateful. Thanks to Lloyd, Phil and Stan for all the work with signs, in particular, on election day. Thanks for loaning me the time and skills of a very special person to help share the load.

I say thanks to my old supply industry workmates and delegates, who stumped up yet again: Brett Hanan, the Humphreys boys, Bruce, Cam and Andy, Millsy, Rocka, Tom, Gawain, John Taylor, Jason and Mel Houghton. I know I have forgotten a few, but I will always be eternally grateful for your help. Thanks to Ronnie Coleman for your friendship and chauffeuring skills on election day and for tidying up my ute; and Simmo and Penny for starting this off back in 2013 and also for being the voice of reason and sarcasm when I needed it. I say a huge thanks to my electorate staff without whom I would be lost. Thanks Leanne, Barb and Lorraine for the long days and nights. You guys rock.

Last but certainly not least, I say thanks to my lovely wife, Ang, for just being you, and my family, Ben and Ella. Thank you. You continually back me every day so that I can do this important work. We are a great team.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (12.42 pm): I thank His Excellency the Governor for the speech he gave to parliament. Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on your election to this high office. I know it is never right to refer to somebody's absence in the chamber, but I can reflect on your presence in the chamber. The fact that you have come back before lunch means a great deal to me. Your friendship and your decency has meant a lot to me over the years.

In my first speech to this place I spoke about the journey of my broader migrant family to the cane fields of Ingham and the values that drive me. While my home is now 1,500 kilometres away on the beautiful northern Gold Coast, those same country traits guide me today. Six years ago I told this House of my career in the media and the essential role it plays in holding government to account. While we do not always like what is penned, it remains a better outcome than the gagging of the Fourth Estate we have seen throughout the globe.

I also spoke about my admiration for those people who fill the now 77 council chambers across the state. Just as in state and federal parliaments, a small number of bad apples can sometimes occupy positions of power. I do not want to see a return to the day when local government loses its decision-making power and becomes a delivery agent for state driven centralist policy because of the actions of a few.

While I left parliament with these values intact, I also left with a valuable lesson. I was a young man in a hurry and at times took for granted the position and the people who had given me a once-in-a-generation opportunity. I did not see my result coming and a high proportion of preferences running against me meant winning on primary votes counted for nothing. Back then, as I do now, I felt a sense of gratitude rather than anger towards the people of Townsville. They took a chance on me as a young councillor, deputy mayor and state member of parliament. While I have found home on the Gold Coast, I will never forget the north. I hope during my second chance in this place I might be able to do something for a very special part of our state that has done so much for my family.

I said in my maiden speech that prior to my involvement in politics I was not a political tragic. I had never immersed myself in student politics at university. I lived what I described as a pretty normal life. So it was in the last few years I decided to build a business instead of providing running political commentary. What started as an idea to provide advice and strategy to one business looking to submit a document to government instead of the traditional model of lobbying turned into several more clients. Within two months I had taken an office in the south-east and began servicing clients from Cairns to Adelaide. In the end it was the woman who had consoled me during the dark days after my election loss who decided it was in the interests of the family to move. With fond memories of our holidays in years gone by on the Gold Coast and a desire to pursue her own career, it was Tegan who sold our family home, found our new place to live and packed and unpacked our worldly possessions to start afresh. She is watching today from work. Hello!

During the past few years I have learnt what it takes to run a business. In that time I have worked for more than two dozen different clients from multinational giants, Australian institutions and mum-and-dad businesses in the property, planning and engineering sectors. All the while I did what I always vowed I would and that was to be a businessman and not a disgruntled political commentator. I did not raise so much as a squeak when those in this House referred to my loss or indeed speculation I would run again; it was not my place. What I will do is set the record straight on an allegation that I somehow cut and run from a company I was involved in that was placed into liquidation after I left the business.

The company that was referred to in this House was a registered training organisation, SET Solutions, with interests in Queensland and Melbourne. I entered the organisation on the promise of a deal to inject capital into the business. When this did not eventuate, rather than cut and run I worked to bring in new revenue, streamline costs and worked to sign a new deal to bring about new ownership. In my four months with the business we returned a profit each and every month.

Once the new ownership was signed I made a commitment with our major suppliers to meet their current accounts and to pay their outstanding debts that predated my time in the business. While I was a director of that company, that commitment to those creditors was met bar one: myself. I forewent all of the money that had been agreed and I was entitled to for the work I undertook to ensure that my word was honoured. Promises made must be kept.

There has been justifiable scrutiny of the RTO sector in Victoria, but I left the business without a single mark of wrongdoing against my conduct or actions. More than two years on, I have never received one cent of the money I was promised. Like many people in small business, I left with the knowledge of what it is like to have a creditor go down owing you significant money and the need to balance your own books when this occurs.

While the past three years has seen me travel and work in almost every state across the country, it has also meant I have been home far more than at any time in my working life. It has enabled me to be a better dad to two fantastic little girls and a better husband to a wife of 16 years. It has also allowed me to become embedded in my new local community. I have volunteered for numerous sporting and community events. I became the first corporate member of the Hope Island Rotary Club and have helped Tegan turn our home into a small collection point for a food and distribution charity called Newlife Street Care for locals in need.

Broadwater is a wonderful community in which to live. From the bustling village that is Paradise Point to growing schools in Coombabah and Biggera Waters, a marine precinct in Hollywell, the largest shopping centre and major employer at Runaway Bay and some spectacular canal estates in Helensvale and Hope Island, we are proud to call this home. The presence of the largely unpopulated but truly majestic southern Moreton Bay islands completes a great part of our state.

I am pleased with the result we secured as a team. I know that without the welcome we have received in the area my result would not have been possible. To my branch chairmen, Sam and Gary; campaign committee John, Tegan, Trent, Joe, Kylie, Fran, Bernard and Roger; and my great mates and supporters Brett and Pat, thanks for all you did. To Alec, who becomes the first staff member working in the electorate office, thanks for your faith in me.

There is much I would like to achieve in the local area now and into the future. At the top of the list is a broadwater that we can be proud of where regular dredging, upgraded facilities, better enforcement and better laws regarding the permanent vessels that are having an impact on our environment are things that we can work towards as a parliament. There is unlikely to be a single member on the Gold Coast who will not mention in this address-in-reply the need to fix the M1. It is choking the potential of a city with a bright future, and upgrades to it and an alternate corridor must both be pursued.

Locally, I will work to find ways to ensure that the duplication of the Jabiru Island bridge happens during my time in this place, even if it means dealing with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Law and order must remain a focus on the coast. Whilst my area prides itself on being a safe and great place to raise a family, we are seeing what can happen when quotas at the Runaway Bay Police Station are not met. I will work to ensure this does not happen in the future and that adequate staffing levels are provided across my electorate.

Both the Coombabah and Biggera Waters schools have seen a resurgence in numbers in recent times on the back of two dynamic principals and their teams. The facilities at these schools are not a fitting environment for our kids to be learning in. Whilst a campaign that I have assisted in has resulted

in an unsafe demountable being removed from Coombabah primary, our challenge now is to work to get these old buildings not only removed but replaced. It is a challenge that I know the member for Bonney will be engaging in at nearby Coombabah State High School, which is geographically located in his area but serves families from our respective electorates. I could not be more pleased to have Sam as my neighbour and I cannot think of anyone better.

Whilst it is acknowledged that a bad day in government is still a greater honour than a good day in opposition, I am pleased to have been asked to serve on the LNP's front bench. I wish to thank the member for Nanango not just for this opportunity but for the privilege of what I see as the smart pairing of tourism and environment related responsibilities. I have already been able to generate some interest in what I see as the sensible idea of opening up our national parks to tourism opportunities.

I aim to be part of an opposition that holds the government to account but also puts forward support in areas that are of interest to all Queenslanders. Low-impact tourism in national parks is a win for the economy, but it can also improve the environment by ensuring the funding and surveillance needed to have them at their best. This House should also spend considerable time debating the new economy that will drive Queensland into the future. As shadow science minister, I hope that I can highlight those individuals and institutions we should consider backing.

There is no doubt that our community is yearning for leadership. While we can all seek to portray the last election in whatever light we choose, the numbers show a community disengaged with politics across-the-board. It is up to us in this chamber to change that by debating issues, not individuals; by listening and undertaking reform with purpose; and by talking about the things they discuss over the breakfast bar rather than those that fill social media. That means coming up with solutions for the things we control instead of political pointscoring. In the first sitting of parliament the government chose to attack the federal coalition on nearly 70 occasions during question time and ministerial statements. The word 'vision' was not used once.

I do not know how long I will be in this place. I do not know whether I will leave at a time of my choosing or whether I will again wake to the pain that I felt on 1 February 2015, but I do know a few certainties. This time there will be no need for the rush I was in in 2012. This time I will pour my energy into being the fiercest of competitors in this place, but I will remember that the eyes looking back at me are still fathers, sisters and grandparents of someone. This time I will ensure that I tell those who mean everything to me how they made me feel when I needed them the most. This time I will be the man those migrant farmers before me would truly be proud of.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (12.54 pm): Mr Speaker, I would like to begin by congratulating you on your appointment to the important role of Speaker of this House.

It is an honour to be re-elected for a second term as the member for Ipswich West in the Queensland Legislative Assembly as a member of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I would like to congratulate all of those members on both sides of the House who were elected to serve in the 56th Parliament, particularly the new members. I have friends on both sides of the House and I hope that always remains so.

I have a large number of people that I need to thank in my address-in-reply, but before I do I apologise in advance to anyone I should have thanked but neglected to. Firstly I would like to thank my family members who assisted me with my campaign, my life companions and lifelong friends, who I know will stand by me through good times and bad: my brothers, Peter and Dennis Madden; my sister, Anne Marie Thompson, and my brother-in-law, Peter Thompson; my nieces, Lauren Thompson and Cara Thompson; my nephew, Nathan Thompson; my uncles, Barry Gratton and Bill Casey; my aunts, Wendy Gratton, Carmel Casey and Marie White; and my cousins, Geoffrey Madden, Carmel Hudson, Marilyn Mitchell Spannagle and Irene Mitchell O'Doherty.

Whatever I have done or will do in my life, I know that I have their full support and, more importantly, their love. Of course, looking down on me through all of this and wishing me all the best and their love are my parents, Brian and Gaie, as well as my dear brother Brendan. In every sense they have made me who I am.

I now acknowledge my indomitable 'red army', to whom I owe so much and who always amaze me with their dedication, enthusiasm and drive. They are all volunteers who are happy to support me, not just through the election campaign but also throughout my time as the state member for Ipswich West. I mention firstly my campaign manager and State Electoral Council president Madonna Oliver, the general who made sure what needed to be done was done, and State Electoral Council secretary and treasurer Melissa Harris.

I mention electorate office, street stall and polling booth volunteer Rose-Marie Hamlin-Larsen; campaign office volunteers Bec Reis, Terry Russell and Peter Duffy; sign site coordinators Alan McMillan, Cameron Jeppesen and all those kind people who allowed me to put a sign on their property, including Danny Bourke, who not only put some of my signs on his property at Tallegalla but also plastered his cattle truck with my campaign signs.

I mention street stall volunteers Phillip Barnsley, Kevin Armstrong, Steve Franklin, John Holznagel, Val Wheatley, Alison Young, Ben Pook, Janet Butler, Suzanne Miller, Jessica Clarke, Phyllis Gilroy and Craig Benfield and doorknocking and letterboxing volunteers Roy Steinheuer, Albert Revelo, Brad Snow, Sarah Grist, Russell Miller, Therese Melit, Yolanda Baltasar, Barry Burton, Charles Lund, Peter Dean, Patricia Carpenter and Gerry and Alistair Smith.

I mention mobile office and shopping centre stall volunteer Carol Nevin; phone canvassers Dot Hogan, Alison and Nigel Young, Daniel Cranitch and Brad Snow; and IT and digital campaigning coordinator James Harris; social media coordinator Cameron Jeppesen; polling booth set-up volunteers Wyatt Cook-Revell and Cate Oliver, but especially Cameron Jeppesen; campaign launch volunteers John and Chrissie Turner; and guest speaker, the former member for Chatsworth, Terry Mackenroth.

I mention pre-poll and polling booth workers and scrutineers Madonna Oliver, Rose-Marie Hamlin-Larsen, Dot Hogan, Alison and Nigel Young, Brad Snow, Steve Franklin, Wendy Bourne, Jackie Hughes, Denis Rodgers, Alan McMillan, John Holznagel, Val Wheatley, Gordon Abbott Jr, Gordon Abbott Sr, Ursula and Stephen Monsieigneur, Andrew Antonioli, Peter Healy, David Love, Shayne Neumann, Melissa Hockey, Darren Baldwin, Pat Kelly, Melissa and James Harris, Barry Burton, Peter Johnstone, Yvonne Tully, Jessica Clarke, Kerry Malone, Keri Hartfiel, Lorna O'Hara, Bev Pinkerton, Liz Finney, Dave Cullen, Keith Jordan, Tim Dunlop, Garth Ridley, Cameron Jeppesen, Patricia Carpenter, Peter Dean, Darren Baldwin, Aunty Vera Short, Aileen Orcher, Chas Clist, Kate Kunzelmann, John Fraser, Kevin Armstrong, John Smith, Barry Gratton, Mark Robinson, John Gregor, Jane Douglas, Sheryl Gray, Chris Condon, Kevin Steed, Warren Cummins, Anne Marie Thompson, Lauren Thompson, Wayne and Bella Gaddes, Kelly Thompson, Peter Madden, Russell and Therese Miller, Wyatt Cook-Revell, Cate Oliver, Wayne Wendt, Diane Wendt, Ben Pook, Alyson Lewis, Annette Smith, John Smith, Sue Dunne, Kerry Brown and Renee Clark.

I mention supporters and helpers federal member for Blair, Shayne Neumann; Senator Chris Ketter; former member for Chatsworth, Terry Mackenroth; former member for Kurwongbah, Linda Lavarch; former member for Toowoomba North, Kerry Shine; Barry Moule; Jim McIlmurray; Sarah Casey; Inspector Keith McDonald; Senior Sergeant Jono Jude; former ALP state organiser, Josh Milroy; former assistant state secretary of the ALP, Jon Persley; former state secretary of the ALP, Evan Moorhead; state president of the ALP, John Battams; assistant state secretary of the ALP, Sarah Mawhinney; Services Union Queensland branch secretary, Neil Henderson; and Life of Riley band members Maurie McGuire, Shane Hogan, Reg Bal, Jim Ward and Gary Mears.

Debate, on motion of Mr Madden, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.00 pm): With 13 days left until the Commonwealth Games, there never has been a more exciting time to be a Gold Coast local. We are so excited to show off our amazing city. Whether it is our beautiful beaches, our thrilling theme parks or our hinterland, there is plenty to be proud of in our city. In my opinion, our greatest asset is our people, and I look forward to seeing locals, many of whom are my friends and neighbours, dressed in blue, yellow and white uniforms as they volunteer for the games.

We are seeing pride in our city from our community. When I was growing up on the Gold Coast 30,000 people lived there; now we have morphed into Australia's sixth-largest city. Having attended the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games as a university student, I remember the profound impact that event had on Brisbane's reputation, supplemented by Expo 88, which I attended as a newly married man just returned from the UK. That is why when I was opposition leader I supported our bid for the games. That is why when the LNP formed government in 2012 we really got the ball rolling by finding

\$1.5 billion to fund them, because the money was not allocated in the forward budgets by the Bligh Labor government. That is why the LNP funded, planned and announced \$160 million of much needed road upgrades on the Gold Coast which Labor stalled when it came to government in 2015.

We have heard claims that we the LNP opposition have not been as on board with the Commonwealth Games as we should be. I am sure that the member for Cooper and any good member understands that we all on the Gold Coast have been standing up for our local residents, small and large business owners and tourism operators. Locals feel as though they have been left in the dark about transport plans and have reasonable concerns about access to their homes and businesses or about potentially missing out on providing services and supplies as well as getting up and down the M1 for work.

I went back and looked at what Labor MPs, then in opposition, said about Expo 88, held 30 years ago, as it approached. There were no fewer than 10 of them—Ken Hayward, Tom Burns, Nev Warburton, Anne Warner, Bill D'Arcy, Paul Braddy, Eric Shaw, Keith De Lacy, Terry Mackenroth and Wayne Goss—in the clips that I now table.

Tabled paper: Bundle of newspaper articles relating to Expo 88 [\[425\]](#).

Amongst that group were premiers, deputy premiers, treasurers, ministers and backbenchers. They all complained about a range of issues including accusing the then conservative government of financial ineptitude and gross deception, taxpayers footing the bill, allegations of collusion for tenders, housing problems, post-games concerns, police issues, rental issues, homelessness, advertising, the Residential Tenancy Act, Expo being politicised, flip-flopping and budget issues. Today the LNP proudly claims its place in the organisation of and support for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. We look forward to welcoming people from the 71 nations of the Commonwealth. We have worked in a bipartisan way. We want the games to be a success, and I am sure they will be.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! There are far too many audible conversations happening on both sides of the House. I ask members either to keep quiet or to take those conversations outside.

Federal Subsidies

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.04 pm): I rise to inform the House about another round of mean-spirited Turnbull government cuts that will take money out of the pockets of families in my area. The Turnbull government changes to the childcare rebate and benefits will begin on 1 July and will adversely affect 2,239 families in and around the federal electorate of Longman. I thank Susan Lamb MP for alerting me to this issue. Both payments will be abolished and replaced with a childcare subsidy.

In addition to the \$1.6 billion worth of cuts Queensland faces because of the Turnbull government's proposed GST carve-up, there are more Turnbull government cuts that will make life harder for Queensland families. This is what we know so far about the damage to be done to local families. Some families will be cut out entirely. Households with an income of less than \$65,000 will have their benefits cut. Families must now satisfy a complex set of rules to get the childcare subsidy, including a work test and a means test. Families will be required to satisfy minimum levels of approved activities each week. If they have a problem, what do they have to do? They have to get onto the phone queue at Centrelink and wait their turn.

What does this mean for Queensland families? It means that thousands of families in Queensland will be knocked out of the system. Whereas they once got the childcare rebate and benefit, they will not get the childcare subsidy. The level of subsidy will be reduced by an additional 10 per cent childcare tax. Where a family earning less than \$65,000 would expect to get 85 per cent of the subsidy, they will now get only 75 per cent. Those expecting 50 per cent of the subsidy will get only 40 per cent.

There are so many questions from Queensland families. How will casual workers meet this work test if they have variable rosters and hours? Will the guardians of children in the child safety system, especially grandparents, continue to receive support? What about families where one parent gets a carer payment? Will that push their income over the \$65,000 threshold? This is terrible news for Queensland families. Not only are we facing about \$1 billion in cuts to Queensland hospitals in the health system from the federal government, but from 1 July many Queensland families will find that they do not receive that childcare subsidy anymore or that it has been significantly reduced.

The Palaszczuk government is doing so much to help support Queensland families—the appliance rebate, the electricity rebate for families, an extension of discounts to white card veterans, and eligible families can get a \$340 rebate on electricity or \$71 on gas—but we are constantly being undermined by the parsimonious, penny-pinching practices of the federal government. I appeal to all members in this House to ensure they know exactly what Queensland families will face after 1 July, do whatever they can to raise this issue with the Turnbull government and say once again that this is not good.

Moggill Electorate

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.07 pm): The member for Bancroft may carry on about the Turnbull government, but imagine if Bill Shorten becomes the prime minister of this nation! You can imagine the significant risks to the Australian economy. We would have absolute chaos, higher debt and deficit under a Shorten led Labor government in Canberra.

Those opposite should concentrate on the upcoming state budget. In the next few months the Labor Palaszczuk government really needs to implement an integrated road and public transport plan in the western suburbs of Brisbane. In my electorate of Moggill there is increasing road congestion, which has been significant for a long period of time. Labor has been in power for 24 of the past 29 years, yet it has had no plans for the western suburbs of Brisbane. It needs to look at this urgently, to concentrate on traffic congestion not only in Moggill but also in the other electorates in the western suburbs, design solutions and then implement funding collaboratively with other levels of government to resolve these issues.

Labor also needs to work on educational infrastructure, particularly in relation to Kenmore State High School's infrastructure master plan. Parents, students, teachers and members of the P&C and the school council constantly talk to me about the need for an investment in Kenmore State High School's infrastructure master plan. We also have primary schools in urgent need of an infrastructure investment. There is also a need for an additional high school which services suburbs in not only the Moggill electorate but also the Ipswich West electorate. I know that the Labor member for Ipswich West supports that.

There are cost-of-living pressures related to electricity, car registration, fuel, food, health and education. There are real concerns about the five new taxes that the Labor government is implementing here in Queensland. There are also concerns about jobs. The Palaszczuk Labor government can talk about 'jobs, jobs, jobs', but with an unemployment rate in Queensland of 6.2 per cent we certainly need greater plans to deal with this.

In my remaining time I want to return to the topic of the federal coalition government. This week I have heard the Deputy Premier talk about remote Indigenous housing. The Deputy Premier needs to stop playing politics with Indigenous remote housing and negotiate with the Commonwealth in good faith, because the federal coalition government has invested \$1.3 billion in Queensland through the Remote Housing Strategy over the last decade. Rather than the Deputy Premier coming in here and tabling Facebook posts in a puerile and facile manner, the Deputy Premier needs to negotiate with the Commonwealth. The Queensland state Labor government needs to step up, like the Northern Territory, and negotiate with the Commonwealth. Rather than picking fights with the federal coalition government, we need collaborative work between our state Labor government and the Commonwealth to deliver for remote housing.

Advancing Clean Energy Schools

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.10 pm): I want to inform the House about Advancing Clean Energy Schools. Given the last couple of speakers, it is nice to talk about something positive. Advancing Clean Energy Schools is an outstanding program and a wonderful initiative. Some \$50 million a year is spent on energy in our schools. Over its three-year program, this is expected to save around about \$10 million. One of the benefits of this is that that money gets injected back into the schools and does not go off into other areas, so any savings schools make will be kept by the schools themselves.

The program will deliver a reduction in energy costs across all state schools in Queensland and a contribution of approximately 35 milliwatts to the government's one million rooftops or 3,000 megawatts of solar by 2020. This is obviously going to be part of a raft of initiatives which will go to the government's 50 per cent renewable energy goal by 2030. We will see improved energy efficiency in Queensland state schools and, more importantly, reduced environmental impacts for school operations.

The Department of Education is seeking to appoint prequalified partners across seven of its regions. Selected partners will be engaged under a prequalified supplier deed. The evaluation process will occur in two stages. The first stage will involve an assessment of offers received against the following criteria: firstly, capability and relevant experience; secondly, the capacity to deliver; and, finally, alignment with the state's objectives. Short-listed partners will be contacted and followed up, but this is another opportunity where local businesses will be able to provide their services and benefit from it.

Last week in my electorate of Cairns I had the pleasure of joining the member for Mulgrave at Parramatta State School, where we looked at this initiative and announced it. Not only are the teachers and principals excited; the kids are excited, because these days they want to see some positive things happening. The Department of Education will consider all technologies and solutions that meet the project objectives outlined, but it will cover a raft of activities such as hot-water systems and a reduction of electricity at certain times in the evening. As I have said, this government, unlike others, has a strategy and this is one of those policies that we are implementing to ensure we have a cleaner and more efficient future. Finally, all proposals must be submitted through QTenders. The completion date will be some time in the next two months, so if people want to jump online they can apply. This is good for the local economy, it is good for local businesses, it is good for jobs and it is good for schools.

Hinchinbrook Electorate, Natural Disasters

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.13 pm): I want to proudly applaud the resilience and the efforts of the people of Hinchinbrook during the recent flooding of the Tully and Herbert River systems. Their prior preparation and willingness to act swiftly and efficiently when warnings were issued helped to reduce the impact of the 2018 floods on our communities. I reserve a special acknowledgement for all emergency services personnel and volunteers involved in the 2018 floods—the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, the Queensland Ambulance Service and above all the SES. Their incredible support during this time of need has helped our community.

The Hinchinbrook electorate also thanks the Cassowary Coast Regional Council and the Hinchinbrook Shire Council for ensuring disaster management groups were ready to stand up when called upon. I want to make special mention of Mayor Ramon Jayo for his leadership in heading the Hinchinbrook Shire Council Local Disaster Management Group. I got to see firsthand the work he and his council performed during this flood and I watched his council seamlessly transition from disaster management to clean-up mode. Well done! Today if you stand in the centre of Ingham you can hardly tell that a flood ran through the main street only two weeks ago. I also want to thank the Premier, government ministers and relevant departments for visiting Hinchinbrook to inspect some of the damage that was sustained to our town, businesses and farmland. Thank you.

I want to shine a light, though, on another small community that is positioned in the Hinchinbrook electorate which is still suffering from a crippling natural disaster seven years after its occurrence. Cardwell has never fully recovered from Cyclone Yasi. Cardwell is a small coastal town positioned between Ingham and Tully. Cardwell's economy almost solely relies on tourism, and after Cyclone Yasi the economic effect has been felt by the whole community. All tidal access has been cut to the Cardwell Coast Guard vessel, the local boat ramp—which is owned and operated by the Cassowary Coast Regional Council—and the jetty from which local tourism operators once operated to showcase Hinchinbrook Island, the Hinchinbrook Channel and the Great Barrier Reef. Without all tidal access, commercial operations and recreational users are unable to use this facility safely or effectively. The Coast Guard vessel sits in the mud for sometimes six hours a day just waiting for water to come in with the tide to deploy to an emergency rescue. I feel that most people would agree that this is unacceptable.

Before Cyclone Yasi, One Mile Creek, which is a state owned waterway, was maintained by the Port Hinchinbrook developers. The creek connects Hinchinbrook Channel to the local boat ramp jetty. This creek also once adjoined the Port Hinchinbrook marina. Since Yasi, Port Hinchinbrook has not been able to operate. I ask the state government to please help the community of Cardwell.

XXXX Brewery

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.16 pm): Today I rise again to stand up for brewery workers and stand up for the 'Milton mango' to be made in Milton. Des Houghton did not like the fact that I used parliament as a trade union soapbox. I am sorry to disappoint Des, but I am doing it again. It is good to see that Robbie Katter is on board with the campaign as well, and I thank the Katter members for their support up north in this regard to ensure that the 'Milton mango' is made in Milton. In Des's article XXXX said that my claims were baseless, but the fact is that Lion Nathan has form in this area. In 2012-13 it

sacked 80 workers in Western Australia, closing down the Swan Brewery. It shipped that production to South Australia and had iconic brands that were made by Emu Brewery and Swan Brewery made in South Australia, so it has form. We already know that it is sending production down south with regard to XXXX Gold and XXXX Bitter. Lion Nathan is using this as a threat at the bargaining table. It is saying to workers across the bargaining table, 'You need to accept these labour hire clauses so you don't become another Swan Brewery,' and I find that disgraceful.

XXXX said that it needed flexibility around a new labour hire clause to cover for illnesses and long service leave. Firstly, it should be employing its pool of casuals to fill in for that time. Secondly, there is a labour hire clause in the agreement. All XXXX has to do is sit down with its workers and consult them with regard to the form of labour hire. It only needs an expanded labour hire clause for one reason—that is, to get rid of the existing workforce. I say this to XXXX: avoid the strike on Monday. Sit down with the workers and consult like the clause says. Sit down with them in order to get the flexibility that you need but already have. Guarantee these jobs and guarantee that production will stay in Queensland to ensure that this iconic brand is not damaged any further. I do not want to see any beer wasted and poured down the sink. I think that should be an illegal act. We need to ensure that these workers have safe, secure jobs now and into the future. I urge XXXX to sit down with its workers and be sure to give them guaranteed job security to ensure that the 'Milton mango' is made in Milton.

Electricity, Installation

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.19 pm): Over the past few weeks I have received numerous phone calls and messages from members on this side of the House about an issue that seems to be blowing up on the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast and in other areas. It relates to changes that were made on 1 December by the federal power of choice legislation that changed the national energy rules. That legislation put in place a meter provider, so a third person is involved in installing electricity to new building sites or replacing old meters.

There seems to be a lack of communication between the retailer, which will organise for a meter to be installed, and a distribution company such as Energex or Ergon in regional areas. They can no longer talk to each other. That is the problem. This federal legislation has introduced a third entity into this mix. If people need a new meter box at a building site, they have to contact their retailer, which contacts a meter provider. That meter provider then contacts the distribution company. Between the three of them they try to organise when they can come to the site, with the person who wants it, to put on the power.

At the moment, particularly on the Gold Coast, we are seeing new building sites that do not have any power available. In fact, some builders on the Gold Coast have reached the stage at which they have bought or hired generators. They are rotating those generators around their building sites so that their building sites can have power. There have even been instances where houses have been constructed through the use of a generator. People have been waiting to move into those houses but they do not have any power installed. I am not a builder but I imagine that a house could be built in 12 weeks but, apparently, people cannot get power installed to that house in that time.

Today I have written to the minister in this regard, asking him what the government is doing to assist. I realise that it may be quite complicated for the government to get involved in this matter, because it relates to a deal between three groups, but when any laws change at any level of government that affects people in this state this government has a responsibility to fix the problem. I ask the minister to come back to me as soon as he can—and he should come back to every member in this place because I am sure that other members are getting phone calls and information into their offices about this issue. Now that members know what it is about, we need information from the minister with regard to how to fix it.

Greenslopes Electorate, Transport

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.22 pm): During the last sitting week I posed a simple question to the Leader of the Opposition: does the member back our local schools or does the member back Malcolm Turnbull's GST cuts? Today I have another simple question: does the Leader of the Opposition support improving public transport or does the member support the failure of the Turnbull government to back Cross River Rail?

I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government as it is committed to public transport. The people in my electorate understand the importance of public transport. They understand its value to the economy, they understand the intrinsic health benefits that people get from using public transport

and they understand its benefits to their broader environment. As a regular user of public transport I know that the people of my electorate also understand the social benefits they gain by regularly getting on a bus or train with their neighbours.

When it comes to public transport, this government has much to be proud of. I am extremely pleased that recently stage D of the Veloway was opened. The Veloway will allow cyclists to continue from O'Keefe Street through to Birdwood Road. At the same time as we opened that section of the Veloway, we announced that stage E would be built. That will take cyclists over that very dangerous Marshall Road intersection. The extension of the Veloway will get more people on bikes, it will get them to and from home safer, and it will get them to where they want to go faster. Already we are seeing more people using active transport.

The Fairer Fares initiative was welcomed by people in the electorate of Greenslopes. There has been a significant increase in the number of people using public transport. When I am out visiting public transport stops in my electorate, which I do regularly, people say to me that the Fairer Fares initiative is good policy. The Eastern TransitWay, which was promised at the last election, is also something that we should be and will be proud of. It will get people into town faster. It will improve the speed at which public transport moves along Old Cleveland Road. That will get more people onto public transport.

Cross River Rail is an important project. Everybody in my community understands its importance. Just last month we announced the companies that have been short-listed to bid for Cross River Rail. We also announced that those companies would have to source local and Queensland suppliers. The people in my electorate know that Cross River Rail will get them home faster, create jobs and be better for the environment.

It seems that the only people who do not understand Cross River Rail are the Leader of the Opposition and Malcolm Turnbull. Malcolm Turnbull seems to be too busy being on trains or buses taking selfies. He needs to get off those trains or buses, come to Queensland and understand our public transport needs. Engineering Australia understands the importance of this project. It has endorsed this project. I back public transport. Every member on this side of the House backs public transport. We need the Leader of the Opposition to go to Canberra and say to Malcolm Turnbull, 'You need to fund Cross River Rail.'

Theodore Electorate, Transport Infrastructure



Mr BOOTHMAN (Theodore—LNP) (2.25 pm): I rise to speak about some concerns that have been expressed to me by residents while I have been out and about in my electorate. In February I wrote to the Minister for Main Roads about concerns that many residents expressed to me about the intersection of Maudsland Road, Gaven Arterial Road and Riverstone Crossing Road. On 12 March I received a response from the Minister for Main Roads. That response states—

Traffic engineers from the Department of Transport and Main Roads have investigated the pedestrian facilities at this intersection and it was noted that only the western leg of the intersection currently has pedestrian signals.

It states further—

However, due to the extremely low number of pedestrians that use the existing pedestrian signals, the intersection does not meet the department's guidelines for the installation of additional pedestrian signals at this time.

The minister fails to understand that those pedestrian signals relate to Riverstone Crossing Road. I was seeking from the minister pedestrian crossing signals across Maudsland Road, which is a major arterial in my electorate. Maudsland Road services residential estates the length and breadth of my electorate. The existing pedestrian signals allow residents to walk up to the Riverstone Crossing Road intersection, push the button, walk across the road and walk back down Riverstone Crossing Road. I know why nobody uses that pedestrian crossing. It is pointless having it located there. The residents of my electorate have asked for pedestrian signals to be installed to allow them to cross Maudsland Road—which, as I said, is a very busy road in my electorate—so they can go to the shops, which are only a short distance away.

Further, a walking path along Riverstone Crossing Road goes all the way up to the roundabout, which is only about 50 metres away from the intersection. Residents walk along the grass verge to the intersection, then take a dangerous trek across Maudsland Road. They make a quick dash. I have seen people trying to walk a dog across that busy main road. That borders on being ludicrous.

I ask that the minister take this issue seriously. It is not an expensive project. All I am asking is for a pedestrian crossing across Maudsland Road and funding to build a pathway down to the shops so that people can be safe while going to and from their shopping district.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games; Advancing Clean Energy Schools

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (2.28 pm): Today it was wonderful to finally see some enthusiasm from those opposite for the Commonwealth Games. I congratulate the member for Surfers Paradise for finally showing some enthusiasm. Hopefully, that enthusiasm will prove to be contagious among some of his colleagues. We can only hope.

Another really important government initiative that I would like to see those opposite support is the Advancing Clean Energy Schools program. The member for Cairns has referred to it. I have not heard anything from those opposite about this fantastic program, which has been rolled out statewide. In my area, I am very pleased that Kuraby State School, Runcorn Heights State School, Runcorn State High School, Stretton State College and Sunnybank Hills State School are all going to be part of that program. I congratulate the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations for that initiative and for her hard work in supporting our educators, our local schools, our parents and, most importantly, our young people.

It gave me pause to reflect on why those opposite have not demonstrated much enthusiasm for the ACES program. It made me think about why that could be, particularly when I heard the contribution from the member for Surfers Paradise who, of course, was the minister for education in the previous LNP government. Let us have a look at what the LNP did the last time it was in government in relation to education. When the LNP was in government it slashed \$23 million from the Department of Education, Training and Employment.

Mr Bennett interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Burnett, order!

Mr PEGG: It is good to finally see the opposition demonstrating enthusiasm for something. As we have seen time and time again, it has enthusiasm for cuts—budget cuts and slashing education for our young people. There is no enthusiasm for Solar Schools, there is no enthusiasm at all for a fantastic initiative that will help support our schools, help support energy efficiency and budget saving initiatives. Of course, when we mention their achievements in government, all their cuts to education, they start shouting and jeering. We know that is no surprise. We know how much the LNP loves to cut. We know how much it failed when in government. There was a litany of failures. Who could forget the cuts to Fanfare. We all know what contribution that made to the budget bottom line when those terrible cuts were made. As we know, the LNP love to cut.

Health System

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.31 pm): The truth about the Minister for Health's phony campaign about so-called federal health cuts has been laid bare for all to see. Saturday's *Courier-Mail* story exposed the minister as a complete fraud when it comes to phony political campaigns. The headline said it all: *State health cuts mean surgery waits*. The article goes on—

Patients in Queensland hospitals are waiting longer for surgery after the State Government took a scalpel to funding. Shock new analysis reveals a correlation between waiting blowouts at Bundaberg and Mackay hospitals at the same time it cut or redirected funding to other hospitals. But one of the biggest cuts was to Mater Children's Hospital, Mater Mothers' Hospital and Mater Adult Hospital—\$34 million—

by the state! I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 17 March 2018, titled 'State health cuts mean surgery waits' [\[426\]](#).

'Dr Dolittle' has been running around Queensland for the last few weeks—

Mr BROWN: I rise to a point of order. The member should refer to the minister by his correct title.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will counsel the member for Mudgeeraba to make sure she addresses all those in the chamber by their correct title.

Ms BATES: He has been running around Queensland for the last few weeks when funding from the Commonwealth has increased and will continue to increase by \$2 billion over the next two years. It is just like the 'Mediscare' campaign we saw in the 2016 federal election. When it comes to health and Labor, those opposite simply cannot be trusted because they will say anything and do anything to cover up their own incompetence.

The truth was laid bare and exposed Queensland Labor and the Minister for Health as complete hypocrites. Let us not forget this is a minister who cannot even run his office or manage to send a letter. This is a minister who opened up our hospitals to 'Dr Google' and 'Dr Love'. Whilst this minister chooses to play politics with our health system patients are suffering.

The latest Queensland Health figures from February show a shocking one in three patients in EDs were not seen within clinically recommended time frames. Ambulance ramping is back and getting worse. There are tens of thousands of sick and injured Queenslanders every month suffering with Labor at the helm. This is a return to the bad old days of Labor, the bad old days of Anna Bligh, Geoff Wilson and Paul Lucas.

Things are not getting any better under Labor or under this new minister with his PhD in union recruitment. In fact, 33 per cent of patients not being seen within recommended time frames is a jump from 31 per cent last month; 21 per cent of ambulance ramping is a jump from 20 per cent last month. In many regions it is even worse. On the Gold Coast 58 per cent of patients are waiting longer than they should, up a whopping eight per cent in a single month.

Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system and Labor is too busy blaming everyone else to deliver it. We know that behind every one of these numbers there is a sick or injured Queenslanders who cannot get in to see a doctor. Our front-line health staff are crying out for more support. They need help on the front line to improve wait times and provide better outcomes for patients. Labor needs to get on with the job and stop the blame game.

Mackay Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.34 pm): With the Commonwealth Games only 13 days away it would appear that all roads lead to the Gold Coast, but not quite all. The Palaszczuk government is constructing and improving vital infrastructure in my electorate and surrounding regions. These road networks were ignored by the former Newman government. My region is the heartland of mining services and the agricultural industry. I am pleased that it is a Labor state government that is coming to the rescue of the small community of Walkerston. The Peak Downs Highway passes through its main street with freight and machinery destined for the Bowen Basin and beyond.

The Palaszczuk government, jointly with the federal government, has committed to the construction of the \$150 million Walkerston bypass to continue on from the Mackay Ring Road stage 1. Detailed planning is underway and TMR has started negotiations with landholders who will be affected by the bypass road. Every 24 hours the new road will take out of Walkerston, on average, 4.5 million litres of fuel, including avgas, petrol, diesel, explosives, chemicals and large quantities of LPG and waste oil. Daily, on average, there are 228 B-doubles, 217 semitrailers and 691 body trucks, plus over 30 coaches. That is a lot of traffic for a very small town. The bypass will not only make the community of Walkerston safer, it will also increase economic activity and create 200 jobs during its construction. That is 200 families in jobs.

Having an efficient supply chain from pick to port, from port to mill and from farm to port is of vital economic importance to the Mackay region and hinterland. That is why the Palaszczuk government has committed to millions of dollars of road and bridge upgrades in my region. Many of these construction projects should have started under the former Newman government. I am pleased to report to the House the completion of four wooden bridge replacement projects on the Peak Downs Highway between Eton and Nebo. The Fiery, Boundary, Lonely and Cut Creek bridges are open and fully operational. These bridges will improve connectivity and safety, in particular in bad weather. The project supported 114 jobs in the region during construction. I congratulate Pat Aprile and his team from TMR for their high quality of work and their professionalism in managing this large project. It is the Palaszczuk government that is providing roads in the region.

Currumbin Electorate

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.38 pm): I have spoken in this House of my desire for Currumbin to shine at our Commonwealth Games and for them to be super successful. I have been doing all I can to keep residents and businesses informed. At last week's Greater Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce breakfast the Minister for the Commonwealth Games assured a restaurant owner who was pleading for some car parks to be returned that she would look into it and see what could be done.

A local Currumbin cafe trader called my office today pretty fired up. A document informing him of upcoming works was hand delivered to his business yesterday afternoon and works commenced this morning. That is less than 24 hours notice. I table the document that he was handed yesterday afternoon that told him that works will start in his street in the week commencing 22 March—that happens to be today—until 30 March. The estimated working hours will be Monday to Friday, 7 am to 5 pm. This cafe serves breakfast and lunch. He has been told to remove all vehicles from the roadside by the start of works.

The proprietor's staff called him at 10 o'clock this morning, asking if he wanted them to stay open as there were no customers at all and no access to the restaurant due to the works. At 1.32 today, my office received an email from the cafe owner, who also sent it to Goldoc and the councillor, saying—

After a week and a half of full-time construction, I am down probably 50 per cent of my trade, certainly more this week if I do not average it out, but today I am down 90 per cent. I have two more weeks before I even get to opening ceremony. I cannot absorb these losses. Today I had no choice after roadworks in front of my cafe but to close at lunch to cut costs. The flow-on is that my vendors do not get orders, my staff do not get hours, et cetera.

Long story short, I am asking that the three entities that you represent—GOLDOC, council and state—kick the can and come up with \$10,000 to cover my rent and minimal outgoings over March and April. This leaves me holding a very empty bag of rocks. Your organisation's efforts to mitigate losses on Pacific Parade have come too little and too late, and many of us will have trouble paying rent without digging into our savings or lines of credit, not to mention real challenges now keeping staff to even work during games time as they have bills to pay.

My concern is for all my fellow business owners, but I need to take care of my own interests and trust that they will do so accordingly. Please understand this is not a course of action that we want to take, but we feel we have no alternative. You have to understand we cannot financially sit idle and bear the brunt financially.

The writer has asked that a review and response from the minister and Goldoc be given posthaste. We all want the games to be successful, but let us hope that some of our small businesses do not go under in the process.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 21 March 2018, titled 'Notification of Road Works' regarding works at Pacific Parade, Currumbin [427].

Ipswich West Electorate

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.41 pm): Last week saw the Palaszczuk cabinet's governing from the regions come to Ipswich. The cabinet attended a community stakeholder function at the Ipswich Civic Centre. It met at the historic Cribb House and a town hall meeting was held at the Racehorse Hotel. Ministers also made a number of visits to my electorate of Ipswich West. The Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, Shannon Fentiman, visited Tivoli Social Enterprises, which has been the recipient of a number of Skilling Queenslanders for Work grants, providing a pathway to employment for hundreds of Ipswich people.

I joined Minister Fentiman for a visit to another Skilling Queenslanders for Work project at Sadliers Crossing, where Apprenticeships Queensland and TAFE Queensland are restoring a Queensland, providing valuable experience for trainees and apprentices. The Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors, Coralee O'Rourke, visited the Leichhardt One Mile Community Centre.

I joined the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mark Bailey, for a meeting with the Mayor of Ipswich, Andrew Antonioli, to discuss major infrastructure projects. I also joined Minister Bailey and the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, Mark Ryan, to inspect murals painted on a concrete bridge that forms part of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail. Minister Ryan and I went on to visit the Rosewood Police Station, where we were welcomed by Officer in Charge Lindsay Kuhrt and Acting Inspector Heath McQueen. Later, we were joined by staff and students from Rosewood State School and St Brigid's Catholic Primary School. I joined Minister Ryan for a visit to Borallon Training and Correctional Centre.

The Minister for Education, Grace Grace, paid a visit to the Marburg State School, where she launched the Teach Queensland Style Student Photo Competition. The Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Anthony Lynham, dropped in at the home of Warren and Vanessa Rhodes at One Mile to inspect a trial being conducted by Energex. A Samsung storage battery has been installed at their house.

I joined the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Cameron Dick, for a roundtable discussion with the Ipswich Chamber of Commerce over breakfast. Finally, I was pleased to join the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Mick de Brenni, for a public housing briefing at the North Ipswich Conference Centre, which was very well attended. The state government is investing \$1 billion statewide in public housing projects, with \$103 million to be spent in the Ipswich area. That project will mean 383 new homes for the Ipswich area and 59 full-time jobs for Ipswich workers. It was great having the Queensland cabinet in Ipswich for a week. Governing for the regions is a wonderful initiative.

Renewable Energy Projects, High-Value Agricultural Land

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (2.43 pm): This afternoon I rise to place on the public record my concern about the development of renewable energy projects on high-value agricultural and irrigated land in Queensland. In September last year, RES Australia was given approval, through a delegated

authority, to construct a 160-acre solar farm on high-value agricultural land that is a key part of the Emerald Irrigation Scheme. The Emerald community was outraged by the decision, and rightly so, as 160 acres of prime cotton-growing country in Emerald is now gone. I will acknowledge that, following the approval, the Central Highlands Regional Council adopted a temporary local planning instrument that precludes all land that is part of the Emerald Irrigation Scheme from renewable energy developments in the future. However, one renewable energy project in the Emerald Irrigation Scheme area is one project too many.

The Emerald Irrigation Scheme area is a vital part of the Central Highlands community. Without it, we would not be able to produce the annual \$60 million cotton crop and other crops. That said, I do not want there to be any misconceptions that I do not support renewable energy projects, because I do. In fact, there are renewable energy projects underway across my electorate, including in Barcaldine and Longreach. I commend companies such as RES Australia for investing in renewable energy in the regions. However, it should not be at the cost of high-value agricultural land.

Throughout my electorate, communities thrive off the agricultural sector. It employs our people, puts food on our tables and fibre on our backs. While renewable energy projects employ a lot of people during their construction phase, once built the only person left is the gardener who mows the lawn once a month. Agriculture is the unsung economic hero of this great state. That is why we must protect our high-value agricultural assets.

However, if mining and agriculture can coexist, there is no reason renewable energy and agriculture cannot do the same. There is plenty of land outside the Emerald Irrigation Scheme that is ripe for the picking for renewable energy projects. It just takes some strategic planning to get the balance right. The Emerald irrigation area has been around for over 40 years, growing magnificent crops such as cotton, chickpeas and sorghum. We need to protect that land. We are not going to make any more high-value irrigation land at the moment and it is important that we protect the valuable black soil of the Emerald irrigation area.

Renewable projects are going well at Barcaldine and Longreach on land that is not high-value agriculture or high-value irrigation land. However, when you see a renewable project built on prime agricultural land such as the Emerald irrigation area, taking out 160 acres of country that normally grows cotton, is just not on. I commend Kerry Hayes, the mayor of the Central Highlands Regional Council, for putting a stop to that. We need to ensure that we never see this happen again.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Queen's Baton Relay



Mrs LAUGA (Keppel—ALP) (2.46 pm): With only 13 days until the opening ceremony of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, tomorrow the Queen's baton arrives in Central Queensland. Having travelled 230,000 kilometres on a 388-day trip around the world, tomorrow in Rockhampton the Minister for the Commonwealth Games and I will meet the Queen's baton to signify the start of its travels through the Central Queensland region. It has been right across the globe and, finally, the Queen's baton is in Central Queensland in the lead-up to the games. We are on the cusp of hosting the biggest event in the state's history and the arrival of the Queen's baton in Rockhampton and Yeppoon will shine an international spotlight on our region and some of our greatest achievers.

Our Central Queensland baton bearers include the captain of the Pararoos, the Australian paralympic soccer team, David Barber; junior hockey player Eine Bezuidenhout; Marge Brown; Emilee Burness; Tanya Burnett, who has grown the Capricorn Coast Netball Association from a small netball association to one with hundreds of players that holds carnivals of regional significance on the Capricorn Coast; the 2017 Livingstone Shire Council Young Citizen of the Year and 2016 Pinefest Charity Ambassador Caitlin Buttenshaw; local tourism identity Grant Cassidy; Livingstone Shire Council 2017 Citizen of the Year Peter Conaghan; Molly Cottam; Cameron Cuskelly; Ellysia Davis; local businessman, volunteer and community leader Timothy Griffin; Lachlan Hinchliffe; Jackson Hughes; Cienna Joyner; a young local dad, journalist, cancer survivor and master Cancer Council fundraiser, Aaron Kelly; Olympic gold medallist and International Hockey Federation 2014 World Hockey Player of the Year, Kookaburra Mark Knowles; master archer and remarkable shooter David Malone; young traditional owner, native title holder and Darumbal man Antonio Mann; junior boxer Drayden Marou; local parkrun organiser Craig McCormack; Commonwealth Games champion and one of Rockhampton's greatest athletes, cyclist Kerri Meares; representing children who have endured significant childhood trauma, Suzanne Messmer; Glenmore State High School student, grey wolf and Australian Scout medallion recipient at scouts, Kaylah Pettel—Kaylah is currently striving for her Queen's Scout medallion in Venturers and is completing level 1 in abseiling, has completed a 60-kilometre hike and bike ride throughout the Caves district and is also well known in her school as a peer

mentor and all-round achiever; Scott Neill, a local scouts group leader; Mathew O'Brien; Luke O'Donnell; local university student and athlete Jack Quinton; Bradley Richards; the adorable Alayna Schloss, who raises baby chickens and then sells them for \$5 each to raise funds for the RSPCA; Alayna's dad, Dion Schloss, who is an SES volunteer; former Camp Quality area manager Darryl Schneider; Commonwealth Games champion and racing identity Kenrick Tucker; university professor Corneel Vandelanotte; and Anglicare volunteer and board member Diana Wode.

On behalf of the whole community, I congratulate all of our baton bearers and wish them all the very best of luck.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Before I call the next speaker, I think we need to clarify that when you get to your feet you need to seek the call from the Speaker and then I will invite you to speak.

Southern Downs Electorate, Tourism

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (2.50 pm): I rise to speak about tourism in my electorate of Southern Downs. It is a very important topic for us indeed. I am always very happy to give a plug to the small businesses that run the tourism industry in Southern Downs because they work very hard, they employ people and without any certain outcome they invest to create prosperity and jobs. It is impossible to mention all of them in one speech, but I will give some examples.

As I said in my first speech, my electorate is a terrific place with wonderful communities and a unique and remarkable landscape. It comprises the areas of the Goondiwindi and Southern Downs regional councils and parts of the Toowoomba Regional Council. With such a large area covered, anyone who comes to Southern Downs can be assured of a varied and enjoyable experience, particularly if they are keen to get away from the city and spend some time in the country.

In the west around Goondiwindi visitors can enjoy a tour with Goondiwindi Cotton of the town and the nearby cotton industry, sample the fare at Inglewood olive grove or perhaps go on a bush tucker tour with Cheryl Moggs. Afterwards, dinner at the Townhouse restaurant and a stay at the Border Motel is a great way to end the day.

Up in Millmerran visitors can go to the outstanding Millmerran historical association museum. I have been there myself and it is a treat to go to. This year on 6 and 7 October the Australian Camp Oven Festival will be held in Millmerran, which I will definitely be pleased to attend.

The Granite Belt is well known for its fine food and myriad wineries. People can go for a day to Girraween National Park and stop off at Just Red Wines, Jamworks Gourmet Foods or Sutton's Farm juice factory and cidery at Thulimbah. A dinner at the McGregor Terrace Food Project or O'Mara's pub or the Barrel Room Restaurant at Ballandean is also a great way to fill one's stomach. People could stop off afterwards at Grovely House Bed and Breakfast, 31 The Rocks or Alure Stanthorpe.

In Warwick the Jumpers and Jazz festival in July attracts thousands of people every year. People can catch a ride with the Southern Downs Steam Railway, admire Killarney's spectacular Queen Mary Falls and try fishing on the Condamine River or Leslie Dam. They are both very well stocked thanks to the amateur fishermen in Warwick. People could have dinner at Clippers restaurant and retire to the tranquillity of R on the Downs at Swanfels.

I am very proud to represent an electorate with so many innovative and hardworking tourism businesses. I encourage everyone to come to Southern Downs and experience what we have to offer. I will do all I can in this place to advance the interests of the tourism industry and the people who work in it.

Liberal National Party

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.53 pm): I rise today to condemn the LNP's lack of care or consideration for the people of Queensland and especially the people of Central Queensland. It beggars belief that the member for Nanango and the federal member for Flynn have been silent on two major issues that directly impact the lives of Central Queenslanders and Gladstone people alike—the federal government's plan to strip Queensland of \$1.6 billion in GST revenue and the federal government's plan to skip out on the bill owed to Queensland hospitals, including the Gladstone Hospital in my electorate.

If the member for Nanango and the federal member for Flynn gave a damn about Central Queensland, they would be standing up to their mates in Canberra and telling them that this is not the Queensland way, this is not a fair go for all and you cannot make a deal to pay for something and then

skip out on the cheque. The Turnbull government asked the Productivity Commission to report about changes to the GST carve-up to the states and the draft report has Queensland set to lose out big time. The most likely scenario on the table is \$1.6 billion lost annually. That translates to 5,000 fewer teachers, 5,000 fewer nurses, 3,000 fewer police officers and over 1,100 fewer firefighters.

We all know that the LNP is used to cutting essential services to Queenslanders. The member for Nanango sat by and said nothing while the Turnbull government took an axe to Queensland's bottom line. Where was the member for Nanango and the federal member for Flynn when the Productivity Commission was coming up with a recommendation to remove billions of dollars from Queenslanders? Nowhere.

On top of that, Queensland is currently owed over a billion dollars for health services—services already delivered. That is not called fiscal responsibility; that is called burying one's head in the sand and hoping the problem will go away. It is not going to go anywhere. I will stand up and fight for our fair share so that the people in my electorate do not have to go without. Central Queensland could lose \$39 million from our health service. That equals 424 cataract and lens procedures, 299 hernia repairs, 214 hip or knee operations—14,263 medical procedures in total.

Despite this, the Palaszczuk government has continued to invest in the health care for people in my region and in Gladstone. Our new step-up step-down facility to assist mental health patients in my region will open this year. Construction of the new accident and emergency department is well underway at Gladstone Hospital and we have employed more nurses and more doctors. The reality is that this cannot be sustained while the federal government continues to cut, cut, cut. The question for the member for Nanango and the federal member for Flynn is simple: are they on Queensland's side or not?

Broadwater Electorate



Mr CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (2.56 pm): I want to make a brief contribution on what has clearly been the most important issue raised by my constituents in the first few months I have had the great privilege of being their representative. It will come as no surprise, based on the name of the electorate, but it is far and away the Broadwater that is dominating cause for concern—and great admiration—for many residents.

I want to start by acknowledging the great relationship that we have formed with the staff at the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. They have been very responsive to the issues that we have raised. I want to particularly thank CEO Hal Morris and his troops. It is great that the minister is in the chamber because it is an area under his jurisdiction and I am most keen for him to assist in the weeks, months and years ahead to make sure that we can get the most out of what I think is an incredibly beautiful section of open water. I have said it before, but I truly believe that that section of water—that magical Broadwater—can be to our tourism what the harbour is to Sydney and the laneways are to Melbourne. It is a beautiful, magical point of difference, but we need to do more.

If I had to list the few issues that far and away outweigh all others, it would be these. The first one is dredging. People want to see more frequent dredging. Access in and out of there is becoming problematic. There is some money that has been set aside for dredging in the area around Paradise Point. I want to see that come to fruition and I want to see that ongoing. To those who say that dredging is somehow environmentally unsustainable, I say it is not true. It can be done in a sustainable way. That has been proved for many years. I want to see that continue so that people—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take that interjection. I want to see that continue so that people can enjoy this beautiful area. Boating is a huge part of our lifestyle.

The second issue is around speed and signage. We want to see better signage. We want to have the speed limits understood and enforced.

The third issue, and probably the one that has been raised the most, relates to houseboats in that area. There are rules in place, but the rules are either not strong enough or they are being flouted. One way or another, something needs to be done. I believe the solution is to make sure that we have a single point of authority and accountability. I think that should be the Gold Coast Waterways Authority so that there is no buck-passing—no saying, 'This is for the water police,' 'This belongs to Fisheries,' 'This is for the council.' There needs to be one single point of authority.

We should not have a situation where we have people living on boats full-time and moving around to flout the laws. There are people with fowls on boats. There are people who are doing nothing with waste. That is a real environmental issue. I would like to see this House take action on it.

Marsden State High School

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (2.59 pm): I rise today to acknowledge the incredible work of Marsden State High School and celebrate the achievements of their hospitality students. Fifty high school students from across Logan, including 40 from Marsden State High School, have been selected to be part of the Commonwealth Games athletes village catering team. Their partnership with Delaware North has meant that students will be working under the professional guidance of head chef Hamish Rodwell as part of a four-week, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Earlier this month I had the opportunity to visit Marsden State High School and meet with some of the future master chefs. It was wonderful to see firsthand the results that the school's hospitality program is producing. Their kitchen skills and their cooking were fantastic and, most importantly, the students were brimming with pride and were so excited to be part of the upcoming Commonwealth Games.

One hospitality student Jasmyne Pinnow, aged 16, said that the skills she gained are setting her up for the future and that she hoped to continue in the hospitality and tourism industry after she left school. We know that the tourism industry in Queensland is going from strength to strength and has been a big part of creating the 160,300 new jobs that have been created since the Palaszczuk government was first elected.

The Commonwealth Games will open doors to some fantastic opportunities for our young Queenslanders, inviting students not only to be involved in such a significant event but also to give them the experience of working with professionals in a fast paced environment. This incredible opportunity was possible because of TAFE Queensland. TAFE Queensland is providing world-class education and training skills to give our young Queenslanders the experience they need to build a successful career.

The Palaszczuk government is giving our school based trainees the skills they need to provide real pathways into jobs. We want to see more young people in training, not fewer. Training and upskilling Queenslanders are absolutely vital to making sure we continue to have the largest jobs growth in the country. I would again like to commend the students at Marsden State High School. I wish them all the very best for the upcoming games. I cannot wait to go back to the high school after the games and hear from them about their wonderful experiences catering for our athletes and their families at the village.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 695.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.02 pm), continuing: I will continue listing my volunteers and supporters. My next volunteer is an interesting group—the Life of Riley band members. I might be one of the few members of parliament who lists a band as one of their volunteers. I will tell members their names: Maurie McGuire, my old schoolmate; Shane Hogan, Reg Bal, Jim Ward and Gary Mears. I would also like to thank the manager of the Ipswich Community Youth Service, Amanda Margerison; Pat and Bernadette Lenihan; Pat and Renae Lenihan; Father Steven Bliss; Pastor Fred Muys; my good friend Nikki Boyd, the member for Pine Rivers; Ray Devantier; Dennis Madden; John and Jeanette Dredge; all the staff at CSI, North Ipswich; and Ipswich city councillors Andrew Antonioli, Cheryl Bromage, Charlie Pisasale, Kerry Silver, Kylie Stoneman and Wayne Wendt. I am proud of my red army, so I am proud to stand here today listing their names.

I would also like to thank my electorate officers Chris Condon and Darren Baldwin, who do the hard work not only when I am at the office but also when I am not at the office. I would also like to thank all of my parliamentary Labor caucus colleagues re-elected to the 56th Parliament. I would particularly like to acknowledge the new members of the parliamentary Labor caucus who gave us what we did not have in the first term of the Palaszczuk government—a majority government.

In saying my thankyou's, I also need to say a big thank you to those Labor members who proudly stood for Labor seats right across Queensland at the last election but who were unsuccessful in being elected to this House. I would like to single out some of those Labor candidates who stood for the 2017

state election for seats near my electorate of Ipswich West: firstly, my former partner Nicole Lincoln, who ran for the seat of Lockyer; Ben Rankin, who ran for the seat of Nanango; Evan Jones, who ran for the seat of Moggill; Dave Kerrigan, who ran for the seat of Gregory; and Kerry Shine, who ran for the seat of Toowoomba North. I was pleased to give them all the support that I could. I just wish we could have had a better result.

Mr Speaker, I am mindful of the history of our parliament and those former members of the electorate of Ipswich West, former members like Vi Jordan, daughter of a railway fitter, former student of Brassall State School and Ipswich Girls' Grammar School, and an associate of the London College of Music and Trinity College London. In 1966 she was first elected to state parliament but, in doing so, she was the first female member of the state Labor caucus. She served as a state member until 1974.

I would also like to acknowledge Don Livingstone, who represented Ipswich West from 1989 until 1996 and again from 2001 to 2006. With the assistance of his family, Don got out of his sick bed to give out how-to-vote cards for me at the 2015 election. I am also pleased to acknowledge my very good friend Wayne Wendt, who represented Ipswich West from 2006 to 2012. Wayne has moved into local government and is now the Deputy Mayor of the Ipswich City Council, representing division 7, which is in the electorate of Ipswich West, and is doing a great job for Ipswich.

Representation of the area occupied by the electorate of Ipswich West goes back to the very first Queensland parliament in 1860, when George Thorn Snr served as the member for West Moreton from 1860 to 1863. Remarkably, four of his nine children followed in his footsteps and went on to become members of the Legislative Assembly. His eldest son, George Henry Thorn, served as premier of the colony of Queensland from June 1876 until 8 March 1877.

On my re-election to represent the electorate of Ipswich West in this House, I was honoured to be elected as secretary of the parliamentary Labor caucus and appointed to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. As I did when I was a councillor for the Somerset Regional Council and during my first time as the member for Ipswich West, I will continue to serve my constituents to the very best of my abilities. My focus will be on addressing unemployment in Ipswich West, improving educational facilities, community policing and improving public infrastructure. Again, I would like to thank all of those people who assisted me in being re-elected as the member for Ipswich West. My victory was their victory. I hope I do them proud. I will forever be in their debt.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the honourable member for Mansfield, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.07 pm): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and may I extend to you my warm congratulations for your election as Speaker of the House. I am confident that you will preside over the deliberations in this chamber with wisdom, forbearance and respect for the time-honoured conventions that have served this parliament so well in the past.

I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which this great building stands. I particularly acknowledge two parliamentary colleagues: the member for Algera and the member for Cook. It is a significant moment in the history of this parliament and in the history of our state when our House of democracy is representative of the people we serve. Hearing the member for Cook's maiden speech last month reminded me of the strength and courage that the member for Algera and the member for Cook possess. It also underscored for me the responsibility that governments have to ensure the human rights of all citizens. Every decision has consequences, and lifting outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be at the forefront of every decision we make. We must take seriously our responsibility to advance reconciliation in each motion, in each debate, in each bill.

As a new member of the 56th Parliament, at a time when the human rights of all Queenslanders are set to be enshrined in legislation, the gravity of this moment is not lost on me. This is truly a great moment in history, and I am proud and excited to be here for it.

It is also a historic moment when positions of great responsibility in this state are held by women. Much has been said about the leadership styles of women and men, and many have theorised about how the world would be different if women held the reins of power. Now with female leaders on both sides of the House we feel many eyes upon the parliament. A window of opportunity has been cast open for the women of Queensland, and there is a real chance to challenge the traditional understandings of leadership. There is an opportunity to approach complex issues, such as the impact

of technology on employment, factors affecting our future economic and social prosperity and domestic violence, differently and to forge a new discourse. We trust that the legacy of this parliament will stand to credit us all for years to come, and will inspire the dreams and journeys of future generations of Queensland women and men.

I congratulate all new members of this House, my parliamentary Labor colleagues and, in particular, the Premier, the Deputy Premier and ministers on achieving majority government. Contest is a vital part of our democracy, but there is also much to be said for stability. I believe most Queenslanders share my optimism that a fertile ground for progress has been laid.

Like other new members of this chamber, I find myself in this House because the good people of my electorate of Mansfield have placed their faith in me to represent them. I do not take their faith for granted, and I intend to spend every day as their local member representing their interests both in this place and in the wider community.

The electorate of Mansfield, like many seats in the south-east corner and, indeed, around the state, has changed greatly over the past half-century. Encompassing suburbs from Mount Gravatt in the north-west across to Burbank in the east and down to Rochedale in the south, Mansfield still retains some of the semirural land that once characterised this area but has largely been populated with urban residential development. Significant gentrification is abound.

Best described as middle-class aspirational, Mansfield is an area that many families have chosen because of the lifestyle it offers, excellent access to high-quality health services, good public transport and an abundance of recreational facilities. We are proudly multicultural with almost one-third of all residents in the electorate born overseas. The 20 outstanding schools in the electorate offer residents a great choice of both state and non-state options for their children, and it is often referenced as the reason families move to the area. I note that my electorate is home to Sinai College, the only Jewish school in Queensland. Cultural diversity is well and truly alive in the southern suburbs of this great city and we are all the richer for it.

The concerns, interests and hopes of my constituents are not dissimilar to those experienced in other suburban electorates. The decisions that are made by governments at all levels are felt in communities like mine, and decisions made with care, respect and foresight are what the people of Mansfield ask of those who they select to represent them.

Progress is inevitable, and for the most part it is beneficial for the people of Mansfield, but, of course, there are costs associated with progress and the thoughtful management of change is what makes a difference to people's lives. While new development has brought economic prosperity, my constituents rightly want to ensure sustainable development, livability, the maintenance of green space and that essential infrastructure keeps pace with growth. We eagerly await Cross River Rail, but in the meantime traffic remains an issue of concern for many residents. I sincerely thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for his ongoing attention to this issue, which has already resulted in reduced heavy vehicle traffic in the area.

In this country, lamenting the quality of politicians is something of a national pastime. A common criticism over recent years has been that politicians are increasingly out of touch with our general communities, that the political class does not live in the real world and that politicians have never held a real job. Public life is, or should be, a calling, and for some the calling comes earlier than for others.

There can be no doubt, though, that diversity of real-world experience enriches the perspectives of any elected official and helps one to better understand the needs, aspirations, frustrations and fears of the constituency we represent. Real-world experience tells one to tread thoughtfully, to listen, to ask questions in order to critique and to better understand, to resist punitive measures in response to complex matters, to act discerningly, to consider consequences and to appreciate the impact that our decisions will have on real people.

Prior to my election I had devoted my entire working life to education. I began my teaching career with my head full of ideas and my heart full of passion as a health and physical education teacher at Boonah State High School. After gaining experience as a teacher and an adviser on curriculum and education policy, I took on my first school leadership role as head of department at Beaudesert State High School and was subsequently appointed deputy principal. In 2006 I was appointed foundation principal of the newly established Illaweena campus of Stretton State College. From there I took on a series of principalships at Wellington Point, Bremer State High School in my home town of Ipswich, Glenala State High School and my most recent position proudly as principal of Cavendish Road State High School.

The Cavendish Road State High School community and I are proud of many achievements, including the introduction of philosophy from years 7 to 12 where students learn how to think critically and creatively, the substantial improvement in student performance and an increased enrolment from 1,250 students to nearly 1,900 students today.

I have served with wonderful people and have been honoured to have my achievements recognised through several formal awards, including admission as a Fellow to the Australian Council for Educational Leaders in 2014, studying abroad as the recipient of a Churchill Fellowship in 2015, and a scholarship to study at Harvard University in 2016. These experiences position me strongly to support the needs of my schools and to respond to the aspirations of my families.

It was my grandparents who first insisted on an education. Education, they said, was insurance for a better standard of living than they endured. Education was not something that my mother, who is in the gallery today, nor my grandparents were afforded. It was simply out of reach for my maternal grandmother, a war widow raising her family of five. On my paternal side, my grandmother was one of nine Irish Catholics who took great pride in rearing her family and my grandfather was an Ipswich railway worker. They both sacrificed all to send their children to local Catholic schools in Ipswich. Equally over the years I have witnessed the sacrifices that countless parents and grandparents have made not only financially but in time, effort and emotional support to nurture their children's education in our Catholic, state and independent schools alike.

My move from educator to politician has been an interesting one, not least because while teaching is widely held as a noble profession my parents suggest the same may not be true for politics. Yet any experienced teacher or school leader knows too well that the decisions made by politicians are felt at every level of the school and community.

Decisions made by us can be strings to uplift us or strictures to disempower us. Being a teacher is not a preparation for political life because teachers know the value of education. That is something that most people in our community know. Rather, it is a preparation because, through a teacher's eyes, you see all of the factors outside of the school gate that impact upon families that either help or hinder their child from participating fully in education. Public education is the pillar of our democracy. It is the only medium to progress greater equality for all Queenslanders regardless of one's birthplace, nationality, disability, religion, socioeconomic status or gender. It really is the great social equaliser, but only if it can be participated in on an equal basis.

Throughout my life, I have been highly attuned to politics. A working class family like mine feels the impact of political decisions and it certainly feels the difference between ill-conceived changes and thoughtfully crafted reforms. Whitlam's abolition of university fees allowed me to become the first person in my family to complete a tertiary education, twice. Proudly, my two siblings, Larelle and Craig—and Larelle is in the audience today—followed, twice. Keating's compulsory superannuation allowed my father to retire with income security. Hawke's Medicare now provides my family with access to free, world-class health care. The legacies of good governments are felt for generations, and it is a source of pride to me and all members of the Australian Labor Party, some of whom are in the gallery today, that the most significant reforms in our lifetimes have been from Labor governments.

Unfortunately, as a school leader, I was also witness to the unintended consequences of poor decisions made by an ill-informed government. The impact of past government cuts to TAFEs was devastating, not only for those employees but for the current and prospective students in my community who suddenly had their ticket to a better life revoked.

As a principal, the decision to suspend or exclude a student from a state school always weighs heavily because one needs to ensure the safety and good order of the school community whilst also considering the life consequences for the young person facing the disciplinary consequence. When funding was cut from the community programs that had allowed me and my fellow principals—and there are 1,250 of them across Queensland—to ensure that an excluded student, who typically would be a young person with a complex and difficult home life, would have support for their safety, wellbeing and ongoing learning while not at school, that decision could no longer be driven solely by the factors it should.

While parliaments should focus their efforts on areas of their own responsibility, in this era of unprecedented constitutional creep I cannot avoid commenting also on the federal negotiations underway in relation to funding for our schools—Catholic, state and independent. At their best, schools are the beating heart of the community. The benefit of a school's work extends beyond its students to

their families and our Queensland towns. When you cut the blood flow to a school, you cut the lifeblood to a community. Despite the rhetoric, educators—and there are many in the audience—know who values education, not from slogans, but from policies, projects and decisions that we see when a Labor government is in office. For the sake of our students and the future economic and social prosperity of this state of Queensland, I urge all members in this House today to fight relentlessly for our schools to receive the funding they need to do what they do best.

Another of the unexpected lessons learnt from a career in school leadership is that politicians are not all bad and that some of them are in fact very fine people. It was during my time as principal of Glenala State High School that I first met the honourable member for Inala, now the Premier of Queensland. From the moment we met, I admired her ability to lead a complex community intelligently and with grace, dignity and integrity. She was of the community and for the community. She saw the good in its people and took every avenue available to her to improve people's lives.

I quickly found that the Premier and I shared two things: an intolerance for prejudice against our community and a crusade against low expectations. Glenala was a school of 400 students from 24 different nationalities—the most prevalent population being Pacific Islander students, followed by Australian Aboriginals and Vietnamese. Glenala students were drawn from the lowest socioeconomic indicator and quartile, and many students were living in postcodes that are identified as some of the most disadvantaged in our country. Abhorrently, in January 2011, soon after I started my principalship, the popular press chose to single out Glenala as the fifth worst attending school in Queensland and, sadly, in 2012 it was flagged for potential closure.

Few of former president George W Bush's lines are memorable for the right reasons, but a notable exception was his statement about 'the soft bigotry of low expectations'. When I worked with universities to provide tertiary experience programs for students from my feeder schools, I had a nine-year-old girl sadly repeat the advice that she had been given: 'University isn't for people like us.' Low expectations allow people in positions of power and privilege to be comfortable with keeping children, families and communities in poverty. High expectations set the challenges that nurture hope and inspire confidence. High expectations force people to rise up and deliver. It is hard to turn a ship against this current of low expectations, but it can be done when a leader genuinely believes in the children, their families and the community they serve.

By the end of 2012, the then Prime Minister of Australia recognised Glenala as one of the most improved schools in the country as measured by student achievement. It is now a bustling and thriving school of more than 820 students, a community of immense pride and hope, one that I continue to be proud of. School leadership is a challenge and the wins are sweet fruit, because when you are deeply invested in a school you become part of the fabric of that community.

Some moments in life irrevocably change a person. I have to say the morning of 24 August 2011, when I was awoken by a phone call at 4 am to say that three of my students could possibly have been killed in a house fire at Logan, was a moment that changed my life. Glenala State High School deeply grieved the loss of those three beautiful children from our community, and our hearts were heavy with sadness for their family who lost 11 members.

Leading a school and a community through an indescribably tragic event was the hardest thing I have ever done. I was embraced and supported at every step of the way by the two local members who I am now proud to call my parliamentary colleagues—the member for Inala, the Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, who has just entered the chamber, and the federal member for Oxley, Milton Dick. I will never forget what they both did at that time, quietly and respectfully, to support me and lead with me the extended community through a time of unimaginable sadness, and I thank them.

There are others to whom I owe special thanks. To my campaign management team, who are in the gallery, Ian Lang, Tricia Ryan, Richard Cleal, Shane Warren, Adam Obeid, Paul Childs and Bisma Asif, thank you for being great strategists and true believers. We were all grateful for the intelligent and considered leadership of my campaign director, Sarah Mawhinney, now the assistant state secretary of Queensland Labor and one of two women who now lead our great state Labor team.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mansfield, your time has expired and I have allowed some additional courtesies of time. Would you like to move that, subject to my approval, the remainder of your speech be entered into *Hansard*?

Ms McMILLAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to move that the remainder be heard. There are only a couple more paragraphs.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I am unable to give you a lot more time. It is almost two minutes over.

Ms McMILLAN: Mr Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in Hansard.

Leave granted.

The remainder of the speech was not incorporated.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the honourable member for Buderim, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech in this place and it should be listened to with the courtesy reserved for such occasions.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (3.33 pm): It is truly an honour to stand in this House today as the newly elected member for Buderim. Through my words today I hope to impart some understanding as to my motivations and what I hope to achieve for the people of Buderim. I am privileged to have the honour of representing an electorate as vibrant as Buderim.

The electorate encompasses the suburbs of Sippy Downs, Mountain Creek, Tanawha, Palmview and Buderim on the Sunshine Coast. My wife, Anna, and I were drawn to Buderim because it had a sense of community that was evident from the moment we drove into town. This is exemplified by the Buderim War Memorial Community Association, which was established in 1945 to serve as a living memorial. Rather than build a concrete cenotaph to remember the war dead, the Buderim War Memorial Community Association exists to provide the opportunity for everyone in the community to contribute service in order to commemorate the sacrifice of those who have served and, in doing so, to build a vibrant and supportive community. I am not aware of any other situation where this exists and in my opinion that notion is something that we should cherish.

While many would recognise Buderim and its surrounds as being a highly sought after place to retire, what may be less well known is the fact that Buderim is a hub for education. Some of the largest and best performing public secondary schools in the state are found in the electorate, namely, Mountain Creek State High School and Chancellor State College. Additionally, the University of the Sunshine Coast is located in the Buderim electorate and has fast become a centre of excellence that provides a viable option to allow students to complete their tertiary studies on the coast, thereby reducing the drift of talent away to Brisbane and other centres.

The Buderim electorate is an area of great growth, with considerable expansion occurring in Palmview where 16,000 new residents are expected to set up home in coming years. Such growth presents both opportunities and challenges. Our region needs investment in rail and roads so that residents have a viable option to get to and from Brisbane in a timely manner. We need continued investment in our schools as they become increasingly constrained in terms of space.

In order to deliver for our electorates, I believe that we need to work across all levels of government. Since being elected I have been heartened to work with my local councillors, Councillor Christian Dickson and Councillor Ted Hungerford, both of whom have shown a desire to work proactively so that we can deliver for our respective constituencies and solve local problems. Similarly, the work that Ted O'Brien and Andrew Wallace have been doing in their capacity as my federal LNP colleagues has been exceptional. The advocacy and teamwork evident in their approach to the CoastConnect fast rail proposal and the Land 400 bid has been an example to the rest of us.

The course that I have charted to arrive at this destination today has been one of service and it has been through that course that I have been drawn to this place. I am here because I believe in putting my hand up to get the job done rather than just complaining from the sidelines. My father, Graeme, was an officer in the Australian Army. First and foremost he was an infantryman. The role of the infantry is to seek out and close with the enemy, to kill or capture him, to seize and hold ground and to repel attack, by day or night regardless of season, weather or terrain. It is a difficult job and it is not suited to all. Those who serve as infantrymen take great pride in adhering to the motto 'duty first'. It was through this lens that my understanding of right and wrong, of service above self-interest, of loyalty and commitment was forged while watching my father's example.

My mother, Leah, provided the kind of loving and caring family that, sadly, many do not experience within our society. Mum's family were graziers and drovers and she never lost her connection with the bush. I learnt much from Mum's stories of stock camps and stations, stories about my grandfather Reg throwing cleanskin mickeys or of my grandmother dealing with a rogue king brown in the shed that was their home. From my mother I acquired a love of animals and I learnt resilience, determination and humility. She was a beautiful and loving mother and I know she would have made an amazing grandmother to my children.

In 2006 my mum was diagnosed with breast cancer. She fought hard to beat that insidious disease and we thought she had. Unfortunately, at the start of 2009 it was back and we received the devastating news that it had spread throughout her body. It was at this point I first became involved in conservative politics. With Mum terminally ill, she was a frequent visitor to the Nambour Hospital emergency room. The parlous state of Queensland's healthcare system at the time meant she often had to wait for hours upon hours in an emergency room suffering unnecessarily from the effects of a disease that would ultimately take her from us at Christmas 2009. It was then that my anger grew towards public policy and a healthcare system that was in crisis and had failed my mother.

From the outside I witnessed a state that could not even get the basics right. In the Mary Valley where my family live I witnessed the Traveston travesty where government decision-making on a whim had resulted in upheaval and uncertainty for honest, hardworking families who just want government to get out of their way so that they can get on with their business.

As a young man I read a book written by Ion Idriess titled *The Cattle King*, which details the life of Sir Sidney Kidman, one of Australia's great cattlemen. That book was to play a significant part in shaping my aspirations and goals as a young man. The book was the inspiration for me to pursue a career in the beef industry. After I finished my studies I worked as a stockman in the US and on cattle stations in the Northern Territory. Sitting around the camp fire out at camp I soon realised that it was very unlikely I would ever achieve my dream of owning a cattle station while I earned \$1,500 a month, so I found myself drawn to another albeit less satisfying career in finance. Like many who have been raised in a family where a culture of military service pervades, I had resisted enlisting in the Army for some years. However, I inevitably found myself drawn to the military and I enlisted in 2004.

I quickly came to learn that service in the military is more than just a job; it is a way of life. As I have travelled through the election process I have reflected on my past service in Afghanistan, East Timor and during the search and rescue operation in Grantham during the horrific 2011 floods. I have reflected on the sacrifices of those who have served and those who are currently serving, and I cannot help but consider how military ethics and politics are related.

I believe that the culture of service and sacrifice that exists within our service men and women is the same approach that we must demand of our elected representatives. The best of our politicians sacrifice daily in that they attend community events nearly every single night, spend long hours doorknocking and engaging with the community they represent, or work relentlessly to improve the situation of one of their constituents who is not getting a fair go.

Military service has taken me to countries far less fortunate than ours. I have seen malnourished children in desperate hunger and I have seen men commit horrific acts against each other. These things change the way one views the world. As a consequence, I am passionate about looking after our military personnel, veterans and, most importantly, their families, because the things that we ask our military personnel to do are unlike any other job.

I want to take a moment to speak about an issue that I find personally very difficult to address, but it is nonetheless important. Most civilians do not understand why soldiers want to deploy. We want to deploy so that we can do our job for real, apply our training and see if we are up to the job. It is to be out there standing shoulder to shoulder with your mates in the harshest of environments and not letting them down.

In November 2012 I got the chance to deploy on a short-notice deployment to Afghanistan after another officer was wounded. I worked as part of a NATO Special Operations element and I worked closely with the US Special Operations Command Headquarters, which controlled all Special Forces in Afghanistan. Predominantly, my role meant facilitating raid and kinetic strike operations, and I was lucky enough to work with soldiers from many different countries.

I never felt that I was going to die in Afghanistan, but I often felt vulnerable. I recall one incident when we were in a small two-vehicle parole and one of our vehicles got bogged. We were getting reports of Taliban radio chatter discussing our predicament and we were very exposed. I remember US troops driving past and leaving us out there. In the end it was an Afghan army truck driver who bravely stopped to help. I remember being terrified as I bent down in front of him to do up the tow chain. I told the sergeant who was with me to cover me, as I was completely vulnerable. I will never forget how my heart raced as I knelt down in the cold mud before this stranger. In the end he was just a good Samaritan. I cannot speak in detail about my service over in Afghanistan, but some of the things that we saw will stay with me for life: images of children killed by the Taliban, suicide bomb attacks and US soldiers killed by the Afghan soldiers they had been mentoring.

I returned to Australia on Anzac Day 2013. When I got home I had leave and my wife, Anna, arranged for us to go on a cruise, as she had correctly identified that being around airports might not be such a great idea. It turns out that trapping me in a boat with 2,000 people for a week was not such a great idea either. I found myself being hypervigilant and aggressive, and being in close proximity to others meant that I was constantly on edge.

At home I found it hard to reconnect with Anna and I found myself yearning to be back in Afghanistan. Although I was living with someone who loved and cared for me, I often felt isolated and alone. The images kept returning to me and my anger grew as I suffered nightmares. Driving was one of the hardest things to adapt to as I was constantly scanning for threats, and any trip was a battle to contain my aggression. On a drive from Cairns to Townsville one night with my sister I recall seeing movement on the side of the road. It clearly triggered something and I swerved violently in reaction. To tell you the truth, I had not even realised what had happened or how I had reacted until Katie told me to pull over.

Over time I began to wonder if I would be better off ending my life so that I would not be a burden to Anna and my family. I felt that I was not doing anything to make their lives better anyway. I was seemingly able to rationally think about the fact that it was a stupid thing to consider, but at that point I had worked out how I would do it. The only thing stopping me was the hurt that I would inflict on Anna and my family. By that point Anna saw that all was not right, and one afternoon she called in and cancelled her shift at the police to stay by my side. In hindsight, I know that Anna's decision to stay home that day saved me from doing something more drastic. It was her intervention that prompted me to seek help. Eventually I sought treatment with a psychologist who specialised in returned veterans and police. It was a difficult time for our marriage, and I was lucky to have Anna stick with me and help me to recover.

In 2014 we discovered that Anna was pregnant with our first child, Lara, and that was around the same time I felt like I was getting back to 100 per cent. Up until Lara's birth, despite all that I had gone through, if someone asked me to go back to Afghanistan I would have dropped everything and left in an instant. I craved the feeling of doing something more meaningful, of working as part of a team to achieve bigger goals and the adrenaline that comes with being involved in those really significant life-and-death events, but with the birth of Lara I learned that caring for a child more than satisfies that urge, because nothing is more important than my family. It is incredibly difficult for me to tell my story in this place, but I feel compelled to do so—not only to spread awareness about the danger of PTSD for our defence and emergency services personnel but also because too few men are willing to stand up and tell their stories of struggling with mental health. I want my son to grow up knowing that he should not be afraid to seek help if he ever needs it.

I want to mention my beautiful wife, Anneliese. Thank you for being my anchor over the years through both good times and bad. Your support during the long months before and during the election campaign was above and beyond what you committed to when we said our vows nearly eight years ago. I know that this journey has been just as demanding on you as it has been on me. You are a wonderful wife and mother, and convincing you that I was a good bloke was the best move I have ever made.

To my wonderful kids, Lara and Alex: you are not here to listen to me today but, hopefully, one day you will read this and realise that you are the reason that your mum and I strive to make our world a better place. Your innocence and unquestioning love are the fuel that drives me. I apologise for the nights when I will not be home to read you a story before bed, but you should know that I will be thinking of you both when I am away from you because I want the state that you grow up in to be a better place than it is now.

To my dad, Graeme: thank you for your selflessness and your commitment to family. The sacrifices that you and mum made to ensure that your kids had opportunities did not go unnoticed, and I will be forever grateful. Thank you for the long days and nights that you put in letterboxing, putting up signs and roadsiding. Thank you for your frank and honest advice and support. Your commitment to the LNP cause over a number of years has been exceptional, and it is something that you should be justifiably proud of.

To my sister, Katie: thank you for all your advice, guidance and know-how. Without your support, I am sure I would have fallen at the first hurdle. Your adept advice in relation to prosecuting local issue campaigns, social media engagement and general campaign knowledge was a massive unfair

advantage that I really appreciated. Knowing that I could trust someone with your knowledge and capacity meant that I could just concentrate on the grassroots job of knocking on doors and talking to constituents.

Thank you to my campaign managers, Adrian and Tim. Thanks for your tireless efforts in arranging roadsides, letterboxing, doorknocking, media and the multitude of other tasks that are required of a volunteer campaign manager in a high-profile fight like that for Buderim.

I know that I stand in this House because I am the LNP member for Buderim. My success is due to the efforts of those who share my belief in the values espoused by the LNP. I acknowledge the contribution of my predecessor, Steve Dickson, who was an active local member.

To the men and women of the Buderim SEC, many of whom are here today: thank you for your efforts in supporting me to take up the fight on your behalf. In particular I thank my campaign committee of Ted, Rob, Tommy, Marg, Rocky, Mike and John Tusler for their hard work standing on the side of the road manning market stalls, letterboxing and manning booths. It is because of people like Gillian, Don and Annie who spent days calling constituents across the electorate, along with Dougal, my father-in-law Peter, and Drew, who waved corflutes at roadsides day after day, that we were successful.

Mitchell, your advice and support throughout the campaign and during the lead-up were first rate. A special mention to John Quinney whose dedication to ensuring that the people of Buderim saw my face on a corflute at every available opportunity was nothing short of amazing. It will take quite a while to convince my daughter Lara that it is not normal to see dad's head plastered on a sign at every turn! John, for your sustained effort over a long period of time, thank you.

To my hardworking electorate office staff, Tim and Cherie: all of us in this place know that we cannot do this without our staff, so thank you. Clearly I do not have the time to list all who helped on my campaign, and I am sure if I do try I will miss someone; however, to those who assisted in any way I want sincerely to say thank you because it is the grassroots members who do the hard work that wins elections.

Tim Nicholls, the time and effort you committed to the last election was first-rate and for that I would like to say thank you. I would like specifically to thank Deb Frecklington for her support and advice. I know that many of the other new members share my appreciation of the time she spent supporting our campaigns.

To the people of Buderim, I commit to being an energetic, hardworking and constructive state member who puts the interests of the people of Buderim before my own. I will fight to ensure that we build the roads that we need so that we all can spend more time at home with those most important, our families. We need innovative solutions to our local traffic challenges. I commit to working tirelessly to resolve the mess that is our local traffic network. I will fight to ensure that our schools have the funding so our children can get a great education. I will never take a backward step in ensuring that our police are empowered so that they are able to protect our community. I will protect our unique and precious way of life at all costs. This is my commitment to the people of Buderim, and I expect to be held to account for my actions.

Mr SPEAKER: Whilst congratulations are ensuing, we have an issue with the audio system. We will need to reset the audio, so it is timely that we do that now before the next member's speech.

Members, thank you very much for your patience. We apologise for that break in proceedings and in particular apologies to the member for Macalister. I know your first speech is always a challenging moment. Having to wait even longer can be difficult.

Honourable members, before calling the honourable member for Macalister, I remind members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (4.03 pm): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I acknowledge the member for Buderim on his recent speech and his journey to this House. I also acknowledge your election to the esteemed position that you now hold. I want to start by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the Jagera and Turrbal peoples, and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. I also want to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which my electorate, Macalister, stands—the Yugambah speaking peoples. I want to acknowledge my local elders Aunty Eileen, Aunty Robyn and Ted Williams, whose support I can always count on for wisdom and guidance.

In compiling this speech, I note that members have quoted contemporary poets, traditional Australian balladeers and civil activists. As a point of difference, a military discussion normally starts with a quote from a strategist of note. In deference to my great-grandmother, a descendant of Prussian immigrants, and the Beenleigh community that was partly settled by Prussian immigrants, I shall quote Carl von Clausewitz—

If the mind is to emerge ... from this relentless struggle with the unforeseen, two qualities are indispensable: first, an intellect that, even in the darkest hour, retains some glimmerings of the inner light which leads to truth; and second, the courage to follow this faint light wherever it may lead.

I shall follow Clausewitz and head towards the light on the hill.

My road here is not the road most travelled. I stand here not as a result of a childhood dream or the culmination of some predictable career path. I stand here because I am compelled to be here—compelled because of the values my parents instilled in me, compelled because of my experiences in serving the people of Queensland and Australia, compelled because of the events in Queensland in 2013.

I am the eldest child of working parents. They have worked full-time for as long as I can remember and I stand here as a testimony to their dedication in raising a family while working full-time for the people of Queensland. They did this in the seventies before it was the norm, not out of some desire to make a statement or out of some sense of empowerment or liberation but because it was necessary because there were bills to pay and mouths to feed. I am sure my mother would have loved to have had the option to stay at home and raise her kids, but not every family has that luxury.

I would love to stand here and profess to have had some sort of idyllic childhood in a settled family home, but the reality was my family moved where housing was affordable or work was available—from the bayside to Bulimba to Ipswich to the western and southern suburbs of Brisbane and out to Roma, an endless array of state schools, uniforms, new friends and toys and clothes permanently stowed in tea chests.

With working parents you get to know your extended family from an early age. My grandparents, aunts and uncles were prominent people in my upbringing and some are here today and I share the achievement of standing here in this House with them. I thank them for their wisdom, guidance and, more importantly, their support throughout recent years as I started a family of my own.

I particularly want to acknowledge Mrs Fay Loughran—Nanna. She was one of my biggest supporters: as fair, compassionate and strong a woman as I have ever known, having raised six children and working in jobs ranging from book binder and shearers' cook to running a local corner shop. She then went on to have a hand in raising 14 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren—such a strong heart, but alas not one strong enough to make it to hear this speech today.

My family has always been a working one—loyal servants of Queensland, as were their parents. It is probably no stretch to realise that they instilled some values in me that most working Queenslanders would recognise as their own—work hard, strive to do your best, take every opportunity to improve yourself, look out for your mates, have compassion for those who do not have it as good as you, and call out injustice and unfairness when you see it. The belief was that if you followed these values you would do okay.

I think it was a great surprise to my family to see me enlist in the Army two weeks after turning 18, not having come from a military family—my first step down the path less travelled. Whether it was my parents' values shining through or a strong focus on Australian history that abounds in our family, my desire to serve our country, to wear the uniform adorned with the Rising Sun and all that that entails, was cemented the moment I pulled on my first pair of boots. Whilst it was my parents who instilled strong values, it was in the Army that I developed the skills to turn ideas and plans into well-thought-out actions—a skill that I use or have used every day since, just as I still put on my boots every day.

I would like to acknowledge the leaders I served under and from whom I learned, honed and refined my own leadership skills. I would like to acknowledge the soldiers I have had the privilege to lead and the senior NCOs whose patience and mentoring saved a young subbie's backside on more than one occasion. I give a shout out to my colleagues and peers with whom I served in various units in Queensland and on deployment.

There is also a small unit that I would like to acknowledge that has helped me personally as well as thousands of other uniformed personnel. Army mental health units work with military personnel to counter the wide and varied effects military service has on individuals. Our broader mental health strategy in Australia, particularly with regard to veterans, is not perfect. In fact, much more is needed

to be done. Whilst I languished and dealt with injuries from my service, the mental health support provided to me was first rate, but I acknowledge that that is not the experience of everyone. It was with their consistent and persistent support that I was able to climb out of my hole and continue achieving my personal and professional goals.

Defence families know the personal sacrifice that comes with service—the constant moving, the weeks and months away from home, the lack of communications and the missed family milestones. I know that my last deployment was difficult for my young family. I missed my daughter's first birthday, her first words and her first steps. I can never make up for that, but I have the fervent hope that my dedication to service will rub off on her as much as my parents' experiences and values did on me.

As much as a challenge officer training was, I felt I needed to be more active in my community and the confines of the barracks in the training area were just not enough. Please do not mistake me: to receive my Queen's commission at 20 years of age was certainly a proud achievement, but I am a Queenslander through and through, so I sought to devote myself to the service of my fellow Queenslanders.

At the time of my resignation last year, I had completed just over 20 years in the Queensland Police Service. I have to say that I have had an amazing career in blue, primarily due to the wonderful people I have worked with. It is a career filled with challenges: to see daily distressed Queenslanders experiencing the worst days of their lives, holding someone's hand at a crash site as life slowly seeped from them, and seeing a side of life and the living conditions of some Queensland families that the majority will remain blissfully ignorant of. But there have been many highlights: reuniting lost children with distraught families, bringing about a resolution to those whose lives are in turmoil, and having a positive interaction with at-risk children.

In my 20s I enjoyed the rough and tumble of front-line policing in places such as the Gold Coast, Logan and Brisbane and I will always consider myself a champion of general duties policing, but my passion is education. Upon completing my Bachelor of Education, I sought the opportunity to become a police recruit instructor. To stand in front of countless squads of recruits for almost a decade has been rewarding. Seeing Queenslanders, young and not so young, prepare to take on a career of service is an amazing experience.

My last secondment was with the Domestic, Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Unit—a small but dedicated team of sworn and unsworn staff who work to improve QPS procedures and practices in the field of domestic and family violence. That was rewarding work and I certainly hope that I have achieved something in some small way towards improving the work of a large organisation dealing with an enormous and often thankless task.

I would like to thank my colleagues and comrades on the thin blue line for their friendship and support over the years. It is truly an occupation that few on the outside can comprehend. I would also like to acknowledge all the administration and unsworn staff within the QPS. One thing that I have learned working at the pointy end, whether that be in green or blue, is that I could not have done my job without the work of the administrative, logistic and support staff. They allow the rest of us to get on and do our jobs.

I can honestly say that I have had an enjoyable professional career in uniform. It is also no stretch to say that—like most Queenslanders, I would imagine—I have spent most of my adult life happily ignorant of the goings-on in this House. That was until a series of events in 2013 that would again change the direction in which I would travel. As many Queenslanders will know and still acutely feel, in 2013 the Newman government brought about great anxiety and financial devastation to families throughout this state. It would appear that not everyone values the service that their fellow Queenslanders provide. In 2013, my mother, my father and my husband found that they were no longer needed or valued by an LNP government. Collectively, 100 years of service to the people of Queensland was discarded, disregarded and disrespected. My working parents, who sacrificed so much, who missed out on so many of their family's achievements, did so apparently without being valued by an LNP government.

When my family's livelihood and stability were threatened, I was compelled to take action. I was disabused of the notion that a life spent in service of this state is one valued by all. It is not enough just to value these things; they must be fought for. I am compelled to be in this House and I am compelled to fight for not only front-line services but also those who work in the background, out of the limelight and who are much maligned by those opposite. It was the sacking of over 14,000 Queenslanders in 2013 that compelled me to join the Labor Party.

The loss of income and job security for my family would not be the only defining moment of 2013. In October 2013, I would unexpectedly welcome my son. I say 'unexpectedly', because he was born a full three months early. He was the tiniest, most fragile living thing I had ever held. It would take days before I could hold him and months before he could feed through anything other than a tube. As one who had never experienced much hospital time, the world of ICU, ABCs and incubators is a frightening one, especially when alone and 10,000 miles from home.

I would like to take the opportunity that I have in this House to acknowledge the staff of the Countess of Chester Hospital neonatal intensive care unit, especially Dr Ravi Jayaram, Dr Steven Breary, unit manager Eiran Powell, and the neonatal nurses and midwives who cared for my boy as if he were their own. I carry each and every one of your names with me every day to remind myself that I have him with me because of you.

My boy and his fighting spirit is a source of pride and strength for me. Knowing that he has fought and won battles at an age where only machines could keep him alive, I stand here compelled to fight for him and the thousands like him who were born too soon. I will also fight for the families who came home from the hospital empty-handed and broken-hearted. In all honesty, my kids are doing okay. They are loved; surrounded by an extended family; they are fed, sheltered and clothed; and their education and health needs are looked after. In reality, they want for nothing, but I know and I have seen that so many kids are not as fortunate, are not as lucky in how fate determines their family's circumstances. Those kids do not get reliable meals, they are not being encouraged in education and far too many of them are exposed to violence in their homes. These are the Queenslanders—the future of Queensland—who I will fight for. It is with this attitude towards getting the required front-line services that I seek to represent the good people of Macalister. They deserve nothing less.

The new electorate of Macalister is based around the historic township of Beenleigh. Last year, we publicly celebrated the township's 150th birthday. I would like to acknowledge the work of locals who put together the three-day celebration: Rodney and Linda Hammel, Councillor Jennie Breen, the people of the Beenleigh Historical Village and my team at the Beenleigh Neighbourhood Centre. I thank them for their tireless work behind the scenes.

The Macalister electorate, which is based halfway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, is an area that is not only steeped in history but also provides opportunity. The Macalister electorate is home to Australia's oldest registered distillery, the Beenleigh rum distillery. The distillery, founded in 1884, is still distilling to this day and now invites tours and functions in its newly opened visitor centre. Next door to my electorate's oldest enterprise its newest enterprise will open, with Zarraffa's opening its head office and operations centre that will employ 50 staff. My electorate's other industry and major employer is the Teys meatworks. It employs 800 workers and is the second largest meat processor and exporter in Australia. Whether rum, coffee or good steak is your vice, we have it all in Macalister.

The defining natural features of the Macalister electorate are the twin rivers of the Albert and the Logan. It is from the twin rivers that the Eagleby Giants Junior Rugby League Football Club draw its dual blue guernsey colours. These rivers are great sources of recreation and commerce but, as we saw not one year ago, they can also be a source of fear and destruction. But when nature tests us, as is a Queensland trait, we rise to the challenge. The community rallied around the many residents, businesses and sporting clubs that found themselves under the slow moving but unrelenting inundation.

I am proud to stand here as the inaugural member for Macalister. I thank the electorate for their support and I know of their desire to see more investment in jobs and training in the local area. I acknowledge the thousands of families who choose to live and raise their kids in the area and assure them that I am here in this House to fight for quality education and health services in Macalister and surrounds.

Because my road to representing the good people of Macalister was not the standard route, there are people I need to thank and to acknowledge for their effort, their work, their guidance and their support that allows me to stand here today. I would like to acknowledge the support of the leadership and membership of United Voice: Mr Gary Bullock, who saw something worth backing; the United Voice field team led by Chris Moore; and the guidance and support of the fabulous Jeanette Temperley. Your constant visits to the Macalister campaign/crèche were always a great morale booster. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Peter Simpson for his support for me way back in 2015 and I wish him well as he tackles his next biggest campaign.

I would like to acknowledge those who started me on this path, pointed me in this direction and gave me a nudge: Evan Moorhead; the member for Waterford, Shannon Fentiman; and Wendy Turner. They encouraged me to take the leap from mere party member and volunteer to candidate. Whenever

I doubted whether a copper from Logan could take on a political role they insisted that this House, this government and Queensland is better served by having more front-line service workers in the parliament.

I would like to acknowledge my key campaign staff, Sean Leader and Michael Rose. Sean has guided me through the ins and outs of branches, the party, the rules and campaigning over the past three years. I have never met a person more devoted and passionate to this party and progressive politics. I would also like to acknowledge Margaret Keech, the former member for Albert, for her advice and guidance, and Senator Claire Moore, who always found time to come doorknocking with me and my team.

On the ground it is my local Beenleigh branch whom I have the greatest pleasure working for and with. Mrs Fran van Gilst, Marlene Ward and Betty Redmond have been my biggest supporters. From the moment I set foot in the branch in 2014 they have been in my corner and backed me every step of the way. Between them they have likely uttered my name more times than my mother. To be able to stand here is as much their achievement as it is mine. Thank you, ladies.

I would not be here without my family, some of whom are here today: my parents—all of them, my six younger siblings, my grandparents, my husband and my three beautiful children. There is a large number of women within the early childhood education and care sector who have also contributed greatly to the shaping of my children's lives.

To my daughters, whom I hope to lead by example, I seek to surround you with strong capable women and stronger values. My eldest daughter Cara has grown up around campaigns for most of her life and is now, coincidentally, a proficient phone banker in her own right. Whilst I do my best to teach her the essential life lessons, I am constantly reminded by her about the important ones. In 2015 when I ran but did not win it was my then four-year old who snapped me out of the malaise that often follows a loss. Quite the competitor, she understood that I did not win, but quietly asked, 'Did the red team win?' When I told her we had she told me there was nothing to be sad about.

To my son, whose presence I cherish every day: you may not have the life that you deserve but I will give you everything I can. I will fight for every opportunity to be available for you to achieve as much as you can. To my little Mack, you are in for one rollercoaster ride, but do not fret, we are experienced riders in this family. To my husband, on whose broad shoulders I stand: you have been my life's partner for well over 20 years and the voice behind me that urges me to do more, go further, go harder. I am here because you compel me, not to just say it but to do it. My journey here is not the standard one, but I submit that it is no less compelling.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the honourable member for Lockyer, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.28 pm): Mr Speaker and fellow members, congratulations on your election results. Most importantly, thank you to the people of the Lockyer electorate who have allowed me this wonderful opportunity to join you in this honoured place.

I congratulate our leader, the member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington; our deputy leader, the member for Everton, Tim Mander; and our shadow cabinet. Congratulations to the Premier, her ministers and team on forming government. I will be working hard to help claim those benches in October 2020.

To my predecessor, Mr Ian Rickuss, his wife, Ann, and family: thank you for your 14 years of service to our community. No-one could doubt you had our community's best interests at heart. I also recognise former member Tony Fitzgerald and his wife, Bernadette, who are still active in Gatton.

I make special mention today of Mr John O'Brien of Lockyer Valley Toyota fame. John has been a great supporter of mine. John and his family have been great contributors to the Lockyer in so many ways. John passed away last Friday morning. Ivy, Peter, Neale, Andrew, Ian, Sue, your family and friends, we offer our sincere condolences on your and our community's great loss.

As we all know, it takes a team to win an election. I sincerely thank Linton Brimblecombe and his wife, Melinda, whose manner and conduct both during and after preselection was evidence of the quality people they both are. To our campaign team, your commitment to our goal was inspiring. To Glen Pavey, our chairman: your political nous is far beyond your years. Your interest in the finer details of the campaign was testament to your management ability and skills.

To the former member of Ipswich West, Sean Choat, who, together with his wife, Nikki, and family gave us invaluable assistance in the new geographic area of Lockyer from day one: thank you. To our treasurer, Brett Qualischefski, and our secretary, Brad Jeffs: your efforts with a mountain of work were key to our success. To our team of doorknockers, phone callers, booth workers and scrutineers: thank you. To our prepoll team, including Andrew O'Brien, Ray Hawley, Mancel Robinson, Tina Fry and Heather Stegeman: you engaged with so many people and the results were spectacular.

Most national and state media reports had Lockyer written off, but we just focused on doing our best. Thank you to Senator Barry O'Sullivan, the federal member for Wright, Scott Buchholz, the members for Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South, as well as Alan and Tina Fry for your wise counsel. Thank you to the members for Clayfield, Nanango, Everton and Mudgeeraba for your many visits during the campaign and for your clear guidance and support. It was much appreciated. Thank you to Mike O'Dwyer and Lincoln Folo for your confidence and advice. A special mention goes to Lachlan Crane, who kept me on task and who, together with Geordie Felesina, produced our very popular *I'm from here* video.

To Mick and Pauline Brennan, Angie and Gary Campbell, Peter and Don Hooper, Bruce and Karen Peel, Ken Driver and David Locke: it was your unwavering friendship, encouragement and support that kept us focused on our final goal. To our family members who could help out and take up the challenge: John, Joan, Geoff, Lisa, Grant, Annette, Ree, Troy and Deb's mum, our Sandy, who was a tremendous support around the house in the lead-up to the election: thank you.

From my long professional career as a police officer, I have many people to thank. To Mick Brennan: as a leader, you are inspiring; as a person, there are few better. Mick always told us to help people as if they were our own family. It might have been just another crash or crime to us, but to the victims it was probably one of the biggest events of their lives. To my hierarchy over the years: thank you for your tolerance of my political interests. To my loyal station administrator, Sharyn Kirkwood—the real boss—my right-hand man Sergeant Dave Grave and Sergeant Michelle McTaggart: thank you for your ongoing support and operational leadership.

In 1997 I was proud to be elected to the Gatton shire council whilst continuing my policing career. That gave me a wonderful opportunity to be locking up baddies one day and contributing to growing social capital, delivering sport and recreation facilities, and running community events the next. In 2008, I was one of the first six councillors elected to the amalgamated Lockyer Valley Regional Council. During my 17 years on council, I gained a range of experience across the now \$52 million Lockyer Valley Regional Council business.

I was challenged both personally and professionally by the tragic floods of 2011, where many lives were lost in Toowoomba and Lockyer. Today, my thoughts are with the families and friends of those people. From the dual roles I played during those tragic events, I gained a great understanding of recovery and rehabilitation efforts. Our world is a complicated place. However, through my police and councillor roles I have developed skills to interpret legislation and understand its operational effect. I will continue to use those skills to advocate for solutions that meet the changing world and, importantly, our community's expectations.

My wife, Deb, and I have lived in the Lockyer Valley for almost all of our adult lives. Despite winning an award for the prerequisite for commissioned officer rank in 2010, we chose to stay in Lockyer and serve our rural community. In Lockyer, the spirit of the people is clear: they are typically Australian and they are fair dinkum; they do not want to be patronised; they want action and they deserve action. There is no doubt of the increasing customer and community expectation. People hate waste. They do not want to see their governments wasting anything, including time in the chamber, on less important issues.

There are many tremendous businesses and organisations in Lockyer. In 2017 the University of Queensland's Gatton campus celebrated its 120th anniversary. That world-renowned university contributes enormously to the diversity of our community and economy. Many advances are occurring in the agribusiness sector, with our next generation of well-educated farmers and innovative enterprises, including Qualipac, Koala Farms, Sutton Farms, the Linnan's Maragi farms, Rugby Farm and the Mulgowie Farming Company, together with Stanbroke Beef and Withcott Seedlings leading in their fields and serving national and international markets.

Despite those successes, the biggest issue facing our agricultural sector is the threat from drought and the lack of water security. As the bumper stickers read, 'Every family needs a farmer' and 'No farms, no food'. This is serious. Water management and infrastructure should be beyond political bounds. I urge the government to halt further volumetric allocations, because it will not work in Lockyer.

Our aquifer is not like a big tank sitting underground. For generations, farms have been bought and sold based on the availability of and access to water from a complex array of underground streams. Introducing volumetric controls per hectare places an artificial layer of equity, lifting the value of a farm that does not have access to water whilst dropping the value of land that does. That would have massive financial implications and close farms.

There is an alternative solution. With the Lockyer Valley and Somerset councils working together with industry, we are in the best place ever for the coordination and delivery of sustainable water solutions. I fully support the industry led Lockyer Water Users Forum and mid Brisbane River irrigators in their fights to secure water. When our community hears about 150 megalitres of water going over the spillway of Wivenhoe Dam or 60 megalitres of high-quality treated water being dumped in the bay, we are disgusted by that wasted resource. That has to change. We are the driest continent on earth. That available resource should be put to good use. The cost of the infrastructure would pay for itself in a few years through certainty of supply. Our councils secured federal funding to develop the case to bring some of that water to Lockyer, supplying farms along the way and filling Atkinsons Dam, Lake Clarendon Dam and Lake Dyer. Those underperforming irrigation schemes are something that we can leverage off immediately.

It is clear that, if our farms are not viable, every aspect of our lifestyle and economy is affected. With real water solutions, we will see more kids in our schools and more money being spent in our businesses. My key goal is to sustain our rural lifestyle. We must maintain our agricultural areas, but we must also stop congestion on the roads and ensure our communities feel safe and are healthy. Lockyer is part of the regional plan's western growth corridor, our population is growing and so is the traffic. The Brisbane Valley Highway and Warrego Highway run through Lockyer. People are dying on those roads. My experience as a forensic crash investigator tells me that we must invest in grade-separated overpasses that save people's lives. It is not a matter that we cannot afford those engineering solutions; it is a matter that we cannot afford not to. What price a life?

I turn to high-speed passenger rail from Brisbane. I was a member of the group that undertook the Gowrie to Grandchester rail study that forms the basis of the planned inland rail freight route, which was originally established for passenger rail. I have been part of the council that developed a clear position paper that instructed the government that the intended freight route might be a project of national significance, but it cannot be at the expense of Lockyer. We want a project that has no loss of community connectivity and no future flooding impacts, that must minimise the loss of good-quality agricultural land and, most importantly, the new infrastructure must deliver intermodal transport, including busways and bikeways and enable high-speed passenger rail from Brisbane to Toowoomba. That will help ease congestion on our roads.

My role as a police officer has shown me the real world, which many normal people do not see—the innocence lost at the hands of sickening acts of cruelty or torture or the countless families whose lives have been shattered by the sudden death of a loved one. I have seen many young productive lives lost to drug abuse that rips families and our communities apart.

The social and personal effect of domestic and other forms of violence is difficult to cope with. I was proud to have established the Lockyer Valley Says No to Violence initiative, changing the community conversation so people are saying we will not tolerate any forms of violence. Ownership by the community is key to fighting this problem. A huge cost to our communities is the intergenerational dependence on welfare. When able people feel it is their right to choose welfare payments over employment, the system is broken.

As a police officer I have seen firsthand that the criminal justice system is rarely effective as a deterrent. We need to deliver punishments that are. I am not just talking about bigger sentences. This is about sentences that have consequences for actions, where the victims are recognised and other liberties of the offenders' lives are affected.

It is my personal belief that all children should play sport or participate in some other extracurricular activity like dance, music or drama. If we invest early in our youth then they are far less likely to come to the attention of police as adolescents. Investment in proactive solutions for families and children from birth through their formative years, such as guidance officers, trauma officers and chaplaincy programs within schools, must be well funded. These programs change children's lives for the better. My experience as an adopt a cop, running blue light discos and encouraging youngsters to participate in community life has shown to me that this is the front line in our fight against drugs and crime. Academics agree—youth engagement is the opposite of addiction.

These investments need to run hand in hand with a non-tolerance approach to stop the scourge of the drug ice. If we think back to drink-driving 30 years ago, it was common practice. It is now socially unacceptable. The government or police cannot win the fight alone. We need to support rehabilitation and health programs whilst we stamp out criminal gangs who distribute. The problem has to be shared by the community. We need every parent, brother, sister, grandparent, friend and neighbour to give the clear message to our children that we do not tolerate ice—ice will kill you.

Despite the sad things I have just spoken about, we have many exciting things happening in Lockyer, including the intergenerational investment that is the Toowoomba second range crossing. Until now members of this chamber did not know that the Lockyer is the centre of your universe. Lockyer is bound by the Great Dividing Range to the west and the Main Range National Park to the south. Darryl Low Choy of Griffith University and chairman of the Regional Landscape and Open Space Advisory Committee will tell you that our Lockyer provides a significant amount of environmental services to South-East Queensland.

If it were not for the Lockyer electorate, the people of greater South-East Queensland would not have enough clean air or water, nor would they have much food to eat as we are recognised as the seventh most fertile valley in the world. We are just an hour's drive from Brisbane CBD and have a wonderful rural lifestyle, with great restaurants, cafe, clubs and pubs to visit. Come for a drive and have a feed and take home some great local produce. You will like it so much you might even stay.

I am excited by the regional opportunities. The Lockyer Valley and Somerset regional council areas make up the new Lockyer state electorate. I look forward to continuing working with our mayors, Tanya Milligan and Graeme Lehmann, and their council teams as we see our region be the best it can be. I am pleased that the Council of Mayors South East Queensland are following the New York catchment model where stakeholders focus on proactive solutions in the region's catchments to deliver clean water downstream. State and federal governments need to commit to long-term funding programs that give certainty to our natural resource management sector so that our rich alluvial soil stays on the farm and less sediment ends up in Moreton Bay.

There have been some great people in this chamber and gallery in the past, but in my life there have been none greater than those who are here today and of whom I am about to speak. My family's background is in small business, particularly the printing industry. However, our lives were full of sport, particularly Rugby League and athletics, agricultural shows and other community contributions.

My parents, John and Joan, have negotiated the trials and tribulations of life. They have been successful in many ways—wonderful hosts, both humble and unassuming. It is their example that has taught me loyalty and to have a strong work ethic, but, importantly, to enjoy life along the way. It was fun growing up as a young McDonald—the eldest of six children, we could make a game out of anything, and we still do.

I am a proud Queenslander! My father, John or 'Cracker', is well known as being the first coach of the 1980 Queensland State of Origin team—a great player in his own right for our state and country, he was chairman of the Queensland Rugby League for 21 years and chairman of the Australian Rugby League when the Super League competition was reunited. However, his commitment to the grassroots development of Rugby League across Queensland and his service as a committee member and chairman of the Royal Agricultural Society of Queensland for 20 years have left wonderful legacies.

Of course all this would not be possible without mum, Joan—the best hostess in the world. While they ran the family business they raised six children yet still found time to run keep-fit classes for the school P&C and later become very active with RASQ and Endeavour.

From this upbringing I have developed a strong appreciation of the social fabric that sporting clubs and competitions and our agricultural shows make to our communities. I was extremely proud that my first official duty as the member for Lockyer was to open the Queensland shows next generation of leaders program at UQ Gatton—a wonderful example of leadership and succession planning.

Through my family I have learnt that longevity might create stability but it does not create success, nor does blind loyalty. However, longevity that is based on loyalty and built on trust allows spirited decision-making and creates a wonderful shared commitment to goals. These are the ingredients that over time will create a culture of trust and opportunity so all involved can share the success.

This is the family culture that mum and dad created for us. It is a foundation that I have tried to emulate in my leadership and family life. To my children, Sam, Millie and Tom, their partners and families, you make us proud of the adults you have become and the way in which you all conduct yourselves. I hope you can look back on your lives and be as proud of yourselves as we already are.

My darling Deb, you are beautiful and still after 18 years you are the best blessing that has come into my life. With your dedication to the campaign, together with your competitive nature, you really shone and your efforts were unsurpassed. Thank you my darling, we did it together.

On reflection, all the great people in my life and other leaders I respect all have integrity, a strong work ethic, principles and, most importantly, passion for their chosen goal. People are enterprising. As a leader, set a goal with the necessary resources and get out of the way. People will surprise you. Governments should do the same.

About 20 years ago at a personal development seminar the facilitator handed all the participants a card at the end of the program with a personal message for each of us. Mine read 'carpe diem'—seize the day. If we do our best in every moment the future will look after itself. I will do my best for the people of Lockyer and for Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the honourable member for Maiwar, there has been some suggestion that members in the public gallery have been taking photographs. I have not witnessed that occurring. I remind all guests in the public gallery today that the taking of photographs is forbidden under the Speaker's rules.

I encourage you, as the members in the chamber will, to listen to this first speech with the courtesies reserved for such occasions—silence and attentiveness. This is the member's first speech and I want to ensure that it is listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.52 pm): I begin, as so many have done before me, by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet—the Jagera and Turrbal people—and their ancient culture, traditions and lore. I stand here on their land and acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sovereignty has never been ceded—that this parliament sits on stolen land. If we are to make amends for the colonisation and the dispossession and genocide of the last 230 years—and we should—clear recognition of first nations' sovereignty and the negotiation of treaties with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must be a priority for our state, country and community. I pay my respects to elders past and present and I thank them for their ongoing custodianship of this vast and unique continent. I lament that since invasion we have not only disrupted your connection to country but fallen far short of following your example and fulfilling our duty to care for this land and preserve it for future generations.

It was a great honour to have local elder Uncle Des Sandy attend as my guest for the opening of this parliament. We discussed that I was not only the first member of the Queensland Greens to be elected to this chamber but also the inaugural member for the newly created seat of Maiwar. He asked me a question that surprised me: 'What does Maiwar mean?' As I understood it, Maiwar was the local Indigenous people's name for what we now call the Brisbane River, but Uncle Des's response spoke volumes to me about the depth of his understanding of and connection to his country and just how much we have to learn from our first nations people. He said, without hesitation and in a perfectly matter of fact way, 'Nah, there couldn't be just one name for the river. Too many different peoples lived on and around it for there to be only one name. Maybe 10,000 or 15,000 years ago, before the ice caps melted and the sea rose, and the mouth of the river was way out past Moreton and Stradbroke islands, maybe then there would have been just one local group around here that used that name.' I am now careful to note that Maiwar is the name used by some local Aboriginal people for what we now call the Brisbane River.

My personal and professional backgrounds are in different ways both unusual and typical precursors to a career in politics. I have only quite recently become involved in party politics, having grown up in Toowoomba in a family that could scarcely have been less politically engaged. I was incredibly lucky to grow up with the love and support of a community of friends and family—in particular, my parents, Craig and Jan, who are here today, who have always fostered self-reflection and moral introspection and a deep sense of civic duty, the duty to use my privilege to improve the lot of society's most underprivileged people.

I do recognise the privilege that I have chanced upon—I am a straight, Anglo, well-educated, middle-class, sixth generation Australian man brought up in a safe, nurturing home where I never wanted for anything but learned the value of hard work watching my parents struggle to make ends meet running a small business. My dad works in TV. I can only just remember him working as the local TV newsreader at 10/4/5a when we first moved to Toowoomba, but he gave that away so he could be home at dinner time with his young family and ultimately took the brave step of running a tiny TV production business from home. Mum did the books, ran the house, chased after me and my two

brothers, David and Paul—Paul is here today too—and has worked most of her life as a secondary school teacher. Her high regard for education is evident in the paths that both my brothers and I have taken in life. I cannot thank my family enough for all they have given me and continue to give.

I am so lucky to have two happy, healthy kids who are my ultimate motivation to be here, making the case for their future. To my little 'Miss Six', Bonnie Rose, and 'Mr Eight', Noah Lee: you are what gets me out of bed every morning, literally and figuratively. I love you both more than I can tell you, and it is your love that keeps me going every day. I think you understand what is going on in our lives and in this building better than most people would give you credit for. Thank you so much for putting up with such a busy dad and for still being my biggest fans.

To my amazing, inspiring, political tragic of a partner, Daile. I love you so dearly. All I can say is thank you for keeping me in one piece over the last little while. Every one of us here understands the personal sacrifice that we make in politics and that inevitably, to some extent, we impose this on our families and loved ones, and my family have felt this sacrifice as deeply as any. There are no words for the gratitude I feel for the support that I have been given by my family, my friends and my loved ones.

Having grown up in Toowoomba, I am acutely aware of the interdependence between the city and the bush. The food we eat, the water we drink and the resources we consume to build our bridges and suburbs all come from beyond the city's limits. While many may have me pegged as the typical 'urban environmentalist' type that we have heard about in this chamber previously, I very much understand our connection with and reliance on the natural world, and my perspective rests on both a deeply scientific and pragmatic recognition of this connection. Perhaps it is this backdrop that led me, having moved to the big smoke as a young man, into a career as a public interest environmental lawyer, where I have endeavoured to use the law and existing systems of governance to support rural communities in their fight to protect the environment, their farmlands and our groundwater, and especially towards trying to preserve the climate that supports and now threatens both natural and man-made systems across our state, our country and our world.

I am willing to accept the truism that there are too many lawyers in politics, although there is no shortage of ex-police officers and ex-service people in the chamber, I note, as well. I will accept that truism, but my political world view and path to this place have been indelibly shaped by years of struggling on behalf of communities trying to achieve real, sensible and necessary environmental outcomes within a system of ineffective environmental laws. Like so many others in my party though, I recognise that people from the city or the country cannot be expected to care for or respond to broader social justice or environmental concerns if they are struggling to simply put bread on the table and keep the lights on.

Year on year as inequality grows it has become clear to me that our political system is ineffective and broken, and it is letting people down in every facet of their lives. That is what has brought me here. That is what I am fighting for.

I want to acknowledge specifically and thank the member for Cook. Although the first speeches of all new members have been outstanding, hers was an important first and I am both proud and dismayed that in our great state's history it is only in this 56th Parliament that we are achieving so many firsts—the first Greens member elected, the first Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander MPs, the first baby breastfed on the floor of the parliament, and the first time both government and opposition parties have been led by women. All of these things are positive signs of the times we live in.

Returning to the member for Cook's speech, I want to borrow a common metaphor that she and others have used in their first speeches: I too stand here on the shoulders of giants. It is simply not possible to acknowledge all those people whose efforts over many decades here in Queensland and nationally have led to the Greens finally breaking through and winning this seat. Our movement has deep roots, a colourful history, and a bright and powerful future.

All who have contributed to our grassroots party should rightly feel ownership of this achievement, but I will mention and thank one person specifically. He is known to so many inside and outside the party for his tireless effort and advocacy. He has fought for the rights of average Queensland battlers and for better environmental stewardship. Drew Hutton was the original Greens campaigner in parts of what is now Maiwar. He was absolutely integral in the genesis of our party and has done as much as any person to stand up for rural Queensland in the fight against corporate interests. Thank you, Drew, for being here with me a few weeks ago for the opening, for all your past and ongoing efforts, and for the mentorship you have given to so many of us. I do have to give a shout out to former Senator Waters, who is here and who has been an inspiration to me for years.

While I cannot possibly thank everyone who worked and volunteered on the Maiwar campaign, I hope the House will indulge me while I list some of those most integral to our success. I note that a number of them are in the gallery. There are so many people here, and for those whom I will not name I am sorry. Sinead Canning, you are an absolute powerhouse and you have such an exciting future in politics. Don Sinnamon, thank you for always being there to lend an ear and sponge a lift.

A huge thanks to everyone who worked in the campaign office and on the campaign committee—Hannah, Stirling, Stannah, Andy, Libby, Travis, Jake, Christine, Lenore, Andrew, Roxanne, Gemmia, James, Rubina, and I could go on and on. The personal investment from all Greens doorknockers and volunteers in this campaign is immeasurable. The dedication and passion of each of those people got me here, particularly Ralph, an indefatigable doorknocker who seems to have come up in conversation with Bardon residents every other day since the election.

The party's state office and strategic staff coordinated an incredible statewide campaign. There were Greens candidates for all 93 seats across the state who deserve credit for representing the party and giving every Queenslanders the opportunity to vote Greens, but I will single out Amy MacMahon and Kirsten Lovejoy for their extraordinary efforts in the seats of South Brisbane and McConnel. Thank you for your hard work, passion, comradery and ongoing friendship. You continue to be a source of inspiration.

I am not here just because of the efforts of Greens past and present and the phenomenal campaign run last year. I am here because Queenslanders recognise that our political system is broken. Wages are stagnating or in decline for most Australians. Living standards are falling but corporate profits are at all-time highs. Our younger generation has a lower expected quality of life than the generations that came before them. The home ownership and job security that was the pinnacle of aspiration for our parents is an impossible dream for most of our children. They are growing up with greater uncertainty and in the shadow of social, economic and environmental failings inherited from their forebears. What clearer evidence could we need to debunk the oft peddled nonsense of trickle-down or neoclassical economics? The system is rigged. Our governments have failed ordinary people, and inequality is growing relentlessly. It is my honest belief that our democracy has been hijacked by the interests of some extremely deep pockets and major corporations and no longer stands for everyday Queenslanders.

Our democracy has been hijacked and the system is broken. This is the message that the Greens took to the 2017 election, knocking on doors, one conversation at a time. Adani and Queen's Wharf certainly loomed large, illustrating the truth of this message. Its resonance with the community—where an extra 50,000 people chose the Greens this election—has culminated in me standing here addressing you as the member for Maiwar.

It is an incredible honour to be the first-ever representative of the electorate of Maiwar and to be the first Greens MP elected to this parliament. I am so proud and humbled to represent the residents of Taringa, Toowong, St Lucia, Fig Tree Pocket, Auchenflower, Indooroopilly and Bardon—to stand here on their behalf and give voice to their concerns, not beholden to corporate interests. Residents of Maiwar are frustrated that decisions about how their neighbourhood evolves are being manipulated by the big end of town—by property developers, lobbyists and land speculators.

The people have lost control of their city. Brisbane is now shaped by the pursuit of corporate profit rather than by the needs of the people who live there. The residents I represent worry about where their kids will go to school, whether they will be able to get a spot in after-school care and, I can say this without a shred of rhetoric, where their children will play. Unfortunately, they are accustomed to their political representatives not listening, but I have a lot of excitement and optimism about our future because I believe the community can reassert its power and turn our democracy around.

Like thousands of other Greens supporters across Queensland, I have a great deal of hope that we can transform the systems that shape our lives to make our society kinder, fairer, more sustainable and more democratic. The Greens have a vision for sustainable urban development, for better public transport, safer streets, more public green space, up-to-date community facilities and well-designed non-profit housing. We can cover the cost of it all by making big corporations and property developers pay what is fair. We do not have to live in a city with jackhammers for alarm clocks and bumper-to-bumper congestion. We do not have to accept overcrowding in schools. We do not have to lose all connection to the natural world or lose the colour and culture of our neighbourhoods.

We also have a vision for a fairer, more sustainable Queensland run entirely on renewable energy with a diversified economy based on sustainable agriculture, tourism, the arts and creative industries, research and innovation, and high-tech service industries. We envisage a society where no-one is left homeless, with greater stability and stronger rights for renters, and high-quality homes for all.

Here in Queensland we already have the skills, knowledge and resources to achieve this vision, but to this point we have lacked the political will. If we are to take meaningful action on climate change to improve our health and education systems, to provide greater support for those who are increasingly being left behind by neoliberalism and globalisation, we must first take back our democracy from those interests that have hijacked it. Rational evidence based arguments and thoroughly costed futureproof policies count for little if political representatives allow financial backers and major corporate interests to call the shots.

I do not attribute malice or ill intent to anyone in this House, but we appear all too ready to accept the way things are done, and have been done for some time, when our system needs a thorough clean-up. My intention in this term of parliament is to use every opportunity in parliament, my electorate or elsewhere to advocate for greater social equality, meaningful environmental protection and an economically just future. I make a commitment to every other member of the House that I will always be willing to engage in a reasonable, evidence based discussion about making or changing law in pursuit of these outcomes, and I will work tirelessly for the people of Maiwar in doing so.

I, like so many others I have spoken to throughout the recent election campaign, have held some real reservations about the tenor and utility of some proceedings in this parliament. Much of what I have seen in my short time here has only served to substantiate the public's cynicism and is the kind of conduct that puts at risk whatever interest or respect for this institution is retained in the community.

It is an indictment on parliamentary process that we unreservedly accept the conduct described euphemistically as the theatre of parliament or the institution of the six o'clock scream, which I have only just discovered since being sworn in. In my time here we have passed a number of pieces of legislation, each of which has been before the relevant committee usually twice, enjoyed bipartisan support and was passed without any need for a division, and yet we wasted days and days listening to so-called debate, almost none of which contributed meaningfully to the discussion or influenced a policy outcome.

Government and opposition have more often sought my vote in this House for pointless political motions that achieve nothing for the people of Queensland—motions that purport to relate to real issues like fuel prices, local planning decisions or agricultural water supply but in fact offer no real outcome. It is nothing more than the opportunity to sling mud across the chamber chasing cheap political points. I have heard members on both sides describe it as such, and I do not intend to routinely participate in these kinds of parliamentary shenanigans, not out of disrespect for the parliament but in recognition of what could be achieved if we left these wasteful practices behind.

Mr Speaker, you and my constituents can rest assured that I will continue to diligently watch this kind of debate while working from my office upstairs. I will be immediately on hand if it takes on meaning or purpose, but where base politics is the only objective abstinence seems to me the most sensible and principled use of my vote. The tribalism, grandstanding and unnecessarily adversarial conduct in this place is hampering much needed change and, quite rightly, undermining public confidence in this vitally important institution.

I was driven into politics because I could not stomach three-word slogans, the flagrant disregard for evidence in setting policy or the open hostility towards science that now appears all too common in political discourse. The desire to achieve ecological sustainability, grassroots democracy and social justice by peaceful, non-violent means is not common only to Greens. At our core, I believe these are values that each of us share.

I was driven into politics because I remember from my time working in the service of our state within the Queensland government that, all too often, frank and fearless advice of our public sector was dismissed. I remember the inefficiencies of responding to political whims. As one of the first public servants to be made redundant under the Newman government, I remember seeing that this kind of base politicking is the real drag on efficiency in the public service. I remember electioneering or vested interests winning out over the people of Queensland all too many times.

When I entered politics, I did it with the Greens—a party that I saw actually stood for and with the community, separate from vested interests and committed to actually building a future for all of us. This parliament has so much to work on and so much that together we can achieve for the people of Maiwar and Queensland. An economy that revolves around coalmines and casinos will not provide secure, long-term jobs for workers and is neither resilient nor sustainable.

The politics of fear and division that is created around these industries and developments shows disdain for everyday Queenslanders and harms our community in the long term. There is so much we can do to support workers and future generations.

There is so much that can be done within this state's responsibility to close the gap and address the shocking overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in detention, caught up in the youth justice system, and the disproportionate removal of Indigenous children from their families and the community. There is so much more to do to achieve real equality for the LGBTIQ community despite what has been accomplished recently.

There is so much more to do to give people bodily autonomy, and I am excited that we are closer than ever to removing archaic 19th century abortion laws. There is so much more to do to actually protect our iconic species, ecosystems and the Great Barrier Reef. There is so much more to do to foster the culture and colour of our communities, to support the arts and innovation, and provide the conditions for positive lifestyles—to go beyond and not just focus on livelihoods.

There is so much more to do about the fact that tens of thousands of people sleep rough every night while even more homes than that sit empty. There is so much more to do to return the community's voice in this House as we plan and develop and make decisions vital to the future of those same communities.

Mr Speaker, I stand here for the people of Maiwar and on the shoulders of those giants. I stand before you and beside you, ready to work in this House and across the electorate in service of our community and its shared values of ecological sustainability, peace and nonviolence, grassroots democracy and social justice.

Debate, on motion of Mr Berkman, adjourned.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Chamber Audio System

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the Leader of the House, I wish to advise members that the ongoing audio system challenges we are experiencing in the chamber mean I will have to authorise members to find a seat they can speak from with a working microphone. This may mean it will not be your usual seat in the chamber. I have given that authorisation on a temporary basis while we are dealing with the audio system outages.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates, Transfer of Responsibilities and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.14 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 136(3) and (4) that: the date for the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to report on the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Bill be varied from 9 April to 19 April 2018; the committee responsible for reporting on the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill be varied from the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, and that committee report on that bill by 8 May 2018; the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill by 8 May 2018; and the committee responsible for reporting on the Safer Waterways Bill be varied from the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee.

The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 194B that: the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 3 of 2017-18 entitled *Rail and ports: 2016-17 results of financial audits* and the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 4 of 2017-18 entitled *Integrated transport planning* be referred to the Transport and Public Works Committee; the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 5 of 2017-18 entitled *Water: 2016-17 results of financial audits* be referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee; the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 12 of 2017-18 entitled *Investing for success* be referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee; and the Auditor-General's report No. 13 of 2017-18 entitled *Local government entities: 2016-17 results of financial audits* be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Further Answer to Question, Waste Levy

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (5.16 pm): During question time today, I stated that car tyres and batteries are regulated waste and therefore are not placed in landfill. I am advised by the Department of Environment and Science that, while that statement is generally correct, some car tyres and car batteries at times are unfortunately not recycled.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 727.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (5.17 pm): It is a great pleasure to stand here and represent the people of Maryborough, after being re-elected with one of the largest increases in primary votes in this state and having also increased my two-party preferred vote. I would like to put it down to not only the great work of the Palaszczuk government ministers who have led Queensland so successfully for the last three years but also the great people I have in the Maryborough ALP branch and my supporters. They used to be called the 'Saunders Soldiers', but the member for Stafford came up and called them 'Bruce's Battalion'. To the 200-odd volunteers who worked on my campaign, I would like to say thank you. I will just mention a few before I get into the achievements of this great Palaszczuk government that delivered so much for the Maryborough electorate in the last three years.

I would like to thank my office staff, Paul and Ron. I have known Paul for close to 39 years. We have been great mates and he runs my office along with Ron. Ron is a fantastic office manager. He is a former SAS soldier and a great bloke. They are two caring men. I know it is hard to imagine middle-aged men who are very caring for their community and want to see their communities grow. One thing they are very passionate about is the Maryborough electorate.

I also want to mention the ALP branch in Maryborough. It is the oldest branch in Queensland and it used to be called the Australian Workers' League. When the Australian Labor Party was founded, the members moved across to the Australian Labor Party. It is 126 years old and is a fantastic branch with great people. We have grown that branch tremendously. They are good, honest people who work hard for their communities. We have formed another branch since I was elected; it is the Burrum district. For the people who do not know, the Burrum district is one of the mining districts of Queensland—Torbanlea and Howard. It is rich with the history of working-class people. The second Labor Prime Minister—

Mr Power: Fisher.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take the interjection from the member for Logan because it was Andrew Fisher. He was the second Labor Prime Minister of this country and he represented Wide Bay. He had an office in Gympie and he lived in Howard. Of course, his house stands in Howard as a monument to the Labor values of that era and also the current era.

There are so many people I would like to thank from my campaign who helped achieve that marvellous 21 per cent swing on the primary vote. I will start, first of all, with the government. I would like to thank the Premier. The Premier was magnificent in the campaign not only for what she has delivered but also what the cabinet has delivered over three years for the Maryborough electorate. Thanks to the member for Miller they call me 'bitumen Bruce' now, so I would like to take people on a bit of a drive through the electorate if the Deputy Speaker will allow me a little bit of leeway.

We will head out of Maryborough on the Hervey Bay road. There is a school called St Helens. This was a problematic school. That school has grown in size from about 200 students to about 440 students. There are a good principal, a good teaching cohort and great parents there. There was a need for traffic lights at the school as it was a nightmare for parents, grandparents and teachers exiting and entering the school grounds off the Hervey Bay road. After the member for Miller came and looked—we stood there one day observing the traffic—and he saw the problems, traffic lights were installed as well as a brand-new car park. That was the first achievement, which could not be achieved under previous members for Maryborough. We achieved that thanks to the member for Miller.

Then if we drive a bit further down we come to the Urraween Road and Maryborough road intersection. Although it is not in the Maryborough electorate—it is in the electorate of Hervey Bay—a lot of my constituents use that intersection. It was regarded as one of the most dangerous intersections in Queensland. I think the day the minister and member for Miller and I were viewing the intersection

there had been a car accident that morning. Who came to the rescue again? The Palaszczuk Labor government! An amount of \$40 million was put into that intersection. Now when people drive into Hervey Bay it is great and there has not been an accident. Because of the Hervey Bay Hospital and the medical precinct there, this intersection was used by ambulances and a lot of people and now it has been made safe.

Then we move on to the Yarrilee school intersection. It has received a \$26 million upgrade with great work from TMR. They are replacing all the pipes. It is a flood prone area and it is in wallum country. It is a massive job to do this. Once again, the Palaszczuk government delivered the \$26 million to upgrade that intersection.

The Pialba Burrum Heads Road was a bit of a dangerous road. An audit has been conducted and numerous road upgrades have been done. One was at the intersection heading into Toogoom, which was also a very dangerous intersection. With the money, once again from the Palaszczuk Labor government, that intersection was upgraded.

Then we move on to Burrum Heads. If anybody has ever been there they will know it is an absolutely beautiful place. I would like to say g'day to all the people at Burrum Heads today. I know a few are watching this speech. We put in the new boat ramp. This is a top-class facility, delivered again by the Palaszczuk Labor government. This has really put Burrum Heads on the map. It has gone from a sleepy little village to one where the shops on Saturdays and Sundays are going well and tourists are visiting. It is a thriving community. The previous boat ramp was very dangerous. It was called the Ross Street boat ramp. We were just waiting for someone to get killed there. Fortunately, that did not happen, and the new boat ramp is superb. Once again I would like to thank the minister for coming, as well as the former environment minister, who helped get the new boat ramp in the Great Sandy Straits.

We leave Burrum Heads and we head towards Howard and Torbanlea. Just outside the Torbanlea school there was a causeway which has caused problems for as long as I can remember. It was promised under the Newman government but was not delivered. It was promised but was not funded. Not only was it promised under the Palaszczuk Labor government but it was also funded, delivered in record time and under budget. That is making the lives of the children at Torbanlea school and the residents in the surrounding area much safer because they do not have to go through floodwater to get to school or back home to Torbanlea.

Then we move to Torbanlea school, and what a great school it is, too. There is a good principal and a good teaching cohort there. We have delivered there—under the former education minister we are delivering a new sports hall at the Torbanlea State School, which will upgrade the facilities there. That school has grown from around 230 students to about 440 students. This hall is needed. I could not believe that this school is on a B-double route and there were no flashing lights. We have put in flashing lights and other upgrades were also done to the school.

Then we drive down to Howard. Howard is a great community. As I said, it is an old mining town in the centre of the Burrum district. When I was elected in 2015 I found out that the Howard Police Station was going to close under those opposite. This police station was built in 1893. With the growing population in the Burrum district—Howard, Torbanlea, Burrum Heads, Craginsh and Dundowran—we could not let that happen. Once again, the Palaszczuk Labor government came forward with a new \$10 million facility incorporating a brand-new fire facility. We will have an auxiliary fire station, a rural fire station—so red and green and yellow trucks—on the premises, as well as a state-of-the-art police station. That is happening there.

The LNP and the opposition have a lot of former police officers as members. We also have a former officer in the member for Macalister. When officers are sent out in dangerous conditions without the right equipment and then return to an outdated station—sometimes the internet would drop out; it was built in 1893 and had very cramped conditions—it is not conducive to modern policing. We cannot wait for that to open. A couple of weeks ago the member for Springwood came and visited the police station. This police station will be one of the best police stations anyone could ever see in regional Queensland. It is an achievement of the Palaszczuk Labor government, which is putting money and services back into regional Queensland. That is what we fought for in 2015.

When I stood for election and won the seat, I said I would put the Maryborough electorate first, and that is what this Palaszczuk Labor government has done. It is putting first not only Maryborough city but also the outskirts of the city and the smaller towns like Howard and Torbanlea et cetera. That police station will open later this year, and we are going to increase its size. We are also going to give the police there a second car. That is another commitment from the Palaszczuk Labor government, so not only will they have a great facility to work out of but they will also be better able to do their job with the use of a second police car.

Then we go along the Bruce Highway and back into Maryborough. The roadworks that have occurred on the Bruce Highway in conjunction with the federal government—we have put in our share of money—are second to none. Maryborough is a fantastic city to live in. It was brought to its knees from 2012 to 2015 by those opposite. I can say that it is off its knees now. Maryborough is standing tall. It has its mojo back.

The first thing we look at in Maryborough is Downer Infrastructure in relation to the trains. The contracts that have come through from the Palaszczuk Labor government have absolutely kept this facility alive. This facility was going to close. We make no mistake about that. The Palaszczuk government has kept this facility alive and has ensured that there is a pipeline of work for the next 12 years so that the men and women who work at this Downer Infrastructure facility know they have secure employment for the next 10 to 12 years. That is a great thing.

Then we look at the Maryborough Base Hospital, which had been severely neglected under those opposite. A \$10.4 million upgrade to the A&E is coming. When that work is finished later next year we will have a top class A&E for future years. It is a massive project which is extending the hospital by 7.5 metres.

Then we look at the schools. I have a bit of a soft spot for Maryborough State High School because the legendary TJ Ryan taught at Maryborough high. Honourable members might have noticed that Maryborough has a very strong Labor record over many years. TJ Ryan taught there when it was the Maryborough grammar school. The Palaszczuk Labor government is putting \$10.4 million into the school, plus a \$4.5 million performance arts hall.

With the addition of the Works for Queensland money, the CBD of Maryborough has been lifted. There are footpaths being constructed, including footpaths from nursing homes. This is work that the Fraser Coast Regional Council did not have the finance to do, but the Works for Queensland money has really lifted the Maryborough CBD and other areas. The money for that as well as the skate park for the children was provided by the Palaszczuk Labor government. The upgrade to the skate park in Maryborough city has created a fantastic skate park.

Duncan Chapman, about whom I spoke during the last sitting week, was the first man to step onto Gallipoli. Who is the biggest contributor to the World War I and Duncan Chapman memorial? The Palaszczuk Labor government once again. The Fraser Coast council and the federal government also came on board, but the No. 1 contributor is the Palaszczuk Labor government. In Maryborough that is the difference between the Campbell Newman era and the Palaszczuk Labor government era. As I said, Maryborough is standing proud now. It has its mojo back.

The main income for Maryborough city is from the Downer Group, where the best trains in the world are built. The workers down there are great tradesmen and good craftsmen, and they definitely produce great trains. We also have Hyne Timber, which is a fantastic timber mill. They employ a lot of people. It is no secret in the Maryborough electorate that I very strongly support my timber industry, which supports over 1,500 jobs indirectly and directly. Maryborough Sugar Factory, MSF, is also a great contributor to the Maryborough economy. They are the things that have happened in the last three years, but there is more to come. When you look at what we have done in the Maryborough electorate with education, roads, hospitals and sporting facilities, we have delivered, as a Labor government traditionally does, for people throughout regional Queensland.

It is an honour to represent the hardworking people of the Maryborough electorate. I would like to thank a few more people who made sure that the Palaszczuk government was re-elected and that we have a majority in this House so that we can continue with our great program of reform and returning front-line services to regional Queensland which we began over the past 2½ to three years. I would like to thank my wife, who had a terrible time during the campaign. It was one of the worst campaigns I have ever been in. I have never seen a campaign like the 2017 campaign. I have been in politics since I was eight years old. We have to stop the politics of hate, because when your wife is spat on during a campaign it is not a very good thing. I think that is why the public are getting sick of politicians. When they saw what happened in the 2017 election in Maryborough the public were disgusted, and I think it is time that we all look at ourselves and make sure that we lift the standard of campaigns and make sure that families do not get involved.

I would like to thank my two wonderful daughters. My younger daughter is a union organiser for Together. As we say in my family, I bleed purple. My youngest daughter, of whom I am very proud, is an organiser for Public Service sector workers in the Central Queensland district. My other daughter works in Brisbane in HR, and they came up and worked in my campaign. My best friend in the world is

a man who, as I said in my maiden speech, although he is not my blood brother, is very, very close. He is he an old western boy who ran for the seat of Gregory in 1989, but he was beaten by Vaughan Johnson. We are great mates—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I thank the honourable member for saying that my mate is a wonderful man. Thank you very much, because Jim Nilon is a wonderful man and I could not run a campaign without Jim and all of my volunteers. I would also like to thank the Together union and Allison Finley-Bisset and Alex Scott, from whom I take a lot of counsel. They are great people and the Together union are fantastic. I would also like to thank Evan Moorhead and Alana, my organiser from the party office.

I cannot stop without thanking the people of Maryborough for having faith. They saw the work we did. They know the slogan—and it is not just a slogan—that we put the Maryborough electorate first at all times. As I said in my maiden speech, sometimes I will not be popular on both sides of the House because I will always defend the Maryborough electorate, and that has probably come true. In some instances in the last three years I have not been popular on both sides of the House.

Maryborough is a fantastic electorate. It is one of the oldest electorates in Queensland. It was gazetted as an electorate in 1865. It used to be a joint electorate, then it became a dual membership electorate and then it became a one-member electorate. It has contributed a lot to the Queensland economy over the years and it is coming back. We are on the cusp of big things.

The re-election of the Palaszczuk government will mean that Maryborough will continue to move ahead with some of the projects we announced during the election campaign, with more money being spent on education, health care and the upgrade to Eskdale Park. For the Rugby League fanatics in the room here, Eskdale Park is one of the oldest Rugby League grounds in Australia. The first Rugby League competition in Australia was held at Eskdale Park in Maryborough. It was absolutely one of the top Rugby League places—

Mr Costigan: It is the home of the Wide Bay Bulls.

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. It is the home of the Wide Bay Bulls and also the 47th Battalion Cup. Very similar to the member for Whitsunday, I called the football there as a young man in my radio days at Eskdale Park. It is great to see the Palaszczuk government making a commitment to Rugby League in the Wide Bay, particularly in Maryborough. With the upgrades we will be able to hold InTrust Super Cup games in Maryborough and get it back as the home of Rugby League for the Wide Bay region. That will be delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is about putting money back into regional communities. Eskdale Park has not had any money spent on it for years, and this will make Eskdale Park a great Rugby League ground again in regional Queensland.

There is so much that has happened in the Maryborough electorate in the last three years through not only the Palaszczuk government but also the people. The people of Maryborough have now realised that all people in George Street are not bad and that the people in George Street and the government really care about regional Queensland. That is what the Palaszczuk government has done. When you drive out through regional Queensland, no matter where you go we have delivered as a government for regional Queensland, and no more so than what you see in the Maryborough electorate.

I would also like to thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the cabinet for their unwavering support when Maryborough was on its knees and the region was suffering. We had a regional cabinet in Maryborough, and they had a great time talking to the local people in my electorate. Not only did they address their problems, but they acted straightaway on the problems of the Maryborough electorate.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. I would like to say thank you to the people of Maryborough once again for putting their trust in not only me but the Palaszczuk Labor government for another three years. I will give them one guarantee: we will not let them down.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.37 pm): I stand here today once again humbled by the enormous trust that the people of the Mudgeeraba electorate have placed in me to continue as their representative in this place. This will be my fourth term in this place—the fourth time I have been sent here to act on behalf of Mudgeeraba residents and to fight on their behalf for their priorities.

It is easy to forget that in 2009 Mudgeeraba was a very different place to what it is today. Residents had put up with eight years of a Labor member shamefully ignoring their concerns. Our roads were not receiving the upgrades they needed. Too often residents were forced to drive over crumbling

infrastructure to get to work or pick up their kids from school. Our schools were not receiving the funding they deserved. The classrooms that our students were learning in were not up to scratch, as local schools were caught up in Labor's massive maintenance backlogs. Our police were not supported and our community and sporting groups did not receive the funding they needed.

Nine years later, I am incredibly proud of the progress we have made and how I have delivered on the commitments I made in my maiden speech, which locals well know that I use as my report card. Using people power we stopped the overhead powerlines in Reedy Creek. We launched a Schools Planning Commission to investigate a state high school west of the M1. We increased our police numbers. We saved the Elysium Road overpass at exit 75 after Labor tried to close it. We widened the M1 from Carrara to Robina, and the next upgrade from Mudgeeraba to Reedy Creek is on the way. This includes interchange upgrades at exits 73, 77, 79, 82 and 84. After this we will have upgraded the entire length of the M1 throughout the Mudgeeraba electorate, with a total investment of \$611 million. We have seen massive investments in roads that my predecessor ignored, including \$4 million for the Nerang-Murwillumbah Road, \$14 million for Beechmont Road, \$5 million for Worongary Road and \$6 million for the Gold Coast-Springbrook Road. These are commitments I made in my maiden speech, and today I can say that I have delivered.

Since I stood in this place in the 55th Parliament and gave my last address-in-reply, we have also made inroads in some very big local issues. We have alleviated traffic in Reedy Creek which used to face gridlock every morning on our little roundabout for 1.5 hours. If you left home after 7.30am, one would be stuck in traffic waiting as thousands of cars tried to squeeze through a single lane roundabout. This was the only route out for more than 2,000 residents. Now there is a \$9 million Eden View Drive road link which takes the pressure off. This was jointly funded by the state council and Commonwealth working alongside my good friends Councillor Daphne McDonald, Mayor Tom Tate and Karen Andrews, the federal member for McPherson. This upgrade is in addition to a \$400,000 upgrade of the roundabout I delivered in my second term.

I thank Reedy Creek locals for their huge vote of confidence in me at the polls in November. The residents of Carrara, Merrimac and Robina will also finally be getting some relief from traffic. Funds set aside and announced by the LNP in January 2015 were finally spent on the now complete Gooding Drive roundabout upgrade. This is an \$8 million project planned by the LNP, funded by the LNP but announced by the Labor Party. Admittedly, it was a bit humorous to see the Minister for Main Roads throw on his hard hat and hi-vis vest to announce the completion of this upgrade back in January, a full three years after it was first announced. That is three years of delay under Labor governments. This upgrade was completed with just over two months to spare before the Commonwealth Games.

It was just the latest example of the LNP putting in the hard yards and lazy Labor cutting the ribbon. This project was fully funded by the LNP after I spent years fighting for it, but it took Labor more than 1,000 days to get on and build it. I do not remember Mark Bailey being there with me and the members for Southport and Surfers Paradise back in January 2015 on Ashmore Road when we first announced this funding. We announced this upgrade alongside a number of other LNP upgrades which would be delivered before the Commonwealth Games. Maybe that is because Labor was still sitting on the opposition benches and the minister had never even sat in this House?

I know that the Minister for Main Roads cannot stand it when I set the record straight and pour water on his so-called announcements. It was interesting to see the minister use his personal Facebook account to post late-night comments on my public Facebook page. He obviously cannot handle it when the facts are laid out on the table. But the fact is that the minister's antics do not solve any problems for Gold Coasters sitting in traffic day in, day out under Labor.

The same can be said about the upgrades to the M1 which now are finally getting underway in my electorate between Mudgeeraba and Reedy Creek. We know that, for three years, this Labor government and this minister bumbled and fumbled their way through the history of the M1. They played a political blame game with the feds, and for two years we saw no action from Labor because they do not care about the southern Gold Coast.

It took a visit from the Prime Minister and a commitment from the coalition government to finally push this Labor government into action. But despite a 50-50 funding commitment from the feds, Labor still decided it was not done with the blame game just yet. For months, we saw Labor drag the issue out, refusing to put up its fair share of funding, all the while local residents sat in traffic with nothing getting under way.

Now finally, thanks to the coalition government, we see early works finally wrapping up ready for a post-Commonwealth Games start date, despite all of Labor's determination to hold up this project. But, during this project, we saw the minister up to his usual tricks. He was blaming everyone else for his own woes, making false claims about the LNP's record on the M1. He was trying to claim the LNP had never invested a cent in the M1 but that is just not true.

I can understand why the minister's memory would fail him, because I do not recall him being there when we announced the completion of the LNP's upgrade of the M1 between exits 77 and 79 on 26 September 2014. I stood with TMR officers and Karen Andrews, the federal member for McPherson, as we announced this \$95.5 million upgrade, jointly funded by the LNP state and federal governments on a 50-50 basis. In fact, it was completed ahead of schedule by the LNP and it came in under budget. At the time, the minister had yet to be elected to this place. It was the LNP that got on with the job and upgraded the M1.

Residents of my electorate are rightfully anxious about what to expect for the next three years under Labor. During the election campaign, the LNP made a number of commitments to deliver for the Mudgeeraba electorate. Residents want to know if Labor will deliver these projects, or if it will continue to ignore Mudgeeraba. The LNP committed \$50,000 to clean up the Mudgeeraba Creek, which has been stagnant for far too long. This is a commitment we first made during the 2015 state election campaign, when I stood with the member for Glass House as the then minister for environment to announce funding to get the creek finally cleaned up. It did not take long for Labor to confirm it would not do anything about this in government, and the creek has remained stagnant ever since.

We also committed \$550,000 over three years to fund the Robina Community Legal Centre. This is a vital volunteer community legal centre which has missed out on funding time and again under Labor and this Attorney-General. Most of its caseload is domestic and family violence issues but, for a government that talks the talk on DV, they certainly do not walk the walk as the Robina CLC is ignored time and time again. That is why the LNP stepped in with this announcement which would have seen the Robina CLC able to employ paid staff members and continue its service to the community. Now, with Labor once again at the helm, the Robina CLC's future hangs in the balance. Those opposite need to put their money where their mouths are when it comes to DV and fund the Robina CLC.

We also committed \$300,000 to fund CCTV cameras and bollards at the known hooning hotspot of Pine Creek Road and Nerang-Murwillumbah Road in the Numinbah Valley. This would have been coupled with a \$20,000 investment in flashing school zone signage at Numinbah Valley State School. Hooning at this location has been an ongoing issue for years. Recently, I was disappointed to receive confirmation from the Minister for Main Roads that he will not step in to fund this project to keep residents safe. It is sadly typical of Labor's careless disregard of hinterland residents in my electorate. In three years, three Labor police ministers and the lazy Labor main roads minister blatantly ignored the safety of hinterland residents. Our police are frustrated and have had enough of being put in danger with no support from the Labor government. It is time for Labor members to stop burying their heads in the sand and finally do something before a tragedy occurs at this intersection.

Finally, we committed \$1.5 million to upgrade the Mudgeeraba and Tallai roads intersection near the Tallai general store and Mudgeeraba soccer club. This was a seven-figure investment in vital safety upgrades and congestion busting at the Mudgeeraba Road-Tallai Road intersection. Sadly, Labor is not interested in building this sort of infrastructure. This intersection is dangerous for pedestrians, children and motorists, which is why the LNP committed to improving safety by upgrading it. Now it is incumbent on those opposite to step up and fix this intersection for Mudgeeraba and Tallai residents.

Last year, I was honoured to be asked by the Leader of the Opposition to serve as shadow minister for health and ambulance services and shadow minister for women. Around the same time, a new Minister for Health was appointed. But whilst he may call himself a doctor with his PhD in union recruitment, he certainly does not understand the needs of our hospital system or health staff on the front line. As a registered nurse and a former hospital administrator, I am appalled that the health system has gone from bad to worse so quickly under this new minister. Just a few weeks into the job, the minister presided over some of the most shocking statistics I have seen in relation to the Gold Coast University Hospital. These figures showed a hospital in crisis. They painted a disturbing picture of a hospital system in crisis on the Gold Coast.

At the time, nearly half of Gold Coast locals who presented for care at the Gold Coast University Hospital were not seen in recommended time frames. On top of that, one-third of patients had to wait more than half an hour in the back of an ambulance before making it into the emergency department. But what stunned me more than these shocking figures from the government was the response from

the minister. We saw him buck-passing, ducking for cover and issuing a stunning media release where he tried to explain the problem. Did he fess up in this release and explain that Labor's incompetence is to blame? No. He decided to blame the problem on patients for falling ill. What a sick joke!

Two days into the New Year, the minister was already up to his old Labor tricks. Three weeks later, a damning secret report into the culture of a major unit at the Prince Charles Hospital found potential life-and-death consequences due to serious mismanagement. Labor still has not come clean about the issues at the Prince Charles Hospital or explained how it will fix them. What this secret report showed was shocking waste and mismanagement. These issues are at the very least affecting patient care and possibly leading to misdiagnosis of serious medical complaints.

This is an example of a hospital system that is not being properly managed, after three years of Labor neglect. The minister still has not bothered to do his job and get to the bottom of another issue in his department, despite the buck stopping with him and the Premier. If that is not bad enough, a week later we saw dental waiting list times blow out under Labor. For those opposite who do not remember, we reduced the dental waiting list from 61,405 patients under Labor to zero under the LNP. But after three years of Labor neglect, we had another example of our health system under strain because of a lazy Labor government. It is simply not good enough.

This minister needs to explain why front-line dental services are going backwards under his watch. Queenslanders need to have confidence in their government to give our dental clinics the support they need. Sadly, under Labor, we do not see that happening. Then, less than a fortnight later, we saw reports that the construction of Ipswich Hospital will not start until 2020. That means the expected construction date of the Premier's promised upgrade is still a full two years away from construction, let alone completion. Despite all the media hype and spin, the fine print shows construction of new wings at the hospital are still a long way off and that the proposed upgrade will take place across the next half a decade.

The problem with that is that Ipswich needs more hospital beds right now—today. The latest performance data from the minister's own department shows that ambulance ramping at Ipswich Hospital is now at 22 per cent. It also shows that a whopping 46 per cent of patients—almost half the Ipswich residents who walk through the door of that ED—are not seen within clinically recommended time frames. After three years of Labor, the question remains: why has it taken this long for Labor to get this upgrade underway and why is it still two years away? Our nurses, doctors and paramedics cannot wait another two years as waiting times go from bad to worse. They need this upgrade now.

The story is similar throughout the state when it comes to a lack of resources being provided by this Labor government. Last week I was in Cairns. I visited the hospital and health service and met with the CEO. The story on the ground paints a pretty bleak picture. According to latest data, Cairns Hospital is under severe strain because of inaction from Labor. The latest data shows that Cairns is in crisis after three years of mismanagement. These are people's mothers, fathers, children and grandparents waiting in EDs or on ambulance stretchers to see a doctor.

Of course, then we come to the latest data from Queensland Health. Released just a few days ago, these figures show a crisis engulfing emergency departments across the state. In February the data showed that one in three ED patients were not seen within clinically recommended time frames. Meanwhile, ambulance ramping also increased. These figures will rightfully shock Queenslanders. Behind each statistic is a sick or injured patient in an emergency situation waiting to be seen at a hospital. Behind each statistic is someone who is sitting on an ambulance stretcher wondering when they will be admitted for their urgent health issues. Behind each statistic is a friend or a family member worried sick, wondering if their loved one is going to be okay.

We on this side of the House believe that Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system. Sadly, Labor just is not delivering. Its incompetence is simply causing more misery and pain and suffering for tens of thousands of Queenslanders each month. It is shameful and it is wrong. The Premier promised to improve front-line services, but those opposite cannot even get the basics right. The figures speak for themselves. Thirty-three per cent of patients who presented to an emergency department in Queensland were not seen within clinically recommended time frames. That is an increase from 31 per cent in just one month. Twenty-one per cent of ambulances remain ramped after 30 minutes at a hospital, an increase from 20 per cent last month. What is shocking about these statistics is not just how bad the figures are but the fact that they are actually getting worse from month to month under Labor.

The story is the same on the Gold Coast. Figures are going from bad to worse. Fifty-two per cent of patients who go to the ED at the Gold Coast University Hospital are not seen when they should be. That is up from 50 per cent the month before. At Logan it is even worse. Fifty-four per cent of Logan patients in emergency situations are left waiting for too long.

Ambulance ramping has gotten worse. It is now 43 per cent, up from 40 per cent the month before. At Redlands patients waiting longer than recommended time frames are at 46 per cent. Ambulance ramping is also at 22 per cent. On the Sunshine Coast almost a third of patients at an ED are not seen as quickly as they need to be and at Gympie it is a quarter of patients. At Robina Hospital in my electorate 39 per cent of ED patients are left waiting too long and 30 per cent of ambulances are ramped there for longer than 30 minutes. The story is similar at Toowoomba, at Townsville, at Cairns, at Gladstone, at Rockhampton, at Lady Cilento, at Redcliffe, at Caboolture, at Royal Brisbane, at Prince Charles, at the PA, at Bundaberg and at Hervey Bay.

No matter where you travel as a patient in Queensland, Labor's incompetence follows you. Let us not forget that this is a minister who cannot even run his own office or manage to send a letter. The fact is that whilst this minister chooses to play politics with our health system and launch phoney political campaigns patients are suffering. As the shadow minister for health and ambulance services I am appalled. I am appalled for the front-line health staff—our nurses, doctors and paramedics—who are working hard but are not supported by Labor. Most importantly, I am appalled for Queenslanders who deserve better and I will continue to fight for them and to hold this government to account.

As I conclude, I want to take a moment to thank those who contributed so much to supporting me as I once again put my hand up to represent Mudgeeraba in this place. My children, Ben, Greg and Jill, and my sisters, Cathy and Josie, are my rocks and I thank them from the bottom of my heart for their support and their often candid advice. I thank my colleagues in this House—some such as Tim Nicholls for his support and counsel and also those who are no longer here such as my good friend Jeff Seeney and my best friend Tracy Davis. I also thank my many campaign volunteers and supporters and my staff Jacquie and Alex, who put in such a big effort. Your support will not be taken for granted as I continue to fight for our area in this parliament.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (5.54 pm): Before I start my contribution on the address-in-reply, I want to explain my reasons for making it from the Premier's seat. The microphones at my regular seat are not working and, as a consequence, I have been invited to speak from here. I just want to reassure both the Premier and everyone in the House that this is the first and only time that I will be speaking from this spot!

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order!

Mr STEWART: With that many bites, I do not need to go fishing this weekend! Madam Deputy Speaker McMillan, I ask you to pass on my well wishes and regards to Mr Speaker for his election to his role. I am more than happy to serve with him in my role as Deputy Speaker with the honour and integrity that he has already brought to this House. I look forward to working with him over the full term with that same honour and integrity.

We had the good fortune to hear the Governor of Queensland, His Excellency Paul de Jersey, deliver his address and during that address he spoke of some really key priorities. They are job creation and they are restoring health and education services to all Queenslanders. This is about working in consultation and constructive partnerships with our local government, and in particular for me in Townsville that means working with the community of Townsville and Palm Island with their respective local governments. It is about cyberbullying. Today we have already heard about what is happening with regard to cyberbullying and the role that that plays. As a former teacher and principal yourself, Madam Deputy Speaker McMillan, you know the importance of addressing the issue of cyberbullying at this time. The last thing that each and every member on the Labor side of government is talking about is our fair share of GST for infrastructure, health and education.

When it comes to jobs in Townsville, I want to give members a bit of an insight into what has happened over the last three years whilst focusing more so on the last 12 months. There is no doubt that there have been some big impacts in Townsville with the downturn in the minerals commodity market. A number of mines in the north-west minerals province have started to close their doors and in fact reduce the number of fly-in fly-out workers, and that has had a huge impact on the city of Townsville. Queensland Nickel closed its doors and as a result that affected 800 workers directly and around 2,500 workers indirectly. Coupled with that is the impact that the drought has had on our Western Queensland farmers and graziers.

When we combine all of those factors, it was a tsunami of disaster coupled with the cuts from the former Newman LNP government. All of those factors had a dramatic impact on Townsville and as a result up to 10,000 people left our great city. That flow-on effect affects our economy. That flow-on effect affects local jobs. That flow-on effect affects things like our health and our schools, and as a result there was a huge impact on those services felt by our community. Twelve months ago Townsville's unemployment level was 11.4 per cent. Through the work of the Palaszczuk government—through the investment of government funds into infrastructure projects, into the Back to Work program, into a whole range of job-creating activities and projects—that unemployment level has now dropped to 8.3 per cent some 12 months later.

In that time, I have also seen 8,500 jobs return to Townsville. We are seeing an upturn in the Townsville economy. That did not happen through sheer luck; that happened through investment by the Palaszczuk government and this Premier in particular, who sits in this chair, backing the three local members for the area and saying, 'We support you 100 per cent.' During the campaign and over the past three years, time and time again the Premier has turned up in Townsville in support of the three local members. A plethora of ministers have turned up in Townsville to show their support and to continue to make great announcements. We are now starting to see the fruits of that through growth in our economy and in local jobs. If there is any question about the support that the three local members have received, I would put that to the test. The three local members would be able to defend that each and every day.

Debate, on motion of Mr Stewart, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): It now being 6 pm, I notify members that, in accordance with sessional order 2(2), it is time for the automatic adjournment of the House.

Neighbourhood Watch

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.01 pm): I rise to address the proposed crippling funding cuts to Neighbourhood Watch community programs across Queensland and the impact that those cuts will have on this invaluable volunteer group. Minister Mark Ryan was disgustingly proud to advise the House that he is cutting the annual budget for Neighbourhood Watch groups from \$500,000 a year allocated by the LNP to \$75,000 a year under Labor.

Throughout my time in local government and state parliament, I have been witness to the invaluable and dedicated work of Neighbourhood Watch groups and I am well aware of the value that these committed individuals place on making their communities safer—a sentiment that, unfortunately, is not shared by this apathetic and indifferent Labor government. I am outraged at the blatant lack of concern from those opposite about the dedicated work of Neighbourhood Watch groups across the Gold Coast and the rest of Queensland.

I have attended many Neighbourhood Watch groups—from Broadbeach Waters, Merrimac, Nobby Beach and Miami to name just a few. I ask this Labor government, particularly when the number of offences committed on the Gold Coast in 2015-16 is the highest that we have seen over the past 20 years, and with a rapidly rising population: how it can justify crippling a community program that is aimed at public safety? It is simply illogical.

Once again, the Labor Party demonstrates its inability to address the needs of Queenslanders and exposes its soft-on-crime, penny-pinching backwards approach to governance. A cut of this significance will hugely damage the hundreds of Neighbourhood Watch groups across Queensland that work to improve community knowledge of and involvement in crime prevention. That money goes towards activities and initiatives across the state. Neighbourhood Watch groups help provide resources that strengthen the indispensable connection between communities and police. Neighbourhood Watch groups give individuals a place to voice their concerns about local crime and they enable Queensland police to access valuable information and build valuable community relationships.

Recently, a member of one group on the Gold Coast expressed to me how totally devastating these cuts are to Neighbourhood Watch and how they are already having an effect. This October, for the first time in 10 years, the Gold Coast was set to host the annual Queensland Neighbourhood Watch convention. It was to be a very special event as this year marks the 30th birthday of Neighbourhood Watch in Queensland. Gold Coast district members have advised that, at this stage, it is likely that the convention will be cancelled as a direct result of funding cuts. Already, Neighbourhood Watch organisers are feeling the damage of this government's disgraceful decision.

The Gold Coast is home to roughly 50 Neighbourhood Watch groups—from Yatala to Coolangatta and across to Springbrook and Tamborine. Just last week I attended a meeting at Nobby Beach, which is in my electorate, where I was reminded of the ways in which Neighbourhood Watch groups provide not only knowledge and awareness of crime but also comfort and reassurance to the community. Neighbourhood Watch groups are an integral aspect of crime prevention as a whole. It is absolutely shameful that this Labor government and this police minister have taken a razor to Neighbourhood Watch and slashed funding.

Member for Mansfield, First Speech

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (6.04 pm): I would like to thank a range of people. I thank Ian, Victoria and Ben, who ensure the smooth operations of my office and for their tireless commitment to the people of Mansfield. I thank the tenacious and hardworking members of the Mansfield branch and for their commitment to the great Labor cause. I acknowledge previous members representing the seat of Mansfield. Phil Reeves served the people of Mansfield for 14 years. I also would like to recognise and acknowledge more recently Ian Walker. I thank him for his contribution.

I thank the broader education community for placing its faith in me and for recognising my capabilities before I saw them myself. Our Queensland schools' deliberate and precise performance agenda and the leadership of education in Queensland is as strong as it has ever been. To the hundreds of teachers and school staff who supported my campaign and to the 45,000 teachers and thousands of non-teaching staff across Queensland schools, I say to them that I understand what they do, I value what they do and I will always support them. To my wonderful colleagues and thousands of students over the years, I say to them that their support was a gift that allowed me to achieve more than I could ever have imagined. Now, I want to do the same for them.

To the mighty Queensland Teachers' Union, of which some members are in the gallery today, which over 23 years has been my voice and the voice of my colleagues, I thank it for supporting my leadership of more than six school communities and its continued support today.

Finally, I thank my family for bestowing on me the values and beliefs that have guided me through life. The constant love, support and understanding of my family and closest friends has been my greatest companion in my life as a school leader as I know it will continue to be as a busy politician.

I come to this role with a deep respect for the parliament of Queensland and the democratic function it serves. I take seriously my responsibility as a member of this House, both in representing the needs of the people of Mansfield and contributing thoughtfully to the deliberations that will shape a legacy of which this 56th Parliament can be proud.

All of us aspire to leave the world a better place than we found it. Doing so takes will and courage. It also takes capability and opportunity. I thank the people of Mansfield for their faith in me and for this opportunity. Like their child's teacher, and their child's school principal, I will not disappoint them.

Whitsundays, Helicopter Crash

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (6.07 pm): As many people in this House know, as we come up to the one-year anniversary of Tropical Cyclone Debbie, the Whitsundays has had a tough time. It goes without saying that the Whitsundays has certainly had a tough 24 hours—a very sad 24 hours—with that helicopter crashing at Hardy Reef, which is about 65 kilometres off Airlie Beach, with five people going down, two of whom, sadly, passed away. These people were international tourists who, I dare say, came to the Whitsundays for the trip of a lifetime. They came to a magnificent part of the world—a place that I am very proud to represent—to see our much loved Whitsundays, indeed, our iconic Great Barrier Reef.

Like many people, I have been over Hardy Reef and, after hearing the reports of what happened yesterday afternoon, the mind boggles as to what was going through those people's minds. To the families and friends of the deceased, it goes without saying that, on behalf of the good people of the Whitsunday electorate and, I am sure, the members of this chamber, I offer my deepest and heartfelt condolences. I also want to say that we will be keeping those injured in our thoughts and prayers in the hours and days to come. From the information I have been given from various sources, I am pleased to say that those injuries are not life threatening. Nevertheless, we are thinking of those who have been injured as well.

Tonight, I want to pay tribute to the fine men and women of the Queensland Police Service for their professionalism in responding yesterday afternoon to the emergency: Sergeant Graham Pettigrew from the Whitsunday Water Police and his people, senior constables Brett Norris, Travis Carruthers

and Adrian Fitzpatrick; and from the Cannonvale Police Station from scenes of crime, Senior Constable Mark Schubert and also plain clothes constables Shannon Tenana and Brendan De Clara, who went out thanks to the good people of Cruise Whitsundays. I thank them for their professionalism in responding in this hour of need.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge Gary Kilby, the operations manager of Cruise Whitsundays, and his people. It was the Cruise Whitsundays people on the pontoon at Hardy Reef yesterday who had to deal with this. I particularly acknowledge Paul Atkin, the pontoon manager, and his staff and also Tony Wall, the master of the vessel *Sea Odyssey*. It unfolded before their very eyes yesterday afternoon. We had some fine people who responded yesterday in a time of great tragedy. Again I extend my deepest condolences to those people, the family and friends of the deceased.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.10 pm): I have so many reasons to be proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk Labor government: our amazing social reforms and economic plan, which is working; jobs are up—160,300, in fact, have been created since 2015; confidence is up; investment is up; and, locally, the return of front-line services; the fantastic Gundu Pa, our community health centre; and the return of 24-hour primary care.

I am so very proud to be a female member of the Palaszczuk Labor government and the first female member for Lytton. The Palaszczuk Labor government is made up of 23 female members of the 48 government members and 50 per cent of our cabinet is made up of women. This means the Palaszczuk Labor government has the highest representation of females in government across Australia. It is another great win for the mighty maroons. Our YMCA youth parliament member is also a very impressive young woman who I will talk about at another time.

The Palaszczuk government is truly representative of all our communities across Queensland, with members from all walks of life and backgrounds. Like all members in this place, I am fortunate to meet and work each and every day with hardworking local woman who contribute so much to our community. Our local bayside women are involved in every aspect of life in our community. They are small business owners, doctors, dentists, teachers, support staff, builders, mechanics, they are parents, economists, scientists, environmentalists and the list goes on. Most importantly, they want the very best for their families and our communities and they are committed and dedicated to making this happen.

Just one example of these women are the women from Aid and Recreation for the Disabled. These women provide meals, handicrafts, entertainment and recreation for people with a disability and have been doing so for over 50 years. Many of the current members and executive were foundation members who saw the need to provide support for parents like themselves of children with a disability. If you have an hour or two to spare I know Bev and her team would love to hear from you.

During Queensland Week I hosted a morning tea to join with and to celebrate and acknowledge the wonderful achievements of the many women of the bayside and to thank these women who play such an important role in our very vibrant community. May I also take this opportunity to thank Mel Wong, my electorate officer, who has worked with me since 2015 and, prior to that, with the member for Capalaba, Michael Choi. I wish her and her family well in her new ventures. Mel is an extremely kind and caring person and I was fortunate to work with her. Mel will be missed as she has helped many baysiders. Good luck, Mel. I thank you.

I look forward to continuing to work with the many impressive, strong and committed women of the bayside and, indeed, my Labor colleagues here, to bring about great reforms for Queenslanders. Hopefully, and I look forward to it, we will see more gender equality on the other side of the chamber.

Bonney Electorate

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.13 pm): Tonight I rise to talk about Labrador, a proud suburb of the Gold Coast that I am honoured to represent. The name was inspired by Scottish engineer Robert Muir who sailed around the Labrador Peninsula off the Canadian coast on a voyage to the United States. Our beautiful Broadwater clearly reminded him of the small islands and estuary nature of that passage. Traditionally home to the Yugambah people, the Loders were likely the first European family to settle in the area in 1869. I am glad to say that the street I live on is named after them. These days, Labrador is a place that is diverse and rich with culture with over 40 per cent of residents born overseas.

My office is there at 102 Imperial Parade and I encourage anyone to come in for a cup of tea or, if it is after work hours on a Friday afternoon, maybe even a quiet beer. I know a thing or two about serving a beer to many of the fantastic locals in our area. During the campaign and before I worked at

the Labrador AFL Sports Club, home of the mighty Tigers who I am sure will bring home the QAFL cup this year. I would like to pay tribute to a few people there: the manager, Dean Tindale, Brett Mitchell, Jenita, Jess, Pam, Tamara, Gail, Maxi, Grant, Gowan, Sue, Deeksy, Yenschy, Olly, Shannon, Niall and even Graham, although I doubt I will ever shift him from voting for the Greens.

We have a thriving cafe scene and, due to their close proximity to our office, my staff and I often visit Ben and Mickey at Thaiger on Turpin Road and Rob and Chee at Mr Brown's Tuckshop on Brown Street. I will also give a shout-out to the twins and Marty at Frigg on Frank Street and 360 at the Grand. In fact, I am so proud of the Grand Hotel that I had a local artist bring to life an old photograph of the original building as it was a century ago, which proudly hangs in my office.

With the Commonwealth Games just 13 days away our community can now boast the magnificent Gold Coast Hockey Centre. There are not many clubs who focus on their juniors like the Tigerstix do and that gives me great confidence that this facility will be an asset to our area for many decades to come. In spite of that, we have many challenges: Labrador has nearly double to triple the crime rate of neighbouring suburbs; the unemployment rate is considerably higher than the Queensland average at over 10 percent; I want to see a Police Beat for Labrador; and I am doing all I can to support local schools and increase the opportunities for our locals.

I am humbled to have achieved the best ever primary vote for an LNP member at the Labrador booth at nearly 41 per cent. It was, in fact a 10-point increase on the previous election. I am grateful for this endorsement and I vow to continue to fight for the people I am proud to represent.

Sandgate Electorate

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.16 pm): My electorate of Sandgate is, as usual, set for a big Easter weekend. Specifically, this Good Friday there are a series of significant events taking place in the Sandgate electorate: the Queen's Baton Relay, the 70th Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race start and the Bluewater Festival.

The Queen's Baton Relay will bring the excitement of the games right into the heart of the Sandgate electorate. Brighton, Sandgate, Shorncliffe and Taigum will all play host as the Queen's baton makes part of its 100-day journey across the country. I cannot think of a better baton bearer than Rod Chiapello. Rod is an active and well-regarded member of the 4017 community and the franchisee of McDonald's Bracken Ridge. Renowned for his generosity, Rod has supported numerous community events over the years and has employed countless students as well as people of all ages and abilities at his business. I wish Rod and the other Queen's baton bearers well as this special symbol of the unity of the Commonwealth crosses paths with the 21st Bluewater Festival.

The Bluewater Festival will be held as the yachts from Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race leave from Cabbage Tree Creek. It will be held at the Shorncliffe Pier and the Upper and Lower Moora Parks. The Sandgate and Districts Chamber of Commerce yet again have done a great job in organising this year's festival which regularly attracts thousands of visitors. I am pleased to say that this year Commonwealth Games mascot Borobi and the Queen's baton will join them. It will be great to see Borobi at Shorncliffe on Good Friday. It is part of the celebration that is the beginning of the 70th Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race. It is a real highlight on our calendar. Seeing the yachts sail from the Queensland Cruising Yacht Club is a phenomenal sight. Seeing the start from the very historic Shorncliffe Pier will be a great part of the festival and experience on Good Friday. These three great events in a single day in the 4017 are three great reasons to come and visit Brisbane's northern bayside this Good Friday.

With the little time left to me I wish to give a shout-out to the Sandgate-Redcliffe District Cricket Club team. I am wearing their tie. All the best as the 1st grade grand final continues this weekend against Norths at Kalinga Park. Should captain Lachlan Thompson and his boys prevail, this would mean that the Gators will have swept the T20, one-day and two-day competitions.

Renewable Energy

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (6.19 pm): I rise to speak about renewable energy, how it affects Callide and some of the possible ramifications we will face. Callide is the energy hub of Queensland with two base load coal-fired power stations, a large proportion of the CSG industry, gas-fired power stations and at least a dozen proposals to build solar energy plants and wind farms. In particular, the proposed solar energy plant at Wandoan, the Equis solar plant, will be one of the largest solar energy plants in Australia and AGL proposes to build a 440-megawatt wind turbine energy plant at Coopers

Gap, near Jandowae on the northern Darling Downs. Whilst those two proposals have approvals and also benefits for the Callide economy, I advocate caution in how we proceed with attaining a 50 per cent renewable energy target.

Renewable energy is not as clean and green as it portrays itself to be. For example, approximately 200 tonnes of coal are required to make the steel that is needed to build a wind tower. Rare earth metals are required to make the magnets in wind generators and electric motors, the production of which creates substantial amounts of by-product of highly toxic materials, some of them radioactive. Lithium ion battery storage options used in the production of solar panels also have toxic waste issues. All of those renewable energy options have a use-by date. From the moment they are put into service, they begin to deteriorate.

That raises the question: how will we deal with the waste problems that renewable energy will create and at what cost to the consumer? Will this further increase the cost of power? The whole renewable energy debate needs to take a step sideways and ask itself some serious questions about where we will end up. Are we creating more controversial problems? In a world that may source 30 per cent of its energy from renewables by 2050, has anybody considered the cost and practicalities of dealing with the waste problems that renewable energy will create? The Massachusetts Institute of Technology states—

The list of environmental concerns relating to rare earth metals is not a brief one.

Renewable energy is also highly unreliable. Solar energy plants only produce at 20 per cent of their installed capacity. Solar energy produces nothing at night, next to nothing on a cold rainy day and little early in the morning and late in the afternoon. Wind power is slightly better, producing at 30 per cent of installed capacity. When there is no wind, they produce nothing. In Australia, we have weather patterns where high-pressure systems sit over Central Australia for weeks at a time and produce little or no wind and, therefore, no power.

(Time expired)

Logan Community Health Action Plan

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.22 pm): This evening I am delighted to rise in the House as the member for Woodridge to update the House on progress being made in my community and the City of Logan under the Logan Community Health Action Plan. In May 2017, as the then minister for health and ambulance services it was my great honour to launch the Logan Community Health Action Plan, or CHAP, following a \$10 million funding allocation from the Palaszczuk Labor government. I am pleased to report to the House that the CHAP is already delivering real and meaningful improvements to the health of Logan residents.

Three community based midwifery hubs have been established: at the Access Gateway in Logan Central, the Browns Plains Early Learning Centre and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service in Waterford West. Nine midwives and one midwifery unit manager have been appointed to deliver the best quality health care to Logan mums and bubs. Those services have been restored to our community following the cuts of the Newman LNP government.

The Lift the Lip program focuses on dental health and is another success. I am pleased to report to the House that, as at December 2017, 2,442 infants have been assessed for oral health services. Another aspect of Lift the Lip is Healthy Mouth Day. In 2017, 8,836 Logan children received individual oral health lessons in their classrooms, including a tooth-brushing lesson and application of fluoride varnish, and they were given a take-home pack containing a free toothbrush and toothpaste and printed advice on their oral health needs.

We are supporting our refugee community in Woodridge. Logan City has one of the highest rates of refugee settlement in the country. In October last year, I was delighted to launch the Multicultural Health Day at Hope Centre in Slacks Creek.

I am very pleased that the Logan CHAP has also delivered an adolescent and young adult drug and alcohol detoxification program to our community. The Logan Adolescent Drug Dependencies Response Service, known as LADDERS, caters for referrals of adolescents and young people aged 12 to 25 years. Thanks to the Logan CHAP, the building that houses that service was refurbished in 2017 to ensure it is fit for purpose for that project. I am pleased to say that services commenced on 22 January 2018.

However, the truth is that we cannot continue those services in our state unless the federal government pays its fair share. Unless the Turnbull government pays its fair share and does not cut funding to health, but actually funds our health services for services already provided, it is compromising the health care of citizens of our state. For the people of Woodridge, I make this pledge: I will continue to fight for health care for our community. They have been good enough to elect me to this parliament and I have served in a ministerial capacity because of that. The health needs of our community are critical and that is why we developed the CHAP. I will continue to fight for them, to make sure that our government provides its fair share and, just as importantly, the Turnbull coalition government provides its fair share to the electorate of Woodridge and the City of Logan.

Western Queensland, Rail; Regional Airfares

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (6.25 pm): I rise to talk about two topics, the first of which is the rail in western areas. The other day the member for Gregory mentioned the issues with rail freight in Central Queensland, as Aurizon has not found another company to take up its business, so could be dropping it. We could see that freight go onto the roads. More importantly to my electorate is the rail link between Townsville and Mount Isa. As the member quite rightly said, that line intrinsically links the fortunes of Townsville and the north-west minerals province. The industry settings have to be right and one of the primary foundations of the industry is that rail link. The other day a very pertinent comment was made by one of the main users of that rail link when talking about the eastern access rail corridor to be built to Townsville. They said that in five years time it will be an expensive mountain-bike track and that is all it will be, because there will be no users left on the rail track between Townsville and Mount Isa.

Could the government have a worse scorecard if we cannot fix that? It is an income-generating asset. All we need to do is make some changes to the conditions around the Queensland Competition Authority guidelines, which really are a barrier to proper trading and the functioning of that line. While that was probably done with the best intentions, now we see perverse outcomes even though there are users who really want to get on the line. However, those users have experienced price hikes. One user reported a 70 per cent price increase over three years, which means freight is going onto the roads, which means the roads get ripped up by trucks while a rail line that earns money for taxpayers is not being used as users progressively go off it. Rail is intrinsically cheaper for carting bulk commodities 900 kilometres from the Townsville port to the north-west minerals province. This problem has to be fixed. It has not arisen overnight. For the past two years we have been talking about it and the government cannot turn its back on it.

The second issue I raise, which is yet to see any action, is the price of airfares in regional Queensland. The government cannot afford to say that this issue is nothing to do with it, as it is run by the feds. People really are crying out for help from this government. Many people can ill afford to spend \$800 or \$1,000 on a one-way plane ticket to Brisbane. That is unfair on families that are living and working in regional Queensland, keeping our schools and hospitals going. It is not right that they cannot afford to return home to see their parents, for example. The government has to step in and regulate. It should release the report to government. Those people need looking after too. While they are not there in big numbers, as in the city, they are just as important to our state and they need looking after. I ask the government for help on these issues.

Bulimba Electorate, Youth Advisory Panel

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.28 pm): Last year I established the Bulimba electorate youth advisory panel. I did it because in all the conversations I have with the fantastic young people in my local community—the often incredibly, emotionally honest conversations—I have always learned so much both as an MP and as a human being. I wanted to find a way for those young people to have a bigger voice, which they are so keen to do, and for those who were interested to be able to influence government on the things they think are important.

To say that I learned a lot from that panel would be the understatement of the century. This amazing and eclectic group of young people exchanged frank views on a range of issues that were going on last year, including the Uber versus taxi debate and same-sex marriage. They submitted to and appeared before the parliamentary committee considering the issue of single-use plastic bags and the container deposit scheme. They set up and ran the Bulimba electorate ecoforum. I thank them all for the incredibly rewarding experience of working with them and for their very positive feedback on what the experience meant to them.

Last weekend two members of last year's panel Grace Houlihan and Brayden White—and thank you to both of them—helped me to interview applicants for this year's panel. As I was last year, I was totally blown away by the number and quality of the nominations for this year's panel by the passion with which they expressed their views, by the sheer breadth of contribution they have already made to their community or their sphere of operating and by their absolute keenness to learn how to make change, how to turn their passions into reality and how to benefit the bigger world.

Yet again, the choice was extremely difficult. However, I am now very proud to announce the composition of this year's panel, and wish to publicly acknowledge and congratulate the young people aged 16 to 25 who will represent the youth of the Bulimba electorate. They are: Lachlann McEachran, Amelia Horvat, Rhylea Millar, Olivia Short, Sarah Hamid, David McNeill, Lewis Coller, Nate Barham and Niamh Pearce. For the school nominations I thank Lourdes Hill College, Cannon Hill Anglican College and Balmoral State High School for their enthusiasm for this panel and for giving their young people a chance to develop leadership skills. These people in turn will, I know, go to great efforts to make sure they are representing the views of their peers. I acknowledge the school nominees: Liliana Neame and Paige van Luteran from Lourdes Hill College; Dana Drought from Cannon Hill Anglican College; and Emily Buchanan and Maddie Campbell from Balmoral State High School.

I hate hearing people dis young people and ask what is wrong with them these days. So often we hear people saying that the younger generation has a lot of work to do. I am here to tell everybody who is willing to listen that our young people are astonishing. It is a huge honour for me to be the Minister for Youth and not only represent the views of the young people in the Bulimba electorate but also do all I can to make sure the young people of Queensland get a chance to express their views.

The House adjourned at 6.31 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson