



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 12 June 2018

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TUESDAY, 12 JUNE 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.

ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of assent: 21 May 2018

A Bill for An Act to amend the Local Government Act 2009 and the Public Service Act 2008 for particular purposes

A Bill for An Act to amend the City of Brisbane Act 2010, the Electoral Act 1992, the Local Government Act 2009 and the Local Government Electoral Act 2011 for particular purposes

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

21 May 2018

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 21 May 2018, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 21 May 2018 [[782](#)].

PRIVILEGE

Correction to *Record of Proceedings*, Apology



Mrs MILLER (Bundamba—ALP) (9.32 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. I wish to correct the record and apologise for incorrect statements I made in my contribution to the cognate debate on 15 May 2018. During my contribution I made reference to complaints made and apparent lack of action in respect of those complaints. I did not intend to mislead the House. My comments were based on information contained in questions by the Leader of the Opposition and members of the opposition earlier that day which turned out to be incorrect.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Incorporation of Material




Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, in accordance with previous practice, I advise that, for debate on the appropriation bills, which will be debated later this week, members may, by leave of the House, incorporate a portion of their speech in the second reading debate. The following rules must,

however, be followed. One, the member's total speech must not exceed that which would normally be allowed in a 15-minute speech, thus no speech should exceed 2,600 words. Two, speeches should not include graphs, charts or other material. Three, members must provide the Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service and chamber services with their speech in electronic form prior to rising to give their speech. Other members must be provided access, on request, to a member's speech prior to the publication of the *Record of Proceedings*. Four, all speeches must be shown to me as Speaker or the Deputy Speaker prior to leave being sought for incorporation. Speeches intended to be incorporated should not offend standing orders in any way, such as by containing personal reflections, imputations and the like.

I have instructed the Deputy Speakers to seek an undertaking from each member seeking to incorporate that they have complied with those rules before putting the question to the House as to whether leave should be granted to incorporate.


Question on Notice No. 632 of 2018

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 16 May 2018, the member for Buderim asked a question on notice of the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Due to an administrative error, the question on notice was incorrectly directed to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning both in the *Notice Paper* for Thursday, 17 May 2018 and in the questions on notice database.

Once aware of the mistake, on 7 June 2018 the Table Office corrected the questions on notice database and contacted the relevant departmental officers to advise of the error. I note that the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services' response to question on notice No. 632 of 2018 is due on Friday, 15 June 2018. I thank the minister for his cooperation in this matter.

PRIVILEGE

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

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 24 May 2018, the Deputy Premier wrote to me alleging that the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Everton, the member for Kawana and the member for Bundamba deliberately misled the House on 15 May 2018 in a number of statements. The information provided by the Deputy Premier shows that these statements were misleading.

Late on the evening of 17 May 2018, the Leader of the Opposition advised that her initial assertion was incorrect, corrected the record and apologised to the House. The members for Everton and Kawana also sought to correct the record and apologised to the House shortly after the Leader of the Opposition did. As we have just heard, earlier today the member for Bundamba also apologised and corrected the parliamentary record.

Given the corrections and apologies, I have decided that this matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 24 May 2018, from the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Jackie Trad, to the Speaker regarding a matter of privilege concerning questions asked by the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, the member for Everton, Mr Tim Mander MP, and the member for Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, in question time on 15 May 2018, and also comments made by the member for Bundamba, Mrs Jo-Ann Miller MP, in parliamentary debate on the day [\[783\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 1 June 2018, from the member for Bundamba, Mrs Jo-Ann Miller MP, to the Speaker regarding her contribution to the second reading cognate debate of the Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 on 15 May 2018 [\[784\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 8 June 2018, from the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, to the Speaker regarding the matter of privilege raised by the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Jackie Trad, on 16 May 2018 [\[785\]](#).

I have also circulated a more detailed statement and I seek leave to incorporate that statement.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

On 24 May 2018, the Deputy Premier wrote to me, alleging that the Leader of the Opposition, the Member for Everton, the Member for Kawana and the Member for Bundamba deliberately misled the House on 15 May 2018 in the following statements:

During Question Time, the Leader of the Opposition stated:

... I table RTI documents showing that the Deputy Premier, while local government minister, received 326 complaints about concerns in Ipswich.

The Member for Everton stated:

... In light of the revelations this morning that the Deputy Premier received over 300 complaints about concerns in Ipswich during her time as local government minister...

The Member for Kawana stated:

... Given the revelations this morning that more than 300 corruption complaints were sent to the Deputy Premier while she was local government minister...

Later that day, the Member for Bundamba stated:

... Today we learn that hundreds of complaints were, in fact, sent to the then minister for local government in relation to Ipswich City Council...

The information provided by the Deputy Premier shows that these statements were misleading.

Late on the evening of 17 May 2018, the Leader of the Opposition advised that her initial assertion was incorrect, corrected the record and apologised to the House. The Members for Everton and Kawana also sought to correct the record and apologised to the House shortly after the Leader of the Opposition.

I note that on 12 June 2018, the Member for Bundamba also apologised and corrected the parliamentary record.

In her letter to me, the Member for Bundamba advised that she would have apologised and withdrawn her statement on 17 May 2018 but that she did not have the opportunity to make a statement as the Leader of the Opposition made her apology immediately after automatic adjournment.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether a matter should be referred to the committee, the Speaker shall take account a number of factors including whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

Given the apologies of the Leader of the Opposition, the Member for Everton and the Member for Kawana on 17 May 2018, and the Member for Bundamba on 12 June 2018, I am satisfied that an adequate apology has been made in respect of the matter.

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

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petitions, lodged by the honourable members indicated—

Kilkivan and Goomeri, Community Health Nurse

Mrs Frecklington, from 354 petitioners, requesting the House to re-introduce the services of a Community Health Nurse to visit the townships of Kilkivan and Goomeri on a fortnightly or monthly basis [\[786\]](#).

Maleny Rural Fire Bridge, New Facility

Mr Powell, from 306 petitioners, requesting the House to honour the commitment given by the Government in November 2017 to construct a new facility for the Maleny Rural Fire Bridge [\[787\]](#).

Sandgate Hawks AFL Club, Bus Service

Hon. Hinchliffe, from 219 petitioners, requesting the House to require TransLink to alter the route of the 310 bus service to include the Sandgate Hawks AFL Club located on Lemke Road [\[788\]](#).

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

Ipswich City Council

From 791 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that the Ipswich City Council is not put into the hands of administrators [\[789, 790\]](#).

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

Global Plaza, Oxenford, Traffic Congestion

Mr Boothman, from 245 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise design works and upgrades which will reduce traffic congestion in the area surrounding Global Plaza, Oxenford [\[791\]](#).

Pullenvale, Grandview Road, Phone Tower

Dr Rowan, from 41 petitioners, requesting the House to immediately cease construction of a 30 metre phone tower on Grandview Road Pullenvale and investigate the approvals provided by Brisbane City Council in collaboration with the Department of Transport and Main Roads [\[792\]](#).

Warner, Eatons Crossing and Lilley Roads, Intersection Upgrade

Mr Mander, from 277 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the intersection of Eatons Crossing and Lilley Roads, Warner [\[793\]](#).

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

Ipswich City Council

From 1,096 petitioners, requesting the House to dissolve the Ipswich City Council and appoint an interim administrator to act in place of the councillors until the conclusion of a fresh election of councillors and a forensic accountant appointed to scrutinise all contracts and the finances since 1998 [\[794\]](#).

Acquisition of Land Act 1967, Amendment

From 129 petitioners, requesting the House to amend section 20 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1967 to include solatium in determining the amount of compensation provision for the disadvantage resulting from the relocation [\[795\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

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

18 May 2018—

- [718](#) Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 4, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 October 2017 and 6 March 2018
- [719](#) The Queensland Plan Annual Progress Report 2016–17
- [720](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a Tourism and Events Mission to SportAccord 2018, Bangkok, Thailand by the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Jones), 16 April—19 April 2018
- [721](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 9, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 January 2018 and 15 February 2018
- [722](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 10, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 February 2018 and 6 March 2018
- [723](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 7, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 25 October 2017 and 15 February 2018

21 May 2018—

- [724](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a Trade and Investment Mission to the United Kingdom and Germany by the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick), 15—22 April 2018
- [725](#) University of Queensland—Annual Report 2017: Erratum
- [726](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (Hon. Furner) to an ePetition (2899-18) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 57 petitioners, requesting the House to close the Burrum, Gregory, Isis and Cherwell River systems to professional gill netting to save our river systems and allow the fish stocks to recover

24 May 2018—

- [727](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates by the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Hon. Trad), 21 April—24 April 2018

28 May 2018—

- [728](#) Department of Energy and Water Supply—Final Report 1 July—12 December 2017
- [729](#) The Queensland Music Festival Pty Ltd—Financial report for the 12 months ended 31 December 2017
- [730](#) The Queensland Music Festival Pty Ltd—covering letter, dated 24 April 2018, from the Chair, Mr Dominic McGann, to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Leeanne Enoch, regarding Queensland Music Festival audited accounts for the year ended December 2017

30 May 2018—

- [731](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Hinchliffe), to a paper petition (2923-18) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) and an ePetition (2880-18) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 4,087 and 1,611 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to ensure that de-amalgamation of the Southern Downs Regional Council occurs prior to the next statutory council elections
- [732](#) Response from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham), to a paper petition (2922-18) presented by Ms Leahy and an ePetition (2854-18) sponsored by Ms Leahy, from 2,400 and 13,062 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to recognise the need for Queensland landholders to sustainably manage regrowth/thickening and the importance of using Mulga as a fodder, and to not impose any further restrictions through legislation/regulation on fodder harvesting or through other Self Assessable Codes, legislation or regulation

- [733](#) Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation—Final Report 1 July—12 December 2017
31 May 2018—
- [734](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (2882-18) sponsored by Mr Hunt, from 482 petitioners, requesting the House to re-open Nambour Hospital Birthing Unit by the end of 2018
- [735](#) Response from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick), to an ePetition (2885-18) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 3,582 petitioners, requesting the House to recall the Moreton Bay Regional Council Local Planning Amendment for review and require the existing koala corridors in the Warner Investigation Area to be retained and the corridor be revegetated to allow for safe koala movement
- [736](#) Response from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick) to an ePetition (2897-18) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 398 petitioners, requesting the House to advise when the Moreton Bay Regional Council will be conducting an investigation into a major road corridor to the west of the existing Bruce Highway; reject the proposed major roads shown in the proposed major amendment No 1 to the regional plan; ensure developers are not provided with information on proposed roads prior to notification of affected land owners and to engage in consultation and engagement
- [737](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Hinchliffe), to a paper petition (2921-18) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) from 273 petitioners, requesting the House to build a new bridge across the river at Indooroopilly, east of the existing railway bridges
- [738](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (2841-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 52 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure a Royal Commission to investigate all organisations registered to operate in Queensland as religious organisations, affiliations, groups or companies, to see if any of them are promoting philosophies, teachings or practises that could be seen as promoting future terror or violence that might affect the safety and well-being of the people of Queensland
- [739](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (2856-18) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 11,835 petitioners, requesting the House to reject the removal of restraint on abortion in Queensland
- [740](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (2905-18) sponsored by Mr Andrew, from 30 petitioners, requesting the House to provide bus shelters under local consultation for the people who wish to use this bus service to and from Mackay to Marian
- [741](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (2904-18) sponsored by Mr Andrew, from 88 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure installation of traffic lights on the intersection of David Price Way and Marian/Hampton Road that intersects Mackay Eungella Road to allow safe access to shops
- [742](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (2919-18) presented by Hon. Hinchliffe from 149 petitioners, requesting the House to consolidate the current signalised pedestrian crossing on Braun Street into a signalised intersection at Biarra Street, Deagon
- [743](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (2906-18) sponsored by Mr Andrew, from 54 petitioners, requesting the House to install a roundabout at Marian Shopping Centre, where Hadley Street meets Mackay Eungella Road, to allow traffic to access the shopping centre precinct from both ways and leave from both ways safely
- [744](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (2853-17) sponsored by Mr Nicholls from 708 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise funding for a new Performing Arts Centre for Kedron State High School
- [745](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace), to a paper petition (2920-18) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) from 1 petitioner, requesting the House to amend timeframes and procedures to WorkCover and WorkCover Appeal Acts
- [746](#) Response from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick), to an ePetition (2835-17) sponsored by Mr McEachan, from 305 petitioners, requesting the House to refuse the relevant permits and call on the Redland City Council to cease construction of a pedestrian/bicycle pathway crossing Erapah Creek and to vary the infrastructure agreement with the developer to allow upgrade of the existing bicycle track or similar infrastructure
- 01 June 2018—
- [747](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Issues Paper No. 2, 56th Parliament—Inquiry into the establishment of a pharmacy council and pharmacy ownership in Queensland
- [748](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (2877-18) sponsored by Mr Mander, from 219 petitioners, requesting the House to evaluate the need for additional car and motorcycle parking requirements at the Prince Charles Hospital taking into account any planned development and to make the evaluation publicly available
- [749](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace), to an ePetition (2890-18) sponsored by Mr Janetzi, from 463 petitioners, requesting the House to construct additional car parks, restructure school access, provide footpaths that connect to the school and any other infrastructure that ensures the safety and wellbeing of the Glenvale School Community
- [750](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (2878-18) sponsored by Mr Janetzi, from 92 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the construction of traffic lights on the corner of Donahue and Ruthven Streets, Kearney's Springs

11 June 2018—

- [751](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 8, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 25 October 2017 and 6 March 2018
- [752](#) Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee: Report No. 4, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 7 March 2018 and 1 May 2018
- [753](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan), to a paper petition (2933-18) presented by Mr Last, from 291 petitioners, requesting the House to take steps to action proper solutions to the crime wave in Ayr
- [754](#) Youth Justice Act 1992: Youth Justice (Transitional) Regulation 2018, No. 3, explanatory notes: Erratum
- [755](#) Youth Justice Act 1992: Youth Justice (Transitional) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 7, explanatory notes: Erratum

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994—

- [756](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Solar PV and Battery Energy Storage Systems) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 54
- [757](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Solar PV and Battery Energy Storage Systems) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 54, explanatory notes

Adult Proof of Age Card Act 2008, Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012, Tow Truck Act 1973, Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995, Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Marine Safety—Domestic Commercial Vessel National Law Application) Act 2016, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

- [758](#) Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 55
- [759](#) Transport Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 55, explanatory notes

Environmental Offsets Act 2014, Planning Act 2016, Vegetation Management Act 1999, Water Act 2000—

- [760](#) Vegetation Management (Thickened Vegetation) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 56
- [761](#) Vegetation Management (Thickened Vegetation) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 56, explanatory notes

Aboriginal Land Act 1991—

- [762](#) Aboriginal Land (Olkola) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 57
- [763](#) Aboriginal Land (Olkola) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 57, explanatory notes

Major Events Act 2014—

- [764](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Townsville 400) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 58
- [765](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Townsville 400) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 58, explanatory notes

University Legislation Amendment Act 2017—

- [766](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 59
- [767](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 59, explanatory notes

Economic Development Act 2012—

- [768](#) Economic Development (Mackay Waterfront PDA) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 60
- [769](#) Economic Development (Mackay Waterfront PDA) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 60, explanatory notes

Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990—

- [770](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) (Trustee Appointments) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 61
- [771](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) (Trustee Appointments) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 61, explanatory notes

Ambulance Service Act 1991, Food Act 2006, Health Act 1937, Pest Management Act 2001, Private Health Facilities Act 1999, Radiation Safety Act 1999—

- [772](#) Health Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 62
- [773](#) Health Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 62, explanatory notes

Acquisition of Land Act 1967, Building Units and Group Titles Act 1980, Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, Electricity Act 1994, Explosives Act 1999, Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988, Fossicking Act 1994, Gas Supply Act 2003, Geothermal Energy Act 2010, Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, Land Act 1994, Land Title Act 1994, Land Valuation Act 2010, Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, Mineral Resources Act 1989, Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, Petroleum Act 1923, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, Stock Route Management Act 2002, Surveyors Act 2003, Valuers Registration Act 1992, Vegetation Management Act 1999, Water Act 2000—

- [774](#) Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 63
- [775](#) Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 63, explanatory notes


Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003—

[776](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2018, No. 64

[777](#) Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (QOTE) Notice 2018, No. 64, explanatory notes

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): The budget is the government's most important document. It is the proof that we have a clear economic plan to drive growth and, most importantly, create jobs throughout Queensland. To me, it is a road map. It tells us where we are going and how we will get there, but it does not answer the most important question: why.

Our budget shows that our clear direction is jobs and infrastructure. We are spending nearly \$46 billion—10 times the amount the federal government is willing to invest in Queensland—because we want to create jobs in a strong economy. The two go together. They are the foundations of a strong economy: \$11.6 billion of our Capital Works Program is allocated in this coming financial year. It alone will support some 38,000 jobs.

Sixty-five per cent of our infrastructure spending is outside the south-east, because we are supporting our regions. Whether it is the Townsville stadium, or our \$176 million contribution to the Rookwood Weir, providing drought contingency water supplies for Rockhampton, Gladstone and Yeppoon, we will always have our focus on all of Queensland, because we will never be a one-city state.


Mr Speaker, \$900 million from our infrastructure plan is being spent on building and adding to our hospitals. That is because we are keeping Queenslanders healthy. Recently we welcomed our five millionth Queenslanders. There were 60,000 babies born in Queensland last year. That is why we are hiring 3,500 nurses and midwives—not to mention doctors and other key health professionals.

We are also delivering a great start for our children. Since March 2015 we have hired 3,634 more teachers and 1,135 teacher aides—and we are going to hire thousands more. We are building six new schools and we are spending more than \$200 million refurbishing existing schools, including \$10 million on each of 17 high schools.

We are supporting Queensland businesses with payroll tax concessions so that they can hire apprentices and trainees. We are protecting the Great Barrier Reef. We are building the economy of the future. We are keeping Queensland communities safe by expanding the number of police and emergency workers, giving them the best equipment and every support to combat the scourge of drugs and domestic violence.

We are governing for all of Queensland. These are my government's priorities, the things that drive us to meet the challenges of tomorrow through hard work today. For 25 years this state has had Australia's fastest growing population—young families staking their claim in Queensland and those moving from interstate. They know what we do: that Queensland is getting it right. I firmly believe our best days are indeed ahead of us.


Queensland Greats

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 am): At a ceremony on Friday night it was my great pleasure to induct this year's Queensland Greats. They include: Bill Hauritz, the man who gave us the Woodford Folk Festival; Professor Matt Sanders, who literally wrote the book—or, rather, books—on better parenting; Gail Ker, CEO of Access Community Services, now one of Australia's leading training and housing organisations for migrants and refugees; David Nilsson, one of Australia's most successful baseball players and coaches; and Associate Professor Henrietta Marrie, the first Indigenous Australian to achieve a professional position with the United Nations and a leader in Indigenous training and education. The awards also recognised the valuable work of the St Vincent de Paul Society and gave the posthumous award to the late Graham 'Butch' Lenton. Butch's dedication to Western Queensland is the stuff of legend. The new Waltzing Matilda Centre in his beloved Winton is just one of his many achievements.

When it comes to people achieving great things, Queensland is spoilt for choice. The Queen's Birthday honours recognised Queensland talents in everything from fashion design to Antarctic exploration. It recognises the contribution of Janice Hadfield as an international hockey umpire, as well

as Queenslander by choice, Dawn Fraser. We have been recognising Queensland Greats for 18 years. As I said on Friday, we do it for them, we do it for their families, for those who helped them achieve all that they have done, but we also do it for ourselves. They are to remind us and future generations that ordinary people achieve extraordinary things every single day in our wonderful state of Queensland and that in our state there seems to be so many more of them than anywhere else. I encourage everyone here in the House to nominate someone for next year's awards.


Horn, Mr J; State of Origin

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.43 am): They say it is not whether you win or lose that is important but how you play the game. That has never been more evident than in the way Jeff Horn carried himself last weekend. Jeff showed that he was a true champion, accepting that you cannot always win and congratulating his opponent on his victory. There were no excuses and no trash talk—unless you follow social media where a few flabby social media cowards shamefully bagged our Jeff and called him a fluke. I would like to see them step into the ring some time.

In boxing there is nowhere to hide and Jeff never took a backward step. If it was decided on heart alone I think we all know who the undisputed champion would be. Jeff Horn did us proud. Between winning his world title and preparing for last week's bout, Jeff has worked tirelessly for charity. The good that Jeff Horn has done might never be measured. He has visited schools and counselled the victims of bullies. Before last Sunday he was a role model and he still is. He always will be.

As for our Maroons, that was another game that did not go our way, but one of the lessons of sport is persistence and loyalty. I will always back Queenslanders and I know that our Queensland State of Origin team will come back. They always do. As the great sportscaster Ray Warren says, 'Beware the wounded Queenslander.' It is fitting that Jeff Horn's other profession is teaching because Jeff Horn has proven he is all class. Sunday's ending was not all we had hoped for, but it does not change Jeff's inspirational story and I have a feeling that this is not the end of the book; it is just another chapter.

Budget, Jobs and Investment

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.44 am): Last month Queensland welcomed its five millionth resident. Baby Elizabeth, who was born at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and who is only a few weeks old, is already talking to us about our great state of Queensland. Baby Elizabeth was born four years premature—earlier projections had indicated our population would not reach the five million milestone until 2022. While she is one of 60,000 births expected in Queensland this year, Elizabeth's parents are among the 100,000 people who migrate here from interstate, the majority from New South Wales.

People are coming to Queensland because of the jobs and opportunities that the Palaszczuk government is providing right across the economy. There were 22 million domestic overnight visitors in the 12 months to September last year. That is a 9.7 per cent increase. Resource exports totalled \$56 billion in the 12 months to November last year. There was a 58 per cent increase in major projects activity in 2017-18. There has been solid agricultural growth and 152,400 more jobs since January 2015. Thanks to our renewable energy target, there will be 23 large-scale projects supporting 3,600 jobs through private investment, including most recently the Clarke Creek wind farm north-west of Rockhampton—a \$1 billion project that the government provided development approval for last week.

All of that means we have to plan for the future and that is why I am proud that the budget will make a \$45 billion commitment to infrastructure. That is up \$2 billion on last year's budget and five times what the Commonwealth infrastructure investment is for Queensland. That includes an \$897 million investment on the M1 for upgrades between Varsity Lakes and Tugun and between Eight Mile Plains and Daisy Hill, a stretch of road for which there was no new investment during the term of the Newman government. Early works are underway on the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project. That project will transform the way we move around South East Queensland. We are delivering for the Sunshine Coast with \$160.8 million in funding for the Beerburrum to Nambour upgrade.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: Those opposite are already whinging! We are 20 minutes into ministerial statements and those opposite are whinging—they whinge, we work!

Mr SPEAKER: Order!


Mr DICK: I have some more good news.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, Minister. I am calling the House to order. I know it has been a few weeks, members, and you may be out of practice. I intend to remind you today of the standing orders.

Mr DICK: In some more good news for Queensland, as the member for Woodridge, I am proud that we are funding essential upgrades to the Logan Hospital, as well as the Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals, to cope with forecast growth. The capital program is already funding hospital redevelopments in the Health portfolio at Atherton, Julia Creek, Roma and a \$62 million upgrade to the Kingaroy Hospital—thank me later, member for Nanango.

On this side of the chamber we know the decisions that we make today are going to influence baby Elizabeth's future. That is why we are improving our rail network and building better roads, schools and hospitals so that baby Elizabeth continues to live in a state that is the envy of the nation and the world.


Budget, Ecotourism

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.48 am): Today we have taken the very first significant steps in a new era for ecotourism in our state. Queensland company World Trail is on site in the Far North starting collection for the detailed design and business case for the brand-new world-class Wangetti Trail. This trail will be the first of its kind in Queensland, but it certainly will not be the last. It was lovely to be there with you, Mr Speaker, on the day that we announced the commitment.

The decision to harness Queensland's natural assets to increase our share of the international tourism market will prove to be one of the lasting legacies of this year's state budget. For decades both sides of politics have talked about ecotourism, but I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering what we need to grow Queensland's \$25 billion tourism industry and jobs in our region.

This year's state budget will see a record injection of an additional \$180 million to grow tourism and the tourism industry. This new money is all about working with the private sector to deliver brand-new tourism experiences and to ensure that we are providing a world-class destination for people who choose to come to Queensland. The great thing about the tourism industry is that it creates jobs right across our state, whether it is in the Far North, in our regions or in the outback. I look forward to continuing to update the House on the progress of the Wangetti Trail and all of the new tourism products that this funding will deliver for Queensland.

Budget, Health

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.50 am): Today the Palaszczuk government will deliver a record health budget for Queenslanders. It will be the largest-ever investment in health care by any Queensland government. We will be investing a huge \$18.3 billion—that is a \$798.7 million increase on last year's budget—to build our future hospitals, expand services, invest in preventive health and strengthen front-line services. The Palaszczuk government has made health a priority. We are investing in hospitals and front-line staff right across the state to ensure that every Queenslanders has access to world-class health care, no matter where they live.


In 2018-19, we will invest a record \$17.3 billion to deliver health services, which is an increase of \$729.3 million from last year. The bulk of that funding will go to Queensland's hospitals. We will spend close to \$1 billion on priority health infrastructure and systems, expanding and building the hospitals of the future. This includes an additional \$50 million for the Health Technology Replacement Program to ensure our facilities are equipped with the latest and most efficient medical technology. We are funding our Building Better Hospitals program, including funding to progress the \$281.2 million Logan Hospital redevelopment and the \$12.6 million maternity services ward redevelopment, the \$252.7 million Caboolture Hospital redevelopment and the \$124.5 million stage 1A expansion of Ipswich Hospital.

Our public hospitals and ambulance services have experienced huge increases in demand for emergency department, outpatient and elective surgery services. The demand growth is driven by population, an ageing population, increased rates of chronic disease and a shift from the private hospital system to the public. Today, we will see a health budget that addresses that growing demand for public health services across the state. Today we will commit a further \$154 million to extend the successful

Specialist Outpatient Strategy for a further two years. We are investing \$10 million to deliver the Winter Beds Strategy to help our clinicians and hospitals keep up with demand during the flu season. We are delivering on our commitment to Queenslanders to hire 3,500 more nurses, including 400 nurse navigators and 100 midwives. We have already employed an extra 2,800 nurses and midwives. This budget will continue to deliver more staff in our hospitals. We will continue to invest in preventive health services to tackle obesity and chronic disease rates, as well as mental health and wellbeing.

This year's Health budget reinforces our government's commitment to delivering high-quality health care to Queenslanders wherever they live. We promised more support for our health system and, in this year's budget, that is exactly what we are delivering.

Budget, Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.53 am): There is no better investment than an investment in Queensland's future and in education. Of course, Queensland students are our future. That is why the Palaszczuk government is delivering the school infrastructure that our students need for a world-class education.

Yesterday I had the pleasure of meeting some wonderful state school students and principal John Schuh at Ferny Grove State High School, where we made an important announcement about education infrastructure. With the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Jackie Trad, and the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and member for Ferny Grove, Mark Furner, we announced \$250 million for additional infrastructure in more than 60 secondary schools over the next two years to make sure that our state high schools are 2020 ready. Including this financial year, our investment in schools to be 2020 ready represents an amount of \$470 million over three years. That funding is one part of a much larger education infrastructure budget soon to be announced. The investment will ensure that our high schools can accommodate an expected additional 17,000 students from 2020 and into the future. We are preparing for a significant new era in Queensland's education system from 2020. That is the year that our original preppies, who started school in 2007 as a smaller group of students, will no longer be in our school system. When they graduate at the end of 2019, for the first time we will have a full complement of students across all six year levels in Queensland high schools.

The Palaszczuk government is planning for and delivering the infrastructure we need for the future. One-third of the schools to benefit from the '2020 Ready' program are outside the south-east corner. In addition, we expect this statewide program will create more than 700 jobs for Queenslanders. Ferny Grove State High School is receiving a new \$18 million three-storey classroom building and STEM learning centre. In Toowoomba South, Harristown State High School is receiving a new three-storey learning centre with 14 classrooms and new science labs. Another \$10 million will be invested at Centenary Heights State High School to make it 2020 ready. In Buderim, Chancellor State College will receive a new three-storey building with 19 new classrooms, valued at more than \$12 million. I know that the 2020 Ready infrastructure projects will be welcomed by those school communities.

Honourable members interjected.


Mrs GRACE: I am proud to be a part of the Palaszczuk government that is prioritising education and delivering our students with the education infrastructure we need for the future. I hear those opposite yelling out some of the schools in their areas. I say to them, have a look at the list because there is good news all around for Queensland schools.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Caloundra! Member for Gladstone, you and the member for Caloundra were having an exchange. I ask you to cease doing that while ministerial statements are occurring.

M1, Funding

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.56 am): The M1 is the most heavily trafficked road in Queensland, carrying more than 150,000 vehicles per day, including 12,000 heavy vehicles. As the House is aware, since we were elected in 2015 the Palaszczuk government has been standing up to Canberra and demanding a fair funding deal for the M1. This government is proud to have delivered more than \$2.3 billion in new investment on the M1, landing four

major upgrades in our term in office. Two major new upgrades at the M1-M3 merge and between Mudgeeraba and Varsity Lakes are under heavy construction right now, as any M1 motorist would know.

We welcome the Australian government's recent commitment of \$1 billion to what we have identified as the next two highest M1 priority upgrades, between Eight Mile Plains and Daisy Hill and Varsity Lakes to the border at Tugun. While that investment is welcomed, it is based on a 50-50 funding arrangement despite the fact that the M1 is a nationally significant road on the National Land Transport Network for which the federal government has primary funding responsibility.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, resume your seat. Members to my left, I am hearing interjections that are designed to disrupt the speaker. I remind all members that standing order 251 says that members speaking are not to be interrupted except in certain circumstances. There are no circumstances that I have heard this morning that meet the standing orders. It is at my discretion. I cannot hear the speaker and I ask you to cease interjecting, particularly when there is no combativeness in the statement that I can hear.


Mr BAILEY: While that level of investment is welcomed, it is based on a 50-50 funding arrangement, despite the fact that the M1 is a nationally significant road on the National Land Transport Network for which the federal government has primary funding responsibility. The fact is that the Turnbull government contributed to the same road just across the border on an 80-20 basis in the federal budget handed down just last month. It is disappointing that more than 80 per cent of the funding committed by the Turnbull government is not even in the federal budget; it is beyond the four-year forward estimates and not available until 2022-23.

However, the good news is that the Palaszczuk government would never let Gold Coast commuters, businesses, truckies, parents and motorists down. We have led the way with initiating first funding commitments on the M1. We have already committed 20 per cent and were ready to go for the Varsity Lakes to Tugun project last year. We also committed \$16 million for the necessary planning for the Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill stretch.

We have committed \$374 million to upgrade the M1 between Eight Mile Plains and Daisy Hill, which includes the extension of the South East Busway to Springwood. We have also committed \$515 million—more than half a billion dollars—to six-lane the M1 from Varsity Lakes to the border. We have brought forward that funding to ensure that upgrades can kick off immediately after the works now underway are complete.

More than half of Queensland's M1 funding—almost half a billion dollars—will be spent over the next four years. I am pleased to confirm to the House that this means that work on the third and the fourth M1 upgrade under the Palaszczuk Labor government is expected to be underway in 2020, straight after the completion of the first and second M1 upgrades currently under construction, also under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Waste Levy

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.00 am): In March this year the Palaszczuk government committed to develop a new waste and recycling strategy that will be underpinned by a waste levy which will not see Queenslanders pay more to put their wheelie bins out each week. We have been working with industry and key stakeholders. Earlier this month we released a directions paper that sets out the key principles that underpin the new strategy and the core features of a levy that will apply to waste sent to landfill. The directions paper shows that we are keeping our promise to Queenslanders. We will ensure that there will be no direct cost on households by providing advanced payments to local councils.


Today's budget will outline details of how the Palaszczuk government will deliver a levy framework that supports local councils, industry and community. We are making sure that our waste strategy and levy creates industry and job growth and improves recycling. For too long recycling in Queensland has languished behind other jurisdictions. The LNP's repeal of our waste levy in 2012 left us the only mainland state without a waste levy, turning us into a cheap place to dump interstate waste and robbing us of the opportunity to invest in the waste and recycling industry.

Given China's recent restrictions on imported recycling material, we need to act now. This is what the Palaszczuk government is doing. We are working to improve the management of waste and recycling for future generations.

Recently, the LGAQ released a report into waste to energy initiatives, showing their long-term thinking about Queensland's waste management. The report shows that policy and investment are critical to the development of innovative waste technologies. The Palaszczuk government's waste strategy will provide that strategic direction. The LNP are now the only ones actively working against investment in Queensland's waste and recycling industry. Even proponents of waste to energy recognise that the levy is required in order to invest in new technology. Our state needs to move towards a circular economy that uses a variety of mechanisms to improve recycling and reuse and reduce our dependence on landfill.

A waste levy will give industry the confidence to invest in alternative and innovative recycling technologies to grow the sector and create jobs. It will also provide Queenslanders with an expanding range of recycling and recovery options and, importantly, reduce landfill. By working with local government, we will honour our commitment that Queenslanders will not pay any more to put out their wheelie bins.

Works for Queensland


 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.03 am): Jobs are the No. 1 priority of the Palaszczuk government. That is exactly what our Works for Queensland program is helping to deliver. This outstanding program is already supporting more than 10,000 jobs, as reported by local councils—all of them in regional Queensland. Not only that, Works for Queensland is also delivering new and improved infrastructure in communities throughout the state.

We are partnering with local councils to deliver shovel ready projects that boost local economies and result in fantastic new facilities for residents and visitors. Like the \$2.4 million revitalisation of the historic gold mining centre of Mount Morgan—a project that has breathed new life into this iconic Queensland town. The streetscape features impressive arbours replicating the Tree of Knowledge along with refurbished cultural icons. It also includes the relocation of overhead powerlines and fully rebuilt amenities, which will be fantastic assets for the community and make a great first impression with visitors. I note that the member for Mirani is nodding.

Make no mistake, Works for Queensland is delivering exceptional results in regional Queensland in terms of jobs, infrastructure and economic investment. The number of jobs will continue to grow, as we ramp up our investment in regional Queensland. All up, there is \$600 million being invested in the regions thanks to Works for Queensland.

From an all-abilities park in Gladstone to a major foreshore redevelopment on Palm Island and a beautification project for the Tara town centre, Works for Queensland is delivering great results for jobseekers and communities in regional Queensland. These benefits will continue to grow as our increased investment rolls out into regional communities throughout the state. Works for Queensland also delivers on one of our key election commitments to create and support jobs. That is what the Palaszczuk government is all about, and that is what Works for Queensland is delivering.

Budget, Police Service

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.05 am): When our government came to office there was a lot of work to be done to give the Queensland Police Service the personnel, the high-tech equipment and the resources they need to keep Queenslanders safe. The Palaszczuk government is doing that work. We are doing that work to keep communities safe and reduce the number of people who are victims of crime.

This commitment to advancing Queensland's priorities is writ large in this year's state budget. We have increased the number of police officers, taking the total number of officers to nearly 12,000. There are more coming. What is more, we are supporting the deployment of those extra officers where they are needed most.


We have already announced funding for an extra 24 domestic violence specialists to be spread across the state, providing direction, guidance and training on issues associated with domestic and family violence. This initiative was a recommendation of the *Not now, not ever* report and we are taking action. Our state budget support for this investment in these new specialist officers demonstrates our government's total commitment to tackling the scourge of domestic and family violence.

Modern policing is about more than just numbers. It is also about the clever use of technology. The state budget will continue to see the Palaszczuk government providing funding to equip the Queensland Police Service with a fleet of QLITE mobile tablet devices. As I speak, new model tasers are continuing to be rolled out right across the state. The provision of body worn cameras for our officers also continues to be supported by our government. Additionally, this government has allocated nearly \$50 million for a world-class use of force weapons and counter-terrorism facility at Wacol.

When I travel the state and speak to police officers they are at one in saying that the array of high-tech equipment they have is making a very real difference to the work they do. Imagine a police officer on the side of the road with a QLITE mobile tablet device. Instantaneously that officer can check a person's driving history and whether they have a criminal past or outstanding warrants. What it means is that our police work faster, are more mobile and are more rapid response ready.

All of this shows why the Queensland Police Service is recognised internationally as the envy of other policing jurisdictions. It is also one of the reasons our government continues to advance Queensland's priorities to keep communities safe for the benefit of all communities right across the state.

Building and Construction Industry

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.08 am): The first-term Palaszczuk government took to the 2017 election a commitment to deliver security of payments for subcontractors in Queensland's \$45 billion building and construction industry—to help ensure they are paid in full, on time, every time so industry can focus on the priority of growing their businesses and creating jobs for Queenslanders.

In 2017 it was this Labor government that passed historic reforms supporting small businesses in the building and construction industry through the building industry fairness legislation. These are the strongest protections for subcontractors in the country. A key component of the reforms was project bank accounts and, from 1 March 2018, they now apply to all government construction projects valued between \$1 million and \$10 million. I can report to the House that, as of today, projects are currently being awarded that require the use of project bank accounts—11 tenders are currently being assessed and another 14 are out to tender, with many more to come.

We also legislated to appoint a building industry fairness reforms implementation and evaluation panel to work with government and with the building industry to assess the implementation of the building industry fairness legislation. I am pleased to announce to the House today that I have appointed four eminent professionals to this panel: Ms Bronwyn Weir as chair—managing director and consultant specialist in regulatory practice, enforcement and compliance matters in the building and construction industry; Ms Jennifer Robertson—corporate governance consultant and practising lawyer, and deputy chair of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission; Mr Troy Lewis—a specialist in construction litigation and security of payment law; and Ms Fiona Aitchison Reid—a principal solicitor in a construction law firm. I table the panel's terms of reference for the benefit of the House.


Tabled paper: Department of Housing and Public Works, Building Industry Fairness Reforms Implementation and Evaluation Panel, Terms of Reference [\[796\]](#).

In the interests of business confidence, it is the intention of the government to commence these reforms in tranches. Following industry consultation on the next tranches, I will introduce building industry fairness act amendments into the House to progress the next stages of reform including clarification of the period within which a head contractor is to provide a payment schedule and to clarify that retention moneys are required to be held in a retention project bank account in certain circumstances. These reforms put the funds in the hands of the people who do the work. I can inform the House that I intend those provisions to commence from 17 December 2018.

Our building industry fairness reforms include those designed to reverse the damage caused by the LNP's absurd self-reporting scheme for building companies. The Newman government opened the door to dodgy operators to send Queensland subbies to the wall by making it easy for them to delay or to deny payments and to set up sham phoenix companies. The shift from sensible financial reporting to a voluntary system left the Queensland Building and Construction Commission blind to the financial situation of companies until it was much too late.

I can advise the House that a discussion paper will be released for industry consultation in coming weeks and an approved regulation for new minimum financial requirements will operate from 1 January 2019. The Palaszczuk government is packing Queensland business so it can get on with the job of creating more jobs for Queenslanders.

Budget, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.11 am): The Palaszczuk government's budget commits a record \$702 million to QFES in 2018-19, promising to deliver jobs and upgraded front-line services all across this fantastic state. The funding represents an increase of \$38 million on the previous year, confirming our government's commitment to Queenslanders.


We know that Queenslanders see more than their fair share of natural disasters and emergencies. That is why, delivering on the Premier's election promise, we are committed to providing 100 front-line firefighters and 12 communication officers across the next four years. The amount of \$82 million will be invested into Fire and Emergency Services facilities, vehicles, information and communication systems, and also equipment. Our government has allocated funds for the commencement and delivery of new auxiliary fire and rescue stations at Childers, Rathdowney, Richmond, Al Arish, Esk, Kilkivan, Wooroolin, Yarraman and Gracemere. Gracemere will receive funding for a \$2.1 million state-of-the-art fire and rescue station in our 2018-19 budget—I know the member for Rockhampton will be very pleased with that—confirming our government's commitment to Central Queensland.

Replacing or upgrading ageing facilities will improve response times, deliver enhanced services and support community growth. That is why a further \$2.5 million will ensure fire and rescue stations at Loganlea, Mount Ommaney and West Logan receive their appropriate upgrades. The budget includes funds committed during the election campaign towards the commencement of a new QFES complex at Maleny that will accommodate the local Rural Fire Service, the SES and the auxiliary fire service. I am sure the member for Glass House will be stoked about that.

It is not just stations that will be funded in this year's budget. We have allocated \$44.3 million for 180 new urban and rural fire appliances across Queensland for our staff and volunteers. Every single one of the new rural fire appliances—119 of them—going out to the Rural Fire Service will have a defibrillator fitted to it next year. It is not just about the fleet. Stations on Horn Island and at Howard and Mount Isa will all receive upgrades. Cairns and Rockhampton stations will receive upgrades to their communication facilities so that our call takers and dispatchers can do their work. On Horn Island we are going to be building a new combined Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service facility, and at Weipa we are going to be building a new disaster and emergency management centre. All across Queensland, from the top to the bottom, from the west to the east, the record QFES budget coming out today is something that I am very proud of and that I am sure all Queenslanders will be stoked with.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE


Office of the Information Commissioner, Report

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (10.15 am): As chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, I lay upon the table a report by the Office of the Information Commissioner Queensland titled *Follow-up of report No. 4 of 2015-16: audit of council of the City of Gold Coast's implementation of recommendations: compliance with right to information and information privacy*. The committee chair is required to table the report under the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Information Privacy Act 2009. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Office of the Information Commissioner: Report No. 4 of 2017-18—Follow-up of Report No. 4 of 2015-16—Audit of Council of the City of Gold Coast's implementation of recommendations- Compliance with Right to Information and Information Privacy [\[797\]](#).

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Report


 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (10.16 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 6 of the Transport and Public Works Committee. This report covers portfolio subordinate legislation tabled between 25 October 2017 and 6 March 2018 considered by the committee. The committee did not identify any issues regarding consistency with fundamental legislative principles or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 6, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 25 October 2017 and 6 March 2018 [\[798\]](#).

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.16 am.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.16 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier concede that the fourth Palaszczuk government budget of taxes, debt and unemployment proves that Labor cannot manage the state's finances given Labor is slugging Queenslanders with five new taxes and an \$83 billion debt bomb?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The answer to that question is no. Let me make it very clear: we have an economic plan to grow jobs in this economy and to ensure that regional Queensland gets the infrastructure that it needs. Sixty-five per cent of the budget spent on infrastructure will be across regional Queensland. I do not make any apologies for investing in our greatest asset in this state, which is our people, to ensure that families have a good, decent job; to ensure that families are looked after; to ensure that our most vulnerable are looked after, with over \$5 billion being spent on concessions.

Let me make it very clear: we on this side of the House will build the infrastructure needed for growth in this state, unlike those opposite. What did they do? They cut, they sacked and they sold.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I hope you have that out of your system.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Leader of the Opposition was very proud when she said that she was on the Cabinet Budget Review Committee with former premier Campbell Newman and his right-hand man, the former treasurer Tim Nicholls, when they sat around the Cabinet Budget Review Committee table and decided to sack 14,000 people who had bills to pay and who had families to support. That is what they did. That was the measure of their first budget. What did they spend on infrastructure? They spent in their first budget \$28 billion over four years.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, you will direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are spending \$46 billion over four years. When the federal government does not come to the party on the M1, we are going to do that. We are putting the investment into the M1. When they did not support the Commonwealth Games, we supported the Commonwealth Games and delivered for the Gold Coast. When they did not support the second stage of the light rail, we backed in the second stage of the light rail.

When it came to the Townsville stadium, the federal government was dragged kicking and screaming for the infrastructure for the Townsville stadium. When it comes to the Nambour to Beerburum duplication, we are still waiting for the federal government's matching contribution when it comes to what is fair and right for the duplication up there. We will always invest in our people. There is nothing more important than ensuring that there is a good decent job. The plan we took to the election is the plan that we are implementing—jobs, health and education.

Unemployment

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question without notice is to the Premier. Labor's budget of taxes, debt and unemployment does not deliver on the Premier's promised target of an unemployment rate with a five in front of it, leaving Queensland with the equal worst unemployment rate in the country of 6.5 per cent. Will the Premier apologise to the over 170,000 Queensland jobseekers for Labor's failure to deliver on this target?

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the Premier, I note that there was a reasonably lengthy preamble and I caution the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The answer to the Leader of the Opposition's question is no, because we will always value people in our state. That is why since coming to office we have created over 115,000 jobs. We recently governed from Mackay and Whitsunday where the unemployment rate is coming right down. I can remember when I was the leader of the opposition and they were in government travelling across regional Queensland, and the unemployment rates were so high because they cut services and they sacked people. That is exactly what we will not do.

What we are seeing is record exports—over \$70 billion—an increase of some 40 per cent since those opposite were in government. I am glad the member for Nanango asked me a question, because I was proud to be in Japan recently promoting peanuts from Kingaroy—getting peanuts into the Japanese market.

A government member: Thank me later.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; I am happy to take the thanks later.

Mr Bleijie: You were the biggest peanut there.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member should not talk about himself.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, I heard some unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr Bleijie: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I ask you to not be antagonistic towards those opposite. It is my job to look at the—

Ms Jones: It is a bit hard, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Cooper, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am very proud of the budget that the Treasurer is going to bring down today because it is investing in people, it is investing in jobs, it is investing in health and it is investing in education. It will ensure we have the education system that is needed for our children for the future with extra classrooms and extra schools, unlike those opposite which when in government wanted to sell off schools. They had a hit list a mile long of the schools that they wanted to chop.

We have a record budget in Health and we continue to invest in health services that are needed to ensure families have good-quality access to health services no matter where they live. When it comes to infrastructure in this state, let me show the House a clear contrast to make it clear for everyone. We are investing over \$46 billion over four years. Those opposite invested \$28 billion over four years.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, I was calling the House to order. You are warned under the standing orders. Premier, I remind you to direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will take that interjection: creating 38,000 jobs this year of infrastructure in this state. I will tell the House whose plan will work out better: ours will because we believe in Queensland. We do not knock Queensland. We believe in Queensland and we will back Queensland.

Hospital and Health Services

Mr MELLISH: My question is to Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier advise the House how the government is delivering hospital and health services for our over five million Queenslanders?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Aspley for that question. I had the great pleasure of joining the Minister for Health and the Deputy Premier on Sunday at Lady Cilento hospital to look at a world-class hospital catering for the needs of children right across our state. I am very proud that a Labor government always delivers when it comes to health, education, jobs and building a strong economy.

I want to share this story with the House. I had the opportunity on Sunday to meet with Simon from Bundaberg and his father, Anthony. Simon had been injured in a motorcycle accident and he was airlifted through the good work of the Royal Flying Doctor Service to Lady Cilento hospital where he is undergoing the best treatment he can possibly get in our health system. I had the opportunity to speak with his father. His father wanted to pass on to me what great service they were getting and how important it was to get his son to that hospital as quickly as possible because he was severely injured, and I hope his sight is restored.

This was not just a single story. This story is happening across the state because we have Queensland's world-class hospital for children at Lady Cilento. It is not just a hospital for Brisbane; it is a hospital for all sick children across our state. That is one thing that we firmly believe in. With 169 hospitals spread across our state, we want to ensure that the best services are delivered to families no matter where they live—whether they are in the Torres Strait, whether they are on the Gold Coast or whether they are out west. I notice that in Longreach the other day they had just received their new

MRI machine, ensuring that patients do not have to travel to other regional centres. They can get an MRI done locally at home. Where we can deliver services locally, whether that is kidney dialysis treatment, for example, or whether that is more support for cancer treatment, we will try to do that closer to homes and closer for families.

Today we will be delivering a record Health budget because that is the right thing to do. We will not cut and destroy our health system like those opposite did. In Tim Nicholls' first budget, the member for Clayfield's first budget, they cut \$1.6 billion out of the health system. We will not do that.

(Time expired)

Rail Network

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Premier. The Premier sat in the Bligh cabinet when Labor sold off the essential Queensland coal rail network. Does the Premier now concede that Labor's asset sales led to the dispute between Aurizon and the Queensland coal industry, putting at risk \$2 billion worth of royalties?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I reject the premise of that question because there have been very good talks happening between Aurizon and the QCA. On my recent trade mission to Japan I had the great opportunity—which is usually not afforded to a Premier of our state but it was because of our good trade relationship between Queensland and Japan, better than any other state, may I add—to meet with not only the minister for the Olympics but also the minister for foreign affairs. I reassured them that there were no issues with the long-term supply of coal that is used to make and manufacture steel in Japan.

Japan and Queensland have been long-term friends. In fact, Japan is our second largest trading partner. I also had the opportunity to host about 50 key investors in Queensland at a dinner to talk more broadly about Queensland and the opportunities for them, and they were very receptive to what they heard. Let me make it very clear. On that side of the House under—

Mr Mander: We haven't sold assets.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You wanted to.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Local Government, you are warned under standing orders. I was on my feet. Premier, I remind you to direct your own comments through the chair. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, your interjections are very loud. That is not a badge of honour.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Everton must have forgotten that he sat around the cabinet table that wanted to sell our power assets.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: He called it stronger choices. He might want to speak to the member for Clayfield about that one.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Everton asked a good dixer there!

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: He was a cabinet minister.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. He was the minister. Do we not recall selling off government buildings—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Premier, resume your seat. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you have asked a question. You have been warned and were cautioned earlier. You are warned under standing orders. Members, it is not an invitation to yell across the chamber. If you wish to ask a question get yourself on your questions list. I want to hear the speaker.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They wanted to sell off our power assets. That is what they wanted to do.

Ms Grace: They wanted to sell the schools.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They wanted to sell the schools and the TAFEs. There is a bit of rewriting of history here. It is called the Peter Costello—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Wait, Premier, please. All members, I could not hear the Premier's contribution. That means your interjections are too loud. I will start sending members out of the chamber. I realise there is passion on this issue, but I ask you to remain parliamentary.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Obviously the member for Everton has forgotten. He has wiped three years of his life—

Ms Grace interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I do not blame him; I would wipe it out as well. They had a Commission of Audit, by Peter Costello, which came up with a long list of things they wanted to sell and things they did sell like the buildings. I believe the member for Everton was misleading the parliament and I will write to Mr Speaker about that.

(Time expired)

Budget

Ms McMILLAN: My question is of the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how this year's budget will benefit Queensland?

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you came very close to interrupting at the tail end of that question. Order, members. I will wait for silence.

Ms TRAD: I am very proud today that I will come into this House at two o'clock to present the Palaszczuk Labor government's fourth budget. Can I say from the outset that this will be a traditional Labor budget, a budget that is focused on Queenslanders, on setting them up for the future, on building the infrastructure they need and creating the jobs that they need in a modern economy. The 46th—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, please resume your seat. Members to my left, perhaps you are not hearing my rulings this morning. You may not agree with what is being said, but it is not an invitation to interject at the top of your voice.

Ms TRAD: Our \$45.8 billion infrastructure spend over the next four years is critical to not only generating jobs in our state but also ensuring that our economy is set up to grow and diversify in the future. We will be spending money on infrastructure projects the length and breadth of our state—from Cairns with the Cairns Convention Centre to the Townsville stadium. We will also be fixing the M1 before the federal government puts out its money—money that Queensland needs, money that Queensland taxpayers deserve. We will be fixing the ring-road in Mackay and ensuring that the Bruce Highway is upgraded. We will be doing more to duplicate the Beerburrum to Nambour single lane of track than those opposite ever did in the entire time they were in government. We make no apology for delivering the infrastructure that not only Queensland and our communities need but also our economy needs.

We will also be investing in the programs that attract industry to our state to help us diversify and to help us innovate. We will be ensuring that Queenslanders have the skills to establish themselves in the new economy. We will not be doing what those opposite did by cutting Skilling Queenslanders for Work; we will be ensuring that this program is funded and has additional funds to keep skilling Queenslanders for the future economy. We will be injecting record spends into Health and Education, unlike those opposite, because we know that when Queenslanders are in their time of need—when they turn up to a hospital with their child or their parent—they expect a world-class service and they can only depend on Labor to deliver that.

At the heart of any Labor budget is education. I am proud of the fact that we will be delivering additional classrooms, additional STEM learning centres. We will be modernising our education system in Queensland because, quite frankly, that is what Queensland kids should expect and that is what only Labor will deliver.

Waste Levy

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Environment. The LGAQ has flagged, 'The majority of the waste levy revenue could be siphoned into state Treasury.' Will the minister guarantee that every cent of the waste tax revenue will be invested in new recycling initiatives and that she will not cave in to the Deputy Premier and allow the waste tax to fill Labor's budget black hole?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. I am thrilled that the member is now supporting the waste levy. It seems as though the LNP—the opposition—is now on board with the waste levy and understand its importance to our waste and recycling industry and to our economy. It is great to see that. However, we are only in a position where we have to bring back a waste levy because those opposite, including the member for Broadwater, who was around the cabinet table when they decided—

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Ms ENOCH: In fact, he was the local government minister; I will take that interjection from the Leader of the House. He was the local government minister who decided that the levy was of no use to Queensland. What he did at that time, however, was put Queensland in a position where we were the only mainland state in Australia without a waste levy. He turned our state into a dumping ground for other states in terms of their waste. He put us in a position where he robbed our state of the opportunity to be able to build our waste and recycling industry in Queensland. He put us, including local councils, in a vulnerable position with regard to the market pressures we are now seeing from the China decision.

The Palaszczuk government has committed to a comprehensive waste strategy underpinned by a waste levy that will support the waste and recycling industry in this state, an important aspect of ensuring that Queenslanders can continue to value recycling in Queensland. In terms of the structure et cetera of the waste levy, we will see that in the announcements within the budget this afternoon.

Regional Queensland

Mrs GILBERT: My question is for the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister advise how the government is supporting Mackay and regional Queensland and whether the minister is aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I warn the member for Whitsunday. There is no need for an interjection before the minister has even risen to his feet.

Mr DICK: I wonder if the federal government will fund the road that the member for Whitsunday wants in his electorate. Do not hold your breath, member for Whitsunday.

Our government is committed to delivering for all Queenslanders wherever they live, particularly Queenslanders who live in regional Queensland. We know that under the LNP, while all Queenslanders were starved of investment, regional Queenslanders were starved in particular. We introduced the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund to ensure that businesses in the region can reap the benefits of the optimism and opportunities arising from Queensland's growing economy. I am so pleased today that the Treasurer will allocate an additional \$20 million in the budget to the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund, and I thank her for that. That is more money to fund great regional companies like the Swickers bacon factory, which is right in the heart of the member for Nanango's electorate and a company that we are very pleased as a government to support.

It will also support projects like the Mackay Resource Centre of Excellence, in the member for Mackay's electorate, and I thank the member for her question and her support for that commitment. It is a \$3.6 million election commitment that I know the member for Mackay championed, which recognises the importance of the mining sector to the Mackay region. The centre of excellence will drive research and innovative practice, assist with industry-specific skills and training, and assist with strategies, recruitment and retention of the workforce, which is an important challenge in the Mackay region. It will also contain a living laboratory so that trainees can gain direct experience of what working in the mining industry is like.

While we are talking about job creation in Mackay, I take the opportunity to table a media release from the Leader of the Opposition. It is an unusual thing for me to do, but I had a look at our website and it has disappeared. This is a media release on the Mackay Priority Development Area, which I declared as the planning minister. I table the release because it has disappeared from the website.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 30 May 2018, from Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, titled 'Will Labor's Budget match Mackay PDA hype?' [799].

In this release the Leader of the Opposition makes the extraordinary demand that the government fund the Mackay Priority Development Area in this budget, demonstrating yet again a complete lack of understanding of the planning system in Queensland. It is a planning instrument, and she should know that because how much funding did the LNP give to the Southport PDA, the Maroochydore PDA and the Redlands PDA when the LNP was in government? Absolutely zero dollars! The Leader of the Opposition knows it because, by her own admission, she was the assistant treasurer sitting around the cabinet budget review table. The Leader of the Opposition is again not on top of the brief. She thought maybe she could get away with fake news in Mackay, but the member for Mackay and the people of Mackay are smarter than that. I have had my differences with the member for Surfers Paradise, who said that the LNP needs a leader who knows the rigour of leadership, but may I just say to the parliament that the search goes on.

Education

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. While today's budget of taxes, debt and unemployment trumpets big spending, the reality is that in 2017 under Labor 13 of 20 NAPLAN rankings went backwards, and in the education state of origin we only beat New South Wales last year in one out of 20 standards. When will the Premier focus on outcomes, not spin, and put Queensland kids first?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Kawana for the question. That is why we are spending over \$14 billion on education. I am more than happy to talk about education because I am proud of our education system. In fact, it is world-class. Having just come back from a trade mission where there was so much interest in the fact—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, member for Burleigh and member for Southport, all of you are being cautioned. You have made consistent and repeated interjections that are designed to disrupt today, and I am not going to put up with it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As the Deputy Premier said, we are building future schools. We will see a dramatic transformation of Queensland's economy, and what is needed over the next 10 to 20 years are skills and training. As Premier, I want to see Queensland ahead of the pack. In fact, Queensland is one of the few jurisdictions where coding and robotics are taught at a very young age. I have just returned from the life sciences bio conference in Boston, and there was a lot of interest in the fact that Queensland is really pushing this agenda at such an early stage. Other jurisdictions do it in high school. In the US many do it in high school, but we are doing it much earlier. There will be a dramatic transformation in the years ahead. The way in which our classrooms are designed will also change in the future. We want to make sure that we promote STEM and get more women and young girls into those subjects. We are setting Queensland up for the future. We are setting our education system up for the future.

I thank the member for Kawana for the question because it reminds me again how heartless they were in government, when all they sought to do was cut schools and close schools. One of the key things my government announced we are going to do is build a new high school in Fortitude Valley which will be linked with QUT. This is not happening anywhere else. The member for Surfers Paradise had a 'for sale' sign outside that school. We are ensuring that, no matter where they live in this state, our students have future schools for tomorrow. The greatest leveller is the opportunity for education, and that is why we are investing in our children's future with education classrooms, teachers and support staff—

(Time expired)

Renewable Energy, Infrastructure, Jobs

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister advise the House of any issues relating to the employment of backpackers in the construction of renewable energies, particularly solar farms?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the honourable member for the question. It is an important question and I am glad to respond. I draw the attention of the House to the media outburst from the member for Burdekin, which criticises his own federal government's industrial relations policy in relation to the construction of solar farms and the minister, Michaelia Cash. I know that in this argument I would back Michaelia Cash over the member for Burdekin any time. At last! For the first time there is an attempt at

relevance from the member for Burdekin. The irony is that the LNP's policy on renewable energy would have no jobs in the renewable energy sector. They simply would not exist because there would be no renewable energy sector. This is a party that is at its core anti renewable energy and anti public ownership.

I note that the federal Minister for Jobs, Michaelia Cash, is reported as saying that, under Australian workplace and equal opportunity laws, all job vacancies must be available for Australians to fill. She should talk to her colleagues and use the levers they already have to ensure jobs for Queenslanders. They already have the levers to pull. Indeed, I wrote to Minister Frydenberg on this very issue earlier this year with regard to ensuring that projects with ARENA and Clean Energy Finance Corporation funding prioritise locals as they are supposed to do. To date, I have heard nothing back from the minister. The federal government's inaction on this issue cannot be hidden behind a whiteboard, and I am a little bit cynical of the crocodile tears being shed by those opposite. They do not have a leg to stand on. In their rush to finally become relevant, those opposite are ignoring the very serious issue of safety and ensuring that workers are suitably qualified to undertake the work they perform.

We on this side of the House will always fight for worker safety. Minister Grace, along with me as Minister for Energy, is working to ensure that these renewable energy sites continue to make worker safety a priority. Worker safety is obviously not a priority for those opposite. Into the swirling storm strides Brunhild in the form of the member for Dawson, George Christensen, the man who wants a coal-fired power station. Today he has come out and supported renewable energy—for the first time.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: I acknowledge that we have had in the gallery this morning students from Labrador State School in the electorate of Bonney.

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Maternity Services

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Premier. Three nurses from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital have contacted the opposition to report that Labor is closing the maternity ward for budget reasons and that the nurses' contracts are not being renewed. Will the Premier explain why Labor is closing the maternity ward and sacking nurses?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The health minister advises me that that is not true, but he will confirm that. Do you want to talk about nurses? This budget will clearly show that we are putting on more nurses and more midwives. What did those opposite do? They cut nurses and cut midwives—1,800 in your first term.

Mr McArdle: Who was involved in the payroll debacle?

Ms PALASZCZUK: You had complete disregard—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier—

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Theodore! I remind all members that comments must come through the chair under standing order 247.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Caloundra very clearly forgets that the workers in our health system perform an outstanding job. Every single day they go in and do their duties. I am thankful for all of the work they do. Every time I visit a hospital I want to go and see as many nurses and midwives as I possibly can, to thank them for their work. Those opposite, including the member for Caloundra, thought so much of nurses, doctors and midwives in this state that they sacked them—from 169 hospitals spread throughout Queensland. What did you do? You came in here and sacked them.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You have given numerous warnings this morning to the Premier. How many times does one have to be warned by you without following the rules of the standing and sessional orders?

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of Opposition Business. I will continue to educate members about the standing orders. I will continue to pull members up if they do not direct their comments through the chair. I thank you for your point of order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Kawana, because he reminds me once again that he sat around the cabinet table and made the decision to sack nurses in this state. How you treat workers in this state is an indicator of what side of politics you are on. There is no greater testament to the way

in which a Labor government values and respects its workforce, ensures people have jobs and continues to cater for the growth in our state. That is why there will be a record Health budget handed down today by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, once again valuing the health sector and families in this state who require good, decent health care no matter where they live.

The next time those opposite want to come in here and ask a question about nurses, they might just stop and think about the past and how they treated people. Let me make it very clear: there are former nurses who come up to me and tell me how they felt when they were sacked. They marched on this parliament. They stood outside this building when those opposite took the ruler to them and sacked them. We will invest in our Health workforce. We value our Health workforce, unlike those opposite.

(Time expired)

Ambulance Services

Ms PUGH: My question is for the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister inform the House about what the Palaszczuk government is doing to support our ambulance officers with the resources they need?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for her excellent question. I know that she is passionate about health services and ambulance services in her electorate. Instead of coming in here and trying to talk them down, like those opposite do, the member for Mount Ommaney and everyone else on this side of the House support a budget that will see an increased investment in health services.

While I am on my feet I will address the question asked by the member for Mudgeeraba. I am advised by the royal Brisbane hospital and Metro North Hospital and Health Service that there is no intention to reduce ward or bed numbers in the maternity ward. They are the facts—not rumours, gossip and innuendo brought in here to talk down our health services. Those opposite might not like them, but they are the facts. Having dispelled that ridiculous claim by the member for Mudgeeraba, I return to the question asked by the member for Mount Ommaney.

With five million Queenslanders now calling this state home, it is vitally important that we have sufficient ambulance resources to assist every single one of those Queenslanders if they ever need an ambulance in an emergency. That is why the budget that the Deputy Premier will deliver this afternoon will deliver 100 more ambulance officers, 85 new and replacement ambulance vehicles and an increase of \$80.7 million in the operating and capital budget of the department—more than \$800 million, a record investment in the operating expenses of the Queensland Ambulance Service.

We are proud that we have the best ambulance service and the best ambos in the world. I am a bit biased, but ever since the Commonwealth Games I have received emails literally every day from people congratulating our ambos on the incredible work they did during the Commonwealth Games. That is work they do not just in the south-east but also right across the state. Those world-class ambos deserve world-class stations, vehicles and stretchers. That is precisely what we are delivering.

We recently celebrated the opening of new stations in South Bundaberg, Mermaid Waters and Birtinya. I was pleased to have the member for Kawana join me in celebrating the delivery of another Palaszczuk government commitment. He declined the opportunity to have a photo taken with me—he changed his mind at the last minute—but it was great to have him there. I was pleased to have his support.

Public Hospitals, Waiting Times

Mr MILLAR: My question without notice is to the Premier. Right now in Queensland 29 per cent of emergency patients are not being seen within the clinically recommended times and 20 per cent of patients are stuck in the back of ambulances for longer than 30 minutes on arrival. Will the Premier guarantee that Labor's budget of taxes, debt and unemployment will improve patient wait times and stop the ambulance ramping?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said very clearly earlier, that is why we are making a record investment in Health. We want to ensure that families get the services they need. We have had to repair the damage of three years of LNP cuts to Health right across this state. Not only that, we have had to fight to get money from Canberra towards our state's health system. What did those opposite do? They did absolutely nothing. They could not pick up the phone. They did not talk to their mates in Canberra. They do not care about health. They do not care about families across our state.

I am glad that the member for Gregory asked that question because we are investing in the Longreach Hospital. It took a Labor government to invest in the bush when it comes to health care. We are investing in the bush and investing in the Kingaroy Hospital and investing in the Roma Hospital.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I love going to Roma and seeing the progress of the hospital.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The residents and families of Kingaroy are so happy that the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in their local hospital. What did the member for Nanango do when she sat around the Cabinet Budget Review Committee table working out the budget? Nothing—absolutely nothing!

Ms Trad: While they cut funding.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. All she did was cut Health funding. As I said earlier, there is now an MRI machine at Longreach looking after the people in the bush.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is the Labor government that is looking after the people in the bush and looking after people in Western Queensland, and we will continue to do that because we are a government for all of Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under standing orders. You have repeatedly interjected this morning. It is not a time for providing commentary. You have had two questions.

Public Transport, Rail

Ms PEASE: My question is directed to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister please advise what the Palaszczuk government is doing to improve passenger rail in Queensland compared with the LNP?

Mr BAILEY: There is a very strong record by this government when it comes to improving passenger rail in Queensland. Cross River Rail is a critical infrastructure project that needs to happen and is happening and is being fully funded by this state government. Light rail stage 2 was built in 18 months flat. We could not have moved people around for the Commonwealth Games unless this government had funded that project and built that project in record time. We duplicated the line from Coomera to Helensvale and for the very first time we got eight trains per hour into the Gold Coast for the opening ceremony—a record. We froze fares. We brought in Fairer Fares, which has saved commuters \$90 million after fares went up 7½ per cent year in and year out under the opposition.

We have seen a return to on-time running for three quarters in a row where it is above 95 per cent. We are seeing overtime come down as more drivers come into the system. There have been 80 drivers trained, a net gain of 38 so far and improving all of the time as we implement all of the 36 recommendations from the Strachan inquiry, of which we have completed a full 18 already. This record on passenger rail, which the member for Lytton is a very strong supporter of, compares very favourably to the record of those opposite.

Those opposite could have built Cross River Rail for a discount price, but they did not back Queensland. They backed Tony Abbott instead and every rail commuter in South-East Queensland is worse off because of it. They ordered \$4.4 billion worth of trains that were not compliant with disability standards. Shame on them! That is the largest botch-up of their government. They sacked 1,700 Queensland Rail staff and they did not commence the training of a single train driver in the last year they were in government. No wonder former minister for transport Scott Emerson lost his seat. That all caught up with him.

We have also returned to monthly reporting that shows ongoing data. That is something that the opposition scrapped. It did not want commuters to know what was going on under its watch. The opposition benches are incompetent when it comes to public transport. We saw not a single train driver commence training in their last year in government with the Moreton Bay Rail Link and the Commonwealth Games coming up. What a great performance we had during the Commonwealth Games with regard to public transport from this government, and there will be more of it.

(Time expired)

Adani, Proposed Road Infrastructure

Mr BERKMAN: My question is directed to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads in relation to last week's revelations that the government is considering spending \$100 million on roads for the Adani coalmine, breaching an election promise. Minister, your department recently explained in correspondence that I now table that 'this issue is still subject to significant deliberation and negotiation', including by your department, and the member for Stafford has since said—

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 10 April 2018, from Mr Frank White, Senior Advisor (RTI & Privacy), Department of Transport and Main Roads, to Mr Adam Walters, regarding Information Access Application Decision [\[800\]](#).

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I will interrupt you now. I ask you to restart your question, directing your question through the chair. That is your only warning.

Mr BERKMAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads in relation to last week's revelations that the government is considering spending \$100 million on roads for the Adani coalmine, breaching an election promise. The department recently explained in correspondence that I now table that 'this issue is still subject to significant deliberation and negotiation', including by the Department for Transport and Main Roads, and the member for Stafford has since said that there are currently no proposals about roads in Adani being considered by the government. Minister, which is correct and will you now rule out—

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: No, member. The question has been ruled out of order. I also rule it out of order on the basis of a significantly long preamble.

Arts Infrastructure

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is directed to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister advise the House what investment the Palaszczuk government is putting into arts infrastructure in the state?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Rockhampton for his question and his dedication to what is a transformation of our state and his region in terms of arts and cultural offerings. As we have heard already, Queensland is now home to more than five million people and this afternoon's budget will very much reflect the fact that we are entering a transformative time in Queensland with regard to the arts. This year's budget contains a \$125 million commitment towards a new 1,500- to 1,700-seat theatre at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre—a place where we can tell the unique stories of Queensland for generations to come. It also contains a \$14 million commitment to the redevelopment and maintenance of the heritage listed Thomas Dixon Centre in West End, the home of Queensland Ballet.

As we continue our commitment to the arts in regional Queensland, this budget also contains an \$8 million commitment towards the building of a new Rockhampton Art Gallery, home to an extraordinary collection of Australian art. I was absolutely delighted to join the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel in Rockhampton last week to announce this important investment for their community—which is, of course, dependent on a commitment from the federal government.

Rockhampton is the only regional gallery to hold a representative collection of the works of the Australian greats of 20th century modernist art. Unfortunately, the gallery's limited capacity is affecting its ability to optimise the collection, so relocating the gallery to become part of a new cultural hub in the Rockhampton CBD means that the gallery will be front and centre in a changing cityscape. I now call on the federal government to play its part in funding this important project to support the growth of one of Australia's leading regional galleries.

To continue this investment in arts and culture, in Brisbane the decision to construct a new theatre at QPAC reflects the recommendation of the business case commissioned in 2016. We fundamentally believe in the value of public funding for the arts. With this investment, the Palaszczuk government is demonstrating our support for not just our large performing arts companies but also our medium and small companies in Queensland. QPAC currently schedules over 1,000 outstanding performances annually and welcomed 1.3 million people in 2017. It is the busiest theatre complex in Australia. The new theatre offers the potential to host an additional 300,000 visitors each year and

supports the showcasing of local stories and local talent right across Queensland. All three of these infrastructure initiatives will create jobs, draw visitors and nurture our talent. They demonstrate that the Palaszczuk government is leading the way in—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: I acknowledge that in the gallery today are students from St Joseph's school, Bardon, in the electorate of Cooper. Welcome to the Queensland parliament.

Hong Kong Airlines

Mr MOLHOEK: My question is to the Premier. When Labor took credit for additional direct flights from Hong Kong to Cairns and the Gold Coast in 2015, the minister said it was because of her hard work. I table an article showing that Hong Kong Airlines is pulling out of the Cairns and Gold Coast routes, blindsiding tourism operators.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 3 June 2018, titled 'Hong Kong Airlines to end Gold Coast to Hong Kong flights in October' [\[801\]](#).

I ask: why has the Premier failed Queensland tourism and lost these flights from the lucrative Hong Kong market?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Of course, some airlines will make their own business commercial decisions based on—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, they will. Let me make it very clear that, through our Aviation Attraction Investment Fund, we are getting more and more flights to our state and there is more to come. I do not know whether those opposite have noticed, but a second runway is being built in Brisbane that will double the number of flights coming into Queensland. I go back to when they were in office. Did we see major airlines coming into Queensland then? Not many. I commend the Minister for Tourism, because I know that, when she goes overseas, she is talking to the different airlines, getting them to come to Queensland.

Just the other day I had conversations with Qantas. The new Dreamliners arrive in Queensland on 1 September. There will be a hub of Dreamliners travelling out of Brisbane to the US. They will service not just the domestic and international market but also the business market. We have seen more and more flights coming into Cairns and we will continue to see more flights coming into the Gold Coast.

We will continue to talk to different governments. We will continue to talk to different airlines about continuing our Aviation Attraction Investment Fund. The minister has reminded me that over \$40 million—

Ms Jones: \$48 million.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As part of our budget, we have our \$48 million Aviation Attraction Investment Fund to grow the tourism sector. Tourism is one of the greatest strengths of the Queensland economy. It provides thousands of jobs. I commend all of our tourism operators.

I also want to congratulate Village Roadshow, which will be opening a brand-new tourist attraction later this week. Unfortunately, the minister and I will not be able to attend that opening, because we will be here, but I am quite sure we will be getting down there as soon as we possibly can. I am sure that that brand-new tourism attraction on the Gold Coast will be the start of many more to come.

Tourism Industry

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister update the House on the government's commitment to grow Queensland's tourism industry?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I also want to acknowledge the students and staff from St Joseph's school in Bardon who are here today. It is wonderful to have them in the gallery. They are bright young women of the future and future leaders.

As we have just heard from both sides of politics, there is a great interest in growing jobs in the tourism sector in our state, because we know that that sector delivers jobs not only in Brisbane and on the Gold coast but also across Queensland. As the Premier said, when it comes to delivering additional flights into our state, we have a very proud record.

That is why I am very pleased to announce today that, for the very first time since we were elected, under the Premier's leadership, we have delivered two million additional seats into the Queensland economy worth \$1.7 billion. The Premier is absolutely right in her answer to a question asked by the member for Southport about Hong Kong Airlines. Decisions are made at a local level about when airlines can get access in and out of airports overseas, but I make it very clear that we are doubling down on our effort to make Queensland a very attractive place to bring brand-new airlines and air routes into our state. A number of government departments have worked in partnership to get Boeing based here. The Dreamliners that will come into this market will open up Queensland to new opportunities in the US.

Only last week Malaysia Airlines returned to Australia and touched down. The return of that airline to Australia alone will generate almost \$100 million in new economic activity through the opening of the channels between Brisbane directly with Malaysia. We know that Malaysia is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Any connections that we can build and grow creates more jobs. That is why I am very proud to be part of a government that, in today's budget, will increase the funding that is available to secure additional flights by \$48 million through our attracting tourism fund, which delivers on our election commitment.

On my side of the chamber, we will continue to invest and partner with the private sector, because we know that that creates jobs, confidence and investment. That is exactly what this government is doing. We need to make sure that our children have the best opportunity to flourish and grow. We do that by investing in all of the sectors that we have heard about this morning.

Today is a great day. Today, the Treasurer will be delivering her first budget. We know that this budget will grow jobs and grow the future of our state, and tourism is a key part of that.

Independent Public Schools

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

Mr SPEAKER: There will be one minute to answer this question.

Mr MICKELBERG: I table a letter from the president of the P&C association and the chair of the school council of the Brightwater State School.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 4 June 2018, titled 'Brightwater State School P&C Association' regarding the review of independent public schools [\[802\]](#).

They object to Labor's plan to secretly review independent public schools to remove the program or cut its funding. Will the Premier now guarantee that Labor will not nobble independent public schools in Queensland?

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier has one minute.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Buderim for the question. I suggest he reads the *Hansard* from the last session. I think I was asked a couple of questions about this matter. I clearly answered those questions then.


Small Business Week

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister update the House on the success of this year's Small Business Week and ways in which Queensland's small businesses are being supported?

Mr SPEAKER: The allocated time for question time has expired.

NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME FOR INSTITUTIONAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.16 am): I present a bill for an act to adopt the National Redress Act, and to refer certain matters relating to the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse to the Parliament of the Commonwealth, for the purposes of section 51(xxxvii) of the Commonwealth Constitution, and to amend the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009

for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018 [778].

Tabled paper: National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018, explanatory notes [779].

As the Minister for Child Safety, I am proud to take the lead in enabling the Queensland government to participate in the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. I am very pleased that our government is taking this important step towards recognising the experiences of people who were sexually abused as children in Queensland institutions. I particularly want to acknowledge the incredible work that has been done by the Premier and by the Attorney-General and the work done collaboratively across the government in bringing about Queensland's participation in the national redress scheme.

As much as the introduction of a national redress scheme is a seminal moment in the national fight for recognition of the wrongs of the past, it would be remiss of us not to consider the path that has brought us to this point and to hear the voices of those who have fought through incredible pain, overcoming incredible obstacles, to bring about appropriate recognition and support that for so long eluded many of them.

Child sexual abuse, by its very nature, has been a crime that has thrived on secrecy, on the story never being told. I have met incredible, wonderful, brave people who found within them the courage to tell the stories of when they were hurt, when they were betrayed by the very people and institutions that were supposed to be keeping them safe and nurturing them and helping them to grow up to be strong, healthy and happy adults. Is that not what we all want for our children? Do we not all long to make them strong, for them to be fulfilled, and to have them ready and able to boldly take their places in the world? Our own understanding of what we want for our children allows us a glimpse of the depth of betrayal that people who have experienced child sexual abuse have suffered. Many of these people were robbed of the childhood that was rightly theirs. They were betrayed. They were let down, and for many of them it was years and even decades before anybody would listen to their stories.

Some were called liars, some were called troublemakers, some were threatened, some were told they were worthless and, tragically for many, they believed at the time that this was true. The road to where we are now, to being on the verge of implementing the national redress scheme, has been long and, for many, far too long. For some who carried on the fight for many, many years it has, indeed, come too late.

We do not pretend, and nor should we, that enough has already been done, but in Queensland we can justifiably be proud of the work we have done over the last two decades to start down the road of recognition and reparation for the survivors of abuse. Before the turn of the century we had already taken steps towards righting the wrongs of the past and taking responsibility for the terrible damage that had been done in government and other institutions.

In 1999 it was the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions, also known as the Forde inquiry, that opened the door and the eyes of many Queenslanders to the horrors that had previously been a terrible secret borne by too many people. That inquiry looked for evidence of improper or unlawful treatment of children in Queensland institutions. It was tasked with referring matters to appropriate authorities where there was sufficient evidence to institute prosecutions, identifying systematic factors that contributed to child abuse or neglect in institutions, including youth detention centres, and recommending necessary changes to policies, legislation and practices to stop the abuse from happening again.

When former governor Leneen Forde handed down her report, which was tabled in the Queensland parliament in June 1999, it had a landmark effect on how this state views itself and some of its vital institutions. In her report she put it best when she said—

This is no ordinary report. This was no ordinary Inquiry. For the Commissioners and staff of the Inquiry, the experience has been deeply moving and deeply disquieting. We have heard repeated reports of physical and sexual abuse in government and non-government institutions over decades, which have resulted in irreparable damage to the lives of many Queenslanders. Why did this happen? How can anyone possibly repair the damage done? How can we as a society ensure that such violations never again occur to children whose care we have entrusted to the State?

The inquiry looked at 150 orphanages and detention centres, examining records, some of them scant and piecemeal, going back almost a century. Of those who came forward to tell their stories, some had waited more than 50 years to find the willing ear they craved, to know that finally somebody was listening. The Forde inquiry looked at all forms of abuse and neglect, including physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and gave an insight into the damage that had been done to so many.

In the case of sexual abuse, the inquiry told us about what that damage can look like. As members can imagine, it was not pretty. In the words of the inquiry report, 'child sexual abuse has an impact on social, sexual and interpersonal functioning, and affects the child's developing capacities for trust, intimacy, mastery of their world, and sexuality.' The report goes on to say—

It is now well documented that sexually abused children experience difficulties at school with academic performance and behaviour. These difficulties are likely to have a negative influence on later educational attainment, and restrict the skills and discipline necessary to maintain an effective role in the work force.

...

Sexually abused children not only face an assault on their developing sense of sexual identity, but a blow to their construction of the world as a safe environment and their developing sense of others as trustworthy. In those abused by someone with whom they had a close relationship, the impact is likely to be all the more profound.

The Forde inquiry report held up a mirror to Queensland and its judgement was harsh. It told us that successive governments have not sufficiently valued children to adequately resource the department entrusted with their care. As a result of the report Queenslanders could no longer stick their heads in the sand and assume or pretend that all was well with the institutions that cared for our children.

Queensland's response to the Forde inquiry was important. It led directly to greater investment in the services that support and care for children. In all, the Forde inquiry made 42 recommendations, ranging from legislative change and funding increases to improvements to youth detention centres and better access to mental health services for detainees. Queensland's response to those recommendations meant the state led the nation in responding to the harm caused by childhood abuse. The response to one of the recommendations included the establishment of the Forde Foundation, which continues to provide support to survivors to this day. The foundation gives grants to organisations that support people who have left the care of institutions. It focuses particularly on those known as the forgotten Australians, consisting of people who were harmed in care during the 20th century.

Lotus Place, formerly known as the Esther Centre, played an important role in the Forde inquiry, preparing submissions and providing individual support to people appearing before the inquiry. Lotus Place also actively researched models of redress, services provision, peer support and advocacy. The Esther Centre was renamed Lotus Place in 2006 in recognition of the fact that the federal government and state governments were taking seriously the issues that were facing forgotten Australians and former child migrants. The roots of the lotus flower can be found in the muddy waters below the surface, yet the beautiful, resilient flower is seen above the water. The lotus flower was chosen to represent the journey from adversity to hope.

In 2007 Queensland led the way again with the establishment of the Queensland redress scheme, which also stemmed from a recommendation of the Forde inquiry. This was an Australian first and was a significant step in supporting survivors of historical abuse in this state's institutions. The scheme was funded with \$100 million and gave survivors of abuse 12 months to make an application. More than 10,000 applications were received and more than 7,400 were assessed as eligible for payment. The Queensland redress scheme provided payments between \$7,000 and \$40,000 to victims who suffered all forms of abuse and neglect as children in 159 Queensland institutions. That scheme was a significant milestone, but as a result of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, we now know there is more work to do.

On 12 November 2012, when announcing her intention to recommend to the Governor-General that a royal commission be established to inquire into institutional responses to child sexual abuse, the then prime minister, Julia Gillard, said—

The allegations that have come to light recently about child sexual abuse have been heartbreaking. These are insidious, evil acts to which no child should be subject.

She also commented—

There have been too many revelations of adults who have averted their eyes from this evil.

Referring to the victims, the former prime minister went on to say—

They deserve to have their voices heard and their claims investigated. I believe a royal commission is the best way to do this.

The royal commission was to examine all religious organisations, state care providers, not-for-profit bodies and other child service agencies, including how those organisations responded to abuse allegations.

Then prime minister Gillard explained that Australia was in a circumstance where two states had different inquiries on foot and, because of the allegations of moving people around, it was something that went beyond the borders of any one state. She came to the view that in those circumstances a national approach was best. She said that Australia must 'do everything we can to make sure that what has happened in the past is never allowed to happen again'. She later said that Australia must 'start to create a future where people who perpetrate child sexual abuse cannot hide in institutions, where we work together to find a better way of keeping our children safe'. In discussing the decision to focus on institutional responses, the then prime minister explained—

There has been a systemic failure to respond to child sexual abuse in institutional contexts and to better protect children and I particularly want to get the insights about what would stop that kind of systemic failure happening again.

The work of the royal commission shone a light on the abhorrent treatment of our children in institutions. The final report was handed to the Governor-General on 15 December 2017, representing the culmination of a five-year inquiry into institutional responses to child sexual abuse and related matters. The report is told in 17 volumes, which is a reflection of the rigorous process undertaken by the inquiry, which included 57 public hearings and 8,000 private sessions. Over 400 days of testimony, the royal commission heard from 1,200 witnesses. Approximately 4,000 institutions were reported to the royal commission. The report contains a total of 409 recommendations, which are focused on making institutions safer for children.

The royal commission's reports make many significant recommendations that present an opportunity for us to effect real change to support people who suffered child sexual abuse and prevent institutional child sexual abuse into the future. Improving access to justice for people who experienced such abuse, including through creating a national redress scheme, is a key recommendation of the royal commission. As we introduce this legislation, it is only appropriate that we take the time to consider the magnitude of the work of the royal commission.

I personally have had the privilege of meeting many people in Queensland who have experienced abuse. They have bravely shared their harrowing stories. I would challenge anyone to sit with those people, hear their stories and not be moved by what they hear. The national redress scheme should stand as a lasting testimony to their courage and endurance. A survivor before the royal commission said—

For us that once had no voice now we can be heard. And for us whose lives were destroyed now we can begin to heal.

Justice Peter McClellan praised the bravery of those who came forward to share their stories and inform the royal commission. He said—

For victims and survivors, telling their stories has required great courage and determination. Most are stories of personal trauma and many are of personal tragedy.

...

For many survivors talking about past events required them to revisit traumatic experiences that profoundly harmed them.

Justice McClellan went on to quote former prime minister Gillard, who said—

Child sexual abuse is a hideous, shocking and vile crime. And it is clear from what is already in the public domain that too many children were the subject of child sexual abuse in institutions.

Police, child protection agencies and the criminal justice system all failed to listen to and protect young people, as well as the churches, orphanages and other groups that had come under the commission's gaze. Justice McClellan said—

Investigation processes were inadequate, and criminal procedures were inappropriate.

...

Some leaders felt their primary responsibility was to protect the institution's reputation, and the accused person. Many did not recognise the impact this had on children.

Justice McClellan said—

Although the primary responsibility for the sexual abuse of a child lies with the abuser and the institution of which they were part, we cannot avoid the conclusion that the problems faced by many people who have been abused are the responsibility of our entire society.

To underline just why joining the new national redress scheme and getting this right is so important, and also to honour the courage of all of the survivors who came forward to the royal commission, I now want to share some of their stories. These survivor accounts were part of a book of stories presented to the royal commission on its last day of hearings.

Wendy was only nine months old when she was placed in a Queensland orphanage. Her mother was a single parent and was not in a position to provide for her. Wendy lived at the orphanage for 17 years, that is, her entire childhood. It was almost a case of history repeating itself, as her mother was placed in an orphanage at just six months of age following the deaths of her own parents. At the age of 12, Wendy was sexually abused by a priest who was visiting the orphanage. She lives with the consequences of that act to this day. The assault impacted on her relationships with the nuns and her peers at the orphanage. No longer was her home a safe haven; a place where she could trust people to look after her. She lived in fear and often was subjected to physical punishment and humiliation.

Eventually, Wendy left the orphanage, but she did so with no education and with the legacy and impact of her experience of sexual assault still hanging over her. She left feeling ashamed and unworthy. All her adult life, Wendy has wanted to be acknowledged and to have the institution held to account. She has continued to pay a heavy price because of the trauma that was inflicted upon her. Wendy's life has been marked by significant difficulties in relationships with her children and the rest of her family. She lives with the loneliness of not having a partner. The memories of her trauma are constant companions as she tries to build a life as she ages.

For Wendy, the redress scheme is symbolic, because it will never be able to compensate her for what she lost and has lived with as a result of the sexual assault. Adding to the pain and the harm have been the denials of the authorities over the decades since she was first assaulted. It has been decades of speaking out, trying to be heard and taken seriously, that now have provided Wendy with the depth of acknowledgment that she has been waiting for. Not only will redress acknowledge her pain and the legacy of her abuse but also, because of the organisation's participation, it has and will hold accountable the organisation that should have been protecting her. Other inquiries and schemes have not achieved that in the way the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has managed to do. For Wendy, it has been a long time coming.

Bob went to a religious school in Brisbane. He is 57 years old, has achieved educationally as an adult and has been successful in his profession. He decided to go to a personal session on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse to share his secret. Bob had told of what happened to him once before. He spoke to a person in authority who told him that he had a dirty mind and to stop making up stories. He was repeatedly sexually abused by an employee at the school he attended for over five years.

The impact of the abuse left him feeling worthless. He put all his energy into his study and profession to try to avoid the shame he felt inside. Intimate relationships have broken down. After deciding to go to the royal commission, he has experienced relief from holding in his secret. However, it is not over for Bob, as he now has to face the loss and grief that he feels for the missed opportunity in his life to experience stability and love in a long-term relationship. He knows for a fact that that is the legacy of the years of abuse he suffered.

Redress to Bob is a critical part of his pathway to healing. He says that he wants to meet and have a direct personal conversation with the leaders of the institution where he was abused and while he has not lived a life of poverty like so many other survivors of abuse, any monetary payment he receives will go towards his ongoing healing and his family. The sexual abuse Bob suffered placed a burden on his family and changed forever his relationship with his parents. He now shares the outcomes of the royal commission with his ageing parents and is relieved that this opportunity has come before their lives are over.

Katherine was in out-of-home care in a residential care home after having to leave her family due to extreme domestic violence. While in the residential care facility an employee youth worker began taking her on outings and telling her this was their secret. On one outing the worker sexually assaulted Katherine. She reported his action to the authorities, but no action was taken despite the evidence. She was told that she was probably just being promiscuous. These days we would rightly call that victim blaming.

Katherine has lived with the shame that she felt from being disbelieved and also that somehow what happened to her was her fault and not the responsibility of the adult who was trusted with her care. Katherine never completed her education and has lived a life struggling with why she was blamed and that it must have been that she was a bad person who could never be worthy of opportunities or healthy and happy relationships. After telling of her assault and following the work of the royal commission she feels that for the first time she understands that she was vulnerable and the worker abused his power and her trust.

Katherine is very passionate about how the community and especially people working in residential care facilities need to be trained and understand the impact of sexual abuse of children when those who are trusted with the care of a child do more harm. She feels now that recognition that her assault was believed and was a crime has given her a second chance to engage in her healing and to seek justice. Redress for Katherine is as others have said symbolic because it will never give her back what she lost or change how she has seen herself in the past but with access to more professional counselling and financial payment she feels that there is a light at the end of a tunnel.

When we hear these stories we get a sense of the anguish, the frustration, the pain and the damage that has been carried for years by these survivors. It is not just the initial abuse that has caused the trauma. It is the years and in some cases decades of not being believed, of being dismissed, of being told there is nothing they can do or of being told to just get over it and move on with their lives. Like many people who have experienced significant trauma would know, there is an ongoing price that these people have been paying and it is more than past time to put an end to the ongoing harm this can cause.

The journey to Queensland joining the national redress scheme has not been an easy one, and as a state we did not commit to signing on for the national scheme until a little bit later than some other states. New South Wales and Victoria indicated in March that they would commit to the scheme, and there was considerable pressure on Queensland to fall into line. What we knew, through our previous learning and experience from running the Queensland redress scheme, was that it was important to take the time to iron out all the issues and make sure Queensland survivors of abuse were going to be appropriately looked after.

Over the last 18 months, we have been working hard with the Australian government and other jurisdictions on the design of the national scheme. For Queensland, key considerations during this process were making sure the scheme would be focused on survivors, that it has a low threshold and that it is the best approach to providing redress to people who were sexually abused in Queensland institutions. We made no apologies for taking the extra time to do the right thing by people who were abused in Queensland institutions. The very fact that we did have a previous redress scheme meant we had to carefully work through any issues around eligibility for the new national redress scheme.

Since announcing in April that Queensland would indeed sign up to the scheme once any remaining issues had been worked through, we have seen South Australia and the Northern Territory make their commitments to be a part of the national redress scheme. It is believed that Western Australia has also worked through the remainder of the issues that it had with the scheme. This now represents a quite extraordinary effort on the part of the respective states and of the Commonwealth to make what amounts to an historic recognition of the wrongs that have been done in the past to so many thousands of Australians.

Just like the fight against domestic and family violence, another tough issue where Queensland is showing significant leadership, governments working alone cannot effect the sort of community-wide change that the royal commission's final report demands of us. The challenge facing us in ridding all of our institutions of child sexual abuse is significant. We are called on to do even more to create safer communities, institutions and homes for our children.

Every level of government, non-government institutions, religious organisations, sporting and recreational organisations, parents, families and the community as a whole all have a role to play. We need to be a community that speaks up. As a community and as individuals we need to decide that we will not stand by when there is a risk to children, and that we will report it when we are concerned.

We will tackle this challenge head-on, hand in hand with our sector partners, stakeholders, members of the public and, most importantly, with people who have experienced institutional abuse and our children. Together we have a chance to make a real and lasting change, to do all we can to keep children safe. One harmed child is one too many, as any of the survivors of sexual abuse would be able to tell us. We owe it them and to our children to do better than we have done in the past on this issue.

I do understand that not everybody will be completely satisfied with the national redress scheme as it has been designed. We know that some have called for a higher cap on the amount of compensation that can be paid. The royal commission itself called for a cap of \$200,000, while the national redress scheme offers a maximum payment of \$150,000. Under this scheme, the average payment is expected to be around \$75,000, higher than the recommended average of \$65,000.

Mary Adams, who stood with the Premier and me in April to announce that Queensland would sign up for the national redress scheme, has also advocated for a greater focus on healthcare support as many survivors of childhood abuse were now elderly and needed more care services. Still, after 40 years of fighting for the sort of recognition that the scheme will offer, Mary said the power of the scheme should be in its ability to make Queensland's current and future children safer. She said at that press conference—

We want all Queenslanders to know our legacy of the past to ensure that it never happens again.

But mainly to empower children and people today—that they have the avenues and that they don't have to remain silent like we did for many years.

Nothing we do will ever give these people back their childhoods. We cannot make it like the pain and the hurt and the damage never happened. We will never be able to undo the harm that was suffered, but all institutions have a moral responsibility to acknowledge the hurt and harm inflicted on children who were in our care. Our government will enable people who experienced child sexual abuse in Queensland government institutions to receive the recognition and support they deserve.

A major difference between this scheme and the previous Queensland redress scheme is that non-government institutions will be able to take part. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse estimates some 20,000 Australians were abused in state run institutions, while up to 40,000 were abused in institutions that were not run by state governments. In Queensland, this bill will enable approximately 10,000 people abused in Queensland institutions to apply for redress: 5,000 from Queensland government run institutions and a further 5,000 from non-government institutions, assuming they also participate in the scheme.

Already some church and charity organisations have announced that they will opt in to the national redress scheme. The Catholic Church, the Anglican Church, the Uniting Church, the YMCA, Scouts Australia and the Salvation Army have all put their hands up to take part. This decision by those institutions is most welcome. It is the right thing to do. The non-government organisations that have signed up for the national redress scheme have rightly acknowledged the good that can come of them taking part. The National Coordinator (Redress) for Scouts Australia, Neville Tomkins, said—

We are committed to ensuring that all survivors of child sexual abuse have access to the Redress Scheme and that their experience of this process is restorative, and responds to the complexity of their needs.

Commissioner James Condon from the Salvation Army said—

The Salvation Army recognises that it may be helpful for some survivors to work with an independent body, so it makes perfect sense that a redress scheme provides them with various options on how they proceed with seeking redress which may or may not involve directly engaging with the institution.

YMCA Australia CEO Melinda Crole said—

We all share the responsibility for responding to survivors of child abuse, just as we all share the responsibility to make sure every child in Australia is safe and protected.

We can't change the past for survivors, but we can change their future. An effective national redress scheme is critical for ensuring justice and healing for survivors.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge said—

Survivors deserve justice and healing, and many have bravely come forward to tell their stories.

Once the scheme is initiated, we are committed to providing redress to survivors who were abused within the Catholic Church.

Anglican Primate Archbishop Philip Freier said—

We know that some survivors of abuse have chosen not to engage in our present institutional redress schemes. We hope that our participation in the independent National Redress Scheme will offer a further step to healing.

Uniting Church in Australia President Stuart McMillan said—

It is our sincere hope that this National Redress Scheme will allow survivors of institutional child sexual abuse to access support to help them in their lives.

I strongly encourage other non-government institutions in Queensland to also make this commitment and to take responsibility for the abuse of children who were in their care. The fact that we already have some large Queensland institutions on board should act as a significant leadership signal. It is no longer acceptable for organisations to bury their heads in the sand and hope these problems go away. The people who suffered this abuse have been waiting long enough—some of them for many decades—and they deserve better than to be ignored and left out in the cold.

When history looks back on the establishment of this scheme, there will be two kinds of organisations: there will be the ones that stepped up to take responsibility for their historical failings and there will be the ones that failed to do so. It does not take a lot to figure out which organisations will be on the right side of history. Again, I urge non-government organisations that have not yet signed up to the national redress scheme to have a close look at it now. This is a moment in history that neither they nor the survivors of historical abuse can afford to miss out on.

I want to outline for members the way that the national redress scheme will operate to support survivors of abuse. Redress under the national scheme will be provided in three ways: a monetary payment; access to counselling and psychological care; and the opportunity to receive a direct personal response from the responsible institution. Payments will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, reflecting the severity and impact of the abuse experienced with a maximum possible payment of \$150,000. That is not to say that monetary payments can magically wipe away the harm that was done to children in Queensland institutions. Redress is about acknowledging the harm caused and supporting people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse to move forward positively in the way that is best for them.

The Commonwealth government is expected to pass legislation that will see the national redress scheme commence from 1 July this year. We are working hard to make sure that people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse in Queensland government institutions will be able to access redress under the scheme by later this year. This scheme is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and we want to make sure we get it right, so we make no apologies for taking a bit longer to get all of the details right. We want to provide redress that is high quality, trauma informed and as close as possible to the royal commission's recommendations. The survivors of abuse deserve nothing less from us on this.

Once again, I thank the royal commission for its thorough and comprehensive inquiry into these important issues and acknowledge the participation of my department in the royal commission process over the course of the last five years. After five years of detailed inquiry, the royal commission has changed Australia's landscape, revealing widespread and systematic failings of institutions to protect children and appropriately respond to child sexual abuse. It is important that we stand up and acknowledge that sexual abuse of children in institutions is not only a problem of the past but is continuing today. In my discussions with stakeholders and people who have experienced sexual abuse, their primary concern has been to prevent the sexual abuse of children today. The Queensland government is also committed to this goal.

The royal commission has revealed that the institutional cultures and practices which allowed child sexual abuse to occur still exist in contemporary institutions. For most of us this abhorrent behaviour is unfathomable, but the royal commission has shown horrific abuse has been committed by people who were well known, trusted and respected in our community. This difficult and confronting issue goes to the core of the fundamental values of our society. We cannot, and we will not, show any tolerance for child sexual abuse in this state. The safety and wellbeing of children, and the promotion of their best interests, must be at the heart of our communities and at the core of our institution's operations. That goes for government and non-government institutions.

For children to be safe in institutions, change starts with a well-informed community, with each of us knowing and understanding the real risks of child sexual abuse. Armed with this knowledge we can create safer environments that make the grooming and abuse of children harder to perpetrate. We can create supportive environments where the voices of children are valued and, in situations where abuse does occur, children are supported to disclose that abuse.

As Minister for Child Safety, I am absolutely committed to making out-of-home care as safe for children as possible. We owe the children in our care the same hope and opportunity as we would want for our own children, and as a government we are committed to giving them that. As we undertake the important work of implementing the royal commission's recommendations, we will be building on the significant body of reform already underway in Queensland to improve the safety of children in out-of-home care. In the 2018-19 budget the Queensland government will provide a record total operating expenditure for Child and Family Services.

We are continuing to implement the ambitious Supporting Families Changing Futures reform program, which aims to reduce the number of children and young people in the child protection system, including through supporting families earlier; revitalising front-line services; and refocusing on learning, improving and taking responsibility for a better child protection system. We will continue to implement critical reforms to the child protection system, including funding for a further 56 Child Safety staff; additional staff in the Office of the Child and Family Official Solicitor; and more support for children and

young people in care with complex and challenging behaviours. We have moved quickly to begin implementation of the recommendations of the Queensland Family and Child Commission's report *Keeping Queensland's children more than safe: review of the foster care system* and will continue this important work to strengthen safeguards for children in care.

The Queensland youth justice system has also undergone significant reform in recent years. The Queensland government ordered an independent review of youth detention in Queensland in 2016. We have accepted and are implementing all 83 recommendations to improve practices and services essential to the safety, wellbeing and rehabilitation of young people in youth detention.

Last year we passed legislation to complete a historic youth justice reform to bring 17-year-olds into the youth justice system. As well as being a key recommendation of the royal commission, it also brings Queensland into line with other Australian states and with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Although we know we have much more to do, I am proud of the progress we have made. We have come a long way from the often brutal systems and policies of the past that were supposed to protect children but which instead left behind them a legacy of abuse, neglect and further harm to those very children. We know also that sexual assault and the damage it causes is still a significant problem beyond the walls of our institutions as well. It can affect anyone, regardless of their gender. However, we know that women and young girls are disproportionately represented, and that one in five women in Australia has experienced sexual violence since the age of 15. We also know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have increased vulnerability, particularly women and young people. As the recent #metoo movement has shown, communities are increasingly unwilling to put up with sexual violence and, in particular, sexual harassment.

Queensland's current approach to addressing all forms of violence against women, including sexual violence, is outlined in the Queensland Violence against Women Prevention Plan 2016-2022 and the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016-2026. We have taken a number of actions to address sexual violence. Legislative amendments have also been made to improve support for victims of sexual violence. However, we know that there is more to do, and we are listening to the many wise and strong voices in the sector advocating for strengthened responses.

Before we passed legislation in November 2016, survivors of childhood sexual abuse had just three years after turning 18 to launch legal action if they wanted to be compensated for the harm they suffered. As we know, victims of abuse both within and outside of institutions can often take years or even decades before they feel able to come forward and describe what happened to them. This legislation ended the injustice of those survivors being unable to take legal action for compensation.

The National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018 does two key things. Firstly, it provides the required legislative mechanism to enable the national scheme to operate under the Commonwealth laws in Queensland. Secondly, it makes legislative amendments so that Queensland government agencies can do what they need to do to participate in the national scheme.

The federal government is currently progressing legislation to enable the establishment and operation of the national redress scheme for a period of 10 years from 1 July 2018. To participate in the national scheme, participating states must pass legislation in accordance with the Commonwealth Constitution to allow the scheme to apply in those jurisdictions. Depending on the timing of state legislation in relation to the national redress law, each state's redress legislation must either refer powers to the Commonwealth parliament in relation to the scheme or adopt the relevant Commonwealth law.

As the federal government has introduced a national redress bill that is before the Commonwealth parliament and passage is expected soon, the bill I am introducing today will enable the national scheme to operate in Queensland by providing for the adoption of that national redress bill once it is enacted by the Commonwealth parliament. The bill also provides for any future amendments to that Commonwealth law to automatically apply in Queensland. This will mean that the scheme's operation in Queensland will benefit from any future amendments to the governing Commonwealth legislation. Once the Commonwealth law is adopted in Queensland, the bill will also enable the participation of Queensland based non-government institutions in the national scheme.

To enable the Queensland government's participation in the national scheme to be as efficient as possible and assist prompt responses being given to applications, the bill also introduces a framework to enable information sharing by Queensland government agencies for the purposes of the

national scheme. Under the national scheme, applications will be received and assessed by the national scheme operator. The national scheme operator may request relevant information from participating institutions to assist in determining applications.

As a participating institution in the national scheme, the Queensland government may be required to provide information to the national scheme operator. This will occur when a Queensland government institution holds information that may be relevant in assisting the national scheme operator to assess an application. Relevant information may be held by various Queensland government departments and agencies responsible for operating institutions.

In order to streamline administration of the national scheme, a central contact point will be established administratively within my department to liaise with the national scheme operator. The bill also enables the central contact point to give information to another state agency for the purpose of assisting compliance with a request made by the national scheme operator. Under the national scheme, a person who applies for redress may have previously received a payment in acknowledgement of the abuse they experienced. The Queensland government has determined that victim assistance payments should not be deducted from redress payments payable by the Queensland government.

The Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009, however, would currently allow redress payments to be deducted from subsequent or already received victims of crime payments. The bill proposes an amendment to the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 to provide that a redress payment cannot be deducted from payments under that act.

The Queensland government is committed to doing all we can to ensure people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse in Queensland have access to the redress they deserve. This redress scheme is about so much more than money. It is about healing, it is about recovery, and it is about recognising past wrongs and doing what is right. This bill is an important step towards achieving this, and I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.06 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.07 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Criminal Code, the Maritime Safety Queensland Act 2002, the Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Regulation 2012, the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999 and the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [\[780\]](#).

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [\[781\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 to the House. This bill introduces a suite of amendments aimed at enhancing front-line policing services to the Queensland community and, importantly, keeping Queenslanders safe.

Community safety is one of the top priorities of the Palaszczuk government, and I am very proud to be introducing this bill today which backs in that priority. The Queensland Police Service works with many others to ensure the safety and security of the community by upholding the law, preserving the peace, preventing and detecting crime, and bringing people who offend to justice. It is important for the government, police, families and the community to work together to break the cycle of criminal offending and violence, because together we can make our communities a safer place.

We know that Queenslanders want to feel safe in their homes and their communities without the threat of personal and property crime. We know that more can be done to enhance community safety and reduce the number of victims of crime. That is why our government is committed to advancing Queensland's priorities of keeping communities safe by reducing the number of victims of crime and by also breaking the cycle of youth offending. We also want to advance Queensland's priorities by being a responsive government. The measures in this bill will help us achieve safer communities and a responsive government by supporting our policing service with the laws that they need to respond to contemporary community needs.

The explanatory notes outline the purposes and objectives of the bill. As members will see from the bill, this bill introduces a number of new considerations for police and provides additional powers for our Queensland Police Service in respect of community safety. One of the first initiatives contained in this bill is the new, high-risk missing person scene framework, which is an Australian first. This Australian first will help police investigate the disappearance of missing persons who are at high risk in circumstances where they may suffer serious harm if not found as quickly as possible. Circumstances which can make a missing person high risk include their age, their impairment, a history of domestic violence or relationship problems, a need for medication or recent behaviour that is out of character.

In most missing person investigations family and friends will assist police by allowing entry into the missing person's home, workplace or vehicle to search for the person or by providing information that may help police find their loved one. However, in some cases, people either do not or cannot cooperate and, unless there is some evidence that the missing person is the victim of a serious crime, police cannot apply for a search warrant or a crime scene warrant to enter or search these premises.

Consent to enter a place and search for a missing person may not always be forthcoming or may not be possible. For example, in one instance, two people were reported as missing after embarking on a long road trip. These two people failed to reach their destination and had failed to return to work and make appointments. Before it was apparent a crime had been committed, police attended the missing persons' residence, but there was no legislative authority to search the residence. Relatives had to be located so that an inspection could be made to determine if any evidence existed of the missing persons' whereabouts. Subsequent investigations in that example revealed those missing persons had been murdered.

To establish a missing person scene, police need the prior authorisation of a commissioned police officer. The commissioned police officer will assess and confirm whether the missing person is at high risk and then they will determine the need to apply for a missing person warrant. The police officer must then apply to a Supreme Court judge or a magistrate for a missing person warrant. A missing person warrant will allow police to enter and search the scene for the missing person or for any information which may lead to the person's whereabouts. Where necessary, it also allows police to exclude people from an area that is deemed to be a missing person scene. Police acknowledge that this may result in some people being displaced from their homes for the period the warrant is in place. If that is the case, police are required to make suitable accommodation arrangements.

That being said, a missing person warrant has a very short life. It is initially in place for up to 48 hours with a provision to allow the warrant to be extended by a Supreme Court judge or a magistrate for up to another 48 hours. In urgent circumstances, a missing person scene can be established under the authority of a commissioned police officer before obtaining a warrant. However, once the missing person scene has been established, an application for a warrant to confirm the missing person scene must be brought to a Supreme Court judge or a magistrate as soon as practicable. These are important and potentially lifesaving powers and this parliament should be proud to have a bill before it which provides an Australian first in respect of enhancing community safety and providing our police with those potentially lifesaving powers.

Last year more than 8,000 people were reported missing to Queensland police. As a community, we have seen firsthand how a missing person investigation can be hampered by people who have ended up murdering the very person they reported missing. We have seen those recent examples—tragedies on so many levels. Sadly, in recent years we have lost a young Brisbane mother and an innocent young schoolgirl in those circumstances. On both of those occasions they were reported as a missing person to police. Later, they were found dead. Both had so much to offer and so much still to achieve. Their brutal deaths will be long remembered by Queenslanders. That is why our government is acting to provide our police with those powers—to provide police with the power to act more quickly to establish crime scenes for those high-risk individuals—hopefully to save a life but certainly to ensure justice is delivered sooner for those people who may have come to an unfortunate end.

As well as the high-risk missing person provisions, this bill simplifies the complicated way in which crime scene powers are defined and operated. A single definition will incorporate key elements of the existing crime scene definitions. It will allow a crime scene to be declared at a place where a crime scene threshold offence has happened, or it will allow a crime scene to be declared at another place where there may be significant evidence of a crime scene threshold offence.

The maximum penalty for a crime scene threshold offence will be reduced by this bill from a seven-year imprisonment offence to a four-year imprisonment offence. This will allow crime scene warrants to be obtained for serious offences such as stalking or discharging a firearm in a public place. A good example under the current regime is that if someone discharges a firearm from a motor vehicle and those bullets from that firearm end up in a house or some other location—a secondary crime scene under the current definition—if there is an uncooperative witness police have great difficulty in obtaining the evidence, which would be the bullet from that secondary crime scene. The changes in this bill will allow police to be able to better investigate those offences, particularly where there may be uncooperative witnesses.

To continue to keep police powers contemporary, this bill allows police to apply to a Supreme Court judge or magistrate for an access information order for a storage device such as a computer or mobile phone under a crime scene warrant. This is modelled on existing powers under a search warrant. A person who fails to comply with the order may be dealt with under section 205A of the Criminal Code and may be liable to a penalty of up to five years imprisonment.

Our front-line police investigators have reinforced to me the very need to be able to access electronic storage devices seized from crime scenes. For example, police may be investigating the disappearance of a woman at her residence when it becomes apparent after initial investigations that the woman has been murdered. Police then declare the house as a crime scene and locate and seize the home computer, tablets, laptops and mobile phone prior to charging the husband with murder. If the offender refuses to provide police with access information to those devices, such as the pass codes to those devices, extensive delays can occur as specialist police attempt to gain access to those devices.

Gaining access to a locked electronic storage device may not always be successful due to offenders using the latest encryption technology to block access. In such cases, vital evidence that may be located on the storage device cannot be accessed and used in the investigation. This amendment will allow police to respond to the challenges of policing in a growing technological age. As police respond to criminal offending which more and more uses the latest technology, we need to ensure that not only our police have the latest technology but also they have the laws to ensure that they are able to investigate any criminal offending which may be associated with that technological advancement or are able to gain evidence from that technological device and advancement.

The Palaszczuk government remains committed to supporting front-line police as they work day in, day out to keep Queenslanders safe. We all know that policing is an inherently difficult and potentially dangerous job. In 2017 more than 4,600 drivers evaded a police traffic interception. That is an average of around 90 evade offences each week. Drivers may evade police for a number of reasons. They may be intoxicated or they may have committed a crime and are evading capture. Their behaviour places everyone on the road at risk, and we can never forget those great tragedies of many years ago involving people evading police and contributing to road fatalities. They are very sad stories, and we can never forget the little girl in the member for Redcliffe's electorate who died as a result of a person evading police and contributing to her fatality.

In 2011 the former Crime and Misconduct Commission reviewed the evade police provisions and made 13 recommendations for change in their final report which was titled *An alternative to pursuit*. Seven of those related to strengthening the evade provisions in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. In its 2011 report the then CMC included the following comments—

Earlier work in this area by both the CMC and the State Coroner has shown that pursuits can create situations far more dangerous to the public than the original offence. Sadly, over the past decade, 19 people were killed as a result of police pursuits, including three community members who were not involved in the pursuits.

Most significantly, in 2006 the Queensland Police Service changed its pursuit policy to more closely link police pursuits to community safety, limit the circumstances in which police can pursue drivers who flee and shift the focus from pursuits to other methods of apprehension. Also in 2006 the evade police provisions were introduced to support the restrictive pursuits policy—which is an operational policy of the Queensland Police Service—with the specific aim of reducing the need for police to commence a pursuit even when a pursuit is permitted by policy. The provisions provide police with powers to identify and prosecute the driver after the fact and, in doing so, avoid a potentially dangerous pursuit.

The rate of police pursuits has substantially decreased since 2006, as have injuries and property damage resulting from pursuits. These are positive outcomes. The evade police provisions and the restrictive pursuit policy were among a range of factors that contributed to these outcomes along with other factors such as coronial inquests, police union advice to members not to pursue and increasing Queensland Police Service oversight of pursuits. While we recognise that these evade police provisions are not the solution for all matters, we believe that the provisions and the Queensland Police Service framework that guides their use can be improved to make them a more effective policing tool. The majority of our recommendations address legislative weakness that have undermined the effective use of the powers.

In its report the then CMC noted that during the period 1 January 2000 to 30 April 2011 police pursuits were associated with the deaths of 19 people and the injury of an additional 737. I will just say that again. From 1 January 2000 to 30 April 2011, police pursuits were associated with the deaths of 19 people and the injury of an additional 737. At present, section 746 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act fails to explain the central aim of the evade police provisions to reduce police pursuits, so the recommendation of the then CMC was that the explanatory clause for the evade police provisions be amended to describe the aim of the evade police provisions to improve community safety by reducing the need for police to pursue drivers and how the evade police provisions aim to assist police to investigate evade police offences.

The then CMC also recommended a tightening of the information that a registered owner has to provide when their vehicle is involved in an evasion offence, such as who has access to their vehicle, their frequency of use and whether the vehicle is used for business or private purposes. The then CMC remarked—

This is basic information that is within the knowledge of every responsible vehicle owner. It is also essential information to assist a police investigation to identify an offending driver.

These recommendations were supported by Labor then and they are supported by Labor now. The amendments will place a greater onus on owners of vehicles to assist police investigate an evasion offence. When served with an evasion offence notice, vehicle owners will now have 14 business days from receipt of the notice to respond with a statutory declaration. This was previously only four days. If the owner cannot identify the person driving the vehicle when the evasion offence happened, they will be required to advise police where they were when the offence happened; the usual location of the vehicle when it is not being used; the name and address of each potential driver known by the owner to have access to drive the vehicle when the evasion offence happened and how they had access; how often each potential driver normally uses the vehicle and for how long; whether each potential driver uses the vehicle in connection with a business or for private use.

I recognise that being obliged to provide this additional information within 14 business days places an increased onus and responsibility on owners, but I say again that on average around 90 times a week a driver deliberately creates a dangerous, potentially deadly situation on Queensland roads by evading police. It is the responsibility of all vehicle owners to play their part in making our roads safer for all Queensland road users.

Another then CMC recommendation that forms part of this bill is precluding the owner or nominated person who has been deemed the driver of the vehicle because they failed to provide information to the police within 14 business days from relying on the rebuttal provision to claim they were not the driver. Police are continually frustrated in their attempts to solve evasion offences. For example, when a vehicle fails to stop as directed by police, police identify that the driver is male. Police attend the address where the vehicle is registered and serve an evasion notice on the owner of the vehicle, who is female. Under current provisions, there is no incentive for the owner to assist police in identifying the driver of the vehicle at the time of the evasion offence. The owner can provide no response to the evasion notice and then rely on the defence that they were not the driver of the motor vehicle when the offence happened.

The changes in this bill will mean that the owner or nominated person is required to provide assistance to police by completing a statutory declaration which includes the details of the driver at the time of the evade offence. If the driver is unknown to the owner, they will be required to provide police with the details I have just mentioned. This will ensure that the owner of a vehicle cannot simply rely on alibi evidence to avoid liability where they have failed to provide police with the required assistance in identifying the driver of their vehicle at the time of the evasion offence. This is balanced by allowing the person to apply for leave of the court to use that information if the court so allows.

In addition to the then CMC recommendations, there is a new offence for vehicle owners or nominated persons who fail to comply with the requirement to give a statutory declaration in response to an evasion offence notice. Not only could they be deemed to be the driver of the vehicle involved in the evasion offence; they may also be liable to a penalty of up to 100 penalty units. This new penalty is an indication of how seriously this government takes the investigation of these offences. People who commit traffic offences and engage in dangerous behaviour on our roads put the lives of other road users and pedestrians at risk. This should not be tolerated and will not be tolerated. These provisions in the bill confer powers that have been requested by the Queensland Police Service and those powers are supported by one of the key stakeholders, the Queensland Police Union. They are powers which I hope this parliament will support by passing this bill.

The bill will also ensure that a notice to appear that is issued for traffic offences and sent by registered post will no longer be restricted to just the vehicle registration or driver licence address. Rather, police will also be able to send a notice to appear for a traffic offence to the person's last known place of business or residence.

The bill also amends the existing numberplate confiscation provisions to remove any doubt that police can attach a numberplate confiscation notice to a vehicle without numberplates. Existing numberplate confiscation provisions operate when a vehicle has been involved in an offence which has resulted in the potential impoundment of that vehicle. While impoundment generally occurs at a holding yard, the numberplate confiscation provisions allow the vehicle to be held at a place other than a holding yard, for example the owner's residence.

Additionally, to support the use of the existing numberplate confiscation powers the bill introduces a new offence for the owner of the vehicle subject to a numberplate confiscation notice to modify, sell or otherwise dispose of the vehicle during the numberplate confiscation period. A maximum penalty of 40 penalty units will apply in respect of this offence.

The bill also extends and enhances a number of police powers. Again, these amendments are aimed at improving front-line efficiencies and community safety and supporting our police. For example, police will be able to search a person who has been detained for breaching the peace where it is necessary for police to transport that person. It is essential that police search people who are in their custody prior to them being transported to ensure that those persons are not in possession of anything that could cause injury to anyone, including themselves or the police.

The bill will also clarify that police have a power to transport a person subject to a police banning notice, because of their inappropriate behaviour, to a police vehicle, police station or watch house to have their photograph taken. The photograph is a visual reminder to licensees and their staff that the person is banned and cannot enter for the period of the banning notice.

The bill will also create a new offence where a person assaults or obstructs a civilian watch-house officer in the performance of their duties. It is an unfortunate reality of modern-day policing that the personal safety of our civilian watch-house officers may be threatened by persons who assault or obstruct them. Unlike our police officers, who may charge an offender who assaults or obstructs them with a simple offence under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act, the only option for taking

criminal action against an offender who assaults or obstructs a civilian watch-house officer is to prefer the more serious assault and obstruct charges under the Criminal Code. In some instances, the circumstances of the assault or obstruct against the civilian watch-house officer may not be so serious as to warrant proceedings under the Criminal Code.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge our watch-house officers for the work they do. Whenever I travel across the state I make a point of visiting our watch houses—in addition, of course, to our police stations—to acknowledge the hard work of our civilian watch house officers and the police who support them in our watch houses. It is a very important job, dealing with some of the most complex and challenging Queenslanders.

This bill introduces a new simple offence under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to appropriately deal with offenders in cases where they assault or obstruct a civilian watch-house officer. This new offence has the benefit of ensuring that when a person does assault or obstruct a civilian watch-house officer the charge against that person can be proportionate to what actually occurs within the watch-house environment. It gives the police the option of what to charge an individual with, depending on the level of violence or obstruction a watch-house officer is presented with.

There is also a benefit to offenders in that they now may only have to deal with a simple offence instead of the more serious offence provisions of serious assault or wilful obstruction of a public officer under the Criminal Code that they currently would be charged with. In practical terms, a person who shows some resistance to a watch-house keeper or who hinders or obstructs the watch-house keeper can, with this amendment, be charged with the simple offence of 'obstruct a watch-house officer in the performance of the officer's duties'—a much more appropriate offence than what would occur normally, which is a serious charge under the Criminal Code of 'serious assault or wilful obstruction'. The new offence has a maximum penalty of 40 penalty units, or six months imprisonment, which is the same penalty for the offence of assaulting or obstructing a police officer under section 790 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act.

For similar reasons, the existing offence under section 790 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act of assaulting or obstructing a police officer in the performance of their duties will be separated into two distinct offences. Currently, the offences of obstructing a police officer or assaulting a police officer are combined in one offence provision. The offence is prevalent, and the joining of the two offences makes data analysis difficult. Additionally, members of the community have advised that their criminal history may not reflect the offence committed when the word 'assault' appears in their conviction for obstructing a police officer. Separating the existing offences into two offences is fair to all concerned. Make no mistake about it: any assault on our front-line emergency workers, including our police, is entirely unacceptable and those people who assault our front-line emergency workers, including our police, attack not only them but also our legal system. They attack our community and they attack all of us. That conduct is unacceptable and those people will feel the full force of the law.

This government is also cracking down on people who organise and operate unlicensed bookmaking in Queensland by allowing approved police to engage covertly with operators to disrupt their illegal activities. Three offences under the Racing Integrity Act 2016 in relation to unlawful bookmaking will be included as controlled operations and controlled activities under schedules 2 and 5 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. The bill also extends the types of offences which will be considered as reportable offences under the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004. A further 10 Commonwealth child sex offences, such as trafficking in children and sexual intercourse with a young person outside of Australia where the defendant is in a position of trust or authority, have also been included as reportable child sex offences in Queensland. These 10 offences target offenders who use their position to either engage in sexual conduct or allow others to engage in sexual conduct with a young person outside of Australia.

Also, reportable offenders who have been convicted of offences involving the administering of a child exploitation material website or encouraging a person to use such a website have also been targeted in this bill. We know that technology is continuing to evolve at a rapid rate. The Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation, established by our government, noted that the internet has provided an environment for the proliferation of online child abuse and child exploitation material. The use of technology has led to the emergence of a child abuse market which seems to know no boundaries and offenders who establish and run these websites not only commit a reportable offence but also commit a prescribed internet offence which allows police to inspect any and all electronic devices in their possession four times a year every year for a minimum of five years. It is about protecting our children from the clutches of the dark net.

Following the commission of inquiry into organised crime, our government announced a funding boost to support the capabilities of our investigators working tirelessly to target those who commit atrocious sexually based crimes against children. Our new organised crime legislation allows police to further crack down on online child sex offending and exploitation. The new offence covers child exploitation and extends to other crimes where access to information is required.

Between the commencement of the offence and February this year, almost 60 charges had been preferred by the Queensland Police Service as police interstate and internationally take their cues from Queensland's world renowned Task Force Argos. Because it is such an outstanding achievement, it is worthy of me to again acknowledge that the head of Task Force Argos received an international award for his dedication to fighting and investigating crimes against children—a job that he has been doing for more than 20 years. This award is well deserved and a great example of the great work that our Police Service does.

For the first three months of this year, Task Force Argos was behind the arrest of 251 offenders on 2,853 charges for various crimes including rape and the possession, making, production and distribution of child exploitation material. The team at Task Force Argos are recognised internationally for their incredible work and for saving lives—the lives of children—and they are to be acknowledged. There is a victim focus to this bill. We are protecting victims of serious crimes, victims of criminal road behaviour and child victims of online predators. Community safety is our top priority as a government.

The amendments to the Corrective Services Act 2006 will allow the Parole Board of Queensland to conduct its business more efficiently. Members may remember that in August 2016 the Premier announced a review of the parole system in Queensland after an elderly Townsville woman was murdered by a man on parole. That review was undertaken by Walter Sofronoff and recommendations for change were made. Last year we passed amending legislation to support those amendments which brought in widespread changes to Queensland's probation and parole system, including the establishment of a full-time, centralised, fully independent and professional parole board, the Parole Board Queensland.

This bill makes some minor changes to the 2017 legislation to ensure the Parole Board Queensland continues to conduct its business more efficiently. For example, the bill will change the way in which the Parole Board Queensland can consider an urgent request to suspend a person's parole. At the moment it requires a two-stage decision-making process. The request must first be considered by a single prescribed board member and then forwarded to the board for a final decision to be made.

The intent of the 2017 framework was to allow an urgent suspension request to be considered by a single board member when the full board was not available. The single board member was also required to issue a warrant for the prisoner's return to Corrective Services custody, regardless of whether this had already occurred. The intent of the 2017 legislation has not been fully realised and a minor change is required to allow an urgent suspension to be considered by the board as a whole without first being considered by a single member and to remove the obligation for a warrant to be issued where the prisoner has already been returned to Corrective Services custody.

The bill also removes the current practice which allows life sentence prisoners to reapply for parole every six months when they continue to pose a risk to the community. The Parole Board Queensland will have the power to set an appropriate time within 12 months in which the prisoner must not reapply for parole after a previous application has been refused. Exceptional circumstances parole applications will not be affected by the amendment and nor will the parole reapplication periods for other prisoners. This amendment reflects the significance of the Parole Board's decision-making when considering parole for these prisoners.

Other amendments to the Corrective Services Act provide the Parole Board Queensland with the ability to better deal with prisoners who do not comply with their parole conditions or pose risks to the community or themselves. Currently, the Parole Board Queensland must sit as five members to consider the cancellation of a prescribed prisoner's parole. However, the board only requires three members to consider a suspension of a prescribed prisoner's parole. Prescribed prisoners are those prisoners convicted of serious offences. This bill amends the current process to allow the Parole Board Queensland to consider all matters pertaining to the cancellation or suspension of a prescribed prisoner's parole while sitting as three members. These amendments ensure that swift and certain action is taken to ensure the safety of Queenslanders is not compromised.

As I mentioned, the Palaszczuk government has delivered sweeping reforms to our state's probation and parole system following Mr Sofronoff's reviews and these reforms continue to be the most comprehensive in history. These reforms will ultimately enhance community safety by increasing the rehabilitation of prisoners once they have completed their sentence and are returned to the community. This means that before a prisoner is released on parole they will undergo intensive one-on-one case management. This is about creating a safer community.

The bill also seeks to simplify administrative practices, create efficiencies for government and its departments and achieve red-tape reduction, savings and benefits. Currently, officers from the Queensland Police Service, the State Penalties and Enforcement Registry, the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Motor Accident Insurance Commission are required to provide a certified copy of a delegation on every occasion an evidentiary certificate is tendered in a court proceeding. This results in the need to update, copy and certify thousands of pages of delegations each year. Delegations are also required to be updated, reprinted, recopied and resent to each prosecution corps each time they change. The bill addresses this ongoing administrative issue by removing the requirement to automatically provide a proof of delegation on each occasion an evidentiary certificate is tendered. However, we will ensure that proof of a delegation is made available to defendants who want it. As such, the defendant can choose to challenge the delegation if they so wish and, if this is the case, a copy of the delegation will be made available to them.

Finally, the bill amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Regulation 2012 to support amendments made to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. These are process amendments which support the policy in relation to the new high-risk missing persons scheme and the changes to the crime scene provisions. As I said at the outset, this bill supports the government's Advancing Queensland priorities of keeping our community safe. It is a bill worthy of the support of this House and I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.48 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.


Referral to Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 15 February (see p. 110).

Second Reading

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.49 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill proposes amendments to four acts: the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994 and the Duties Act Queensland 2001. In addition, for the benefit of the House, I intend to bring in an amendment during consideration in detail and I will speak to that amendment in more detail later in this speech.

The Transport and Public Works Committee considered the bill and I thank the committee for its report. The report recommended that the bill be passed and included two recommendations for consideration. I now table the government's response to the committee's recommendations.

Tabled paper: Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 4, 56th Parliament—Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, government response [\[803\]](#).

I note that there were a significant number of submissions made to the committee in relation to this bill, and I would like to thank the members of the committee and industry representatives who took the time to comment on the bill. I would also like to thank those who appeared before the committee during the public hearing process.

This bill includes various important amendments and I will begin with those concerning the heavy vehicle national law—or HVNL as it is commonly known. The more significant heavy vehicle related amendments relate to the implementation of the nationally agreed position on arrangements for heavy vehicle registration and chain-of-responsibility improvements. Considerable consultation and engagement with the industry was undertaken to arrive at the proposed amendments. I would like to thank industry members for providing their considered feedback on the bill as it was developed by the National Transport Commission. The industry's ongoing commitment to heavy vehicle law reform ensures that the HVNL remains contemporary and fit for purpose. I would like to thank the National Transport Commission and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator for managing the HVNL maintenance process.

At this point I would like to note the committee's second recommendation that, in consultation with the Transport and Infrastructure Council, I consider stakeholder support for a timely review of the HVNL. I am aware of widespread support for a review of the law within the heavy vehicle industry. With the national legislation and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator well established and having been operating for a number of years, there is a sense in the industry that we need not wait until the original proposed review date and the time is right for the review to be brought forward.

I am pleased to advise that a comprehensive review of the HVNL is included in the National Transport Commission's work program for 2018 to 2022, which was endorsed at the recent Transport and Infrastructure Council meeting in May, which I attended. This work program brings forward the commencement of the HVNL review from 2020-21 to 2018-19 with the terms of reference for the review to be agreed prior to the commencement of the review.

I also note the statement of reservation from the member for Traeger regarding concerns about the impact of the chain-of-responsibility amendments on primary producers. In response, I can reassure the member for Traeger that the chain-of-responsibility changes proposed in this bill are positive for farmers. Since the late 1990s, chain of responsibility has been present in transport legislation in one form or another. Since that time, farmers have been parties in the chain of responsibility, as well as having to meet workplace health and safety requirements.

These amendments will not change farmers' obligations, as they will still need to manage their risks in the same way as they did before. However, the positive duty imposed by these chain-of-responsibility changes will improve consistency between the HVNL and workplace health and safety and, as a result, is likely to reduce a farmer's regulatory burden. I have been assured that the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has been working closely with the agricultural sector through awareness sessions and providing guidance material to ensure that farmers are prepared for the changes ahead.

In keeping with the proactive primary duty approach being introduced into the HVNL, chain-of-responsibility reforms have reformulated offence provisions from a reverse onus of proof to a positive obligation. That means that the prosecution will bear a greater evidentiary burden to prove liability in chain-of-responsibility offences. Before this bill, if there were a prosecution, the party was deemed liable for any breach of a safety obligation and the burden was on the responsible party to prove that they had taken reasonable steps to prevent the offence to avoid being found guilty. Under the changes proposed in this bill, the prosecution will have the responsibility of showing that the party did not do everything that was reasonably practical to avoid the offence. The changes remove the current reverse onus of proof, which will remove the level of burden for farmers rather than adding to it.

I note that, of late, the issue of when the chain-of-responsibility reforms will commence has been canvassed quite broadly within the heavy vehicle industry. Last month, I wrote to the relevant minister of each Australian jurisdiction to advise that the chain-of-responsibility reforms, including those proposed in this bill, are planned to commence on 1 October this year. Some members of the industry have been advocating for an extension of the commencement date to allow for further consultation on the reforms.

The approach to these reforms was originally approved by the Transport and Infrastructure Council in November 2015 and consultation with the industry has been ongoing throughout that process. The first phase of amendments reformulated existing HVNL obligations on all current chain-of-responsibility parties as a positive due diligence obligation to ensure that chain parties comply with their primary duty of care consistent with the duty-of-care approach adopted in other national laws, such as the rail safety national law and the model Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

These amendments were debated and passed in this House on 1 December 2016 as part of the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, but have not yet commenced. I referred to those original amendments to show that this package of reforms has been in the works for some time, allowing for a comprehensive consultation process led by the NHVR. There is no need to further delay the commencement of these reforms and I look forward to seeing the tangible benefits that they will no doubt provide to the industry.

Another significant amendment within this bill concerns heavy vehicle registration. Chapter 26 of the HVNL was intended to provide for the establishment of a national heavy vehicle registration scheme. In November 2016, the Transport and Infrastructure Council did not approve the NHVR's business case for a fully-fledged national heavy vehicle registration scheme and directed the NHVR to cease activities regarding this scheme. The Transport and Infrastructure Council also agreed that jurisdictions will continue to have responsibility for heavy vehicle registration under their respective state or territory legislation.

In May 2017, the Transport and Infrastructure Council approved the development of a national operator fleet dataset in lieu of a national heavy vehicle registration scheme. As a result, the council agreed that chapter 2—registration—was no longer fit for purpose and was to be removed from the HVNL, and so provisions within this bill will omit that chapter.

In recognition of the fact that jurisdictions will have ongoing responsibility to register all heavy vehicles, the federal interstate registration scheme is expected to be closed, commencing from 1 July 2018. Legislation to repeal the FIRS was introduced into the Australian parliament earlier this year and is expected to be passed before 1 July 2018. The closure of the FIRS will require all heavy vehicles registered under the FIRS to transition to state and territory based registration systems during a transition window from 1 July this year to 30 June next year. Consequently, this bill also amends the Duties Act Queensland 2001 to provide a one-off exemption from vehicle registration duty for heavy vehicles transitioning from the FIRS to the Queensland registration scheme during the transition window.

The bill also makes some consequential changes throughout the remainder of the HVNL to reflect that the majority of registration matters are not dealt with under the HVNL but, rather, they are to be regulated under various jurisdictional laws. These amendments will ensure that jurisdictions can continue to perform registration related functions, but will allow the NHVR access to registration data to perform its functions. The national operator fleet dataset will comprise a single minimal dataset with common definitions and business rules populated by data provided by all jurisdictions. Jurisdictions will be responsible for submitting clean and consistent data that will allow the NHVR access to registration data to perform its functions. The NHVR will be given full access to the dataset on 1 July this year and will be responsible for its maintenance.

The heavy vehicle amendments in this bill represent the next step in the ongoing evolution and improvement of heavy vehicle regulation in Queensland and across our nation. They are a prime example of what can be achieved when jurisdictions and industry work together. I am pleased to progress these amendments.

In relation to road safety, this bill also includes a range of amendments that impact drivers in Queensland. These amendments focus on improving road safety and addressing new technologies. The bill allows the chief executive to notify the registered operator of a vehicle when an offence is committed in their vehicle by another driver. This will enable informed conversations between vehicle owners and the people they allow to use their vehicle leading to improved road safety outcomes. This particular reform may appear minor, but it has been sought by many in the heavy vehicle industry for quite some time.


As members may be aware, the Palaszczuk government has been conducting an Australian-first trial of a new high-tech, safety focused online test called PrepL, which will push learner drivers through an intensive interactive course, including driving simulation tasks and powerful real-life interviews. This bill contains amendments that relate to the retention of digital photos and signatures to support PrepL. This will give participants more flexibility to attend a customer service centre to provide their photo and signature within the 12-month PrepL enrolment period.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bailey, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.00 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from His Excellency recommends the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 2018

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial years starting 1 July 2018 and 1 July 2019

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 12 June 2018

Tabled paper: Message, dated 12 June 2018, from His Excellency the Governor, recommending the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2018 [\[804\]](#).

Introduction

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.01 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial years starting 1 July 2018 and 1 July 2019. I table the bill and the explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2018 [\[805\]](#).

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2018, explanatory notes [\[806\]](#).

I introduce the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service which provides appropriation for the 2018-19 financial year. The bill combines the appropriation for the 2018-19 budget and interim supply for 2019-20 to allow normal operations of the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service to continue until the 2019-20 Appropriation (Parliament) Bill receives assent.

The government remains committed to the independence of the Legislative Assembly and this extends the means by which public moneys are appropriated to ensure its continued functioning. We are therefore adhering to the current convention that the Legislative Assembly's appropriation be contained in a bill separate from the Appropriation Bill for the other activities of government.

The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill will provide the necessary funds to ensure the continued operations of the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service. These include advisory and information services to assist the parliament, its committees and members to fulfil their constitutional and parliamentary responsibilities, the services provided by the Parliamentary Library Research and Information Services, Committee Office, Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service, Chamber, Education and Communication Services and Security and Attendant Services as well as the provision of accommodation, hospitality and members' entitlements.

First Reading

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.02 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.


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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 177, the bill is now set down for its second reading.

BUDGET PAPERS

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.03 pm): I table the budget papers for 2018-19.

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Appropriation Bills [\[807\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Budget Speech—Budget Paper No. 1 [\[808\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Budget Strategy and Outlook—Budget Paper No. 2 [\[809\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Capital Statement—Budget Paper No. 3 [\[810\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Budget Measures—Budget Paper No. 4 [\[811\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Budget Highlights—Delivering for Queenslanders [\[812\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Regional Action Plan—Delivering for Brisbane [\[813\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Regional Action Plan—Delivering for Darling Downs [\[814\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Regional Action Plan—Delivering for Far North Queensland [\[815\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Regional Action Plan—Delivering for Central Queensland [\[816\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Regional Action Plan—Delivering for the Gold Coast [\[817\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Regional Action Plan—Delivering for Ipswich [\[818\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Regional Action Plan—Delivering for Logan [\[819\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Regional Action Plan—Delivering for Mackay-Whitsunday [\[820\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Regional Action Plan—Delivering for Outback Queensland [\[821\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Regional Action Plan—Delivering for Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay [\[822\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Regional Action Plan—Delivering for Townsville [\[823\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Regional Action Plan—Delivering for Wide Bay [\[824\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Regional Action Plan—Delivering for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders [\[825\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Regional Action Plan—Delivering for Small Business [\[826\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Regional Action Plan—Delivering for Women [\[827\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Office of the Governor, Public Service Commission, Queensland Audit Office [\[828\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Treasury [\[829\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Legislative Assembly of Queensland [\[830\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships [\[831\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Agriculture and Fisheries [\[832\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women [\[833\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors [\[834\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Education [\[835\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy [\[836\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Environment and Science [\[837\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Housing and Public Works [\[838\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman, the Public Trustee of Queensland [\[839\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning [\[840\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs [\[841\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Correctional Services [\[842\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Health [\[843\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management [\[844\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games [\[845\]](#).


Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Employment, Small Business and Training [\[846\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Police Service, Public Safety Business Agency [\[847\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland Budget 2018-19: Service Delivery Statements—Department of Transport and Main Roads [\[848\]](#).

APPROPRIATION BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.03 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from His Excellency recommends the Appropriation Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION BILL 2018

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intitled—

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for departments for the financial years starting 1 July 2018 and 1 July 2019

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 12 June 2018

Tabled paper: Message, dated 12 June 2018, from His Excellency the Governor, recommending the Appropriation Bill 2018 [\[849\]](#).

Introduction

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.04 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for departments for the financial years starting 1 July 2018 and 1 July 2019. I table the bill and explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill 2018 [\[850\]](#).

Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill 2018, explanatory notes [\[851\]](#).

I am proud today to present the Palaszczuk Labor government's fourth budget. This is a budget for all of Queensland. This is a budget for all Queenslanders—from baby Elizabeth Mackenzie, the five millionth Queensland, born last month, to the traditional owners on the land on which we stand, the Jagera, Yuggera and Turrbal people, whether you live in Brisbane or Blackall. Labor is doing the things we said we would do—no surprises, no excuses.

Queenslanders are living through an era of growth and rapid change. Our population is one of the fastest growing in the nation. Technology continues to transform the way we live and work. The Palaszczuk Labor government will help our communities to navigate the challenges of change and set a course for the opportunities of growth. We will equip our workers on the front line of a fast-changing world with the skills and support to succeed. We will encourage innovation and give businesses and industry the confidence to grow. We will direct every effort to our No. 1 priority: jobs for Queenslanders. Here is how: by delivering the infrastructure, skills and services that our strong, diversified economy needs and by including everyone in the benefits, regardless of who you are or where you live. That is our strategy for this state. That is the job for this government. That is the plan in the budget I deliver today.

We begin with the largest Capital Works Program since the 2011 flood recovery effort, building the infrastructure for a productive, strong and sustainable economy; supporting growth without compromising our quality of life; delivering jobs in construction today and supporting the jobs of the future. This Queensland government must do the heavy lifting in infrastructure investment because this federal government simply will not. This Labor government must keep repairing the damage inflicted by the last LNP government's savage cutbacks to front-line services—more doctors, nurses, teachers, police and firefighters: the people who work so hard delivering excellent essential services every day; the professionals who educate our kids, keep Queenslanders healthy and protect our communities from harm. More infrastructure, better services—this is what we said we would do.

Budget Outcome

Queensland's economy has grown by 7.2 per cent in real terms since the December quarter 2014. Today I can announce that we expect a surplus of \$1.512 billion in 2017-18—more than three times the size of the Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review forecast. The budget also forecasts operating surpluses over the forward estimates, starting with \$148 million in 2018-19. Economic growth is forecast to accelerate from 2.5 per cent in 2016-17 to three per cent by 2018-19. Our responsible budget management is part of this success story, but it would be impossible without our job-generating initiatives that build business confidence and open up opportunities for growth and investment.

This is a time of growth and it is also a time of change. The Queensland economy continues to successfully shift from the big economic gains of a never before seen resources boom that brought with it massive investment, big infrastructure and jobs and wages growth. Business investment is rebounding following the construction of liquefied natural gas infrastructure. It is supported by a range of renewable energy projects that will be a key driver of economic growth. We are rolling out a nation-leading renewable energy industry with an estimated \$4.2 billion pipeline of projects underway or financially committed to across the state. This budget delivers surpluses, builds new infrastructure, grows the state's skills and expands our services, all to support a growing and changing state.

Creating Jobs, Delivering Infrastructure

Queensland now has the second highest annual employment growth rate in the country. Employment growth is forecast to strengthen to 2¾ per cent over the year to the June quarter 2018, which is the strongest growth in more than a decade. More than 150,000 jobs have been created since we came to government. That is equivalent to almost 4,000 new jobs in Queensland every month since January 2015. These are big numbers, but behind these numbers are people—Queenslanders who now have a place in our economy and hope for the future.

In this budget, through our \$45.8 billion infrastructure pipeline over the next four years, Queenslanders will continue to have a place in our economy. That is an increase of more than \$3 billion on last year's budget, directly supporting 38,000 jobs this year alone. Our plan means tens of thousands of additional jobs each year and our plan means building the essential infrastructure to meet the needs of our fast-growing state. From the Cairns Convention Centre to Cross River Rail, from the M1 and Bruce Highway upgrades to the Rookwood Weir and Townsville stadium, we are delivering the right projects, in the right place, at the right time.

Building the Economy of the Future

Rapid change all around us means Queensland must become a more diverse and productive economy. We must secure our modern industries and create jobs that will be there for years to come. To do that, this budget invests in innovation and anticipates areas of emerging opportunity. Let us take the example of the waste disposal levy, announced earlier this year. We will not allow Queensland to be a dumping ground for interstate waste. We all saw that when the LNP's short-sightedness in removing the levy led to a procession of dump trucks crossing our border.

However, this measure is also an opportunity to invest in new and emerging industries and technology. Today I am announcing a \$100 million down payment over the next three years into a new Resource Recovery Industry Development Program. This initiative will support innovation and investment in recycling and help new industries that manufacture products using recycled waste and create future jobs.

There is also the Palaszczuk government's flagship Advance Queensland strategy. Advance Queensland keeps turning good ideas into commercial reality. We are backing business and industry to help give them an edge in a highly competitive world. Therefore, in this budget, we are investing a further \$123 million in backing our entrepreneurs, funding industry research fellowships and helping small to medium businesses innovate, grow and create jobs.

There is also the Industry Attraction Fund. As well as supporting our home-grown businesses on their path to success, we want to attract new businesses and knowledge industries from interstate and overseas. I want those businesses, their ideas and above all their jobs to call Queensland home. That is why this budget extends the fund with \$40 million over two years towards bringing interstate and international businesses here and helping locally based businesses expand. The Business Development Fund, which turns ideas into commercial reality, will also be extended with \$40 million over the next two years. A further \$20 million for the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund brings new funding to \$100 million.

We want the new jobs in these new industries and we want businesses to hire skilled Queensland workers. Therefore, in this budget, we are investing \$175.5 million to help people return to the workforce through the Back to Work program. We will deliver a further \$180 million in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program to deliver more training opportunities and workforce participation.

Supporting Small Business

Like others in this parliament, I grew up in a family that ran a small business. My family felt the pressures, the strains and the setbacks but also reaped the rewards. I am proud to be in a government that backs small business. We need to give employers the confidence to invest in the workforce they need to succeed. That is why today I am announcing that the 50 per cent payroll tax rebate scheme will be extended to June 2019, supporting up to 26,000 apprentices and trainees. Our Buy Queensland approach ensures local businesses, jobs and better social outcomes are all front and centre when taxpayer dollars are spent. The ecoBiz program for small to medium businesses provides increased funding of \$3.9 million over four years to help them identify and achieve savings and eco-efficiencies across energy, water and waste.

The Challenge of Moderate Wage Growth

Our economic plan—more infrastructure and better skills—will create jobs, lift demand for labour and help support wages growth in the medium and longer term. I was pleased to see that the Fair Work Commission recently decided to increase the national minimum wage by 3.5 per cent. However, while we are more productive than we were just 10 years ago, modest wage growth is putting households under strain. Hardworking Queensland families who battle through each day are not keeping up. That is something we simply cannot ignore. This has broader economic impacts, too. Modest wage growth constrains growth in household incomes, which is one of the key drivers of household consumption. As a result, employment and businesses suffer. We need to see stronger private sector wage growth. This budget will make a difference.

Supporting Growth Throughout Queensland

It does not matter where you are, you must have the right transport and the right road infrastructure. The alternative is more Queenslanders sitting in traffic, away from their jobs or away from their kids. We either allow congestion to build or we build the infrastructure we need. In a fast-growing state, investing in key infrastructure supports job creation, it boosts business confidence and it delivers the services Queenslanders need to maintain their way of life. Our delivery of the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project recognises this. Sadly, the federal government and those opposite do not. During the five-year construction period, Cross River Rail will support an average of 1,500 jobs each year and up to 3,000 jobs in the most intensive year of construction.

I am pleased to say that today's budget also includes an investment of \$21.7 billion over the next four years in the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program, QTRIP. This is the third year in a row that the Palaszczuk Labor government has made a record investment in road and transport infrastructure and is an increase of around \$700 million on last year's commitment.

Supporting Regional Queensland

We know that Queensland is the most decentralised state in Australia, with some of the country's largest cities and important economic zones outside the South-East Queensland corner. We also know that we do not have a strong Queensland without strong regions. That is why this year 65 per cent of our infrastructure spend is outside the Greater Brisbane area. We will build key infrastructure such as the Rookwood Weir, the Cairns Convention Centre and the Townsville stadium. Through QTRIP, we are investing more than \$800 million for works in our state's west. The Works for Queensland program supports job-generating maintenance and minor works across our regions, in partnership with local councils. This budget provides more than \$200 million over three years to extend the fund. We also commit up to \$34.6 million to continue drought relief this year and more than \$19 million over three years for rural and regional programs that support jobs and drive economic development.

Give all our Children a Great Start

This budget delivers for the economy and jobs, industry and the regions. This is a budget of the head, but it is also a budget of the heart. At the heart of any Labor budget is education. Education is fundamental to every public good that progressive politics values: equality of opportunity, fairness, skills for the economy today, rewarding work in the future, human progress and knowledge itself. None of this is possible without leadership, imagination, investment and reform in schools.

This budget makes a record education and training investment of more than \$14 billion this year. Since March 2015, we have employed more than 4,700 extra teachers and teacher aides. We said we would employ 3,700 additional teachers over four years; in this budget, we do it. We will upgrade and improve schools across the state with a further \$308 million to the Building Future Schools fund, bringing the total investment to \$808 million. There will be new high schools at Coomera, Yarrabilba, Ripley and Mango Hill, a new primary school at Ripley and a new special school at Caboolture. We will also refurbish, upgrade or improve more than 48 state primary and high schools. We will redevelop TAFE facilities in Townsville, Cairns, Mount Gravatt, Toowoomba, the Gold Coast and the Redlands with an investment of up to \$85 million over three years.

Even before their first day in the classroom, Queensland kids benefit from developing a love of reading at an early age. As a parent, I know and understand that one of the greatest gifts you can give your child, even before they enter the prep classroom, is a love of reading. It sets up a child for life. However, I also know that not every parent has the skills or resources to pass on this gift. That is why the First 5 Forever program, which links parents of kids under five to resources at public libraries across the state, matters so much. In this budget, we invest \$20 million over four years to continue the First 5 Forever program's vital work.

Keeping Queenslanders Healthy

This is a budget for all Queensland and a budget for all Queenslanders. Our people, whatever their age, wherever they live, should be able to get the health care they need. This budget provides a record \$17.3 billion operating budget for Queensland Health and \$985 million in capital investments to deliver first-class health services and facilities for Queenslanders.

Since March 2015 this government has been rebuilding front-line health services savaged under the LNP. We have employed more than 4,800 extra nurses, 1,600 doctors and 370 ambulance officers. It is not enough to just repair the LNP's damage; we must create excellent and responsive services for Queenslanders when they need it most—when they need hospital care.

We are building better hospitals, health facilities and emergency departments, including in Hervey Bay, Gladstone, Roma, Blackall, Kingaroy and Maryborough, with planned redevelopments at Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich hospitals and a new adolescent mental health facility at the Prince Charles Hospital in Brisbane. These investments are working. Services are improving. We are making the positive changes to help patients make the most of a modern healthcare system.

We said we would employ an additional 400 nurse navigators to help Queenslanders navigate the often complex system of tertiary health care. This budget does just that. We said we would employ an extra 100 midwives to help birthing mothers with the life-changing event of bringing a baby into this world. This budget does just that.

Keeping our Communities Safe

Our front-line heroes work to keep our communities safe every day and every night. This budget gives Queensland more police, domestic violence officers and firefighters. We said we would add 400 officers to areas of need across Queensland over the next four years. This budget does that. In a world where keeping us safe requires cutting-edge support, we are investing in a police security and counterterrorism command, training for 85 new counterterrorism officers and specialists, and we are building the Counter Terrorism and Community Safety Training Centre at Wacol.

In times of natural disaster, Queenslanders know they can count on our world renowned emergency services workers. In this budget, I announce more than \$103 million to deliver on our election commitment of 100 additional firefighters over the next four years and new firefighting equipment and upgraded emergency services facilities. This is to ensure that in our disaster affected state our fire and emergency responses remain second to none.

Protecting the Great Barrier Reef

This government knows we need to take action now to protect our environment for the future. The Great Barrier Reef is a natural wonder of staggering beauty. It is also an invaluable asset when it comes to our future economic prosperity. The reef must survive. We must clean up the water running

into the reef and continually invest in the science and research that will help better protect the ocean. That is why this budget makes a record investment of \$330 million over five years to protect the reef. No greater asset needs our protection than our Great Barrier Reef.

That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government banned dumping of dredge spoil in the Caley Valley Wetlands and at sea within the World Heritage Area. That is why we have created the net-free fishing zones in Cairns, Rockhampton and Mackay to protect sensitive ecosystems and prohibited port development within the Fitzroy River delta. That is why we reinstated our nation-leading laws to stop tree clearing in Great Barrier Reef catchments and right across our state. That is why we established the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce. Future funding decisions to save the Great Barrier Reef will be steered by science, not poisoned by politics.

Growing Tourism

The preservation of our state's natural beauty is directly linked to the success of one of our economic powerhouses—tourism. People from all over the world travel great distances to come here to enjoy our unique experiences and natural encounters that we Queenslanders have in our own backyard. This budget invests an additional \$94.6 million over five years under the Growing Tourism, Growing Tourism Jobs initiative. This includes more than \$48 million for the Attracting Tourism Fund, which provides incentives to attract new international airline routes and cruise ships. It includes \$46 million for the Regional Tourism Infrastructure and Experience Development program and Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund to help communities grow tourism. A further \$2.2 million over two years will expand and refurbish the Australian Workers Heritage Centre at Barcaldine.

There is no doubt that investment in tourism and events is vital for our future economic success and delivers long-term benefits. Our Commonwealth Games in April this year was so much more than 11 days of sport before a global audience. It created the impetus for additional government and private sector investments of more than \$2.6 billion. It will also leave a positive legacy of better transport and better sports and community facilities that will last for decades.

In Brisbane right now we have game-changing developments that will not only generate jobs and support economic growth but also fundamentally reshape our city and position it as a modern, global destination of choice. Queen's Wharf, the proposed Eagle Street Pier, Howard Smith Wharves and Brisbane Live projects can build a city that is a beacon of sustainable progress in a modern economy. We will work with the private sector every step of the way to see these projects to success.

Brisbane's cultural precinct, already one of the best in the country, will be enhanced even further with a \$125 million injection towards a new theatre at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre. It is the largest arts infrastructure investment since GoMA.

A Responsive Government

Labor governments help out those doing it tough. We understand Queenslanders in need are feeling cost-of-living pressures. Government has a responsibility to help and we will do just that. As part of our commitment to reduce cost-of-living impacts on households and small business, the budget provides \$5.6 billion in concessions, an increase of \$200 million on last year.

Labor governments right past wrongs. We will join the national redress scheme—a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. While no amount of money can ever return a lost childhood, our commitment of more than \$500 million will support healing and recovery.

We know we must continue the important job of reconciliation with Australia's first nation people and increase our efforts to close the gap in health, education and life outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Queenslanders. Fundamental to closing the gap is a roof over one's head. Without that one cannot address poor health or literacy outcomes.

That is why it was particularly heartless that the federal government decided to walk away from a 50-year tradition of funding housing in remote Indigenous communities in Queensland. We will work hard to close the gap, supporting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. That is why I announce that this budget will invest \$239 million to improve housing options for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

Conclusion

Mr Speaker, whether you are in Biloela or Brisbane, Caloundra or Cunnamulla, Lockhart River or Logan, this budget delivers for all of Queensland. We said we would build more infrastructure and deliver better services. We said we would grow jobs and steer the economy through change. We said we would deliver for the whole of Queensland and every Queenslanders. We said we had plans for education and health, community safety and communities in need, for the Great Barrier Reef and for tourism. This is a budget for prosperity. Today we deliver for our economy's future. This is a Labor budget. Today we deliver fairness. This is a Queensland budget. Today we deliver for Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.29 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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


Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 177, the bill is set down for its second reading.

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.30 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from His Excellency the Governor recommends the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act to amend the Duties Act 2001, the First Home Owner Grant Act 2000, the Land Tax Act 2010, the Land Tax Regulation 2010, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Payroll Tax Act 1971, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Taxation Administration Act 2001 and the Taxation Administration Regulation 2012 for particular purposes

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 12 June 2018

Tabled paper: Message, dated 12 June 2018, from His Excellency the Governor, recommending the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [\[852\]](#).

Introduction

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Duties Act 2001, the First Home Owner Grant Act 2000, the Land Tax Act 2010, the Land Tax Regulation 2010, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Payroll Tax Act 1971, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Taxation Administration Act 2001 and the Taxation Administration Regulation 2012 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [\[853\]](#).

Tabled paper: Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [\[854\]](#).

Today I introduce the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The bill includes amendments to implement revenue and grant measures announced in 2017 as election commitments and confirmed in the 2017-18 Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review and to implement a revenue measure I announced in the 2018-19 budget to extend the increased 50 per cent payroll tax rebate for apprentices' and trainees' wages until 30 June 2019. The bill achieves these objectives by amending the Duties Act, the First Home Owner Grant Act, the Land Tax Act and Payroll Tax Act. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The Duties Act currently imposes Additional Foreign Acquirer Duty (AFAD) at a rate of 3% on transactions liable for transfer duty, landholder duty or corporate trustee duty where the acquirer is a foreign person and the transaction involves certain residential land in Queensland.

The Bill amends the Duties Act to increase the AFAD rate to 7% for relevant transactions where a duty liability arises on or after 1 July 2018.

The second measure relates to vehicle registration duty. Under the Duties Act, vehicle registration duty is imposed on applications to register and transfer vehicles. Generally, it is imposed at different rates depending on the number of cylinders a vehicle has.

The Bill amends the Duties Act to impose additional vehicle registration duty, of \$2 per \$100 in dutiable value, for new and used vehicles valued above \$100,000. The additional duty will be imposed on applications made on or after 1 July 2018. It will not apply to heavy vehicles or special vehicles.

The First Home Owner Grant Act currently provides an increased \$20,000 grant for eligible transactions entered into between 1 July 2016 and 31 December 2017, both dates inclusive.

An eligible transaction is a contract to purchase or build a new home or the building of a new home by an owner-builder.

The Bill amends the First Home Owner Grant Act to extend the temporary increase to the grant for a further six months to give effect to the election commitment to provide a \$20,000 grant for eligible transactions entered into between 1 January 2018 and 30 June 2018, both dates inclusive. In doing so, the amendments give retrospective legislative effect to a beneficial administrative arrangement under which the increased grant has been administered since 1 January 2018.

The Land Tax Act imposes land tax on land owned as at midnight 30 June each year. Land tax is imposed at different rates depending on the value of an owner's landholdings and whether the owner is a resident individual, company, trustee or an absentee.

The Bill amends the Land Tax Act to increase the land tax rate for aggregated landholdings above \$10 million by 0.5 percentage points from the 2018-19 financial year onwards. The increase will apply to all types of owners who, as at 30 June 2018, have taxable landholdings valued at more than \$10 million. The increase will not apply to land that is exempt from land tax.

The Payroll Tax Act currently provides a 25% payroll tax rebate on wages of apprentices and trainees paid during particular financial years. For the 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years, an increased 50 per cent rebate has been available under an existing administrative arrangement.

The Bill amends the Payroll Tax Act to extend the 50 per cent rebate to wages paid or payable in the 2018-19 financial year. The amendments will also give retrospective legislative effect to the beneficial administrative arrangement under which the increased 50 per cent rebate for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years has been administered.

The Bill also amends revenue legislation to support land tax administration from the 2018-19 financial year onwards.

The Bill amends the Land Tax Act and Land Tax Regulation to expand the scope of the longstanding primary production exemption. Currently, this exemption is available for land, or a part of land, used solely for the business of agriculture, pasturage or dairy farming.

Recognising that the concepts of agriculture, pasturage or dairy farming do not necessarily encompass contemporary concepts of primary production, the Office of State Revenue's assessing practice has gradually evolved with the changing nature of primary production. The amendments will support the Office of State Revenue's current assessing practice and provide administrative certainty for taxpayers and the Office of State Revenue by clarifying the types of land uses that qualify for the exemption. Landowners who currently appropriately qualify for the exemption will continue to benefit.

The Bill also amends the Taxation Administration Act and Taxation Administration Regulation to facilitate an online portal to administer land tax being introduced in 2018-19. The amendments will enable the Commissioner of State Revenue to give documents (including assessment notices) to taxpayers by making them available electronically via the new portal. Use of the portal will be voluntary and the Commissioner will only give documents via the portal if the taxpayer consents.

Finally, the Mineral Resources Act and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act will be amended to ensure the validity of assessments and determinations made before 1 July 2014, confirm that reassessments can be made of these prior period assessments, and ensure the proper mineral royalty value can be determined for prior periods, including to address artificial avoidance arrangements involving related party marketing entities.

In addition, evidentiary certificates regarding the making of royalty assessments may be given in proceedings.

Mr Speaker, I move that the Bill be now read a first time.

First Reading

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.32 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to Economics and Governance Committee

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

BETTING TAX BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.32 pm): I present a bill for an act to impose a tax on betting operators, and to amend this act, the Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998, the Taxation Administration Act 2001, the Taxation Administration Regulation 2012, the Wagering Act 1998 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 2 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Betting Tax Bill 2018 [\[855\]](#).

Tabled paper: Betting Tax Bill 2018, explanatory notes [\[856\]](#).

At the 2017 state election the government committed to introduce a point-of-consumption wagering tax for Queensland. Today I introduce to the parliament the Betting Tax Bill 2018, which delivers that commitment. Under the bill, from 1 October 2018 a betting tax will apply at a rate of 15 per cent of the net wagering revenue of betting operators licensed in Australia from bets placed by customers in Queensland. This commencement timing allows for industry preparation for the tax.

Commonwealth and state governments have recognised that the increased use of digital technology, including smart phones, is rapidly changing consumer behaviour in the wagering and betting industry in Australia. Against this context, the traditional approach of taxation based on the location of a betting operator has become outdated.

The point-of-consumption based betting tax introduced by this bill, like the equivalent tax introduced in South Australia in 2017 and measures announced for Victoria, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory commencing in 2019, responds to this changing environment. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Point-of-consumption taxation upon betting represents a change from the traditional approach of taxation based on the location from which a betting operator is licensed. As other jurisdictions amend their legislation to move to point-of-consumption taxation, Queensland will continue to work with the other jurisdictions to maximise harmonisation in this tax and minimise the potential for double taxation. Consistent with this, existing tax imposed under the Wagering Act 1998 will cease to apply when the betting tax commences.

The taxing rate of 15% has been set by the Government after careful consideration of the context of bets made by customers in Queensland and the landscape nationally. The 15% rate is consistent with the rate imposed in South Australia, and as announced for Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

Similarly, the context of bets made by Queensland customers has also informed the \$300,000 annual tax-free threshold amount for the Queensland tax, applicable to all liable betting operators, under the Bill. This threshold is expected to ensure that smaller scale businesses are not subject to taxation, removing a potential barrier for smaller new market entrants. As the tax-free threshold will apply across a financial year, commencement of the Bill on 1 October 2018 means the commensurate threshold for the 2018-19 financial year will be \$225,000.

The Bill takes a pragmatic approach to identifying taxable wagering revenue. Clear rules are provided which recognise the existing operating environment and its demonstrated capacity for evolution. Likewise, the Bill contains provisions to ensure operators can reasonably and practicably identify where a person making a bet with them is located for the purpose of the tax. Industry consultation has assisted in informing this approach.

Once enacted, the Betting Tax Bill will be a revenue law for the purposes of the Taxation Administration Act 2001. Under that Act, betting tax will be administered by the Commissioner of State Revenue, under the standard administration regime which also applies for duty, payroll tax and land tax, ensuring consistency across taxes, improved arrangements for taxpayers and their advisers and improved administrative efficiency. Consistent with other jurisdictions, this will include a system of registration and the obligation for betting operators to lodge returns with the Commissioner and pay tax monthly, in general.

The Queensland Government will continue to engage in interjurisdictional discussions of point-of-consumption taxation of betting, with a view to optimising its operation nationally. Government will be consulting with the racing industry and other stakeholders in the lead up to the 1 October implementation regarding appropriate measures to be funded from the point of consumption betting tax revenues including support for the industry, delivery of initiatives to enhance responsible gambling and community programs.

The Bill also removes a number of direct regulatory prohibitions under the Wagering Act 1998 and Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998 to reflect the fact that:

- many Queenslanders currently undertake interactive wagering with interstate licensed betting operators through the telephone and internet; and
- interstate licensed betting operators have been extensively advertising into Queensland through television, radio and other advertising mediums.

However, it must also be noted that, although it is proposed to no longer directly prohibit such advertising under the Wagering Act 1998 and Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998, advertising by Australian licensed wagering operators into Queensland will still be regulated under a mixture of Commonwealth and State legislation.

First Reading

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.34 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Economics and Governance Committee

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

BETTING TAX BILL

Declared Urgent; Cognate Debate

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.34 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That—

1. under the provisions of standing order 137, the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill and the Betting Tax Bill be declared urgent bills and not stand referred to a committee and be set down for their second reading to enable the bills to be passed through all remaining stages at this week's sitting; and
2. in accordance with standing order 172, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill, having already been treated as cognate bills under the provisions of standing order 176, be also treated as cognate with the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill and the Betting Tax Bill for the second reading debate, but with separate questions being put with regard to the second reading of (a) the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill, (b) the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill and (c) the Betting Tax Bill.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (2.35 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 2.35 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, Palaszcuk, 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