

WEDNESDAY, 1 AUGUST 2018

ESTIMATES—INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE—INNOVATION, TOURISM INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Estimate Committee Members

Mr DA Pegg (Chair)
Mr JM Krause
Ms SL Bolton
Mr JN Costigan
Mr DJ Brown
Mrs C Mullen

Members in Attendance

Mr DF Crisafulli
Mr JP Langbroek
Mr MJ Hart
Mr MC Berkman
Dr CAC Rowan

In Attendance

Hon. KJ Jones, Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games

Mr M Jutsum, Chief of Staff

Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games

Mr D Walker, Director-General

Mr P Martyn, Deputy Director-General


Tourism and Events Queensland

Ms L Coddington, Chief Executive Officer

Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation

Mr M Peters, Chief Executive Officer

The committee met at 9.00 am.

 **CHAIR:** Good morning. I declare this hearing of estimates for the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee open. I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet. My name is Duncan Pegg, and I am the member for Stretton and chair of the committee. Jon Krause, member for Scenic Rim, is the deputy chair. The other committee members are Charis Mullen, member for Jordan; Sandy Bolton, member for Noosa; Jason Costigan, member for Whitsunday; and Cynthia Lui, member for Cook, who is unavailable today. Don Brown, member for Capalaba, has been appointed as a substitute member for the day's proceedings.

The committee has granted leave for non-committee members to attend and ask questions at its hearing today, so other members may be present over the course of the proceedings. Today the committee will consider the Appropriation Bill 2018 and the estimates for the committee's areas of responsibility.

I remind everyone present that any person may be excluded from the proceedings at my discretion or by order of the committee. The committee has authorised its hearing to be broadcast live, televised and photographed. Copies of the committee's conditions for broadcasting proceedings are available from the secretariat. I ask that mobile phones or other electronic devices be turned off or switched to silent. I also remind you that food and drink are not permitted in the chamber.

The committee intends to consider the portfolio areas according to the published program. We will commence with the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games from 9 am to 12.30 pm, followed by the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts from 1.30 pm to 5 pm.

The committee will now examine the proposed expenditure in the Appropriation Bill 2018 for the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. The committee will examine the minister's portfolio areas until 12.30 pm and will suspend the proceedings for two short breaks, at 10 am and 11.15 am.

The visiting member present currently is the member for Broadwater. I remind those present today that the hearing is a proceeding of the Queensland parliament and is subject to the standing rules and orders of the parliament. It is important that questions and answers remain relevant and succinct. The same rules for questions that apply in parliament apply in this hearing. I refer to standing orders 112 and 115 in this regard. Questions should be brief and relate to one issue and should not contain lengthy or subjective preambles, argument or opinion.

I intend to guide proceedings today so that relevant issues can be explored fully and to ensure there is adequate opportunity to address questions from government and non-government members of the committee. On behalf of the committee, I welcome the minister, the director-general, executives, departmental officers and members of the public to the hearing. For the benefit of Hansard, I ask all officers to identify themselves the first time they answer a question referred to them.

I now declare the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas administered by the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games open for examination. The question before the committee is—

That the proposed expenditure be agreed to.

Minister, if you wish you may make an opening statement of no more than five minutes.

Ms JONES: Thank you, Mr Chair, and all the committee members who are here today. It is wonderful to see you all here, where it is beautiful one day and perfect the next. After the re-election of the Palaszczuk government, we created a new department of tourism industry development. We have broadened the portfolio to build Queensland's tourism industry and to grow more tourism jobs across our great state.

The industry is now worth more than \$25 billion and supports more than 230,000 jobs, and we are seeing more Australians and international visitors coming to Queensland than ever before. A total of 21.8 million domestic visitors spent more than \$16 billion in the year to March 2018. In the last 12 months a record 2.7 million international visitors spent \$5.5 billion in Queensland. Last year tourists spent \$3.5 billion more than they did in 2014, in the last year of the previous LNP government.

Before we were elected in 2015 the industry was crying out for more sustainable funding to grow tourism, and that is exactly what we have delivered. We have consistently delivered a four-year \$400 million tourism funding guarantee to give industry the certainty it needs, and we have seen the results of this investment. We appointed our new chair of Tourism and Events Queensland, Brett Godfrey, to drive new ecotourism experiences. Already we have had a lot of success with our new marketing strategy, Find Your Perfect Next. This campaign has already reached close to 12.7 million Australians.

We are also delivering on our election commitment—the largest ever boost to tourism funding in Queensland's history—with an additional \$180 million designed to leverage greater investment across the tourism industry, particularly in the private sector. This includes \$50 million for the Great Barrier Reef islands restoration package including \$25 million to kickstart investment on Great Keppel Island,

\$10 million for aviation attraction, \$38 million for the Attracting Tourism Fund to partner with industry to deliver new experiences and grow tourism, and \$46 million for the tourism infrastructure package including \$10 million for outback Queensland and \$36 million to boost new major events in our state.

We know that events are where magic happens. Since we were elected, we have more than doubled the value of our events calendar—now worth more than \$780 million to the Queensland economy. We continue to secure major events for Queensland that will drive visitation and deliver return on taxpayers' investments. I know that there are some mad Cowboys fans in the room, and I am sure they will be joining me next year at the NRL magic round, which will be a new major event on the Queensland calendar. We have also secured the TV Week Logie Awards.

One of the biggest drivers of visitor growth to Queensland is our success in attracting new flights. Since we were elected we have secured additional flights bringing 2.4 million new inbound seats to Queensland, generating \$1.8 billion in additional overnight visitor expenditure. We are also working with industry to drive investments in new hotels, resorts and experiences. Confidence is very high in the industry at the moment, and the tourism investment pipeline for new infrastructure in our state is now more than \$14 billion. This includes new major projects like the Queen's Wharf development that will attract more than one million new visitors to Queensland every year. I am confident that our record investment, along with our industry partnerships, will continue to grow tourism and tourism jobs in Queensland.

CHAIR: Thank you very much, Minister. We will now commence examination of the portfolio area of Tourism Industry Development. I call the member for Broadwater.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Minister, good morning. I refer to footnote 3 on page 5 of the Service Delivery Statements which reveals that the expansion of data collected for monitoring additional airline capacity will now cover an additional two funds. Can you please outline the difference between each of the three funds including the amount expended and the return on investment across all route development programs over the previous financial year?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. We will go to that page of the SDS, but while we are finding that page, so we can go through the separate programs, I will start by talking about our dogged commitment to growing tourism and additional flights into Queensland. As I just said in my opening remarks, we have delivered more than 2.4 million seats to Queensland through attracting funds to get additional support here and additional flights. Already we believe this has contributed a value of \$1.8 billion into our economy. As you know, this is the AAIF program, which is one of the three programs that is outlined on that page. It is a program that was underway when you were in government. I understand that when you were a minister in the Newman government you secured around 557,000 seats, worth approximately \$346 million. I am sure you are very pleased to see that we are continuing this work and building on that and have now delivered an additional 2.4 million seats. In regard to that specific point—which measure is it?

Mr CRISAFULLI: Just the difference between each of the three.

Ms JONES: The three programs are the AAIF program, which you are familiar with, the Connecting with Asia program and the Attracting Tourism Fund, which is a new program which is delivered out of our new record \$180 million through the election commitments. What we measure is the number of seats that are on the plane that will be delivered into the Queensland market that would not be there without the support of these programs. As you know, for example, with the Connecting with Asia program we partner with regional tourism organisations—for example, the Brisbane City Council or Tourism Australia.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Minister, I am not quite sure I got an answer to the return on investment but I will move on. On page 5 of the SDS I want to discuss the inbound seat capacity effectiveness measurement line. There is a discontinued—

Ms JONES: For clarity, which line are you talking about?

Mr CRISAFULLI: On page 5 of the SDS there is a line about one of the discontinued measures. The discontinued measure on page 9 was for 537,620 additional seats for the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund. How much will now be spent across the combined three funds to achieve the targeted 600,000 increase?

Ms JONES: Sorry, I missed that last bit.

CHAIR: Can you repeat the question?

Mr CRISAFULLI: There is a discontinued measure which was to attract 537,000 seats. That has been replaced with a new measure to attract 600,000 seats but it is across three funds. The previous one was across one. I want to know how much extra is being spent.

Ms JONES: Now I am following you. We had expended all the funding previously provided by AAIF in the state budget. With the new funding that we have secured as part of our election commitments, we have contributed \$10 million into AAIF as well as additional funding through the Attracting Tourism Fund and the ongoing fund with Connecting with Asia. Those are the three programs I have talked about. The funding is spread across those three different programs in that way. Out of the new money, which is \$48 million, \$10 million has been given to top up the AAIF fund because we previously expended that funding.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will move on, but again I do not think I have got—

Ms JONES: I am happy to organise a briefing for you in that regard—

Mr CRISAFULLI: Perhaps for both of us.

Ms JONES:—but, to be clear, AAIF is \$10 million, ATF is \$38 million and CWA is \$33.5 million.

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater, I caution you: you are here to ask questions, not make a running commentary.

Ms JONES: I can cope with his comments.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Minister, I refer to the route development program referenced on page 5 of the SDS. On 4 June this year Hong Kong Airlines axed its Cairns and Gold Coast routes, on 3 July Tigerair axed its Townsville route, and on 23 July Air China suspended its Brisbane route. Minister, what personal actions did you take to ensure these routes stayed open after the media announcements that you were part of?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for that question. As you know, I have been a very proud advocate of attracting new flights to Queensland. As the honourable member would be well aware, having previously been a minister, all of these flights are secured not only through support of the state government but also often involving support from the local tourism organisations and the federal government. Most recently, the one that has been disappointing for all levels of government is what we have seen with the decision of Air China. Your good friend and Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Steven Ciobo, said at the time that China remains Australia's most valuable tourism market, with visitors spending almost \$10 billion across Australia. They contributed through Tourism Australia towards this flight, as did the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Graham Quirk, who also contributed significantly to attracting this flight to Queensland.

Can I use the time of estimates to clarify that what Air China has said is that this is not a cancellation but a suspension and that it will be returning to Queensland flights in January. I also know that the member for Mundingburra, having been a minister in the Newman government, is well aware that when you are dealing with Chinese airlines—I do not know why you are laughing about being referred to as a Newman government minister. Your record there was pretty harsh for the people of Townsville.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Minister, I was referring to you not addressing me by my correct title but that is okay. Let us carry on.

Ms JONES: As I was explaining, when you were a minister in the Newman government you would also remember that you supported China Southern to fly into Queensland and when you were in government they cut back their flights. This is what we have seen consistently. I will ask Leanne Coddington to talk to this as well. We know that you are in for the long haul when you are building these relationships with airlines in China, given the global capacity issues they are seeing with growth. You have to build these relationships. China Southern increased their flights to daily in 2013 before cutting back their flights in 2014 under the Newman government. Since we have been in government, through Connecting with Asia we have been able to get them back to daily flights. This is an example of where you see these fluctuations. The one thing I can assure the shadow minister and every single Queenslanders is that we are not going to cut and run. We are going to be there for the long haul and we are going to continue to deliver support financially in the budget like we have done today.

Mr CRISAFULLI: What are the obligations for somebody? After they get funded and after you do the media announcement, what are those continuous obligations over what period of time?

Ms JONES: We have a relationship with Tourism Australia, TEQ and the airline to do joint marketing in regions. I know there are a lot of people who misunderstand the funding that we provide in regards to attracting new flights, so I will clarify that. It is not spent on underwriting the plane. It is not

a gift of taxpayers' money to the airline. It is actually about our money, every single dollar that we contribute from Queensland, going into marketing our destination—the beautiful Whitsundays, the beautiful Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast and other regions in the market—in China. Whether it is Hong Kong Airlines, or China Southern and Guangzhou or Beijing with Air China, our dollars are absolutely spent on marketing.

What we do know is that, whilst we are having these issues with those specific airlines, the marketing dollars we have spent have contributed to a 20 per cent growth in Chinese visitors coming to Queensland. This is the largest single year in, year out growth in the Chinese market that we have ever seen. This is also why I know that I have the support of your federal colleague, the Minister for Tourism, Steven Ciobo, and the Lord Mayor of Brisbane to continue to work together in partnership in a bipartisan way to grow these flights to our state.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you, Minister. I refer to page 60 of Budget Paper No. 4 and the \$20.7 million allocated in 2018-19 for the 'Growing Tourism, Growing Tourism Jobs' initiative, and also page 5 of the SDS and the expected \$144 million of additional capital attracted into tourism investment. Minister, if a \$20.7 million investment is forecasted to attract \$144 million in additional capital, can you please explain to the committee how the 'ratio of tourism investment attraction costs to the value of direct capital attracted' was calculated to be \$168 for every dollar spent on page 5?

Ms JONES: I am happy to talk to you about that but can I say, firstly, how pleased I am to be the first minister in the history of Queensland to actually have a capital works fund that is there to support new tourism and investment. This has happened as a direct result of the industry saying very clearly to me that the No. 1 thing we need now is new tourism experiences and new tourism products. I think it is fair to say that in the past Queensland has not kept pace with our competitors in regards to getting new, quality tourism products on the market for people to use here as a major attracter.

This tourism attraction fund and the new \$180 million that I secured in election commitments was all about ensuring that we can partner with industry to get them underway. For example, the first project that has been funded is the feasibility study for the Wangetti Trail, which is a trail between Palm Cove and Port Douglas. This has been talked about and talked about and talked about for a decade, but we are a government that is getting on with the job purely because we now have the funding to make that a reality. I know that many people in the tourism industry have said that there have been many projects that have been talked about but we have never had the political will or the funding at a state level to make it happen, and that is exactly what this term of government is all about—new money that has never been there before.

In regards to the ratio of tourism investment attraction costs to the value of direct capital attracted in the Service Delivery Statement measure, this was introduced in the 2016-17 budget. The target of this measure, as you say, was a ratio of \$1 to \$1.68, meaning for every dollar in TIAU staff costs, a return of \$168 in tourism investments should be attracted to Queensland. The department attracted \$400 million of additional investment into Queensland and the tourism investment attraction staff. This is a ratio of our staff costs to the value that they deliver. Where is my team? Put your hand up. This is the work that they do each and every day working with the industry. They spend a lot of time in the Whitsundays, as the honourable member for Whitsunday knows. This measure is about the staff ratio, the investment we make as taxpayers and the people who work in my department, and the leveraging—

Mr CRISAFULLI: It just seems to be contrary with Budget Paper No. 4, that is all.

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater, you have been given a lot of leeway. You have asked a very detailed question and the minister is trying to answer that, so please stop interrupting.

Ms JONES: Just for clarity, it is a ratio of the staff numbers we have that are working on the tourism attraction industry team. As you will also know in the SDS, when it comes to staffing, I have maintained my budget numbers. In actual fact, we will go from 193 to 173 staff overall in my department, so our department is lean, mean and a fighting machine.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I refer to footnote 8 on page 6 of the SDS that clarifies that global tourism hubs are 'integrated tourism resorts and may include casino licences'. Minister, can you rule out granting any additional electronic gaming machines for the Gold Coast tourism hub located in my city?

Ms JONES: Yes.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Minister, I again refer to footnote 8 on page 6 of the SDS, this time in relation to the newly introduced tourism infrastructure service standards. Can you unequivocally rule out a casino licence being granted for the Sunshine Coast under a Labor government?

Ms JONES: Yes. It has already been in the paper. As you know, the reason we are having this conversation is because, when you were a minister in the Newman government, you created new additional casino licences in Queensland. They were already in the marketplace when I became the minister and that is what we inherited. I am ensuring that we are doing it in a responsible way.

What I can also say, now that you have raised this issue, is that we have had extreme interest in the global tourism hub that we are delivering in Cairns. In actual fact, since we have been in the market in Cairns, we have seen I think 12 players through the expression of interest phase come forward and say that they would be interested in delivering this brand-new tourism hub that will rejuvenate the waterfront in the Cairns community. This is something that I am really looking forward to delivering. It is something that will be transformative for the community of Cairns. It has wide support in that city because they know what a difference it will make.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I want to go back to—

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater, we are moving on to government questions. You will get another opportunity shortly. Minister, I have a question for you in relation to page 3 of the SDS and the Palaszczuk government's commitment to growing tourism. Could you please update the committee on the government's record funding package to grow tourism in Queensland and provide an update on tourism growth?

Ms JONES: I am very pleased that I have delivered this extra funding, because if I had not delivered this extra funding I do not know what the opposition member's questions would be about. What we have seen here this morning is no acknowledgement by the opposition that we are a government that is actually putting our money where our mouth is. When they were in government, when the member for Broadwater was the member for Mundingburra and a minister in the Newman government, he was part of a government that cut \$188 million from tourism and investment in Queensland in the forward estimates. When he had a chance to stand up for the tourism industry when he was sitting around the cabinet table, what did he do? He cut \$188 million from tourism. He does not like to talk about that today now that he is on the Gold Coast. Maybe that was when he was in Townsville and he may have left that behind, along with the 100-and-something nurses that he cut from Townsville.

What we have is a very proud record of delivering when it comes to tourism. We fixed the LNP cuts to tourism investment in Queensland by introducing the \$400 million funding guarantee, which meant that, each and every year, Tourism and Events Queensland could forward plan. We could be out there with confidence in market trying to secure new events because the funding was there for them to do so. When I first became the minister, Stephen Gregg, who I think was appointed by the Newman government as the former chair, said to me in the first meeting I had with him that the biggest issue they had was that they could not go and compete to bring new major events to Queensland because they did not have the money in the forward estimates to in good faith look someone in the eye and promise they could deliver that funding. That was the first thing we fixed.

In addition to that, by listening to industry and working closely with industry, as we have been doing over the last three years, we have now secured a record \$180 million in new funding which the honourable shadow minister has been asking questions about. This is funding that we will use in partnerships in regards to: attracting new flights to Queensland; getting new investment and new infrastructure, like the Wangetti Trail I have just spoken about; rejuvenating our Great Barrier Reef islands that sat dormant under the Newman government; and also rejuvenating Great Keppel Island, an iconic island that many of us had the opportunity to visit in its heyday.

We are being strategic in ensuring that the new funding that we deliver as a state works in partnership with the private sector because we know that we can grow tourism jobs if we can deliver new products and experiences to Queensland that you must visit Queensland to see. We are in a more globally competitive marketplace in tourism than ever before. It is critical that we put our best foot forward, and that is exactly what this new funding is all about.

Mrs MULLEN: Minister, I reference pages 4 and 5 of the SDS. I was hoping you could explain to the committee the benefits of the Palaszczuk government's tourism funding guarantee and how it helps to grow tourism in Queensland.

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for that question. As I said in my comments before, this was not only important for Tourism and Events Queensland. As everybody in the room here knows, and I am sure all of you have been working closely with your regional tourism organisations, the core funding for regional tourism organisations comes from the Tourism and Events Queensland budget. Any cut by the LNP to Tourism and Events Queensland is a cut to regional tourism organisations across Queensland, hurting them when they need it most.

Not only did we introduce our four-year funding guarantee to ensure that Leanne and her team could be out there delivering record numbers of tourists, which we are doing; it also meant that we could provide ongoing support to our regional tourism organisations. That is exactly what we have done. As the minister, I sat down with the RTO network and negotiated, once again, a three-year funding forward program for them so they too could leverage additional funding from businesses, councils and community organisations in their own backyard and ensure that we were putting more money into tourism to grow tourism jobs across Queensland.

One thing that I love about being the tourism minister is that you know this is an industry which has long been held up as a pillar, to use Campbell Newman's terms, although he went and chopped it down at the bottom and cut away \$188 million, but, hey, that is so four years ago! I saw him in the paper today complaining about the fact that people are still blaming him. That is what you get when you run an old Newman candidate in a by-election, but that is another story. In regards to the tourism funding guarantee, we have restored their funding, we have put in additional funding and we will continue to fund that going forward.

Mrs MULLEN: On page 37 of the SDS around Tourism and Events Queensland's role in marketing and promoting tourism, and you also referenced it in your opening statement, would you be able to update the committee on Tourism and Events Queensland's new marketing strategy 'Find your perfect next' and outline the success of this campaign in the market?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I am really pleased to report to parliament today that in April we launched our brand-new marketing campaign for Queensland. This was after extensive research that we undertook to make sure that our new campaign would resonate and deliver real results to grow tourism and tourism jobs in our state. We found that sometimes going with something that is already well loved is a great strategy, so we have updated the old campaign—'Beautiful one day, perfect the next'—to talk more about the fact that what we are seeing across the globe in regards to tourism trends is that people are wanting new and authentic experiences. We know that Queenslanders live here and love Queensland not only because our weather is fantastic but because of our lifestyle. People repeatedly say in all of our research that when you come to Queensland you find a relaxed and welcoming environment. Our tweak on this campaign was to say in Queensland where life is beautiful one day and perfect the next. This is also why I believe we are seeing more and more southerners wanting to move to Queensland to live.

I am pleased to announce today that, since we launched our campaign before the Commonwealth Games, it has now reached \$12.7 million Australians. Nielsen research today confirms that 75 per cent of respondents in Sydney and Melbourne intend to visit Queensland in the next 12 months, and 80 per cent of those surveyed believe that, if they came to Queensland, they would have amazing experiences in our state. We also used the opportunity of the TV Week Logie Awards and the State of Origin to get this campaign in market in Melbourne and Sydney. That has worked extremely well. We also know that the ad has been viewed more than 4.5 million times on digital platforms. The member for Whitsunday will be pleased to hear that these ads have a strong focus on the Great Barrier Reef, our beautiful outback, our world-class calendar of events as well as our unbeatable experiences and, of course, our world famous way of life.

Mr BROWN: Good morning, Minister. I refer you to page 4 of the SDS regarding the delivery of ecotourism projects. Can you please update the committee on the Palaszczuk government's efforts to facilitate new ecotourism experiences to grow the Queensland tourism market share?

Ms JONES: This is something that I am most proud of. I was the minister for environment when we changed the rules to ensure that we would actually enable ecotourism to happen in Queensland. I remember that when I became the minister I received a call from Wayne Goss saying that this was something that I should do. I was very proud to be able to say to Wayne, someone I strongly admired and looked up to when I was a girl, that I was already planning to do that. Here we are; it has been a long time coming. There was a lot of talk about it on all sides of politics—all sides of government—but we have now started work on the very first ecotourism project in a national park in Queensland. I am so proud to be the minister who is delivering that.

In the words of Brett Godfrey, the Wangetti Trail is one of the most beautiful walks anywhere around the globe. We expect that when it is complete it will deliver hundreds of millions of dollars into the Tropical North Queensland tourism region. It is also really exciting for me because we are doing this in partnership with the Yirrganydji people, the traditional owners of the land. They are working with us to deliver this project. It will provide long-term sustainable jobs for the Yirrganydji people on country. This is something that all of us can be extremely proud of.

We are focused on building new ecotourism projects in Queensland. I have recently met with Jude and Graham Turner about their Scenic Rim tour. We are working with them to get that out the door. I mention Elizabeth Hackett in the electorate of Whitsunday. Some of you will know that Elizabeth Hackett is the owner of Magnums in the heart of Airlie Beach. We are already in discussions with them about how we can broaden their experience and bring a new ecotourism experience into the Whitsundays, on top of the work we have been doing through National Parks and the Whitsunday Islands. I think there is huge potential there.

Why is it that, after years and years of governments of all political persuasions talking about ecotourism, we are delivering now? We are delivering now because not only do we have the settings right but also we have the funding. We have the people and the team we just talked about—the one that the honourable member was asking questions about—who are working extremely hard to deliver these new projects. We know that we are blessed with natural assets here in Queensland, but we need these new tourism experiences to drive jobs.

CHAIR: One of the tourism industry service areas referred to on page 5 of the SDS is growing inbound seat capacity to Queensland. Can you discuss for the committee how the Palaszczuk government is attracting new flights to Queensland?

Ms JONES: In some ways I have answered a lot of this with regard to the shadow minister's questions. As I said, when the LNP were in government they secured around 500,000 additional seats. We are now at 2.4 million seats during our time in government. These extra seats are expected to inject \$1.8 billion into the Queensland economy. We have done this through China Southern Airlines flights between Guangzhou and Cairns, Hainan Airlines from Shenzhen to Cairns and Brisbane, and China Eastern Airlines from Shanghai to Brisbane. We have also secured seven additional services from Singapore to Brisbane on Singapore Airlines as well as China Airlines from Taipei to Brisbane.

I know, Chair, that in your local community, being a really strong Chinese and Taiwanese community, many people have benefited with regard to their family, and I thank you for your support on this. VietJetAir will also fly three times a week from Ho Chi Minh City starting in 2019. We are focused on attracting new flights from growing markets throughout Asia. In the year to June 2017 international seat capacity into Queensland grew by nine per cent. As I have said, our record far exceeds that of those opposite. We have delivered four times more seats than the Newman government did and five times more in terms of overnight visitor expenditure because we are targeting those markets where we know there will be high-value expenditure by visitors. Julieanne Alroe, the former managing director of Brisbane Airport Corporation, said—

More international passengers are choosing Brisbane and Queensland as their first port of call in Australia and, with the additional airlines, flights and destinations we added to our network in 2017, it's making it easier for them to come direct from all corners of the globe ...

The other reason we have asked for additional funding for new flights is we know that Brisbane Airport is making a significant investment in a second runway. We will have the most connected airport anywhere in Australia right here in Brisbane, so over the next four to five years we will see our capacity grow even further, delivering more and more visitors to our state.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will continue on that theme. Minister, I was looking at a response to question on notice No. 747. You outlined that the amount of support provided to an individual airline or the marketing associated with that campaign is commercial-in-confidence. To avoid this restriction, could you please provide the aggregated amount of total support provided directly or indirectly from the combined Attracting Aviation Investment Fund and Connecting with Asia to facilitate the route established by Tigerair, Hong Kong Airlines and Air China? I am referring to SDS page 5.

Ms JONES: I can see if I can try to aggregate data so as not to break commercial-in-confidence. As you know, the rules around commercial-in-confidence are exactly the same rules that applied when you were in government and you were a Newman government minister.

Mr CRISAFULLI: We will just take it broadly, then.

Ms JONES: I will get TEQ to have a look at what we can do without breaching it. As you are well aware, a lot of these routes have been delivered in partnership with your federal colleagues and your council colleagues as well.

Mr CRISAFULLI: That is okay. We are happy to look at that. Thank you.

Ms JONES: I think it is worth everyone noting that we are using exactly the same rules and guidelines that applied when you were a minister in the Newman government. We have nothing to hide here. We are just respecting the commercial arrangements of the airlines in exactly the same way that you did when you were a minister.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Definitely, so we will keep it broad and then we will see if we are getting value for money, which is the purpose of estimates.

CHAIR: Do you have further questions, member for Broadwater?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I do.

Mr KRAUSE: Minister, could you agree to take that question on notice, please?

Ms JONES: No, I will not. I am just saying that I will try to find out. It is commercial-in-confidence. They are the same rules that applied when you were in government. I am saying that I will try to see if I can break it down in a way that does not break that or I will provide a private briefing with the minister.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you very much.

Mr KRAUSE: Director-General, I refer to page 4 of the SDS. How much has been allocated for the department to spend to facilitate and manage the delivery of visitor ecotourism projects?

Mr Walker: Thank you for the question. The funds for the ecotourism projects will primarily come from our infrastructure funding line, which is at \$48 million I believe.

Ms JONES: \$36 million and \$48 million.

Mr Walker: \$36 million and \$48 million.

Ms JONES: He is in the luxurious position of being the first director-general in the history of Queensland to have funding for new ecotourism projects; that has never happened before. He has more money than he has ever had or ever imagined. That is because he has a minister who goes in to fight for him in cabinet.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will go back to you, Minister. I notice in terms of the specifics of capital funding there is quite a large allocation for ecotourism, on page 55 of Budget Paper No. 3. It is about \$11.7 million through the department of environment. How is it that we can fulfil this joint vision we have of ecotourism in this state when that same department has no KPI to increase overnight stays in our national parks?

Ms JONES: Can I get clarity? Are you referring to funding in the environment minister's portfolio?

Mr CRISAFULLI: Yes. I am obviously—

Ms JONES: I know you are her shadow but I am not her shadow. I can tell you that Leeanne and I work really closely together.

Mr CRISAFULLI: That is what I am looking for, Minister. Thank you.

Ms JONES: As I say, we are now in a position which no environment minister and no tourism minister have ever been in before, which is having real money to deliver ecotourism. That is why I am sitting here as the very first tourism minister in the history of Queensland delivering an ecotourism project in a national park. This is something that I will be very proud of until the day that I die. Since I have been alive people have talked about ecotourism in national parks—generations of people—but I am the minister who is going to deliver it.

Mr CRISAFULLI: How many extra beds will that deliver over, say, the next 12 months?

Ms JONES: We are working through that at the moment. As I say, this is the very first time this has ever happened. I am working with the major players in the industry, whether it is in the Whitsundays or whether it is the Turners, who have made a significant investment in the electorate of Scenic Rim. We will see brand-new tourism products get up. I do recognise, though, that sometimes you do see a longer lead time in ecotourism.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Sure, so in the next three years, for example?

Ms JONES: I do not think we have—

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am big on measuring things. That is why these are useful. In three years will we have another hundred beds?

CHAIR: Member for—

Ms JONES: You might be big on measuring things, honourable member. What you are not big on, honourable member, is—

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am, because all I have heard from you is rhetoric. Every question I have asked for details you have not—

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater—

Ms JONES: I am happy to take that.

CHAIR: Okay.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Please—

Ms JONES: I will take that. All you have heard from me is rhetoric?

Mr CRISAFULLI:—because you have been all at sea on numbers.

Ms JONES: Let's talk about what I heard from you.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Please.

Ms JONES: Good. I got ready for estimates, as any person does—and I do my homework. I got my files together—

Mr CRISAFULLI: No, I just want you to answer questions—

Ms JONES: No, listen. You asked the question—

Mr CRISAFULLI: Just—

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater, you are continuing to interrupt the minister. Please give the minister a chance to respond.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Chairman, I would just like details. I have asked for KPIs. I have not been offensive to the minister. I never would be.

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater, you have continued to interrupt the minister and have arguably asked a hypothetical question, notwithstanding the minister is trying to respond.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I have asked for—

CHAIR: Please allow the minister an opportunity to respond.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Sure, Mr Chairman, but I am not—

Ms JONES: Let's talk about KPIs. I would think that a pretty basic KPI for a shadow minister would be to actually write to the minister about an issue if you have been there for six months.

Mr CRISAFULLI: How many beds?

Ms JONES: Mr Hart has written to me. JPL has written to me lots of times. He is a hard worker. Krause got dumped for Crisafulli as the shadow minister for tourism and he has written to me more times than old mate. In actual fact, since Crisafulli has been the shadow minister for tourism—zero.

Mr CRISAFULLI: So there are no KPIs?

Ms JONES: Poor old mate here, the member for Scenic Rim, got dumped for this guy and he still writes to me more than this mate. What we do know that you like doing is travelling around Queensland—

Mr KRAUSE: I take a point of order on relevance here.

Ms JONES:—doing media clips, going on Sky News—

CHAIR: No point of order.

Ms JONES:—talking about delinquents, scaremongering on unions—

Mr CRISAFULLI: But I am across the detail of things.

Ms JONES:—while you go around saying, 'I don't want to be leader. No, no, I am just sitting here quietly biding my time.' We know that is what you say to everybody.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Minister, you are wasting time.

Ms JONES: How about doing your job? You want to talk about KPIs? How about putting pen to paper—

Mr CRISAFULLI: I would just like you to answer this question.

Ms JONES:—and making one representation to the minister on behalf of a constituent.

CHAIR: There is a point of order from the member for Capalaba.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I would just like you to answer the question.

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater, there is a point of order from the member for Capalaba.

Mr BROWN: The member for Broadwater continually interrupts the minister.

Ms JONES: I was being provocative.

Mr BROWN: He may like to ask the questions, but he does not like to listen to the answers.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I just want detail; that is all.

Ms JONES: Detail?

Mr CRISAFULLI: Just a bit of detail.

CHAIR: I again caution you, member for Broadwater. The minister has answered the question. I will call the member for Noosa, who has indicated she has some questions.

Ms JONES: Do your homework, brother.

Ms BOLTON: I refer to SDS page 5 about facilitating new investment in eco- and adventure tourism. With ecotourism being an increasing sector of our tourism offerings, as we have already heard this morning, will the department be clarifying the definition of ecotourism given the multiple definitions that are often at cross-purposes, causing some confusion and debate within communities across Queensland?

Ms JONES: Part of the reason I headhunted Brett Godfrey to be the chair of Tourism and Events Queensland is his history in ecotourism. A lot of people talk about the story that has happened in Tasmania with regard to growing their tourism base. Admittedly, it came off a very small tourism base, but they have seen significant growth. This has predominantly been because of the investment in things like the Three Capes walk that Brett Godfrey was a key part of. With regard to ecotourism, my focus has been on enabling, where appropriate, new product to be developed in or adjacent to national parks. We are one of the last states in Australia to enable this to happen. Certainly I think that that has seen us lose market share to other states as a consequence.

We will support any new ecotourism product or wilderness experience that delivers or encourages someone to come to Queensland and have an authentic experience in our beautiful rainforests and on our beautiful beaches. You represent one of the most beautiful communities anywhere in our state. The other key part for me in ecotourism is not having slapdash projects but ones that are actually sustainable and meet the measure of what ecotourists want to see. They want to make sure that the visitor experience they have is not one that is overcrowded; it is one that is well managed but also one that is sustainable and uses ecoprinciples in its design and in the way it operates as well.

Ms BOLTON: Minister, I refer to page 5 of the SDS. Tourism is of great importance to the Sunshine Coast, particularly Noosa, providing employment for many locals. What is the state government doing to assist electorates like Noosa to diversify and offer job opportunities beyond tourism?

Ms JONES: As in what am I doing as the tourism minister to offer jobs beyond tourism?

Ms BOLTON: And innovation.

Ms JONES: Actually, you can do both. We have been holding workshops with the tourism industry to see how they can innovate to make their businesses more viable. I think the great thing about tourism for me, as I said earlier, is that you can create long-term sustainable jobs throughout Queensland. One of the things that I have been working on is the Young Tourism Leaders program. One of the things I was confronted with when I became the minister was the fact that many people in the industry could not find good young people who wanted to enter the tourism industry because they or their parents had the idea that they would not be able to have long-term jobs. They thought they would be short-term jobs without great pay and conditions.

We have now seen that the rate of tourism growth is so significant—and we are going to continue to see that going forward—that we need to be in schools talking to parents and students about how they can have a long-term diverse career in this industry. For example, last week I met with a new intake of 20 young tourism leaders including Jessica Dineen, the operations director of Noosa River Holiday Park and Cobar Caravan Park based in the Noosa electorate. She will now be one of those people who, as a young successful tourism worker, goes around to local schools and TAFEs to encourage people to join this industry.

I think that there are huge opportunities for innovation in the tourism industry which will see us create more jobs. Brad Illich, for example, who is based on the Gold Coast and runs an online business, has doubled the size of his business. It is a tourism business, but the people who have been employed are in admin, web design and other areas. Those people would not be there otherwise if we had not seen innovation in the tourism industry. I think there is a real potential for us to do that in Queensland.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Minister, I refer to pages 59, 62 and 85 of Budget Paper No. 4. In total, there is \$16.25 million allocated for major events across three funds and two departments. Can you please detail the difference between each of the three funds, including what their respective KPIs are?

Ms JONES: I will get that information for you, but can I say that since I have been the minister I am really proud that not only have we increased funding for events with the new \$36 million announcement in the state budget but we have grown the events calendar from just over \$300 million when you were a minister in the Newman government to now being worth more than \$780 million today. We absolutely understand that events are a huge way to leverage visitors to Queensland. We also know that people who come to a state because of an event are more likely to spend more money in local communities. The metrics which Tourism and Events Queensland uses to secure events are exactly the same as what they were when you were the minister. I will ask Leanne to talk about what we do, but our methodology has not changed. I have had to cop criticism from some of your 'peeps', you colleagues—

Mr CRISAFULLI: I would be happy if you answered the question.

Ms JONES: I am. I am saying what Tourism and Events Queensland—

Mr CRISAFULLI: You should know this though. You should know that detail.

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater, you continue to interject on questions you have asked and you are receiving an answer to.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Surely, Mr Chairman, the minister should know the detail.

Ms JONES: You should do your job. You should make some representations. You should ask me questions. But no, you prioritise going on Sky News talking to Gary Hardgrave.

Mr CRISAFULLI: You haven't had a clue.

Ms JONES: I haven't got a clue?

Mr CRISAFULLI: No, you have not. You have not answered—

Ms JONES: Let's just talk about my record. Do you want to talk about my record?

Mr CRISAFULLI: No. I would like you to answer the question about the KPIs.

Ms JONES: Let's talk about the fact that we have \$2.5 billion more—

Mr CRISAFULLI: I have asked you a simple question about three funds—

Ms JONES:—being spent in the Queensland economy since we were elected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I just want to know what the KPIs are. I am doing it respectfully, Minister. I am not having a go at you. I want detail; that is all I want.

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater, order! Your question is clear. I understand that Ms Coddington is going to give an overview in response.

Ms JONES: I explained that we are using exactly the same metrics as when he was the minister.

Ms Coddington: I thank the honourable member for the question. I think in the budget papers there are three funding lines; first is the boost funding. We received an additional \$36 million over three years to boost event attraction.

Ms JONES: Because you cut it.

Ms Coddington: There are one-off events that we get additional funding for. Those are things like the Logies, the Rugby League World Cup and the Horn-Pacquiao fight, things that sit outside the budget that we receive, and then there is TEQ's base budget for events, which is around \$30 million for major events. Inside our events portfolio it is then broken down into three types of events: major events, the Queensland Destination Events Program and business events. All of those feed into the SDS target areas that you will see on page 38 of the SDS. We measure overnight visitor expenditure generated by the portfolio; direct visitor nights generated by the portfolio; direct and incremental spending generated by the portfolio; and visitors to Queensland generated by the events within the portfolio.

Mr CRISAFULLI: That is an excellent answer; thank you.

Ms JONES: The reason why there are three different lines of funding is because the first thing I had to do was secure events funding because you had cut events funding when you were in government.

Mr CRISAFULLI: That was an excellent answer. It was across the detail. That is refreshing.

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater, order! We are now moving on to government questions.

Ms JONES: Across the detail? Tell the estimates how many nurses you cut from Townsville when you were the member there.

Mr CRISAFULLI: It was refreshing.

CHAIR: Order, member for Broadwater!

Mr CRISAFULLI: It was a refreshing answer.

CHAIR: I call the member for Capalaba.

Mr BROWN: My question is also with regard to Queensland events, and I refer the minister to page 38 of the SDS. How is the Palaszczuk government growing the economy through our major events calendar?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. As I said, we have worked diligently to put additional funding into the Queensland budget to grow events. This was after the Newman government cut funding for TEQ and they did not have funding to secure events. In actual fact, I remember not long after I became the minister there was a major event that we were trying to get at the time and there was no funding in the forward estimates.

In answer to the honourable member's previous question, I had to secure one-off funding for new major events when we needed it. For example, when an opportunity like the Logies comes up, which was beyond the current budget line, I did not sit there and say, 'No, I don't have the money.' What I did as a good minister—which is what I think a minister's job is—is go to CBRC and lobby to secure the funding so Queensland got that event. Similarly, I did the same with the Magic Round, a one-off opportunity that I think could only be hosted in Queensland. What I did as the minister, which I think my job is, is to go and secure that funding to deliver a unique experience that will deliver tens of millions of dollars into the Queensland economy.

As a consequence of this, as I said, we have grown our events calendar from around \$380 million up to more than \$750 million today. This has attracted not only new visitors to Queensland and additional funding being spent in Queensland but it has also grown the awareness of Queensland as an events state. Whether it is the Rugby League World Cup, the Battle of Brisbane, the Brisbane International, the Brisbane NRL double-header, the Gympie Music Muster, the Mooloolaba triathlon or the Mount Isa Mines Rotary Rodeo—which I am going to for the 60th celebration in a couple of weeks—in all, all of these events contributed more than 1.9 million visitor nights to Queensland. Our metrics for events are very simple. The detail is really simple. We back events that drive visitors to Queensland to spend money in the Queensland economy. That is what we do.

Mrs MULLEN: Minister, I refer to page 4 of the SDS. I have certainly seen the benefits in my electorate, but can you please inform the committee of the benefits that international education and training provides across your portfolio?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. One of the things that I am really proud of is the fact that we have growing international education here in Queensland. Once again we saw the Newman government walk away from their support for international education when they were in government, despite it being worth \$2.8 billion to the Queensland economy. What I think a minister does is they do not cut and run from their local community. What a minister does is not cut cancer nurses from communities—sorry? I hope the camera got that. Did you see what he did?

Mr CRISAFULLI: Your glasses were shadowing on me.

Ms JONES: No, it is not. It is your record coming home to roost.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms JONES: It is your record coming home to roost. I know you do not want to talk about your time as the minister, but you cannot walk away.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I would just like to—

Ms JONES: You can walk away from Townsville—

Mr CRISAFULLI: Have you read that?

Ms JONES:—but you cannot walk away from the record that you delivered—

Mr CRISAFULLI: Have you read it?

Ms JONES:—cuts to nurses, cuts to teachers—

Mr CRISAFULLI: Is that in here?

Ms JONES:—closed a school—

Mr CRISAFULLI: Have you read it?

Ms JONES:—that is what did you. No wonder why you left Townsville: they would never have re-elected you.

Mr CRISAFULLI: You have not read—

Ms JONES: What we have done is delivered record funding—

CHAIR: Order! Member for Broadwater, please stop interrupting the minister. Minister, please continue.

Ms JONES: What I have done as the minister is delivered record funding for international education, tourism, tourism jobs and investing in Queensland's future. What I will not do is cut funding like you did when you were a minister in the Newman government.

When it comes to international education, we now have an industry that is worth \$2.8 billion. In Brisbane we have seen it grow by 12.9 per cent; on the Gold Coast it has grown by 15.8 per cent—you would be happy about that—in Ipswich there has been growth of 39.2 per cent; in the Whitsundays and Mackay, 22 per cent growth; and the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay, 8.9 per cent growth. We are doing this because we know that international students are not only really important with regard to the economic benefit but even more than that—and I know in your community, honourable member—they add to the social fabric of who we are.

We know that for every international student that is based here we see visiting friends and relatives come. There are almost three times the number of visits as a consequence of securing an international student here. That is why one of the first things that we did when we were elected was to have an international education strategy which is backed by \$25 million in funding over five years. In actual fact, we have done such a good job that the federal government—your mate, young Steven Ciobo—has just poached my head of international education and now she will be in charge of international education federally. I still think it is pretty good for us to have a Queenslander in that role nationally, just like it is good to have a Queenslander as the Queensland Minister for Tourism. This is something that I know we will continue to work on with our universities to see an increase in international students here, because we believe that international students are a great way to not only create connections globally but also support our economy and jobs.

Mrs MULLEN: Minister, with reference to page 5 of the SDS, are you able to update the committee on the local jobs and opportunities that are coming about as the Queen's Wharf Brisbane project enters the excavation and construction phase?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I know that, just like me and all of us, you cannot help but have a look at what is going on at the Queen's Wharf site when you walk past. As you know, this is a new \$3.6 billion development. Already the local economic impacts of the development are being felt, with 28 of the 32 contracts tendered to date for the excavation and shoring works being placed with South-East Queensland companies, three with regional Queensland companies, including a Toowoomba based firm that is delivering fence hire. I can also advise all members of the House that 99 per cent of the materials that support excavation and shoring works are sourced in South-East Queensland as well.

Stage 1 of the construction works for the new Waterline Park, Mangrove Walk and Bicentennial Bikeway upgrades between 1 William Street and the Goodwill Bridge is expected to begin later this month, and a dedicated Industry Capability Network website project page where contractors and suppliers can register for specific current work projects has been established. Multiplex is currently advertising opportunities for the Waterline Park and Goodwill Extension works package. Expressions of interest are now being sought for products, facilities and services like carpentry, tiling, stone masonry, metal works and structural steel works.


As the Multiplex Goodwill Extension and Waterline Park contracts place to date, 13 out of 15 are with South-East Queensland companies. Two weeks ago the *Courier-Mail* carried advertisements for interested parties to register to provide services and materials including metal works, scaffolding, blockwork and concrete formwork, the fit-out of windows and doors, and tiling and carpentry. Importantly, at the end of May there has been a total of 38,000 hours of training by the Destination

Brisbane Consortium and contractor Probuild, with more than 8,000 of those hours completed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander trainees. Probuild currently has a daily average of 90 workers on-site for excavation, which will rise to 2,000 when construction starts.

Picking up on the member for Noosa's question about how we are growing jobs, this project is one where we know that not only are we going to see thousands of jobs during construction but when it is completed it will support 13,000 long-term jobs into the future that would not have been available without this investment in tourism.

CHAIR: The time allocated for this session has expired. The committee will now adjourn for a short break. The hearing will resume at 10.15 am with the examination of estimates for the portfolio area of the Commonwealth Games.

Proceedings suspended from 9.59 am to 10.15 am.

 **CHAIR:** Welcome back, Minister and officials, and welcome to the officials joining us for this session. The committee will now examine the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of the Commonwealth Games. Minister, I invite you to make an opening statement of no more than five minutes.

Ms JONES: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, committee members. All Queenslanders can be very proud of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. We delivered the largest sporting event in Australia this decade and the biggest event that Queensland has ever staged, and we delivered it on time and on budget. We sold more than 1.2 million tickets, ensuring stadiums were packed, with 98 per cent of available seats filled. Another 200,000 people lined Gold Coast streets for the free road events. Some 378,000 people visited the Gold Coast during the games, including 45,500 overseas visitors, and we know that many more will come to Queensland in the years ahead. This ensured Gold Coast hotels were full, with around 90 per cent occupancy during the games. The worldwide television audience was estimated at 1.5 billion, with 16 million Australian viewers.

Whether it was in the stands or at home, we got to see an incredible 11 days of sport, equal medals for men and women for the very first time and the largest ever parasport program of any Commonwealth Games fully integrated—also for the first time. Across our integrated sports programs we saw nine world records and 91 Commonwealth Games records. Of course it was Australian athletes leading the charge, with 198 medals including 80 gold medals. We are so grateful to all our Aussie athletes for the memories and inspiration that will remain with us. We know that none of this would have been possible without our 15,000-strong volunteer army. They made sure athletes, officials, spectators and media had a great experience and showed the world what a warm and friendly place Queensland is.

There is no doubt the games sporting venues were of Olympic and world championship standard and helped create a great atmosphere and experience for spectators and television viewers. Our stadiums at Carrara and Robina, the Optus Aquatic Centre, the new Anna Meares Velodrome and the multipurpose arenas at Carrara and Coomera were highlights for the international federations. We always said that the games were about more than sport. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform the Gold Coast.

In 2009 the Labor government launched our bid for the games because we knew it had the potential to grow jobs and infrastructure as well as tourism for the Gold Coast well after the last athlete waved goodbye, and we can all be very proud that the Gold Coast is just not the same city as it was. There is \$1 billion in new transport infrastructure because of the games including light rail stage 1 and stage 2, M1 upgrades and the Coomera to Helensvale heavy rail duplication. As a result of this investment, the Gold Coast was able to support 5.3 million trips on public transport, 75 per cent of all travel during the games.

The sporting and transport infrastructure along with the global exposure through the games will deliver a lasting legacy for the Gold Coast, and I want to take this opportunity to thank Rob Borbidge, who has chaired the Gold Coast legacy committee throughout the duration of the games. Suns Chairman Tony Cochrane explained the games like this, and we know that he does not mince words—

The games were an incredible success which laid the foundations for a very exciting five- to 10-year period for the city. We had 11 days of getting worldwide attention for all the right reasons.

As a result of the Commonwealth Games, the world now knows Queensland has what it takes to host major sporting events. With our sporting venues booked solid for the next year, we know that the best is yet to come for the Gold Coast.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank the team that helped make Gold Coast 2018 such a great success for Queensland—the Commonwealth Games Federation, the Commonwealth Games Australia, the City of Gold Coast, the Australian government, Transport and Main Roads, the Queensland Police Service, the Office of the Commonwealth Games, Goldoc and the many sponsors and contractors. I also want to acknowledge everyone who is here today from the Goldoc team and I look forward to answering your questions.

CHAIR: Thank you, Minister. Member for Surfers Paradise, do you have a question?

Mr LANGBROEK: Thank you, Chair. I also welcome the minister, staff, the Goldoc team, the assistant minister and senior officials from the department and thank the committee for allowing me to be here today. My first question is to the director-general with reference to the SDS at page 28, finalising all staff contracts. I note the minister's response to a question on notice provided to the committee. Can you confirm for the committee that executive bonuses will be paid to Goldoc senior management following the completion of the games and the sum total of those bonuses that are scheduled in the 2018-19 budget?

CHAIR: Member for Surfers Paradise, you referred to an answer to a question on notice. For the benefit of the committee, could you provide the number of the question on notice you are referring to? Do you have that detail?

Mr LANGBROEK: No, I do not have that with me.

CHAIR: Can you get it? You have referred specifically to a question on notice.

Mr LANGBROEK: Chair, I am sure that the director-general will be aware of the question on notice answer which said that two executives had been given their bonuses and I—

CHAIR: But you do not know the number of the question that was asked?

Mr LANGBROEK: I do not have it with me—

Ms JONES: That is okay; we are happy to answer it.

Mr LANGBROEK:—but the minister gave it to the committee yesterday.

Ms JONES: Yes, I am happy to answer it.

Mr LANGBROEK: I have asked the director-general, Minister.

Mr Walker: Thank you, member, for the question. Retention payments are part of the employment contracts for five Goldoc executive staff. The decision to award the retention payments was made under the previous government in 2013 and was included for the Goldoc CEO when his contract was renewed by the former Commonwealth Games minister, Jann Stuckey, in December 2014. Contracts are structured with retention payments to help ensure key staff remain to complete delivery of the games, and that is critical. This is standard practice for similar scale events and projects.

Retention payments for Goldoc were endorsed by the Public Service Commission in 2013 as an appropriate risk mitigation strategy, and retention payments comprise 10 per cent of the respective executives' total fixed remuneration at the end of the games for each year of service. The eligibility for such a retention payment is conditional on the achievement of all key performance indicators. Just remind me please, member: did you ask for what the arrangements were for each individual?

Mr LANGBROEK: No, I asked for the total amount for the 2018-19 budget, because I think the answer yesterday had a total of \$160,000 or \$164,000 across two executives, so I am only asking for a global figure unless you wish to provide the individual totals for the other three.

Mr Walker: No. Let me just chase the total figure and I will come straight back to you, if that is okay, Minister?

Ms JONES: Yes, but I think the point is that only two have been paid to date. The others are still being finalised. My understanding is that the final budget for Goldoc will go to the board at the end of the month, on the 28th, so we will be in a better position to answer for the remaining executives but at this stage only two have had their retention payments.

Mr LANGBROEK: Thank you. You mentioned, Director-General, that the payment is conditional on the achievement of all key performance indicators. Apart from the issue you mentioned that they just had to stay for the whole games, can you advise what the other KPIs are for the bonuses?

Ms JONES: Retention payments introduced by the LNP government, but continue.

Mr Walker: Just to clarify, member—thank you for the question—they are retention payments, and that is important to recognise given this was a risk mitigation strategy to ensure that we kept those very critical senior staff to the end of the games delivery. The detail may vary slightly amongst each of

the members in terms of the KPIs that they have set out, but generally they would include these sorts of things: delivering the games within budget and having a budget approved by the Finance and Audit Committee and board; constructive engagement with games partners, and given that this was a multipartner mega event it is absolutely critical that those sorts of things were achieved; meeting ticket sales targets; developing security and emergency response plans; delivering games time command, coordination and communication; ensuring robust sport, medical and antidoping programs were in place; delivery of the Queen's Baton Relay; working with Transport and Main Roads, City of Gold Coast and the QPS to deliver transport planning, which was absolutely fundamental during games time; ensuring delivery of the volunteer program, and, as the minister mentioned, there were 15,000 volunteers at games time and such a large number who actually did put their hand up to assist; deliver the opening and closing ceremonies; staff recruitment; and venue overlay design and delivery. They are the sorts of indicators that you would find in the contracts of those staff that have a retention payment associated with their contract.

Mr LANGBROEK: Thank you. Was there any consultation with the minister about whether the retention payments might not be paid or was it contractual and therefore there was no discussion?

Mr Walker: The point to make here is that we still have a number of those executives in situ, so they are still completing their work, and those discussions will happen in due course. The review process, I can assure you, will be thorough. There is a board meeting taking place at the end of August. There will be a number of processes between now and then that will go into that level of detail, so the answer to your question is that in due course a level of communication will take place between the board, the chairman of the board and the minister.

Mr LANGBROEK: Thank you. I understand that the retention payments were approved as part of a remuneration strategy, as you have already mentioned, approved by the Goldoc board. Director-General, did you or the minister write to the board about the retention payments? Have you written to them at any stage about the retention payments?

Ms JONES: No, because, as you know, the retention payment policy was in place under the LNP government, so that was already in the contracts when I became the minister. That was already included in the contracts, so I was contractually obliged to continue with that.

Mr LANGBROEK: Thanks. Minister, so there has never been any discussion about whether retention payments would be made, even though the director-general just mentioned that KPIs included the opening and closing ceremonies, about which there was significant conjecture?

Ms JONES: We are still finalising retention payments; that is what I am saying. At the moment the CEO has not received their retention payment. The CEO is employed for some time yet, and they would be conversations that would happen in due course.

Mr LANGBROEK: Okay; thank you. Minister, you have confirmed that the meeting at the end of August is potentially a time for you to be raising this matter?

Ms JONES: That is correct, but I do also say, shadow minister, that the reason we are having this conversation about retention payments that were put in place as LNP policy when you were in government is that we had a Commonwealth Games. What has come to light—and I can table for honourable members now a document dated 16 October 2012—is the legal advice that was sought during the LNP government's time to axe the games entirely.

CHAIR: Minister, if I could just stop you there briefly. Is leave granted for the minister to table this document? Leave is granted. Thank you, Minister. Please continue.

Ms JONES: My point is that the reason we had a closing ceremony or indeed an opening ceremony is that we had a games. What I have tabled for honourable members is the Mullins Lawyers advice dated 16 October 2012 when during the LNP government's time there was legal advice sought about the cost to Queensland taxpayers of axing the games entirely. The advice that Mullins Lawyers provided at that time was that such an order would do immeasurable damage to the standing of the state of Queensland and the Gold Coast as a host city and that the damages that would be forced to be paid by the state if the Commonwealth Games were axed would be in excess of \$1 billion. With regard to retention payments—

Mr KRAUSE: Point of order, Mr Chair.

Ms JONES:—we are talking a total—

CHAIR: Sorry, Minister. If I can stop you there, there is a point of order from the deputy chair.

Mr KRAUSE: It is a point of order on relevance to the question asked by the shadow minister but also—

Ms JONES: The relevance is about retention payments and you could not have retention payments if you did not have a games and there was legal advice sought during the time—

Mr KRAUSE:—in relation to talking about a budget from several years ago. We are talking about the budget for this year.

CHAIR: Yes. There is no point of order. Please continue, Minister.

Ms JONES: The question was about retention payments. As I made very clear in my question on notice yesterday, as the director-general has answered in his comments, when I became the minister the retention payment policy had been put in place by the Newman government. They did that because, quite rightly, there were genuine concerns about ensuring that we kept our senior executive team to deliver a smooth games. What I am also tabling today for the very first time is—I now have the legal advice in full that was sought in October 2012 where the LNP was going to axe the games entirely. You cannot have retention payments for a games that never happened. What is crucial for every taxpayer in Queensland to understand is the cost of walking away from the contracts to deliver the Commonwealth Games for the Gold Coast. The legal advice clearly says that this would have done irreparable damage to the Gold Coast community and would have cost taxpayers in excess of \$1 billion.

CHAIR: Any further questions?

Mr LANGBROEK: Yes, I do. I am not going to make comment there.

CHAIR: Your job here is to ask questions. Do you have any more?

Mr LANGBROEK: Yes, thank you. I turn now to page 29 of the SDS, which states that 98 per cent of all Commonwealth Games tickets were sold. I ask the director-general, how many seats were not sold for the closing ceremony and were vacant?

Ms JONES: That is really a question for the chair of Goldoc, because the opening and closing ceremonies, which I have just talked about, and the retention payments were key performance indicators of Goldoc. It is not the responsibility of the director-general. We will ask the Goldoc CEO to answer that question.

Mr Peters: It was around 5,000 that were unsold for the closing ceremony.

Mr LANGBROEK: Thank you for that. I seek leave to table a copy of a briefing note to the minister that came through an RTI request regarding the closing ceremony.

CHAIR: We are just distributing that.

Mr LANGBROEK: Yes, I have done 10 copies.

CHAIR: I ask committee members if leave is granted. Leave is granted.

Mr LANGBROEK: It says that the Logan electorate office was contacted by the parents of a young girl performing in the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games opening and closing ceremonies inquiring if parents of performers are able to obtain tickets to see their children perform. The note states—and I have highlighted that particular area—that no tickets had been set aside for parents and friends of performers for the ceremonies themselves. Given that you were unable to fill the stadium for the closing ceremony, why did Goldoc not consider offering free tickets to the parents of these performers, who were volunteers, so that they could see them perform on the world stage?

Mr Peters: As you would know, this is logistically a very challenging event. It is a world event. The policy supported by both governments is that there would be no free seats given out. That is done on advice from other games, because it raises the question of what about the athletes' parents? What about former medallists who requested free seats? What about community groups who had done exceptional work within their communities who wanted free seats? There is a whole group of people who want free seats to the games.

Sydney had a big issue and there were calls for a royal commission on the number of seats that were not available for the general public. We are in a continual situation of wanting to sell as many tickets as we can. That is why, with the support of the minister, we went to a policy of having seats at affordable prices. We conferred with groups to do with families and the elderly to say, 'If we position our ticketing prices at this level, would it be seen as fair and reasonable rather than a lot of events that have very high priced tickets?' That is why we went with that policy.

We also saw in a lot of our events tickets sold towards the end, because people got excited about things. We left the closing ceremony tickets open, because we wanted to sell as many, because we needed to be economically responsible. We knew that there were all of these other pressures. We got to the opening day. A lot of those tickets were in the higher category. Then you have the problem of

people sitting next to other people, some with free tickets, some who had paid a lot of money. You can imagine the newspapers the next day. The policy was the right policy supported by both governments, because this is very complicated.

Just the thought on the last day of the games trying to get out to 3,000 people and parents and how do you define it? Is it two parents? Is it five in a family? Is it seven? You saw initially some discussion when we defined a family at four. It should have been five. On the last day of the games, when we are trying to be economically responsible and also honour all the other people who had requested free tickets, we needed to be consistent. That is why we went the way we did.

Mr LANGBROEK: Thank you.

CHAIR: Member for Surfers Paradise, we are moving on to government questions. I call the member for Jordan.

Mrs MULLEN: With reference to page 4 of the SDS and your opening statement, can you provide some further details to the committee on the economic benefits of the Commonwealth Games to Queensland?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. As we know, the games was delivered on time and on budget. It also delivered a multibillion-dollar injection into the economy of Queensland going forward. The Griffith University report, *The economic impacts of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games* forecast a \$2 billion boost to our gross state product, including \$1.7 billion to the Gold Coast. The Griffith University report also identified a further \$2.6 billion in private sector and government investment accelerated by the games. This includes \$1 billion in major transport legacy, like stage 2 of the Gold Coast light rail.

I remember when I became the minister the first thing I had to work on was making sure—and it was down to a matter of weeks—that we could deliver stage 2 of light rail. Why was this critical? We saw that 75 per cent of people who attended Commonwealth Games events attended on public transport. There is no way that we could have delivered the Commonwealth Games without stage 2 of the light rail. I see you nodding, member for Capalaba. It is unthinkable that, if you knew the Commonwealth Games was coming, you would not have built the light rail in time of the Commonwealth Games. Thank goodness we were elected, because we were the first government to commit the money to do that. It was razor-wire stuff.

I want to acknowledge some LNP federal members who understood this and who worked very closely with the Queensland government to put pressure on their Prime Minister to make sure that we got the federal funding support. Thank goodness for every single one of us, we were able to do the light rail in time of the games. We also know that, when we were elected, not one dollar had been spent on upgrading the M1 in anticipation of the Commonwealth Games, either. Those contracts to make sure that the M1 had been upgraded in time for the Commonwealth Games had to be done during the life of the Newman government. They failed to do that. We have worked extremely hard to make sure that we had the necessary transport in place in time for the games.

I think the legal advice that I have tabled today shows that there were very mixed views about whether they should go ahead with the Commonwealth Games—the fact that we now have the full legal advice that shows clearly that the LNP government was concerned about whether it wanted to deliver the games or not. It says in the legal advice that has now been tabled that the consequences of such a termination would be that the people of Queensland would have to pay the full amount of delivering the games without getting the games. To me, that just goes to the heart of what we saw leading up to the Commonwealth Games. At each and every turn, not so much the shadow minister—I genuinely believe that the shadow minister will always put the interests of the Gold Coast first—we saw a whole bunch of LNP members bagging the games leading up to it and bagging the games in complete contrast to the mayor of the Gold Coast and in complete contrast to the LNP federal members on the Gold Coast. I think it was more to do with the fact that there must have been—and today's revelations show—members of the LNP who never wanted the Commonwealth Games to go ahead.

The other thing that is revealed in the legal advice is that they were asked specifically in the legal advice to see what would be the cost of moving the events from the Gold Coast to Brisbane. That is what you get: you vote LNP wall to wall on the Gold Coast and then they seek legal advice to move the games from the Gold Coast to Brisbane. Thank goodness we now have the member for Gaven elected who will stand up for the people of the Gold Coast in our government. Since the member for Gaven was elected, we have seen more than \$1 billion in transport infrastructure committed to the Gold Coast community—long overdue.

The great thing is that this legal advice was not taken because, clearly, they worked out that paying \$1.2 billion for nothing was not a great idea. They probably worked out that sacking thousands of public servants was not a great idea either. The people of Queensland sent a very clear message. We were elected and we were able to commit the funding to deliver stage 2 of the light rail project following on from our commitment to stage 1 in the Bligh government. Here we are today with record investment on the Gold Coast—all the consequence of our successful delivery of the Commonwealth Games on time and on budget.

CHAIR: Minister, in your early answers to questions you said that the games were forecast to deliver more than \$4.6 billion in economic return for the state. Again, I reference page 4 of the SDS. Are you aware of any previous risks to this economic benefit for Queensland?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question, because one thing that we will see from the games is not only the direct investment in infrastructure—18 brand-new or rebuilt sporting facilities across Queensland—but also the venues booked out for the next 12 months. This is seeing major international and national titles now being staged in Queensland, specifically on the Gold Coast, that could never have possibly been staged here before. I am still in negotiations right now, but we might be able to secure an event that has never been held in Australia before purely because of the work that has been delivered for the Commonwealth Games. Not only do we have this infrastructure now—new world-class infrastructure—but also we are going to see over the next five to 10 years new major events coming to the Gold Coast that simply would have had to fly over the Gold Coast and come to Brisbane, because they just did not have the venues. I think that the economic benefit that will come from the games is something that we will see long after the games are over.

Bond University vice-chancellor Tim Brailsford said that one of the most effective 11-day marketing campaigns in the city's history was the game. He said further that this provides a whole range of stakeholders with tangible evidence and confidence that the Gold Coast is now capable of doing much of what is expected from significantly larger and older cities. The Gold Coast Tourism chairman, Paul Donovan, said—

In terms of the exposure, the past two weeks have been a game changer for the Gold Coast.

We were featured on the BBC in the UK, had a full-page story in the *New York Times*. Everyone we have got out of this has been superb.

There will be a comprehensive evaluation of the economic benefits of the games. That is now underway and we will be releasing that next year in line and in practice with previous Commonwealth Games. I attended the legacy committee last week, which is chaired by Rob Borbidge. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the legacy chair and committee members for their ongoing work. We will also be releasing an evaluation report in 2023—five years after the games—so all of the Queensland taxpayers and everybody in the chamber can really understand the economic benefit of the games some time afterwards. We have also been working with Birmingham, which will be hosting the next Commonwealth Games, to work with them so that they can also leverage a significant benefit from staging the event.

Mr BROWN: I want to put on the record my congratulations to a constituent of mine, Shayna Jack, who won gold in the pool. I congratulate her.

Ms JONES: Hear, hear!

Mr BROWN: With reference to page 4 of the SDS and the government's commitment to maximising the economic benefit of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, how was the Palaszczuk government able to maximise opportunities for the Gold Coast and Queensland businesses to benefit from GC2018?

Ms JONES: The Gold Coast was the first ever regional city in the history of Australia to host a Commonwealth Games. I remember being at the cabinet meeting when we were deciding whether to press play on having the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. At that time, there were many knockers, many detractors, who did not think that the Gold Coast was ready to host an event of that size or scale. I am very pleased to be sitting here today saying that, absolutely, the Gold Coast did. I want to thank the Gold Coast community for their support.

As I mentioned, one of the key things of the game was the sporting infrastructure that is now going to be there permanently on the Gold Coast. In total, \$320 million was spent on games sports infrastructure, with more than 47 per cent of contracts going specifically to Gold Coast companies. This work supported more than 1,000 construction jobs and thousands more along the supply chain. Local businesses like Beenleigh Steel Fabrications employed 12 extra staff to carry out the work required for

the velodrome project. Alltype Welding fabricated the steel for the Coomera Indoor Sports Centre. The works supported 20 staff of a local family business run by Peter Jakubenko, who I met. All seven of Peter's sons worked on the project. There are very few projects when you see a father and seven sons all working together. They talked about what a difference it made to the family and the fact that they had that unique opportunity to work on something so iconic alongside each other. In total, they put in 20,000 hours to prefabricate 600 tonnes of steel required for the Coomera indoor stadium. An additional 14 workers were on site at the sports centre and six more were in the paint shop. Also, \$4.4 million of games upgrades at Broadbeach Bowls Club continue to deliver a legacy for the games.

I was there recently for the Australian Open. The general manager, Colleen Gilbert, said that the upgrade had helped turn the club around. They have been able to hire 10 additional staff because of the upgrades. I want to acknowledge the shadow minister in this regard. He was a big supporter of that bowls club and certainly made sure that they did get a really good quality upgrade during the time that we were not in government to make sure they got that bang for buck. It is a great bowls club. I would even consider moving to the Surfers Paradise electorate when I retire just so I can be a member of that bowls club! It is that good. You might still be the member. On your margin, you might still be there. I will be retired. I worked on the by-election in 2001. That was fun.

CHAIR: Member for Capalaba, do you have a further question?

Mr BROWN: 'Vote 1 Richard Alcorn'.

Ms JONES: I still have the hat.

Mr BROWN: Queenslanders love their sport, obviously. We all remember the great atmosphere of the games. Can you please update the committee on the success of Commonwealth Games ticket sales?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. As you know, we did sell 1.2 million tickets to the Commonwealth Games. Some 98 per cent of the available tickets were sold. I never walk away from anything, and I understand the line of questioning by the shadow minister in regard to family attending, but I think, as the Goldoc CEO has answered here today, there was a bipartisan agreed policy that at this Commonwealth Games there would be no free tickets. As you have just heard from the CEO, when you start unpacking that you have to ask questions. Is it just performers? Is it athletes? Is it athletes' families? Is it former gold medallists? Is it former Olympic medallists who had not competed at a Commonwealth Games?

We were, as you can imagine, inundated with requests for free tickets. I certainly would not want to be sitting here at an estimates hearing explaining why I ruled one person in to get a free ticket and ruled another person out to get a free ticket, particularly when, as you have just heard from the CEO, there are many worthy reasons someone would be, quite rightly, given a free ticket given their contribution to a local community. Would it be better to give it to someone who has given their life to volunteering on the Gold Coast? When you unpack it, as I thought the CEO answered really well, it is a minefield. As we have heard, after Sydney there was an actual corruption inquiry, did you say?

Mr Peters: A suggestion.

Ms JONES: There was a suggestion there had been corruption in that allocation. We felt, as did the LNP when they were in government, that the cleanest and most appropriate way to demonstrate value for money for taxpayers was to have a 'no free tickets' policy.

We also made it really clear, and I did have numerous discussions about this with Goldoc, that we wanted it to be the friendly games. We wanted it to be an inclusive games. We made the decision to set ticket prices quite low. We know that the cheapest ticket was \$10 for a child and \$20 for an adult. It is a funny how different things come out of a games. We are trying to get data on this—and we know for some of the premium events there were only adult tickets available—but there were more children who attended the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast than we think any games before it. That was simply because not only did we schedule it during school holidays but also we made sure it was affordable for families to attend. The decision that you could even get to the Gold Coast on a \$10 ticket for free on public transport also made it available to many, many families that otherwise would not have been able to attend an event like this. They certainly never would have afforded going to the Sydney games or the Melbourne games in the past.

The fact that we had these games here in Queensland and we made it affordable for families I think is a legacy that will live long after. It is interesting when you talk to the athletes at the Commonwealth Games. Most athletes you talk to—I am sure the shadow minister has had this experience—point to a time when they were at home watching a games on television or were taken to the 2000 games, where they saw someone achieve gold, and that is the moment when they said, 'That's

going to be me. I'm going to be a games athlete one day.' I think we are doing a lot of heavy lifting for the Australian Institute of Sport, quite frankly, because we have given a whole generation of Queenslanders and Australians an opportunity to see their athletes live—and who knows what champions we will be celebrating when the member for Surfers Paradise has been there for 30 years? It is exciting.

CHAIR: I call the member for Surfers Paradise.

Mr LANGBROEK: I now want to turn to page 29 of the SDS which refers to planning, organising and delivering the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. I want to ask the director-general, who I understand was on the Goldoc board, about the closing ceremony. Could you advise the committee when it was decided at board level that the athletes would not prominently feature in the closing ceremony?

Mr Walker: I thank the member for the question. I should just point out that page 29 relates to the Goldoc expenditure for the upcoming financial year and that past, but as a board member of Goldoc I can advise that we received a high-level briefing with regard to the opening and closing ceremony and that level of detail was something that was being dealt with at the Goldoc organisation itself.

Mr LANGBROEK: Then, CEO, I wonder if you could give us the Goldoc perspective about that same issue, about the athletes not featuring prominently during the closing ceremony.

Mr Peters: The closing ceremony is about the celebration of sport, participation and the community. Through separate segments, songs and performance, homage was paid to the athletes, the everyday people of the Gold Coast who went about their business and delivered the games, and the Games Shapers who became the welcoming face of the games—all the people who were involved in the games. It was celebrating them.

If we could get 10 minutes back, we would have had the lights on when the athletes came into the stadium, but that did not happen because of a number of issues, and we saw those issues play out between the host broadcaster and others about why they did not choose to do interviews of athletes and be there at the beginning but chose to do other programming. That is something there have been discussions around. Twenty per cent of the athletes had already left the coast. Forty per cent were leaving the next day. Traditionally, the format of the closing ceremony is one of having the athletes there. Because Carrara had the same constraints on the venue that Glasgow did, and the absolute plea to not have them standing out of the stadium for hours, athletes were brought in before the televised portion of the ceremony. Absolutely we acknowledge, as we have, that the broadcast audience missed the opportunity of seeing the athletes there at the beginning, but those at the stadium did not miss that opportunity. There was an interview with Kurt Fearnley et cetera.

They are lessons, and they are lessons certainly for the CGF. The whole format of the closing ceremony, which is prescribed by the CGF, needs a fairly massive overhaul. The minister, together with ourselves in the transfer-of-knowledge process, has actually suggested commentary about how you would do it. There are set parts in a closing ceremony in terms of the speeches, in terms of royalty actually closing it and in terms of the next city presenting themselves, as Birmingham did. What a lot of people did not know is that that actually was done live. The people in Birmingham are so proud of what they were able to do in their city, whereas I think for a number of people sitting there they were trying to work out what was going on. It is all about capability and everything else.

As we often say, these have been an incredible games. Can I take this opportunity to thank the Goldoc staff, who were unbelievable. So many of them were local people who perhaps did not get the credit they deserved because of that one moment in the closing ceremony. That was unfair, because this was logistically an unbelievable event for the Gold Coast as a regional city in Queensland, as the minister said, to do this with very few issues. If you go back in the history of games, this has been quite an incredible performance by Queenslanders and we should celebrate that.

I think you will never see a format like this closing ceremony again in terms of the number of speeches, in terms of the way that it had segments in it. We also should give great credit—and I think we sadly lost that—to some of the fantastic Queenslanders who were involved in the production of the games: Katie Noonan, the music director; Drew Anthony, who grew up on the Gold Coast and was the closing ceremony head of choreography and staging; Wesley Enoch; Kyle Page; Steven Page; and Brian Robinson. All these people are prominent Queenslanders who are highly regarded in the world of entertainment and are brilliant people in what they did in their particular segments. There was a great call to have Borobi there, so Borobi was up on stage dancing. Usain Bolt was there dancing with the athletes. What other people have not recognised is that we had gold medallists from around the world up on the stage dancing and singing.

That first 10 minutes, as I said, I would love to have back, as would everyone involved, including the host broadcaster in the way they scheduled things, but that is life and we move on. There are elements of the closing ceremony that have actually been celebrated. In other parts of the world they did not pick up the athlete part. Our Australian athletes were so successful that people wanted to celebrate them in Australia. It actually says that in the closing ceremony we should not show favouritism to any country, but that is not why it happened. The next morning had already been organised by the Commonwealth Games Association and the City of Gold Coast, to have all the Australian athletes at Surfers Paradise. That was an unbelievable affair. That was a celebration of the Australian athletes thanking everyone on the coast. There were also events planned in every capital city, where the athletes were celebrated. Yes, there was that 10 minutes of the ceremony. That is a format that the CGF will look at. Overall it should not take the gloss off what was an unbelievable event. Congratulations to all Queenslanders.

Mr LANGBROEK: Thank you, Mr Peters. Minister, can I ask you about the closing ceremony? On 1 May 2018, in answer to a question without notice, you said—

I expressed very clearly that I expected the athletes to be part of the broadcast and feature in the closing ceremony.

Could you tell the committee when you did express that? Was it before the closing ceremony?

Ms JONES: I was briefed on the opening and closing ceremony by, I think, the chairman and the chair and the DG in my office. We talked about what it looked like at a high-level briefing. I do not think politicians should be getting into which songs are performed by which artists. I do not think that is my job. Certainly there were discussions about the athletes. We also talked about who was going to carry the flag, from memory. My view is the same as all Queenslanders' and all Australians', that you think the opening and closing ceremony should be about featuring the athletes and I think that has been maintained throughout.

The one thing I have got from this is that we do not control when the host broadcaster goes live with the broadcast of the games. I actually think, and my strong view would be to the Commonwealth Games Federation going forward and to Birmingham, they need to rethink the closing ceremony, full stop. I think the opening ceremony was a huge success. I have the lovely tweet of you at the opening ceremony talking about how great it was. I do not think anyone who saw the opening ceremony would have been concerned about the closing ceremony. There was overwhelming joy at the opening ceremony. Quite frankly, my advice to the Commonwealth Games Federation is: rethink why you have a closing ceremony. I know one thing is that we absolutely want to celebrate the athletes. Why not have a big function where you actually invite the athletes, like we saw the next morning for the Australian team? Why would we not do that for all Commonwealth nations?

You have just heard that what happens at every games is that, increasingly, particularly at a Commonwealth Games where we see a lot of poor countries participating that otherwise would not be at a games without Commonwealth Games Federation support, athletes fly out after they finish their event. A lot of them fly out the day after the last day of the event. Quite frankly, my view would be that at the moment it is still quite an antiquated model where the Commonwealth Games Federation dictates a number of components of the games. Everyone will remember that it was the Commonwealth Games Federation that dictated who would speak when. My strong advice to the Commonwealth Games Federation is: rethink the closing ceremony. Do you even need a formal closing ceremony or should we have an informal celebration acknowledging the athletes? Let us be frank: every Australian, every sporting hero, every sporting fan wants to see the athletes. We have some great artists who performed, and I do not want to take anything away from them, but, quite frankly, I would be saying to the Commonwealth Games Federation: rethink the format of a closing ceremony going forward. I think money would be much better spent on a celebration acknowledging the athletes.

Ms BOLTON: Minister, I refer to page 3 of the SDS and the legacy benefits of the Commonwealth Games. What benefits did the electorate of Noosa and the Sunshine Coast region see from these games?

Ms JONES: The member is absolutely right: one of the great things about the Commonwealth Games and one thing that we have really focused on leading into the games was making sure that we could touch as many Queenslanders in as many ways as we could, given that this was a statewide event. Leading up to the Commonwealth Games, I had the privilege of going to the Sunshine Coast for the Queen's Baton Relay. It was the longest Queen's Baton Relay in the history of the Commonwealth Games.

The Noosa electorate hosted 20 athletes from the New Zealand swim team who in the lead-up to the games trained at the Noosa Aquatic Centre. I know that the member is well aware of that. During the games it was great to meet the New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, and Team

New Zealand at the Gold Coast headquarters. Many other teams also set up pre-games training, not only in Noosa but also across the Sunshine Coast. The New Zealand men's Rugby Sevens team trained at Saint Andrews Anglican College. Two hundred and ninety athletes and officials from Team Scotland, the team from the Isle of Man and Team St Helena were based in Maroochydore. Fifty athletes and officials from Team Niue trained at the Sunshine Coast Recreation Centre and the Kawana bowls club. Buderim hosted more than 80 athletes and officials from the Welsh swimming and athletics teams at the University of the Sunshine Coast.

The Sunshine Beach State High School received a portion of the athletics track. As you know, one of the great legacies of the games has been the decision not to sell off a lot of the equipment used during the Commonwealth Games. As a government, we thought it better to use a lot of that sporting equipment to grow the next generation of Commonwealth and Olympic stars. That equipment is now being distributed right across Queensland, including to Sunshine Beach State High School, which received a portion of the athletics track for a long-jump program. We funded Noosa Triathletes Inc. just over \$30,000 through our Get Out, Get Active program. That was part of our games Legacy Program. One of the key themes of the legacy committee is to use the games as a way of getting more Queenslanders to be active in their daily lives.

We provided funding to the Noosa Shire Council through the Legacy Program. The council received \$15,000 through Game on Queensland to host an adventure racing event in the Noosa hinterland. I know that is one of the member's favourite parts of the world. The free family event was designed to promote activity and adventure. The Noosa Shire Council received \$16,500 to run a program to encourage greater physical activity among teenagers.

The Noosa Shire Council also received \$14,000 to run a Commonwealth sports gala day in partnership with local clubs as a way of engaging. One of the things that we want to leverage from the games is building relationships between sporting clubs in local communities. Often you find that local sporting clubs are quite isolated. They work on their own and deal with their own committees and a lot of them rely on volunteers. That can be quite isolating in a lot of ways. Having big gala days to bring sporting groups together is something that we hope will build partnerships through the sharing of resources and skills, making sure that our sporting clubs are more sustainable into the future.

In answer to the question of the honourable member for Noosa, whilst there has always been a big focus on the Gold Coast as the host city of the Commonwealth Games, whether through the Queen's Baton Relay, the Legacy Program or sporting programs as a government we have actively tried to provide those touch points for as many Queenslanders, no matter where they live, including in the beautiful part of the Sunshine Coast, Noosa.

CHAIR: Thank you Minister. We will now go back to government questions. Member for Jordan?

Mrs MULLEN: I refer to page 29 of the SDS. The Queen's Baton Relay is regarded as another great success of the games. Minister, how did the Queen's Baton Relay help promote Queensland and market the games?

Ms JONES: Unlike the shadow minister, I was not at Buckingham Palace when the Queen's Baton started its journey. I have heard it was a very nice event. It was the longest-ever journey of 388 days from London to the Gold Coast. The 288-day international leg passed through 69 different countries before arriving in Australia on Christmas Eve. Wherever the baton travelled, it brought with it community spirit, excitement about the games and media exposure that you could not possibly buy. Everyone heard about where the Gold Coast and Queensland are.

Through Australian media alone, it is estimated that the Queen's Baton Relay reached more than 305 million people, with an advertising value of \$43 million. I acknowledge Channel 7's great decision to televise it, which was the first time they had done this and it was a gamble for them. I do not think I am talking too much out of school, but some people behind the scenes at Channel 7 advocated for broadcasting live into Queensland the final seven days of the relay. I think some people higher up the food chain at Channel 7 thought that that was a bit excessive, but it turned into a fantastic ratings result for Channel 7. I acknowledge and thank Channel 7 in that regard, because it also really helped build momentum. I think we saw more ticket sales as a consequence of the Queen's Baton Relay, particularly on the final two days when, for almost 24 hours, they covered the unique stories of those heroes.

Going back to the tickets: should we have given everyone who carried the Queen's Baton a free ticket to the games? One could argue that we should have, but, once again, you are picking and choosing winners. I think our policy was the right thing in that regard.

The relay reached more than 16 million people on social media. The Queen's Baton was in Queensland for 33 days. As the minister, I felt it was important that we had the opportunity to spend more time in Queensland, given we are such a decentralised state. I mention the member for Cook. This was a very emotional time. I was emotional too, because in our parliament we have the first ever Torres Strait Islander person elected to any parliament. To be there when the baton arrived in the Torres Strait and watch the member for Cook carry that baton was something that will stay with me for the rest of my life, as it certainly will for her and the elders who were there to acknowledge our colleague, who is doing such a fantastic job. In fact, as we speak the Premier is in the Torres Strait with her.

There were more than 1,800 baton bearers. They are local legends who were nominated by the community. I mention people such as Aria award winning artist Uncle Seaman Dan. He is awesome. I have his album, but it was really cool to actually meet him. He was the first Queenslander to carry the baton, in the Torres Strait. Corbin Easton, an 11-year-old from the Sunshine Coast, was one of our youngest baton bearers. Our oldest baton bearer was 100-year-old Bill Bruce from Nebo. He was a real character, too.

Mr COSTIGAN: Great man, Bill.

Ms JONES: He is a great man, Bill. There were also a few famous faces. There was Lee Kernaghan in Longreach. Do you like country music, too? You are smiling. Do you like Lee Kernaghan?

Mr KRAUSE: He is a good bloke.

Ms JONES: He is a great guy. It was good seeing his hat travel down the road. Of course, Jeff Horn, our own hellraiser, carried the baton at South Bank. Sally Pearson got to carry the baton into the opening ceremony and I know that that is a moment that will stay with Sally for the rest of her life.

Finally, I acknowledge the local Brisbane business that designed the baton. The baton was made from macadamia wood and reclaimed plastic from the Gold Coast waterways. The design was recognised nationally at the Australian Good Design Awards. There are so many benefits from the Queen's Baton Relay, not only for the people who had the proud privilege of being a baton relay participant but also for those whose lives were touched by their journey and their stories.

CHAIR: Minister, many major multi-sport events require governments to build new infrastructure that, years later, is mothballed with little or no community benefit. With reference to page 2 of the SDS and the Palaszczuk government's commitment to ensuring the facilities and infrastructure for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games deliver a legacy for the Gold Coast, what is the ongoing legacy of GC 2018 sporting venues?

Ms JONES: I have already spoken at length today about the fact that we are now seeing all sporting venues booked up for the next year with new major and international titles that otherwise could not have been staged in Queensland because, quite frankly, we did not have the venues. My favourite would have to be Sound Stage 9 at Village Roadshow, which is a great example of where, as a government, we were required to invest around \$11 million to build a venue for boxing, squash and table tennis. Instead of building a stand-alone venue, we put that money into upgrading the sound stage. As a consequence of that, films such as Marvel Studios' *Thor* was filmed there. As a consequence of that, we got Chris Hemsworth at the games. That is always a winner. In 2017, we had *Aquaman* and there are more films on the way, including *Dora*; but do not worry, I will not get out my bikini.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Ms JONES: I am sorry; I missed what you said. *Dora the Explorer* is coming.

Across other Gold Coast venues, more than 100 events and functions are booked. Some examples of those are the national swim trials being held at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre, the Mountain Bike Australia national series, rounds 3 and 4 of the Kokoda Challenge at the Gold Coast Cycle Centre, the Firebirds versus Vixens netball game, the Vicky Wilson Cup at the Coomera Indoor Centre and squash at the Carrara Indoor Sports Stadium. In fact, next year we will see a doubling of the number of venues booked for major events and more films. However, I will not touch on that, because that is the Premier's area.

Mr BROWN: Minister, page 30 of the SDS provides an overview of the Goldoc staffing levels. I put on the record my thanks to the volunteers from Capalaba who helped out during the games. Can you please outline for the committee how the volunteer program helped support the delivery of the games?

Ms JONES: I too take this opportunity to thank all of the staff from Goldoc and the officers of the Commonwealth Games who worked on the games. They were critical. However, I think every single person here, including the shadow minister, would say that we could not have put on the games without the 15,000-strong games volunteers. The volunteers I met—and I am sure many of you would have had the same experience—were absolutely world class. When I was at SportAccord talking to international federation heads, they commented to me about how well trained were our quality volunteers. They knew their information, they knew how to assist. Athletes also said to me that they have never had experience of such well trained and great volunteers. I take this opportunity to take my hat off to every single one of our volunteers. They are all game shapers. In total, they contributed more than 880,000 volunteer hours, showing the world why you want to come to Queensland, and it is because we are such friendly people.

I know that each of the volunteers had a great experience. Some volunteers have written to me thanking me for the opportunity to be a volunteer. Ken Judd from Robina said, 'I reflect on my time and feel proud to have been part of a successful team that delivered a world-class event on the Gold Coast'. Ninety per cent of the volunteers at the Commonwealth Games came from Queensland. I know that one of the challenges we face as a state in an increasingly busy world is getting volunteers in all of our community organisations, no matter which electorate you are in. Certainly giving people the opportunity to volunteer on the world stage in such a large way, we hope, will encourage people to continue to volunteer going forward. Every single one of us knows first-hand the feeling that you get when you do volunteer locally in your community and what a difference that can make.

We went through a pretty comprehensive selection process. We had more than 47,000 applicants and the reality is that probably 46,998 of them could have been volunteers, but we had to fit in with the logistics of where those volunteers were based. The level of detail that the planners went through involved making sure that we prioritised people on the Gold Coast, because they were there and they were able to get to many functions. Once again, when you talk to volunteers, many of them describe it as a life-changing experience. At the legacy committee meeting last week, we were talking about the fact that there is still a volunteer Facebook page so that volunteers can stay in touch with each other. Friendships have been born out of the games. I say a massive 'thank you' to all of the volunteers and the staff at Goldoc who worked with the volunteers to make sure that we put our best foot forward.

Finally, given it is estimates, traditionally at Commonwealth games a lot of the head honchos have their own vehicles and are driven around. We did not do that. We had a fleet of cars driven by volunteers. That saved a lot of money for the taxpayers. Since then I have had people say to me that it was a much more memorable experience, because they got to meet locals. Every time you got into a van or a car, it would be driven by a different volunteer, often a local, who also told their story. That shows the level of connection. I will be telling Birmingham that it would be a smart move going forward, because, firstly, it saves a hell of a lot of money and secondly, it builds community spirit at the games.

Mr BROWN: We still see volunteers rocking the uniform, which shows how proud they are of the design and of their contribution to the games.

Ms JONES: I might give Jarrod Bleijie some Borobi cufflinks.

CHAIR: We have time for one final question from the member for Jordan. There is only one minute remaining.

Mrs MULLEN: With reference to page 3 of the SDS, could you give an update on the delivery of the games reconciliation action plan?

Ms JONES: If there is one thing that will be a lasting legacy of the Commonwealth Games going forward it is that we will never have a Commonwealth Games again without a reconciliation action plan for the first people of that Commonwealth nation. We have changed the conversation when it comes to recognising the traditional owners of the land on which we are staging the event.

I want to acknowledge the Yugambah language people and the Yugambah people of the Gold Coast for their leadership, for their generosity and for their spirit of reconciliation. That was on the world stage for everyone to see. From princes down to the volunteers whom we just talked about, everybody has said to me how important that is.

The Commonwealth Games Federation CEO, David Grevemberg, said, 'One of the real talking points of the Commonwealth Games has been the way the games has recognised, respected and championed greater discourse surrounding reconciliation and Indigenous rights in Australia.' The reconciliation action plan for the Commonwealth Games is now being held up as one of the best reconciliation action plans in our country.

The total value of contracts awarded to Indigenous businesses from the Commonwealth Games was more than \$10 million. Goldoc has reported that 163 contracts were awarded to Indigenous businesses worth more \$3 million. The games construction program supported 149 Indigenous employees from 27 different Indigenous businesses. In addition, more than \$3 million in procurement and 130 employment placements have been achieved by Indigenous businesses and people at the Parklands development.

CHAIR: Minister, I would ask you to wind up because we are already over time.

Ms JONES: We also had Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork featured for the very first time on the Australian team uniforms and also the medals at the Commonwealth Games.

Mr KRAUSE: Mr Chair, I just wanted to raise something before you close the session. I think the director-general indicated that he would come back to us with the total retention bonuses paid to the five Goldoc executives. Do you have that detail yet?

Ms JONES: As we said, we are still finalising it. In the forward estimates it is approximately \$600,000.

CHAIR: The time allocated for this session has expired. The committee will have a short break. The hearing will resume at 11.30 am with the examination of the estimates for the portfolio area of Innovation.

Proceedings suspended from 11.18 am to 11.30 am.



CHAIR: Welcome back, Minister and officials. Welcome to the officials joining us for this particular session. The committee will now examine the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of Innovation. Minister, I invite you to make an opening statement of no more than five minutes.

Ms JONES: Thank you, Chair. I welcome the shadow minister, who is joining us. At the last election we delivered a plan to diversify Queensland's economy in the wake of the resources boom. At the centre of this policy was our strategy to invest in innovation to create jobs and jobs for the future for generations of Queenslanders.

Through our \$650 million Advance Queensland innovation fund we are helping entrepreneurs scale up and commercialise their ideas. So far we have supported more than 12,500 jobs through Advance Queensland—that is more than 3,000 jobs since the last election—and these numbers continue to grow. Today I am pleased to announce more than \$8.3 million in Ignite Ideas funding for 70 companies to scale up or market products on the cusp of commercialisation. Ignite Ideas alone has seen support for more than 270 businesses across Queensland, with \$34 million over four rounds driving thousands of new jobs.

It is not just about supporting jobs. We are focused on sustainable jobs growth in sectors that will continue to grow into the future. That is why we are investing in technologies such as robotics, artificial intelligence, big data and autonomy that are transforming our economy. Boeing, together with a range of local small and medium sized business enterprises, will position Queensland as a global leader in this space through AQ support.

We are also jointly funding the new \$100 million Defence CRC to design and manufacture drones here in Queensland. We are backing these new technologies to be used in the resources sector, agriculture, tourism and a range of other industries. We have committed further support in the budget to develop and deploy these technologies. This includes our commitment to establish an artificial intelligence hub at the precinct. This is to help our innovators develop AI skills to fill jobs requiring those advanced skills.

We know that a huge number of our best and brightest innovators live outside of Brisbane. About 60 per cent of our Advance Queensland program recipients are from regional Queensland. Through our Advancing Regional Innovation Program we are now working with more than 130 partners across the state, from businesses to councils to universities, to help our entrepreneurs in regional Queensland. This includes companies like DEC-UAV in Townsville that developed a service called FlyFreely, which streamlines and automates the regulatory compliance and management of drones. Today they will be one of the recipients of \$250,000 to accelerate the commercialisation of their products and to grow and employ more staff.

We know it is not enough to back winners. Supporting innovation is often about creating the right conditions for innovators to collaborate. The precinct in Fortitude Valley is the beating heart of our innovation system. Due to the overwhelming demand we have seen, including federal government

agencies that want to get into the precinct space, we announced in this year's budget \$11 million to expand the precinct size by more than 50 per cent. This space and the connections it builds are helping firms to grow.

Clipchamp, a foundation tenant of the precinct, has nearly quadrupled its user numbers in the past 12 months, with nearly four million users around the world using this locally made, built and supported technology. We are at the cutting edge of innovation in this country. Finally the rest of the world is starting to recognise Queensland is surging ahead as Australia's innovation capital.

We have extended Australia's first Hot DesQ program for an extra two years so that we can continue to attract start-ups from around the world to establish themselves here to partner with Queenslanders and employ locals. Our record in innovation speaks for itself. I am confident that this is only the tip of the iceberg. We have a proven strategy to create the knowledge-based jobs of the future in our state by investing in innovation.

CHAIR: Thank you, Minister. We will now move to non-government questions.

Mr HART: All of my questions relate to the SDS at page 1 unless I state differently. The minister has oversight of the department of innovation. I would assume that in the land of information technology one of the key drivers is the internet and your department's website. I wonder if you have done a Google search of 'department of innovation Queensland' lately? I did that this morning. I seek leave to table the results of that search.

Ms JONES: That is a lot of effort this morning.

CHAIR: Member for Burleigh, I will stop you there while we are distributing the document that you have sought to table.

Ms JONES: What time did you wake up?

Mr HART: Half past three or so, I think it was. I was all excited.

CHAIR: There is actually not a time on this Google search I note, member for Burleigh.

Mr HART: I did it this morning.

Ms JONES: I believe him.

CHAIR: Leave is granted for the tabling. Please continue, member for Burleigh.

Mr HART: Most of the search results, as you will see when you are given that document, point to the DSITI site. I will table the overview of the website—

Ms JONES: We have just pulled up the site now.

Mr HART: I seek to table documents on the department of science, information technology and innovation's structural overview, the minister of the department and the senior management of the department. The website indicates that Leeanne Enoch is in fact the minister. Apparently she is the minister for housing and public works and minister for science and innovation. That site has not been updated since 2015. Do you have anybody who can update this site, because there are a bunch of schoolkids in my electorate who can do it for you if you cannot find somebody to do it?

CHAIR: Member for Burleigh, I will stop you there. It seems as though you have attempted to table four documents. We need time for those to be distributed and considered by the committee.

Ms JONES: Can we check the website address? What website did you go to?

Mr HART: The Google search I did—

Ms JONES: You did not go to the website for my department? You may have got up at the 3.30, darl, but this one says—

Mr HART: Did you call me 'darl'?

Ms JONES: You have the wrong website.

CHAIR: Order! Member for Burleigh.

Ms JONES: I am sorry if you took offence. I meant it kindly. That is me. It is a very attractive photograph.

Mr HART: I wonder what sort of reaction you would have if I called you that?

Ms JONES: I would never take offence. As you have seen on the record, I have been called all sorts of things over the last 12 years. The website is ditid.qld.gov.au. That is my department.

Mr HART: Very good, Minister.

Ms JONES: That is my face. It is a nice photograph.

Mr HART: If you do a Google search for 'department of innovation Queensland'—which I would suggest to you most people in Queensland might actually do if they are looking for you—it comes up with DSITI.

Ms JONES: I do not think I am hard to find. I have never been accused of being a shrinking violet.

CHAIR: Member for Burleigh, I will stop you there. The member has tabled four separate documents which are now being distributed. The committee needs time to look over those before we grant leave.

Ms JONES: I can assure all Queenslanders that there is a department of innovation website and it has my face on it and also the beautiful face of my director-general.

Mr HART: How do you find that?

Ms JONES: You go to the ditid.qld.gov.au website.

Mr HART: How do people find it?

CHAIR: Leave is granted for the further three documents that the member for Burleigh has tabled.

Ms JONES: I can write to Google to help you with your searches if you would like?

Mr HART: I do not need any help to do a Google search and neither does anyone else in Queensland.

Ms JONES: I cannot control how Google finds departments. You go to the website. If you go to the department's website, my face is there.

Mr HART: Obviously you are not into technology or you would know 'Dr Google', I am sure.

Ms JONES: I do not go to it for health advice. I have learned that the hard way—like a lot of Queenslanders, I am sure.

CHAIR: Member for Burleigh, your job is not to provide a running commentary. Do you have any questions?

Mr HART: I will move to the next question.

Ms JONES: We just did a search on Google and it is the first one to come up. What did you search for—Kate Jones, DIDIT, innovate?

Mr HART: I tabled the document. It is right in front of you if you want to have a look at it.

Ms JONES: I am happy to talk about this for 15 minutes if you cannot google.

Mr HART: I have a question to the DG. I refer to media reports and a question in parliament in May this year that a person who flew to Australia on the Myriad festival flight was facing a number of sexual harassment charges. What vetting process was carried out on these people invited on the Myriad flight from the US to Australia?

Ms JONES: In regards—

Mr HART: I asked the DG.

Ms JONES: I just wanted to clarify that he has never been charged. In your question you said that the person had been charged. I can clarify, as I did at the time and have done for six months, that the person in question has actually never had a charge laid.

Mr KRAUSE: Point of order, Mr Chair: the question was asked of the director-general. The standing orders, as I understand them, make it clear that the director-general is to answer and not the minister.

Ms JONES: I was just clarifying that the question had incorrect information.

CHAIR: Thank you, Minister. I will call the director-general, but I would point out that the member for Burleigh has made a very serious allegation that the minister has refuted. I think in the circumstances it was appropriate for the minister to correct the record. There is a clear divergence in relation to that. I call the director-general.

Mr Walker: Steve Jurvetson is a billionaire and one of the most well known and highly regarded venture capitalists in the world. He is a colleague and friend of Elon Musk. I am advised that the accusations reported in the US press in January this year are yet to be proven. I am also advised that Mr Jurvetson is not facing any criminal charges. What is more, Mr Jurvetson was invited to Myriad long

before there was ever an insinuation of misconduct on his behalf. It is entirely up to the Myriad organisers who they invite to the festival. The Myriad festival, including the Myriad air flight, was a great success and gave Queensland start-ups access to more than \$25 billion in venture capital.

Mr HART: I did not actually mention the gentleman's name. It was about the process.

Ms JONES: He did at the time.

Mr HART: We will move on.

CHAIR: Member for Burleigh, I really think you are splitting hairs because you asked a question which could clearly identify the person.

Ms JONES: It is fair to say that if he had been charged then of course we would not have invited him. He has not been charged with anything. I do believe in due process, as I am sure you do. It is a fundamental belief in our criminal justice system that you are innocent until proven guilty and this person had not even been charged.

Mr HART: That is why I did not mention his name.

Ms JONES: But you did at the time.

Mr HART: No, I never did.

Ms JONES: Maybe it was not you. I take that back. At the time the LNP did come out and attack me personally for this person being invited by the Myriad festival. What I said at the time, and my advice as of yesterday, is that there still have not been any charges laid. I think that every single person—and there are a number of lawyers here on the committee now that we have the honourable member for Maiwar with us—believes that you are innocent until proven guilty. At this stage the person in question has not even had a charge laid against them.

Mr HART: I accept that. I have a further question to the DG. During the Myriad festival there were a number of participants who flew to Gold Coast on helicopters for a particular forum.

Ms JONES: That was paid for by the Gold Coast City Council.

Mr KRAUSE: Point of order, Mr Chair: this is the second time the minister has tried to answer a question directed to the director-general. The commentary that keeps coming from the minister when there is no question directed to her is inappropriate. I ask that you direct her to cease interjecting when a question is asked of the director-general.

Ms JONES: Sorry, Chair. I will be disciplined. I will try not to answer questions at estimates in the future.

Mr HART: And stop reading my mind, Minister.

Ms JONES: I cannot help myself.

CHAIR: Do we consider your question answered, member for Burleigh, or do you wish to continue?

Mr HART: I accept that response. The Gold Coast City Council paid for it. Minister, in response to question on notice No. 16, which was about job creation, the answer indicates that 12,500 jobs are supported. What does 'supported' actually mean?

Ms JONES: The metrics that were used for this have not changed since last year's estimates or the estimates before that or the estimates before that—that is, anyone who receives funding from the Queensland government through our Advance Queensland programs must demonstrate what numbers of jobs they believe they will create through the partnership that we provide through Advance Queensland. We strongly believe that a small amount of support from the state government or any level of government—I note the comments of Michaelia Cash, the federal government minister, in yesterday's *Australian Financial Review* about how important it is for government to be working to build the innovation sector. To be very clear, when it comes to the funding and the jobs figures, the grant recipients have to tell us up-front how many jobs they believe they will create through growing their small business or start-up business, and they have to report back to us quarterly on that data. That data is what we use to distinguish that. I will ask the deputy director-general if he has anything that he wants to add to that, but that is the way that we calculate it. They are real jobs. I have some nice photos of me with these real people.

Mr Martyn: Jobs supported is the Treasury approved methodology by which the department calculates the jobs impact of Advance Queensland. Because Advance Queensland is being delivered by nine agencies with a range of different programs, we are required to look at a description of those

jobs that encompasses all of those programs. We use jobs supported as a single metric which can include jobs created. It can include jobs safeguarded. It also includes some metrics around jobs supported through our airline route incentives.

Mr HART: With regard to the Ignite Ideas funding, Minister—I seek leave to table a list of those companies granted funding under round 3 of the Ignite Ideas funding.

CHAIR: Before I ask the committee whether leave is granted, I will wait until committee members and also the minister are provided with the document you are seeking to table. Is leave granted? There being no objection, leave is granted.

Mr HART: Minister, I draw your attention to FSMD Pty Ltd, the second from the bottom on the first page, which received \$100,000. When I had a brief look through this this morning, I noticed that FSMD Pty Ltd appears to be working on some equipment to assist with snow skiing management tools. Minister, how do snow skiing management tools help the people of Queensland?

Ms JONES: I missed that, sorry.

CHAIR: Could you please repeat the question, member for Burleigh?

Mr HART: Minister, I refer you to FSMD Pty Ltd, the second from the bottom on the first page. There is a website listed there. If you click on that, it takes you to a snow ski field in Canada. Can you tell us how the people of Queensland benefit from supporting an application in relation to snow ski fields?

Ms JONES: I understand that in the same document that you have just tabled the business is based in Woolloongabba. The business is headquartered in Woolloongabba. The staff who run that system are based in Woolloongabba. A classic example is that many people do not realise that Expedia—one of the largest tourism industries in the world—is based in my electorate. The people who do all of the photography for Expedia worldwide are based here. You could argue what a photo of Florida Beach would have to do with Brisbane, but that company is based here. It is the same situation: this company is based in Woolloongabba and they provide a world-wide global business.

This goes to the very heart of why we need to be using innovation programs to upskill people. We want those people not to be based in France. You can actually run a world-wide ski field management business right here in Brisbane because the internet is global. This goes to the very heart of the whole agenda which is about saying I do not want those jobs to go offshore. I want them to be based here in Queensland. This is a Queensland based business, headquartered in Woolloongabba, which is providing those services.

Mr HART: Can I have a follow-up—

CHAIR: Member for Burleigh, order! We are going to government questions.

Mrs MULLEN: Minister, I also have a question about the Ignite Ideas Fund, which, as you mentioned in your opening statement, supports the start-ups and small to medium enterprises to commercialise market-ready, innovative ideas that will help them grow. With reference to page 3 of the SDS, are you able to outline for the committee how the government is building on the success of this program?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. As we have just heard in answering the previous member's question, we are supporting businesses that are based in Queensland to grow jobs here in Queensland. That is exactly what Advance Queensland is all about for us. Today I have just announced that we will be supporting 271 businesses now in total through our Ignite Ideas program. With this program, as I said, we have an independent panel that makes those decisions. They are not decisions that I make personally and nor should they be. The panel goes through all of the applications. In actual fact, I think we were 80 per cent oversubscribed—70 out of 400 got funding in the fourth round. Today I am proud to announce that \$8.3 million in Ignite Ideas funding has gone to 70 Queensland companies. This includes \$250,000 for SwarmFarm Robotics, based near Emerald, who are developing a troop of small robots that talk to each other and work together—and this is amazing to watch—to do repetitive farming tasks like weeding, mowing and fertilising.

As the member for Noosa would be aware, the Sunshine Coast is becoming a real hub of innovation. To get back to the point about why this agenda is so important, when I am out talking to people in the ecosystem I am hearing that people who have previously had to work overseas away from their family and friends—they get to the age where they have their own children and they want to bring them home to Queensland to be near their grandparents—can now choose to come back because of the way global skills are moving. I mention Noosa and the Sunshine Coast because it is one of the

communities where we are seeing a massive boom—people coming back to the Sunshine Coast or moving to the Sunshine Coast for lifestyle reasons—because they can leave their job in a major firm and set up their own business.

A family-run farming business on the Sunshine Coast has developed a world-first system to zest limes for snap freezing. Suncoast Limes has developed a machine that makes exporting lime zest much easier. We are investing to help them scale up their operation. This is not about someone who has some crazy idea; it is a business that exists and we are going to partner with them in that critical stage of their business development. I know that the small business minister will be at an estimates hearing later this week. What we know—and I know this from when I was small business minister—is that there are stages in a business cycle where they are vulnerable to falling over or not being able to take it to the next level to grow jobs. We want businesses to scale up through innovation to create jobs for Queenslanders.

There is also a Caloundra company called Cluster Biotechnology which has developed an organic preservative which could be used as a natural pesticide against fruit flies. I know that that is something that all members of parliament would welcome given the impact of pesticides on the Great Barrier Reef. The Queensland fruit fly is particularly devastating for the industry. They are now working on this new idea of using an organic preservative against that. This funding will enable the company to perform both lab and field trials. We are giving them that support to conduct trials. As part of this, if we can pull this off, we think that there will be 25 new jobs created in that process.

Every kid gets a prize. I would like to say to the honourable member for Beaudesert—

Mr KRAUSE: Scenic Rim.

Ms JONES: Sorry, Scenic Rim—you will always be the member for Beaudesert to me. One of the successful recipients is a Kalbar company which produces a blood plasma product for dogs that it will export around the world. This world-first product can be used in plasma transfusions for dogs. It allows vets to treat specific diseases in dogs without needing to give whole blood. These are just some examples. I went to MOVUS, a business in Spring Hill, recently. I do not want to get in trouble for using props, but I do not think it is ridiculing parliament. If you do not mind, this is their technology. They are based at Spring Hill. They started with four staff; they now employ 16 staff and have 13 interns on top of that. This business is going gangbusters because of their Ignite Ideas grant. It was wonderful to meet the people there. These are just some of the examples of the work of new businesses that are being supported across Queensland.

Mrs MULLEN: I am also very excited about the Ignite Ideas Fund, having seen some funding come into my electorate as well for a wonderful enterprise. With reference to pages 3 and 7 of the SDS where the government commits to positioning Queensland as a vibrant innovation hub that recognises the needs for enhanced digital connectivity in the regions, how does the government plan to improve digital connectivity in regional Queensland?

Ms JONES: I thank you for the question and you are absolutely right. One of the key issues that we have seen and is playing out in federal politics right now is the fact that the Turnbull government has completely botched the rollout of the NBN. Whenever I go to any rural or regional communities in Queensland I get this feedback. It does not even have to be rural and regional areas. I get this feedback from people who are saying, 'We don't want to lose jobs in Queensland because our internet speeds are not up to scratch.'

One thing that we are now working on is our telecommunications for the regions project. This is about ensuring that we can use the assets that we own—government owned assets, our energy company assets—to unlock the fibre and use it to create greater connectivity, better speed times and more reliable service for parts of regional Queensland. I want to acknowledge and thank Steve Baxter, the Chief Entrepreneur of Queensland, who has been a real champion of this project. We will be making announcements in the near future about the next stages in this process. We have been undertaking market sounding at the moment to ascertain what the actual capability of our electricity network is to unlock this fibre for regional parts of Queensland.

We are the only state in Australia that will be able to do this because we did not sell our electricity assets. The fact that the Queensland government owns these companies and owns these assets means that the process for us to unlock this fibre and deliver more reliable services for Queenslanders—particularly with the rollout of e-health services and the work that we are doing to moving to digital online in schooling—will have the great potential to even the playing field of the digital

divide that currently is a nation-wide problem. We are very fortunate to be in a unique position here in Queensland where we have a state based solution because our government has kept our government assets in government hands.

Mr BROWN: One of the core aims of Advance Queensland is to create innovation jobs in this state. With reference to page 3 of the SDS and the Palaszczuk government's commitment to creating jobs of the future in Queensland, when it comes to jobs growth, how successful is the government's Advance Queensland fund?

Ms JONES: There is a stark contrast with the work that is happening here in Queensland with regard to our Advance Queensland agenda and growing jobs across Queensland. As I said earlier, more than 60 per cent of recipients of Advance Queensland program funding have been in regional Queensland. This is a deliberate strategy of our government to create long-term sustainable jobs in new industries in communities across our state. As I said in my opening remarks, through our program we have supported around 12,500 jobs. A large majority of those jobs that have been created and supported, as well as the recipients themselves, have been in regional Queensland.

I know that in the past, not so much today which is very refreshing, we have had the question: are they real jobs? I can talk to you about that. I have some lovely photos here. When I was in Townsville I went to iNQ on 22 February. I will not go through all of these photos. Everywhere I go across Queensland I meet amazing people who are working in the innovation sector. I met people at the Cairns Innovation Hub who are working there to stop coral bleaching, to address some of those key issues that we have responsibility for as a state. For me, I have been absolutely wowed by some of the innovation that is happening here in Queensland.

This comes off a long agenda that we have pursued here in Queensland—from the Smart State agenda, which saw us set up some of the world-class research institutions that are seen globally as some of the best in the world, to making sure that we have a strong and dynamic start-up ecosystem. I know that Minister Enoch spoke last year when she was the minister about the fact that we are now only second to Sydney when it comes to the number of start-ups and founders that are based here in Brisbane, overtaking Melbourne. This just demonstrates that we are in a more fluid economy than ever before, whether it is the record number of people who are travelling the world or the number of people who are moving away from traditional jobs to jobs where they are becoming the CEO of their own company.

When I was the education minister it became apparent to me, not only as a minister in a Labor government that believes in innovation but also as a mother of two young children, that we need to make sure that our children are as connected as we can possibly make them. They are going to need these skills into the future. That is exactly what Advance Queensland is about. My son went off to coding camp in the holidays—lucky boy, but he does love it! It is vital that we have a whole-of-government approach to make sure that we are turning over every single stone to grow the innovation sector in our government. We are doing it with one hand tied behind our back, however, thanks to the cuts by the federal government, but that is a whole other question.

Mr BROWN: With reference to page 3 of the SDS, will the minister please outline how the precinct is supporting Queensland innovators and entrepreneurs?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. One thing that I did go into quite heavily for in the most recent budget deliberations was the precinct. I want to thank all levels of government for their support of the precinct. I was so excited at hearing that the Defence CRC wants to be co-located there. They want to be where the innovators are, to make sure they are at the cutting edge.

The precinct has gone absolutely gangbusters since it opened. It was officially opened in March last year. What we announced in this year's budget is a 50 per cent increase in that space. The 18 core tenants include the CSIRO through Data61, the Dialogue Innovation Lab and River City Labs. The precinct is also home to a number of homegrown start-ups, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, that are also getting worldwide global audiences: Clipchamp, which is a file compression software; FunCaptcha, which I met, which is an online security app for ensuring users are humans, not robots; Japan's SoftBank Corporation; Queensland's eHealth division; and the Office of the Queensland Chief Entrepreneur.

One of the major hallmarks of the precinct is collaboration. I have talked to people who are based there and who wanted to be based there when we expanded. We have received more than 40 expressions of interest from people who want to move into the new tenancy since the precinct

expansion was announced. As I have said, one of the key platform technologies that we think is going to transform jobs in regional Queensland, particularly in the defence and agricultural sectors, is artificial intelligence. We will also be delivering an artificial intelligence hub at the precinct, so watch this space.

CHAIR: We will now move to non-government questions.

Ms BOLTON: Minister, with reference to your response to question on notice No. 20, I agree that social innovation can be a catalyst for better outcomes. However, can you outline what social innovation initiatives and projects are currently being considered to address our greatest social concerns including unemployment, mental and physical health, violence and addictions?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question, and she is absolutely right. So many people I meet in this space have come up with an innovation to problems that are confronting us in our community—for example, social isolation and helping aged-care people in community. Recently when I was in Ipswich I met a young woman who had either a psychology or a social work background who is now working with the department of child safety to provide a streamlined service to support families who are known to the child safety department. You think about some of the most volatile and vulnerable families in our community being able to have their experience of working with Queensland government agencies improved through innovation. I think that will make a big difference. You can provide that wraparound service. That is something I am very excited about.

The other thing I will be talking about today—and they will be on the lawn, if you would like to meet them—is a new product which we will be investing in which is a lifesaving inhaler. It is the latest recipient of the Advance Queensland grant to commercialise products. This Brisbane based technology is one of 70 projects. It is an epi-inhaler which will replace the EpiPen. Instead of parents or families trying to get their child to use an EpiPen, they can use an epi-inhaler so there is no need for an injection. When I was education minister, one of the big challenges schools had was making sure they had that. Think about what a difference that is going to make for families who have to rely on that. That is one of the examples of the technology that we are backing.

Mr KRAUSE: Minister, I refer to the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund and specifically funds to attract BrewDog, a Scottish brewery, to Queensland. Can you advise why your government is choosing to support an overseas brewer over local brewers in terms of this fund?

Ms JONES: That program is administered by the department of state development. That should have been a question to Cameron Dick

CHAIR: Accordingly, I am ruling that question out of order.

Mr BERKMAN: My first question to the minister is about the government's Queen's Wharf megacasinno development that will privatise 10 per cent of the CBD on a 99-year lease, will bring in 2,500 pokies and is still shrouded in secrecy. I seek leave to table details of a tender request put out by the Labor government in May 2015 and its award of nearly \$44,000 to private firm m3property for land valuation at that site.

CHAIR: Member for Maiwar, I note that we are now in the Innovation part of the hearing.

Mr BERKMAN: I am aware of this, Mr Chair. I have had the dubious pleasure of sitting in on every single committee so far through estimates and each of the chairs has afforded a great degree of latitude in asking questions across—

CHAIR: I will give you latitude, member for Maiwar, but the committee did make the decision to allocate this time to Innovation and there were earlier sessions that you could have attended. Notwithstanding that, I will allow the minister to answer the question.

Mr BERKMAN: Is leave granted to table the document?

CHAIR: We are waiting for that document to be distributed to committee members and the minister.

Ms JONES: The hours of the committee were advertised, were they not?

CHAIR: Yes, that is correct.

Ms JONES: I just wanted to check.

Mr BERKMAN: I make the point that I did have a meeting with my own committee this morning that I was attending.

Ms JONES: That is okay. I was just curious.

CHAIR: There being no objection, leave is granted.

Mr BERKMAN: Minister, can you provide details of the land valuation that was provided by m3property and will you provide the committee—

Ms JONES: I cannot hear a word you are saying. Can you say that slower?

Mr BERKMAN: Minister, can you provide details of the land valuation provided by m3property and will you provide the committee copies of the valuation report?

Ms JONES: I do not have the officers for tourism here because this was the innovation section. I am happy to organise a briefing for you if you like on any issues that you have with Queen's Wharf with the head of the Queen's Wharf development.

CHAIR: Member for Maiwar, I point out that the departmental officers were here earlier and you could have participated then. You have chosen to turn up to a different topic and ask a question related to that, so you cannot be disappointed that those departmental officials are not available. Do you have any further questions, member for Burleigh?

Mr HART: Minister, I refer to page 1 of the SDS and your overseas trip from 2 to 10 June this year. It is unclear from your travel report to the parliament when you left Boston, but it appears it was before the 2018 BIO Exhibition started. You headed to Las Vegas to watch the Jeff Horn fight. Can you enlighten the committee as to what your ministerial role was at the Jeff Horn fight?

Ms JONES: First of all, I see that Michael has gone. I was going to give him the answer. Yes, I attended BIO at the invitation of the Premier, as innovation ministers have for 20 years in Queensland. That is one of the things that the Queensland government—on both sides of politics—has supported and we will certainly continue to do so. I think it was a worthwhile event. As you say, my overseas delegation was on the public record and you have my report in front of you.

Mr HART: Minister, it does not say when you left Boston. My question was: as it was before the exhibition actually started, was your trip to Las Vegas to watch the Horn fight just a jaunt?

Ms JONES: I left Boston I think on Tuesday night.

Mr HART: What were you doing at the Horn fight, Minister? What is your ministerial role?

Ms JONES: I was cheering on Jeff Horn like any good Queenslanders—just like Peter Dutton, except I would probably let him back into the country—

Mr HART: It was a jaunt, then, Minister; is that correct?

CHAIR: Member for Burleigh, I am ruling that question out of order.

Ms JONES: No, he can say it. Let's go for it. I put it proudly on the record that I was at the Jeff Horn fight as a Queensland government minister. The tickets were not paid for by the Queensland taxpayer. Can I say this: when I was in Las Vegas—and I remind all members of the House that Nevada is a sister state of Queensland—I met with Hard Rock, MGM and the tourism and convention bureau. What I talked about at all of those meetings, including one at nine o'clock on a Saturday morning, which I was really impressed with from my end—

Mr HART: After a big night at the fight.

CHAIR: Order, member for Burleigh!

Ms JONES: What I was trying to say is that at a nine o'clock meeting on a Saturday morning we got one of the head honchos of Caesars to come to a meeting with the Queensland government because they wanted to talk about their investment in Cairns and the global tourism hub in Cairns which will support hundreds of jobs in Cairns. I am pretty sure that we have bipartisan support to create jobs in Cairns.

I would love to have seen a different result for Jeff Horn. While we are talking about it, can I say that Americans in the audience were saying to me how tough our guy was. I would love to see Horn regain his world title. If there is another opportunity to showcase a boxing match with Jeff Horn here in Queensland, we will consider our record investment in events funding to host that here. I think it will be one that is very well subscribed.

Yes, you are right: I did go to the Horn fight. I did not get to go to the Palace with JPL, but I did go to the Horn fight and I can assure everybody that I paid for my own accommodation in Las Vegas. The tickets were not supplied. The people of Queensland did not pay for the tickets either, but I did have a number of meetings in relation to building tourism jobs in the Cairns community.

Mr HART: Minister, why did you have to pay for your own accommodation if you were there on ministerial business?

Ms JONES: Because I thought I might get cheap shots like this. Even though I did not have to pay for it—you are absolutely right; I did not have to pay for it—I thought this is exactly what the lazy opposition of Queensland would do so I decided up-front that I would pay for my own accommodation, and I was proved right. How is that for a backhand? A counterpunch; that is what it is.

Mr HART: Minister, can I draw you back to page 6 of the SDS and the Ignite Ideas Fund? I might ask the DG this instead.

Ms JONES: Good idea.

Mr HART: Director-General—and the wasting of time—second from the bottom is Suncayr Pty Ltd. They apparently produce sun stickers. The Queensland government has given them \$100,000 and attracted them to Queensland to produce these sun stickers, but there is a group in my electorate—and I will table a media article about that—that already produce this. Why are we giving \$100,000 to an overseas company to do something that is already being done in this country?

CHAIR: We will wait while the document you have sought to table is distributed to committee members and to the minister.

Mrs MULLEN: Chair, could we also get the reference, please?

Ms JONES: While we are waiting, the member for Burleigh asked earlier about FSMD, a global business. It has produced a GPS technology tracking system to keep people safe on snowfields.

Mr HART: My old watch does that.

Ms JONES: You need help with your Google searches, clearly.

Mr HART: It did not cost the Queensland government \$100,000.

Ms JONES: Are you going to create jobs, brother?

CHAIR: Is leave granted for the *Gold Coast Bulletin* article dated 6 December 2016 to be tabled? Leave is granted. Member for Burleigh, I had a question from another committee member asking if you could particularise in terms of the Ignite Ideas Fund which company you are referring to in your question?

Mr HART: Yes, I said it was Suncayr, which is on page 6 of the document I tabled before—the second one from the bottom: \$100,000 for sun stickers.

CHAIR: I call the minister.

Ms JONES: No, he did not ask me. Remember, he was asking the director-general.

CHAIR: I call the director-general.

Mr Walker: I thank the member for the question. If it pleases the chair, I will ask the deputy director-general to talk you through this.

Mr Martyn: Suncayr is a Canadian start-up that is developing SPOT, a smart indicator of UV light which alerts people when to apply more sunscreen. Queensland provides a perfect base to further develop and test its technology and business. Suncayr's highly innovative skin care prevention product has drawn a lot of interest, including from Johnson & Johnson, which recognised Suncayr as the winner of the prestigious Canadian JLABS QuickFire Challenge in June 2016.

While in Brisbane, Suncayr collaborated with leading researchers at the Queensland University of Technology, which is running human trials of Suncayr's SPOT UV radiation patch, focusing on the product's performance under the tough conditions of an Australian summer. By basing this collaboration here, Suncayr was able to develop a product tailored specifically for Queensland conditions which ultimately means Queenslanders will reap the benefit of being safer in the sun. During his participation in the Hot DesQ program, Mr Jouppi, the founder of Suncayr, accumulated over 1,300 network points by running workshops, participating in start-up events and facilitating international connections. Whilst in Queensland, Suncayr directly mentored 10 start-ups, representing nearly 20 hours of one-on-one engagement within the program alone. Hot DesQ and other Advance Queensland initiatives are all about sharing knowledge of cutting-edge business and technology practices and helping to provide new connections and potentially new partnerships. The nature of start-ups is to give first and to work collaboratively to help each other to build products and businesses, and Suncayr is a great example of this.

Mr HART: Can I just ask a quick follow-up please?

CHAIR: No, member for Burleigh, we are moving on to government questions, and I have a question for the minister. Minister, many start-ups have a great concept for a business but struggle with capital and support to commercialise their idea. With reference to page 7 of the SDS and the Palaszczuk government's commitment to backing entrepreneurs to scale-up their business, how does the government's Knowledge Transfer Partnerships program help entrepreneurs to grow their businesses?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. Just before I answer that, I want to clarify another question from the honourable member and his comments. The BIO Exhibition opened on Tuesday morning, so I was there during that day. As we know, as my trip report has been tabled, it shows that I attended events the weekend leading up to BIO as well, including a QUT dinner and other events. They are all on the public record and have been on the public record for some time.

In regards to this question, I am really excited to talk about where there is a collision in my portfolio in regard to where we have supported an innovation company to do drone security at the Commonwealth Games. This company, Nitestar drone security, is a great example of innovation in this new sector. Bob Dean had run a small security company at Burleigh heads since about 1995. When he wanted to embrace drone technology to expand his business in 2015, he came to the government to see if he could get support to grow his business. We helped Bob do this, through our program and expanding drone technology project.

Since the 2015 support from the government, Nitestar has now moved to Sumner Park in Brisbane and has become a world leader in the use of drone technologies for security surveillance. They have had to do this because of the size and scale of the work they are now doing. Bob attributes Nitestar winning a major contract to provide drone security and surveillance at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games to the support they received through our Advance Queensland agenda. Bob wrote to me recently saying, 'I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for the assistance and support that your government has provided in the past that resulted in us being awarded the contract to provide drone security and surveillance to the GC 2018 Commonwealth Games. I believe that the Premier and her team are doing a great job to promote their vision for Queensland to become a drone innovation and development hub.'

The reality is that, if we did not have a company like this, if we had not provided that support back in 2015 to allow them to scale up for the Commonwealth Games, then we might not have been able to provide that to a local contractor. We may have had to go to New South Wales or Victoria or, worse, overseas to get that contract. The fact that we were able to intervene through our Advance Queensland program means that this company had the scale and skills necessary to do the drone technology for the Commonwealth Games. I love the fact that, because of that, we were able to give Bob this opportunity.

We recently also won the bid to, as I said, jointly establish the \$100 million Defence CRC here in Queensland. We were in stiff competition with southern states, but we were able to win that because we could demonstrate as a government that holistically we are supporting the innovation agenda. I am looking forward to catching up with Bob next week at the World of Drones Congress, which is also something that we have lured here to Queensland through our events funding. We are working hard to make sure that we support businesses like Nitestar with their innovative drone technology.

Once again, this is an example where we were able to use a very small investment by government at the right time to enable the private sector to grow, create jobs and secure major contracts that once again could keep that business viable, and we will continue to see them grow into the future. How good is it for Bob to be out there in the global market now saying that his drone technology was used at the largest event ever staged in Queensland? That is a real feather in the cap for Bob and his team.

CHAIR: Minister, I have a question in relation to page 7 of the Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games SDS. How is the Palaszczuk government supporting start-ups and helping drive a culture of entrepreneurship in Queensland?

Ms JONES: We know that it is not only about existing businesses that need to scale up, like the business I have just spoken about, nor is it just about investing in research. We also know that start-ups are a critical part of that. As I said, one of the things that our government is very proud of is the fact that we have now overtaken Victoria as the start-up capital of Australia and we are just behind Sydney. You know me. I want to beat Sydney as well so we will keep working on that.

Start-ups, as most people would be aware, are young firms, usually two years or younger. They are contributing massive growth to the Queensland economy and the Australian economy. PWC estimates that the Australian start-up sector could contribute more than \$109 billion to the Australian economy and support more than half a million jobs by 2033.

The latest Startup Muster report shows that over 20 per cent of Australia's start-ups are now based here in Queensland and that Victoria has fewer than 15 per cent. It is this data and this growth which made me go in so hard to make sure we were growing the precinct space. When you talk to people around the world who are in the start-up space or the people who came to Myriad from the start-up spaces from Boston, Israel or all of those global hubs that are known for supporting start-ups, they are saying that we are getting all of our fundamentals right. Having those collaborative spaces and having targeted funding programs that back start-ups in the stage when they need it most is really creating a difference.

We are not only backing start-ups at the precinct but we are also backing them throughout the state. We have: the Generator Bundaberg; the Gold Coast Hub, which members would be familiar with; the Fire Station 101 in Ipswich; Split Spaces in Mackay; the Smart Hub in Rockhampton; the Sunshine Coast hubs; Canvas in Toowoomba; iNQ in Townsville; and theSPACE in Cairns. When you visit these spaces, you are overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and the excitement that is happening in this sector because they feel supported. One of the things I have been working on since I have taken on this role is making sure that we continue to tailor and evaluate our programs to make sure that, as the ecosystem grows, our programs are targeted at those different sections of growth. This is certainly something that I will be looking at as I review the Advance Queensland agenda going forward. However, there are big constraints we do have in growing innovation into the future, and I seek leave to table an article from today's *Financial Review*.

CHAIR: Committee members, is leave granted? Leave is granted.

Ms JONES: One of the big restraints is the federal government walking away from their R&D tax breaks at the same time that they plan to give \$36 billion in tax cuts to the wealthiest people in our country. They are cutting \$2.5 billion out of the research and development tax break, returning the savings to general revenue. They are copping a lot of stick for this. The article said that it was a—

"mind-numbingly stupid" thing for the Turnbull government to do, according to one of Australia's highest-profile venture capitalists Daniel Petre.

I think this is more disturbing for the federal government in the sense that even their own have described it in unparliamentary language, which I will not use here, but the *Financial Review* wrote it today. The article stated—

"The government shouldn't ... it's critical for start-ups and critical then for founders to retain equity. That is really what is happening," Mr Petre said.

This is what many of the stakeholders in the national space are saying about the federal government. The article continued—

They shouldn't take \$2.5 billion out of R&D x... At a time when China is investing trillions of dollars and OECD countries like the UK are investing billions of dollars—for our government to take money out of R&D and put into the general surplus is mind-numbingly stupid," Mr Petre said.

This is a really serious issue. I have talked about it in parliament before. You cannot go out there and talk about innovation and then cut funding and chop companies off at the knees at the very time they need to scale up and grow.

Mrs MULLEN: Minister, I refer you to page 3 of the SDS. Could you outline please how the Advance Queensland initiative is supporting regional innovators and entrepreneurs?

Ms JONES: As I have said repeatedly today, because I think it is really important, I know there is a bit of genuine concern in communities and there is also a bit of scaremongering from some quarters about the fact that we are going to see a change in work. We are going to see a change in the types of jobs that my children are going to have compared to what my mother had and what I have. I certainly would not wish being a politician on any of my children.

We are determined to develop opportunities for people to be part of this new ecosystem and the new economy. We know that many of the jobs that will be around in the future do not even exist today. We need to make sure we have the transferable skills to give young Queenslanders the opportunity to stay in community, stay in their regional towns and participate in the new economy. That is why more than 5,450, or 44 per cent of the total jobs supported through the Advance Queensland program, have gone to regional innovators. As I said in my earlier remarks, almost 60 per cent of recipients have also been funded in regional Queensland.

They are supported through programs like Ignite Ideas, Advancing Regional Innovation Program, the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships program, Hot DesQ, the Industry Accelerator Program and Startup Catalyst. What is really exciting for me too, as I mentioned before, is that when you go to these hubs you see the excitement and joy because regional Queensland is really embracing this agenda. The Ayr based ingredients supply company and Ignite Ideas Fund recipient, KFSU, will now be able to expand its footprint into North America because of this support. So far, they have secured agreements with two large distributors in North America and Canada for their sugarcane fibre product. KFSU have also negotiated a supply agreement with one of New Zealand's largest supermarket chains and have employed 13 new workers at their company as a consequence of this investment.

The Mount Molloy based Ignite Ideas Fund recipient, Farmer Meets Foodie, developed a user friendly app that connects farmers and commercial foodies to enable direct trading of local produce, cutting out the middle persons. They are improving farmers' return on investment and they have taken on three new staff as a result of funding.

Townsville company, Campbell Scientific Australia, received a Knowledge Transfer Partnerships grant. They have developed low-cost sensors, combined with software and a rain gauge. This technology has gone towards developing early flood warning systems. We have all lived through this. The more sophistication we can have in early flood warnings means significant savings not only in damage to capital but also people's lives, particularly in a state like Queensland.

Agtech start-up and Hot DesQ program recipient LESS Industries secured contracts with local stakeholders, including Central Queensland University, for their Internet of Things tracking and management technology. Once again, they attribute their company's success to their participation in the Hot DesQ program enabling them to relocate from Chile to the Generator in Bundaberg, which is creating jobs now in Bundaberg. I could go on, but it is all there to be seen and it has been tabled by the shadow minister—all the projects that we are supporting in regional Queensland.

Mr HART: Chair, could I ask one final question please?

CHAIR: The member for Capalaba has indicated he has a question.

Mr HART: It will be 10 seconds.

Ms JONES: I would give you 10 seconds.

CHAIR: I will give the member for Capalaba an opportunity because he has indicated he has a question. If there is time remaining, we will go to the member for Burleigh.

Mr BROWN: Could the minister explain how the Queensland government's investment in Myriad 2018 has helped to promote Queensland as a start-up state?

Ms JONES: If I finish in time, can he get his 10 seconds?

CHAIR: Indeed.

Ms JONES: The difference between old mate who was first up is that he has never actually written to me or done anything, whereas old mate over here does work a bit harder.

The festival reached 5,000 people through a program of events held in Brisbane, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast, Cairns and San Francisco. The festival featured 158 international and local speakers, 41 partners and 184 exhibitors. Having an innovation festival like Myriad will be key to Queensland's future in keeping us front of mind in people's view that we are growing this space. My events team at Tourism and Events Queensland are working with the innovation team here to see how we can deliver an even bigger and better event next year that brings together start-ups and innovators globally to Brisbane. Watch this space in that regard. Myriad is one festival. Whether that is the same festival we need to always use going forward is something we are looking at. Their contract is up now. Needless to say, whatever we do, it will be about building on that and making sure we have a stronger, bigger and better innovation festival here in Brisbane, which also builds on Science Week and other work that we are doing in this space.

CHAIR: Member for Burleigh, I will allow you to ask your 10-second question.

Mr HART: I appreciate that. Minister, you said you paid for your own accommodation. Can you tell us if you paid for your own flight?

Ms JONES: No, because as you know, I went to BIO and then I went to the sister state in Nevada and I returned that trip. No, I paid for my own accommodation. I did not pay for the flights because, as you rightly pointed out when I said that I paid for my own accommodation, I did not have to. As I figured you would probably go here, I did that. Yes, the flights were paid for as part of the delegation that I led

with the Queensland Premier with over a hundred people from Queensland, just like the government before me and your government did when you were there. I am glad that you have lifted the quality of the questioning at the end.

Mr KRAUSE: Chair, I have a point of clarification about the question asked by the member for Maiwar. Was that question within the overall portfolio of the minister—not the innovation subset though? I just want to clarify—

Ms JONES: He walked out. I was going to try to—

Mr KRAUSE: Will there be an answer provided to the question?

Ms JONES: I do not even know what the question—

CHAIR: Member for Scenic Rim, the question was not taken on notice—I have a clear recollection of that—and the member for Maiwar then left the room.

Ms JONES: He walked out.

CHAIR: The time allocated for this section—

Ms JONES: My offer still stands that if he wants a briefing on any questions he has, I will always provide it, just like I provide for every single member of parliament. I always have and I always will.

CHAIR: Thank you, Minister. That will be noted. The time allocated for this session has expired. Thank you Minister, Director-General, executives and departmental officers for your attendance. Minister, would you like to add anything before we adjourn?

Ms JONES: I want to thank the committee and everybody who has been here today. Thank you for your time. I am a bit upset that Jason did not get to ask me a question. I do not know what has happened to you, Mr Costigan. I say thank you to everybody behind the scenes here.

CHAIR: The hearing will resume at 1.30 pm with examination of estimates for the portfolio areas which are the responsibility of the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. Thank you everyone.

Proceedings suspended from 12.32 pm to 1.30 pm.

**ESTIMATES—INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE—ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, SCIENCE
AND THE ARTS****In Attendance**

Hon. LM Enoch, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts

Ms H Jackson, Acting Chief of Staff

Department of Environment and Science

Mr J Merrick, Director-General

Mr D Ellwood, Deputy Director-General, Environmental Services and Regulation

Mr N Weinert, Acting Deputy Director-General, Conservation and Sustainability Services

Mr T Roberts, Deputy Director-General, Environmental Policy and Planning

Ms L Delaforce, Chief Financial Officer

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Mr B Klaassen, Deputy Director-General

Arts Queensland

Ms K Herring, Deputy Director-General

Queensland Museum


Dr J Thompson, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Queensland Performing Arts Centre

Mr J Kotzas, Chief Executive

State Library of Queensland

Ms V McDonald, State Librarian and Chief Executive Officer

 **CHAIR:** The committee will now examine the proposed expenditure in the Appropriation Bill 2018 for the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. The committee will examine the minister's portfolio areas until 5 pm and will suspend proceedings for a 30-minute break at 3 pm. The visiting members present are the member for Broadwater and the member for Maiwar. I remind those present today that the hearing is a proceeding of the Queensland parliament and is subject to the standing rules and orders of the parliament.

It is important that questions and answers remain relevant and succinct. The same rules for questions that apply in the parliament apply in this hearing. I refer to standing orders 112 and 115 in this regard. Questions should be brief and relate to one issue and should not contain lengthy or subjective preambles, argument or opinion. I intend to guide proceedings today so that relevant issues can be explored fully and to ensure there is adequate opportunity to address questions from government and non-government members of the committee.

On behalf of the committee, I welcome you, Minister, the director-general, executives, departmental officers and members of the public to the hearing. For the benefit of Hansard, I ask all officers to identify themselves the first time they answer a question referred to them by the minister or the director-general. I now declare the proposed expenditure for the portfolio areas administered by the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts open for examination. The question before the committee is—

That the proposed expenditure be agreed to.

Minister, I invite you to make an opening statement of no more than five minutes.

Ms ENOCH: Thank you, Chair and members of the community, for the opportunity to make some introductory remarks. I am proud to come before this committee to report on the significant developments and achievements that the Palaszczuk government has made in the Environment, National Parks, Heritage and Great Barrier Reef portfolio.

Protecting the reef is one of our government's Advance Queensland priorities and we have committed a record \$330 million over five years to preserve this natural icon. The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest living structure and is a vital ecosystem, economic driver, cultural asset and global treasure. The reef contributes more than \$6 billion to the Australian economy and supports more than 60,000 jobs. We all know that the reef is under pressure and we must ensure it is protected now and for generations ahead of us. In this state budget we have allocated \$40 million of new funding for reef water quality and a joint field management program.

We know also that climate change remains the biggest threat to the reef, and the government is also committed to addressing this. In the budget we are investing \$5.6 million to help Queensland transition to a low-carbon, clean growth economy. Part of this includes \$1.15 million to extend the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils program to include all local governments. Other important goals of our government include growing the state's carbon-farming sector and supporting small businesses to reduce their energy, water and waste.

In the budget we have allocated \$3.9 million over four years to continue the ecoBiz initiative. This program helps small and medium sized businesses to cut costs and achieve efficiencies. More than 1,000 Queensland businesses have received one-on-one support from the ecoBiz program. Analysis shows that, on average, participating businesses have achieved 17 per cent in energy savings, 14 per cent in water savings and 13 per cent in waste management savings, which is fantastic.

When it comes to land management our government recognises the critical role that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples play as custodians of the land and sea country. In this budget we are continuing to support the protection of country through the \$12 million Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program. I am also proud that we are continuing to invest heavily in our capital works program in national parks. This includes a \$13.5 million allocation for stage 1 of the Mon Repos Turtle Centre redevelopment.

We also recognise that the environment is our future. It is fundamental to our way of life and needs to be cared for and protected for our future generations. On 1 July our ban on lightweight single-use plastic bags came into effect. This was a big step forward towards protecting our precious environment from plastic pollution. The plastic bag ban will be followed later this year by another plastic litter reduction initiative, our Container Refund Scheme.

We are committed to reducing plastic pollution in Queensland but we are also aware that we need to change behaviours when it comes to waste management. We are committed to implementing a comprehensive waste management strategy that will help drive a new wave of economic growth for Queensland and give industry the confidence to invest in alternative and innovative recycling technologies to grow the sector and create jobs. The Palaszczuk government is building a future state that is more resilient, more sustainable and more prosperous so we can create better outcomes for Queenslanders.

CHAIR: We will now commence examination of the portfolio area of Environment, National Parks, Heritage and the Great Barrier Reef.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Minister, I refer to page 147 of Budget Paper No. 4, which shows that around 30 per cent of revenue generated from the waste tax will go back to consolidated revenue. Minister, removing payments made to local government and state government agencies in total, what percentage of revenue generated will be allocated to waste industry programs?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. As has been made clear in the budget paper, at least 70 per cent is being allocated to a number of programs—environmental, waste industry et cetera. There was an announcement recently about \$100 million that will be allocated to the development of the waste industry. I can make clear that in 2018-19 we will see \$30 million for waste industry development and support, which is part of that \$100 million program.

CHAIR: Are there any further questions, member for Broadwater?

Mr CRISAFULLI: Yes, Mr Chairman. The minister is correct: there is that \$100 million program. I found one other, which was a \$5 million program on page 18 for Torres Strait and Palm Island car and waste metal removal; however, that is all I can find. Minister, if that is all the money that is going back into waste recycling initiatives, would you agree that is in fact less than 10 per cent of what is collected in terms of the waste tax?

Ms ENOCH: I am not sure of the sums that the member is using for this financial year, which is what we have in the budget papers, and the estimates into the future. However, if you add up all of the allocation of the funding—\$32 million to local government so that levy costs are not passed onto

households; \$30 million for waste industry development and support for this financial year; \$12 million for preparatory work, which includes \$5 million for landfill facilities, which of course will be required; and of course \$3 million for initial operations—that equates to \$77 million this financial year. The reason we are committing across all of these areas is because of what we are now living with due to the former LNP government's decision to repeal the waste levy—what has been a failed policy under the LNP. We can see now that we are the only state in mainland Australia that does not have a waste levy, and that has created a number of issues for our state not least of which, of course, was the increased amount of waste being trucked in from interstate and the fact that we now have to send very strong investment signals to the market to ensure that we are growing our recycling and recovery industry right here in this state.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I refer to page 54 of Budget Paper No. 4, which outlines that the cost of Labor's interstate waste investigation by the Hon. Peter Lyons was \$846,000—for this report. Can the minister please provide a full cost breakdown of this 40-page report, which cost taxpayers over \$20,000 per page?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. Of course, the cost to Queenslanders due to the amount of waste that was being trucked into this state and the fact that we have not been able to see the value in our waste streams capitalised through the development of a recycling and recovery industry is being felt today. In fact, every Queenslander had to pay for the fact that we were seeing more than two million tonnes of waste being trucked into our state, filling up landfill at a rate that was unsustainable.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am happy to explore that further, Mr Chairman.

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater, the minister is attempting to answer your question. You have asked for a lot of detail and you continue to ask extremely complex questions. You cannot be surprised that you are going to get a detailed answer.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take that as a compliment. Thank you.

Ms ENOCH: Thank you, Chair, for your guidance. I am advised that we have come in under budget on that particular investigation by Justice Lyons. Of course, Justice Lyons conducted a very thorough investigation of a major problem for Queensland brought about by the failed policy that was implemented by the former LNP government. When you think about more than two million tonnes of waste being trucked into this state, filling landfill at rates that were unsustainable, putting pressure on local councils in South-East Queensland and on top of that seeing that lack of ability to grow a recycling and recovery industry in this state, that impacts other councils across the state. The Lyons report is very clear. There were two very strong recommendations: one to bring on a waste levy and the other one to work with the federal government on broader national measures with regard to waste management.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Chairman, I do note, though, that on page 11 of that report there is a graph that takes up about half a page, so that is about \$10,000 worth of space. I do note that that graph highlights that interstate dumping only started to increase in real terms in about 2015. I might ask the minister to explain the basis for her comment that it occurred from 2012 when the quantum that is depicted in that graph in that report shows that it was not until 2015-16 when the rates started increasing at a drastic level.

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for pointing that out. If the member had read further on in that report he would have seen that that point coincided with the New South Wales government increasing their waste levy. They now have the highest waste levy in the country. That spike is a direct result of the fact that we did not have a waste levy in this state, and Justice Lyons made that very clear in his report.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I refer the minister to page 7 of the Service Delivery Statements and the litigation service efficiency measure of 'percentage of potential prosecutions reviewed and decision made, within 12 weeks of receiving a brief of evidence, on whether charges can be laid'. Minister, noting that this efficiency measure is measured from when the Litigation Branch receives a brief of evidence, what is the average time taken for a brief of evidence to be provided to the branch from the first date when an environmental order is breached?

Ms ENOCH: Obviously the member is asking a fairly technical question with regard to that matter.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am happy for you to take it on notice, Minister.

Ms ENOCH: So that we can answer it now, I will bring forward the Deputy Director-General for Environmental Service and Regulation to address that matter. Obviously because it is such a technical question I will refer to him.

Mr Ellwood: If I understand the member's question, it related to the time prior to the Litigation Branch getting the brief of evidence. If I may, I will explain the process. When a noncompliance is detected, the department makes a decision about whether it wants to investigate further and whether a prosecution should be made. It is at that point that our investigators commence the investigation. They have KPIs which we would like them to follow. Nonetheless, depending on the complexity of the investigation and the availability of the people we would like to interview—sometimes they are overseas or uncontactable for a period of time—that investigation component, or putting together a brief of evidence, does vary from time to time. The priority, though—

Mr CRISAFULLI: Is there a desirable time, though? It is 12 weeks once that brief is received. Is there a desirable time between when the EPO is breached and that happens?

Mr Ellwood: If it is all right, Minister, I will just get some advice from the department about the KPIs for the investigators. The main point I want to make is that the main time frame we need to comply with is that of the Statute of Limitations, and generally for normal offences it is 12 months. Regardless of whether our investigators take up nine months of the 12 months or they deliver their brief of evidence within 30 working days, obviously we need to continue to work towards that. The priority is that we cannot exceed the Statute of Limitations.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Chairman, I have a follow-up question to the minister still with reference to page 7 of the SDS and the litigation service standards. Minister, I am aware of an environmental protection order issued to Baal Gammon Copper on 17 April requiring a number of actions that I have been advised are yet to be complied with. Given the—

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater, you are referring to an order. Do you intend to table that order?

Mr CRISAFULLI: No, Mr Chairman, I do not have to table that order.

CHAIR: You do not intend to table it even though you are referring to it?

Mr CRISAFULLI: No, I do not.

CHAIR: Please continue.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Minister, given it has now been over two months, what action has been taken to address Baal Gammon Copper's failure to comply with the EPO?

Ms ENOCH: Through the chair, the member for Broadwater is making some imputation about whether there has been a breach in the act and whether there is a compliance or not. That investigation must be able to take its full course, so that is the job of the regulator.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Chairman, I am referring to the fact that there were three separate cases where water testing was done at that mine and it showed dangerous levels. I want to ask the minister what action has been taken.

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater, I rule that further question out of order. The minister has clearly answered that the matter is under investigation. Do you have any further questions?

Mr BERKMAN: In relation to Adani's Carmichael coalmine, can you advise whether the department is currently undertaking any compliance review or enforcement activities?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. I can confirm that the department has been investigating matters, but of course those investigations are ongoing. Can I also say that we have made it clear from the very beginning that the Adani project, like any project in this state, needs to stack up on its own merits both financially and environmentally. They will have to undergo the same environmental conditions, which are incredibly strict. Queensland has some of the strictest environmental measures in the country, if not the world, and they will be subject to those like any other project.

Mr BERKMAN: Obviously I do not mean to press the point any further than you are able to answer, but can you provide the committee with any more information about the issues that are under investigation or the nature of the work the department is doing?

Ms ENOCH: No. What I can say is that one of the plans that is still outstanding is the Groundwater Dependant Ecosystem Management Plan. For the information of the member, Adani is required to identify the source of the aquifer at Doongmabulla Springs prior to the approval of that plan. Obviously there is a great deal of interest in this project from many sides, but as I have said—and as you have

heard many times from this government—this project, like any project, must stack up on its own merits both financially and environmentally. It will be held to account to the same measures as any other project.

Mr BERKMAN: Based on your response, as I understand it you said that the GDMP is still outstanding. The source aquifer for Doongmabulla Springs does have to be identified before that plan will be approved. Will Adani be required to undertake specific seismic surveys in that area to identify the source aquifer, or what other activities will the department require to ensure that it is properly identified?

Ms ENOCH: At this stage what I can say is that we have made it clear that they will be required to identify the source aquifer. The department will obviously look at all of that in terms of the final plan that is submitted.

Mr BERKMAN: I have one final question. I am sure the chair will want me to move on in a moment. What information will be available about that GDMP in the course of the remaining departmental approval? Obviously there will necessarily be some further investigative work to identify the source aquifer. I wonder how transparent that process might be and what might we expect?

Ms ENOCH: What I can say is that the department will ensure that the final GDMP is made publicly available and that, as I have said, the GDMP will identify that source aquifer and the method used to determine it.

Mrs MULLEN: I refer to page 5 of the SDS and your opening statement. Can you please advise the committee on progress of the government's efforts to reduce plastic pollution in the environment?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. It gives me absolute pleasure to update the committee on how the government is tackling plastic pollution in Queensland. Plastic pollution is at the forefront of the community's mind right now, and the proposed next steps for the development of the Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan will build on increasing community awareness and a desire for action. It is easy to see the devastation that plastic pollution is causing. Plastic items made up around 38 per cent of the rubbish collected at last year's Clean Up Australia Day event and, alarmingly, around 75 per cent of the marine debris that is collected along Queensland's coastline is plastic waste.

The Department of Environment and Science is developing the Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan for Queensland with the assistance of an external reference group comprised of stakeholders from the plastics industry, environment, business, all levels of government, research and the waste industry. The aim of the Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan is to reduce the amount of plastic in and entering the environment by prioritising actions where we can achieve real and sustainable outcomes. In addition to this plan, the Palaszczuk government has already introduced a ban on single-use plastic bags which began 1 July this year. Until now Queenslanders have been using close to one billion of these single-use lightweight plastic shopping bags per year, and around 16 million of them have been ending up in our environment. Disturbingly, around 90 per cent of all seabirds have ingested plastic, and around 30 per cent of all turtles have ingested plastic debris. The government's ban on plastic bags will bring us in line in other states and it will make a positive change for the environment.

In addition, Queensland's Container Refund Scheme will be online from 1 November this year. The scheme will encourage recycling through a range of different refund point options such as permanent depot-style points, bag drops and reverse vending machines. Some container refund points will be mobile to ensure that the reach of our scheme extends into regional and remote areas. I am pleased to say that there has been strong interest from community groups about participating as donation points where people can donate to a charity, community group or a school. I think that is a really positive way to utilise the scheme. Community awareness and knowledge of the issues surrounding plastic pollution will be the key to changing behaviour and improving recycling rates in Queensland. This work is obviously important for the health of our environment and future generations.

CHAIR: Minister, I have a question with reference to page 5 of the SDS. Minister, how is the ecoBiz program helping small business?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for this question, because this is a really important program that has had some incredible success. EcoBiz is a flagship eco-efficiency program for small and medium businesses delivered in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting businesses to reduce their cost pressures and increase their sustainability. This is exactly what the ecoBiz program is delivering. As part of this year's state budget, ecoBiz has received an additional \$3.9 million over the next four years to ensure that it can continue supporting businesses until 2022.

In the last year participating businesses saved an average of 16 per cent on energy costs, 14 per cent on water costs and 11 per cent on waste costs. These outcomes help make Queensland businesses more efficient, resilient and competitive, as well as contributing to our objectives to reduce waste and transition to a low-carbon economy. The program engages directly with businesses and is delivered flexibly to suit the time constraints of hardworking small business operators. Once a business registers for the program a sustainability coach visits them and provides a report back on actions they can take to reduce their energy, water and waste bills through efficiencies and reduced consumption. These range from no-cost actions to actions that require a higher level of investment. To recognise and celebrate the time and effort that businesses put into the program, businesses that achieve a minimum of a 10 per cent savings on their energy, water and waste are awarded a Star Partnership. Earlier this year I joined businesses at the ecoBiz Leaders Forum to support and champion 32 businesses who were recognised as Star Partners for their efforts.

In 2017-18 ecoBiz made some important changes to the program. These included building a regional coaching network to better service businesses right across our state; gathering billing data from businesses upfront to better tailor coaching sessions; and launching new resources on the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland's ecoBiz website. All businesses in the program are now serviced by locally based and pre-qualified sustainability coaches. EcoBiz has a team of 13 coaches now working across Queensland in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Maryborough, Sunshine Coast and of course in Brisbane. Based on the industry groups involved in the program, three online knowledge hubs were developed to help guide businesses through their sustainability journey. The knowledge hubs contain industry-specific educational resources for businesses in the manufacturing, hospitality and tourism and professional services industries. From the evaluation of the program, ecoBiz has been able to deliver on all of its key performance indicators for the year, which includes providing sustainability coaching sessions to 220 businesses, actively engaging with 400 businesses and supplying educational material to many more through webinars, case studies and fact sheets.

Mr BROWN: Minister, with reference to page 4 of the SDS, what benefits will the additional investment in this year's budget for water quality and joint management have for the reef?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. The reef will benefit from the Palaszczuk government's additional investment in this year's budget for water quality and the Joint Field Management Program. This year we announced record funding of \$330 million over five years to help restore, protect and build the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. This includes a boost of \$39.8 million, with \$26 million for our Joint Field Management Program and an additional \$13.8 million for the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program. Over the next few years we will employ an additional 45 rangers and conservation officers through the Joint Field Management Program to deliver essential on-ground conservation and compliance actions every day to protect reef, island and marine ecosystems.

Working alongside the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, these rangers and field officers will be able to conduct official intervention work at important endangered species roosting and foraging grounds. Our additional funding of \$13.8 million will extend the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program to support the transition of graziers and cane and banana growers to better practices that reduce nutrient and sediment run-off as well as sustained farm productivity and profitability. The increased funding will directly support the faster adoption of improved practices by supporting farmers' access to professional advice and help connect growers with existing education and extension programs and services. Protecting the Great Barrier Reef is one of the six key priorities for the Queensland government in Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities plan. This additional funding is an important part of the comprehensive effort to meet our state's priorities and commitment to the people of Queensland.

Mrs MULLEN: Minister, with reference to page 4 of the SDS, I would be interested to understand how the Queensland government is working with all sectors to tackle climate change.

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. This government believes in the science of climate change and we are working with industry, the community and environmental sectors to take action on climate change. Today I am delighted to announce that the Queensland government will offset the emissions from its fleet of vehicles with carbon credits from Aboriginal carbon-farming projects, reducing our state's contribution to climate change and increasing opportunities for traditional owners. Through the \$8.4 million CarbonPlus Fund, the government will pay for high-quality carbon credits generated by savannah burning and other projects to offset vehicle emissions from the 2017-18 financial year. Offsetting our vehicle emissions will not only help grow the state's carbon-farming industry but also provide social and cultural co-benefits to Queensland communities.

As this committee knows, climate change presents both risks and opportunities for Queensland. That is why the government is focusing on supporting Queensland's industries and sectors to change our climate change response. Under the Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy, the government is supporting the development of industry led sector adaptation plans. These plans encourage industry groups to self-assess their baseline risk exposure to climate change and then determine priority actions for managing those risks. Three sector adaptation plans have been completed for the built environment and infrastructure, agriculture and tourism sectors, and a further five plans are being developed for other sectors.

The government is also investing and supporting sectors and communities in the important transition to a low-carbon and then zero net emissions economic future. Analysis by Energetics in 2017 indicates that the carbon-farming sector could be worth up to \$8 billion to the Queensland economy by 2030 under certain policy and market conditions—conditions that the Queensland government can assist to create. Carbon farming can deliver more than just carbon offsets; it can provide new jobs in regional communities, environmental co-benefits like improved water quality for the reef and social co-benefits, particularly in Aboriginal communities where carbon-farming practices align with cultural practices. This is why the government made a commitment to Queenslanders to establish the \$500 million Land Restoration Fund, which will facilitate the growth of this new industry.

The Queensland government also acknowledges the critical work the local government sector does to respond to climate change. To support local governments, we have partnered with the Local Government Association of Queensland on the QCoast₂₁₀₀ and Queensland Climate Resilient Councils programs. We have seen the range of hazards that climate change brings to coastal communities in Queensland like storm surges and beach erosion. These programs build the capacity of local government to understand their climate change risks and strengthen responses.

In 2017 the Queensland government invested \$1.15 million in the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils program. There are currently 32 local governments participating. Based on the success so far, the government is providing a further \$1.25 million to expand this program to the remaining 45 local governments in Queensland. By contrast, what we saw from the former LNP government in this space were cuts to the former Office of Climate Change that resulted in the cessation of the Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund and the ClimateSmart Home Service. We are investing where the LNP cut. We accept the science on climate change and we are investing in programs that tackle climate change and support communities.

Mr BROWN: With reference to page 12 of the SDS, will the minister advise how the government is investing in our national parks in Queensland?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question because it gives me absolute pleasure to update the committee on the investment in our national parks. We are investing an additional \$35 million over three years in upgrading, replacing and building new infrastructure in key visitor sites to enhance visitor experiences and boost ecotourism, including \$2.1 million for boardwalks in the Daintree National Park; \$2.2 million for walking tracks, lookouts and day use areas in Noosa National Park; \$3.98 million for walking tracks, campgrounds and day use areas at Whitehaven Beach in the Whitsunday Islands National Park; a further \$5 million to support ecotourism opportunities in the Whitsunday Islands National Park; and \$6.15 million in addition to the initial \$10 million committed under the significant regional infrastructure investment program and a number of other funding sources for the redevelopment of the Mon Repos Turtle Centre to support marine turtle conservation and a year-round visitor experience.

This program includes new projects to support tourism, modernise firefighting equipment and address ageing infrastructure in national parks. Fire management plays an important role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and reducing the risk of bushfire to people and assets. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has budgeted \$1.2 million for the strategic fire management program this financial year. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service manages the impacts of pest plants and feral animals on key park values and local communities adjacent to our parks and forests. This financial year \$0.9 million has been allocated for the strategic pest management program to reduce the impacts of priority pests statewide. These fire and pest programs are delivered by hardworking rangers who protect and conserve the rich biodiversity within our national parks.

Under the former LNP government, between 2011-12 and 2012-13 we saw a 21 per cent reduction in staff in the former environment department. I am pleased to inform the committee we have rebuilt ranger numbers—the front line of our conservation efforts—to now over 800 across the state. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service together with traditional owners jointly manage 28 national

parks in Cape York Peninsula. 2018-19 allocations for joint management of national parks Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land include \$10.4 million for operating costs and \$1.3 million for capital investment. For 2018-19, \$2 million has also been allocated to further support the Indigenous rangers program.

CHAIR: Thank you, Minister. I call the member for Whitsunday for the first time today.

Mr COSTIGAN: Thanks very much, Mr Chairman. Nice to see you, too. Good afternoon, everyone. I want to canvass an issue of great concern for the good people of North and Far North Queensland and it is a question to the director-general. I refer to page 10 of the SDS and revelations that problem crocodiles only need to be removed within three months. Director-General, how can a removal time of three months be anywhere close to community expectations?

Mr Merrick: I thank the member for Whitsunday for the question. The approach to crocodile management is governed by the overall state Crocodile Management Plan. We then have specific approaches to managing that within six crocodile management zones. In terms of that total length of time, I would say that we are highly responsive. So far this year, 438 estuarine crocodile sightings have been received and all of those were assessed by the department. Twenty-eight crocodiles have been removed. We seek to act as quickly as possible, recognising the public safety concerns of people across Queensland. There is a highly responsive team. There has been extra investment. We have 12 dedicated rangers who undertake this activity on behalf of the department.

Mr COSTIGAN: You are saying that that three-month window—you are telling the committee today—is highly responsive?

CHAIR: I am ruling that question out of order, member for Whitsunday.

Mr COSTIGAN: I would like to know what slow is!

CHAIR: You are making inferences.

Mr COSTIGAN: That is a crock!

CHAIR: I warn you, member for Whitsunday. Your question is out of order on a number of grounds. Do you have any further questions?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I do, Mr Chairman.

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Minister, I will put the same question to you: is three months an acceptable service standard?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. Of course, the members opposite are fully aware of the fact that crocodiles have protections at an international level, at a national level and at a state level. In this state we have a comprehensive Crocodile Management Plan that we utilise within six zones to be able to manage the interactions between the growing human population and the natural habitat of crocodiles. We have dedicated teams in those zones to respond to croc sightings, and my department has an outstanding record in terms of investigating every sighting that comes through the CrocWise program. That response is immediate in terms of responding to where you locate and verify those sightings, so every sighting is investigated, and of course the actions then are taken from there with regard to which zone they may be in and what actions would be required.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Chairman, the question to the minister is: do you believe that three months is an acceptable time period?

CHAIR: The question is out of order. You have already received an answer to that question, member for Broadwater. Do you have any further questions or should I go to other members?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I do, Mr Chairman. Minister, I refer to page 9 of the SDS and the crocodile management service area highlight which comprises a crocodile education program and crocodile monitoring program. Minister, how will the three-year monitoring program, with a report due back in 2020, address the issue of more frequent sightings and aggressive behaviours afflicting the residents of North Queensland right now?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. As the member is fully aware, there is a bill before the House with regard to crocodile management in this state, so I will tread carefully on this one. What we do know is that having science at the heart of what you do—making sure that we have a comprehensive understanding of where crocodiles are, of their movements—is an important step. We have been told by our researchers that three years is the right amount of time to understand what is happening in that environment. We recently released an interim report that gives a bit of an indication

of where we are up to. There have been a number of activities happening in this research project, including nightspotting and aerial investigations, to understand those numbers. Night and daytime surveys have been carried out in numerous waterways—about 1,200 kilometres of waterways—since the crocodile population monitoring program began in April, so a great deal of work has been happening in that space.

In that interim report our experts are saying that in this first year we found the average density of crocodiles in Queensland of less than one animal per kilometre. That is much lower than in the Northern Territory, where average densities are between five and 10 crocodiles per kilometre of waterway—keeping in mind, of course, that in the seventies these animals were hunted to almost extinction. What we are seeing now from the preliminary reports is the natural numbers returning that can be sustained in those waterways. Obviously there is a great deal of technical information behind all of that of how many crocodiles a particular waterway can sustain, and that is why this comprehensive monitoring activity is underway right now.

Mr KRAUSE: Director-General, I refer to page 9 of the SDS and the \$450,000 allocation to research the problem of urban flying fox roosts in North Queensland. Director-General, for a long period of time I fought for the removal of flying foxes from Boonah. I know that there are tools there to move bats along. Instead of prolonging action across Queensland, why does the department not simply fast-track granting councils the permission to manage the issue?

Mr Merrick: I thank the member for the question. Queensland's regulatory framework for flying foxes provides landholders with ways of reducing the impacts of flying foxes without compromising the long-term conservation of the species. Local governments retain an as-of-right authority under the Nature Conservation Act to use nonlethal measures to manage flying fox roosts in designated urban areas without the need for prior approval from the Department of Environment and Science, provided they comply with the appropriate code of practice. Local governments and individuals wishing to carry out roost management activities outside of the code or in areas outside of the designated urban area may do so if they obtain the relevant permit from the department.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Minister, in total how many flying fox dispersals have been approved by the Palaszczuk government?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. That is not something that is at hand right now.

CHAIR: Would you like to take the question on notice?

Ms ENOCH: Just to clarify, are you asking for the number since 2015?

Mr CRISAFULLI: Yes.

Ms ENOCH: We might take that one on notice. You are looking for a specific number that we do not have here right now. With regard to flying foxes, there is a massive growth in the population of Queensland. It is obvious that is having an impact on habitats. These flying foxes look for the flowering trees that they favour. They will travel very long distances to find these particular flowering trees. As we continue to grow as a population and their habitats are being impacted, it is going to have some effect. It is a perplexing issue for many governments, not just the Queensland government. At the recent meeting of environment ministers I had the same conversation with the New South Wales minister. He is having some similar issues.

In Queensland, we have committed to some very significant work that we will be sharing with other states. We have committed \$1.8 million with the CSIRO for research into flying fox movements and behaviour in North Queensland and \$850,000 to trial and implement alternative roost management strategies identified from that CSIRO work in and around Charters Towers.

One of the things that I found really interesting is that there have been now 23 little red flying foxes that have been fixed with satellite trackers as part of the CSIRO project. We have seen that one flying fox has travelled 800 kilometres in just a few weeks. Another one travelled 1,500 kilometres into New South Wales before returning to Queensland. That is the distances they will travel to locate these flowering trees.

The research project is one where we hope we will find some alternative methods. They are being trialled now through that commitment of funding. In some of those trials we are looking at physical barriers, or other structures, roost modification, and even looking at whether there are ways to revegetate parks or other areas to be an incentive for flying foxes to move in other directions knowing that that is where they will go for their feedstock.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I refer to page 40 of the SDS and the reporting entity income statement line item for user charges and fees. I have been advised that 30,000 Queensland wildlife licensees will be slugged with massive increases while others will have the number of their pets capped. Can you confirm how much of the forecast increase of \$34 million in user charges and fees will be collected from individuals and how much extra will, for example, a retiree in Hervey Bay pay to keep a bird?

CHAIR: Before I call the minister, member for Broadwater, you have referred to advice in your question. Are you intending to table that advice you have received?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am not intending to table it. I want to know how it relates to the increase in the line items that I have outlined, which is an increase of \$34 million.

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. There has been a review of these fees to come in line with what we see nationally as well. I will just take some advice first.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Are we worried about birds flying across the border?

Ms ENOCH: It is not that. I would not be flippant about that. We are talking about the protection of various species and the protection of animals. That is why we are coming in line with the federal government on this. I would not be flippant about the safety and security of animals.

Mr CRISAFULLI: A 400 per cent increase.

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater, please stop interrupting. You have asked for some specific detail that the minister is trying to provide for you.

Ms ENOCH: I am happy to bring forward one of the deputy directors-general to explain that a little bit further, because I do not have that information in front of me. There are many small businesses that will be better off under this new regime. There will be more animals that will be protected under this regime. I will call on the director-general for more information.

Mr Merrick: In relation to the reference to page 40 of the SDS, I can confirm that the difference between the 2018-19 budget and the 2017-18 estimated actual that you have referred to is not caused by an increase in fees; it is caused by the creation of the department and the larger department having a larger fee base with other elements coming in, including Arts Queensland, which have fee raising as part of its incomes.

Mr CRISAFULLI: That is great, but there have been increases across all of those fees. I would like to know what that will mean for an individual, for example, somebody who has a bird and who lives in one of our cities across the state.

Ms ENOCH: Sorry—

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am happy to take that on notice.

Ms ENOCH: Could you ask that again?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I just want to know what the impact is—

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater, you have asked a hypothetical question. The question is out of order.

Mr KRAUSE: How is it hypothetical? He is asking about an increase in fees.

CHAIR: I have made my ruling.

Mr BROWN: As the minister would be aware, I have raised the issue of koalas a fair few times, in particular the protection of koalas on Minjerribah. Can the minister outline what the government is doing to ensure that future generations can enjoy koalas in the wild? Is the minister aware of any alternative views?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. It gives me great pleasure to update the committee on koala conservation measures. The Palaszczuk government is delivering its commitment to address the decline in koala populations in South-East Queensland with the release of the koala expert panel's report and the Queensland government's response on 4 May 2018. The panel's report includes comprehensive recommendations on the most appropriate and realistic actions to address the decline in wild koala population in South-East Queensland. The accompanying government response provides a clear commitment to deliver the koala expert panel's recommendations and details a way forward to start fulfilling the recommendations.

The koala expert panel's report was informed by extensive consultation with the public, industry and academics on the challenges of koala conservation in South-East Queensland. The consultation generated a number of different viewpoints on how to best provide for koala conservation while addressing the pressures of urban development and persisting threats from cars, dogs and disease.

The koala expert panel's recommendations acknowledged that there are often direct conflicts between koala conservation and other goals, such as access to affordable housing and transport. In particular, the Koala Expert Panel recommended identifying priority areas for koala conservation so that conservation efforts can be focused on the areas where the greatest conservation outcomes could be realised.

The panel's recommendations to government also call for a more strategic and coordinated approach to koala conservation with a greater focus on partnerships and stakeholders. A new koala conservation strategy that details how the Koala Expert Panel's recommendations will be implemented is under development as well as a review of the planning framework as it relates to koala habitat. We are also establishing a koala advisory council to fulfil a coordinating role, providing communication and collaboration pathways among stakeholder networks. Council membership will represent a diversity of views across state and local government and non-government organisations, industry and community groups. In the meantime, we have been getting on with a range of programs for koala conservation. Programs include ongoing population surveys and modelling to identify priority koala areas and threats, the operation of the Moggill Koala Rehabilitation Centre to enhance our capacity in rehabilitation, and research.

The government is committed to ensuring the long-term persistence of koalas in the wild. This is in stark contrast to the LNP opposition, which opposed sensible vegetation management laws to end broadscale tree clearing and said nothing when Malcolm Turnbull announced that he intends to sell off koala habitat in Birkdale to developers.

Mrs MULLEN: With reference to page 11 of the SDS, would the minister outline the work of the Department of Environment and Science to support and promote Queensland's heritage?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. The department plays a key role in protecting our heritage through assessing Queensland Heritage Register applications and advising on development affecting state heritage places. In 2017-18, the Queensland Heritage Council adopted all of the department's 23 recommendations on register applications, entering 12 new places to the register, including Warwick State High School and the Waaje Fire Tower. The department has been collaborating with Economic Development Queensland to ensure that state heritage places in priority development areas are properly protected and conserved.

The department worked closely with Economic Development Queensland on the Queen's Wharf Brisbane plan of development, as the area contains some of Queensland's most important heritage places, including the convict-built Commissariat Store and the archaeological location, the early streets of Brisbane. The resulting plan of development contains strong measures that balance adaptive re-use opportunities with positive conservation outcomes for heritage places within Queen's Wharf.

The department's Historic Shipwrecks Program is an ongoing project to protect Queensland's maritime heritage through identifying historic shipwrecks, undertaking site survey work and managing these wrecks along the state's vast coastline. As at 12 July 2018, a total of \$1.7 million has been allocated to 49 heritage conservation projects over two rounds of the Community Sustainability Action grants program. Funding is provided for the conservation and restoration of Queensland's heritage listed sites and for the development or update of conservation management plans for such sites.

In addition to conserving Queensland's historic heritage places, the department is also responsible for managing Queensland's five World Heritage areas, which were listed for their exceptional natural values. Queensland has five of Australia's 19 World Heritage properties: K'gari—Fraser Island; the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia, the Queensland section; the Wet Tropics of Queensland, the Great Barrier Reef, and the Riversleigh section of the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites. Queensland has more World Heritage area properties than any other state or territory, which are managed and supported through a combination of Commonwealth and state funding contributions.

Mr BROWN: Minister, with reference to page 4 of the SDS, how is the Queensland government working to achieve zero net emissions by 2050?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. It is an important question and it is an important task for all of us in terms of meeting this target, not just because it is a target but because of its impact on climate change and our global community.

The *Queensland climate change response*, released in July 2017, set two emission targets for Queensland: a zero net emissions target by 2050 and an interim target of cutting emissions by at least 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. This builds on the renewable energy target of 50 per cent by 2030, which provides the policy setting for increased investment in new energy industries such as solar, wind and, importantly and interestingly, biofuels.

In July 2017, Deputy Premier Jackie Trad signed the Under2 Coalition's memorandum of understanding, a global climate change agreement for subnational governments, officially committing Queensland to join with other subnational governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The *Queensland climate change response* includes the Queensland Climate Transition Strategy and the Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy and sets a vision for an innovative and resilient Queensland that manages the risks and harnesses the opportunities of a changing climate.

Major global investors and financiers are well and truly building climate change into their corporate strategies. It is important to ensure that Queensland's businesses and communities are in the best position to prosper and grow in this new economic environment. The Department of Environment and Science is working with Ernst and Young and the Queensland Treasury Corporation on a financial assurance assessment of the risks and opportunities that climate change poses to the economy. The results will contribute to a whole-of-economy conversation about how Queensland transitions away from risk and towards opportunity. Climate change brings a lot of risks for businesses and communities, but it also brings significant opportunities, including jobs and economic development, for Queensland businesses as long as we are able to act decisively to take advantage of emerging trends.

Other states, including New South Wales, the ACT, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, have set a zero net emissions target. What is currently lacking is strong national leadership on climate change. We need the Turnbull government to stop pulling its punches and start taking decisive action on this global issue. By focusing on how Queensland can best capitalise on new opportunities, the Palaszczuk government is implementing long-lasting climate change policies that will benefit future generations.

CHAIR: Thank you, Minister. I had a question in relation to page 9 of the SDS. Minister, what action is the government taking to support habitat restoration and rehabilitation for cassowaries?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. Cassowary conservation is absolutely a high priority for the Queensland government. The cassowary is an essential native species in Far North Queensland for maintaining the biodiversity of World Heritage wet tropical rainforest through seed dispersal and it is also a major drawcard for tourism. The CSIRO currently estimates the Wet Tropics cassowary population to be around 4,400 birds. The Department of Environment and Science is continuing its actions in support of cassowary populations, with the department's 2018-19 budget allocation for cassowary management totalling \$500,000.

The department provides a 1300 public contact phone service and a front-line response team trained in the rescue, recovery and rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned cassowaries from the wild. The funding has delivered a number of significant achievements, including three full-time cassowary focused wildlife officer positions based in Innisfail; a front-line response service for critical incidents involving sick and injured cassowaries, including vet costs for sedation and other treatment; cassowary-handling training for departmental staff and other organisations; repairs and upgrades at the department's Garners Beach cassowary rehabilitation facility; sponsorship of World Cassowary Day, which is focused on community engagement and awareness about cassowary conservation; other public education about cassowary conservation and public safety in cassowary habitat; and stakeholder engagement including training for traditional owners and Aboriginal land and sea rangers.

The day-to-day operation of the department's Garners Beach cassowary rehabilitation facility is managed by Rainforest Reserves Australia, a not-for-profit company which last year also opened their own cassowary rehabilitation facility at Lake Barrine in the Atherton Tableland. In 2017 three cassowaries were successfully rehabilitated and released into the wild by the department and Rainforest Reserves Australia. Two birds were released in October 2017 in Tully Gorge near Tully with the assistance of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council and traditional owners. One cassowary was released in November 2017 near the town of Millaa Millaa near Innisfail. There are currently no cassowaries in care at Garners Beach rehabilitation facility and there is one subjuvenile cassowary being held in care at the Atherton Tableland facility. That animal will be released later this year.

We have been working very hard for many years to secure the majority of available cassowary habitat in the protected area estate such that approximately 90 per cent of the birds remaining in essential cassowary habitat in the Wet Tropics region are managed within that protected area. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service arm of the department has been involved in cassowary habitat restoration in the Wet Tropics region for over 30 years. Recent QPWS cassowary habitat restoration efforts have involved weed removal and revegetation with native plants along high-priority corridors and habitat linkages as well as within weed infested areas and areas of essential cassowary habitat. There

is a great deal of work that has been happening through the department in support of the cassowary population and we look forward to continuing that work with stakeholders, volunteers and the community.

CHAIR: I call the member for Noosa.

Ms BOLTON: Minister, in reference to your response to question on notice No. 7, could you clarify what the Healthy Land and Water Monitoring Program uses as its baseline assessment criteria, what the water monitoring undertaken by DERM consists of and how often this monitoring is implemented in Noosa?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. There are several parts to that question. I will bring forward one of the DDGs to respond. However, healthy waterways is a critical component of the work that we do in this department. We have been continuing to support that work through many different efforts. To answer the different parts of your question I will bring forward Tony Roberts, the Deputy Director-General for Environmental Policy and Planning.

Mr Roberts: Thank you for the question. The Department of Environment and Science funds Healthy Land & Water every year. We fund a base amount that helps that organisation do a number of things, including produce an annual report card. I do not have the specific figure for our contribution to healthy waterways, but we have continuously funded them to produce a very reliable and authoritative report card each year which shows the status of the waterways in South-East Queensland. Would you like that particular figure?

Ms BOLTON: Basically the baseline—what it is measured against. That is the question. What is used in that actual report as a baseline?

Mr Roberts: Your question is: what is the actual biophysical baseline?

Ms BOLTON: Yes.

Mr Roberts: Every year the report card measures the progress against the health of each of the waterway components—the inland waterways and the bay and the marine content of the report card—against the previous year's report. It is a continuous tracking report.

Ms BOLTON: Thank you.

CHAIR: Do you have any further questions?

Ms BOLTON: Yes, I do. I might come and meet you on that first one, because I think there is some confusion. I will go to the second one. In reference to your response to question on notice No. 8, could you please clarify whether there has been an increase in funding from the department to QPWS and NPSR in order to address the ongoing management and noncompliance issues relating to our waterways and national parks that are under increasing impacts from visitor numbers and poor behaviours?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. We are very fortunate in this state to have outstanding national parks and beautiful waterways that many people get to enjoy but, of course, we must make sure that we have measures in place to make that enjoyment of people who come to visit and enjoy those places safe and also ensure that they are adhering to the protections that we put in place to make sure that we can take care of those beautiful locations into the generations ahead of us. In terms of some of the detail around what you are asking further to your question on notice, I will call—

Ms BOLTON: Just if there has been an increase in the funding that has been sought?

Ms ENOCH: If there has been an increase in funding for—

Ms BOLTON: As you know, we are facing great difficulties in Noosa with the onslaught of visitors. I am asking about the required increase in funding for QPWS and NPSR to actually get on and do the job that they need to do.

Ms ENOCH: I might call forward the Deputy Director-General, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to go into more detail on what you are asking there.

Mr Klaassen: I thank the member for the question. As I understand it, you are asking about funding increases in the Cooloola-Noosa area to deal with the increase in visitation. What I can say is that we are going through a process now to do some management planning in that area. We are looking at the various visitor trend impacts. The funding does steadily increase as we continue to get visitors through the vehicle access permits and camping, so there is a slight increase in funding that is retained by QPWS and reinvested into the area, but the management planning process will assist us in determining where we will invest the money and what our key priorities are in terms of visitor

management and dealing with the issues that I am aware the member has been raising with the local staff in terms of visitors and how we ensure they are appropriately educated, they know where they can go, where they should not go and we deal with that through ongoing education. We are happy to continue discussions with the member in that regard.

Ms BOLTON: Wonderful. Thank you.

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater?

Mr CRISAFULLI: In reference to page 12 of the SDS and the service area highlight of establishing ex-HMAS *Tobruk* as a premier dive destination for the Wide Bay area, how much of the \$8 million outlined in Budget Paper No. 4 from 2017-18 has been spent to date?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. The total funding that was allocated for this project was \$10.25 million—\$8 million from the Queensland government and \$2.25 million from Bundaberg and Fraser Coast regional councils. The expenditure as at the end of June 2018 is \$4.681 million.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Have all payments been made currently to the contractor involved?

Ms ENOCH: Just to be clear, we do not want to be moving into commercial-in-confidence arrangements around contracts et cetera, but what I can confirm is that expenditure as at the end of June is \$4.681 million.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Chairman, could the minister outline whether costings have been received to right the ship to fix what has been a failed scuttling?

CHAIR: Do I have to tell you there is a clear imputation in your question before I rule it out of order? Can you rephrase your question?

Mr CRISAFULLI: Sure. What would it cost to right the vessel?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. The fact of the matter is that at the moment, even though there was a great deal of preparation that had been done by the contractors, let me tell you—a great deal of modelling et cetera—and even though ex-HMAS *Tobruk* met every other criteria—certainly if the preparation work had not been done and it had fallen apart on the way down that would have been a disaster; if the contractors had not been able to hold the vessel in place and it had moved into another location that would be a disaster—the fact that it has gone on its side presents some other challenges to be looked at differently to what had been originally forecasted and planned. It does not mean that it is a bad or good thing. The contractors have been working on their report to the department and the department has received that report. They are working on recommendations around that before it comes to me.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I recall that on the day of the announcement there was some commentary, including by you, Minister, that the vessel would be ideal for snorkelling. Will that still be the case?

Ms ENOCH: I can say that we have had a number of people have a look at the site as it is at the moment. Of course, regardless of whether it had landed on its bottom or its side it would have had to go through safety checks. That was always going to be the case. The four dive companies that have exclusive rights would have had a chance to have a look at it as it was, regardless. From those who have had the opportunity to go and have a look, Hervey Bay Dive Centre owner Ed Gibson said—

The wreck is fantastic and it will be great for tourism. There would have been positives and negatives if she was sitting upright but because she's on her side, there's just a new set of positives and negatives.

The Regional Dive Wreck Advisory Group said—

The beauty of the *Tobruk* is that it's a mirror image of itself so what's on starboard side is also on the port side so you're really losing nothing. No matter what happens, it will be a world-class wreck.

In fact, from those who have had a look at it, already it appears that there may be more opportunities for various levels of diving expertise and accreditation. At this stage the report is with the department. The department is looking through that report and will make recommendations.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I refer the minister to page 53 of Budget Paper No. 4 and the allocated funding for the decarbonisation of the Great Barrier Reef islands. Minister, how many business cases will be developed from this funding initiative and when will they be delivered?

Ms ENOCH: I will call forward the Deputy Director-General, Environmental Policy and Planning. This funding is a critical part of reducing emissions and obviously assisting some of these locations, along—

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Chairman, I would be very happy for the minister to come back to us on that.

Ms ENOCH: No, I will bring forward the deputy director-general.

CHAIR: You have asked the question. The minister has called forward the deputy director-general. Do you want to hear the answer to your question, member for Broadwater?

Mr CRISAFULLI: The minister is answering in good faith. I am just saying that if she needs more time to give the time line, I am very happy to have it taken on notice.

Ms ENOCH: I will bring forward the deputy director-general, who has been working on this project.

Mr Roberts: The answer is that we are actually working through the number of business cases that we will end up with. We have engaged with a number of island operators to date. We are progressively designing a scheme that will cover as many islands as we possibly can. I cannot give a precise number today. I can give an estimation at the end of the session, if you like.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Fine. Deputy Director-General, how was the monetary figure calculated?

Mr Roberts: The \$1.7 million?

Mr CRISAFULLI: Yes, how was that figure chosen if it is not based on the number of business cases?

Mr Roberts: It was the funding allocation that we were given to progress as many business cases as we could.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I refer to page 147 of Budget Paper No. 4. Minister, what do you believe is the difference between a tax and a levy?

Ms ENOCH: Obviously that is a question for Treasury, more so. If the member is referring to the waste levy, in this instance that levy is not one that is paid by every citizen. It is only paid by those who send waste to landfill in Queensland. That is why it is called a levy.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Minister, I refer to page 30 of the SDS and the reporting entity income statement line item for royalties and land rents. I am aware that businesses that operate within the national parks have been advised about large rent increases, some of them by over 400 per cent. Minister, what was the reasoning behind the decision to increase those royalties and land rents by nearly four times this year?

Ms ENOCH: What page are you referring to?

Mr CRISAFULLI: It is page 30 of the SDS. It is the reporting entity—

Ms ENOCH: I will bring forward the Chief Finance Officer to respond to your question.

Ms Delaforce: It is not an increase. It is just a change as a result of the reflection of revenues declared as a result of the machinery of government changes that occurred in December.

CHAIR: I call the member for Jordan.

Mrs MULLEN: I return to climate change. With reference to the Queensland climate change response mentioned on page 4 of the SDS, how is the Queensland government supporting local communities through the Community Sustainability Action grant program?

Ms ENOCH: The Palaszczuk government is investing in the Community Sustainability Action grant program to provide a total of \$12 million in grants over three years. Under the program, community groups and individuals receive grants for innovative projects that seek to address climate change impacts, conserve Queensland's natural and built environment and protect our unique wildlife. As at 11 July 2018, \$7.9 million has been allocated to 230 recipients for environmental conservation activities, conservation of heritage listed places and koala research activities. Recipients include local Landcare groups, community sports clubs and charities. Projects are up to three years in length and it is anticipated that all projects will be finalised by 2021. A total of \$2.8 million is available in the 2018-19 financial year with details of funding criteria to be released when each round opens for applications.

As an example of one of the outcomes achieved, the Mulgrave Landcare and Catchment Group received \$25,000 to expand the Figtree Lagoons Wetlands in the Mulgrave catchment and restore riparian corridors to Figtree Creek and the Mulgrave River. This wonderful project has engaged over 100 volunteers from the local community who have weeded one hectare and planted 2,000 trees. Those volunteers are to be commended for their commitment to environmental protection and sustainability. The government is proud to support the important work that they do. The Community Sustainability Action grant program is encouraging local conservation work throughout our state and I am delighted to see its success stories rolling out across Queensland.

Mr BROWN: Minister, with reference to page 4 of the SDS, can you provide the committee with a progress update on the Land Restoration Fund?

Ms ENOCH: During the 2017 election, the Palaszczuk government made a commitment to establish a flagship land restoration fund. This \$500 million initiative will expand carbon farming in Queensland and has the potential to provide additional co-benefits such as work and income in rural communities, cleaner water and improved habitats for our unique native plants and animals. Design and delivery of the Land Restoration Fund is being led by the Department of Environment and Science, working collaboratively, of course, with the Queensland Treasury Corporation and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The department is engaged, in consultation with industry and key stakeholders, to identify the best structure to efficiently deliver on the principles and priorities that the government has set out for the fund. The consultation included hosting a carbon farming industry forum over two days in June, which saw around 150 participants from across Australia. While that work is ongoing, the department is working towards pilot projects and a call for project proposals.

Finally, the department is developing a collaborative research program to meet the fund's requirements for standards and metrics for co-benefits. The research program will also generate foundational data to underpin potential new carbon farming methods, such as a method for blue carbon, and to broaden eligibility for existing methods, such as the method for avoided clearing of regrowth. In summary, work on the Land Restoration Fund is absolutely well underway.

Mr BROWN: As the minister would be well aware, the Quandamooka rangers do fantastic work in my region. Will the minister inform the committee about the important work undertaken by Indigenous land and sea rangers?

Ms ENOCH: We have outstanding land and sea rangers across the state, of whom we should all be very proud. I know that their communities are proud of them. The highly successful Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program supports the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rangers in communities across Queensland. In our previous term, the Palaszczuk government supported the growth of the program, providing an additional \$8 million over four years to increase the number of ranger positions to over 100. Many of the ranger groups are based in locations of national and international significance, including in Great Barrier Reef catchments, the Quinkan Reserve rock art galleries and the wetland areas of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Queensland's Indigenous rangers bring a unique mix of traditional knowledge and specialised training gained through the program to take care of these special places. Rangers conduct a wide range of activities, including weed and feral animal control, fire management, the protection of sensitive habitat, cultural heritage management, community education and visitor management. The outcomes realised by the program are significant and have also led to wider environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits. The outcomes achieved by this program in the past 12 months include improved fire management over 600,000 hectares of land in northern Queensland, more than 240,000 hectares of land managed for weeds and 200 biodiversity surveys undertaken to better record and manage native plants and animals. In addition, Indigenous land and sea rangers have recorded 280 cultural sites in the past 12 months.

The junior ranger component of the program, which I saw in action up in the Lama Lama area, brings sustainable natural resource management into the classroom and increases youth engagement across communities. Through the junior ranger program, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander values are discussed in schools and young people are encouraged to pursue careers in land and cultural heritage management. By working with Indigenous land and sea rangers, students gain first-hand experience in natural resource management.

The program also supports the development of a land management economy for Indigenous communities by giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders the capacity to deliver a range of land management services. For example, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service contracts rangers to undertake coastal and river patrols on Queensland's remote coastline. It is an incredibly effective program and one that is very much held in high regard right across Queensland.

Mrs MULLEN: Minister, with reference to page 4 of the SDS, can you provide an update on the progress of new reef regulations?

Ms ENOCH: That is a very important question with regard to the health and wellbeing of the reef. The Great Barrier Reef (Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will respond directly to a particular recommendation of the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce. That recommendation was to enhance existing regulations as part of a range of tools to rapidly accelerate

progress towards the water quality targets necessary for a healthy resilient reef. It is one of the key actions we are taking under the Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities outcome of protecting the Great Barrier Reef.

Over the past 18 months, we have continued to work with the agricultural and industrial sectors, conservation groups and individual landholders to finetune the regulatory proposals. A consultation regulatory impact statement on the costs and benefits of the proposed changes was released for public feedback for seven weeks in September 2017 and reopened following the state election for a further four weeks in January, which was something that I felt was important for the stakeholders. We have received over 50 submissions in response to the consultation RIS, which has informed further refinements of the proposals. I have also instructed the department to undertake a series of targeted consultation sessions that have since been held with stakeholders to firmly ensure that full consultation has occurred around this.

The proposed minimum practice standards are commodity specific and aim to replace outdated high-risk practices, while maintaining agricultural productivity and profitability. As part of the recent state budget, I was pleased to announce an additional \$13.8 million to support graziers and cane and banana growers to improve practice standards that affect water quality. I acknowledge that industry has been working hard in this space. However, for the sake of the health of the reef, there is more work to be done by everyone. The latest scientific consensus statement confirmed that the uptake of improved land management practices, unfortunately, has been too slow. We need radical reductions in water pollution to recover the health of the reef.

I anticipate introducing a bill into parliament before the end of this year. These enhanced regulations will help achieve the step change we need in land management practices to address water quality, which also provides the reef with the best chance of withstanding and recovering from the impacts of other threats, such as climate change. That is why I am committed to progressing the proposed regulations as an important part of a comprehensive suite of approaches to meet our commitment to the people of Queensland and to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

Mrs MULLEN: In a related question and in reference again to page 4 of the SDS, why was it important for the government to once again strengthen Queensland's vegetation management laws?

CHAIR: Minister, I want to let you know there is one minute remaining in this session.

Ms ENOCH: Chair, if it is okay, we will take that one minute to provide some answers that the DG has been able to bring forward.

CHAIR: Sure.

Mr Merrick: In relation to the question of the member for Broadwater on the expenditure on the waste investigation report, I can confirm that the total expenditure of the department was \$371,891, which is a saving of \$474,000 on the budget figure that you quoted. I can provide the full detail of the breakdown, if you wish. Primarily, that related to \$61,356 that was accounted for in terms of seconded staff into the team. The primary costs were \$305,396, which were for Justice Lyons, Michael Hodge QC and Arup, who are their supporting expert advisers. The remainder was accommodation, travel and other costs associated with the inquiry. Overall, there was a \$474,000 saving on the figure quoted.

In relation to wildlife permits, I can confirm 78 per cent of licence holders will actually experience a reduction in fees as a result of the reforms proposed that were set out in the RIS. In terms of problem crocodiles, for the member for Whitsunday, I can confirm that the average removal time is actually under eight days. Bearing in mind that crocodiles are often elusive and require significant work in terms of that tracking, it is done by a very dedicated and brave team. I think we should pay tribute to the people who do that.

Finally, in relation to the question of the member for Noosa around healthy waterways, the baseline for sorting the healthy waterways and marine estuarine environment is established using a consistent Australian-wide methodology to establish water quality objectives. Those objectives are based on reference sites and in SEQ are established using detailed local sites. The water quality objectives are then compared with the results in waterways to develop the score for the site. Freshwater sites are assessed compared with the ecosystem health guideline values that are also based on reference sites.

CHAIR: Thank you. The time allocated for the session has expired. The committee will adjourn for a short break, with the hearing to resume at 3.30 pm with the examination of the estimates for the portfolio area of Science.

Proceedings suspended from 3.01 pm to 3.30 pm.



CHAIR: Welcome back, Minister and officials. Welcome to the officials joining us for this session. I understand that Dr Rowan will be joining us shortly. The committee will now examine the proposed expenditure for the portfolio of science. Minister, I invite you to make an opening statement of no more than five minutes.

Ms ENOCH: Thank you for the opportunity to make these introductory remarks. Science is at the heart of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to a vibrant knowledge-based economy in Queensland. It plays a vital and broad role in our community, from helping improve the health of Queenslanders to protecting our natural environment. Queensland has an international reputation for science and research excellence, driven by world-class institutions and infrastructure, renowned researchers and transformational breakthroughs. My department has a key role through the provision of scientific and technical advice and services to government agencies, industry and the community.

With regard to environmental and natural resource management, one of the department's focus areas is on improving Great Barrier Reef water quality. Our scientists provide the monitoring and modelling of sediment, nutrient and pesticide loads—incredibly important work to protect our reef. In 2017-18 we expanded our water quality monitoring sites to inform the Great Barrier Reef Catchment Loads Modelling Program. We now monitor water quality at 43 sites across 20 key catchments for sediment and nutrients and a total of 20 sites for pesticides. The department also monitors wave and storm tides to provide advice during extreme weather events, uses remote sensing to measure landscape indicators such as ground cover, gullies and riparian vegetation and performs lab analysis.

We also monitor land use and vegetation change across Queensland to inform land management and protect the environment. Over the last 12 months the department completed an incredibly important piece of work in producing high-value regrowth maps that were required for the recent amendments to the Vegetation Management Act 1999. As part of this work we saw by discovery and description 20 new plant species, including two new species of native daisies and a new species of orchid. The Herbarium has collected and created over 860,000 plant specimens, representing 150 years of species discovery.

The Advance Queensland Engaging Science Grants program supports scientists, researchers and community groups to deliver projects, events and activities that increase the profile of science in Queensland. So far we have awarded more than \$931,000 to 98 recipients over four funding rounds, with 64 per cent of activities delivered in regional Queensland.

World Science Festival Brisbane was a remarkable success once again this year. We witnessed nine per cent growth in attendances since last year, reaching 200,739 this year. There were 123 performances, events and activities, including the world premiere performance of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind in Concert*. This year's festival was held across six locations—Gladstone, Chinchilla, Toowoomba, Ipswich, Brisbane and Townsville—and involved hundreds of festival participants from across the globe.

The Palaszczuk government will support the wonderful World Science Festival Brisbane for a further three years to continue to connect Queenslanders to science and all that it has to offer. We are putting science at the heart of our work to make real progress on issues that are important to Queenslanders. Queensland scientists are linking globally and delivering locally. They are working to address global issues such as climate change, global health and water quality and helping us as a community manage the local impacts of drought and natural disasters, tropical disease and water safety and security.

There is an answer to a question from the previous session. Would we be able to provide that now?

CHAIR: Was it a question taken on notice?

Ms ENOCH: Yes.

CHAIR: Please proceed.

Mr Merrick: This answer relates to the question about how many flying fox dispersals have been approved by the Palaszczuk government since 2015. I can confirm that 48 flying fox roost management permits have been issued to allow flying fox roost management activities at roost sites from 2015 until the present day. These permits authorise a range of activities, including the ability to drive away or attempt to drive away a flying fox roost, to disturb a roost and to disturb a flying fox roost. In the same period 362 local government notifications have been received for proposed as-of-right flying fox management activities in urban flying fox management areas that could include dispersal activities.

CHAIR: We will move to questions from the member for Broadwater.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I refer the minister to page 9 of the Service Delivery Statements and the service area highlight to provide \$715,000 for the preparation of a new koala conservation strategy. I also refer to page 14 of the SDS relating to service area provision of scientific and technical expertise. Has the government undertaken investigations into the recent allegations relating to Queensland government issued relocation permits for approximately 260 koalas from Coomera?

Ms ENOCH: Koala conservation is incredibly important. That is why we accepted the recommendations from the Koala Expert Panel. There are three tranches of work that we have been focusing on as a direct result of that report. One is some immediate work around planning measures as they relate to the koala population. The second is to establish the Koala Advisory Council, which we are finalising now. The third is that work is underway and will continue over the next several months around the Koala Conservation Strategy.

I think you are referring to a newspaper article about conservation groups planning to take some action around the protection of koalas. The expert panel that provided the report to us made some recommendations about the review of current translocation policies as they occur. This review has commenced. We are working with local conservation groups and the City of Gold Coast, in particular, to consider some specific approaches to koala conservation in the Coomera area. That is under review currently. Obviously, the recommendations from the expert panel have been taken very seriously. That is why we have provided a government response to that and why we are establishing the advisory council and working on the numerous recommendations they made.

Mr CRISAFULLI: What is the scientific advice from your department about the relocation of koalas?

Ms ENOCH: In a moment I will bring forward the Deputy Director-General, Conservation and Sustainability Services. I reflect on the fact that the Koala Expert Panel utilised a number of expert stakeholders around this issue. They worked with our department on the appropriate science and research that is required. They were able to make those recommendations to us based on that good science.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I guess what I am asking either the minister or the DG is: does the science support that policy going forward? It was done before. Is it something that will be done in the future?

Ms ENOCH: To be clear, the expert panel's report was provided to the government. We have made a response to that. The government's response has been made public. Staff in my department have contributed to the government's response. We have supported the six recommendations. The government's response is clear and it has been based on the science that we have available to us in the department and beyond. If you want some further clarification around that I can bring forward the Deputy Director-General, Conservation and Sustainability Services.

Mr Weinert: The Coomera translocation process to which you referred did occur under a scientific purposes permit and it was assessed in terms of its results. The policy itself, as the minister has indicated, is to be the subject of review on the advice of the Koala Expert Panel. The panel has recommended that translocation ought to be considered as a tool for population management but cautioned that it ought not take the place of a proper assessment process in terms of development assessment.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Has there been an assessment of how many of those koalas have survived and the success of the project?

Mr Weinert: In relation to that project, the mortality rate for the koalas that were relocated was 42 per cent. This compares to 35 per cent of koalas at that recipient site—so the expected rate under normal circumstances—and 50 per cent at the site from which they were taken. There is not a very significant variation between either the site of origin or the recipient site for the translocated population.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I refer to page 14 of the SDS. Recognising that it has been a little over two years since the expert panel was formed, I note that in this year's budget an allocation is there for the preparation of a strategy. At what point do you think we will see action on that?

Ms ENOCH: As I said in my preliminary comments in answering your question, there are three phases that we have been working on. There is immediate work that is happening right now with regard to planning and development. I have been working closely with the minister responsible around that and so have my departmental officers. The second phase of work, which we are progressing now, is

the establishment of the Koala Advisory Council. That is in its final stages of being established. Right now there is a great deal of work that has been happening around some preliminary efforts with regard to the Koala Conservation Strategy. We hope that the Koala Advisory Council will contribute to that as well. Their role will be to oversee the implementation of the Koala Conservation Strategy in the long term.

There are some koala conservation measures that are continuing at the moment as part of our normal business. We have been developing new habitat modelling and mapping for koalas in South-East Queensland and undertaking population surveys to understand population trends and hot spots. Recently we have reopened the refurbished and improved Daisy Hill Koala Centre. We have been improving the Moggill Koala Rehabilitation Centre. We have provided financial support for wildlife hospitals in South-East Queensland, including the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital and the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital. We have been also funding some critical research through grants programs.

There is continued work that is happening in this space. This is on top of legislation that was introduced by the Palaszczuk government earlier this year to ban the broadscale clearing of trees in this state. Habitat is an incredibly important part of being able to maintain various species, and koala habitat is part of that. There is a great deal of work to do in the south-east corner in particular. That is why we have taken on board the recommendations from the Koala Expert Panel and why we are moving right now with regard to those recommendations.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I refer the minister to page 14 of the SDS and the service area description to provide advice on the role of science and research in achieving government priorities. Will the minister commit to assessing using the Advance Queensland fund to support the Thompson Institute and the cutting-edge neuroscience being undertaken?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. I am very encouraged by his commitment almost through his question to the Advance Queensland initiative. The Advance Queensland initiative is in the remit of the Minister for Innovation, so that is a question that should have been put to her. As the member would probably be aware, I am very passionate about science and research in this state. Unfortunately, under the former LNP government we saw the brain drain happen in this state. We saw \$50 million ripped from the innovation and science budget in the very first budget of the LNP. We have been restoring that and reducing the brain drain that we have seen in Queensland as a result of that. I am very passionate about seeing good research happening here in this state.

Mr CRISAFULLI: That is good. My question related to the brain institute. It would be excellent to know that you would be willing to support that, because it is a great institution doing some great things. Minister, you mentioned in your opening comments about water monitoring—something that is very important both in reef catchments and here in the south-east. What level of investigation and what scientific research has the government embarked upon to look at striking that balance between manual monitoring and ongoing real-time data?

Ms ENOCH: Absolutely. Again, this goes to the question of innovation as well, looking for innovative ways to make this easier particularly for the agricultural sector in their engagement in the monitoring of water quality. I had the opportunity recently to visit a number of different cane farms. I was in the Sandy Creek area in North Queensland.

Mr COSTIGAN: Great spot.

Ms ENOCH: Yes, it is a lovely spot. I got to spend quite a bit of time with a number of farmers who have been working on measuring water quality and being part of that project. They were able to show me the practical manual way that they do that and how they are able to use that data and, together as a group, work on some of that. In terms of some more detail around your question, I call on the director-general.

Mr Merrick: Just to emphasise that the department continues to invest in this space during 2017-18, eight new water quality monitoring sites were established in priority reef catchments. We now monitor at 43 sites across 20 catchments for sediment and nutrients and at 20 sites for pesticides. During 2017-18 we conducted in the order of 16,250 analytical tests on over 2,955 water samples that were collected as part of the event monitoring programs in reef catchments. We are investing heavily in terms of expanding the capability. We are also working on lower cost water quality monitoring services to increase the capability for very large-scale monitoring in catchments. We have a Small Business Innovation Research program that is investing in this space and hopefully will lead to very significant reductions in developing low-cost sensors.

Ms BOLTON: Minister, I refer to page 14 of the SDS and ask: what collaboration occurs between the department and the APVMA to address community concerns regarding chemical impacts on our lands and waterways?

Ms ENOCH: I will bring forward the Deputy Director-General for Environmental Services and Regulation to bring some detail for that question. I might go straight to him on that one.

Mr Ellwood: With reference to the portfolio that I manage, any sampling that we do in relation to noncompliance issues as a result of people who operate or discharge to the environment is analysed by certified NATA accredited agencies. When we get that information back, the department does not always have its own capacity in relation to understanding that. At times we will either use the services of our science colleagues here today or outsource that or seek independent advice from other agencies including the one you spoke about.

CHAIR: Do you have any further questions, member for Noosa?

Ms BOLTON: No.

CHAIR: I call the member for Capalaba.

Mr BROWN: With reference to page 14 of the SDS, will the minister advise how biodiscovery in Queensland is giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities access to great science and commercial outcomes?

Ms ENOCH: Biodiscovery is something that is a real opportunity in terms of economic growth for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland and a great way for traditional owners and science and researchers to be able to work together to take naturally occurring products and turn them into things that are commercially viable not just in Queensland but nationally and globally.

Under the Biodiscovery Act 2004, biodiscovery cannot commence until a benefit-sharing agreement is in place between the biodiscovery entity and the states. These agreements may lead to economic, environmental and social benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The department is improving commercial outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through consultation and negotiation on recommendations relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' land and knowledge in the recently released statutory review of the Biodiscovery Act 2004 and government response. The department is continuing close consultation and negotiation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on these matters prior to proposing reform options for the Biodiscovery Act.

A good example of a project already providing access to excellence science and strong commercial outcomes for an Aboriginal community is the Dugalunji Aboriginal Corporation spinifex project in the Camooweal region in north-west Queensland. Research found that nanofibres from spinifex grass significantly improve the physical properties of latex to enable stronger and thinner products. The nanotechnology platform could have significant commercial applications in a broad range of industries such as latex products, packaging and road surfacing. The Dugalunji Aboriginal Corporation has collaborated with the University of Queensland on research and commercialisation opportunities. In July 2017, the Dugalunji Aboriginal Corporation and the University of Queensland received a \$995,000 grant from Advance Queensland's \$5 million Biofutures Commercialisation Program to support efforts to move the spinifex industry to the next phase of commercialisation.

The project will also fund research for applications development to build further demand for other spinifex related products. The spinifex project also received two Advance Queensland fellowships from the Queensland government for researchers totalling \$480,000 and a further \$60,000 from the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads for a bitumen research and development project led by the Dugalunji Aboriginal Corporation. This and other biodiscovery projects grow opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to pursue economic outcomes whilst maintaining traditional custodianship of the original materials. It is an incredible opportunity in terms of economic development into the future.

Mr BROWN: Again with reference to page 14 of the SDS, how have the investments made by the Queensland government into scientific research translated into long-term commercial outcomes?

Ms ENOCH: Investments to date have created a collaborative network of internationally respected research institutes and precincts across the state which have resulted in long-term partnerships between industry, research institutes and universities. The Queensland government has a long history of supporting scientific research that benefits the people of Queensland. For example, between 2004 and 2013, \$55.7 million was invested in 12 national collaborative research facilities based in Queensland. This investment leveraged some \$153.4 million from the Australian government.

This funding directly supported Queensland based jobs at the facilities, enabled access to state-of-the-art equipment and data and to very high-quality Queensland research, and fostered improved commercial outcomes by increasing industry collaborations and patents. One such facility is the Queensland Node of the Australian Microscopy and Microanalysis Research Facility. Our Queensland researchers at the University of Queensland developed the needle-free vaccine delivery system Nanopatch—an innovation which was enabled by the facility's specialised microscopes. The Nanopatch technology contains 20,000 tiny projections coated with dry vaccine to deliver vaccine to the skin without needles. The university researchers relied on confocal and scanning electron microscopes to assess the efficiency of the Nanopatch delivery system.

UQ spin-out company Vaxxas was established to develop the Nanopatch further and has an agreement with multinational pharmaceutical company Merck to licence and evaluate the Nanopatch. It is a massive achievement. Vaxxas, as a result, has attracted over \$40 million in private venture capital funding to help advance a series of clinical programs and develop a pipeline of new vaccine products for diseases using Nanopatch platform. Advance Queensland is the Queensland government's current vision for driving innovation, building on natural advantages and attracting investment. This program is driving significant long-term commercial outcomes from its investment in scientific research.

Another example is Dr Mitchell Stark from the University of Queensland, who received \$120,000 over three years for an Advance Queensland innovation partnership to develop a blood and tissue based test for the early diagnosis of melanoma. Dr Stark is collaborating with QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute to help develop the technology and Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology to help provide diagnostic expertise.

Another example is Queensland biotechnology company StickyCell, which received \$97,500 through the Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas Fund to help commercialise a range of new blood test products that can be used in the analysis, prognosis and diagnosis of inflammation and autoimmune diseases. StickyCell partnered with the Wesley and Princess Alexandra hospitals to help validate the technologies in a clinical setting.

It is clear from these examples that the Queensland government's investment in scientific research, its infrastructure and translation, is resulting in improved social, environmental and economic outcomes for Queensland. I very much look forward to updating the committee on this further in the future.

CHAIR: With reference to page 14 of the SDS, the science produced by the Queensland government is first class. Can the minister outline circumstances when the community relies on the work of our state's scientists?

Ms ENOCH: I am pleased to update the committee on the high-quality, timely, innovative, scientific and technical services and advice provided by the highly skilled scientists in the department. Not only does the science enable the responsible use of our natural resources and the protection and preservation of our pristine environments; it also ensures that the best available science and applied technical innovations are available to provide credible, evidence based information for the people of Queensland.

My department monitors the quality of air to help the community make informed decisions about the quality of our outdoor air. I am proud to advise that the department's scientists conduct air quality monitoring at over 34 locations across Queensland. The public is able to access the near real-time air quality information collected through hourly uploading of data to the department's website. This monitoring provides the baseline information necessary to evaluate air quality against national standards, identify long-term trends in air quality and assess the effectiveness of management strategies. All of these together help to keep the community informed about the quality of outdoor air.

The department also maintains a network of storm-, tide-, and wave-monitoring sites along the Queensland coastline that allow real-time access to sea level data during severe weather events so that risks to the community can be managed. Information collected during storm events helps improve forecasts and modelling for future events. It is of particular value during storm surges associated with tropical cyclones where it can save lives and protect property.

The majority of the time the storm tide gauges act as normal tide gauges recording the regular rise and fall of the tides. This data is used by the Bureau of Meteorology as a basis of tide predictions, forecasting and modelling of extreme events. It is used by emergency services during extreme weather events, and it is used by maritime organisations to plan port activities and to support navigational activities. In addition, keen anglers and surfers access this information to check wave heights and find where fish are heading with the tides.

In the course of doing their work the department's scientists generate and store a large collection of valuable environmental data. Much of this data is available freely to the public and informs many of their daily decisions. Over the last year 21 new science datasets have been added to the open data portal, bringing the total to 142. Unique page views of the science datasets on the open data portal increased by 80 per cent in 2017-18. Over 775 million rows of data were downloaded from our WildNet database during 2017-18 from 11 million requests.

The continuing growth in uptake by users demonstrates the successes of delivering wildlife data through web services. Given these great achievements, it is clear to see the benefit that my department's scientific services have for the state. We will continue to strive and achieve outstanding outcomes for Queenslanders over the next year and moving forward.

Mrs MULLEN: With reference to page 14 of the SDS, as the mother of two daughters I am particularly interested in understanding how the Queensland government is promoting and celebrating women in STEM in Queensland.

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. I know that lots of parents of daughters probably feel the same way about ensuring that our young girls—our young women—are taking up places in STEM driven industries, given the importance they will have into the future. Increasing awareness, understanding and participation in science in Queensland is one of the key priorities of our government's Engaging Queenslanders in Science strategy. I am very proud to be part of a government that is continuing to support the Queensland Women in STEM Prize, which showcases inspiring females working in the STEM field whose work has the potential to benefit Queensland.

In Queensland, unfortunately, men still outnumber women almost four to one in STEM industries. That is why our government is working to lift the participation of females in STEM through initiatives such as these. The Queensland Women in STEM Prize aims to identify female STEM professionals who are not only making a positive contribution to their individual field but also engaging with the community. We are fortunate to have some excellent women in science here in Queensland. We have female scientists doing amazing work including developing robotic vision, developing a vaccine for rheumatoid arthritis and advocating for gender equity in science.

The Queensland Women in STEM Prize is a reflection of our government's commitment to supporting those females doing incredible work in their field. This year is the third year this competition has run, in partnership with the World Science Festival Brisbane and the Office of Women. I was pleased to attend this year's Queensland Women in STEM Prize event to announce the award winners. This year our Queensland Women in STEM Prize award winners included Cecile Godde, who won Judge's Choice Award, and Amy Chan, who won the People's Choice Award. Cecile is a CSIRO agricultural and environmental scientist and PhD student who is researching sustainable livestock production. Her research is vital to ensuring food security while our planet faces challenges including rapid population growth, climate change and biodiversity loss. Amy won her award for her efforts to improve the immune response to sepsis.

These women are just some examples of the amazing female scientists we have here in Queensland. We have absolutely marvellous talent in our state, and the aim of the Queensland Women in STEM Prize is to not only showcase that talent but also inspire all girls and young women to consider a career in science, technology, engineering and maths.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Minister, I refer to page 14 of the SDS and in particular funding for the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study. After you spend the allocated \$4 million, will farmers and graziers still have to pay a fee to correct mapping errors on their property?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. Can I take a moment to acknowledge the incredible work of the Herbarium in the work that was undertaken in preparation for the vegetation management legislation that came into the parliament and was passed in the parliament this year? We saw an incredible increase in the amount of land clearing in the state when vegetation management laws were watered down. We saw an increase of some 351 per cent in the clearing of wooded vegetation in reef catchment areas, for instance, between 2010-11 and 2015-16. That was unsustainable. Under the former LNP's government's watered down vegetation management laws, as I said, some 400,000 hectares were cleared in just one year, 35 per cent of which was remnant vegetation.

Mr KRAUSE: I raise a point of order on relevance. I was wondering whether the minister could answer the question.

CHAIR: There is no point of order. The minister is answering the question.

Mr Costigan interjected.

CHAIR: Member for Whitsunday, you have already been warned once in this session.

Ms ENOCH: In terms of the question that the member for Broadwater has put forward, the fees that he mentioned are a question for the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, not for this department. Once again, let me acknowledge the incredible work of the scientists and, in particular, the Herbarium, which for the first time has looked at regrowth and various other matters with regard to the science behind SLATS, in particular. That has put this state as a national leader in terms of its use of satellite imagery for our natural resources monitoring and policy implementation. The science has been peer reviewed nationally and internationally. It stacks up in every way. In terms of those fees, that is a matter for the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I look forward to your support to convince him in terms of those fees once that has been done.

Ms ENOCH: I prefer not to be verballed.

CHAIR: Member for Broadwater, do you have a question?

Mr CRISAFULLI: Yes, I do.

CHAIR: Because there are other members to my right who have some.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I turn to page 14 of the SDS. Minister, has any scientific advice been provided to you about the impact of ecotourism on national parks?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. Our national parks are the jewel in the crown that is our amazing state. An ecotourism implementation framework was established last year, I believe. That framework is very clear about the kinds of things we would be looking at in terms of ecotourism. It is a light-touch, low-impact ecotourism that we have been looking at to support the biodiversity and the unique environmental values of our national parks.

We are seeing increasing visitation to our national parks and we want people to be safe when they are utilising our national parks. We also want our national parks and their unique value to be upheld. The ecotourism opportunities are about striking a balance between those things. That is why we are looking at low-impact ecotourism opportunities in those national parks.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Mr Chairman—

CHAIR: I call the member for Jordan. Member for Broadwater, you have had a good go.

Mr CRISAFULLI: It is 4.09, Mr Chairman.

Mrs MULLEN: Minister, you spoke briefly about the Queensland Herbarium. The work of the Herbarium is very valuable to Queensland. Can you provide us with more information on their work?

Ms ENOCH: I am very happy to update the committee on how the department of science is preserving and protecting the environment for Queenslanders through the Queensland Herbarium. The Queensland Herbarium is the centre for biodiversity and ecosystem knowledge and information for our state. It is the custodian of the state's botanical collection of 860,000 specimens—an essential resource for the identification, conservation and management of plant species and vegetation of the state.

You may be surprised to know that the Herbarium is Queensland's first and oldest scientific institution located within the Brisbane Botanic Gardens at Toowong. The botanical collection contains specimens collected from the Endeavour River, Cooktown by Banks and Solander, who were the botanists on Captain James Cook's voyage to Australia in the 1770s.

Other important specimens include those collected by 18th century identities such as Leichhardt and Cunningham. These fantastic resources are used by the Herbarium for researching, documenting, monitoring and disseminating information on the state's rich and unique biodiversity. The department's botanists are at the forefront of new plant species discoveries and describe, on average, 20 new species per year.

Importantly, this collection enables the Herbarium to provide a comprehensive information and advisory service including plant specimen identification to over 4,000 customers each year. They provide forensic botany and expert witness services and also a hotline to identify poisonous plants to safeguard the health of Queenslanders. The Queensland Herbarium identifies and verifies weed specimens, incorporates some of them into their specimen collection, and enters the label information into databases.

The Herbarium also notifies Biosecurity Queensland and other government officers in the region of any new naturalisations or new occurrences of declared weeds and any potential new and emerging weed species. The work coming out of the Queensland Herbarium plays a significant role in providing the biodiversity science for state legislation for the conservation of species and ecosystems, and ensuring all of us are better informed of the natural world around us.

CHAIR: Minister, with reference to page 14 of the SDS, how is the government making science more accessible to all Queenslanders?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. I am very pleased to update the committee on outcomes, in particular from the Advance Queensland Engaging Queenslanders in Science strategy, which aims to create a Queensland population that engages in, recognises, supports and advocates for science. The Engaging Science Grants program has awarded a total of \$931,473 to 98 recipients who have delivered science events, activities or projects across the state, with more than 63 per cent of grant recipients located in regional areas, from Cooktown in the north to Mithaka near Winton in the west. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to support scientists, researchers, science communicators, journalists, teachers, organisations and community groups to deliver science engagement and communication activities that make science more accessible to all Queenslanders.

There are many success stories from the Engaging Science Grants program. One group of volunteer students from a Brisbane university organised a one-week camp for 54 year 10 to 12 students from Indigenous, rural and economically disadvantaged backgrounds to experience university life. One student said that this camp had really opened their eyes to uni life and what it would be like for them. They truly had been convinced that uni is a great option after school, which is a great outcome in terms of engaging people in science.

Another recipient has published a series of STEM illustrated books for girls aged five to nine. The books are full of colourful images and educational facts that present science careers in nanotechnology, parasitology or forensic science in a uniquely entertaining way. More than 800 copies of the first two books have been distributed at events such as the World Science Festival Brisbane and to schools. All three books in the series will be distributed to schools across Queensland in 2018-19.

Last August, during National Science Week, Cooktown State School held a 'science to the sea' festival that included a science fair, a STEM robotics and engineering forum, scientist visits to three local schools and a community forum. We are also making science more accessible to Queenslanders through a range of other programs under the Engaging Queenslanders in Science strategy.

As part of our Flying Scientists program, scientists have travelled to more than 10 regional locations from Weipa to Charleville to speak to local communities and schoolchildren about their STEM careers and their research. Partner Up Queensland has provided communication and engagement training to more than 300 early career researchers in locations including Townsville and Cairns so they are better equipped to promote the great work they are doing in our universities and institutes. The Advance Queensland Engaging Queenslanders in Science strategy is a comprehensive suite of activities that we know will enliven young people, communities and their families to the benefits of science.

CHAIR: Thank you, Minister.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thanks for that, Mr Chair.

CHAIR: The committee will now examine the proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of the Arts. I note that the visiting member present is the member for Moggill. I invite the minister to make an opening statement of no more than five minutes.

Ms ENOCH: Thank you, Chair. The arts has a significant role to play in enhancing the liveability of our state, connecting communities and driving cultural tourism. Engagement in the arts sparks creativity and fosters innovation, which are essential skills for vibrancy in our communities, in our classrooms and in our workplaces. Since the Palaszczuk government was elected in 2015, we have listened to the sector and we have delivered for the Queensland arts industry. We have not only restored arts funding to the sector; we have provided an additional \$340 million to support the arts in Queensland.

This government recognises the critical role of infrastructure in this space. Building and expanding our arts and cultural infrastructure provides the opportunity for Queenslanders to engage with the arts and ensures we can compete on a global level in presenting an array of productions and exhibitions. Our investment of \$125 million towards a new \$150 million mid-size theatre at QPAC is a transformative move for Queensland's cultural history. It is a wonderful outcome for audiences and our

hardworking arts companies, artists and arts workers. QPAC's operation of the new theatre will mean it can program across all five venues within the Cultural Centre. This ensures our home companies are supported by the best sized theatre and season duration, while also meeting growing audience demand for musicals and other performing arts.

The Palaszczuk government fundamentally believes in public funding for the arts and we are proud to make this commitment to the people of Queensland. This year we also announced a commitment of \$8 million over two years to support Rockhampton Regional Council's vision for a new \$31.5 million art gallery, subject to a contribution of \$10 million from the federal government, and we have committed \$14 million to support the redevelopment of the Thomas Dixon Centre, home to the Queensland Ballet. This follows on from previous commitments to revitalise state owned assets, including the Bille Brown Theatre for the Queensland Theatre, due to open in October, and the reimagining of the Centre of Contemporary Arts in Cairns, expected to be completed in April 2019. This significant investment in infrastructure across the state represents our commitment to the next generation of great stories, talent, audiences and arts companies.

Our government has also committed \$5 million per year in ongoing funding for the First 5 Forever program, which provides strong early literacy foundations for all Queensland children aged zero to five years. It is coordinated by the State Library of Queensland and delivered through a network of more than 320 public libraries and Indigenous knowledge centres statewide. Since the state government launched First 5 Forever in 2015, more than 1.9 million attendances have been recorded at early literacy sessions in libraries and in the community. I am proud that Queensland is leading the nation in delivering arts services and infrastructure, empowering Queenslanders to have greater input into investment in arts at a local level and nurturing our next generation.

Can I correct the record on two items? I earlier stated that the Mulgrave Landcare and Catchment Group had received \$25,000 when I was talking about the Community Sustainability Action grants. I want to make it clear that \$25,000 has been allocated to the group. There has been \$20,000 received by the group to date, and \$5,000 is to be provided at the end of project. I just want to make sure that detail is clear.

The other item is to do with cassowaries at the Garners Beach rehabilitation facility. I stated that there are currently no cassowaries at Garners Beach rehabilitation facility, but in very recent times an injured cassowary from Kuranda has been rescued. That cassowary was rescued by DES staff on Thursday and placed into the Garners Beach Cassowary Rehabilitation Facility where it is under veterinary care. I just wanted to be clear on those details.

CHAIR: Thank you, Minister. Let us hope the cassowary makes a full recovery. I call the member for Moggill.

Dr ROWAN: Good afternoon, Minister, and departmental representatives. I refer to page 4 of the SDS and the department's key priority to invest in a new performing arts theatre at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre. On 27 May when the Premier announced this \$150 million theatre extension to QPAC, she also insisted that the market-led proposal by Foundation Theatres for a new \$100 million commercial theatre at a cost of \$25 million to the taxpayer was still in play. Given that this much cheaper market-led proposal was recently rejected, what occurred in the last two months that took the proposal out of play, if indeed it was still in play in the first place?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. The member is obviously aware that a market-led proposal has questions for the business that puts forward the proposal. That is up to them as to whether they continue that proposal or not. As I have made very clear already, this government is absolutely committed to the public funding of arts in this state. There is a reason why we fund arts in this state publicly. The arts is absolutely critical. It is an economic driver in terms of tourism. It is an education asset. There are outcomes from health and wellness. The arts are a civic catalyst. There are cultural legacies attached to this.

The other reason why we fund publicly is that we want to see our arts sector continue to grow and develop. In terms of what we are seeing currently, we have seen some great growth in our home companies. Any profits that are made through the investment of public funds go directly to the support of the arts sector in our state, particularly our home companies. That is why it is very important that we continue funding publicly the arts in this state.

As to the market-led proposal process, that is a matter for Minister Dick of course with regards to the processes around that. Ultimately, it is a business decision for those who enter into those processes.

Dr ROWAN: Minister, to follow up on that, does your government truly support market-led proposals in relation to your portfolio of the arts?

Ms ENOCH: Through the chair, the market-led proposal process is held in another portfolio. I am the Minister for the Arts and I am committed to seeing the arts funded in this state. I have already outlined very clearly why I think the arts should be funded publicly. We want to see the profits that we are able to gain through that investment reinvested into the development of the arts right across the state. That is where my responsibilities are.

Dr ROWAN: Minister, I refer to SDS pages 1 and 14 and I ask: why was the aquarium market-led proposal proposed by the Queensland Maritime Museum rejected?

Ms ENOCH: Again, through the chair—

CHAIR: Member for Moggill, I will give the minister a chance to answer, but I think she has made it quite clear that it is the primary responsibility of another minister. If you continue this line of questioning, I do not think you are going to obtain much assistance, but I will give the minister a chance to answer.

Ms ENOCH: Again, the market-led proposal process is held by another portfolio. I am the Minister for the Arts. I am committed to seeing the arts flourish in Queensland because I think it is an incredibly important part of our economy, it is an important part of developing our young people for the future, and it is a place where we see our cultural legacies supported. We can see so many benefits from the arts in this state, and that is where my commitments are.

Dr ROWAN: Minister, I will move on. I refer to SDS page 16 and the reference to funding to address critical infrastructure upgrade works at the Queensland Museum. Can you please outline specifically what is being addressed?

Ms ENOCH: I will bring forward the Acting CEO of the Queensland Museum to talk in more detail about that. Can I say that the Queensland Museum has seen incredible growth in the number of people who have been attending. We saw 2.4 million visitors across the Queensland Museum network last year. More than 200,000 Queenslanders attended the World Science Festival across Queensland as a result of the work that has been coming out of the Queensland Museum. It is a critical part of our story in our arts offerings, and it is a critical part of our stories in terms of how we tell those stories into the future. In terms of the details around your question, I will ask the Deputy Director-General for Arts Queensland to answer in the first instance.

Ms Herring: I thank the honourable member for his question. With regards to the Queensland Museum South Bank, \$4.455 million has been allocated of the \$8.45 million towards the Queensland Museum as part of the upgrade works that are to occur. Queensland Museum staff and collection storage are all located on levels 5 and 6 of the museum. Arts Queensland is the building owner so it appears on our balance sheet which is why I am answering the question. The Queensland Museum is clearly a fantastic tenant of the building.

We do regular building audits just to make sure everything is up to scratch in terms of compliance. At this point, we have identified that there are some parts of the building—specifically the ceilings in levels 5 and 6—that need urgent replacing just to ensure we are managing potential risk to the collections. They are certainly not at risk at present, but this is part of our ongoing asset management plan. We constantly review the age of the asset, look at its deterioration, look at how far it has deteriorated and then make decisions as to what financial year to undertake the works, so that will commence very soon.

Dr ROWAN: Minister, with reference to SDS page 16 and the Backing Indigenous Arts initiative in Far North Queensland, has or is any of the \$2.1 million over two years from 2017-18 being allocated to existing state owned arts and cultural facilities?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. It is very similar to a question on notice but let me check. I am just making sure in case you wanted to hear exactly what was in there or not. The short answer is no. The broader answer is that there have been a number of successful applicants for Backing Indigenous Arts, which will be announced very shortly. The short answer is no.

Dr ROWAN: Director-General, again with reference to SDS page 16 and the Backing Indigenous Arts initiative, what valuation framework in relation to those successful applicants will be undertaken by Arts Queensland to ensure the effectiveness of this financial investment?

Mr Merrick: I thank the member for Moggill for the question. As part of the general program, there is a peer review process that is independent. In terms of the detail I might pass across to the deputy director-general to provide full detail.

Ms Herring: In relation to the Backing Indigenous Arts performing arts program, we are in the first year of distributing the funding under that program. The Queensland government has invested a lot in visual arts over the years in Far North Queensland and now it is time to grow the performing arts industry. We certainly know that cultural tourists coming to Cairns want to see our first nations performers and hear the local stories of that region. One challenge that we have had over the many years in trying to grow a performing arts sector up there is a lack of core funding for organisations so they can continually plan and employ performers over the long term.

I would also like to point out that the commissioning process takes time as well. It can take two to three years to get a story on stage. The funding streams are divided into three key areas, two of which have been released: core funding, which is going to a number of local organisations to grow their employment. Clearly, we will have contract measures in place to ensure that they are employing people and that they are being commissioned to do work. We also have a second funding stream called Producer Placements, where Indigenous producers will get funding to be hired by local companies. Clearly, the fact that they are employing local Indigenous artists and working as producers will be part of the evaluation criteria and we will be tracking employment pathways at the end of the program.

Dr ROWAN: Just to clarify, all of those key performance indicators are going to be included within those contracts?

Ms Herring: Yes, they will.

Dr ROWAN: Director-General, I refer to SDS page 60 and staffing for the Queensland Performing Arts Trust. Could you provide further detail as to why there has been a cut of 13 full-time-equivalent staff?

Mr Merrick: I thank the member for the question. We might call John Kotzas, Chief Executive of the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, as the accountable officer of the body you are referring to.

Mr Kotzas: The answer to the question is that staffing at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre is made up mainly of casuals, even though it is registered as full-time equivalents. Last financial year was our most successful in terms of attendance but the shows were a bit smaller, so we had less casual employment and, therefore, the numbers were down. It was not a cut in funding; it was actually due to the work that was delivered.

Dr ROWAN: Minister, again with reference to SDS page 16 and critical infrastructure works also being undertaken at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, can you elucidate for the committee what is being undertaken and the time lines for completion?

Ms ENOCH: I will go to the deputy director-general in a moment. However, again we have seen an incredible growth in attendance in our Cultural Centre in terms of our Queensland Performing Arts Centre. We saw 1.573 million visitors in 2017-18. In August we saw QPAC's Cremorne Theatre reopen following \$2.3 million worth of refurbishment, the first in its 32-year history. Our Performing Arts Centre is a critical piece in the delivery of great theatre and great performing arts in this state. We have some fantastic things that are coming in here. In November this year as part of QPAC's International Series, we will see Italy's La Scala Ballet, which will be performing for the first time in Australia—and only in Brisbane. This is a place that is attracting some incredible, amazing performances to come here.

The investment in this building is absolutely critical in terms of being able to continue providing this great offering in terms of the economic drive that it provides for the city and for Queensland more broadly. That is why, on top of that, the new theatre that will be part of the QPAC offering will have high-tech digital components to enable it to connect with the rest of Queensland. This will be part of a bigger story of this great facility that is going to be able to tell the stories of Queensland to many more generations ahead of us—an absolutely competitive edge in terms of the offerings that we can provide to visiting tourists. In terms of the detail around the infrastructure, I will direct the question to the director-general.

Mr Merrick: I thank the member for the question. An additional \$3.3 million has been allocated for QPAC capital works—\$1.5 million in the current financial year and \$1.8 million in the 2019-20 financial year—to address urgent and critical infrastructure asset renewal. Arts Queensland will progress the design and delivery of the funded projects. Those projects include a dedicated building for a public address system, upgrades to QPAC's stage door and security upgrades, and Lyric Theatre pit seat wagon upgrade. Arts Queensland will coordinate and progress the procurement, tender and management of the construction works in consultation with QPAC and, as I said, they will take place over the next two financial years.

Mr BROWN: We have just had our local Quandamooka artist's artwork on display for the world to see, with Delvene Cockatoo-Collin's design of the Commonwealth Games medals. I ask: how is the backing of the Indigenous arts program helping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists?

Ms ENOCH: This may be of further interest to the member for Moggill in terms of the questions that he was asking earlier. Since 2007 the Palaszczuk government's landmark Backing Indigenous Arts initiative has worked to build a stronger, more sustainable and ethical Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts industry across the state. In 2017-18 we committed an additional \$2.1 million to support Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performing arts sector. In January this year I announced the expansion of Backing Indigenous Arts, with three new funding opportunities called Next Stage, Producer Placements and New Commissions. This investment exemplifies our government's commitment to celebrating and supporting the growth of the state's unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural product. The focus of this funding is to build capacity within the Indigenous performing arts sector and support artists and arts workers to share their stories and access larger audiences.

Further to the member for Moggill's question, I am able to announce today for the first time the outcomes of the first round of Next Stage and Producer Placements funding, with an investment of \$726,089 to support eight applications. Four organisations were successful in securing two-year core funding through Next Stage to grow their operations and reach. These four organisations are: Nintiringanyi Cultural Training Centre, which will receive \$150,000 to help Cairns based young Indigenous dance company Miriki Performing Arts—I do not know if you have seen them already; they are very good—to develop a two-year strategic plan to grow its business; Grace Lillian Lee Productions, which will receive core funding of \$150,000 to expand its successful first nations fashion platform; On Country Event Productions, which will receive \$150,000 in core funding to enable it to profile and celebrate contemporary Indigenous music, including the development of local musicians; and the Pryce Centre for Culture and Arts, which will receive core funding of \$149,860 to bolster its ability to provide performing arts development opportunities for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

Four organisations were also successful in securing Producer Placements funding to support industry placements and employment pathways for early career producers. These four organisations are BlakDance, which will receive \$35,000 to support emerging producer Hannah Scanlon; Nintiringanyi Cultural Training Sector, which received \$35,000 to support emerging producer Mirindi Schreiber; JUTE Theatre in Cairns, which is receiving \$34,729 to support emerging producer Yvette Walker; and Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, which is receiving \$21,500 to support emerging producer Sachem Parkin-Owens. Successful applicants of the first round of the New Commissions stream will be announced very shortly. Those two streams were announced today and the next one is to come very soon.

CHAIR: Minister, I was wondering if you could please provide an update on the progress of the Regional Arts Services Network.

Ms ENOCH: This is a very exciting development in terms of arts services across the state. The Regional Arts Services Network is a new, innovative approach by the Palaszczuk government to deliver regional and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural initiatives across the state. This new approach to regional arts service delivery was established following a commitment of \$6.5 million over four years in the 2017-18 state budget and in response to comprehensive consultation with more than 330 stakeholders.

From June to September 2017 Arts Queensland engaged all levels of government, Queensland's arts sector and key stakeholders to identify key priorities, issues and opportunities for regional arts services. The model was also shaped following a series of consultations with the Queensland Chamber for Arts and Culture. Consultation established that there is a strong preference for regional self-determination through regional groups, with a coordinating secretariat encouraging networking and collaboration across local areas and between artists and companies. The Regional Arts Services Network model focuses on capacity building to support local regional artists, priorities and projects, and networking and collaboration across the regions.

The procurement process for Regional Arts Services Network opened in January this year with a two-stage EOI process, with services sought to support arts service delivery across eight key regions across the state supported by a state coordination office. The new network will be supported by the employment of at least nine dedicated regional arts officers. I am pleased to advise the committee that the Queensland Music Festival has secured the role of state coordination office and will work with regional service providers to deliver on-the-ground arts services in key regional locations. Queensland

Music Festival is well positioned to support this new network, with a long history of working closely with communities and councils across Queensland on significant regional arts development initiatives that deliver long-term impact.

I am also delighted to confirm today that Arts Queensland has now identified providers across the state all of which are committed to the Regional Arts Services Network vision. The successful contractors will be announced over the coming days, but I am proud that Queensland is leading the nation in this exciting and innovative approach to regional arts delivery. It will be transformational for communities across the state, empowering regional Queenslanders to have greater input into investment in arts at a local level and delivering significant social and economic outcomes including boosting local arts sector jobs.

CHAIR: I have a further question with reference to page 38 of the SDS. Would you please outline the success of the First 5 Forever program, which has had its funding extended in this year's budget?

Ms ENOCH: Anybody in the committee and in the room who has had anything to do with the First 5 Forever program will be incredibly happy to see that the funding has continued under the Palaszczuk government. We have provided ongoing funding of \$5 million per year for the continuation of the program.

The First 5 Forever program is a family literacy initiative coordinated by the State Library of Queensland with the primary aim of helping Queensland children aged zero to five years develop language and early literacy skills. This is obviously incredibly important because all of the research indicates to us that reading to children actually helps in terms of brain development in those early years. Over 60,000 Queenslanders are born each year, and investment in their future must start from this moment because up to 90 per cent of a child's brain development happens during those first five years. That is why it is so critical.

First 5 Forever is delivered through a network of more than 320 public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres across 69 local councils, covering more than 99 per cent of the Queensland population. This includes 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils that deliver First 5 Forever through 22 Indigenous Knowledge Centres. Sessions reach a wide variety of Queensland communities. They are held everywhere from hardware stores to mud pits, from remote libraries to public pools. That is the beauty of the First 5 Forever program: it is taking literacy to everyday life, making it something that is appealing and seen as important for young people and their families.

At the 2017 Local Government Association of Queensland conference members discussed the success of the program, and they lobbied very hard. They unanimously supported the motion to extend the program through the state budget. LGAQ president Mark Jamieson then personally remarked that he especially welcomed the inclusion of funding for First 5 Forever in the budget. I understand and share the enthusiasm of these councils, because we are seeing some incredible results. Since we launched First 5 Forever, over 1.9 million attendances have been recorded. We have engaged the Queensland University of Technology Digital Media Research Centre to map the societal impacts the program is having.

The findings from this report have demonstrated that First 5 Forever has achieved strong societal impacts across all target measures. First 5 Forever was also found to be a community facilitator and connector, supporting families and children through a culture of participation and lifelong learning. All participating library and Indigenous Knowledge Centre staff should be very proud of what First 5 Forever has achieved. I know that the many young mums and dads who take their children along to their local library, the hardware store or the mud pit, wherever these great sessions occur, have enjoyed it and have seen the great benefit in having their children see the beauty and fun of learning how to read.

Mrs MULLEN: Minister, with reference to page 43 of the SDS, how is the Queensland government's investment in blockbuster funding to the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art helping to increase patronage? What are the positive impacts of this for the state?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. I can inform the committee that the Palaszczuk government's investment in blockbuster exhibition is delivering absolutely outstanding results for Queensland. With the additional \$6 million we have allocated in this year's budget, our local blockbuster investment is \$16.8 million over six years from 2016-17 to 2021-22. This is in stark contrast to the previous LNP government. The LNP did not renew blockbuster exhibition funding while in government, showing a complete lack of understanding of the role the arts play in cultural and economic development.

The value of our investment is very clearly demonstrated through the tremendous results we have seen since we reinstated blockbuster funding in 2016-17. Since then, on-site attendance at the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, QAGOMA, has increased by a remarkable 60 per cent, achieving record attendances of 1.88 million in 2017-18. Of that number 48 per cent were interstate and overseas visitors, which demonstrates QAGOMA's valuable contribution to cultural tourism outcomes. In 2017 QAGOMA reclaimed its position as the second most visited gallery in Australia after Melbourne's National Gallery of Victoria, and that is a huge indication of the great success of our blockbuster program.

We also had a record seven million visitors at the heritage-listed Queensland Cultural Centre in 2017-18. More and more people are flocking to the Cultural Centre as a result of the great offerings that we have for visitors. An absolute success of the blockbuster funding was *Marvel: Creating the Cinematic Universe* at GOMA, from 27 May to 3 September last year, which attracted an attendance of 269,816 people and generated an economic benefit of \$18,520,000 for Queensland. The *Marvel* exhibition continued Queensland's strong relationship with Disney following the filming of *Thor: Ragnarok* on the Gold Coast at Village Roadshow Studios.

Blockbuster funding also assisted QAGOMA to deliver the highly successful *Sugar Spin*, the exhibition celebrating GOMA's 10-year anniversary. This exhibition showcased QAGOMA's most popular works to more than 628,000 visitors. The list goes on in terms of the incredible programs that we have seen on offer that have contributed to the huge number of people who have been visiting QAGOMA. QAGOMA is delivering a powerful new blockbuster exhibition by leading contemporary Australian artist Patricia Piccinini. There are many more high-profile exhibitions in the works, with the certainty of blockbuster funding providing QAGOMA an opportunity to develop and attract the best exhibitions to our state. Two years in, these incredible results show the powerful impact of the Palaszczuk government's targeted investment in large-scale art exhibitions.

Dr ROWAN: Minister, I refer to page 68 of the SDS with regard to staffing for the state library. Can you provide further details as to the vacancies held that have contributed to the full-time-equivalent changes between the 2017-18 budget and the 2018-19 budget?

Ms ENOCH: Given that that is a relatively operational line of questioning, I will call on the Chief Executive Officer for the State Library of Queensland to address that matter.

Ms McDonald: In relation to the staffing on page 68, the difference in the staffing relates to the final numbers as at the end of 30 June. Also we have ongoing recruitment in place at the moment, and it also relates to the Q ANZAC project as well.

Dr ROWAN: Are they key positions? What is the process that is currently underway to recruit for those vacancies?

Ms McDonald: It is the usual recruitment process, which is to advertise positions and go through the recruitment process as per policies. These figures are as at 30 June and reflect vacancies that occur in the general business of the organisation.

Dr ROWAN: Clearly those vacancies have been there for a period of time. Has there been any change over time to the recruitment mechanisms or processes that are being undertaken to try and recruit to those roles?

Ms McDonald: We have vacancies ongoing as people leave the organisation and we follow the usual processes of recruitment. There have not been any significant changes in how that is done.

Ms ENOCH: I find it fascinating that the member for Moggill is so interested in vacancies. When the LNP were in government we saw a 13 per cent decrease in the number of staff at the arts centre—

Dr ROWAN: Chair, point of order under standing order 118, relevance. We are talking about the current budget and we are talking about the recruitment of staff to key positions, not reviewing legacy issues.

CHAIR: There is no point of order, member for Moggill. You asked a clear question about employment and the minister is answering. She is also putting the budgetary numbers in context. Minister, do you have anything further to add?

Ms ENOCH: No, thank you, Chair.

CHAIR: Member for Moggill, do you have another question?

Dr ROWAN: Minister, with reference to page 16 of the SDS and the allocated \$12.8 million via contestable funding programs, including the Queensland Arts Showcase Program and Playing Queensland Fund, can I ask what evaluation framework we use to measure the effectiveness of this investment?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. I will call on the Deputy Director-General for Arts Queensland in relation to that.

Ms Herring: I thank the honourable member for the question. The allocation of contestable funding cuts across three key programs that we run. The Organisations Fund, which runs for four years—2017 to 2020—is core funding for organisations, and 39 organisations are currently funded under that. They are all small to medium, and a number of the organisations you would be aware of like La Boite, Expressions Dance Theatre and so forth right across the state. They are contracted to employ Queensland artists and deliver performances that reach Queensland audiences. Core funding contributes around 30 to 40 per cent of their overall budget. They are required to grow own-source revenue—ticketing revenue, partnership with federal government and local councils. As a core funding provider, we contract them to produce an outcome report every year which details the partnerships, the audiences they have reached, the employment of Queensland artists and the Queensland storytelling they have engaged in. That is the Organisations Fund.

Queensland Arts Showcase Program is what we would call our large-scale project grants. It is funded at \$3.2 million every year. It will reach in excess of 200 projects every year right across the breadth of the state. It is capped funding at around \$60,000 for normal projects up to \$100,000 for projects that attract high-profile talent to drive audience outcomes. Again we are very focused on local storytelling and audience reach through those programs. All of our project grants have contracts in place and acquittal processes in place, and we measure the outcomes of audience reach and artists engaged through that program.

The Playing Queensland Fund is funded at \$1.8 million per year. It is our primary program for Queensland organisations to tour the state and reach regional Queenslanders, but it is also open to interstate organisations so that we can bring a range of performance experiences to Queensland regions. It is an interesting program insofar as a regional audience may not be as large as you would normally reach through a Brisbane audience, so we have to be really conscious of the fact that an audience in Roma is not going to be as large as an audience, for example, in Bundaberg. We will always monitor reach and audience, but the numbers will certainly vary significantly when we are measuring outcomes there.

Mrs MULLEN: With reference to page 16 of the SDS, what is the government doing to ensure Queensland receives an equitable amount of arts funding from the federal government?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. Unfortunately, Queensland does not receive its fair share of federal arts funding. The Commonwealth Government's major performing arts framework accounts for more than 60 per cent of the total funding awarded through the Australia Council for the Arts. Overall, Queensland receives on average only nine per cent of the approximately \$170 million awarded annually through this framework. To provide a direct comparison, 32 per cent of Australia's population lives in New South Wales, and their arts organisations receive a whopping 42 per cent of total federal funding. Here in Queensland, despite having 20 per cent of the population our share of federal funding is only nine per cent. That, by any stretch of the imagination, is an unfair distribution of funding from an outdated 17-year-old funding framework.

In fact, Queensland is the only state in Australia where the federal government provides less funding than the state to support its major performing arts organisations. Within this framework Queensland contributes the most of any state to the funding model. We put \$12.6 million into the framework for our four major performing arts organisations in 2016-17 in comparison to New South Wales, with \$11.7 million for their 10 major performing arts organisations or Tasmania's \$1.51 million for their one major performing arts organisation. This government understands the power of the arts not just as a valuable way to tell our stories and connect communities but also to develop the critical skills needed for a growing knowledge economy and to create jobs. That is why, unlike the federal government, we are investing heavily in the arts sector in Queensland.

We have committed \$183.3 million over four years in new funding to build and maintain vital arts infrastructure and deliver initiatives. We are doing all the heavy lifting, and federal arts investment is not keeping pace. That is why I have written to the federal minister to progress ways to correct this inequality. Queensland deserves its fair share of federal funding, and Queensland arts deserve to be treated with the same dignity as every other major performing arts company and every state. That is

why we will ensure that we progress conversations with the federal minister to determine ways to address this inequality so that all of the arts in Queensland receive their fair share of the funding available from the federal government.

CHAIR: The time allocated for this session has expired. Thank you, Minister, Director-General, executives and departmental officers, for your attendance. Before we adjourn, Minister, is there anything you would like to add?

Ms ENOCH: Thank you, Chair. I thank the committee for the hearing today. I thank my department staff, the director-general, all the deputy directors-general and support staff and my team from my ministerial office. I of course acknowledge and thank the Parliamentary Services that have also done an incredible job today. Thank you very much.

CHAIR: Thank you, Minister. That concludes the hearing of estimates for the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee. I would like to thank my fellow committee members and the visiting members who attended the hearing today. Thank you also to Hansard and everyone who assisted here today. I declare the hearing closed.

The committee adjourned at 5.00 pm.