



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 30 October 2018

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TUESDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2018

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.



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

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

ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of assent: 25 October 2018

A Bill for an Act about the termination of pregnancies, and to amend this Act, the Criminal Code, the Evidence Act 1977, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 for particular purposes

A Bill for an Act to amend the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and the Water Act 2000 for particular purposes

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

25 October 2018

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 25 October 2018, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 25 October 2018 [[1756](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Parliamentary Annexe, Air Conditioning



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have circulated a statement to members about the parliamentary air-conditioning issues and I seek leave to incorporate that statement in the *Record of Proceedings*.

Leave granted.

As you are aware from e-mail correspondence, last week in the early hours of 19 October there was an incident involving fusion in an air-conditioning unit connected to a bedroom on Level 19 of the Annexe.

This incident follows previous incidents in February of this year. The February incidents of smoke emitting from air-conditioning units were diagnosed as being caused by condensation forming inside the units.

In response to the February issue, circuit breaker devices were installed on all units to reduce the risk of electric surge damage in the event that a unit fails. In addition, an audit and make safe program commenced in relation to the Annexe bedroom air-conditioning units.

With respect to the October 19 incident the circuit breaker device for the relevant unit activated cutting power to the unit. The subsequent investigation revealed that the cause of the fusion was due to an ageing fan motor as opposed to the previously identified condensation issues.

Following this discovery, safety inspections were undertaken of all air-conditioning units in the bedrooms of the Annexe to assess the condition of the existing fan motors.

In response to advice of the results of that investigation, I approved that all motors in air-conditioning units attached to the bedrooms should be replaced in order to mitigate the electrical safety risk which caused the fusion on 19 October.

I am pleased to advise that all old motors in Annexe bedroom air-conditioning units were replaced by Sunday 28 October. In addition, over half of these units have had new fans attached to the new motors.

Property Services have also commenced a program to upgrade the current smoke detectors in the bedroom units. It is important to note that the current ionised detectors are compliant with regulations and the relevant detector activated the alarm system during the October 19 incident.

However, the new photoelectric detectors will be more effective and responsive in detecting smouldering type smoke as experienced in the October 19 incident. It is anticipated that new detectors will be installed in the Annexe Bedrooms by the end of this week.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Parliamentary Property Services Staff, Department of Housing and Public Works Building and Asset Services staff and contractors for their efforts, thus far, in responding to the incident.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Security staff and Queensland Fire and Emergency personnel for the response on October 19. The initial alarm activated at 00.09 hours and the alert tone was activated and public address on the floor was immediately provided. Two security officers also attended the floor. At 00.13 hours, only four minutes later, two Fire Brigade units arrived at the Annexe and officers attended the room where they ascertained there were no heat signatures and also checked the floor and other rooms.

I would also like to flag that longer term plans that seek to address ageing infrastructure across the Annexe building are also in the process of being developed. The safety of members and staff living and working on the precinct is of paramount importance. It is my intention to seek bipartisan support for these proposals via the Committee of the Legislative Assembly in due course.

Visitors to Public Gallery



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the House this morning by students and teachers from Faith Lutheran College in Plainland in the electorate of Lockyer. I wish to advise members that we will also be visited in the House this morning by students and teachers from South Brisbane TAFE.

APPOINTMENT

Changes in Ministry



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.32 am): I wish to inform the House that on 25 October 2018, in accordance with the Constitution of Queensland 2001, His Excellency the Governor appointed the Hon. Shannon Fentiman, Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, to act as and to perform all of the functions and exercise all of the powers of the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors until the Hon. Coralee O'Rourke returns to duty. I table the *Extraordinary Queensland Government Gazette* of 25 October 2018 for the information of the House.

Tabled paper: Extract from Extraordinary Queensland Government Gazette No. 39, dated 25 October 2018, regarding the appointment of the Hon. Shannon Fentiman as Acting Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors [[1748](#)].

I know I speak for all members of the House and indeed all Queenslanders when I say we wish Coralee and her family all the best for a speedy recovery.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, sponsored by the Clerk—

Greyhound Racing

From 1,445 petitioners, requesting the House to stop supporting greyhound racing, withdraw funding and work towards shutting the greyhound industry down [[1749](#)].

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

Gympie Road, Noise Barriers

Mr Mander, from 147 petitioners, requesting the House to install a noise abatement barrier between Gympie Road and Gympie Road Service Road [[1750](#), [1751](#)].

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

Category 2 Water Boards, Amendments

Mr Krause, from 623 petitioners, requesting the House to reconsider the proposed changes to Category 2 Water Boards under the Water Act 2000 [[1752](#)].

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

Advertising Restrictions, School Zones

From 4,742 petitioners, requesting the House to include sexually inappropriate advertising in the Government's planned phasing out of junk food advertising around schools, sports grounds and public transport hubs [[1753](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

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

19 October 2018—

[1686](#) Committee of the Legislative Assembly: Report No. 23—Annual Report 2017-2018

[1687](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 19, 56th Parliament—Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018 and Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018

[1688](#) Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 8, 56th Parliament—Annual Report 2017-18

22 October 2018—

[1689](#) Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee: Report No. 9, 56th Parliament—Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

[1690](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to paper petitions (3015-18), (3016-18), (3023-18) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) from 75, 22, and 2 petitioners respectively; a paper petition (3026-18), presented by Mr Katter, from 51 petitioners and ePetitions (2972-18) and (3014-18), sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 23,879 and 15,483 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to reject the proposed abortion law reform bill

23 October 2018—

[1691](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996: Drug Therapy Protocol—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner—Isolated Practice Area

[1692](#) Queensland Health—Practice Plan—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner—Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 Version 1.0

24 October 2018—

[1693](#) Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Report No. 101—Annual Report 2017-18

[1694](#) Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2017-18

[1695](#) Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2017-18

[1696](#) Mackay Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2017-18

[1697](#) Metro North Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2017-18

[1698](#) Metro South Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2017-18

[1699](#) North West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2017-18

[1700](#) South West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2017-18

[1701](#) Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2017-18

[1702](#) Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2017-18

[1703](#) Central West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2017-18

[1704](#) Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2017-18

[1705](#) Townsville Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2017-18

[1706](#) Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2017-18

[1707](#) West Moreton Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2017-18

[1708](#) Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2017-18

[1709](#) Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2017-18

25 October 2018—

[1710](#) National Heavy Vehicle Regulator—Annual Report 2017-18

26 October 2018—

[1711](#) Queensland State of the Environment 2017—Summary and management responses

[1712](#) President of the Industrial Court of Queensland (in respect of the Industrial Court of Queensland, Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and the Queensland Industrial Registry)—Annual Report 2017-18

[1713](#) Review of Queensland's Environmental Chain of Responsibilities laws

29 October 2018—

[1714](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 20, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 22 August 2018 and 4 September 2018

[1715](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 21, 56th Parliament—Annual Report 2017-18

[1716](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 22, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 May 2018 and 21 August 2018

[1717](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 23, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 22 August 2018 and 4 September 2018

[1718](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 24, 56th Parliament—Exempt subordinate legislation tabled on 5 July 2018

[1719](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 16, 56th Parliament—Subordinate Legislation tabled between 13 June 2018 and 4 September 2018

[1720](#) Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee: Report No. 10, 56th Parliament—Annual Report 2017-2018

[1721](#) Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee: Report No. 11, 56th Parliament—Subordinate Legislation tabled between 13 June 2018 and 18 September 2018

[1722](#) Queensland's Category 2 Water Authorities Summary of Annual Reports 2017-2018

[1723](#) Queensland's River Improvement Trusts Summary of Annual Reports 2017-2018

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Health Act 1937—

[1724](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 156

[1725](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 156, explanatory notes

Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017—

[1726](#) Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2018, No. 157

[1727](#) Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2018, No. 157, explanatory notes

Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Act 2017—

[1728](#) Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2018, No. 158

[1729](#) Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2018, No. 158, explanatory notes

Public Records Act 2002—

[1730](#) Public Records (CCYPCG and QR Limited) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 159

[1731](#) Public Records (CCYPCG and QR Limited) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 159, explanatory notes

Child Protection Reform Amendment Act 2017—

[1732](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 160

[1733](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 160, explanatory notes

Child Protection Act 1999—

[1734](#) Child Protection (Information Sharing) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 161

[1735](#) Child Protection (Information Sharing) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 161, explanatory notes

Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Queensland) Act 2003—

[1736](#) Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (NSW Container Deposit Scheme) Notice 2018, No. 162

[1737](#) Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (NSW Container Deposit Scheme) Notice 2018, No. 162, explanatory notes

Planning Act 2016—

[1738](#) Planning (Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2018, No. 163

[1739](#) Planning (Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2018, No. 163, explanatory notes

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018—

[1740](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 164

[1741](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 164, explanatory notes

Childrens Court Act 1992—

[1742](#) Childrens Court Amendment Rule 2018, No. 165

[1743](#) Childrens Court Amendment Rule 2018, No. 165, explanatory notes

Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Act 2017—

[1744](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 166

[1745](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 166, explanatory notes

Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011—

[1746](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling (Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 167

[1747](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling (Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 167, explanatory notes

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 am): Last week the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors bravely shared her breast cancer diagnosis with the Queensland public. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I wish Minister O'Rourke the very best while she is on medical leave. As I stated in the House, in the meantime the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development will act in her role, and my Assistant Minister of State, the member for Ipswich, will help with stakeholder meetings and events. The members for Townsville and Thuringowa will also help the member for Mundingburra's electorate office during this time, and I thank them for their cooperation.

Mrs O'Rourke's diagnosis comes as a shock to us all, but sadly she is not alone in this battle. This month is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and on Saturday I was honoured to attend an event hosted by the member for Kurwongbah and his wife, Angie, where there were many inspirational stories told of survival and battles. These included the stories of Chelle Oakey—she and her family are nicknamed the 'Oakey 5'—and Bonny Barry, a former Labor member for Aspley.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia. Every week another 343 women in Australia are diagnosed with the disease, including 65 Queensland women. That is around 3,400 Queensland women diagnosed every year. To put that further into perspective, Queensland women have a one in eight chance of being diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. The pink ribbon has become the most powerful global symbol of the fight against breast cancer, and events like the one on the weekend, at their core, are about saving lives and raising vital funds for breast cancer research. They are also about raising awareness and encouraging all women to get checked. Minister O'Rourke is now undergoing treatment because she had a breast screen, and I join her in urging all women in Queensland to not hesitate and if they have any concerns to see their doctor.

Lion Air, Disaster

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): Indonesia is one of Australia's closest neighbours and one of Queensland's priority trade markets. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I express my sorrow and deep sympathy at the tragic loss of life in the Lion Air crash into the sea off Jakarta yesterday. Sadly, the search for the 189 people on board is now a mission of recovery, not rescue.

National Drought Summit

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): Four days ago I attended the National Drought Summit with the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, Minister Furner. Of course drought is a national problem, but this one hits us especially hard and is very close to home. Nearly 60 per cent of Queensland is drought declared. Unlike other natural disasters that come and go quickly, our regional and remote communities have had to face this one every day for six long years. They have not given up fighting and we are not giving up on them. Over five years we have spent \$670 million on drought assistance—subsidies for water and fodder costs, farm loans and a 50 per cent water infrastructure rebate to help with the costs of drilling for bores and the pipes and other things to give stock a helping hand.

Those measures are desperately needed just to get through today, but what about tomorrow? That is why I insisted that the Prime Minister add to the Drought Summit agenda the real and long-term impact of climate change. This government believes we must all play a part in addressing climate change. We have invested \$21 million in improving forecasting and management through the Drought and Climate Adaptation Program. We are looking back longer than ever before to detect patterns and make better informed decisions about the weather.

The further you get from a capital city, the more practical are the people you meet. That is why my government has backed common-sense measures like the wild dog cluster fencing that has breathed new life into the sheep industry and is now a model that the rest of Australia is looking at. Some 4.3 million hectares of land has been protected, helping 300 properties. Lambing rates have gone from 20 per cent to more than 90 per cent, and now the sheep industry is back. It was \$31.2 million very well spent. Team Queensland—our drought commissioners Vaughan Johnson and Mark O'Brien, Barcaldine Mayor Rob Chandler and Charles Burke, who is reviewing our resilience measures—were the toast of the summit. They are a testament to this simple truth: in a drought it does not matter what side of politics you are on or what side of the border you live on. The only side I am on is the side of our farmers and their communities.

Royal Visit; Invictus Games

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): It may have been fleeting, but the visit to Queensland last week by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex has left them with memories of Fraser Island and left Queensland with great exposure on the world stage. As a state, we showed Harry and Meghan our natural wonders, but we also showed them the compassion, creativity and charm that is Queensland.

At Pile Valley, Harry unveiled a plaque commemorating the incorporation of K'gari, the traditional owners' name for Fraser Island, into the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy. The look of joy on the face of 12-year-old Narmi Page from Hervey Bay as Prince Harry shook her hand was beamed around the world. Narmi was one of a group of dancers from the Butchulla people, the traditional owners of K'gari, who performed as part of the ceremony.

At Kingfisher wharf, when Meghan joined Harry to meet crowds who had gathered in the afternoon sun, their meeting with paramedics Danielle and Graeme was similarly memorable. I asked Graeme and Danielle to be part of the welcome at Kingfisher in recognition of the compassion they showed while taking a Hervey Bay woman on her final journey to palliative care. They took her to gaze on the sea one last time—an act of comfort and grace that touched the royal couple as it had others around Australia and the world. They took another piece of Queensland with them for their baby due early next year when local high school captains Gracie and Levi presented them with one of Queensland's renowned Tambo Teddies, officially known as Stirling Downs Sussex.

The surge in website traffic for Tambo Teddies bodes well for their future sales, as it does for Mount Tamborine's Outland jeans. Meghan was clearly as impressed by Outland's ethos as she was by their style. Their jeans are produced using sustainable materials by a workforce in Cambodia who have been rescued from human trafficking. The focus on jeans from a Queensland company came on a day the royal couple were in Dubbo in New South Wales.

If television audiences in the UK found themselves asking, 'Where Is Fraser Island?', now they know the answer. Last Monday, a month-long campaign started to raise awareness of Fraser Island for UK holiday-makers. The results have been extraordinary. In the week since the campaign kicked off, the Where is Fraser Island? campaign has served nearly 8.2 million digital impressions. Our target was to make just under 15 million impressions in one month. We are well over halfway there in one week. We were aiming to have a unique reach of 7.8 million people in one month. In a week we have already reached over 6.1 million people.

One of the main reasons for the royal couple's visit to Australia was to attend the Invictus Games—a concept conceived by Prince Harry. I am pleased to report that, once again, Queensland athletes shone on the big stage, taking home 34 medals: 16 gold, 11 silver and seven bronze. These athletes included team co-captain Nicole Bradley Everton, who took home silver in weightlifting, and Stix Parker from Maryborough, who took home two golds in the 400 metres and the four-by-400-metre relay. We wish the Duke and Duchess the best for the remainder of their trip and their forthcoming addition, and look forward very much to welcoming them back to Queensland.

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.42 am): At the last election, the Palaszczuk government promised to keep growing our economy and we are delivering. Through our \$45.8 billion investment in infrastructure across the next four years, we are building our cities and our regional communities for the future.

That is a big number, with investment up \$2 billion on last year's budget and almost five times what the federal government is investing in infrastructure in our state. This massive spend is driving our economy, supporting 38,000 Queensland jobs every year. We are delivering the biggest investment in infrastructure since 2011. From the Cairns Convention Centre to Cross River Rail, the M1 to the Townsville stadium, this government is delivering the important projects that our communities need as they grow. It is also about great schools for our kids, high-quality health care no matter where we live, and better roads and public transport to get us home faster.

Across the state, public infrastructure is also a driver for transformative change. It encourages private investment and it delivers jobs. The latest ABS labour force data released last week continues to highlight the ongoing success of the Palaszczuk government's plan to drive strong jobs growth in Queensland. The September labour force report marked two full years of trend jobs growth, with a total of 1,900 new jobs created in trend terms in September 2018. It shows that more Queenslanders are finding secure, full-time work. This reliable income is as important to Queensland families as it is to our economy.

The 170,000 jobs created in Queensland since we came to office is five times the number of jobs created under the former LNP government. In the past 12 months, we have created more jobs in Queensland than Western Australia—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you will make your comments through the chair.

Ms TRAD: In the past 12 months we have created more jobs in Queensland than Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and the ACT combined. There is still more work to do, but at 6.1 per cent our unemployment rate is lower than the 6.6 per cent unemployment rate we inherited when we came to office and the peak 6.7 per cent unemployment rate reached under the former LNP government. Our economic plan is delivering jobs growth across the state, with stronger employment growth recorded in many regions over the past year. No region exemplifies this better than Mackay, where the number of people employed has risen by 2,400 over the past year and the unemployment rate is down to 3.3 per cent.

In addition to the good news on the jobs front, a range of other recent economic data demonstrates the success of this government in driving a strong economy and restoring business confidence. The recent NAB Quarterly Business Survey showed business conditions in Queensland as being the second highest of the mainland states in the September quarter. The Deloitte Business Outlook released last week forecasts Queensland to have four per cent growth in 2019-20—the highest in the nation. The S&P data released just yesterday has kept our rating at AA+, with our short- and long-term outlooks remaining stable. These improved conditions have also given businesses the confidence to invest, with business investment growing by 10.2 per cent over the year to the June quarter of 2018.

Of course, there are those who habitually, and maybe addictively, talk down the Queensland economy and who would elevate the CommSec report, which is at odds with every other economic report and based on flawed methodology. The fact is that the Palaszczuk Labor government is focused on the future, not the past.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left. Members, I called the House to order. I expect it to come to order. I will start naming members.

Ms TRAD: The fact is that the Palaszczuk Labor government is focused on the future, not the past.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. I have just given a direction about interjections. Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are already off to a good start.

Ms TRAD: The fact is that the Palaszczuk Labor government is focused on the future, not the past. We are creating more jobs than ever before, we are attracting investment, we are building new industries, we are delivering more infrastructure and we are giving business the confidence to invest, grow and employ more Queenslanders. That is what Labor governments do and that is what we are delivering for Queenslanders.

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.48 am): The recent news from Deloitte Access Economics that Queensland has overtaken Victoria as No. 1 for interstate migration is good news for Queensland. Deloitte has also forecast that our state is poised to lead the nation in economic growth over the next decade.

Under this Premier, over 170,000 jobs have been created in Queensland. Annual exports have increased by over 70 per cent. State final demand has tripled. Annual investment in equipment has increased by over 10 per cent. Under the economic stewardship of the Palaszczuk Labor government, tourism, LNG and agriculture are all up.

Rheinmetall chose Queensland as its base for its bid for the Australian Defence Force's new generation of armoured vehicle procurement. Qantas chose Queensland as the base for its first pilot training centre over other locations around Australia, and Mackay is in the race to be the second location.

The \$3.6 billion Queen's Wharf development will support up to 2,000 construction jobs each year and up to 10,000 operational jobs when complete and is forecast to support an increase in Brisbane's tourism numbers by up to 1.4 million tourists each year. It is a good thing that Brisbane Airport's \$1.3 billion second runway will be operational in time for this great development.

The \$1.1 billion Herston Quarter redevelopment, underpinning 700 construction jobs over 10 years, will reinvigorate the precinct, preserving the historic nurses quarters, and enhance our health capital base. Then there is the Gladstone Energy and Ammonia project, a \$1 billion investment to develop ammonia, synthetic natural gas and electrical power providing 800 construction jobs, with 200 ongoing.

In September the Coordinator-General approved a new \$308 million high-tech abattoir in the Gladstone State Development Area which will deliver 300 construction and 335 operational jobs. The abattoir will include 95 hectares of solar panels and a hydrogen plant to reduce the plant's reliance on the energy grid. Across Queensland, there is evidence of an economy that is powering up. That is why Deloitte has made its view clear that Queensland is only heading one way and that is to the head of the pack.

Major Events

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.50 am): Queensland's major events industry is booming like never before. Today I am proud to confirm that the Pan Pacific Masters Games, set to start on the Gold Coast this weekend, will lure a record number of participants. In 2016 this event attracted more than 12,500 people, but already—and the event has not even started—more than 15,200 people are registered for the 2018 Pan Pacific Masters Games. To put that in perspective, that is more than double the 6,600 athletes who competed in the Commonwealth Games.

Today also saw the release of new figures showing that Cooly Rocks On generated more than \$6 million for the Gold Coast this year, up from \$5.3 million last year.

Mrs Stuckey: Hear, hear!

Ms JONES: I take the interjection from the local member. Attendance has also grown significantly, from about 104,000 people in 2016 to more than 110,000 this year. It is not just the Gold Coast that is benefiting from the Palaszczuk government's record investment in major events. Today I can also confirm the iconic Mount Isa Mines Rotary Rodeo generated a record \$11 million for the outback economy. This is more than 20 per cent growth year on year and a testament to the Premier's passion to grow the outback tourism sector.

Finally, Ipswich's very own country music festival, CMC Rocks, generated more than \$11 million for the local economy, close to double what it was worth in 2017. CMC Rocks also delivered more than 53,000 visitor nights for Ipswich, three times the number in 2015. We will continue to invest in major events because we on this side of the House know that major events means a major injection into the Queensland economy.

Health Services

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.52 am): I rise to thank our hardworking doctors, nurses, midwives, healthcare professionals and their support staff. Last financial year they saw a record 1.9 million Queenslanders in emergency departments across the state. That is 60,000 more patients than in the year before. Ninety-nine per cent of the most critically ill were seen within two minutes. Our health staff are setting records: treating more people than ever before within clinically recommended times in our emergency departments, through specialist outpatient appointments and in our theatres. More Queenslanders are receiving the care they need.

Last financial year we increased the number of doctors, nurses and clinical staff in hospital and health services by more than 4.2 per cent. Since February 2015 we have increased medical staff by more than 20 per cent. It is more than just extra doctors and nurses treating more patients in new hospitals; we are also doing cutting-edge research. Take the Princess Alexandra Hospital as one example: Dr Victoria Atkinson's \$2.2 million study is investigating PD-1 inhibitors, which can help the body fight cancer cells; Professor John Upham is researching severe asthma which will help understand how very low doses of a common antibiotic work in treating asthma and which people respond best to the treatment; and Professor Maher Gandhi's \$1.3 million research into follicular lymphoma genetics will provide a detailed biological comparison of early and advanced FL to understand barriers to eradicating the disease and to predict outcomes of conventional therapy.

More than 63,000 people were treated at the PA Hospital emergency department last financial year. Nearly 70 per cent of all people were treated and either discharged or admitted within four hours. At the PA Hospital ED, demand has increased four per cent in just one year, which far outstrips population growth. A key government initiative to deliver better health care in Metro South is the new Patient Access Coordination Hub. The PACH is a command and control centre that gives our staff a bird's-eye view of demand and patient flow across Metro South. Just like an airport flight control centre, the PACH uses state-of-the-art technology and real-time data to monitor and coordinate patient arrivals, admissions and departures.

I thank and congratulate Queensland Health staff for their efforts in treating more Queenslanders than ever before. Every day I am inspired by the lengths our health staff go to to keep patients safe, happy and well. Today I am inspired by the team at Beaudesert Hospital who bring alpacas in to visit the patients. These three alpacas, known as Ed Sheeran, Tim Tam and Pancake, now make regular visits to Beaudesert Hospital as part of the Delta pet program, which brings the joy of animal companionship to those who need it most. You can check them and their visits out on the Queensland Health Facebook page. It is our investment in doctors and nurses, in new hospitals and in the kind of care that makes a difference that Queenslanders can be proud of.

Racing Industry

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.56 am): Every November thousands of Queenslanders head trackside for the Melbourne Cup, the race that stops the nation. Whether it is a non-TAB meeting or a race day at one of our major racecourses, Queenslanders love seeing gallopers competing on local tracks as Australia's best stayers slug it out in the famous 3,200-metre handicap at Flemington.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, please resume your seat. Members to my left, I am going to get ahead of what I know is going to be some noise. The minister is not making any statements that are controversial. I would like to hear his statement. I ask that you respect that ministerial statements are about providing public advice.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Our agreement with the Thoroughbred Alliance to address prize money concerns means that Melbourne Cup Day 2018 will go ahead as usual in Queensland. I thank the Thoroughbred Alliance, the owners, trainers, jockeys and breeders they represent, for working with the government and Racing Queensland so that all Queensland racegoers who head to the track on cup day will be able to see live action.

In recent weeks the Deputy Premier and I have had ongoing discussions with the Thoroughbred Alliance about racing in our state—how it is administered, how it is funded and how better governance models and structures can, and must, be put in place. These discussions have resulted in a \$26 million boost to thoroughbred prize money levels in Queensland—\$18 million immediately and \$8 million in six

months pending further discussions on reform. This is an important prize money boost that will flow through to the industry's grassroots. Put simply, prize money means employment—employment for track workers, stablehands and strappers. It helps sustain small businesses in towns across Queensland. It is not about a wad of cash in the top pocket of some toff in a top hat.

As the Deputy Premier said, the long-term challenges the industry faces did not arise overnight, nor are there any quick fixes. True sustainability can only come from reform. The government will continue to work with all stakeholders on reform options to further enhance industry sustainability. The Palaszczuk government has shown strong support for the Queensland racing industry since coming to office, with almost \$190 million committed over four years. This includes our \$70 million, four-year country racing support package, debt relief to Racing Queensland, along with new and improved infrastructure across all three codes. Given this support, the industry has acknowledged the need for ongoing dialogue on reform, and that is what all parties are committed to.

I also want to pay tribute to champion galloper Winx, whose record-breaking fourth Cox Plate win on Saturday took her incredible winning streak to 29 straight. Winx began this winning run right here in Queensland at our renowned Winter Racing Carnival. I congratulate all Winx's winning connections, including Queenslander Peter Tighe, on this great mare's tremendous achievements. Wouldn't it be great to see Winx back in Queensland one day!

Blue Cards

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.59 am): The Palaszczuk government takes the safety of Queensland's children extremely seriously. Queensland was one of the first jurisdictions to introduce a working with children check scheme. A review of the blue card system by the Queensland Family and Child Commission found that Queensland's blue card system is one of the strongest in Australia and since 2001 has enhanced protection for children in regulated environments. We have made a commitment to further strengthen this system.

As the House is aware, this government is continuing with reforms to the blue card system, implementing recommendations from both the royal commission and the Queensland Family and Child Commission. We have allocated \$17 million over the next three years to implement a no-card no-start scheme and streamline the blue card application process. As I outlined at estimates, the implementation of this election commitment to blue card reforms includes introducing legislation this year to support the implementation of the no-card no-start scheme. This reform requires a dramatic overhaul of the blue card system, with close to one in six Queensland adults and over 32,000 organisations part of the current system.

We have previously committed to implementing recommendations from the QFCC and the royal commission about increasing the number of offences classified as automatic disqualifications, that is, without discretion, exception or review. This work is being done, in consultation with both internal stakeholders across government and external stakeholders, through the implementation team. In light of a QCAT decision published recently, consideration will also be given to what serious offences should be included in those reforms.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that we continue to lead the nation with strong laws to protect our children. We will do that in consultation with key industry stakeholders who work to keep our children safe each and every day.

Public Safety; Mount Gravatt Showgrounds Incident

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.01 am): Public safety is a key priority for the Palaszczuk government. All Queenslanders and visitors should be able to enjoy community events and public spaces safely and securely.

Like all Queenslanders, I was shocked to learn about the incident involving a stunt vehicle striking an adult and two children at a privately organised monster truck event at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds on Saturday night. I am advised that one of the children struck suffered a muscle and soft-tissue injury. I am sure that all members would agree that it could have been a lot worse. Our thoughts continue to be with the family involved, especially the injured child, as well as bystanders who may have been impacted by witnessing the event.

Queensland has in place a robust system of workplace health and safety laws that extend to public events, including commercial enterprises such as monster truck exhibitions, professionally run sporting events and music festivals. Promoters and organisers of events such as the one held on

Saturday night are bound by the same duties and regulations as all workplaces under the Work Health and Safety Act. They must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of workers and other persons, including spectators, with regard to the activities being carried out as part of the business or undertaking.

I advise the House that Workplace Health and Safety Queensland inspectors have launched an investigation into the incident. I am further advised that the Queensland Police Service is also undertaking an investigation. My department is cooperating with the QPS as per the memorandum of understanding between the two agencies. It is important that both investigations run their course.

However, I have asked the director-general of my department to brief me as a priority on any findings to be implemented to ensure the mitigation of any risks of a similar incident happening in the future. I will ensure that my department works with all stakeholders and event organisers to explore ways to make events such as that safe in the future. It is important that the Queensland public have confidence in their safety and security when they attend public events. The Palaszczuk government will not hesitate to act on any recommendations or findings to achieve that outcome.

Police Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.04 am): Under the Palaszczuk government there are more police in Queensland than ever before and there are even more to come. Our election commitment will deliver an extra 535 police personnel statewide by 2022, which is on top of the over 300 extra police delivered by our government since February 2015.

In our most recent budget, we invested over \$2.4 billion in our police, which is a 13.4 per cent increase since we came to government. When talking about police numbers, it is important to compare apples with apples. The critical number is the approved strength, that is, the number of police set by the commissioner for each policing region. The other number is the actual strength, which is an actual headcount of police officers in a particular region on a particular day. The actual strength number can fluctuate widely from day to day because of the temporary presence of a task force, retirements or an influx of new recruits. It is not, the commissioner advises, a useful—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, resume your seat. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. Members, today my tolerance level is low for interjections that I believe are unnecessary. I will name members.

Mr RYAN: It is not, the commissioner advises, a useful or reliable number for analysis or comparison. The number that matters, the approved strength, has gone up in all regions across the state. For instance, take the Gold Coast: in 2014, the Gold Coast's approved strength, including division, district and central functions, was 966 police officers. In 2018, for the Gold Coast the approved strength is 1,015. By way of interest, as at 30 September 2018 on the Gold Coast the actual strength is 1,054, which is an increase from 2016.

The Gold Coast is a great example of how a modern policing service operates. The Commonwealth Games provided an important infrastructure legacy that police now use. The purpose-built communications hub for the games was deliberately designed for police post games. It is called the District Tasking and Coordination Centre. It fits neatly with the modern borderless policing model where police are sent in numbers to wherever they are needed, whenever they are needed.

While the Gold Coast district duty officers remain operational out on the street, 24 hours a day, a second layer of Gold Coast district duty officers has been added to the District Tasking and Coordination Centre. Having a district duty officer in the room enables more effective deployment of operational resources to specific calls for service. That is modern policing: agile, flexible, quick to respond—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr RYAN: Just for the record, these are operational decisions by police and those opposite laugh.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, resume your seat. Members to my left, if anyone can explain the need for the outburst, I would like them to rise to a point of order. Otherwise, please listen to the ministerial statement.

Mr RYAN: As I was saying, those opposite laugh when I am discussing matters that are decided by police, that is, operational policing matters. Our police deserve to be respected and commended, not condemned, for their actions. As I was saying, that is modern policing: agile, flexible, quick to respond, surging in numbers to areas of need. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I thank our police for their hard work.

Mr Watts interjected.

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

Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk government's vision for thriving Queensland communities is one where people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities can participate; where all people are included and resilient and enjoy high levels of social and economic wellbeing. We all know that our colleague and friend Coralee O'Rourke will be back at work as soon as she can. I am confident that she will apply the same level of strength and resilience to her recovery that she brings every day to the job that she loves.

As the Acting Minister for Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, I am pleased to continue the important work of Minister Coralee O'Rourke in delivering this vision. In the last 12 months, Minister O'Rourke has worked to deliver a broad range of achievements to help improve the lives of Queenslanders, including: led the whole-of-government implementation of the NDIS transition; supported front-line staff to continue delivering quality services; reduced the number of people on the Register of Need to zero in those areas that have fully transitioned to the NDIS; launched the *All abilities Queensland: opportunities for all—state disability plan 2017-2020*; invested over \$140 million in community care services that assisted over 33,000 Queenslanders; funded 124 neighbourhood centres and committed to building two more and replacing or refurbishing a further six across our state; expanded the School Breakfast Program across an additional 70 schools; provided \$4.6 million for elder abuse prevention and response; created a dedicated community services directorate to lead the work of our Thriving Communities agenda; and exceeded the Queensland public sector benchmarks in all four diversity target groups.

This list demonstrates how seriously the Palaszczuk government takes its commitment to improving the lives of vulnerable Queenslanders. Our government will continue to invest to ensure every Queenslander has the best opportunity to achieve their goals and aspirations. Over the coming weeks I will be continuing to deliver on our agenda to create and grow thriving communities and working hard for our seniors and Queenslanders with disability. The sector can rest assured that there will be no disruption to the excellent relationship they have with government and our work to build inclusive and supportive communities will continue.

On behalf of us all, I echo the Premier's comments and wish Minister O'Rourke a speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming the minister back to work in the near future.

Containers for Change

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerie—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.11 am): This week one of the Palaszczuk government's major initiatives to reduce plastic pollution will come into effect. In just two days time, Containers for Change—implemented and managed by not-for-profit organisation CoEx—will kick off across the state. From Thursday, Queenslanders will be able to get a 10 cent refund on their drink containers or donate their refund to a charity or community group. This is an exciting step for recycling in the community and Queenslanders are getting on board.

Already, almost 300 charities and community groups have registered to be able to receive donations from the scheme. This is one way the Palaszczuk government is ensuring our valuable community groups can benefit from this initiative, no matter where they are in Queensland. People can donate to community groups across the length and breadth of the state. This means, for example, that a couple living on the Sunshine Coast can return their containers at a refund point in Coolumb and choose to donate their refund to the sporting club their grandkids are part of in Cairns. All they need is their chosen group's ID number.

Not only is our scheme going to benefit community groups and charities; it will also reduce litter in the environment. Nearly three billion beverage containers are used in Queensland every year. Unfortunately, these containers are the second most commonly littered item in our environment, despite the fact that they can be easily recycled.

We know Queensland has a bad reputation for recycling. We are the second poorest performer in the country. The Palaszczuk government is working hard to turn that around. Containers for Change creates an incentive for people to recycle and, just like our ban on plastic bags, will reduce litter in our environment and in our waterways, which is good news for turtles, dugongs and other marine life. It will also help reduce the amount of recyclable items going to landfill. Less than half of councils in Queensland have kerbside recycling so this scheme will have a huge impact on recycling in areas that do not have yellow-top bins.

This scheme is about changing behaviours so we can leave Queensland in a better state for future generations. We know it takes time for people to change the way they think about waste and recycling. This is the very start of the scheme, and we expect it to grow as people get involved. I encourage all Queenslanders to get on board and return their containers for change.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Friends of Parliament Rugby League Game

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have noticed some members bringing questions on notice forward this morning. I thank you for that. I notice some have a limp and others have some other difficulties. If you require any assistance from chamber staff after yesterday's touch football game, please do not hesitate to ask. I thank the member for Everton and the member for Pine Rivers for organising that event and for helping to raise money for the Queensland Country Women's Association. An honourable mention to the members for Broadwater and Aspley for outstanding performances. It was wonderful to see a win—the sixth in a row—for country.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2)

APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

Cognate Debate

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, in accordance with standing order 172, the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) be treated as cognate bills for their remaining stages, as follows:

- (a) separate questions being put in regard to the second readings;
- (b) the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
- (c) separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.14 am): Mr Speaker, thank you for being part of the country team for the friends of parliament Rugby League game. We will go for seven wins in a row next year.

I lay upon the table of the House report No. 14 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee titled *Annual report 2017-18*.

Tabled paper: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 14, 56th Parliament—Annual Report 2017-18 [[1754](#)].

I take this moment to thank all the hardworking members of the committee and the secretariat for their work, even though our work for this year is not done. I commend this report to the House.

Whilst I am on my feet, I give a shout-out to our friend Minister O'Rourke, who I know is watching the parliamentary proceedings: g'day and warm wishes from everyone in the parliament.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.15 am.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Appointments

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.15 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. I table documents showing yet another plum government job was awarded to a Labor mate.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 25 September 2016, from Mr Mike Reynolds to mangocube6 @ yahoo.co.uk regarding stating his interest in becoming a director of the Port of Townsville Corporation and attaching his CV [[1755](#)].

Mike Reynolds sent his CV to Minister Bailey's private mangocube email account. When will the Premier honour her election commitment about openness and transparency and finally commit to a full, independent review of government appointments involving Minister Bailey?

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Tourism Industry Development, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I am happy to have a look at the documents. I say from the outset in relation to board appointments that there is a process that is in place in terms—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the question has been asked. I would like to hear the answer without interruption.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In relation to board appointments we look at competency, making sure the right people can do the jobs on the boards on which they serve. In fact, my government is driving a very strong agenda in relation to encouraging more women to go on boards as well. I am very pleased—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Please resume your seat, Premier. The members for Ninderry and Maryborough are both warned under the standing orders. This is not the time for that. Please take your conversations outside in future.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It was less than 30 per cent and we are now at 47 per cent. We have had very strong recruitment drives at a big event in Brisbane and a big event in Toowoomba—the first regional one. Just recently Minister Kate Jones and I attended the St Hilda's function, which was also about getting more women on boards.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We love going to the Gold Coast.

Mr Dick: How's Jane Prentice?

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Deputy Premier!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take the Minister for State Development's interjection. It will be very interesting to see if Jane Prentice does run as an Independent in the seat of Ryan at the election and stands for her community. Finally, I might just add that, in relation to any of those emails, they have been thoroughly investigated by the CCC.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Appointments

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question without notice is also to the Premier. I refer to the ETU dirt files on directors of government owned corporations that Minister Bailey received to his private mangocube email account. One executive is labelled a '17-carat Tory' and another 'an old Nat'. Will the Premier guarantee that these union dirt files did not influence the decision not to reappoint these directors to government boards?

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right, I ask that questions be heard in silence. I will warn members in future.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I have stated, these emails have been thoroughly investigated by the CCC. We can just look at one LNP appointment. I think that person was called Shane Stone. What does Shane Stone say? He says that he does not work for Labor governments. It is very clear—

Mr Powell: He's got standards.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We can talk about Mark Brodie. Do you want me to keep going? We can talk about Michael Caltabiano.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes. Mr Speaker, I can remember in a former government when the LNP was collecting dirt files on ALP members and was exposed in the paper. Do not come in here talking about dirt files when you did—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, you will direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, Mr Speaker, of course; I apologise. LNP members were collecting dirt files on ALP members. That is disgusting—absolutely disgusting.

Gold Coast, International Sporting Events

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier outline any recent discussions about securing another major international sporting event for the Gold Coast?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Gaven for that question and for her interest in relation to securing more events for the Gold Coast. We know how important the Gold Coast is. The Minister for the Commonwealth Games and I were very proud, as was everyone on this side of the House, when we put on a world-class event for the Commonwealth Games. I am now looking for more legacy events for the Gold Coast as a result of the international exposure that we had from having the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. I was absolutely delighted yesterday to meet with Will Power—another Queensland hero, another Queensland world champion.

Mr Watts: Toowoomba boy.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes. I take that interjection. He is proudly from Toowoomba. Just as we back Jeff Horn, I want to back Will Power. Will came to me with a great idea in terms of the opportunity for the Indy to be back on the Gold Coast. My government is open to these discussions. We are more than open to having these discussions with the Indy. It has been more than a decade since the Indy was on the Gold Coast. We know that it means hundreds of thousands of tourists and international visitors, plus an international audience—eyes on the Gold Coast—if we were able to secure the Indy for 2020.

I have invited the chair of the Indy to come to the Gold Coast to begin these discussions. I know that they are looking at expanding into the Southern Hemisphere and the Gold Coast is being touted as a frontrunner for the expansion. I believe that this is a wonderful opportunity for the Gold Coast. I have spoken this morning with the Mayor of the Gold Coast, Tom Tate. He said that he would support this proposal, as I know members of this House will.

It would be great to hear the views of the Gold Coast members. I know that the member for Gaven is a strong supporter. I know that the Minister for Tourism and the Minister for Sport have also met with Will Power. Just as my government gets behind Jeff Horn—we have had Jeff Horn in our corner; we now want Will Power in our corner. We want to see this world international event—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What have you got against the Gold Coast?

Mr SPEAKER: Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: All I am hearing are these interjections, Mr Speaker, when those opposite should be absolutely supporting bringing an international world-class event to the Gold Coast, supporting the local economy and giving fantastic exposure to Queensland.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, you are warned under the standing orders for repeatedly interjecting and not putting your comments through the chair. I do not think I can make myself any more clear, members.

Queensland Economy

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. I refer to a spate of independent reports calling out Labor's economic mismanagement including CommSec, CCIQ Pulse Survey, Sensis Business Index, the ANZ/Property Council Survey and yesterday's dire predictions from Standard & Poor's about increased debt levels. Can the Treasurer guarantee that Queensland's credit rating will not be further downgraded before the next election following the previous downgrades from AAA to AA+ that happened when the Premier sat around the Bligh cabinet table?

Ms TRAD: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the opportunity to get up and talk about the Queensland economy and how well the Queensland economy is doing. The CommSec report which was released yesterday had our economy rated in sixth place. I point to the fact that that is not a unique position for Queensland. In fact, under the previous LNP government—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms TRAD: I will wait, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms TRAD: Under the previous LNP government, Queensland held—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, this is not a sideshow. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms TRAD: When the LNP were in government and Queensland occupied sixth place under CommSec, what did the treasurer of the day, the member for Clayfield, say? He said, 'CommSec confirms solid performance.' It is clear that those opposite are absolutely addicted to habitually talking down the Queensland economy. Those opposite should just pick up the recent Deloitte Access Economics report and the NAB pulse survey. Any one of those absolutely independent and authoritative economic reports will point to the fact that Queensland is actually performing better than it was under those opposite. We have created 170,000 new jobs in this state—five times more than those opposite. We have double digit private sector investment in our state, unlike the period under those opposite.

Mr Hunt interjected.

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

Ms TRAD: We have hit a high in terms of interstate migration because people are voting with their feet. They are going to where housing is affordable, jobs are on the rise and our liveability is second to none. What happened under those opposite? Thousands of jobs were cut from the economy.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Let me be clear. There is some provocation. I will allow for some robust debate, but there is a level to which I will only tolerate.

Ms TRAD: I looked back over some previous S&P reports and one of the things—

Mr Hart interjected.

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

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, you are warned under the standing orders. You are lucky I am not sending you immediately from the chamber. I have just called the House to order.

Ms TRAD: Mr Speaker, the behaviour and performance of those opposite is an indictment on how serious they are about the future of Queensland and the Queensland economy. Quite frankly, that is the reason you are sitting over that side of the chamber.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: I remind all members to direct their comments through the chair.

Cairns Electorate, Schools

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on investment in local schools in my beautiful electorate of Cairns?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Cairns for that question. I want to talk about the future of school students because under our government we are investing in students' futures. We are making sure that they get the teachers they need. We are making sure that they get the classrooms they need. We are investing in infrastructure that clearly shows that we are making sure that people get local work in local regional economies.

Last week was State Education Week, and the Minister for Education and I were very pleased to go with the member for Cairns to Trinity Bay State High School. From the outset can I say what a great state school that high school is. It was a wonderful opportunity to go and see their new multipurpose hall which my government has invested in and has constructed. To see the smiles on the students' faces was second to none. That \$6 million sports complex building will be used not only for sports but also for school assemblies. That is what happens when we start investing.

I also want to pay tribute to the local architects and the local suppliers involved with that construction. If there is one thing that local builders are telling me in regional cities, it is that our investment in regional cities across Queensland is investing in local work for local employees. That is exactly what my government is focused on. Trinity Bay State High School will also get a \$9 million secondary learning centre as part of our \$250 million 2020 Ready program.

Another important aspect of this visit to Trinity Bay State High School was to look at some of the ways in which students are learning. I was impressed to learn that they are learning about marine biology and the Great Barrier Reef out in the Great Barrier Reef, which is where they should be. They also have classes that are being conducted in conjunction with TIQ up in the rainforests surrounding Trinity Bay State High School. We are also attracting international students to come and seek those alternative ways of learning. We have so much to offer in Queensland. Our students are definitely getting the resources and the infrastructure that they need.

Last week was also World Teachers' Day. I want to thank all the teachers who serve Queensland's school community. They do an outstanding job every day. We are firmly focused on our children's future here in Queensland.

Blue Cards

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Premier. Given the continued criticism of the Palaszczuk Labor government having the wrong priorities by allowing thousands of people to work with children without holding a blue card, why has the Palaszczuk government failed to implement its election promise of a no card, no start policy?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for that question. If he had been listening to the Attorney-General who made a ministerial statement, he would know that the Attorney-General stated very clearly she is in consultation at the moment with stakeholders to bring in place those changes and is also looking at the recommendations of the royal commission and the recommendations of the Queensland Family and Child Commission. The Attorney-General also addressed the recent QCAT decision where we will be expanding the offences. On this side of the House we undertake something called consultation. It is something that we did not see from those opposite for three years when they were in government. There was no consultation—no getting the policy framework started.

Mrs D'Ath: They did nothing to improve the system.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. As the Attorney-General said—

Mr Powell: So in the meantime rapists can get blue cards.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House!

Ms PALASZCZUK: You know that is not correct.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Attorney-General will finalise those consultations and then the changes will be brought into this chamber.

Queensland Economy, Infrastructure

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the importance of infrastructure spending to the Queensland economy? Is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Rockhampton for the question. I know how much of a strong champion he is for his community in Central Queensland. I also know that he understands intrinsically the importance of delivering infrastructure for a growing community and also to drive economic growth, so I thank him very much for the question.

As the member for Rockhampton would know, we are delivering substantial infrastructure dollars into his community in Central Queensland with more than \$1.04 billion in this year's budget, and that goes to supporting more than 3,500 jobs. We are building the Rookwood Weir. We are so glad that we finally got the federal government on the sticky paper for it. I absolutely commend the leadership and the advocacy of the Premier and the member for Rockhampton in making that happen.

We are building the Rockhampton hospital car park. I went and had a look at it. The people of Rockhampton will be absolutely over the moon about this important piece of infrastructure when it is delivered. It will make getting to hospital, staying in hospital and visiting family members in hospital so much easier for the people of Rockhampton.

We are also building the Rockhampton drug rehabilitation centre, the Rockhampton art gallery, the Capricornia correctional facility upgrade and upgrades to the Capricorn Highway and the Bruce Highway. We are doing this because we know that infrastructure is so critical to the people of Queensland, but it is also a very important part of our economic plan for the state. With \$45.8 billion on the table over the next four years to drive and build infrastructure projects in our state, supporting tens of thousands of jobs, we know how important this is for driving economic growth and also putting Queenslanders into jobs.

What are the alternative plans, as the member for Rockhampton has asked? I am not sure that there are any alternative plans from those opposite. We know that the Leader of the Opposition in her budget reply speech made a whole lot of claims that she has quickly retreated from such as investing in renewable energy projects. That lasted as long as it took for the hard right in her party to get up and say, 'No, climate change isn't actually a thing.' Then there was air conditioning in all schools. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition had to clarify that it was not all schools; it was only some schools. I would love for those opposite to put up an economic plan to the people of Queensland. We all know they cannot do that because they think that would be just a little bit crazy.

(Time expired)

Blue Cards

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Premier. Why has the Palaszczuk government failed to implement a key recommendation of the review into blue cards in the wake of Tiahleigh Palmer's death that would expand the disqualification offences for blue cards, ensuring our Queensland children are kept safe?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I addressed this in my previous answer: shortly the Attorney-General will be bringing legislation into this House.

The Spit Master Plan

Mrs McMAHON: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister update the House on the progress of The Spit Master Plan, and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Macalister for her question and her support of this iconic project for Queensland. The Spit master planning process is setting a new benchmark when it comes to community consultation. Our process has met with enthusiastic support across the Gold Coast. Mayor Tom Tate said, 'I'm pleased to be working with a state government to deliver a future direction on The Spit on which we all agree.' Dr Steve Gration, President of Save our Spit Alliance, said, 'This is the first time in 15 years that any level of government has engaged with our group in a meaningful way where a true exchange of information and visions for The Spit has taken place.'

When we started this process the Premier asked me to bring people together to replace the contest that existed with consensus—to build a new plan for The Spit developed by the community for the community. Last Saturday the government released its options paper to the public asking for feedback on 72 options for the future of The Spit—options described by yesterday's editorial in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* as 'the Spit's bright new vision that ignites the senses'. I regret to inform the House that this whole process is opposed by those members opposite. The last time the LNP ignited the senses was when the member for Mermaid Beach did the chicken dance.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: They remember it. We remember it well. What a great day that was. The whole community is on The Spit master-planning superyacht, sailing off into a bright future, while the LNP are all on the SS *Misery*, the rowboat, trying to work out who has got the captain's hat on, who is leading

the way. We have heard one vision from the LNP on The Spit—that is, sell Wave Break Island and turn the Broadwater into a canal estate. That is what they said. Who could forget the seismic contribution from the member for Broadwater, who says he wants a cruise ship terminal but he just will not say where it should be? We heard from the member for Surfers Paradise, who opposed the development on The Spit, then supported it, then supported a master plan, then complained about it.

Can I just appeal to the consciences of the members of the LNP to support the master plan? Actually, I cannot ask them to express their conscience because if they do they will be disendorsed by their own party. They have changed their position on The Spit more times than they have changed prime minister, and that is saying something.

There is one constant in this whole process about The Spit—that is, the nonstop, consistent negativity of the LNP. They talk down Queensland. They talk down the Gold Coast. They talk down The Spit. We are getting on with the job to deliver something that is world class for a world-class city. It is only Labor governments that will deliver for Queensland, and it is only Labor governments that will deliver for the Gold Coast.

Bushfire Prevention and Preparedness, Auditor-General's Report

Mr MILLAR: My question without notice is to the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. I refer the minister to the Auditor-General's report into Queensland's bushfire prevention and preparedness which found that communities continue to be exposed to a higher risk of bushfire danger after more than three years of Labor inaction. Why did the minister say he was not concerned by the report that said he was putting Queensland's families at higher risk from bushfires?

Mr CRAWFORD: I thank the member for the question. I welcomed the Auditor-General's report. It highlights a number of areas of success where QFES has done some outstanding work, but it also highlights some areas where some improvement is needed and it sets out the next steps required for us to do those improvements. I want to highlight the importance of the partnerships of managing bushfires. The audit conclusions recognised that this is a shared responsibility between QFES and a number of partners. I want to also highlight that the audit found that QFES bushfire information and education tools needed improvement, but it acknowledged—and this is what the member failed to say—that there has been extensive work already done on bushfire mitigation warnings and alerts.

We take the Auditor-General's report in earnest, and we will work with the other departments, we will work with our own department and we will work with the other ministers on what needs to be implemented. There are some parts of that report that are outside of QFES's control, such as implementing education into schools. This is not something QFES has direct control over. I have had discussions already with the education minister. Whilst QFES can have discussions with other line ministers and other departments, we do not have direct control over that.

I am very happy with my department's response to the QAO report. We will continue to work with the department and we will continue to work with Queenslanders. I want to put on record that I think the Rural Fire Service and the Fire and Rescue Service within QFES have done outstanding work over the last few years when it comes to bushfire mitigation and notification for Queenslanders around bushfire preparedness. One of the main areas we have done outstanding work in has been the emergency alert phase. This is the ability for QFES to notify Queenslanders either from mobile phones or from fixed lines within seconds of incidents occurring in their geographical area.

Since the Auditor-General's original report in 2014-15, a lot of things have changed in the way that we communicate with the community, such as social media. We now know that 70 per cent of people communicate through mobile phones, which means there are 30 per cent of Queenslanders out there who are still on fixed phone lines. There is a lot of work to be done, and we will continue to work with all of our partners to make sure we can keep Queenslanders safe.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Health Services

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister advise the House on how the Palaszczuk government has delivered better health services after the experience of the Newman LNP government?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, I have not even called the minister yet.

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Bancroft for what is a very important question. I know how committed he is to ensuring that his constituents have world-class health care, as am I and as are all members on this side of the House. The Palaszczuk government, as we all know, has increased the

number of doctors, the number of nurses, the number of midwives, the number of nurse navigators and the number of health professionals—all of which is delivering more and better health services for Queensland. We are investing in new and redeveloped hospitals, including at Caboolture and Redcliffe, which is I am sure of interest to the member for Bancroft.

That is in stark contrast to the desperate Chicken Little routine we see from those opposite. They are determined to undermine public confidence in our hospitals by cherrypicking statistics—even though the overall data shows just how much we have improved health services in Queensland since we were elected. If we compare last financial year with the system that we inherited, we can see a hospital system that is performing much, much better.

Last week, those opposite cherrypicked two pieces of data to talk down our hospitals—category 2 and category 3 emergency department wait times. What they never mentioned was that in their three years in office they never once met either of those annual reporting targets—not once. They also did not mention the following: that for category 4 we are now seeing 78 per cent in time, which is up from 73 per cent when they were in charge; that for category 5 we are now seeing 96 per cent in time, which is up from 91 per cent when they were in charge; and that category 1 has been maintained at 99 per cent.

The story for elective surgery is even better. For category 1, it is 97 per cent in time, which is up on the Newman government record. Category 2 is at 93 per cent, which is up from 80 per cent under those opposite. Category 3 is at 95 per cent in time, which is up from 88 per cent when they were in power.

The wait times for specialist outpatients are even better, but we do not know that because they had a top secret waiting list to get on to the waiting list. Now that we disclose all of that data, we can confirm that every one of our hospitals met every one of our targets for specialist outpatient appointments. None of that would be possible without the election of the Palaszczuk government and the turning around of the cruel health cuts of those opposite.

Bushfire Prevention and Preparedness, Auditor-General's Report

Mr LISTER: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer the Premier to the Auditor-General's report No. 5 titled *Follow-up of 'Bushfire prevention and preparedness'*. In light of Minister Crawford's failure to act, which the Auditor-General said has left Queenslanders at higher risk of bushfires, will the Premier here and now commit to a completion date for the full seven outstanding recommendations made by the Auditor-General?

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I believe that question did contain an imputation. I ask that you reword your question.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right.

Mr LISTER: Thank you for your guidance. My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer the Premier to the Auditor-General's report No. 5 titled *Follow-up of 'Bushfire prevention and preparedness'*, which the Auditor-General says has left Queenslanders at higher risk of bushfires. Will the Premier here and now commit to a completion date for the full seven outstanding recommendations made by the Auditor-General?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Southern Downs for the question. As the minister was saying, he has received the Auditor-General's report. Of course, we will look at implementing those recommendations.

Mr Powell interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I was about to say, the Minister for Emergency Services takes his job incredibly seriously. He talked extensively about mobile coverage and the fact that some people still have landlines. My government is investing and making sure that our firefighters have the equipment they need right throughout the state and we are putting on more firefighters.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, you have asked a question of the Premier already and you should address your comments through the chair. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Something I touched on earlier today that I want to expand on is the fact that we are seeing more bushfires in our state, more intense cyclones and more prolonged droughts. That has a lot to do with climate change and what is happening with global warming. When I was at the National Drought Summit there were two words they did not want to utter, and those two words were 'climate change'.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I was the first speaker at the summit to stand up and talk about the effects of climate change—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I ask you to resume your seat. What is your point of order, member?

Mr LISTER: My point of order is on relevance. I would like the Premier to answer the question.

Mr SPEAKER: No. Member, I have been listening to the Premier's response. I believe she has been responsive. I believe she is talking about associated issues.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I was saying, climate change is real. Climate change is happening. It is about time we saw some national leadership when it comes to climate change. In fact—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, you are warned under the standing orders for consistent interjections which have been designed to disrupt all speakers this morning.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I think every single candidate standing for election at the next federal election should state very clearly to the Australian public whether or not they believe in climate change.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please resume your seat. What is your point of order?

Mr LISTER: It is on relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I have ruled on relevance.

Mr LISTER: The Premier is failing to answer the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I have ruled on relevance. I ask you to resume your seat.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Who was that? Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I was saying, I believe every single candidate who stands for election at the next federal election should state very clearly for the Australian public whether they believe in climate change, yes or no. We have only to look at the evidence across our state. Queensland is a prime example: prolonged droughts, increased severity of natural disasters, cyclones and bushfires.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Moggill! Member for Warrego!

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, you are warned under the standing orders. You will put your comments through the chair, and that goes for all members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In conclusion, I have every faith that the minister, along with the Police Commissioner, will implement those recommendations progressively to ensure that our communities throughout Queensland and especially Western Queensland have the resources they need to deal with the increased frequency of natural disasters that we are experiencing in this state.

(Time expired)

Great Keppel Island

Mrs LAUGA: My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on the government's commitment to invest in new infrastructure for Great Keppel Island?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for Keppel for her continued lobbying on behalf of her local community to make sure that we see a reinvestment in Great Keppel Island. It was announced during the last sitting week that Wei Chao has said that they would love to develop an \$800 million

resort on Great Keppel Island. Of course, due diligence still needs to be done. This just shows that the \$25 million that we committed as a state government as part of our \$50 million package to rejuvenate the Great Barrier Reef islands is working. Right across Queensland's Great Barrier Reef we are seeing new investors coming to Queensland with proposals because they know that our government is absolutely serious about supporting them to get these jobs back in regional Queensland.

This stands in stark contrast to what we have seen at a federal level. Despite Michelle Landry, the current federal member for Capricornia, walking around town saying, 'Yeah, we want to be in the picture. We have money on the table. Just you wait. We're going to come to the table on Great Keppel Island'—bah-bow!—last week the federal government confirmed that they will not contribute one single dollar to the rejuvenation of Great Keppel Island and the crucial services that they—

Mr Ryan interjected.

Ms JONES: I will take that interjection. They have cut her loose. They want to get rid of another woman. I wonder if she will run as an Independent at the next federal election—we never know—just like we have seen—

Ms Trad: They didn't support the flood levy.

Ms JONES: That is correct; they did not support the flood levy and they are cutting money from Health and Education, but, hey, we know how you guys roll. We know that once again—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Tourism, you will put your comments through the chair.

Ms JONES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We know that they have already made the decision to cut Michelle Landry loose in Capricornia because they know that they cannot win it. Why should the people of that community have to pay a price for the failed divisions within the LNP? Once again, we have now seen another woman on the chopping block by the LNP blokes in Canberra. Jane Prentice has already said that she is now considering running as an Independent. My question for the members in this House is: if the member for Currumbin, the member Clayfield and the member for Chatsworth are disendorsed, will they run as Independents at the next state election? That is a question for the people of this House to answer. It is unconscionable that those who exercise their conscience in this House face the threat of disendorsement.

Mr MANDER: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. On a matter of relevance, how could that possibly be relevant to the question that has been asked?

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I ask that you address your comments to me in an orderly manner, not an accusatory manner.

Mr MANDER: Sorry, Mr Speaker, point of relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I would like you to come back to the core of the question.

Ms JONES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I feel like I have been hit by a gladiator. I might see him in the colosseum! This is the relevance: we know that when the going gets tough they do not support people of principle. Poor Michelle Landry is walking around town saying, 'Count on me. I'll deliver you the money,' but the boys behind the scenes who run the LNP have said no. My question to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is: will they allow the member for Currumbin, the member for Clayfield and the member for Chatsworth to run under the LNP at the next state election?

(Time expired)

Mr Furner interjected.

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

Katter's Australian Party, Staffing

Mr ANDREW: My question is to the Premier. Until recently, the government funded the Katter's Australian Party with a number of extra staff to assist them with their significant legislative burden and duties. I table the correspondence between the Premier and me regarding extra staff—

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mirani, the matters you are dealing with I believe are subject to standing order 270. I rule the question out of order. There is clearly a matter related to those matters before the Ethics Committee.

Energy Policy

Ms LINARD: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister advise the House how Queensland is tackling energy costs? Is the minister aware of any plausible alternative policy?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Nudgee for the question. The Palaszczuk government is leading the nation in energy policy. The proof is there to see. According to the latest QCA report, prices are stable and have been falling over four successive quarters in Queensland. Prices are coming down. In contrast, those on the other side and their masters in Canberra are clueless—absolutely clueless. This was made obvious last Friday when I was at the COAG energy meeting. There is a policy vacuum federally.

With regard to the federal government's thought bubble of establishing a default energy price, they have even admitted under pressure from Queensland that it needs much more work. As for climate change and an emissions reduction strategy, as we have heard from the Premier, there is nothing from Canberra. They are climate change deniers who are racked by internal conflict. If it were not so serious it would be sad and embarrassing. We have a national energy market with no leadership at all. As I said last Friday, and I will say it again, it is unfathomable that in 2018 Australia does not have an emissions reduction framework despite overwhelming calls from stakeholders on both sides of the spectrum.

The federal government does not have an energy policy: it is just a vacuum. Indeed, what they have is just like an old vacuum cleaner. It is the Abbott model: it is low on power and it does not pick up anything new; it just blows hot air. Worse than that, there is no climate change attachment for the vacuum cleaner. It is cheap, noisy, comes in conservative blue and the cord never retracts. You know the one, Mr Speaker. The member for Nanango has one just like it in her cupboard.

Queensland leads the way with the cheapest wholesale electricity prices on the east coast and a renewable energy target of 50 per cent by 2030. The QCA report supports the fact that we are on track. There has been a 4.7 per cent reduction in electricity prices since our Affordable Energy Plan came in, unlike those opposite. There was a 43 per cent increase when they were in government. The QCA report supports the Palaszczuk government and its energy policy, which is leading the nation.

(Time expired)

Queensland Children's Hospital, Name Change

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Premier. I refer to the heartfelt comments by Giovanna Cilento about Labor's trashing of her grandmother's legacy. Does the Premier concede that her government's decision to rip down Lady Cilento's name from the Children's Hospital trashes her reputation and does nothing to advance the cause of women in Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: From the outset can I say that my government has done everything we possibly can to advance the cause of women. You only have to look at the historic reform we just passed. I have had so many people stop me—not just women but also men—and tell me they have had to make some heart-wrenching decisions and that they are very pleased the law has passed. I think the member for Maroochydore should look across the chamber at her own side of politics to see the way in which women are treated and opportunities for the advancement of women on the LNP side. The member for Broadwater: gone! The member for Ryan, Jane Prentice: going! On this side of the House we will always continue to advance the cause of women.

When it comes to the issue of the Queensland Children's Hospital, I have said this in the House and I will say again that the Queensland Children's Hospital is the state's premier children's hospital. I want to see that hospital go from strength to strength. I want to see that hospital get more and more funding. I do want to thank all of the staff at the Queensland Children's Hospital for the outstanding work they do looking after children who are hurt in accidents right across Queensland. My Minister for Health has reached out to the family and he will continue to do so in a consultative fashion, as that is the right thing to do.

Just Transition Strategy

Mr PEGG: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government's Just Transition strategy will help Queensland workers upskill for the jobs of the future and any alternative approaches that have been put forward?

Ms FENTIMAN: The member for Stretton and I are very proud of our government's vision for a clean energy future. As an important part of our commitment to a 50 per cent Queensland renewable energy target by 2030, the Palaszczuk government is absolutely focused on supporting our current workforce to upskill and re-skill so they can share in the job opportunities of the future. That is why our government has committed to a Just Transition Group. The establishment of this group will help ensure that workers and communities are brought with us and that new jobs in the renewable energy sector are good, decent jobs. This firmly puts Queensland at the forefront of Just Transition not only in Australia but right across the world. This is in stark contrast to the actions of those opposite. We know their record. We heard the Minister for Energy talk about their record this morning. Under the LNP energy prices increased by 43 per cent, and they had a plan for privatisation that would have sent prices up even more.

It is now unclear what the policy of those opposite is when it comes to energy because the member for Nanango keeps changing her mind. She told the LNP's state conference earlier this year that an LNP government would mandate government owned generators to invest in renewable energy.

Mrs Frecklington: That's still it.

Ms FENTIMAN: That is still your policy? The Leader of the Opposition did double-down in her budget reply speech, saying that the LNP wanted a future beyond coal. I have to say that that left all of us in a bit of shock. The member for Burleigh even asked the Premier to change our policy and adopt the LNP's policy on renewables. That did not seem to last very long—only a matter of weeks—because the then prime minister came to town, gave a speech and said he was against the mandating of renewable energy.

A government member: That's why he's not there!

Ms FENTIMAN: That is right: which prime minister? It is hard to keep track. Then the member for Nanango went on radio and said that the policy was not to mandate: it was to leave it to the discretion of energy companies. She said that she would 'allow' them to. Which is it, Mr Speaker? Is it a mandatory policy or is it a discretionary policy? As far as I am concerned, they mean pretty different things.

What does all of this mean for the jobs of the future? With no plan and chaos when it comes to energy just like their friends in Canberra, it is the future of Queenslanders and the jobs of the future that are at risk from those opposite. You cannot trust them on electricity prices and you cannot trust them with the jobs of Queenslanders.

Queensland Children's Hospital, Name Change

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Did the minister seek legal advice before ripping down Lady Cilento's name from the Queensland Children's Hospital and trashing the reputation of a pioneering Queensland woman?

Dr MILES: I took a wide range of advice before putting that decision to government. First of all, I took the advice of all of the doctors who work at the hospital; then I took the advice of the board of children's health Queensland; then I took the advice of the Children's Health Queensland Foundation, which raises important funds for research and activity at the hospital. I consulted with the nurses' union, I consulted with a range of other professional bodies and I consulted with the people of Queensland, both through market research and a survey on the Get Involved website. Compared to the advice taken by those opposite to change the name in the first place, I took extensive advice from a wide range of people in making this decision.

Whose advice did they take to change the name in the first place? Only one person: Campbell Newman. The only person they listened to then was Campbell Newman, who ignored public consultation and the advice of the project team and arbitrarily decided to give it that name.

We on this side of the House listen to our doctors, we listen to the people of Queensland and we listen to the boards we put in place to manage these important institutions, and we make decisions based on the advice that they provide. For the benefit of the member for Mudgeeraba, I can confirm that I have legal advice.

Education, Outcomes

Mr KELLY: My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the minister update the House on the results of any new research into the progress being made by Queensland primary school students?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. I know how deeply he, as a Labor member, feels about education. We on this side of the House know that education is a great equaliser. No-one demonstrates that more than the member for Greenslopes. I joined with him in wishing all teachers a great World Teachers' Day last Friday and congratulating them on the job they do every day. It was wonderful to be with the Premier to open new facilities at Trinity Bay and to be with the member for Logan to open Yarrabilba State School. That is an absolutely magnificent school.

We are delivering education in this state in spades. We are delivering a world-class education for children in our schools every single day. Members do not need to take my word for it. Last Tuesday, during Education Week, the Grattan Institute published its state-by-state report card on student progress. Queensland was described as the 'star performer'. It recognised the growth in our students, which is exactly what Gonski writes about. It is not just about the postcode schools that do a great job in our state; it is also about growing students in areas that need to see growth. For years 3 and 5, Queensland is two months ahead of the national average when it comes to progress in reading and one month ahead in numeracy. It says that the rest of Australia needs more of what Queensland is doing.

The Grattan Institute commends Queensland for its emphasis on lifting standards for teacher professional development and its unrelenting focus on improving literacy and numeracy. Guess who does run Queensland down? Just two weeks ago in this House the Leader of the Opposition attacked our education system when it comes to the progress of our students in reading, writing and numeracy. How out of touch can you be? The Grattan Institute is patting us on the back—calling us the star performer in delivering education—but what do we get from the Leader of the Opposition? We hear negativity and complaining about the education we are delivering in our schools every year. All I can say to the Leader of the Opposition is: how out of touch can you be?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please direct your comments through the chair.

Ms GRACE: Through you, Chair, how out of touch can you be? When it comes—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you cannot say 'through the chair' and repeat the same phrase.

Ms GRACE: I can try!

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, speak in the third person.

Ms GRACE: I am sorry, Mr Speaker. How out of touch can the LNP and the Leader of the Opposition be? When it comes to education, this Labor government is second to none. I am a proud Minister for Education in the Palaszczuk government.

(Time expired)

Statutory Authorities, Appointments

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to the Crime and Corruption Commission's statements that Minister Bailey was very foolish for using his mangocube email account to receive a job application, resulting in a very serious and clear recommendation to the Palaszczuk government to improve the transparency of appointments to government positions. Will the Premier advise whether the Crime and Corruption Commission's recommendation has now been fully implemented?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Kawana for the question. I can advise that my director-general is meeting with the Crime and Corruption Commission to finalise that matter. It should be finalised in a matter of weeks.

Gold Coast Light Rail

Mr RUSSO: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister please update the House on the numbers travelling on Gold Coast Light Rail?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have one minute to answer.

Mr BAILEY: The light rail has been an outstanding success. Stage 2 was built in 18 months flat by the Palaszczuk government, in time for the Commonwealth Games. There were 1.1 million trips taken during the games. I can report that patronage has now hit a record of a million trips in a quarter—an extraordinary achievement.

We are getting the job done with the business case for light rail stage 3. It appears that the only person who has a different direction in mind for the light rail is the member for Burleigh, who only wants to talk about stage B going west—a faster and more expensive route. As we saw in the *Courier-Mail* of

31 August, his western route goes near his brewery in Burleigh. It seems that the member for Burleigh has not been up-front with the people of the Gold Coast, because he has not disclosed that going west not only would help him but also would not be a bad result for LNP donor John Hembrow, the director of—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.15 am), by leave, without notice: In accordance with sessional order 2B, I move—

1. That the following government business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time for each bill specified:
 - (a) the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and Appropriation Bill (No. 2)—cognate debate, a maximum of 5 hours to complete all stages;
 - (b) the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of 4 hours and 30 minutes to complete all stages; and
 - (c) the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill, a maximum of 3 hours to complete all stages.
2. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by the allocated time specified or by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 1 November 2018, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill or motion without further debate;
 - (b) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion; and
 - (c) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

I would like to thank the members for Kawana and Maiwar and the Minister for Health for attending the Business Committee meeting last night and participating in a constructive manner. I will say that I am in no way inferring that the Manager of Opposition Business is in support of this motion or the model that is in place, but I still hold out hope that the opposition will start participating fully in the Business Committee model such that all members will get the most out of this process for their electorates and also for the people of Queensland.

I take this opportunity to thank all members for the way they conducted themselves during the debate last sittings. While it is the case that we will not always agree on things in this chamber, I believe that this parliament's debate on such an important issue was conducted on the whole with respect. I thank the House.

In proposing the times in the motion today I have taken into consideration a number of factors, including the opposition's request for more time to make a contribution on the appropriation and revenue bills. That is why five hours has been proposed. This has been achieved by cognating these like bills. It is also worth noting that in the past the debate on the appropriation bills has ranged from anywhere between 24 minutes, back in 2015, and just over two hours. All bills have at least one recommendation—that the bills be passed—and I have been advised that there are no extensive amendments to be moved during consideration in detail for the respective bills.

The time allotted for these bills will enable other business to occur during this week's sitting including address-in-reply contributions, which I know that all members, in particular those opposite, are wanting to complete. I commend the motion to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Members, a plethora of members have been warned. Those warnings will stay in force until the luncheon adjournment. Those warned are the members for Nanango, Everton, Toowoomba North, Cooper, Ninderry, Maryborough, Toowoomba South, Kawana, Nicklin, Mudgeeraba, Burleigh, Southern Downs, Glass House, Buderim, Gregory and Ferny Grove.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.18 am): If the Leader of the House's wishful thinking is that I am going to support the guillotining, the slamming of democracy and not allowing members to speak in this parliament—she says she is living in hope—she will be waiting quite some time because I am never—

Mrs D'Ath: I am patient.

Mr BLEIJIE: The Leader of the House may be patient, but I am not and I am telling the Leader of the House: I will never, ever agree to this Business Committee motion when it stops members from fully participating in democracy because it stops members raising issues on behalf of their constituents.

We welcome people into the public galleries each sitting. We welcome the schoolchildren. Little do they know that in years gone by and in recent history not that long ago the House used to sit a lot longer and we used to be able to raise their issues on the floor of this chamber, but that is forever corroding under this lazy Labor government because it does not like members speaking in this House because those opposite do not like what they hear. They do not like the fact that the shadow Treasurer talks about every economic report under the sun, yet those opposite find this one magical report by Deloitte which says that it is all going to come good in the future. That is why the Deputy Premier wants to talk about the future, not every economic report. We do not have time to debate all of these issues this week. We do not have time to debate all of those economic reports because they guillotine our debate.

We also do not know yet when the parliament is sitting next year. We have no idea when we are sitting. The government has not released the sitting calendar for next year. I am not sure whether Labor members are getting invitations to school events. We on this side of the House are. We cannot say yes to any of these things because we do not know when we are sitting next year. We actually do not know if we are sitting in December this year. Those opposite cannot work out whether we will be here in December, let alone if we will be here in January or February next year. If the delay for decisions about all of these things was caused by the mammoth hours we are putting in to this place—the big, long debates until three o'clock in the morning—I would understand why those opposite could not make the decisions, but we are not. We are not even here for the whole Dolly Parton song *9 to 5*. They are not even working that long. The reality is they have plenty of time to determine what the calendar will be for next year.

If we had the opportunity this week—if we had three-minute speeches before question time, if we had more committee debates like we used to under the hung parliament and if we debated a motion every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from five to six o'clock—we would also talk about other issues. This morning I noted the Minister for Tourism going on about women in politics. We want to talk about Lady Cilento's name being ripped off the hospital. Those opposite will not. Those opposite will not want to talk about the news coming out of Canberra today where Labor has got rid of Lyndal Howison, the candidate for Bennelong. Guess what? It replaced her with a bloke!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Members, I understand lively debate, but I could not get your attention despite yelling into the microphone.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is the Business Committee motion about the setting down of hours for the bills.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney, is it about relevance?

Mrs D'ATH: It is about relevance. The member has strayed.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Attorney-General. Member for Kawana, I counsel you to come back to the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. As the Leader of the House will know, in the Business Committee motion we talk about all sorts of topics associated with what we want to talk about this week given the opportunity. When the government guillotines and stops the debate time, this motion is about what I want to get on the agenda this week, but we cannot because we are not afforded the opportunity because of the constant guillotines.

I want to talk about the fact that Labor just got rid of a woman candidate today and the fact that the woman Labor candidate—guess what she said, member for Caloundra—said, 'I'm making way for a better candidate,' who is a bloke! Can members believe it? Preselections by merit? God forbid! Not in the Labor Party, surely! I understand why those opposite do not want to talk about those issues. They do not want to talk about Jan McLucas, the former female senator who was duded out of the job by the Labor Party. They do not want to talk about her, do they?

Opposition members: Emma Husar!

Mr BLEIJIE: They do not want to talk about Emma Husar.

Opposition members: Margaret Strelow!

Mr BLEIJIE: Margaret Strelow, the Mayor of Rocky! What happened to Margaret? She should have been in this place, but look who we have up the back.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.24 am): I note that the member for Kawana has all sorts of things that he would like to talk about. You would not know it from their question time strategy, would you? They were all over the shop. The opportunities they have to raise the issues they want to raise they waste away so the member for Kawana can get up afterwards and say, 'We didn't get a chance to talk about the things we wanted to talk about.'

This week we again see just how effective the process the Leader of the House has put in place is to manage the business of the parliament. As noted by the Leader of the House, the member for Kawana came along and whined a little again at the start. He whined a little less than last meeting, which was a little less than the meeting before, so I think the Leader of the House has reason to be optimistic that he may get there eventually.

Here is what happened at the meeting: we put forward our plan for the week. The member for Kawana, after his little whine, said, 'Oh, more of my members would like to talk on the Treasurer's bills,' so the government changed the business for the week so that those members opposite who wanted to speak would get the chance. It is not because they want to talk about the substance of those bills at all; it is because they want to use it as a chance to use flawed economic data to criticise the government. This is what we see happening here.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Dr MILES: Exactly! I take the interjection from the member for Sandgate: what we see here is the government adjusting its business so that those opposite can have a go at it on matters that are not relevant to the substance of the bill but because we respect the process and respect their right to have a say. This is a system that works. This is a system that is delivering to all members of this House on this side and on that side the chance to speak on the bills they want to speak on. That is why I again support this motion moved by the Leader of the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.27 am): I rise to speak against the motion. This week we have some very important revenue bills that talk about the state finances and it is important that we get the opportunity. Every one of the opposition members, if they want to speak on these bills, deserves the right to speak on these issues to represent their electorates. After hearing the Treasurer's ministerial statement this morning, I cannot think of any other title to call her other than the 'Comical Ali' of the Queensland parliament. I will remind members of 'Comical Ali'.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Those comments are unparliamentary and should be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. I will refer to the propaganda king of the Iraqi war, a man who was commonly known by the term I just mentioned, who—despite bombs blowing up around them dropped by American jets, despite having tanks rolling into the streets of Baghdad and despite behind him while being interviewed a statue of Saddam Hussein falling over—said, 'There's nothing to see here!'

Mr DICK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is a debate about a procedural motion moved by the Leader of the House. This is not relevant one iota to the debate in terms of what happened in the Iraq war 28 years ago.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. In accordance with standing order 118, I ask the member to come back to the motion, please.

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I will explain how it is relevant. Despite everything that was going on at that comical stage of the Gulf War—things going on around him—the minister for propaganda said otherwise. We have a Treasurer who is ignoring the metaphorical bombs that are around her in the economic sense. We want to speak about the serious issue of the state finances this week, but we are not getting the opportunity. This Treasurer is ignoring all the independent advice that is coming from respected sources—from economic experts who talk about how the Queensland economy is going backwards. We have already mentioned the CommSec State of the States report, which shows that Queensland has dropped—

Mr DICK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is nothing more than an abuse of the parliamentary standards. This is entirely out of order and irrelevant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, if you rise on a point of order, you need to make it precise. Is it a point of order around relevance?

Mr DICK: Mr Deputy Speaker, it is entirely irrelevant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask you to come back to the motion.

Mr MANDER: It is one of the few times that I agree with the Minister for State Development. This is an abuse of privilege. This is an abuse of process from this government.

Mr DICK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask the honourable gentleman to withdraw. That is entirely inappropriate. It is not what I said. I take personal offence to it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The minister finds the comments you have made offensive. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. They are so sensitive today.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection. They did not like hearing the truth. They do not like the Queensland public hearing about how they are doing everything possible to stop debate in this House.

This week, there are important elements to speak about in relation to the state's finances. We have mentioned the CommSec State of the States report, which shows that we have gone from fifth to sixth. When we compare the states with each other, those economic powerhouses of South Australia and Tasmania are now beating Queensland. We have small business surveys that say that, with regard to small and medium sized businesses, this is the least popular state government. Why? Because those businesses are concerned about the union influence on this government. We need go no further than the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to see how union officials have influenced his decision-making. Businesses are also concerned about the amount of red and green tape that this government has imposed on them. It is making their lives more difficult.

Yesterday, the infrastructure institute of Queensland said there is a lack of investment in infrastructure in this state. Of course, Queensland has the worst unemployment rate—equal with WA—in the country. Despite the fact that the national unemployment rate under the economic management of a coalition government is going down, our unemployment rate is going up.

This motion is an abuse of the parliamentary process. Every member of this House has the right to get up and question the economic credentials of this government, because there are many others who are doing it—people who are experts in the field. It is not one group of people who are saying it; it is two, three, four and five. This Treasurer ignores the facts.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba South. There is a continuing trend. We have the right to ask questions. We have the right to take the time, because our constituents want to know what this government is doing with their money. I will tell the members opposite that they are not doing a very good job.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Member for Everton

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.33 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I found the contribution from the member for Everton deeply alarming and personally offensive. To compare me to Middle Eastern dictator Saddam Hussein is something that should not be in this chamber. If those opposite want to talk about trends, let me talk about all of the racist trends and comments coming from those opposite. Mr Deputy Speaker, I will be writing to the Speaker about this. This is an appalling standard.

MOTION

Business Program

Resumed from p. 3085.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Nanango, you are already on the list. You should know better than that.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 48:

ALP, 46—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 42:

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

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pair: C. O'Rourke, Crandon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.40 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders, debate of committee reports be postponed for this week's sitting.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.40 am): This motion is a clear example of solid Thursday committee business, which is committee reports being tabled and opportunities for members of parliament to speak, being suspended and thrown out. We will not have debate on committee reports this week. This shows again how this system is not working. This system continually denies opportunities for members in the Queensland parliament to speak.

The government has its agenda. It has moved its committee business motion. It wants to get five bills through plus some address-in-reply speeches. In the standing orders there is a procedure on Thursday where members are given the opportunity and ability to speak on committee reports—committee reports which members of parliament are getting paid substantially more money for. They produce reports and some of those reports are very, very important, such as Auditor-General reports and matters in relation to financial accountability and financial authorities. They are very important. Those opposite dismiss it like it is nothing: we will do it next sitting—if we even have a next sitting. Who knows? These standing orders are so fluid it is like the floods have come again. It is whatever the government wants.

All year this new Palaszczuk Labor government has talked about transparency and accountability. At every available opportunity Premier Palaszczuk talks about Queenslanders needing their voices heard. She had a view, of course, when she was opposition leader that her views were not being heard, even if she had the ability at three o'clock or four o'clock in the morning to be heard. Now that we have a Labor majority government, this is what Labor do.

Ms Grace: Hear, hear!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Minister for Industrial Relations, 'hear, hearing' the arrogance and the lack of accountability and transparency since the minister for industrial relations has become a minister in this place. It speaks volumes of how the government is running its affairs.

Those opposite railroad everything in this parliament and now the standing orders get suspended and we are not going to debate committee reports, which I think are important particularly to those members who are on those committees. Many issues have been raised since those committee reports have been tabled every week in parliament. The reason they are on the standing order agenda is that they are important. We have deputy chairs, we have committee members, we have Labor committee members who always use the opportunity to speak on committee reports, not only raising issues of state but also raising the issues of their constituents, whether it is water security, biosecurity, health or matters in the Justice and Attorney-General portfolio, education or public works and accounts inquiries—all these things that the committees look at and deliberate on and then table in parliament.

My concern is greater as we are approaching the end of the year and we are in uncertain territory with respect to whether we are sitting in December or not. Who knows whether these committee reports will be deferred until next year? We are yet to see a 2019 sitting calendar. This is about accountability and transparency. I keep putting it to the House that the Labor Party are railroading members of this House who are duly elected.

When in government I remember sitting here many a night at midnight, two o'clock, three o'clock in the morning, as we did under previous Labor administrations, Labor Old Guard administrations, that actually believed in the fundamental right of every member to speak in this place. The new generation of Labor Party members, such as the member for Pine Rivers, do not believe in that ability. The ideologically crazy, left driven agenda does not believe in anyone else's views. That is why they do not want people to speak in this place. They want to guillotine every debate.

At the start of this term they were guillotining the debate pursuant to the standing orders using the motions. The Minister for Tourism shut a member down halfway through his contribution, if members recall. The member for Coomera was shut down because the minister did not like what he was saying. There were debates that many members wanted to speak on and the Labor members came in here and guillotined the debate. At least when we guillotined debate it was at four o'clock in the morning after about three days of debate. Those opposite opposed it then.

Left-wing driven media outlets said how crazy it was to guillotine debate and that democracy was being stabbed in the heart. Isn't it funny that the Labor Party can get away with stabbing democracy in the heart and some left-wing media outlets, or left-wing journalists, do not care because it is the Labor Party? Those who profess tolerance are the least tolerant of other people's views. Where are these bastions of democracy in the left-wing media outlets talking about the guillotining of debates or family-friendly hours? It was never about family-friendly hours; it was about making sure the government could get its agenda through without much debate and without much question. That is what this was about.

The government says, 'We will do the committee reports in the future'—maybe, if we get around to it. That goes completely against what the now Premier said as opposition leader. She was all about accountability and integrity for a better Queensland. She threw out all those slogans and misrepresented the people of Queensland. Since the last sitting a few weeks ago has anyone seen the Premier anywhere in Queensland? I have once and, of course, it was next to the Duke and Duchess on Fraser Island.

Mr Mander: Good news item.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Deputy Leader. It was a good news item. I recall watching the news that night where the Premier was not completely in shot and she did this little move across to make sure she was seen with the Duke.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Kawana, we are debating the motion on the committee reports being postponed. Can I bring you back to the debate, please?

Mr BLEIJIE: Let us hope in the future there are committee reports about the job of a member of parliament in this place. I put it to members that it is not just showing up for the good fun stories, the positive stories, it is showing up in the good times and the bad times, it is showing up when there is controversy, it is showing up to defend people, not just in the good times or when we have a royal visit in Queensland. Committee reports are important. It is important that standing orders are not continually suspended so there is no debate.

We are trashing this place. Over the past 12 months, Labor have trashed this place. They did not do that so much in a hung parliament, because they did not have the power and they could not get away with it. However, give them a little bit of power, give them a majority and look what we have: this power-hungry, arrogant, incompetent Labor government that will do anything to ride roughshod not only over the members in this place, including the crossbenchers, but also over the people of Queensland.

We are elected to speak for the people of Queensland. They talk about baby Elizabeth being the five millionth Queensland. As I have said many times, baby Elizabeth deserves a voice in this place, but she is being denied that voice by the Labor Party. The Labor Party does not like people speaking, particularly if those people do not agree with what they say. Theirs is the most intolerant political party in the Commonwealth. They fight for equality, yet they kick out their own female candidates. They fight for tolerance, but they cannot tolerate anyone else's views.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, I have already counselled you on what the debate is about. I bring you back to the debate or ask you to resume your seat.

Mr BLEIJIE: If we look at the agenda and the notice paper, there are quite a few bills to be debated, as we heard in the previous debate. There are also orders of motion, orders referred to parliamentary committees, electoral legislation, antidiscrimination legislation, the Protecting Queenslanders from Violent and Child Sex Offenders Amendment Bill, working with children legislation and then, from page 6 on, all of the committee reports—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, there is no need to read through the sessional papers for today. The debate is very clearly about committee reports being postponed for the week. I bring you back to what the debate is about.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am directly referring to subject matters relevant to the committees that will have their reports delayed. Those committee reports are to be tabled on Thursday and we are suspending the debate on those reports. We will not have the opportunity to debate those reports.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.51 am): I ask members to support the motion being put forward by the government for a number of reasons. Firstly, this issue was flagged last night in the Business Committee meeting and the opposition raised no issues in relation to it. Once again, they come in here and start huffing and puffing about democracy and the impact on democracy. This morning they have spent almost 20 minutes debating the Business Committee motion, arguing that they want time to debate important issues on the appropriation and revenue bills, yet they are now choosing to chew up time by debating a procedural motion as opposed to getting on with dealing with the bills. They say those bills are critical to this parliament and that they all want to have a say on them, yet they are deliberately delaying that debate.

I have to comment on the statements of the Manager of Opposition Business in relation to this motion. He said that in this country the Palaszczuk government is from the party that is the least tolerant of other people's views. In directly responding to the issues raised by the Manager of Opposition Business in the debate, only last sitting week three members of the opposition exercised their conscience vote and rightly so. A decision was made—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: No, the Manager of Opposition Business chose to go there and I am responding.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Attorney-General, I bring you back to the debate, please. Just because the member for Kawana veered off course and became irrelevant, I ask you not to do that. I bring you back to what we are debating here, which is the postponement of committee reports. I bring you back to the motion.

Mrs D'ATH: There will be more than adequate time for the debate on the committee reports in future sitting weeks. It is important that we give opportunities not just to debate the bills of this House but also to allow members to deliver their address-in-reply speeches. Those on the other side have been critical that we have not finished the address-in-reply debate, so this week people will have the chance to deliver their address-in-reply speeches. We can then move on to the business before the House and debate the bills that those opposite claim are so important to them and to the people of Queensland. I move—

That the question be now put.

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, the Attorney-General has closed the debate and asked that the question be now put.

Mr Hart: One speaker?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: One moment. My apologies: when the Attorney again takes to her feet and speaks, she effectively closes the debate.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 46:

ALP, 46—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D’Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O’Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

NOES, 41:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: C. O’Rourke, Crandon.

Resolved in the affirmative.

REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2)

APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 22 August (see p. 1961), Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) resumed from 4 September (see p. 2170) and Appropriation Bill (No. 2) resumed from 4 September (see p. 2172).

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.00 pm): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

I thank the Economics and Governance Committee for its examination of the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018. I acknowledge the various submissions made by a number of organisations and the briefings provided by Queensland Treasury and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. I thank the witnesses who appeared at public hearings, both on Mornington Island and in Brisbane.

I will begin my speech by addressing the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and then move on to the appropriation bills. In its report No. 16, tabled on 5 October 2018, the committee made one recommendation—that the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be passed.

I thank the committee for its detailed consideration and comments throughout the report. This includes the committee’s support for the proposed amendments in the bill as well as acknowledgement of the quality of the explanatory notes prepared by Queensland Treasury, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority.

The Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill amends Queensland’s revenue legislation and other acts administered through Queensland Treasury and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships for particular purposes. I set out at the beginning of the debate by way of clarity that the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill does not contain any new revenue measures or tax increases. Rather, it contains various administrative amendments to improve governance.

The amendments to Queensland's revenue legislation support an expansion of electronic conveyancing and ensure their currency and continued proper operation. E-conveyancing is quicker, easier and more efficient than traditional methods. The Duties Act, the Duties Regulation and the Taxation Administration Act will be amended to allow most land based dutiable transactions, which can be assessed by self-assessors, to be lodged and settled through e-conveyancing.

The transfer duty framework currently supports e-conveyancing only for residential cottage conveyance transactions. These amendments will support the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy's phased expansion of e-conveyancing and an expanded range of transactions more generally, giving Queenslanders the option of using e-conveyancing to lodge and settle a broader range of transactions.

The Taxation Administration Act will also be amended to ensure the charitable institution registration requirements operate as intended. The amendments will provide certainty for both taxpayers and the Office of State Revenue, OSR, as to eligibility for valuable state tax exemptions. Importantly, no currently registered charitable institution will lose the benefit of these exemptions as a result of the amendments in this bill. To qualify for registration as a charitable institution there are certain requirements that must be met, including restrictions on the use of its income and property. The amendments do not change the existing restrictions.

Prior to 2015 OSR would only allow the registration of a charitable institution if its constitution expressly contained certain restrictions on the use of its income and property. Following the Supreme Court decision in Queensland Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ltd v Commissioner of State Revenue, charitable institutions do not need to expressly provide for these restrictions. Instead, it is sufficient that the practical effect of their constitution is that the restrictions are met. These amendments seek to restore the pre-2015 position to provide certainty for both OSR and taxpayers. No charity that currently receives state tax exemptions will be taxed within the transitional period and OSR will assist charities affected by these amendments to make their constitutions compliant.

I acknowledge the submission made by the Queensland Law Society and want to specifically address a number of the issues they have raised as well as foreshadow an amendment that I will move during consideration in detail. An amendment will be moved to extend the transitional period from six months to two years to allow all charities additional time to amend their constitutions and work with OSR to ensure eligibility requirements are met. This will give charities ample extended time to ensure they comply with the legislation and is in response to concerns raised by the Queensland Law Society that the proposed transitional period was too short.

In addition, a public ruling will be issued by the commissioner which confirms that she will not take action against an institution that fails to notify OSR that it has ceased to be entitled to be registered after the transitional period where it has not obtained a tax benefit. Another public ruling will be issued which confirms that charitable trusts that do not have members will not be required to expressly contain restrictions in its constitution which apply to charities that have members.

Finally, a public ruling will be issued by the commissioner clarifying that charitable institutions will be able to qualify for registration even if their constitutions do not contain precisely the same wording as the restrictions in the act. The public ruling will also refer to template rules that the commission considers comply with the act. The combination of the public rulings and amendments I will move will ensure that no currently registered charitable institution will lose the benefit of these exemptions as a result of the amendments in the bill.

Through this bill we are giving a hand to some of our primary producers who are being affected by the drought. Amendments in this bill to the Duties Act will give retrospective legislative effect to a current administrative arrangement which extends the transfer duty concession for family businesses of primary production so it applies to all types of dutiable property used to conduct the business and not just land and personal property. This concession facilitates earlier succession planning by allowing the business to be handed down during the lifetime of the owner duty free.

The Duties Act will also be amended to give retrospective legislative effect to two other beneficial administrative arrangements. Amendments will ensure that, in specified circumstances and subject to certain conditions, dealings in particular deregistered managed investment schemes may qualify for an exemption from duty. Additionally, amendments will correct a cross-reference ensuring that landholder duty is calculated as intended.

Amendments to the Land Tax Act will ensure that higher tax-free threshold and lower land tax rates for individuals can continue to apply to deceased estate land until administration of the estate is complete. Additionally, amendments will ensure that, subject to conditions, exemptions the deceased

was entitled to can continue to apply to deceased estate land for the financial year immediately following the death. These amendments, which give retrospective legislative effect to a beneficial administrative arrangement, will support the continuation of OSR's assessing practice, which is consistent with the longstanding policy position.

The Payroll Tax Act will be amended to update the rate used to calculate the exempt component of a motor vehicle allowance, giving retrospective legislative effect to a beneficial administrative arrangement. The amendment will align Queensland with other jurisdictions and will ensure the continued availability of an exemption for motor vehicle allowances paid or payable to employees.

Additionally, the bill makes amendments to address minor technical issues which affect the planned implementation of the new service delivery model for the State Penalties Enforcement Registry, or SPER. The amendments will correct inconsistencies between act sections relating to the operation of work and development orders which provide improved non-monetary debt finalisation options for debtors experiencing hardship. Minor changes will also be made to support SPER's move to case management by debtors by simplifying provisions which set out the order in which payments are allocated to different SPER debts and establishing consistent registration arrangements for all debt types referred to SPER.

The amendments to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984, which I will refer to hereafter as the JLOM act, affirm the commitment by the government to address serious health issues and potentially fatal consequences from homemade alcohol in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We have listened to community concerns around alcohol being made with cheap and easy to access ingredients or through other emerging methods. A particular example is turbo yeast. Through the Rockland decision from the District Court, it highlighted that a substance, such as turbo yeast, is not captured in the definition of 'home-brew concentrate' if it does not include malt and hops. The proposed amendments will address this gap in section 38 of the JLOM act.

I note the committee's comments in the report that, given the sole purpose of turbo yeast is to make alcohol, an option is to prohibit the possession of turbo yeast or other similar yeasts, along with home-brew concentrate. This approach was considered. However, new and alternative substances and ways of making home-brew alcohol are emerging. It would be impractical for police to do their job on the ground each time a new substance or method emerges which requires an amendment to be taken through this House.

As a strategy to future proof this issue and avoid a knock-on effect of substitutes being found, the amendments have been designed around the intention of a person to use the substance or combination of substances to make homemade alcohol. A 'substance' can be anything. However, it is the intent of the person to use the substance or substances to make homemade alcohol that will trigger the offence provision. That way any substitute substance or substances that arise in the future to make homemade alcohol will be captured by this offence. This approach also avoids criminalising a person in possession of lawful household substances for their ordinary purpose such as fruit juice, yeast, vegemite and sugar which can also be used to make homemade alcohol.

From the submissions made and received, I note that they are generally supportive of the proposed amendments. I am pleased that the government has the support of the community to work together to continue to enhance community safety and wellbeing. Improving the safety and wellbeing of all community members—in particular, those who are most vulnerable—will continue to be the reference point for alcohol management. The government will continue to partner with communities, leveraging their abilities and knowledge, to find sustainable solutions to the challenge of alcohol misuse and harm.

The amendments to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003, which I will refer to hereafter as the culture heritage acts, are provided in response to the Nuga Nuga Supreme Court decision. This decision interpreted the term 'native title holder' in section 34(1)(b)(i), known as the 'last claim standing' provision, to also include a common law native title holder. To date, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, or DATSIP, and other stakeholders have understood the reference to 'native title holder' to mean a person who has been determined to hold native title under the Commonwealth Native Title Act.

The 'last claim standing' provision provides that a native title party for an area is a registered native title claimant whose claim has failed and (a) their claim was the last claim registered under the Register of Native Title Claims for the area; (b) there is no other registered native title claimant for the area; and (c) there is not and never has been a native title holder for the area. The proposed

amendments reinstate the original understanding of the 'last claim standing' provision by adding the word 'registered' before 'native title holder' in section 34(1)(b)(i)(C). While we recognise and acknowledge that there is likely to be common law native title holders in most parts of Queensland, this amendment provides the necessary clarification and certainty that the 'last claim standing' provision only applies where there is no registered native title holder—that is, a person who has been determined to hold native title under the Commonwealth Native Title Act.

The amendments ensure the recognition, protection and conservation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage can be upheld by taking advantage of the native title claims process established under the Commonwealth Native Title Act to provide certainty to all parties in the identification of the appropriate Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander party to be involved in the assessment and management of cultural heritage; and remove a situation where DATSIP, on behalf of the Queensland government, would be required to decide whether there is, or has ever been, a holder of native title at common law.

To provide certainty to stakeholders who have commenced a process or where an action has been taken or a decision has been made under the cultural heritage acts, there are important validating provisions to preserve these processes, actions or decisions. I also note the support from some submitters for the proposed amendments as a means of providing certainty to land users in the identification of appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be involved in cultural heritage management, where there are no current registered native title holders or claimants.

The other issues raised through the committee's inquiry related to the policy merit behind the 'last claim standing' provision and the operation of the cultural heritage acts as a whole. In my explanatory speech I flagged the potential for a review of the cultural heritage acts. I am pleased to announce that DATSIP will be conducting a broad review of the cultural heritage acts to commence in 2019. This review will provide a valuable opportunity to examine whether the legislation is still operating as intended, is achieving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, and is in line with the government's broader objective to reframe the relationship with first nations Queenslanders and update it to reflect the current native title landscape. I appreciate the committee's interest on the progress of the review.

The bill will also amend the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act 2016 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1967 to confirm the board may appoint an interim chief executive officer in instances where the position becomes vacated; amend the March deadline for preparing annual budgets to mitigate the administrative impact of not being aligned with general Queensland government time frames; amend the reference to repealed legislation in the section relating to board appointments; and expressly confirm the delivery authority's compulsory land acquisition applications may be considered by the minister administering the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act. These amendments are needed to streamline and enhance the administration of the delivery authority.

Turning now to the appropriation bills, I again would like to thank the Economics and Governance Committee for its report tabled on 19 October 2018 regarding the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018. I would also like to thank those who appeared as witnesses as part of the committee's inquiry. I am pleased to note that the committee supports the bills and recommends that they be passed.

The purpose of the bills is to provide for supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2017-18 financial year. Unforeseen expenditure is the term used to describe payments from the Consolidated Fund for a department which are above the amount approved at budget. In this case, the reference point is the 2017-18 budget. On 19 July 2018, the Governor in Council authorised the unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2017-18 financial year. The payment for this expenditure is to be formally authorised under an act of parliament in accordance with section 66 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001.

The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018 seeks parliamentary approval of supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service in the 2017-18 financial year of \$5.140 million. The unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service were primarily due to costs associated with the 2017 electoral boundary distribution and state election.

The Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018 seeks parliamentary approval of supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by seven departments in the 2017-18 financial year of \$494.915 million. Approximately 47 per cent of this total unforeseen expenditure was incurred by the Department of Transport and Main Roads and related to state and Commonwealth accelerated funding

for capital programs, including the Bruce Highway upgrade and other state roads. A further 38 per cent was incurred by the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs which was primarily due to the Commonwealth government's prepayment of 2018-19 funding for financial assistance grants to local governments.

The occurrence of unforeseen expenditure and the preparation of supplementary appropriation bills is standard practice each and every year. The unforeseen expenditure of \$500 million represents 0.98 per cent of the 2017-18 budgeted appropriation and is below the annual average of \$637 million over the previous five years. The Consolidated Fund financial report contains explanations of all unforeseen expenditure incurred by departments and this information supports parliament's understanding and debate of the bills. In accordance with the requirements of the Financial Accountability Act 2009, I tabled the *Consolidated Fund financial report 2017-18* with the bills on 4 September 2018.

Once again, I want to acknowledge all members and staff of the committee for its examination of the bills. I also acknowledge and thank all of the individuals and organisations who took the time to make submissions. I also thank departmental staff in Queensland Treasury, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships as well as the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority for their work. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.20 pm): I rise to speak in this cognate debate on the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018 and Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018. I will start by discussing the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill was introduced in parliament on 22 August this year by the Treasurer and considered by the Economics and Governance Committee. As outlined in the explanatory notes, the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 makes various amendments to a number of acts administered by the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.

More specific objectives of the bill include supporting the expansion of electronic conveyancing; ensuring that charitable institution registration requirements in relation to the use of income and property operate as intended; and giving retrospective legislative effect to a number of administrative arrangements. These include extending the transfer duty concession for family businesses of primary production to all types of dutiable property used to conduct a primary production business; ensuring that certain deregistered managed investment schemes can be treated as exempt managed investment schemes in particular circumstances and subject to conditions; and updating the rate used to calculate the exempt component of a motor vehicle allowance, ensuring that payroll tax can be correctly calculated.

Further stated objectives of the bill include supporting the implementation of the new service delivery model for the State Penalties Enforcement Registry by making amendments to address technical issues within the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999; and capturing and prohibiting substances such as turbo yeast that can be used to make homemade alcohol in nine discrete Indigenous communities.

Other stated objectives of the bill include reinstating the 'last claim standing' provision as previously understood by decision-makers under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003 prior to the Supreme Court handing down its ruling on *Nuga Nuga Aboriginal Corporation v Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships* [2017 QSC 321] and validating decisions made and actions taken and transition actions taken where processes had already commenced under these acts; and making minor administrative arrangements changes to the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act 2016, including amendments to allow for the board to appoint an interim chief executive officer, and expressly confirming that compulsory land acquisition applications may be endorsed by the minister administering the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act 2016.

The Economics and Governance Committee was advised that government consultation had been undertaken for some of the amendments contained within these bills. This includes consultation on supporting the expansion of electronic conveyancing, consultation with the mayors of nine Indigenous communities that have alcohol management plans and consultation with three government departments on amendments impacting Cross River Rail. However, consultation was notably not undertaken when it came to other revenue amendments in the bill or when it came to amendments to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage acts.

I note that 14 stakeholder submissions were received. Of these, five spoke against the amendments to reinstate the 'last man standing' claim. I also note that concerns were raised about the additional regulatory burden being placed on charities and not-for-profits from amendments in this bill.

This bill, in attempting to amend no fewer than 11 acts at once, manages to inadvertently highlight the many failures of this government, and I am afraid they will not simply be amended away. We have Labor's and the Treasurer's pet infrastructure project, Cross River Rail, already over 18 months behind schedule according to the original business case. We have SPER debt continuing to climb under Labor instead of being paid off, which is an approach to debt that is entirely typical for this Labor government. On top of this, an ongoing SPER ICT project has run well over budget from \$47.2 million to \$62.2 million. Between this ICT project blow-out and the Health ICT blow-out, it is amazing that this government has any money left to spend. Clearly Labor's softly, softly approach is costing Queensland taxpayers more and more every day whether it comes to SPER debt or government debt.

I will now discuss the appropriation bills. The objective of these bills is to seek formal authorisation for the specified amounts in each bill that the Treasurer paid from the Consolidated Fund for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2017-18 financial year. Unforeseen expenditure refers to expenditure from the Consolidated Fund in excess of the amount provided by the Appropriation (Parliament) Act 2017 and the Appropriation Act 2017, and authorised by the Governor in Council to be made in advance of appropriation.

Under these bills, the Treasurer is authorised to pay \$494,915,000 from the Consolidated Fund for several departments as stated in schedule 1 for the financial year starting 1 July 2017. This includes \$12,419,000 for Child Safety, Youth and Women; \$187,947,000 for Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs; \$16,652,000 for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy; \$37,918,000 for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy; \$231,252,000 for Transport and Main Roads; \$13,000 for the Office of the Governor; \$57,000 for the Queensland Audit Office; and \$8,597,000 for the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

Under these bills the Treasurer is also authorised to pay \$5,140,000 from the Consolidated Fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial year starting 1 July 2017. The unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service was advised by the Queensland Treasurer to be primarily due to costs associated with the 2017 electoral boundary distribution and state election. Lower equity adjustments were also applied to offset the additional departmental services.

The total authorised expenditure for these two bills equals \$500,055,000. That, of course, is over half a billion dollars. If we look at previous years, last year there was unforeseen expenditure of \$2.272 billion. In 2015-16 it was \$390,125,000. If we compare that to the previous three financial years when the LNP was in government, there was unforeseen expenditure of \$12 million in 2014-15, \$447 million in 2013-14 and around \$63 million in 2012-13.

Queensland's fiscal and economic position has continued to weaken under the Palaszczuk government. These bills are yet another example of the Palaszczuk Labor government's complete failure to manage the state's finances, after having a shocking unforeseen expenditure amount of almost \$2.3 billion last financial year. Including the unforeseen expenditure in these bills, this government has racked up over \$3.16 billion in unforeseen expenditure from 2015-16 to 2017-18, displaying a complete inability to set limits on their use of taxpayers' money. If we include 2014-15 for the LNP, the Palaszczuk Labor government has spent \$2.67 billion more in unforeseen expenditure than the previous LNP government in a comparative three-year period.

We cannot trust Labor to manage a budget and we cannot trust Labor with Queensland's economy. The Treasurer's first budget single-handedly set Queensland on a course for a record debt of \$83 billion. The Treasurer and Labor successfully abandoned Labor's so-called debt action plan, meaning that, even after raiding public servants' superannuation, Queensland is still heading towards a record debt. The Treasurer's first budget broke her government's own fiscal principles: public servant growth more than double that of population growth, at 3.6 per cent last year, and increasing Queensland's relative debt burden every year across the forward estimates, as measured by the general government debt to revenue ratio. Only Labor could get a massive coal royalty windfall and bring in five new taxes and still have increased borrowings to plug the budget black hole, while racking up more and more debt. The Palaszczuk Labor government is a government of taxes, debt and unemployment for Queenslanders.

Queensland currently has the worst unemployment rate in the nation at 6.1 per cent trend. The national unemployment rate may have gone down, but this Labor government managed to buck that trend and get Queensland's unemployment to increase. Over 162,500 Queenslanders are looking for

work and unable to get a job. There were 11,600 Queenslanders who lost their jobs in the last month, and over 23,000 who gave up looking for work in the last month alone. The June ABS national accounts revealed that Queensland had the worst economic growth of any state in the June quarter, at only 0.1 per cent growth. That came in the same quarter as the government's budget of taxes, debt and unemployment.

Business confidence has plummeted under Labor. The June Sensis Business Index put the Palaszczuk government as the least popular government among small and medium sized businesses. The June CCIQ Pulse Survey continued to show that business sentiment and profitability both remain negative and that the divide in business confidence between South-East Queensland and regional Queensland continues to grow.

The October CommSec State of the States report puts shame to the Premier's state of the state 'golden age' claim, putting Queensland in sixth place in the nation, solidly in the bottom half of the economic ladder behind South Australia. The economy has ground to a halt under Labor. The June ABS national accounts reveal this, with Queensland having the worst economic growth of any state in the June quarter. On Labor's preferred measure, which is seasonally adjusted, ABS Construction Work Done fell 3.9 per cent in the June quarter, which is the second largest drop in construction work in the nation. This translates to construction sector jobs going begging.

Queensland has suffered from the largest drop in investor confidence in the whole nation, according to the Infrastructure Investment Report for 2018. New South Wales and Victoria are now nearly three times more attractive for those wanting to invest in infrastructure than Queensland, and it is Queensland's jobs that suffer. Fewer than 10 per cent of investors recently surveyed thought that the Palaszczuk Labor government was easy to work with.

Queensland's fiscal position has continued to weaken under Labor. As mentioned earlier, we are heading towards a massive debt bomb of \$83 billion. Only Labor can achieve this with new taxes and a royalty windfall. Fitch Ratings recently downgraded Queensland's credit outlook as a direct result of the Treasurer and the Premier breaking their own fiscal principles of lowering the general government debt to revenue ratio. The Treasurer has refused to put a time limit on restoring Queensland's AAA credit rating, which was lost under the Bligh government when the now Premier sat around the cabinet table.

In contrast, the LNP has a real economic plan to secure Queensland's future, while Labor only has a plan for taxes, debt and unemployment. The LNP government will lower electricity costs by introducing competition to the market—a reform that Labor's own Productivity Commission found would lower electricity prices by hundreds of dollars in regional Queensland. The LNP will restructure our government owned power generators from two to three entities—a measure recommended by the ACCC's retail electricity pricing inquiry and an approach that is said to reduce wholesale power prices by around eight per cent.

We will get to work on much needed road and water security infrastructure, instead of just talking about it. We will fix the M1, we will build the second M1, we will deliver the Sunshine Coast rail duplication and we will support the Brisbane Metro. We will immediately stump up our share of the \$3.3 billion in Bruce Highway upgrades to get much needed work started immediately. We will cut red tape and ensure faster payments to Queensland businesses, once again giving businesses a reason to invest and employ in Queensland. We will guarantee no new taxes under an LNP government because only the LNP has a real plan to secure Queensland's future. We recognise and support the fact that more money is required. We recognise that there is unintended expenditure. Of course we will always guarantee supply so we will support this bill.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.35 pm): I note the highly selective nature of the member for Everton's speech. It used to be his stump speech for the leadership, but they have gone off that with recent events down in Canberra and now he just repeats it because he does not have anything else to say. One thing he did not mention is some of the strong job creation that is happening in Queensland under the stewardship of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. There have been 170,000 jobs created in Queensland since this Labor government came to office. That is five times the number of jobs created under the former LNP government that the member for Everton was a part of, but he will not tell the House that fact.

He will not tell the House that in the past 12 months we have created more jobs in Queensland than Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the ACT combined. The other fact he will not tell us is the strength of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, who is focused on job

creation and on what real Queenslanders want out of their economy—that is, good, solid jobs. That is what this government is creating. I will leave that because there are serious issues to address in the bill.

As chair of the Economics and Governance Committee, I rise to support the cognate bills and the committee's reports on the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018. The committee recommended that all of these bills be passed. As part of our inquiry process on the Appropriation Bill (No. 2), the committee held a public briefing with Queensland Treasury officials and the transcript of the hearing is available on the committee's web page. On 10 September we also invited stakeholders and subscribers to make written submissions. Although the committee did not receive any submissions, the bills and the committee's process is an important part of budget accountability and transparency. It is understood that there will be each year occasions where the government makes an appropriation that is for the benefit of Queensland but had not been envisaged at the time of the budget. Section 66 of the Queensland Constitution makes it clear that this bill is a requirement for appropriation and expenditure unforeseen in the budget.

Some of the largest expenditure unforeseen is relating to the timing of agreed Commonwealth payments where payments from the Commonwealth were shifted from one financial year to the next and the state, rather than delaying vital works for projects such as roads, undertook extra expenditure in order to deliver the projects. The committee asked Treasury for a list of the relevant road projects, and they are listed on page 5 of the report. The parliament's budget was also adjusted as, at the time of the original appropriations bill, the parliament could not be sure of the exact election date and the associated costs of new staff and costs associated with the electoral boundary changes. I commend the bills to the House as a normal part of the process of budget accountability that occurs each year.

This cognate debate also seeks to pass the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This was a bill with a variety of purposes, including expanding electronic conveyancing, an adjustment to the laws regarding alcohol restrictions in some Queensland Indigenous communities, changes to the Indigenous cultural heritage act and changes to the administration of the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority.

The Economics and Governance Committee invited written submissions, and there is a list of 14 submissions in the report. The committee received a public briefing from Queensland Treasury and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. The committee noted that the laws regarding alcohol restrictions only apply to a number of remote Indigenous communities. The committee undertook to travel to Mornington Island to hear firsthand the views of the community. It also held an additional public hearing in Brisbane on 17 September. A list of witnesses who appeared at these hearings is included in the committee's report. Of course, submissions and transcripts of hearings are available on the committee's web page.

The bill continues the expansion of e-conveyancing in Queensland. The process of transferring title is vitally important for Queensland and the nation. That is why this process has proceeded carefully in stages. Originally in 2015, this process was limited to only ELN transfers. This legislation further expands the process by adjusting the duty framework to permit more land based dutiable transactions to be accessed by a registered self-assessor, allowing most land based dutiable transactions to be lodged and settled through e-conveyancing. I note that the Property Council expressed support for the bill saying—

Electronic conveyancing ... delivers a range of benefits for parties transacting property in Queensland ... significantly reduces the time taken to complete a transaction, lowers the risks associated with human error, and makes funds from property sales available much sooner than a standard paper transaction.

The bill also seeks to restore the original intent of the registration of charitable institutions in relation to the Taxation Administration Act. It specifically calls for an entity that seeks duty, land tax or payroll tax exemptions to include in its constitution specific clauses making clear that the purpose of the entity is to use its income and property solely for the promotion of charitable causes. The committee's report noted the concern over the transition and the time in which these often volunteer organisations and boards would have to comply. I note that the minister has addressed this concern. It is vital—and all Queenslanders expect—that, if a charitable organisation seeks a tax exemption, the organisation be solely focused on the stated aims of the organisation to fulfil a charitable purpose.

The amendments to alcohol restrictions on remote Aboriginal communities is an important change to clarify the intent of the laws limiting alcohol in specific communities under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities Act 1994. The original act attempted to deal with the issue of

homemade alcohol by banning the production of alcohol from home-brew kits and home-brew concentrate, and this has recently been defined as only a concentrate made from malt and hops. However, in reality alcohol can be made from any sugar based solution, not just a malt one, which makes the problem more complex. Specifically, we heard of the problem of sugar based home-brew alcohol utilising what is called Turbo Yeast, this being the brand name of a strain of yeast refined to create higher strength alcohol quickly and at high temperatures. This, unfortunately, is a powerful product to create illicit high-strength alcohol in a remote location for sale. This legislation attempts to correct this problem by prohibiting substances for the making of homemade alcohol. Obviously, alcohol can be made from any form of sugar solution from fruit, sugar or malt, wild yeasts or bread-making yeast, or even the remnant yeast cells in Vegemite. That is why the offence is triggered by the intent of a person in using a substance or a combination of substances in a way that is not for their original purpose.

Many submitters spoke of the presence of yeasts that are used specifically for brewing, often in the production of a spirits wash that is intended to be distilled. These yeasts are industrially created to consume sugars at a very fast rate and to create alcohol very quickly and to survive longer, creating a higher percentage of alcohol, sometimes up to 20 per cent. The yeasts can also survive at a higher temperature. In fact, it is as if they were designed to quickly produce high-strength alcohol in the tropics that is easy to hide from the police before it is sold. The committee report details that the Police Service noted that these quick, high-strength brewing yeast strains create a particular problem but emphasised that—

If turbo yeast were taken away it takes longer but there is still a problem because it—
alcohol—

can still be made.

Others made the claim that turbo yeasts should be specifically identified under the act. The committee report stated—

that turbo yeast or any other yeast designed for the production of alcohol should be referred to separately as a substance that is an offence to possess—

I emphasise that this was in addition and not instead of the provision that deals with substances with the intent to produce alcohol. I note that the minister has agreed with the police that these specific industrial forms of yeast are only one part of the problem and that alcohol can be produced from a variety of sources.

For many in this House the recognition of the rights of those Australians descended from the people who inhabited this continent for 40,000 years is vitally important. The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003 recognise the importance of preserving cultural heritage in consultation with the best Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander party for the area being affected. This amendment attempts to clarify which party should be the party with which an entity deals when these cultural heritage acts are triggered. These are serious issues where finding the correct parties can be complex and indeed contested. This was made more complex by the result of the Nuga Nuga Aboriginal Corporation decision, which overturned the provision of the 'last claim standing' provision of the act. These amendments restore this original intent by adding the term 'registered' to clarify the original intent.

There was considerable concern about this from a variety of parties. While this amendment creates certainty for landholders, there was concern that a party that had actively been rejected in a court as having any evidence of connection to a particular area of land may still be the party identified as the last claim standing. I specifically acknowledge the Deputy Premier's commitment to address the concerns by a wider ranging review of the provisions and administration of the Aboriginal cultural heritage acts. The submissions and contributions to this committee can help inform that review to address those concerns.

I commend these bills to the House and note the other issues of Cross River Rail and the State Penalties Enforcement Act. The more complete findings of the committee are contained in the report. I also wish to thank Melissa of the committee secretariat who has served ably as our secretary throughout the process. She is going to continue to work for us but in a different role. I thank her for her participation as well as the entire secretariat. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.46 pm): As a member of the Economics and Governance Committee I am absolutely ashamed and disgusted at the way these two bills have been treated by this Palaszczuk Labor government, which is absolutely intent on hiding and covering up

every issue it possibly can. In fact, they would be happy if this parliament did not sit at all. Just to advise our good friends in the Labor Party, the idea of the Westminster system is to question the government, talk about their legislation and put matters before this House that are relevant to the communities we all represent.

My constituents of Mermaid Beach have an interest in these two separate bills that I was going to prosecute here on their behalf. Under the old regime that was in place prior to this Palaszczuk Labor government shutting down the business of parliament, committee members had 20 minutes to speak on these matters. Now, two bills have been cognated here today—in effect three cognated to two—and I have basically five minutes to speak on both, so I have to cherry-pick my speeches to address the issues—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order, members!

Mr STEVENS: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, for your protection. I have only a very short time to address very important issues.

The Economics and Governance Committee does a lot of good, hard work in considering whether these bills are appropriate. Members of that committee spend many hours travelling all over the state, spending taxpayers' funds on behalf of Queenslanders so that they might be well informed, and we are shut down in that we are able to deliver, at best, speeches of five minutes duration. It is absolutely disgusting. It is the hallmark of this government to shut down the activity of the parliament, covering up all matters and preventing the questioning of the government. It goes totally against the outcome they promised when they came to government of being open and transparent.

Unfortunately, we have a government that wants to hide even simple bills such as the ROLA Bill and the two appropriation bills we have before us in the House today. They will not allow those bills to be debated in a full and deliberate manner, denying us the opportunity to speak to all of the issues we find relevant. I have to cherry-pick these issues as the time is ticking away, and that is very disappointing.

I rise to speak to the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The committee spent quite a large amount of time on this because it is such a large, omnibus bill covering quite a few areas in itself. There were matters, which I shall raise shortly, that were of interest to the community and particularly the Mermaid Beach electorate.

May I first say in terms of electronic conveyancing for land transactions that we support the movement in these bills as being a wise and appropriate transition into e-conveyancing in Queensland. This is a national service that allows for the digital preparation, signing, settling and lodging of property conveyancing documents. It is obvious that this area of the proposed legislation is a positive step forward for our state. It is an example—along with my debut on Facebook this year—of our willingness to transition into the digital age and progress into a more efficient, paperless environment.

As the Property Council of Australia stated in its submission, this amendment bill updates various acts and brings them into line with technological advances. The benefits of e-conveyancing are felt by those transacting property and more widely in the economy. The Property Council drew attention to the significant reduction of time taken to complete transactions and the lower risk of human error et cetera. I cannot list all of the advantages because I do not have the time.

The committee also heard from Property Exchange Australia, or PEXA, which is the only online property lodgement and settlements network operating in Australia. I raised matters in relation to security and PEXA being the only online transactor with the committee. PEXA highlighted that Queensland should join other states in that non-monetary transactions should be able to be electronically transferred. Treasury indicated that it does not consider this appropriate given unquantifiable risks to revenue. Treasury did, however, comment that this bill will not affect or prevent the settlement of non-monetary transactions through e-conveyancing.

In our conference with PEXA at the public hearing on 17 September, I raised concerns about the way the network handles and addresses data security and privacy, specifically in terms of who monitors security. PEXA advised that its operating requirements are set at a federal level and regulated by the registrar in each state. Regulations and protections exist in the form of the maintenance of an information security management system, yearly independent audits, contractual obligations and third-party attack testing. I note that state registrars approve the independent auditor who is engaged by PEXA. I am satisfied with these measures to protect data security and I approve of all of those measures.

In relation to charitable institution registration administration, I note that the Treasurer has brought in some amendments that we highlighted were appropriate during the committee's deliberations on the matter. I still hold some reservations about this bill's effect on revenue legislation in the area of charitable institution registration administration. Currently, a charitable entity may be registered for duty, land tax or payroll tax exemptions if the practical effect of its constitution satisfies requirements set out in the Taxation Administration Act. Under the proposed change, which presents as a simple administrative tidy-up, there must be an express provision in the constitution of a charity under the requirements of the act. Where charities do not have these provisions they will be required to update their constitution, otherwise I am sure they will not be eligible for relief from that particular tax.

Although Treasury advised that this change aims for certainty and clarity, they advised in the public briefing of 3 September that they will write personally to the 80 or so charities they deemed would be affected by this change. The Law Society and other submitters claim that there might be 3,000 or more trusts operating under the same designation for taxation purposes, and getting the message to them may take longer than 12 months. I have not completely read the change, but I understand that it is over two years—I am sure the Treasurer will elaborate further on that—which obviously gives other charitable organisations more time to get their constitutions in order to comply with the act.

As Treasury indicated, they only have a register of charities who have applied for registration to access state revenue exemptions. It is concerning that the broader communication mentioned in the briefing may be inadequate to inform all charities of the amendments and requirements of the bill. The Queensland Law Society expressed similar concerns regarding unintended consequences and provided the example of large, well-known charities acquiring new headquarters in Queensland but being deemed ineligible for exemptions upon registration because they have not made the required changes to their constitutions.

The second major point of concern with this section is that prescribing specific language to be included in a constitution potentially would exclude charitable trusts—which do not have members—from duty exemption. The legislation aims to give retrospective legislative effect to administrative arrangements as follows: transfer duty concession, exempt managed investment schemes, landholder duty provisions, deceased land estate and payroll tax exemption for motor vehicle allowances. Although we must always be aware of retrospective legislation, in this case the amendments are beneficial and supported by the QLS.

This omnibus bill deals with—and I have not even got to the Appropriation Bill—SPER service delivery and changes to the act in relation to those. Unfortunately, SPER has been before the committee again with regard to matters in a public hearing by the Auditor-General. We will deal with these matters at another time in this House, but where we are heading with SPER in this state is quite concerning. There are matters that we will have to take in hand to put the State Penalties Enforcement Registry back into a workable and deliverable situation for people who make mistakes in the community.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.56 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018 and the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 in this cognate debate. I will make a short contribution in terms of the content of these bills and the process that the Economics and Governance Committee followed in its consideration of these bills.

The purpose of the appropriation bills is to provide supplementary appropriation for the unforeseen expenditure of some \$5.4 million that occurred in the financial year. Some of the expenditure was due to costs associated with the 2017 electoral boundary redistribution and the state election; accelerated funding for capital programs, including the Bruce Highway upgrade and other state roads; and the Commonwealth government's prepayment of 2018-19 funding for financial assistance grants to local governments. It is interesting to note that the unforeseen expenditure is below the annual average of \$637 million that we have seen over the previous five years, and I would like to congratulate the Treasurer—as this is her first budget—in terms of the reduction in unforeseen expenditure.

Other measures, to name but a few, covered in these bills include the phased expansion of electronic conveyancing, which will allow for an expanded range of transactions, provide options and settle a broader range of transactions through e-conveyancing. Charitable institution registration requirements will be amended to ensure that there are certain restrictions on the use of income and property, which is really important, and that is to be outlined in the institution's constitution. It is pleasing to hear that the Deputy Premier is moving amendments today to ensure that these institutions can be compliant over the coming two years.

Minor amendments will also be made to allow for simplifying provisions for the case management of debtors and the establishment of consistent registration arrangements for all types of debts referred to SPER. This bill will also address serious health concerns with regard to homemade alcohol, which leads to deadly outcomes throughout discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This bill will particularly capture the substance known as turbo yeast.

I would like to thank my fellow Economics and Governance Committee members and our committee staff. I would also like to thank those who appeared as witnesses as part of the committee's inquiries and the departments who worked with us through the committee process. I am pleased to note the committee supports these bills and recommends that they be passed.

Debate, on motion of Ms Boyd, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): We are almost one year into this government's term, and the outlook for Queensland is getting worse by the week. Since parliament sat just 12 days ago we have seen a statewide strike by the racing industry—an entire industry taking a stand against a Labor government that is addicted to taxation. I applaud the 10,000-odd people in the racing industry and their supporters who stood up to the Palaszczuk government, to fight for their livelihoods. People interested in the racing industry are not members of the CFMEU; they do not strike just so they can have an afternoon at the pub. They took action because they were desperate to save their jobs and desperate to save an industry that is part of Queensland's heart and soul. A fair and competent government would have worked with the industry from day one to develop a long-term plan to revive racing, but the Palaszczuk government does not do competence. This government only does arrogance.

The past week has also seen even more evidence of Queensland's crime crisis. Wherever you look you see cuts to policing and more crime. It was the LNP that drove the bikies out of Queensland, but they are back in business under the Palaszczuk government. On the Sunshine Coast on 19 October a man was shot in the stomach in a car park at Currimundi Marketplace. Two members of the Rebels motorcycle gang have since been charged with attempted murder. The police minister assures us that there is no problem with our bikie laws. I beg to differ, and those on this side of the chamber beg to differ. When bullets are flying in broad daylight at a suburban shopping centre on the Sunshine Coast—or anywhere across Queensland—it is obvious there is a problem. The law-abiding residents of the Sunshine Coast also think there is a problem.

Just last week at Murgon in my electorate a police prosecutor was bashed in the head with a brick while he slept. On the same evening, the ATSILS lawyer's house was broken into. On the same evening, the house of the deputy principal of the local state school was broken into. What did the police minister have to say about that? 'Nothing to see here, folks. It's all a success.' He should tell that to the good people of the South Burnett. It is an absolute joke that the police minister spends so much time denying there is a problem instead of fixing it.

I fear that our youth crime problem will get so much worse under the Palaszczuk government. The media has reported that police have been told not to arrest young offenders because the Palaszczuk government has run out of detention spaces. When the police are being told to let criminals go free, it is obvious that the government has lost control. We now have a full-blown crisis in the youth detention system. Labor's soft-on-crime stance is putting innocent Queenslanders at risk.

Last week I was in Far North Queensland, where voters told me that they want action on crime but they think this Palaszczuk Labor government always puts the south-east above the regions. Sadly, they are right. To see this we only need to look at the waste tax. Cairns residents are now being asked to pay a waste tax because it was Labor's Ipswich City Council that could not do its job. Now, Cairns retirees, like those all across Queensland, are furious that Labor will not extend the waste tax rebate to retirement homes. These people were told that they would not be any worse off as a result of the waste tax. The Premier has said that Queenslanders would not be any worse off. The environment minister has said that Queenslanders would not be any worse off. What an absolute joke! They should tell that to each and every ratepayer across this great state of ours.

A government member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The minister can protest, but it is obvious that the good people of Queensland cannot be hoodwinked. The problem with Labor is that it has only one solution—well, in this term it has five: tax, tax, tax, tax and more tax. That leads me to speak about the economy. We know that no state in this nation has ever taxed its way to prosperity. Queensland is now learning that painful lesson because of this incompetent Labor government.

The evidence of economic mismanagement is mounting by the day. Only yesterday we saw Queensland slump again in CommSec's State of the States economic report. We have slipped from fifth—that was bad enough—to sixth place in the overall economic table. Queensland should be Australia's economic powerhouse but, under this Labor government even South Australia is beating us. The gap between Queensland and the top-performing states of New South Wales and Victoria is simply alarming.

After the report's release, what did we hear from this Labor Treasurer? She leapt into action, but she did not take any action to improve our economic performance; she decided to attack the CommSec report because it was not quite to her liking. When she was in opposition I am pretty sure she accepted the CommSec reports! If there is bad news on the economy, the Treasurer's tactic is always to blame someone else, and in this case she decided to blame the messenger.

CommSec's message is not wrong. Let us look at the facts. We now have the highest unemployment rate in the nation. Business confidence is at rock bottom. Growth in the last quarter was just 0.1 per cent.

Mr Mander: Flatlining.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection: it is flatlining. If we took Queensland's coal exports out of the equation we would be in a massive economic hole.

CommSec is not the only organisation that is ringing the alarm bells. Last week the Infrastructure Association of Queensland found that 80 per cent of investors believe that Queensland is being held back by a lack of new opportunities and overregulation by the government. Investors are simply taking their money south over the border, along with the jobs that Queensland needs. Two days later the *Australian infrastructure investment report* revealed that Queensland has suffered the biggest drop in investor confidence in the nation. New South Wales and Victoria are nearly three times more attractive to industry than Queensland.

If this Labor Treasurer wants any more proof of her government's failed policies, she should take a look at the ratings agencies. We are hanging on to our current credit rating by our fingernails.

An opposition member: We know who is responsible for this one.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. Labor lost Queensland's AAA credit rating when the Premier was sitting around the cabinet table as Anna Bligh's minister—at the height of the mining boom.

It is a bleak picture painted by CommSec, by the Infrastructure Association of Queensland and by Standard & Poor's and has real consequences for the people of Queensland. The Palaszczuk government's economic incompetence has a high cost. That cost is being paid through more taxes, more debt, more unemployment and lower wage rises. I want this state to be an economic powerhouse once again and it is the LNP that has the economic plan to achieve it. The contrast with this government could not be greater. This is a government that has no plan bar taxing, has no ideas and certainly does not have any energy, but it does have excuses by the bucketload. Queenslanders deserve better than this government's sorry record of failure.

Aged Care

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.10 pm): I believe that a nation should be judged on how it treats its most vulnerable. I spoke in my first speech about Barry, a constituent and pensioner in my electorate who told me that he had to shop around for the cheapest haircut because he was struggling to make ends meet. This is not an uncommon story I hear from many people who have worked all of their lives or women who have raised their children and volunteered in our community because they grew up in a time where it was unacceptable to earn a wage themselves.

My office always assists these pensioners to take advantage of all of the concessions and rebates offered by the Palaszczuk government, but I often hear complaints about how long the wait is to get through to Centrelink to discuss a problem or even to apply for a pension. Last week I was shocked to hear during a Senate estimates hearing in Canberra that almost 48 million Centrelink calls went unanswered during the last financial year. It is simply unacceptable that seniors are barely

surviving as they wait months to have their aged pension application considered by the Department of Human Services due to insufficient staffing. Seniors and pensioners deserve better than the cuts to services and the privatisation by stealth we are seeing from the federal government and local workers deserve better than being sacked so that their jobs can be outsourced to private contractors.

We all saw the heartbreaking *Four Corners* expose on our aged-care sector and I think it is fair to say that what we are seeing is a national disgrace in this sector. I recently visited two Gold Coast aged-care facilities to thank the staff there who work incredibly hard and do overtime work because they are passionate about their job and the people they care for. They deserve to be thanked and not torn down by a Prime Minister who said that a 60-year-old aged-care worker should aspire to get a better job. What struck me most during my visit was how tired, overworked and unappreciated the staff felt. Many said that the staffing levels were unsafe, forcing residents to wait longer than they should for help. They also talked about the insufficient amount of time they had to properly clean and feed residents and that essential items like incontinence pads were being rationed. I heard from Allison, who has been working in the sector for over 10 years and is paid only \$24 an hour.

These stories are hauntingly similar to the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union's statewide audit of aged-care facilities report, which revealed chronic understaffing and associated elder neglect. All 83 facilities audited failed to provide the recommended 4.3 hours of care per resident per day as outlined by research commissioned by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation. The worst electorate in the state was the federal seat of Moncrieff, which includes the Gold Coast suburbs of Nerang and Carrara in my electorate, with an average of only 1.69 hours of care per resident per day. Despite these horrifying audit results, the federal government has failed to introduce a national safe staffing law to protect the hundreds of thousands of elderly Australians in care. To be fair, I will acknowledge that the federal government has finally called for a royal commission into the aged-care sector—and I know that many people in my community will be watching with interest—but what I do not understand is why actions are not being taken right now. How many of our parents and grandparents need to endure these appalling circumstances before we make any meaningful change that will provide our loved ones with the dignity and respect they deserve?

We know that we have an ageing population. Everyone is working hard to pay bills and put food on the table and it is not always possible for family members to provide the level of care that is required. When I was in primary school my own grandmother was diagnosed with dementia. Her three sons and daughter tried to provide additional care. However, this became increasingly difficult as her capacity started to diminish. My family, like many other Australian families, trusted and relied on aged-care facilities to be there when we could not. I have heard from those who have watched their loved ones suffer and it is an issue that touches every Queenslanders. We should not be at a point where constituents are telling me that they would rather take their own life than live in an aged-care facility. Our parents and grandparents deserve better. Care for our elder Queenslanders must be a priority and it is time that we show courage and leadership and confront an issue that has been avoided for too long.

Stanwell Corporation

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.14 pm): I table the following letter from a whistleblowing employee—

Mr Dick: Is it your apology? Is it your apology to the deputy?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Minister!

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I will take that interjection from the super-sensitive minister, the member for Woodridge, who will do anything to be offended by anything. Weak as water they are! Weak as absolute water!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr MANDER: I am getting back to something far more serious if the minister wants to listen to it.

Mr Dick: Why does the LNP tolerate racism?

Mr MANDER: I table the following letter—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Just a reminder that members need to be in the appropriate seats if they are going to interject.

Mr MANDER: I table the following letter from a whistleblowing employee of the Stanwell Corporation—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Ministers! I call the member for Everton.

Mr MANDER: I will start again, Mr Deputy Speaker. I table the following—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr MANDER: I am not taking interjections, but I rise to speak on a very serious matter. I table a letter from a whistleblowing employee of the Stanwell Corporation, a Queensland government owned corporation.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 24 September 2018, from an employee of Stanwell Corporation to the member for Everton, Mr Tim Mander MP, regarding matters of concern with respect to that corporation [\[1757\]](#).

In this letter there are no fewer than six incredibly disturbing accusations that this brave whistleblower has made about the conduct of the Stanwell Corporation: No. 1, corrupt conduct; No. 2, market manipulation; No. 3, excessive speculative risk taking; No. 4, trading with Stanwell's hedge books; No. 5, inside trading; and No. 6, breach of section 911A of the Commonwealth Corporations Act, 'Need for an Australian financial services licence'. In each of these six extremely serious accusations the whistleblower referred to documents that would substantiate their concern. Therefore, considering just how serious and specific these allegations against the Stanwell Corporation are, I am calling on the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to do the right thing by Queenslanders and table each of the documents referred to in this letter for the scrutiny and the examination of the House.

Stanwell has previously been caught out gaming the electricity market, most notably when it disgracefully forced up wholesale electricity prices to record levels in the summer of 2016-17. On top of that, this is the very same company that has had to be issued not one but two separate directions to stop gouging money out of Queensland households and businesses. The first direction came in June 2017. This was after Stanwell was caught red-handed gaming the energy market to drive up profits during the heatwave of the summer of 2016-17. Then there was a second entirely secret order that the Premier and the former energy minister made just two days before the election was called. I am calling on the current Minister for Energy to do better than his predecessor to stop the cover-ups and secrecy and to table the documents detailed in this damning letter.

Between Stanwell's price gouging and the Palaszczuk Labor government's cover-ups and secrecy, Queenslanders are caught in a perfect storm of high energy prices with absolutely no accountability or end of these high prices in sight. This is why the LNP will promote more competition and put downward pressure on wholesale prices by restructuring the government owned power generators from two to three entities. Labor's own modelling shows that creating three—

Ms Fentiman: Where's your policy?

Mr MANDER: I will tell the minister the policy if she will listen for a moment.

Government members interjected.

Mr MANDER: The policy is that we will create competition in this state—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Before I call the member for Everton, Ministers, you have had a really good go now. You will be warned under the standing orders if you continue. We will listen to the member for Everton complete his speech.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister for State Development, I just issued a warning. Now, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr MANDER: I will take the interjection from the Minister for Training. I will tell her about our energy policy. It will increase competition.

Ms Fentiman: You're a bully.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Employment, you are now placed on a warning along with the Minister for State Development.

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comments made by the minister.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Everton has taken offence. Will you withdraw?

Ms FENTIMAN: I withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I go back to the interjection from the minister. I will talk about the competition that we will bring into the electricity sector that will put downward pressure on prices. We will increase the number of generators from two to three. That will reduce wholesale prices. We will bring in retail competition to the regional electricity market. Why should the people in the regions not have the competition that is available in the south-east corner? The member for Thuringowa should be the first person championing this cause and championing the LNP policy in reducing electricity prices.

Member for Everton; Treaties

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (2.21 pm): Former Australian of the Year, General David Morrison, utilised a well-known quote in a speech that he delivered some years ago as part of his campaign to champion gender equality in the Army. He said—

If you become aware of any individual degrading another, then show moral courage and take a stand against it. The standard you walk past is the standard you accept.

As leaders and representatives of our communities in Queensland, as members of this parliament, we have a particular responsibility to show moral courage and take a stand when we see or hear behaviours that are not in keeping with what a modern and progressive Queensland expect. This morning, in the contribution from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Everton, we heard an appalling display of inappropriate race related comments. To make comparisons between the Deputy Premier and Treasurer of this state, who has a proud migrant background, with an Iraqi dictator is nothing less than appalling.

This focus on race and not substance is not what good debate or leadership looks like. Sadly, this is not the first time it has happened and, unfortunately, without the moral courage to call it out, it may not be the last time. The comments made this morning belong in the same bucket as those made recently by a Fraser Coast councillor regarding my race and by former One Nation and now former Katter's Australian Party senator for Queensland, Fraser Anning, regarding immigration.

This sort of language—the language of stereotypes and the language of ignorance—does not represent modern Queensland. Modern, progressive Queensland is crying out for truth telling and partnerships, not this dismissiveness. Those of us on this side of the House will call out this type of behaviour whenever we see it. I call on those opposite, in particular the Leader of the Opposition, to do the very same when she looks at her own team.

In Queensland, partnerships between government and first nations people have also been impacted at times by the language of stereotypes and ignorance. The stories regarding partnerships have not always been positive and nor have they always borne the results that are needed for progress. Over many decades, successive Queensland governments have made attempts to work alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to build a relationship of mutual respect and partnership. There have been a number of signposts along the way to guide agreement making in Queensland. The landmark determination regarding native title provided a platform for future agreement making. The introduction of Indigenous land use agreements created a framework for practical agreements regarding the use of land and waters. Cultural heritage laws, Queensland's joint management agreements for the care and maintenance of protected areas—all of this in Queensland has allowed us to lay the groundwork for agreement making with traditional owners for many years with varying success.

The next step is to see those relationships and practices embedded in something that will take us into the next century, that being the negotiation of treaties. Other countries and states have embarked on this journey. In Victoria, the government has been progressing work towards a treaty since 2016. Queensland should not be left behind when we have already done so much work in this space.

This is about truth telling, agreement making and self-determination for first nations people in Queensland. We are on the cusp of meaningful truth telling and agreement making in Queensland. This is a time when we must find common ground, acknowledge the truth, rebuild, restructure, reconnect

and work together for a better future. We want a nation that has the courage to face truth openly and can come together for reconciliation, to recognise and commemorate the past, and celebrate a unified future.

To succeed, we need to move beyond our political differences in the chambers of our parliaments. Truth telling and agreement making is not something that any of us should fear, but something that we could embrace, and should embrace. Treaties will not divide our country; they will unite our country. Now is the time.

Queensland has already done so much work to bring us to this point. Now, we need to take the next step. Of course, we also need to ensure that we call out behaviours that are not in step with the rest of Queensland. When we have heard this undertone of racist comment that has been sitting inside some of our politics, this is not what Queenslanders want for the future. When we heard the member for Everton make those comments this morning, it should have been a red flag to everybody in this House that we should never tolerate that and that we should always be looking for ways to embrace the truth, to embrace our ability to have agreement making and partnership in this state. Treaties are one way to do that, but another way is to call out appalling behaviour like that from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

JM Kelly Builders

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.26 pm): I rise to raise a matter of public importance in relation to the failure of a Central Queensland based company, JM Kelly Builders, and the implication that has for not only the local community but also the Labor government, whose fingerprints are all over this murky saga. This Rockhampton company recently entered voluntary administration with government contracts on foot, leaving major projects incomplete and subcontractors owed significant moneys.

The former building company known as JM Kelly (Project Builders) had previously been placed into liquidation on 20 June 2016, leaving a trail of debt in its wake. JM Kelly Builders then simply took up where the previous company left off. It is particularly worrying that, despite the troubling track record, the questions about the suitability of JM Kelly executives to be involved in the running of this company, the legitimate concerns raised about financial capacity and a lack of transparency regarding its licensing arrangements, guess what? Under this Labor administration, government contracts continued to be handed to JM Kelly Builders.

The recent announcement that the Queensland building industry regulator, the QBCC, will contribute \$300,000 towards a public examination into the collapse of two other construction companies, Cullen Group Australia Pty Ltd and Queensland One Homes, was warmly welcomed last week by the Minister for Housing and Public Works. Funnily enough, this announcement came after Labor announced one day before the last election that it supported an investigation into those companies and a major concern expressed on 6 January this year by the QBCC that, in the wake of the collapse of Cullen Group Australia Pty Ltd, the QBCC was keeping a watchful eye on suspected illegal phoenixing activities. I will table the QBCC's release.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 6 January 2017, by the Queensland Building and Construction Commission titled 'QBCC to keep eagle eye on suspected illegal phoenixing' [[1758](#)].

As I said, JM Kelly (Building Projects) changed to JM Kelly Builders. If that is not phoenixing, I am not sure what is. For the benefit of members, I point out that phoenixing is the term used for when a company with a similar name or similar directors emerges from a company that may have been liquidated to avoid paying its debts.

Although the investigation needs to take place, I submit that a much bigger and murkier story needs to be scrutinised fully, and that is the collapse of JM Kelly Builders and why this Labor government did nothing while the company ripped off small subcontractors and suppliers. In fact, in 2016, the government seems to have supported the phoenixing of JM Kelly and allowed 21 contracts that it had with JM Kelly to be transferred to a related company, JM Kelly Builders, via a deed of novation signed by David Sullivan on behalf of the department of education and training. I table an article from last week's *Sunshine Coast Daily* that covers that event really well.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents relating to builder JM Kelly's dealings with the state government [[1759](#)].

Members may well ask why the Department of Education allowed this to happen. I decided to do some investigation. Members can imagine my surprise when a reliable source on the ground in Central Queensland informed me that the previous Labor minister, Rob Swarten, had approached the LNP

while we were in government saying, 'We have to give JM Kelly some hospital work. They only make money from hospital work.' No luck there, so I kept digging. There are also rumours around Rockhampton that JM Kelly built faults into government projects in order to ensure future work referrals. Surely that cannot be true. Perhaps that needs investigating.

Could it really have something to do with the member for Keppel's mentor, the former minister for housing, Rob Swarten? Surely not, although he is apparently best mates with John Murphy, the group director of JM Kelly. Interestingly, Rob Swarten worked on the member for Cooper's campaign in Ashgrove. The member for Cooper was a media adviser in Rob Swarten's office before entering parliament. She was also the minister for education in 2016. That is a coincidence, is it not? Could that be it?

Of course, let us not forget Rob Swarten is on the board of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. Is it making sense? But wait, there is more! The new member for Rockhampton was the former regional director in Central Queensland for Housing and Public Works. Another coincidence. Perhaps he could be helpful on the background of JM Kelly, their activities and what he knows about the deed of novation signed by the Department of Education and if he discussed this with the Department of Education before it was signed.

Maybe it has something to do with the member for Keppel, who is now the Assistant Minister for Education. I table a report from last week's paper about the interesting take that the member had on it.

Tabled paper: Article from the Rockhampton *Morning Bulletin*, dated 24 October 2018, titled 'Government not to blame for JMK: Lauga' [\[1760\]](#).

I note that the member for Keppel's husband worked for JM Kelly and then he worked for Hutchinson Builders. A lot of members might not know the story there. That did not end well. Oh, what a tangled web they weave when they practise to deceive.

Tabled paper: Document, posted 19 March 2016, titled 'An open letter to Hutchinson Builders' [\[1761\]](#).

Tabled paper: Article from *ABC News* online, dated 15 December 2017, titled 'Blogger Petros Khalesirad cleared of charges over alleged stalking of Queensland MP' [\[1762\]](#).

Tabled paper: Article from the *Morning Bulletin* online, dated 15 December 2017, titled 'SHOCKER: Lauga's trial reveals house debt blow-out' [\[1763\]](#).

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! I remind members that there are some members who have already been warned under the standing orders. Should they continue to disrupt they will be leaving the chamber.

Kirwan State High School

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.31 pm): This speech is very special for every single student at Kirwan State High School, which tomorrow night is holding the first graduation ceremony in its very own hall. I want to give a shout-out to each one of those students, their proud parents, teachers, staff and to my wife, Amanda, who will be there also. How apt that Amanda, being a Kirwan High graduate herself, will be representing me tomorrow night. I would have dearly loved to have been there when they hold the very first graduation ceremony in the Labor built, \$7.2 million Excelsior Hall. I am sure there will be plenty of other community representatives and councillors attending this very special event.

Today I proudly inform the parliament of our journey to deliver that hall. In 2015 I gave my maiden speech. I spoke of Kirwan State High School and the fact that it was not good enough in 2015 to see some 2,300 schoolkids and staff seated on the grass for an hour in the hot sun as the school conducted an Anzac Day ceremony. Nor was it good enough to see the state's second largest high school spend thousands of dollars each year in fees to hold their graduation ceremonies at a private school, Ignatius Park College. As the local MP I sought to change that as this was not a good enough situation for our North Queensland school.

As a new MP I requested funding in 2015 for the new hall but I was not successful. Many in here will know that I do not take no for an answer. I was going to fight every step of the way to deliver this mighty hall. I set about on a cunning plan to join forces with the Kirwan High P&C and I acknowledge the role each member of the P&C played, especially the president, Mr Des Morris—the broader school, the incomparable executive principal, Ms Meredith Went, teachers, staff and students, as together we conducted a 12-month petition gaining over 1,000 signatures, which I tabled in this House in 2016. Then I would simply not stop lobbying then minister for education Kate Jones at every single opportunity. I even gave her a laminated A3 photo of those 2,300 students seated on the grass on that day when I visited in my first formal capacity as an MP in 2015.

Eventually we were successful. Not only did we receive the funding for the new hall they will proudly sit in tomorrow night—and I say hello and congratulations to each one of those graduating students—but also we received \$2 million for the covered quadrangle, which I joined the education minister, Grace Grace, earlier this year to formally open. Kirwan High is worth every cent. The work the students and staff do in the community is truly exceptional. I have spoken in this House before of the charity The Cure Starts Now. Kirwan State High is integral to that charity.

The fight did not stop there. Together we challenged the builders and the department—and I thank them all—to include and construct a commercial kitchen as the school has an excellent hospitality course. We know that this will be more than a school hall; it can become much more than that and an asset to the broader Kirwan community by hosting other events that can now be catered for. The icing on the cake was to air-condition the hall—and we got that too!

The hall has aptly been named Excelsior Hall. The name came internally from the school and we thank one of the staff, Mr Rob Hamilton, for coming up with it. 'Excelsior' means onwards and upwards and is linked with excellence. I thank the team from Paynter Dixon for building the hall in record time. It is truly a quality product and a testament to the 100 local tradesmen and builders involved in this 12-month project.

No more will the students of Kirwan High—home to the mighty Kirwan Bears where former and current NRL greats have come from, such as Sam Thaiday, Jason Taumalolo and many others—be seated on the grass in the hot sun in humid conditions. No more will students at Kirwan High hold their graduations at other schools. I have been a passionate supporter of all schools in Thuringowa. Kirwan High is special in many ways. They know that I would have dearly loved to be there tomorrow. I have literally walked every street around Kirwan to gain support. I wrote to every single parent who supported this to thank them. Together we did it.

As you know, Mr Deputy Speaker, this is very special to me. I met the former executive principal, Mr John Livingston, in the oncology ward at Townsville Hospital in 2014. He sadly passed away with brain cancer, hence the school's charity The Cure Starts Now. His legacy lives on though. He told me that day, 'You look after my school and you build them a bloody hall.' John, 'Mr 110 per cent', I listened and heard. We heard those words clearly. Be proud, Kirwan State High School. With a Labor state government we did it. I want to keep delivering for all the schools in Kirwan and Thuringowa.

Electricity Prices

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.36 pm): Spiralling cost-of-living expenses, especially from unsustainable electricity prices, continues to be the No. 1 issue in homes and businesses in rural and regional Queensland. It is no secret that electricity prices have risen in Queensland and businesses are under pressure. The impact of electricity price increases on rural and regional farm businesses is seriously affecting their economic viability. Queensland farmers who have to irrigate have had to manage electricity price increases of between 130 and 200 per cent over the past decade. This is a massive increase when one considers that during the same time CPI increased by just 24 per cent. It is clear that the inequality associated with the unfair and unsubstantiated electricity price increases that have crippled intensive agricultural production needs to be urgently fixed.

Compounding this dire situation, the state Labor government is presiding over an electricity price cliff with the impending phase-out of obsolete tariffs in 2020. I cannot overstate how serious this is. It is affecting the viability of our farming businesses. This government does not want to know about it and continues to ignore the looming problem. Even the Queensland Productivity Commission says that more than 10,000 customers on existing obsolete farming and irrigation tariffs, such as T62, T65 and T66, will be worse off after these tariffs are switched off in 2020. The government's continual inaction, by not addressing the impending cliff that is 2020, is creating serious confidence issues for our irrigators. Whether it comes to crippling our farmers with onerous vegetation management laws or failing to address spiralling power prices, this Labor government is happy for farmers and rural and regional communities to suffer.

While this government continues to have its head in the sand regarding the impact that this 2020 tariff change will have on our farmers, the Liberal National Party is listening and working with industry groups to find a practical and viable solution. Through our Agriculture Energy and Water Council we are working closely with key agricultural industry groups such as the Queensland Farmers' Federation, Canegrowers, Cotton Australia, Growcom and AgForce to develop and inform plans to lower spiralling farm electricity and water costs. We are hearing loud and clear that electricity prices are out of control. We are hearing that industry needs a suite of new electricity tariffs to appropriately reflect the diverse and varied needs of modern agricultural production in this state.

Farmers need access to tariffs that meet the demands of irrigators, packing sheds, refrigeration for coldrooms and the heating and cooling functions required for intensive animal industries. Those varied systems require loads of energy at different times and for different purposes. While there is some initially positive news coming from the Ergon Energy tariff 33 trial being pioneered by the Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group, Canegrowers and QFF, any such large-scale application of the tariff would only be suitable to a select type of farm business. While certain agricultural industries can handle supply interruptions, others cannot afford to even consider such a model.

Credit should be given to all those involved in the work done to date on this new tariff, but it is only one piece in the puzzle when it comes to delivering the suite of affordable tariffs that Queensland farmers need to help remain productive and viable. I can reassure Queensland farmers that the LNP is committed to holding this government to account on tariff issues that need to be fixed now, well before the 2020 deadline. It is the LNP that understands the importance of the water and electricity nexus, and the relationship that exists between getting those inputs right and having a profitable and efficient agricultural sector.

The issue of electricity affordability through water pricing will continue to be put under the microscope while the state government finally gets around to delivering the now long-overdue regional water price referral to the QCA. The LNP will stand up for farmers and hold the government to account in appropriately considering and responding to the impact that high electricity costs are having and will continue to have on farmers' ability to access affordable water. Only the LNP is standing up for rural and regional Queensland businesses in the face of Labor's spiralling costs for electricity and access to affordable water. Only the LNP will fix Queensland's anti-farmer record-high electricity prices, unaffordable water for irrigation and unfair vegetation management laws. Only a Deb Frecklington LNP government will end the divide between the south-east corner and rural and regional Queensland.

Superyacht Industry

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.41 pm): Earlier this year I was proud to be appointed by the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Minister Dick, as the Palaszczuk government's conduit between the superyacht industry and government. With more than 13,000 kilometres along our mainland and around our islands, Queensland has some of the most beautiful coastlines in the world, along with a skilled workforce and excellent marine infrastructure, making the state a prime location for superyacht activity. On top of that, our stunning landscape and the niche tourism experiences that we offer to visitors and crew make Queensland an attractive location. Our magnificent coastlines include the Great Barrier Reef with world-class snorkelling and diving opportunities, the white sand and crystalline waters of the Whitsundays, luxury shopping and dining on the Gold Coast and rainforest fringed beaches in Far North Queensland.

Mr Harper: Don't forget Townsville, mate, and Maggie Island.

Mr HEALY: And Townsville, just south of my electorate. We want to use those assets in tandem with our reputation for delivering world-class maintenance, refit and repair services, including in-water activities, to draw superyachts to Queensland. That will provide significant work opportunities for local suppliers, contractors and, more importantly, service providers.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to upholding a globally focused and diverse economy and is driving innovation to generate high skilled jobs and secure Queensland's economic future. As part of the \$518 million Advance Queensland initiative, our government is creating an environment that fosters emerging and priority sectors with global growth potential. I am proud to say that the superyacht industry is one of those sectors and will play an important role in the diversification of the Queensland economy and, more importantly, will focus on what is important, that is, more jobs.

Superyachts in Australian waters are estimated to have a capital current value of between \$4.7 billion and \$10.9 billion, which means that superyachts offer significant economic potential. Each year, around two-thirds of domestic superyacht owners spend between 10 and 12 per cent of their vessel's value on maintenance. In Australia, most of the maintenance expenditure on superyachts occurs in Queensland, with around \$155 million, or 27 per cent, spent in Cairns and the Whitsundays. Another 55 per cent is spent in South-East Queensland, totalling \$316 million. Furthermore, 20 per cent of Australia's charter revenue comes from Queensland, while approximately 45 per cent of all superyacht berthing expenditure occurs in this state.

My appointment coincided with the launch of the Queensland Superyacht Strategy 2018-23. The strategy is our five-year plan, launched after extensive consultation with the Queensland superyacht industry. On a number of occasions across Queensland, I have welcomed the opportunity to meet with

stakeholders involved in the industry. That has involved attending and speaking at industry forums in Cairns, the Whitsundays, Brisbane and the Gold Coast, in addition to conducting site inspections not just of marinas but also, and more importantly, maintenance facilities at various locations throughout the state. I thank each one of those stakeholders for their time. I very much appreciated it. They have been more than helpful in assisting me in growing my knowledge of the industry.

I am pleased to report that the industry is made up of hardworking and practical-thinking visionaries. As a government, our vision is that by 2023 Queensland will be recognised as the key superyacht hub in the Asia-Pacific region. To achieve that, the state government will take conscious and decisive action to leverage the natural competitive advantages that Queensland presents. We are very aware of the fact that Queensland has an incredibly talented workforce and impressive marine infrastructure to support the sector's growth. Superyacht activity has the potential to deliver strong flow-on economic benefits for the state. As I said, by 2021 in the south-east, it is expected to contribute more than \$1.1 billion to gross state product and support 8,000 jobs. In the same period, in Cairns and the Whitsundays the superyacht industry is expected to contribute \$580 million and employ over 4,500 people.

I thank the key industry players and, in particular, the membership based bodies that continue to make positive contributions to our working relationship. I also make special mention of Dr Thomas Wechselberger from the Defence Industries Queensland team who has been fundamental in this process and essential to the development of our collective strategy. We are in the early days of engagement, but there are very positive signs ahead.

Mount Coot-tha, Zip-Line

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.46 pm): Among the many local issues that Maiwar residents have brought to me over the past year, none has generated as much concern as the dodgy, ill-considered zip-line project proposed by the LNP Brisbane City Council. A parliamentary e-petition on this issue reached more than 4,000 signatures, making it the biggest I have sponsored.

This is an iconic part of Queensland's capital and one that is held dear by Brisbane locals, whether they live near or far from Mount Coot-tha. Folks regularly visit from all around the south-east corner, across the country and around the world. We all enjoy the iconic views from the summit lookout, the tranquil picnic areas and parks, and the extensive walking and riding paths through the beautiful Mount Coot-tha forest. It is a place of great cultural significance for first nations people around Maiwar and others from further afield who travelled through the area. Traditional owners from New South Wales have identified significant cultural artefacts on the mountain, including shield trees. It is a unique and much loved part of Brisbane—a place of unrivalled natural beauty, so close to the heart of the city.

Therefore, it is unsurprising that the BCC's proposed mega zip-lines have generated such strong opposition. I want to briefly acknowledge the great work being done by the Mount Coot-tha Protection Alliance, the Metro North Wilderness Society, numerous other groups and local residents who have taken up this cause. The community has instigated a massive campaign against the proposal, including a packed community meeting that I hosted at the Botanic Gardens just a few weeks ago.

Just last week, the community's concerns were completely vindicated by scathing advice from the State Assessment and Referral Agency, otherwise known as SARA. SARA has reinforced serious concerns about cultural and natural heritage, vegetation clearing, and various road safety and transport issues with the project. SARA notes that the project fails to meet the requirements of the State Development Assessment Provisions and, in particular, that the vegetation clearing required will be far more extensive than the BCC identified.

The council's development application conveniently failed to take into account the clearing that would be required for firebreaks and safety buffers, but we now know that approval of this project would authorise the clearing of more than 28 hectares of land on Mount Coot-tha. On this issue, the BCC's application is either completely deficient or plain misleading. The council must have been aware of the need for firebreaks but obviously has decided to try to keep locals in the dark on the issue. SARA is clear that the proposed launch tower will disrupt the iconic views from the summit. It indicated that those views 'should not be compromised through partial clearing and the introduction of new large built form directly in the view line'. Taken in its entirety, SARA's advice is a pretty hard no to the mega zip-line proposal.

I would like to be able to take some comfort from this damning assessment from SARA. Perhaps we could, were it not for the LNP council's outrageous self-approval process. BCC is both the proponent and the decision-maker on this project. That in itself is a major concern, but there was also no sensible

process for selecting this project. They reached into the bottom drawer and picked an idea, announcing it in the 2016 election with no consultation and without any indication of the scale of the plan. They are now calling that a mandate, spending stupid amounts of council budget on promoting the project like it is a done deal and at the same time trying to run consultation as quietly as possible.

Labor's opposition leader in the BCC, Peter Cumming, has committed that Labor will not support this project unless it meets certain requirements, including some alternative to council's dodgy self-assessment. I table a letter from Councillor Cummings pointing out those requirements.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 3 September 2018, from Councillor for Wynnum Manly, Mr Peter Cumming, to community members regarding Labor councillors' position on the proposed Mount Coot-tha zip-line and associated infrastructure [1764].

It appears highly unlikely that the BCC will or can meet these requirements, so it now falls to this Labor state government to veto this flawed proposal. There are a variety of ways the state can intervene to draw a line under it. The first falls to Minister Lynham. Since Mount Coot-tha sits on trust land, which was granted as a site for a public park and no other purpose whatsoever, he has a clear role to play in the approval of a commercial adventure sports enterprise like this. I am calling on the minister to say no to this secondary use and stop the project in its tracks. The next falls to Minister Dick. As planning minister he quite clearly has the power to call the project in, given its massive impacts on state heritage at the iconic Mount Coot-tha and the environmental impacts that have been laid bare most recently.

Both the member for Cooper and the member for Moggill represent areas very close to this proposal. I am calling on them both to take a position publicly so that residents in Chapel Hill, Paddington and The Gap know where they stand. As the Minister for Tourism, the member for Cooper should clearly be able to see this is an example of someone perverting the concept of ecotourism to trash and privatise public green space.

My position on this is clear and in support of the overwhelming community sentiment on this issue. The proposal does not have public support. The BCC needs to swallow its pride, walk away from the zip-line and respect this community sentiment. Instead of pursuing this thought bubble, we should keep Mount Coot-tha as public, accessible green space for all Brisbane residents. Our beautiful green space and native wildlife already attract tourists. Let us continue to show it off without trashing it.

Payday Lenders

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.51 pm): I rise to speak on a matter of importance to my electorate. While the CBD of Beenleigh struggles with maintaining some commercial tenancies, one business sector on the rise in my electorate, and Logan more broadly, is the small amount credit contract and consumer lease sector, the payday lenders.

Payday lenders have a business model that targets families from low socio-economic backgrounds. There are a number of reasons people apply for a payday loan as opposed to going through the more regulated financial institutions. Many have bad credit histories or rely on government payments for the majority of their income. Many do not have the income necessary to create the savings cushion for emergent expenses. These people are often blocked from accessing the larger financial institutions.

The rise in the number of people accessing payday lenders speaks to the financial bind that many in my electorate face. They work—some multiple jobs—but their pay does not match the rise in living expenses and they exist from pay to pay, unable to weather the cost of an unexpected medical or car repair bill.

Let me provide members with a snapshot of what we are dealing with in Logan. In the Logan LGA we have 43 bank and credit union branches. We also have 43 high-cost credit shops or payday lenders. We have 41 gambling venues, but only 27 community agencies delivering emergency relief or no interest loan schemes.

The use of payday lenders is a significant factor for those who seek financial counselling—many having two or three contracts running simultaneously. The debt spiral is real and without some serious intervention it leaves people on the scrap heap. Even with increased or secure employment prospects, the resulting credit history black mark will affect them for many years to come.

The issue of payday lenders has been addressed in this House with previous legislation. However, a national framework is required to regulate this industry. Let us have a look at what has been done or, more likely, what has not been done in Canberra.

In 2015 the federal government established the review of the small amount credit contract laws. The final report was released in March 2016. That is over 2½ years ago. The final report contained 24 recommendations and some truly startling details about the impact that payday lenders have. It outlined

a number of cases where the costs incurred by customers were astronomical. A customer seeking a lease with a one year to purchase a \$345 dryer ended up paying over \$3,000 in a 12-month period. I know it can be a trap to calculate annual percentage rates on short-term loans, but for a 12-month loan one cannot hide the fact that the interest rate for that loan is over 880 per cent.

The final report addressed to then relevant Minister O'Dwyer established that the aims of the 24 recommendations were to find an appropriate balance between enabling a customer's access to emergency finance and improving the individual's financial situation and addressing the viability of the industry. Eight months after that final report was released, the minister finally stated that the government supported the recommendations either in part or in full. It was further stated that the legislation would be developed and progressed in 2017.

I would like to wish that exposure draft a happy first birthday for 23 October. This is despite the fact that the minister stated it would be introduced in 2017. Do members know where that draft legislation is now? It is nowhere. What has happened since that report was released and supported by the federal government is that over 150,000 people have signed up as new payday customers. Some 15 per cent of those will likely end up in inescapable debt.

This bill—the one to protect our most financially vulnerable—has stood stagnant for over a year. Do members know what has advanced in the meantime? It is the federal networking group the Friends of Payday Lenders. No wonder the federal government has not progressed this issue one iota—not even when it was introduced word for word as a private member's bill in March this year.

Now, looking to where we stand on the federal government merry-go-round, the minister responsible for ensuring the passage of this bill for the protection of customers is the assistant Treasurer, the member for Fadden. I am not sure how much affinity the assistant Treasurer has with payday lender customers. I could be wrong. Perhaps he had to take out a payday loan to repay his \$38,000 internet bill. After all, the profile of a customer is usually someone hit with an unexpected bill. After all, the assistant Treasurer is the head of the Friends of Payday Lenders group.

What are our chances of this bill being introduced this year? It was announced last week that the assistant Treasurer wants to wait until after the findings of the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry are released, despite the fact that this commission has no remit over the payday lenders. I call for federal action.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): That brings to a conclusion the matters of public interest debate.

REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2)

APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 3100, on motion of Ms Trad—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (2.57 pm): As part of the Economics and Governance Committee I was involved in the inquiries into the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the appropriation bills covering unforeseen expenditure. I thank my fellow members on the committee and the hardworking staff who, of course, do most of the leg work—especially Melissa who has done a fine and thorough job as the acting committee secretary and is now moving into another role.

In terms of the unforeseen expenditure of just over half a billion dollars, we have heard that close to half of it relates to accelerated state and Commonwealth funding for transport infrastructure, including the Bruce Highway upgrade and some other state roads. The Revenue and Other Legislation Bill was of particular interest given its wide scope. It contains a varied range of changes from expanding electronic conveyancing, requiring charities to include details of income and property, State Penalties Enforcement Registry changes to sort out technical issues and support a new service delivery model—with a debt of \$1.2 billion this is very important—bringing back the 'last claim standing' provision and some administrative changes to the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act as well as confirming the minister's authority to endorse compulsory land acquisitions for that project.

That last part was particularly surprising to me. I had made the mistake of assuming that a major transport project would fall under the realm of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads—although, on second thought, that is not likely given his record with rail. It could even be under the jurisdiction of the Minister for State Development, but I guess he is too busy practising the zingers he brings out in question time. Here it is though with the Deputy Premier, the member for South Brisbane.

Getting back to the other sections, I have some fantastic local not-for-profits in my electorate, including many around the precinct that we have in Arundel. In terms of the changes for charities, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission told the committee that the requirement for specific wording in the bill will mean that Queensland charities will be out of step with those in other parts of the country as the template documents provided by the commission will differ. It is a real issue for the many charities that have adopted that template for their constitution.

The Nuga Nuga Aboriginal Corporation was strongly opposed to the changes that return the 'last claim standing' interpretation of 'native title party'. Their submission and a number of others raised concerns about the risks of putting parties with no proven connection to the land in a position to make decisions about the land. There will, however, be certainty for other submitters—corporations wanting to know which native party to engage with—but the opposing submitters claimed that the convenience for these corporations will override the intention of native title rights.

The bill also includes changes to try to tackle the huge problem of homemade alcohol by making a broader range of home-brew ingredients illegal in nine defined dry communities, which are the eight with alcohol management plans and Doomadgee. This would make it illegal in those communities to use things like yeast, fruit juice, sugar or fertilisers to make home-brew. They would, of course, still be able to be used for their usual purposes.

Throughout our inquiries a subcommittee comprising me and the members for Logan and Redlands visited Mornington Island. It was certainly the most remote part of our state that I have been to—up near the Northern Territory border in the Gulf of Carpentaria. It was a great turnout by the community up there and it shows how big of an issue this is. We were warmly welcomed by the local Indigenous people who have been the proud custodians of that land for over 65,000 years.

As I mentioned, Mornington Island is one of only eight communities in Queensland where alcohol is completely banned. They have not been allowed any for a decade and people have turned to dangerous homemade substitutes. These are highly toxic and lead to health and social issues. I am not being dramatic to say that this type of grog is tearing this island community apart. Anyone can get the ingredients. They are just things most people would have lying around the house. Because of that, they are really cheap as well. Even young kids on Mornington knew the recipe.

I support our committee's recommendation that turbo yeast be referred to separately as a substance and carry an offence to possess it. Turbo yeast is not something that is used for cooking. Currently, a person cannot be charged for possessing it and it can be easily bought online. This item needs to be specifically referred to and prohibited, but I note the Deputy Premier's response and explanation and thank her for considering this change.

Many of the residents up there want the bans lifted entirely. They told us how completely banning alcohol has made their substance abuse issues worse. We heard from Senior Sergeant Reilly, who provided an invaluable contribution as a local police officer to help define the importance of the notion of intent. She said it was not just about having vegemite or sugar at someone's house. No-one would get charged with that. If the police were to conduct a search and found a number of those items together, particularly if admissions were made towards what they were going to be used for, then charges could potentially be laid.

These laws may stop home-brew in its tracks completely, but many locals were worried about whether this may do more harm than good. They asked the question: what will people turn to instead? I spoke to a nurse who had recently returned after having last lived on the island before the alcohol restrictions came into place. She told me how she could not believe how much more prevalent illicit drug use had become in that time, particularly cannabis. Corinne Reading, one of the attendees at our public hearing, said to us—

Should it be successful—should we get rid of the home-brew—human nature, as in the past, means we will find alternatives ... we will get ice. There are already more marijuana smokers here. It is unrealistic to say that a whole township has to be 100 per cent sober ... You would not go to a town on the mainland like Townsville and say that 100 per cent of people are not allowed to drink at all ... Should you be successful in removing that, people will find an alternative.

I thank her for her contribution and it is incumbent on the government to heed that warning of what may come next and to prepare as best as possible for it.

One of the most vital things all members can do is to open up this House and engage with as many people as possible. Heading up to Mornington Island was incredibly important. We got to take a small part of the parliament to the people who will be directly impacted by the laws that we pass and to hear straight from them. I thank especially the parliament's Indigenous Liaison Officer, Brett Nutley, for helping to arrange the visit. He also endured sitting in the back of what was a very small plane on what was a fairly rough flight back to Cairns. On behalf of all members on that flight, I thank him for not losing his lunch.

Homemade alcohol is a huge issue and just one of the challenges that these remote Indigenous communities are facing, but they at least got to put their concerns directly to us. We need to deal with this crisis, but it is not enough to just pass these changes today. Communities were promised every positive outcome under the sun when these bans were brought in many years ago, and they are yet to realise the benefits of many of them.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (3.04 pm): I rise today to speak in this cognate debate and support the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018 and the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 before the House. Queensland is really kicking goals when it comes to our economy. Members spoke earlier about debt. I remind the member for Everton that debt is lower under this government than it was under the LNP. It is down by more than \$13 billion. This financial year's budget is a \$57.6 billion budget and has a surplus of \$148 million this year. That is while our Palaszczuk government is delivering record investment in health, education and infrastructure—record infrastructure investment of \$45.8 billion over four years.

We are doing the heavy lifting here in Queensland while the federal government still does not want to put a cent towards Cross River Rail and does not want to bring forward the money for the M1. The Queensland state government is working hard to make sure that we are delivering the infrastructure to build our cities both here in South-East Queensland and for our regional Queenslanders. We are driving economic growth—more exports, more jobs, more investment attraction and more industries. The news from the economic experts has been positive as well, with great reports coming from Standard & Poor's, the credit agency Moody's, the NAB business survey, Deloitte's Business Outlook and the Grattan Institute's state orange book, which was released on the weekend.

Our government is investing \$17.3 billion in health, with 4,800 new nurses and 1,600 doctors since the Palaszczuk government was elected in 2015. There is a \$14.1 billion investment in education and training, with 3,600 new teachers and 1,100 new teacher aides. We have created 170,000 jobs since 2015. The outlook for our Sunshine State will continue to improve, as reported by Deloitte. We will continue to go from strength to strength in driving Queensland's bright future.

I thank my fellow committee members on the Economics and Governance Committee, the committee secretariat and parliamentary staff for their assistance to the committee on these bills, particularly Melissa Salisbury, who is changing roles within our committee, and Brett Nutley, who travelled with us and assisted in our public hearing on Mornington Island. It was fantastic to have Brett's support on the day.

The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018 provide supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service in 2017-18. Together, the total supplementary appropriation for 2017-18 is \$555 million. I note that this is under the average historical supplementary appropriation.

The committee considered both bills together in one inquiry. We invited stakeholders to make written submissions. We did not receive any. We also held a public briefing with representatives of Queensland Treasury. Treasury advised that the unforeseen expenditure incurred was predominantly in relation to the changes in electoral boundaries and the requirement for new offices and also in relation to the state election and expenses to do with staff.

In relation to the unforeseen expenditure incurred by the seven departments in 2017-18, 46.2 per cent of total expenditure related to accelerated state and Commonwealth funding for transport infrastructure, including the Bruce Highway upgrade and other state roads. Again, it speaks to our government's focus on the importance of making sure we get the infrastructure built for Queensland now. The Treasurer also advised that a further significant proportion of the unforeseen expenditure related to the on-passing of Commonwealth funding for financial assistance grants to local government. The remaining unforeseen expenditure related to a range of initiatives, including the Affordable Energy Plan and the Townsville water security enhancement project.

The omnibus Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 covers a range of amendments including to support the expansion of electronic conveyancing, which will make it simpler for our constituents to access those transactions; to ensure the charitable institution registration

requirements deliver on their intent; and to give retrospective legislative effect to a number of administrative arrangements. These include to extend the transfer duty concession for family businesses of primary production to all types of dutiable property used to conduct a primary production business; to ensure that certain deregistered managed investment schemes can be treated as exempt managed investment schemes in particular circumstances and subject to certain conditions; to correct a cross-reference in the landholder duty provisions to ensure that landholder duty is properly calculated; to ensure that deceased estate land is assessed for land tax as intended; and to update the rate used to calculate the exempt component of a motor vehicle allowance.

The bill seeks to support the implementation of the new service delivery model for the State Penalties Enforcement Registry by making amendments to address technical issues within the State Penalties Enforcement Act. We know that it is really important to create better efficiencies within SPER. The bill also seeks to make minor administrative changes to the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act, which will bring its budget reporting into alignment, and includes amendments to allow the board to appoint an interim chief executive officer. The bill expressly confirms that compulsory land acquisition applications may be endorsed by the minister administering the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act 2016.

The bill will also reinstate the 'last claim standing' provision as previously understood by decision-makers under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003. It was good to hear today—and we were given this feedback during the consultation process—that DATSIP will be undertaking to review the cultural heritage acts more broadly. Finally, the bill will capture and prohibit substances that are used in home-brewing such as turbo yeast that can be used to make homemade alcohol in nine discrete Indigenous communities.

The government consulted widely on this bill. During our examination we received 14 submissions and a public briefing from Queensland Treasury and DATSIP. We held a public hearing on Mornington Island and one in Brisbane. At the Mornington Island hearing we were so warmly welcomed by the community. It was so insightful to take the parliament to the people. Our hearing on Mornington Island was deeply moving. It is a small community with really big challenges. Although we were there to discuss the narrow piece of legislation around turbo yeast and home-brewing, we heard so much more on the day about the complexities that the community faces as a result of alcohol abuse—the impacts on families and the impacts on their children.

Mornington Island is one of only eight areas in Queensland where alcohol is completely banned. We heard a lot from the community in that briefing on alcohol management plans and their effectiveness within the community. They have not been allowed alcohol there for over a decade, and this has had a knock-on effect in their community with home-brew now being a serious problem. As the member for Bonney mentioned, there is also a knock-on effect with other illicit drugs. What is disturbing is that children as young as six know the recipe to brew. I was talking with the principal up there and she was saying that children as young as six know the recipe and know how to make home-brew. What we heard is that you can take a 10-litre container of water, add some sort of sugar substance, cordial or vegemite and turbo yeast, and within 24 hours you have 10 litres of 20 per cent alcoholic content ready for consumption. It has a street value of approximately \$500. Home-brew is not only creating serious health and social issues but also having an economic impact. When you are paying \$500 for 10 litres of what, in essence, is close to an ethanol substance, you can only imagine what it is doing to that community.

Diabetes is out of control. They spoke of the need for nearly having to have a dialysis unit located on the island. For such a small community, this is a really huge problem. It trickles down to kids and their attendance at school. The principal told me that the attendance rate at school is 54 per cent. When there are parents who are facing serious substance abuses, we really need to step in and assist. I know that this legislative reform will assist in tackling that particular home-brew issue, but I think we need to keep looking longer and deeper into that community to help them break the cycle of serious substance abuse. For those reasons, I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (3.14 pm): I rise this afternoon to make a contribution on the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2). Firstly, I will touch on the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which was a bill—along with the other two bills that we are debating in cognate this afternoon—that was referred to the Economics and Governance Committee. I would like to thank my fellow committee members and especially the secretariat for the hard work they did assisting in compiling the detailed report.

The ROLA Bill aims to make various and mostly minor amendments to a number of acts. The policy objectives are to support the expansion of electronic conveyancing; to ensure the charitable institution registration requirements in relation to the use of income and property operate as intended; to give retrospective legislative effect to a number of administrative arrangements; to update the rate used to calculate the exempt component of a motor vehicle allowance, ensuring that payroll tax can be correctly calculated; and to make minor administrative changes to the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act, including amendments to allow the board to appoint an interim chief executive operator, and to expressly confirm that compulsory land acquisition applications may be endorsed by the minister administering the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act.

The two issues I intend to expand on slightly in my short contribution in relation to this bill are the areas that relate to the reinstatement of the 'last man standing' provisions under the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act and the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act prior to the Supreme Court handing down its ruling on *Nuga Nuga Aboriginal Corporation v Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships* and the validation of decisions made and actions taken where processes had already commenced under these acts.

I also want to discuss the legislation as it relates to alcohol restrictions in Queensland Indigenous communities in prohibiting substances like turbo yeast used for the making of homemade alcohol. I acknowledge the members of the committee who made the long trek up to Mornington Island for the public briefing. They saw firsthand the impact alcohol abuse has in these remote communities and heard firsthand accounts and information from community members, elders and other stakeholders on the best way to manage it. I acknowledge the contributions we just heard from the member for Bonney and the member for Redlands who attended Mornington Island and saw firsthand the devastating effect homemade alcohol has on the community.

The bill will also amend the JLOM act to better capture and prohibit the possession or supply of things such as turbo yeast that can be used to make homemade alcohol in nine discrete Indigenous communities. This is a measure aimed at addressing serious health issues from homemade alcohol. At the heart of this change is a decision in *Rockland & Ors v Queensland Police Service*, known as the Rockland decision, in which it was determined that yeast, such as turbo yeast, did not fall within the definition of home-brew concentrate, therefore highlighting a gap in the current legislation. The amendments will make it an offence to possess a substance or combination of substances with the intention of using these substances to make homemade alcohol. As explained in the explanatory notes, these offence provisions are justified to contend with community specific problems and to reduce the harm caused by alcohol misuse.

We heard earlier from members of the committee who attended one of these communities and who have given firsthand accounts of their findings, but I do have some concerns around the legislation and the requirement for police to prove that the person found in possession of this yeast had it with the intent to produce alcohol. I know our QPS officers who police these communities are already overburdened, and, short of an offender admitting he or she had possession of the yeast to make alcohol, successfully prosecuting someone for possession of a thing that has other lawful purposes could make the surrounding investigation police would need to conduct to prove intent prohibitive.

The second area of the ROLA Bill I will cover briefly concerns the amendments to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act and the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003 that restores the 'last man standing' provision which seeks to clarify native title claims for an area of land. It was raised that these amendments could be interpreted as a breach of fundamental legislative principles under the Legislative Standards Act given their retrospective effect. The policy intent is that stakeholders who have commenced a process in order to comply with cultural heritage legislation before and after the Nuga Nuga decision should not be disadvantaged. Our committee did note and consider these concerns, but on balance the retrospective provisions in this bill had sufficient regard to Aboriginal traditions and island customs and the rights and liberties of Queenslanders. I note that there were 14 written submissions received by the committee for this bill, and the vast majority were in relation to this component. Some submissions had opposing views on these amendments and the resulting benefit or detriment they may cause.

I will move on to the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2). The objective of these bills is to seek formal authorisation for the specified amounts in each bill that the Treasurer paid from the Consolidated Fund for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2017-18 financial year. These bills are yet another example of the Palaszczuk Labor government's complete failure to manage the state's finances, on the back of a shocking unforeseen expenditure amount of almost \$2.3 billion last financial year.

Queensland's fiscal and economic position has continued to weaken under the Palaszczuk Labor government. This government has racked up \$3.16 billion in unforeseen expenditure from 2015-16 to 2017-18, displaying a complete inability to set limits on its use of taxpayer money. If you include 2014-15 from the LNP, the Palaszczuk Labor government has still spent \$2.67 billion more in unforeseen expenditure than the previous LNP government in a comparative three-year period. I have said it before, but we now have conclusive evidence that this government is not only arrogant and out of touch but also absolutely incompetent.

The latest economic barometers continue to highlight the dungeon of debt this government is imposing on taxpayers now and into the future. This is a legacy that Labor has chosen to leave to the next generation. Queensland's most renowned and respected former under treasurer, Sir Leo Hielscher, recently said during a speech in which he spoke of his concern about the state's debt and the lack of any plan to repay it, 'Sorry, kids. Sorry, grandkids.'

We also have the highest unemployment rate in the country, business confidence has bombed and we have also recorded the worst economic growth of any state. The latest October CommSec State of the States report puts Queensland in sixth place in the nation, in the bottom half of the economic ladder behind South Australia. On the same day as the October CommSec State of the States dropped Queensland from fifth to sixth place, Standard & Poor's confirmed that Queensland would not be retrieving its AAA credit rating any time soon. It is a damning indictment of just how far we have fallen, so is it really surprising that we are spiralling towards an \$83 billion debt crisis?

In typical Labor fashion, their answer to the debt crisis and their failure to manage the economy is to increase taxes. Not only do they create five new taxes, but they have also increased borrowings and stolen the superannuation funds from public servants in an attempt to fudge the figures. The figures in these bills are further evidence of just how far we have fallen. The time for fast-talking excuses, empty promises, passing the buck and deliberate deception is over. How long can the state's failing economy continue to sustain the constant blows it suffers from Labor's tax and spend mantra?

Unfortunately, this does not bode well for the hundreds of thousands of hardworking taxpayers across this state who dutifully tip their hard earned dollars into the state's black hole of debt. One of the highest priorities of any government is to provide an economic environment in which its citizens can prosper. If you cannot manage a budget, how can you expect to manage the economy, let alone the state? This government is failing Queenslanders miserably, and Queenslanders deserve better. Only the LNP has the plan, the motivation and the capacity to return our state to our economic glory days.

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (3.22 pm): It is a pleasure to be standing here talking today with you in the chair, Mr Deputy Speaker McArdle. I rise to support the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) being debated in cognate today. I am very happy to be speaking to these bills as the assistant Treasurer in the Palaszczuk Labor government under Jackie Trad, who is doing a fantastic job as Treasurer in this state. The Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill makes a variety of amendments to legislation that will make our system work better.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: I will not take that interjection because he is not sitting in his correct chair. These are simple changes that make things easier for Queenslanders: for example, encouraging e-conveyancing to let people conduct a variety of transactions more quickly and easily; supporting our primary producers who are doing it tough in the drought as we all know—enabling farmers to succession plan and hand down their businesses without incurring duties; and encouraging the safety, health and wellbeing of Queenslanders in some of our most remote communities, particularly Mornington Island, by cracking down on turbo yeast, as we have heard today.

The Appropriation Bill simply provides for the government to cover unforeseen expenditure for the last financial year, as happens every single year. This has been caused largely this financial year by changes to the Commonwealth grants payments. Unforeseen expenditure is expenditure from the consolidated fund above the amount approved via appropriation bills introduced annually with the budget. In this instance, the relevant appropriation bills are those that were introduced in June 2017 alongside the 2017-18 budget.

The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018 seeks parliamentary approval of supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service in the 2017-18 financial year of \$5.14 million. The unforeseen expenditures incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service were primarily due to costs associated with the 2017 electoral boundary redistribution and the state election that we had.

The Appropriation Bill (No. 2) seeks parliamentary approval of supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by departments in the 2017-18 financial year to the sum of \$494.915 million. Approximately 47 per cent of this total unforeseen expenditure was incurred by the Department of Transport and Main Roads and related to state and Commonwealth accelerated funding for capital programs, including the Bruce Highway upgrade and other state roads. Of the remainder, approximately 38 per cent was incurred by the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs, which was primarily due to the Commonwealth government's prepayment of 2018-19 funding for financial assistance grants to local governments.

The level of unforeseen expenditure required each year can be influenced by a range of factors, including significant one-off factors like natural disasters that we have in Queensland. It can also reflect new decisions made during the year, additional appropriations associated with additional Commonwealth grants and the pull-forward of capital spending from future years. Over time, agencies are constantly improving their scrutiny and monitoring of their expenditure to improve value for money and to efficiently deliver their services.

These are bills that are all about getting on with the job of governing in Queensland, focusing on growing jobs and also delivering infrastructure in this wonderful state. Unfortunately, as we have seen time and time again from the opposition, they would rather waste everyone's time talking down the Queensland economy, bleating on and cherrypicking statistics, rather than actually working with us to pass simple legislation in the interests of Queenslanders. The fact is that our economic plan is working to transition us out of the highs of the mining boom and into a sustainable future in our state. It is an economic plan that keeps our assets in public hands and that funds the infrastructure we need and the frontline services Queenslanders deserve in this state—unlike those opposite, who fired 14,000 public servants, planned to sell off our assets and closed schools and TAFEs.

We just heard them say that we are taxing our way out of \$83 billion of debt, but not one of them over there has said how they expect to pay that debt down—not one of them. The only way they will get this debt down if they ever get re-elected is to sell or sack. It is in their DNA and we know that.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: I know they are not that smart, but if you do not tax and you do not get income coming into the state, the only way they can do it is, as they have said before, to sell assets or sack staff in Queensland.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: You have already done it. We have to tax people in this state to get money for our infrastructure, our jobs and our teachers.

Let us look at the comparison—from the Sensis Business Index which the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is so fond of quoting. Let us look at the June report, the most recent, which looks at business confidence in Queensland. Confidence across the state is now +48. What was it in December 2014 under those opposite? It was just +14. How about in regional areas? The member who is speaking next will be interested in this. It is at +41 now. When we inherited it, it was just +11 in the opposition days. How about the labour force? Under the LNP here in Queensland, they had the highest number of unemployed people ever, with 165,300 unemployed people, despite the labour force being six per cent smaller. No wonder they were voted out.

In my community of Gladstone the people care about government getting on with the job, they care about getting things done and they care about us doing what we are doing in Queensland and not playing politics like those opposite. The members opposite claim they do not get enough time to represent their community. I would wager that if they went out and talked to anyone at the shops in Everton, Kingaroy or Kawana they would find that those people are not worried about how long their local member had to debate committee reports, as we heard this morning. They would want to know that their member was ensuring they could get a stable job, their kids could get a great education, students could get training and skills, they could have access to health care when they were sick and they got the roads and the public transport they needed in their own communities. That is what these bills are about. It is about the Queensland Palaszczuk Labor government getting on with the job. I commend these bills to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.30 pm): I rise to address the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2). What a contribution to follow, a contribution from the assistant Treasurer of this state who made the comment that the only other alternative to taxing is to sell assets—this coming from a member of

the Labor government and the Labor Party that not only taxes, taxes, taxes and taxes but sells, sells, sells and sells. The only party in this state that has sold public assets is the Australian Labor Party. Why do I know that? I know because when I was first elected in 2009 guess what those opposite did? They flogged off the forestry, they flogged off the motorways, they flogged off the port and they flogged off the airports.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr POWELL: The Premier and other ministers who are now sitting around the cabinet table were sitting around that cabinet table at that time making those decisions.

What we have here is a debate on a bill that again demonstrates that those opposite do not know how to manage the economy of the state of Queensland. For the assistant Treasurer to say that the only solution is to tax Queenslanders is absolutely abhorrent. When in government the LNP demonstrated that we could cut taxes and charges for the Queensland people. We halved the public transport fares being imposed by those opposite. In fact, we provided the first ever reduction in public transport fares. We froze registration on the family vehicle. We delivered real savings that meant that we could invest in the infrastructure that this state desperately needed.

Let me suspend reality for a moment and accept what the assistant Treasurer said, that they must tax to build the infrastructure that this state needs. If they were doing it we might actually believe it. However, there is no infrastructure happening here that has not happened as a result of either—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my right, thank you.

Mr POWELL:—the former LNP government or pressure being placed on those opposite by the federal coalition government. If members opposite want an example—

Government members: Ha, ha!

Mr POWELL: I know they are laughing, but it is quite simple. They can go to the committee's report on the appropriation bills where those Department of Transport and Main Roads projects requiring additional appropriation are listed. There is the Bruce Highway, Caloundra Road to the Sunshine Motorway. That only happened because of the lobbying by the Sunshine Coast LNP members alongside Andrew Wallace and Ted O'Brien as well as 'Team Queensland' at the federal level to ensure that—

Mr Mickelberg: Dragged kicking and screaming.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Buderim. Those opposite had to be dragged kicking and screaming to actually deliver that. In relation to the Bruce Highway, Cooroy to Curra section A, if I recall correctly, it was actually the LNP government that got that one underway, working with a then Labor federal government to make that happen. There is the Bruce Highway, Caboolture-Bribie road to Steve Irwin Way, upgrade to six lanes. They cannot even deliver the plan; they were given \$14 million by the federal government to undertake that piece of work so we can get that much needed infrastructure upgrade happening. There is also the Bruce Highway, Cooroy to Curra section C. Again, I say thank you, federal coalition government. There is the Bruce Highway, Cooroy to Curra section D, again, thanks to Llew O'Brien, 'Team Queensland' and the federal coalition government. There is the Gateway Motorway North, again, thank you to the LNP state government and our federal coalition partners.

There is also the Pacific Motorway (Rochedale South)—and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads basically acted like a toddler throwing his toys out of the cot, kicking and screaming saying, 'We're not getting any money for the Pacific Motorway'. If it had not been for the federal coalition we would still be waiting for that project to happen. There is also the Warrego Highway. We can add on top of that what the LNP state government was able to achieve in three years in terms of the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, all of the additional funding and \$8½ billion of a 10-year action plan for the Bruce Highway. Those opposite will say that they have to tax to provide infrastructure. The LNP proved they do not. Those opposite will say that if they do not tax, they have to sell assets. They have also proven that if they do tax, they do sell assets as well; they are the only mob that have. Again, the LNP government proved that it was not necessary and we could get on with the job of delivering.

If there was an opportunity through increased taxes and increased funding to see an improvement in some of the key indicators in the state, we might forgive them. However, what are we seeing? Debt is going up, unemployment is going up, public sector numbers are going up. As I said, taxes are going up. What are we getting in return? Reduced business confidence, reduced investment

in infrastructure, reduced service delivery—and I want to come back to that in a little while. What is happening to Queensland? We are slipping further and further down the leader board in the nation of Australia when it comes to economic performance. It kills me to think that Queensland is now rating lower than states like South Australia and Tasmania. That is completely and utterly unacceptable. The only reason we are there is that this Labor government are in charge of the Treasury coffers.

If the Premier cannot even manage her own ministerial office budget and at the end of the year has to go cap in hand to ask for an additional \$300,000, is it any wonder that the minister and his colleagues opposite cannot manage the state budget any better? In fact, even worse, imagine a family household who sat around the kitchen table and worked out their budget. At the end of the year they find they have spent \$300,000 more than their budget had allocated. They cannot go cap in hand to the state coffers and say, 'Can I have another \$300,000?'

Mr Molhoek: Borrow more.

Mr POWELL: They would have to borrow more. That is exactly what has happened here. I take that interjection from the member for Southport, and chances are they would not be able to borrow that money because the banks would not lend it. This mentality that they can just spend other people's money is not acceptable and it must change.

I want to come back to this concept of increased taxes delivering better services. That is not what we are seeing in this state, either. My constituents know that ramping is back at their hospitals, their wait lists have blown out and in particular we are seeing for the first time ever in the electorate of Glass House an extraordinary increase in the time taken for our hardworking police officers to get to call-outs. Why? It is not because they are not doing their job; quite the contrary, they are doing a fantastic job. There just simply is not enough of them to cover a growing population in the electorate of Glass House and to cover the increasing amount of crime, particularly from those dealing with drug addiction. As my good friend the member for Toowoomba North often says, crime is up, budget is down. Despite all of this extra money that we are debating today, none of it is going to the Police Service; none of it is going to put more officers on the beat or ensure they have the vehicles, the iPads and all of the assistance and resources they need to do their job.

I have never turned up at mobile offices and had the kind of feedback I have received over the last couple of months. I have never received the number of emails and phone calls from across the electorate, from Mooloolah to Glasshouse Mountains. Now we are getting a spate of robberies in places like Wamuran, Woodford, D'Aguilar and Delaneys Creek. It is not acceptable. I know that the officers on the ground are doing their best and I call on the constituents of Glass House to understand that. The problem is not those officers; it is this government that is unable to resource our Police Service the way they should. They have cut the budget for the Queensland Police Service, which means that the number of our officers is not keeping pace with our population growth and is not keeping pace with the increasing crime in this state and as a result the constituents of Glass House and right across Queensland are suffering.

There is currently a petition out amongst the electorate, and I call on all members of Glass House communities to sign that petition. We need to demonstrate to this government that if you are going to impose five new taxes, if you are going to drive up debt and if you are going to increase the number of public servants in this state, then the result should be better service delivery. That means more police officers on the beat, more doctors and nurses, waitlists reduced and delivering the health and education services that our communities desperately need.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.39 pm): I rise to support the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and the appropriation bills, which contain very appropriate measures and fulfil our election commitments whilst ensuring that Queensland's budget and the economy are in good shape. In terms of these bills we have seen a range of measures that those opposite could take a lesson from. When it comes to taking appropriate economic measures this government takes what we are going to do to the people and we seek their endorsement, and that is what we got.

On 25 November the people of Queensland looked at our platform and they endorsed it and elected a majority Labor government. We did not do what the Newman opposition did, which is to go out, promise the world and tell people they will be fine. 'Your jobs will be fine. Don't worry, we're not going to cut jobs. We're not going to change tree-clearing laws. We're not going to change uranium mining. We're not going to sack you.' As soon as they got in the real agenda came out: people were sacked and assets were lined up to be sold. What we saw from the LNP was a deception that saw the largest majority in Australian political history destroyed in less than three years. Why? Because they

tried to fool the people of Queensland. They did not trust them with their real policies. This government is entirely different. We take our policies and positions to the people. We say to them, 'We will not sell your assets. We will manage the economy,' and that is what we are doing. That is why we were re-elected.

Mr Molhoek: You sold assets. It was you and your mates who sold all the assets.

Mr BAILEY: I will take that interjection. I love this line from the opposition, 'We didn't sell assets.' No, because the people of Queensland caught up with you and voted you out, that is why. You had the biggest agenda to sell off assets in Queensland's history and you got your hands caught in the till. That is what happened. They are still pretty sore as a result of the deception you tried to pull on the people of Queensland. We say that we will keep our assets in public hands to work for the people of Queensland, and that is what we are doing.

In the Treasurer's budget this year we have seen an increase of \$700 million from the Palaszczuk Labor government for the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program. That is a 10 per cent increase in a year where we had a 6.2 per cent cut in federal government funding. In terms of the bills here today let me go over those that relate to my own portfolio specifically. We can see that works of \$305 million in the area of Transport and Main Roads have been accelerated from the 2018-19 financial year to the 2017-18 financial year. We are getting a lot of infrastructure done. This is in stark contrast to the previous government, whose only significant infrastructure project was a big tower for themselves at 1 William Street. This government spends money on infrastructure all over Queensland. Let me list the projects that benefitted from being brought forward. These projects are creating the jobs and confidence that see Queensland lead the nation in terms of job creation.

Projects with funds accelerated into 2017-18 include: the Bruce Highway, Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway, \$50 million; the Bruce Highway, Cooroy to Curra section A duplication, \$29 million; the Gateway Upgrade North, started and finished under the Palaszczuk government with joint funding of \$19.5 million, is very close to being finished; the Warrego Highway, Condamine Street to Watt Street, Dalby Western Access Upgrade, \$14.5 million; the Bruce Highway, Cooroy to Curra, section C, construction of new four-laning, \$13 million; the Bruce Highway, Cooroy to Curra, section D, Keefton Road to Curra, \$12 million; and Gold Coast Light Rail. What a success story! What a great Labor achievement, investing in infrastructure on the Gold Coast for the public benefit. Not for the private benefit of people's breweries or their donor mates, but on behalf of Gold Coast residents. They are taking up Gold Coast Light Rail in huge numbers, and we look forward to building more stages for the benefit of the public. Not for the private benefit of donors, not for the private benefit or financial interests of an MP on the other side, but for the public benefit of Gold Coast residents. Another project with accelerated funds is the Warrego Highway Dalby eastern access upgrade at \$9.7 million.

We have seen very strong performance in the Transport and Main Roads space. We are getting projects done, getting investment, and getting a lot of work done on the ground to help foster jobs growth and confidence in the Queensland economy. Let's look at some economic indicators: 170,000 jobs have been created since this government was elected. That is five times—500 per cent—more jobs than the LNP. We saw the economy fall off a cliff under the treasurership of the member for Clayfield. Economic growth ended up as low as 0.8 per cent. It had a zero in front of it. In contrast, under the Deputy Premier and Treasurer in this government we are seeing confidence return. Unemployment rates are considerably lower than they were under the LNP. We saw a peak of 6.7 per cent under them. They inherited 5.5 per cent and they left it at 6.7 per cent. The LNP—who in this debate are trying to pretend they are anti taxes—increased taxes and levies by more than \$2.6 billion when they were in power. That is a fact. It is one that is not mentioned in any LNP speeches that I can recall, but it is a simple fact. Let's not hear them say, 'We do not believe in taxation,' because they certainly did when they occupied the government benches.

Under this government debt is more than \$13 billion lower. Let's look at what Standard & Poor's and a few other significant players in the economy have to say. Standard & Poor's maintained our AA+ rating and say that the outlook remains stable. They note that our debt action plan is working and that debt is lower than it was in 2014 under the Newman LNP government. They predict that we will have operating surpluses going forward. Moody's revised their outlook from negative to stable in April last year, more than a year and a half ago, and that negative outlook had been in place since 2012. Did it change when the LNP were in power? Absolutely not, because LNP economic settings saw economic growth plunge and unemployment skyrocket. We saw confidence in the Queensland economy decimated by their cut, sack and sell policies. The NAB business survey showed business conditions at +14, the second highest in the country and only one point behind Victoria. Business confidence was

at +3, higher than New South Wales and Victoria, the so-called boom states. In September 2018 the Deloitte business outlook predicted that the Queensland economy would grow by 3.1 per cent in 2018-19 and up to four per cent in 2019-20, predicting the highest economic growth in the country.

These international credit agencies—who, let's face it, are tough markers—are giving this economy and this recovery, led by the Palaszczuk Labor government, the tick. We have been able to put infrastructure together all over this state. There have been four M1 upgrades under this government. There were zero under the previous government, who ignored the M1, the Gold Coast and growth. We have seen the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing signed, started and advanced by this government; the Bruce Highway, Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway; Haughton River floodplain upgrade; Mackay Ring Road; Ipswich Motorway; Smithfield Bypass; Rockhampton Northern Access Upgrade; and the Logan Enhancement Program, a market-led project that is well advanced.

The business case for the Nambour to Beerburrum rail duplication was not even started under the member for Glass House. He was a member of the cabinet but the business case for that was not even started in his time. Cross River Rail is underway thanks to this government. I find it ironic that we have had comments by opposition members on Cross River Rail. They do not support Cross River Rail. They run around saying that they want to bust congestion, but they do not support the biggest congestion-busting project in South-East Queensland, being Cross River Rail. We see policy contortions and nonsense from those opposite.

We see some adjustments to SPER. We saw what those opposite did with SPER. In 2014-15 some 700,000 PINs were issued, with nearly 620,000 referred to SPER—a nearly quadrupling under the LNP. That represents absolute mismanagement. These bills deserve support. I commend them to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.50 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the bills. Many of the amendments in the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will be of benefit to my constituents in Gregory. Firstly, the bill contains provisions to support e-conveyancing. This is much needed and will be of great benefit to people in regional and rural Queensland. It also amends the Taxation Administration Act to make charitable institutions include clauses which specify the use of the entity's income and property. I realise that this will require charities to check and possibly amend their constitutions in order to ensure they comply; however, I do believe that this reform is needed to prevent disputes such as the recent Victorian dispute between an individual CWA branch and the state hierarchy over how some of the locally raised funds should be spent. There are so many local charities that work so hard in country Queensland. Despite the paperwork, this clarification is welcome because it will ensure that the time and effort dedicated by local volunteers is expended where it can support and progress local community life. This amendment will safeguard the efforts of all those who volunteer.

The bill contains another suite of amendments which will be of enormous benefit to the constituents of Gregory and indeed every family owned primary production business in Queensland. These are amendments to the Duties Act which give retrospective legislative effect to a number of beneficial administration arrangements around the transfer duty concession for family businesses of primary production. This bill will extend the concession to all types of dutiable property used to conduct primary production business. The Land Tax Act is also amended to give retrospective legislative effect to a beneficial administrative arrangement which ensures that land from deceased estates is assessed for land tax as intended.

In the US and many EU countries, agriculture has become dominated by huge global conglomerates that undertake industrial scale farming. While this is not unknown to us, Australian agriculture remains strongly supported by family owned farms. When you compare the two models, the family farmer rates amazingly well in terms of productivity, food safety and innovation. Of course, in history dreadful famines occurred when nations lost their family farmers. Family owned agriculture turns out to provide a good foundation for food security as well. If we are to retain our family farm sector, we must have successful succession planning in family farm businesses. This process is always stressful and personal. How could it be otherwise? These amendments remove some hurdles, making it easier for farming families to have a succession plan in place. This is good for the older generation looking towards retirement and good for the younger generation because they know that they will receive the fruits of their current labour. I think it is a good idea. Of course, family farm succession is paramount today as many baby boomers are looking for retirement and the next generation of farming is certainly coming along.

I note merely in passing the amendments to allow a new case management service delivery model for the State Penalties Enforcement Registry. It is sincerely hoped that this will better assist all Queenslanders in their interactions with SPER. I take seriously my duties to assist constituents in their

interactions with Queensland law and departments. Like all members, I have experience with constituents who have struggled in their dealings with SPER, and I hope that this new service model will make these dealings easier.

I would particularly like to mention the amendments to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984. My constituents in the township of Woorabinda are directly affected by this act as under Woorabinda's alcohol management plan they have a policy of zero carriage of alcohol. It is my overwhelming impression that this policy is strongly supported by both the leadership and the people of Woorabinda, who see it as having a very positive outcome on the community. I know that it is also strongly supported by the local police and by health and social services agencies delivering services to that community because it supports better social outcomes on a number of measures including physical and mental health for young and old.

The zero-carriage-of-alcohol policy affects both commercially sold alcohol and home-brew concentrate. This ensures that the dry place declaration cannot be undermined. Easy access to relatively low cost ingredients used to make homemade alcohol, combined with the ability to use common household items in its manufacture, means that home-brew continues to challenge the intentions of a dry place declaration. Of particular concern is the emergence of turbo yeast, because it allows the production of bulk alcohol at an accelerated rate and produces a high-alcohol beverage—as high as 23 per cent. A recent court decision found that turbo yeast is not covered by the act because it contains no malt and hops. This amendment will close that loophole in section 38 of the act and will ensure that the community of Woorabinda can continue to manage this issue under current laws. This is timely. I welcome that amendment.

I move on to the appropriation bills, which seek more money for departmental budgets. It concerns me that, including these bills, this government has racked up over \$3.16 billion in unforeseen expenditure from 2015-16 to 2017-18, displaying a complete inability to set limits on its use of taxpayers' money. All families try to run a good household budget. As the member for Glass House said, can you imagine if a family overspent their budget by \$300,000? Where would they go to get the money? They could try to go to a bank, but they would probably find it pretty hard to get the money. These massive amounts of unforeseen expenditure are concerning. In 2016-17 there was over \$2.2 billion in unforeseen expenditure. In the year before there was \$390 million in unforeseen expenditure.

Only Labor could get a massive coal royalties windfall, bring in five new taxes and still have to increase borrowings to plug the budget black hole while racking up more and more debt. The CommSec State of the States report puts Queensland in sixth place. I note that those opposite have talked down the CommSec State of the States report. I can assure members that when those opposite were in opposition they talked up the CommSec report. Now that they are in government they are talking it down. They cannot have it both ways.

CommSec puts us at sixth, on the bottom half of the economic ladder, behind South Australia. Queensland should be an economic powerhouse and should be in the top two or three behind New South Wales and Victoria. We should even be above New South Wales and Victoria. We have the Bowen Basin. We have royalties from the coal industry. We have a massive agricultural industry. In fact, the Central Highlands region has the biggest cattle herd in Australia. We have massive opportunities with agriculture and mining, yet we are now sixth—on the bottom half of the economic ladder, behind South Australia. We have to do a lot better. We have the potential to do a lot better. We have the opportunities. The economic powerhouse for Queensland is in regional Queensland. You only have to go to places like Moranbah, Dysart, Emerald and Blackwater to see the rebound in the mining industry and the economic opportunities that is providing, not only for local employment but also for royalties to the state government.

Like I said, only Labor could get a massive coal royalty windfall, bring in five new taxes and still have to increase borrowings to plug the budget black hole while racking up more and more debt. We cannot continue to rack up the debt because someone has to pay it back. You have to pay the piper. You cannot keep spending other people's money. You have to pay it back. My concern is that it could take a couple of generations to get this debt under control. Going towards \$83 billion is a massive debt that our children and our grandchildren may have to pay back, so we need to rein that back and we need to ensure that Queensland becomes the economic powerhouse that it should be. It should be an economic powerhouse and it should be up in the top two, not in the bottom six.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (4.00 pm): Today I rise to make a very brief contribution in support of the cognate bills, but I want to focus particularly on the issue of turbo yeast. In my capacity as ministerial champion I look after the

community of Mornington Island and it has been great to hear the statements in the House today from members of the committee who travelled to Mornington Island as well as other members in the House. I have been to Mornington Island a number of times now in my role as ministerial champion and it does not matter who you speak to on the island—whether it is the elders, the council, the mayor, the councillors, the CEO, people from the hospital or even staff at the school—the No. 1 issue that every single person on that island raises is alcohol. For an island that has been a dry community for a number of generations now, I was alarmed going out at night with the Mornington Island police and seeing the number of extremely intoxicated people who were wandering the streets in an area where you supposedly cannot buy alcohol, and it was because of the home-brew.

I heard anecdotal reports that the store on Mornington Island goes through one tonne of sugar every fortnight, and this is in a community with about 1,000 people. I went to the store to have a look, and found the largest amount of sugar I have ever seen in any supermarket in Australia. It is fairly clear that a lot of that is potentially going into homemade alcohol using turbo yeast. One of the initiatives that the police had tried was they wrote to every single home-brew outlet in the country and asked them to not send postage packets of turbo yeast to Mornington. They received a pretty positive response from that, with a number of home-brew places being completely unaware that by servicing an online order they were contributing to a significant health issue many thousands of kilometres away.

No matter who you speak to up there, there is a very strong vibe about wanting to do something about turbo yeast. I heard some commentary earlier that there may be some issues around trying to police it and enforce it. I accept that, but we have to give those communities a go and we have to do what we can as a government to assist them with what they need. I know that on Mornington Island a ban on turbo yeast is certainly a step in the right direction. It is a strong community with a good vision forward. It now has a couple of generations of locals who have never had the opportunity or never really known what consumption of alcohol in what we could consider a normal environment is like. One of the goals is to try and normalise the community, if that makes any sense, from an alcohol perspective and I certainly support it in its endeavours. I very much support the ban on turbo yeast and the other parts of that legislation. Again, I want to thank the committee for taking the time to travel to Mornington because I know it means a lot to the locals.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (4.03 pm): Is this bill the answer to the SPER disaster with its ballooning debts? I wish! There are many mum-and-dad Queenslanders who are owed tens of millions of dollars in court ordered restitution for debt. Last year it was estimated that \$46 million of about \$1.2 billion in SPER debt was court ordered debt. This legislation before the House does have provisions relating to the Victims of Crime Assistance Act but, as far as I am aware, still does not address issues affecting my constituents which are in common with many others. In February of this year I wrote to the Deputy Premier about this. I will explain the situation. These constituents had waited more than eight years to have this court ordered restitution of debt come back to them through the SPER system, but they have not seen payment for that. When they sought to find out where efforts were at from SPER with regard to having that debt repaid, SPER would not tell them for confidentiality reasons. This is why I have taken this matter up with the government.

After more than eight years and a court ordered debt and constituents who cannot get an answer from SPER and a substantial amount of the debt that is ballooning in SPER belonging to people just like my constituents, we need to see better answers. There needs to be accountability and there needs to be progress. I would certainly welcome an answer from the Deputy Premier if the provisions in this legislation mean that my constituents will not only have their debt paid but have a clearer idea where efforts are at from SPER in going after that debt on their behalf. That is what the system was set up for and that is where there has been tremendous frustration, with confidentiality being used as the smokescreen for leaving people in limbo—good people who have worked hard all their lives, trusting the justice system and then being blocked from getting any answers about where the repayment of their court ordered debt was at. I raise this with the Deputy Premier and I would certainly appreciate the Deputy Premier's advice. As to whether this legislation fixes this issue, it is not evident from the bill that it will but I am keen to see that people who are law-abiding, upstanding constituents—as are most Queenslanders—get a fair go and that the justice system works for them.

There are many issues covered in these cognate bills, and many acts are in fact incorporated into the bills before the House, so we have a responsibility to provide the appropriate scrutiny of the issues pertaining to these bills and to take the opportunity of raising associated matters. However, the appropriation and revenue issues of this state are so significant. The Achilles heel of this Palaszczuk Labor government is its economic incompetence which costs every single Queenslanders who pays taxes more money.

In an earlier contribution we heard a Labor member defending the big taxing ways of this government, saying that the only way it could get anything done was through taxes and, as we have seen, putting up five new taxes. It has already been increasing registration on the family household car in exorbitant ways that has hurt ordinary Queenslanders who are facing real pressure on their daily budget. With all of these new taxes that are coming down the pipeline, we are seeing more pressure put on the household budget of everyday Queenslanders.

Labor and Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk are spending more on their staffing and PR machine while people are being shot in shopping centre car parks. I am outraged that we have seen a terrible situation with a shooting on the Sunshine Coast while the Police budget has been cut. That is unacceptable. The Police budget is down, crime is up and we are seeing shootings in suburban shopping centre car parks. That is outrageous, that is unacceptable and this stands very much as a responsibility of this government, which has its priorities wrong.

There is big taxing and big spending in the areas that suits this government, but not in the areas that matter to every day Queenslanders, who see the police budget being cut by about \$44 million when the incidence of crime is going up. We also see this government wasting money on changing the name of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, trashing the reputation of a fine upstanding Queensland pioneering female medico. There has been no proper explanation for why this is being done. The only explanation that we can come to is that it is purely about politics—politics rather than people. The government claims, 'It's going to cost only half a million.' That is a lot of money. That could pay for surgery for a lot of people. We believe that it will cost more than that to change the name. At the end of the day, it is the wrong priority for this government. This government is a bigger taxer and poorer service deliverer, with ballooning wait times in hospital emergency departments, such as on the Sunshine Coast, particularly in relation to category 2 and category 3 emergency department wait times and clinical benchmarks for those departments, which this government is failing. It has its priorities wrong.

I want to address the issue of unemployment in Queensland. Certainly, when compared to the other states, Queensland is dragging the chain in addressing unemployment and business confidence. In trend terms, Queensland has tied with Western Australia in having the highest unemployment rate in the nation of 6.1 per cent. In Queensland, there is a two-speed economy—and sometimes it is even more than that. In the regions, there are outrageously high unemployment figures, but this government struggles to understand that it is taxing the small businesses—the mums and dads—that will provide the opportunity for people in those areas to get jobs. They are making it harder and harder for those business operators to do their job. The CCIQ Pulse Survey indicates that, in Queensland, business confidence levels are negative and there is a massive divide between regional and South-East Queensland. The Sensis Business Index shows that the Palaszczuk Labor government was regarded as the least popular by small and medium sized businesses, with their confidence level well below the national average.

The members of this Labor government can spend a lot of money on their PR machine, pat themselves on the back and be confident about their own jobs, but, when it comes to the confidence of those who create the real jobs in Queensland—small businesses—we are seeing indications of a lot of stress, strain, uncertainty and scepticism that this government is going to do the right thing. That is evidenced by the new taxes that this government has brought in. In regard to bringing in new taxes that it had not announced before the last election, this government has broken its promises, but that is the Labor way.

I heard Labor members talk about asset sales. Under Labor, asset sales occurred in Queensland. Labor certainly did not go to the election promising to do that. I asked the then transport minister Rachel Nolan about the rumours of the sale of Queensland Rail. The then transport minister replied with gusto, 'No, Queensland Rail is not for sale.' What did we see a few days later? On the front page of the *Sunday Mail* there was a story that the then Labor treasurer of the state was planning to sell Queensland Rail, which he did. Under that government, we saw the forestry sale, the sale of ports, the sale of the tollways and the list goes on.

It does not matter how much money Labor has, it will waste it and still think it has to tax Queenslanders more. Labor has its foot on the neck of the small business mums and dads. We want to champion them and see them get a fair go rather than have this raft of new taxes imposed on them and the continual reaching into the pockets of everyday mum-and-dad Queenslanders.

It is time for a fair go. It is time for a focus on real service delivery rather than fripperies and silly political stunts, such as ripping the name of a fine woman such as Lady Cilento off the children's hospital. That does not do anything about giving a child access to services quicker, or fixing the ballooning emergency department wait times. That is why this government has lost its way.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (4.13 pm): Another day and more confected outrage from the member for Maroochydore. She did not convince anyone else apart from almost convincing herself that she was outraged by some of the accusations that she was making. I am sure she will keep trying.

I want to respond to some of the issues raised by the member for Maroochydore in her confected outrage. She talked a lot about debt. I found that very interesting, because, when the member for Maroochydore was part of the former LNP government, state debt increased from \$62.6 billion in 2011-12 to \$75.5 billion in 2014-15. That was a shockingly high increase in debt of over \$3 billion per year. We did not hear any confected outrage—or any outrage at all, or even any comments—from the member for Maroochydore then. The fact is that debt is lower now than it was in 2014 when the former LNP government was in power. The member for Maroochydore can have all the confected outrage she likes, but those are the facts. Of course, we will not hear that from the member for Maroochydore—or, indeed, from any of those opposite.

I should not laugh, but the member for Maroochydore also talked about public servant numbers and that we needed more public servants. The member for Maroochydore was part of a government, as were many of those opposite, that sacked 14,000 public servants. I do not know what the member for Maroochydore was doing back then, but she says now that having public servants deliver for Queensland is a good thing. When the member for Maroochydore was part of the Newman LNP government she did not raise that issue in this place.

The member for Maroochydore also talked about unemployment. The facts are that, in Queensland, in seasonally adjusted terms, the unemployment rate skyrocketed from 5.7 per cent in early 2012 to 7.1 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms by October 2014. In contrast, since we were elected in early 2015, our economic plan has seen 170,000 jobs created, which is more than five times the number of jobs that were created by the former LNP government. They are all statistics that the member for Maroochydore and those other members opposite have not mentioned.

Although I have mentioned the confected outrage from the member for Maroochydore, so far in this debate the member for Glass House has well and truly taken the cake. Those opposite will not talk about their role in the former LNP government, but today in this place the member for Glass House endorsed the economic and fiscal policies of the Morrison government. I have not heard many people willing to do that. He should ask his colleagues in Victoria whether they are willing to do that. If nothing else, I admire the bravery of the member for Glass House.

I am very pleased to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018 and the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 in this cognate debate. I want to place on record my appreciation—and I am sure the appreciation of other members of this House—for the work of the Economics and Governance Committee, which undertook the consideration of these bills. The purpose of the appropriation bills is to provide for supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure of some \$5.14 million that was incurred in the 2017-18 financial year.

Given the contribution of some of those opposite, it is important to look at what that expenditure is about. It was owing to accelerated funding for capital programs, including the Bruce Highway upgrade and other state roads. Do those opposite oppose that expenditure? Do the members oppose the expenditure owing to the costs associated with the 2017 electoral boundary redistribution and the state election? Do the members oppose the Commonwealth government's prepayment of 2018-19 funding for financial assistance grants to local governments? This is what this money was spent on.

The members opposite talk about household budgets. When they were in government, they failed their own test on that. They talk about the expenditure outlined in these bills as being somehow inappropriate. The fact is that a lot of the expenditure was spent on those projects that I mentioned. It is very interesting to note that unforeseen expenditure is below the annual average of \$637 million over the previous five years. I suggest that those opposite should apply their own tests and criteria to themselves. Of course, if they did that, they would certainly find themselves wanting.

Other measures covered by these bills include a phased expansion of electronic conveyancing that will allow for an expanded range of transactions and options to settle a broader range of transactions through e-conveyancing. As a former articulated clerk, I am sure people in similar roles today will appreciate the less pounding of the pavement with e-conveyancing.

Charitable institution registration requirements are also amended to ensure that there are particular restrictions on the use of their income and property which is to be outlined in the constitution of that particular institution. It is pleasing to see the Deputy Premier moving amendments today to make

sure institutions can be compliant over the next couple of years. Minor changes will also be made to allow for simplifying provisions for case management of debtors and also the establishment of consistent registration arrangements for all debt types referred to SPER.

Importantly, and I note that other members have spoken on this matter, the bill also addresses health concerns relating to homemade alcohol which obviously has the potential to lead to deadly outcomes through discrete Aboriginal and Torres Islander communities. In particular this bill will capture the substance known as turbo yeast.

In conclusion, I urge those opposite to apply their own criteria to themselves: forget about the confected outrage, forget about trying to draw in broader issues. I fully support these bills and I commend these bills to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.21 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and, following that, the appropriation bills before us today. From the outset it is worth noting that the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 in fact seeks to make a number of amendments affecting some 11 acts that fall within the administration or remit of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Today, however, as the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, I wish to address those measures in this bill which specifically impact the administration of acts affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including the Aboriginal and Torres Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984, known as the JLOM Act; the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003, known as the ACH Act; and the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003, otherwise known as the TSICH Act.

Firstly, in relation to matters relating to alcohol restrictions in Queensland Indigenous communities, alcohol abuse can have a devastating effect not only on an individual but also on all aspects of the individual's life, be it family, friends or even employment. While such abuse does not discriminate between gender, age or race, it is a sad fact that in this country excessive alcohol consumption disproportionately affects Indigenous communities contributing to higher disadvantage, lower life expectancy and poor health, education and employment outcomes.

As the Prime Minister's 2014 *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework* made clear, across Indigenous communities of New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined, Indigenous males died from alcohol related causes at five times the rate of non-Indigenous males and Indigenous females at six times the non-Indigenous rate with the overwhelming majority of deaths due to alcoholic liver disease. It is in that context that the importance of ensuring that the JLOM act, which regulates alcohol restrictions across 19 discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland, is not lost and, indeed, keeps pace with modern consumption and attempted brewing trends. Despite prohibitions being in place, the fact remains that homemade alcohol continues to be a significant issue for these communities, particularly through the homemade production of what is commonly referred to as turbo yeast, a key ingredient that assists in the bulk production of homemade alcohol. The purpose of this amendment to the JLOM act before us today is to better address the gap in the definition of 'home-brew concentrate' as the case of *Rockland & Ors v Queensland Police Service* 2013 determined yeast, including turbo yeast, did not fall within the definition of 'home-brew concentrate'.

I note that the new offence provision that this act allows for is not intended to capture the possession of a substance or combination of substances used for their original purpose, for example yeast, sugar and fruit juice. Instead, as per the bill's explanatory notes, the offence will only be triggered by the intention of a person to use the substance or combination of substances in a way that is not for their original purpose, for example, the discovery of large quantities of substances being fermented.

The Liberal National Party remains firmly committed to seeing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities prosper and improving health, education and employment outcomes and, in doing so, comprehensively contributing to Closing the Gap strategies. Whilst we on this side of the House do not oppose this amendment, it appears the Palaszczuk Labor government is merely tinkering at the edges as this bill offers nothing in the form of better enforcement to prevent sly grogging in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

I would now like to turn to the legislative changes relating to cultural heritage management, specifically with reference to restoring what is commonly known as the 'last claim standing' rule. The need for this amendment stems from the Supreme Court ruling in *Nuga Nuga Aboriginal Corporation v Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships* 2017. In short, the ruling by the Supreme Court late last year had effectively, as the law firm Clayton Utz described it, thrown past cultural heritage

management in some areas of Queensland into chaos and created significant uncertainty for those who, in the future, will need to identify Aboriginal parties in areas where there is no registered native title holder or claimant. This view was somewhat similarly echoed by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships in report No. 16 of the 56th Parliament's Economics and Governance Committee which noted—

DATSIP has advised the committee that there are 82 previously approved cultural heritage management plans based on the previous understanding of the 'last claim standing' provision, now rendered invalid by the Nuga Nuga decision.

As such, this bill seeks to reinstate the 'last claim standing' provision as previously understood by decision-makers under the ACH and TSICH acts prior to the Nuga Nuga decision, thereby validating the decisions made and actions taken and transition actions taken where processes had already commenced under these acts.

The Liberal National Party will not oppose this legislative amendment and while noting that through the committee process there were stakeholders that expressed their support for the reinstatement of the 'last claim standing' rule in order to provide such certainty, I would like to draw to the attention of those in this House and the Deputy Premier and minister that these changes are not without concerns or opposition which have been extensively detailed in the committee's report. I would encourage all members of the House to take note of the content of the committee's report.

Today representatives from the Yuggerah, Western Wakka Wakka and Barunggam people were here to oppose these aspects of the legislation related to last claim standing. These representatives have opposed this for many years and were relieved when this was removed in May 2018. They told me they have been seeking a meeting with the Deputy Premier and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships for over 12 months without success. I would encourage the Deputy Premier and minister to meet with these representatives to hear their concerns.

I will conclude my contribution on the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 by quoting directly from the committee's report, specifically the final comment on page 27 in relation to the cultural heritage management changes—

The committee notes that DATSIP has referred to the potential for a broader review of the ACHA and TSICHA, and the widespread support for such a review. As a result, the committee supports the proposed amendment to provide certainty until that review can be undertaken. The committee will be interested to hear of progress on such a review.

As shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships I share that same interest and I would appreciate hearing from the Deputy Premier and minister if she and all Labor ministers are supportive of such a review, when we can expect this review to commence, the timeline for her department to report back and what consultation process will occur given the concerns being raised with me.

I now wish to address the appropriation bills before us as part of the cognate debate. This year the Deputy Premier and Treasurer is seeking authorisation for an additional just over \$500 million—that is, half a billion dollars. I suppose if there was ever to be a silver lining in this it is that at least this year it is not as high as the Palaszczuk Labor government's shocking unforeseen expenditure of \$2.3 billion which occurred last financial year. In total, the Palaszczuk Labor government has now racked up more than \$3.16 billion in unforeseen expenditure since 2015-16. That is 3.16 billion more examples of Labor's complete inability and lack of willingness to set limits on how they spend hard-earned taxpayer dollars. None of us in this House would be surprised, particularly those on this side of the chamber. State Labor has never once shown any real interest in properly managing the state's finances and improving Queensland's economy. All we get from those opposite is nothing more than lip-service. It is not until bills like the ones before us are introduced that Labor truly shows us that the emperor has no clothes.

It is a plain matter of fact that Queensland's fiscal and economic position continues to weaken under the Palaszczuk Labor government. One would think that any responsible government would have at least a skerrick of shame or embarrassment and would want to do more to restore its reputation, but this is not an economically or socially responsible government. Just this week, CommSec's quarterly State of the States economic report shows that Queensland has now fallen from fifth to sixth place on its respected economic table, after being overtaken by South Australia. The fact remains that Labor simply has no plan for Queensland's economy, unless of course we count Labor's tax-and-spend plan: spend it until it all runs out, then raise taxes further and spend it until it all runs out again, then repeat over and over again, just as we saw during the failed Beattie and Bligh years.

By contrast, on this side we have a real plan to get Queensland back on track and restore it to the economic powerhouse that it deserves to be. The Liberal National Party will invest in the critical congestion-busting infrastructure that Labor stubbornly refuses to address and that Queenslanders,

including residents of the electorate of Moggill, have been crying out for for many years. We need a government that is economically responsible. We need a government that is going to invest in our vital front-line services. In relation to police, we know the budget is down and crime is up. We know that the hospital system is failing. We know that ambulance ramping is returning. We have longer surgical wait lists. We know that by 2021-22 there will be an \$83 billion level of debt. That is not good enough for Queensland. This is a government of tax, debt and unemployment.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.31 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on the bills before us: the Appropriate Parliament Bill (No. 2), the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill and the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Whenever we talk about money bills, we should consider how the government is spending the money that we as the parliament gives it. I am not particularly impressed nor are the people in my electorate of Southern Downs. Queensland's fiscal and economic position has continued to weaken under the Palaszczuk government. This is yet another example of the Palaszczuk Labor government's complete failure to manage the state's finances and, having seen a shocking unforeseen expenditure amount of almost \$2.3 billion last financial year, we now see further over expenditures.

You just cannot trust Labor to manage a budget or to manage an economy. In her first budget, the Treasurer single-handedly set Queensland on a course for a record debt of \$83 billion, which is a colossal debt. It is a disgrace that will have to be dealt with by future generations. If we cannot live on the money that we have today, how will we live tomorrow and pay the interest on the debt and continue to invest? This government has embarked on a course of economic management that is utterly unsustainable.

The Treasurer and Labor's left have shamefully abandoned Labor's so-called debt action plan, meaning that even after raiding public servants' superannuation, Queensland is still heading towards record debt. The Treasurer's first budget broke her own government's fiscal principles. Public Service growth is more than double that of population growth. The Treasurer has increased Queensland's relative debt burden every year across the forward estimates, as mentioned by the general government debt-to-revenue ratio. Only Labor could be the beneficiary of a massive coal royalty windfall, still bring in five new taxes and increase borrowings to plug the budget black hole, while racking up more and more debt.

This Palaszczuk Labor government is a government of taxes, debt and unemployment. When you talk to the people of Southern Downs, they will tell you that they want to see a government that runs a tight ship. We are certainly not seeing that here. Labor has run the state for most of the past 30 years. In the years of former premiers Beattie and Bligh—and our own Premier sat at the cabinet tables of those governments—rivers of revenue poured into the state. They had more money than they knew what to do with, but they found ways to spend it.

Mr Costigan: Rivers of gold.

Mr LISTER: I take the interjection from my honourable friend the member for Whitsunday: there were rivers of gold. Where did all the money go? We know that it was just blown. It was wasted on thought bubbles and stupid programs because of an irresponsible misunderstanding of how we should be treating taxpayers' money, that is, the money of the people whom we represent here in this House.

We are talking about economic management, which is what that is really all about. I heard my honourable friend the member for Gladstone, our assistant Treasurer, make the astonishing statement that you have to put up taxes and you have to increase debt, because there is no other way to build infrastructure. That sums it up. It is a very revealing statement that betrays much about Labor's understanding of economics. I can tell members the answer: you spend the money better. You do what every person who pays our salaries—the people we represent in this place—have to do around the kitchen table. They have to divide up what they have, they have to make sure that payments due do not exceed accounts received. They cannot afford to squander money the way this government does, yet it is their money that this government is squandering.

Mr Costigan: They are butchering it.

Mr LISTER: That is a very pithy interjection that I accept and I thank my honourable friend the member for Whitsunday. We are always being told that Labor would not do such a thing as sell assets. I have been talking to a few constituents in Southern Downs who have come up with a common line, which is that Labor is not the party that it used to be. Look at all the assets that they said they would never sell, such as ports, forests, railways—

Mr Costigan: Airports.

Mr LISTER: That is right: and the Mackay airport in the neck of woods of my friend from Whitsunday. Those have all been sold. Every sacred cow has been sold off and butchered. They have sold themselves out on the question of public ownership and they should hang their heads in shame for coming into this place and speaking about asset sales. They are in no position to do that. They are not fit and proper people to lecture anyone about the sale of public assets. Labor managed to sell all of those assets and there is hardly anything left, but where is the money? It has been squandered, I suppose.

Let us look at their approach to addressing unemployment in this state. We have over 1,000 more senior and senior executive public servants in the state. That costs the budget \$1 billion every year, which is a lot of money.

Mr Costigan: A lot of fat cats.

Mr LISTER: It is a lot of fat cats. As I have said before, we are not talking about teachers taking classes. We are not talking about police who are arresting offenders or nurses attending patients. We are talking about bureaucrats who cost the state a fortune in terms of their conditions. In addition, they specialise in creating red and green tape that makes it harder for the private sector in this state, which is the true generator of jobs, to get done what it has to do. The biggest insult is that they are paying for it while they are having to deal with the red tape that is being created. That public sector growth is unsustainable.

I say again that if we cannot afford to live on what we earn now, how will we live in years to come and pay off the debt? How will we manage the debt? I suppose there is an institutionalised assumption that manna from heaven will rain down and somehow we will be able to meander on. However, there will be a day of reckoning and it is only people on this side of the House who recognise that.

We have seen an explosion in red and green tape. The small businesses and the farmers of the state are trying to make a living. They are trying to make their way in the private sector, creating jobs, wealth and taxes to pay for all of us here and for all the things that we are scrutinising. However, their job is being made harder and harder. As I said, families cannot manage their budgets in this way. They cannot hamstring themselves with all sorts of ridiculous imposts and rules. They cannot spend more than they earn, but that is what the government is doing.

What are the priorities that we see from the government? We do not see much in the way of economic sustainability, but we see a lot of political correctness. I think of the very hardworking farmers in the western part of my electorate of Southern Downs and in other electorates near me. I see my honourable friend the member for Scenic Rim, who knows as I do that there are farmers operating bores on behalf of their local communities as class 2 water authorities who have to annually elect their board members, but have had their elections thrown in their faces because there were not enough women on those boards. We are talking about unpaid positions where board members have to undertake physical tasks associated with the upkeep of their water authorities.

Mr Costigan: Morning, noon and night.

Mr LISTER: Morning, noon and night; that is correct. They have to go out there, roll up their trousers and clear ditches. They have to replace pipes and switch on valves. It is not the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority or the Cultural Centre Trust; these are unpaid positions. The government has the audacity to throw back in their face their elections and say, 'This is not good enough. We don't like the way you have conducted these elections. We are going to impose puritanical political correctness on you.'

Excuse me, those guys are the ones who are paying the welfare bill in this country. Their work in growing things from nothing and creating taxes from nothing are paying for politicians, nurses, police and doctors in this state. It is time this government took a turn away from its puritanical political correctness crusade and started looking at our economy—the debt and how they spend their money. They need to spend it better. They need to take less of it off the people and they need to deliver better. We are seeing ramping reintroduced in hospitals and increased waiting lists. They are spending more and more than ever.

This government cannot be trusted to spend the public's money. They do it inefficiently. They do it without regard for how hard it is to make. Let me tell members that it is a lot harder to make the money than it is to spend it. That is something that the government should bear in mind. Having said all of that, we support the bills, but with the keenest of reservations as to how the Labor Party might spend the money that is appropriated.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.40 pm): I rise to speak in the debate on the omnibus bills that we have in front of us. Really what we are talking about is economic management. This debate has been guillotined to five hours. I wanted to let people know that in that time the interest that Queenslanders will need to pay is \$2.1 million. I know to some people on the other side that does not seem like much because they are so used to blowing our money. In the time taken for this debate the interest on the debt that we have in Queensland will be \$2.1 million.

That seems like an awful lot. We are talking about \$7,000 a minute and \$10 million a day. In my electorate in Toowoomba we were fortunate enough to get a school built out at Highfields during the time the LNP were in office. The total spend to get that school rolling was \$35 million. That is 3½ days of servicing our debt to build a high school.

We as a state are living far beyond our means. No restraint has been shown. We see that coal royalties are going through the roof. I hear people on the other side commenting about our exports and how great they are, but they will never say coal. The fact of the matter is that coal will be contributing close to \$5 billion this year. That is a great thing for Queensland to develop. We should be using some of that money to pay down debt.

What we have heard from those opposite over a number of years now is a lot of rhetoric. I am sure many in the public would believe that we are the party that sold assets. Let me take members on a little trip. In 2006 Sun Retail was sold by Labor for \$1.2 billion. In 2007 Sun Gas was sold for \$75 million. In 2007 Powerdirect was sold for \$1.2 billion. In 2007 Golden Casket was sold for \$530 million. In 2007 gas assets and Enertrade were sold for \$268 million. The Labor Party sold all those assets. They sold wind energy assets for \$460 million. Brisbane Airport was sold for \$289 million. Cairns and Mackay airports were sold for \$738 million. Forestry Plantations was sold for \$600 million. The Port of Brisbane was sold for \$2.1 billion. QR National—remember it was not going to be sold and then things changed dramatically—was sold for \$4 billion. Abbot Point was sold for \$1.8 billion. Queensland Motorways was sold for \$3 billion.

They were all sold by Labor. These assets owned by the Queensland people were sold by Labor. At the same time as they were being sold our debt went up. The amount of interest we have to pay went up. Not only did the interest we have to pay go up because the debt was getting bigger, but the rate went up as well because we blew our AAA credit rating. Lots of people out there—constituents of mine—say, ‘AA+ and AAA, what is the difference?’ The difference is the amount of interest we get charged per year. That is the amount of money we have to generate to be able to pay the interest bill. We arrive back at the figure of \$83 billion.

Let us look at this figure of \$83 billion. If we had a genuine surplus in this state of \$1 billion each and every year it would take 83 years to pay down the debt Labor has racked up for Queensland. In terms of intergenerational debt, we are not looking to our children anymore to pay down the debt. This is money that we spend as a state today. If we had a \$1 billion surplus every year it would take 83 years to pay off our debt. That is money we spend today to provide the services that Queenslanders want and need.

This is incompetent management by the Labor Party over many, many years. Last year we certainly saw over a couple billion dollars of unforeseen expenditure. In my area we were looking for the second range crossing to be built. For many years under a state Labor government there was absolutely no interest in it. There was no money. They said, ‘We can’t afford it.’ The state’s contribution is a bit over \$300 million. Last year unforeseen expenditure was over \$2 billion. We have to ask how many people they have to employ not to be able to see \$2 billion worth of debt coming their way and then come into this place and ask for additional funding. This year it is not to the same magnitude, but we see the same lack of restraint and inability to control expenditure.

In terms of the portfolio that I have the shadow responsibilities for, when we were in government the Police Service had 245 police officers per 100,000 people. The last count I have is that it is now 242 per 100,000. That is 150 officer fewer on a per head of population basis. We would think that we are going through a bit of a cutback because crime is under control. I would be interested to see the statistics on in which districts and in which areas in Queensland crime is going down.

If the Treasurer came into this place and asked us to approve more money for extra police and to give the police more resources I would be the first one to support it. The budget has been cut by \$44.6 million. Ask the people down the coast whether they think that was a good idea. Compared to when the LNP was in government, as a percentage of the overall budget it is \$137 million a year short. Over the past four years we are getting close to half a billion dollars that has been cut out of the Queensland Police Service.

Lo and behold, if we cut that kind of money out of the Police Service and force them to find dividends to return to Treasury like they are some kind of commercial business we see crime climbing. We see people in the community undertaking criminal activity not being held to account. People who want to start businesses, people who want to enjoy their lives at home, people who want to have an investment property become nervous about spending money because they have lost faith and confidence in law and order.

What do we see? We see five new taxes coming in. We see an inability to control spending. One of the topics I want to talk about is the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing because I am very concerned as to why the minister—first of all, it should be opening this month if it were on time, which it is not—has not said what the toll is going to be. The businesses that are running logistics all across Queensland need to understand what this toll is because they are trying to run their business. They do not have the ability to come back into this chamber and say, ‘Sorry, I got the maths wrong. Can I get some more money, please?’ They have to sign contracts to haul goods all over Queensland and all over Australia, and not knowing the toll is causing them all sorts of problems.

The reason I believe the minister is not willing to tell us what the toll is going to be is that the toll is going to be higher than it should be to pay for some of the incompetencies of the contract and the inability to deliver on that contract on time and on budget. I am positive that people are going to be forced to pay a higher toll to cover the mistakes that this minister has made in signing a contract without being able to protect the taxpayers’ purse. We have \$83 billion worth of debt and increased taxes. In the time of this debate, \$2.1 million worth of debt has accumulated. In the time I have been talking, \$70,000 worth of interest needs to be paid. Shame on the Labor government. They need to bring a bill in here that tells the people of Queensland how they are addressing that, rather than coming in here and asking for more money.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (4.50 pm): In addressing these bills, I have to say that the hardworking small businesses such as in the Scenic Rim electorate are the backbone of our economy. They are some 95 per cent of local businesses. They expect government to be responsible economic and fiscal managers just like they need to be in business. They need to pay their bills on time and they expect to be paid on time. They need to comply with the covenants that their financiers and their suppliers put on them. They need to generally spend less than they earn because that is what they have to do to pay their bills and to set aside some money to contribute to their family and to the community.

It is disappointing that again this year we have a bill brought in by this government to authorise spending that has already occurred, where they have unexpectedly spent more than was budgeted for in the previous budget authorised last year. It is certainly not the best fiscal practice. It is not something that businesses could go on with in the long term. While it is not the \$2 billion that was asked for last year, it is still a considerable amount of money to ask this place to authorise—in the order of \$500 million. This Labor government has a track record of exceeding the budget from one year to the next and bringing this type of bill in for a very extensive authorisation of payments.

A considerable part of the fiscal framework for the state is the energy sector—the electricity sector. It is a big part of the budget. The primary producers in the Scenic Rim electorate, and all of the farmers who operate there, use a lot of electricity, whether it is in the dairy sector or the horticultural sector. In any industry where a lot of irrigation is required, electricity will be a key component of the input costs for those businesses. All of the expenditure by government, and in particular in the electricity space, is very relevant. People are very sensitive to that spending because spending by the government and the government owned corporations in that sector ultimately finds its way through to the price paid by our producers, by our small businesses and by our families and households on their electricity bills.

When we are speaking about electricity in relation to farmers, it is worthwhile noting that last Thursday evening there was a significant storm event which devastated a significant part of the horticultural sector in the Fassifern Valley. On some properties hail fell so thick and so hard that it was still lying on the ground some 15 hours later, when I visited at 10.30 on Friday morning. It was quite a traumatic event for those families and farmers who went through it. We have seen crops literally taken out by hail. On Friday I saw one corn crop which had been standing around six-foot tall the day before and it looked as though it had been mown by a mechanical slasher. That is all that was left of it such was the damage. Carrots that were in the ground—crops which had had a lot of electricity and water inputs—had been struck by hail so hard that they had split down the middle underneath the ground. It sounds hard to believe, I know, but that is exactly what happened. It was a devastating storm and an unprecedented storm for that area—

Mr Russo interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: Perhaps not unprecedented but one that an older gentleman told me he had not seen the likes of since 1956, when he was in grade 5 at Aratula State School.

Mr Russo: Is that old, is it?

Mr KRAUSE: He is that old. He is 72, I think, or thereabouts—74 perhaps. It was a devastating storm. The cost to the economy because of those losses is high because it was at the wrong time of the season—all of the pumping that had been done, all of the electricity bills that had been paid, all of the water bills that had been incurred, all of the seed costs that had been incurred, all of the labour costs in getting those crops ready for harvest that had been incurred. That hail storm has literally taken away that income from the 50 or 60 farming enterprises in that area.

Mr Costigan: Cruel blow, Jon.

Mr KRAUSE: It was a cruel blow for that area. One of the comments that was made to me in the aftermath of the storm was in relation to questioning whether a particular farmer should be in this business. The comment was, 'Shouldn't the growers put aside dollars on the good days to deal with these events?' That is fair enough logic, but one of the most badly affected farmers said to me that they simply do not have that resilience in their business anymore. One of the key reasons for that is the exorbitant price they are paying for electricity. We are talking about people who use more than a hundred megawatts of power a year, so they are considered large users. When they go over a hundred megawatts not only do they have to pay the regular network charges and the regular energy charges but they also have to pay the demand charges on the network. That can sometimes add 40 to 50 per cent to an electricity bill.

This gentleman said that they do not have any resilience in their business anymore because they are stretched to the margin by retailers on the one hand when it comes to the price and by primarily government on the other hand because of the exorbitant cost of electricity. They need relief from that if they expect the agricultural sector to have resilience into the future. I agree with that assessment. If there is not going to be relief on the electricity front, the resilience in our agricultural sector will continue to decline. They will become more prone to the devastating impacts of freak events like we saw in the Fassifern Valley last Thursday and they will go out of business.

On a human level, I have had people say to me that they are questioning their very sense of self in being an agricultural producer because they have been knocked around for the third time now, in some cases, since March 2017. In March-April 2017 we had Tropical Cyclone Debbie and the flooding that came with that. Earlier this year there was another devastating hail event which caused almost complete losses for some growers in the area. Now for the third time in October 2018 another hail event has basically wiped out most crops within a region of about three kilometres by 10 kilometres in the Fassifern Valley. It was a cruel blow that affected the most fertile and irrigated plains through that area. It could not have picked a crueller path for our community, for our economy and for our farming families.

When we are talking about this bill authorising unexpected expenditure from the prior year, people in my electorate in our small businesses and in our primary producing industries are very, very sensitive to unexpected expenditure by government because they understand that eventually it finds its way into the costs for their business. Costs for their business incurred by government need to be as low as possible for them just to make a living when it comes to taking prices from the retailers and when it comes to dealing with freak events like we had last week.

I urge all members in this House, including the government members, to always consider the competitiveness and resilience that we need to have in our agricultural sector going forward into the future. The minister for agriculture is in the House now. I want to thank him because he had a representative from the government on the ground in the Fassifern area on Saturday morning speaking with the farmers and actually finding out what went on there.

I understand that the natural disaster arrangements probably do not apply in a very neat manner to this freak event that took place, but these people certainly do need our help. That small area that has been so drastically affected should have some sort of disaster activation put on it, just like I understand occurred in the South Burnett following a similar freak storm activity a few weeks ago. The natural disaster recovery arrangements that are put together by the Commonwealth and the state do not always fit what is required in these communities. They offer more debt and more loans, and sometimes that is the exact opposite of what is required. I look forward to hearing from the Commonwealth and the state about what sort of assistance packages they can put together jointly to assist growers in this situation.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (5.00 pm): I rise to speak in this cognate debate on the revenue and appropriation bills 2018. I share the concerns of many on this side of the House about the Labor government. I think it was the assistant Treasurer who said that the government is all about getting on with the job, but only seven members of the government have spoken to these bills.

We heard from the member for Stretton, and he maintains that there was confected outrage on this side of the House. I think the person who is the expert at that is the Treasurer, who again today has come up with some confected outrage on behalf of the government. During every hour of question time, we get mockery and derision of the Leader of the Opposition by the government, which is basically just bullying. That is what we see in this House every day during question time.

When it comes to the financial management and the record debt of \$83 billion that we are heading towards, we have heard many on this side speak about the assets that were sold between 2006 and 2011. I am not going to go through the whole list, but the bottom line is that the value of those assets was over \$21 billion—some \$21.467 billion. When we came to government in 2012, the prospective debt was going to be \$80 billion. It ended up being \$74 billion or \$75 billion. The amazing thing is that, with the Labor government having sold \$21.467 billion worth of assets, we are now heading towards \$83 billion. They spent it supposedly on infrastructure that does not bring in income. We look at some of those assets—motorways, ports, rail, forestry, wind energy assets, gas assets in Enertrade, Golden Casket, Powerdirect, Sun Gas, Sun Retail and Allgas.

The member for Gladstone said that this is what we need to do, that we need more taxes so we can build infrastructure, yet they sold all of those assets between 2006 and 2011. Unfortunately, we find ourselves now with Queenslanders feeling like the only assets that are left are the ones that are no good because the government sold \$21 billion worth of assets. According to the member for Gladstone, we need to keep raising taxes, including a tax that was never mentioned during the last campaign—the waste tax. That was one of the five taxes that they brought in.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: I am happy for the member for Gladstone, if he wants to sit in his own chair—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Don't beat me to it. Member for Gladstone, I have been giving you a bit of latitude, but if you are going to contribute through interjections you will need to do it from your own seat.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am also happy for the member for Gladstone to refer me to you on whatever it is he thinks I said that was misleading. I will say again what I think he said. He said that we need to keep raising taxes to build infrastructure, because the only other alternative is to sell assets. I have made the case in this speech today that it is that side that sold \$21.467 billion worth of assets and we are still heading towards \$83 billion of debt, so what are the Labor Party going to do next? What are they going to do next for my children and for their children when we head towards \$100 billion worth of debt, which is what we were heading for—

Ms Trad: A lot more than you did when you were in government.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Make your comments through the chair, please.

Mr LANGBROEK: I will take that interjection from the Treasurer, because what we did was we reduced debt. While the debt was prospective, we reduced the rate that it was—

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: It was going to be \$80 billion and under us it went to \$74 billion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Make your comments through the chair, please. I have just given a direction for comments to go through the chair.

Mr LANGBROEK: Labor has failed on all fronts when it comes to being accountable and transparent, and it is Queenslanders who are paying for it. We have heard from others today about the unforeseen expenditure over the last two years. In this last financial year with this bill, there was about half a billion dollars of unforeseen expenditure and in the previous year it was \$2.3 billion.

The police minister said earlier that there are more police officers on the beat, but, as we heard from ABC journalist Josh Bavas on Twitter, no-one can check the figures because the annual statistical review has not been released this year. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* reported today that senior police are on desk duty in my electorate in Surfers Paradise, and it is my constituents who suffer under the mismanagement of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

To add insult to injury, Labor has recently watered down laws that protect my constituents. One of my constituents was stabbed in the neck a couple of weeks ago about 400 metres from my electorate office by a home intruder but was reluctant to press charges because there is no offence for breach of bail for juvenile offenders under the Labor government. Queenslanders are also being let down by a minister who ignores the courtesy of replying to MPs. I am glad the Minister for Housing and Public Works is in the House. His office is contacting the constituents directly, sometimes not even copying us in. I table some correspondence in relation to my constituent Vicki, who has had ongoing issues with the QBCC.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 23 October 2018, from the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport, Hon. Mick de Brenni, to the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, regarding concerns raised by a constituent [1765].

I have met with Vicki and have been in regular contact with her about her concerns. I wrote on her behalf to the minister, as I do for all my constituents. It is concerning that the minister bypassed my office and contacted my constituent direct. We simply received a letter saying, 'Thank you for your emails regarding concerns raised by your constituent. A response has been provided directly to the constituent addressing the issues she has raised.' This is despite the fact that it is a courtesy and that my staff stipulated in the email that we would appreciate a response directly to our office. Most members would expect that. When that occurs, we are able to show our constituent that we have received a response and we have forwarded that on to them. We would then receive some sort of response from the constituent about whether they are happy with that response. The minister has been attempting to keep my office in the dark about issues that we have been liaising with my constituents about for some time. Vicki forwarded me the correspondence herself. This is just unacceptable.

Earlier this month, another constituent in the same portfolio contacted our office with regard to an urgent housing issue. The minister's office contacted our office and said, 'Could we please have the constituent's details?' I was loath to do it but we gave them the constituent's details, and what do you think happened? We provided the constituent's details as long as correspondence was sent directly to our office for actioning. The constituent received a call from the housing department, which was appreciated, but no information was given to our office about that call. Whilst the constituent has kept us in the loop regarding her contact with the department and expressed her appreciation to me and my office about the fact that we made the call, we have received no update from the minister so that we can provide our constituents with the best service possible. The minister's office has been bypassing our office in what I can only describe as a politically motivated act to keep my office in the dark at the cost of providing a good service to my constituents.

Luckily, we always follow up with our constituents and vice versa. Unlike the minister, the service that I provide to my constituents is not politically motivated, which is why I constantly write to each and every minister in the Labor government to seek assistance on behalf of my constituents. The minister's behaviour flies in the face of longstanding courtesies that many other Labor ministers—and LNP ministers when we were in government—follow and respect to this day. I saw on Twitter that the member for Kawana has trouble even getting a response from the minister. I had the same issues last year before the last election. What is going on in the office of the Minister for Housing and Public Works?

This is the kind of arrogance we have come to expect from the Palaszczuk Labor government. Whether it is the racing tax in relation to which the minister's and the Treasurer's arrogance triggered an unprecedented Cox Plate day strike over the weekend or the police minister's false claims that he has no responsibility for police allocations, Labor has shown that they have no interest in serving Queenslanders. Only Labor could get a massive coal royalty windfall and bring in five new taxes and still have to increase borrowings to plug the budget black hole whilst racking up more and more debt.

I will continue to stand up for my constituents, who know that Labor has no interest in ensuring our area is the best, safest and most prosperous place to live, work, play and raise a family.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.09 pm): I too rise to make a brief contribution to the cognate debate this afternoon in relation to the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2). From the outset, I say that, whilst I am very proud to be the shadow minister for transport and main roads, one of the previous roles I had that brought me a lot of personal satisfaction and something that was very dear to my heart was that of shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships and multicultural affairs. I will say one thing at the start of this small contribution to the cognate debate. I applaud anything that can be done to combat and capture prohibited substances—in other words, the turbo yeast et cetera. I know from reading the committee report that more work probably needs to be done, but I will not be

that churlish. A start is indeed a start. For the greater betterment of those local Indigenous communities I support wholeheartedly any work the government can do to combat and address this alarming area of social policy.

It never ceases to amaze me that we all have something that we really like to zero in on as politicians. I have said this in the past, but having many years ago—when I had a lot more hair on my head—studied economics at master's level at QUT, literally next door, I find this to be a simple case of *deja vu*. When we explain to people the nuances of modern Queensland politics and the way that it pans out, it is pretty simple. We actually had a great opportunity—did too much too quickly—a few years ago and we paid a political price. Why did we pay that political price? We tried to fix up an intergenerational debt, a mess, that we now find we are confronted with yet again. I would like to take a leaf from the Deputy Premier's playbook: she often says, 'Let me be perfectly clear.' I, too, will be perfectly clear with some of the facts.

The one thing that I would like to impress above all other things before talking about some of the specifics is that the modern Queensland economy is confronted with a couple of very fundamental precepts that always need to top and tail this sort of debate. One of the things that I need to explain yet again is the essential difference in accounting and economic terms between efficiency and effectiveness. It came as absolutely no surprise to anyone on this side of the chamber when the Treasurer and Deputy Premier gave her very short budget speech earlier this year—from memory, and I stand to be corrected, 24 or 26 minutes comes to mind.

Mr Crisafulli: Twenty-nine.

Mr MINNIKIN: Was it 29? I take that interjection from the member for Broadwater. We have the Deputy Premier and Treasurer of the state who did not even spend the full hour—she spent less than half an hour—giving the good people of Queensland the financial blueprint for the next four years including the four-year forward estimates. At the end of the day there were terms that are often used, to be frank, by all treasurers when producing and presenting their budget speech. I speak of terms like 'record budget spend'—insert the relevant department, whether it be police, transport and main roads, health, education et cetera.

The problem that we have now fundamentally as a society in modern Queensland is that ministers will rise to speak during ministerial statements about what she or he has done but find that, because they do not understand that basic difference between efficiency and effectiveness, very little is to be shown for it. The example is stark and it is very, very plain to see. They can come into this chamber, rise to their feet and say, 'We're going to spend a record amount on X, Y and Z,' but the simple facts do not support this. We have a record underspend over the four-year forward estimates when it comes to the Capital Works Program. I will go through and highlight a few things in detail now. I was going to make a brief contribution, but I think my time is not done.

Let's have a look at some of the things that the economic tyros across the chamber have actually done. They seem to think that the more resources they throw at a particular department or program, guess what? Things are all sorted; it is all done; it is all dusted; it is very simple.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: Unfortunately, Deputy Premier, we do not seem to be able to find the money tree that you and your lefty friends can find each and every time. The reality is this—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Once again, I remind parties to my left and my right to make comments through the chair.

Mr MINNIKIN: We have a fox in charge of the henhouse when it comes to looking after the economic wellbeing of this state. I will put out a challenge to the Deputy Premier and also her erstwhile assistant minister. Would they be able to define for the House whether the books of account for the fine people of Queensland are produced on a cash basis, an accrual basis or a combination of the two, or is there a fourth option? I would love them to get up and address that. Do they also understand the basic accounting equation? This is all undergraduate stuff.

The reality is this: from the performance of the Deputy Premier and from the contribution she gets from her assistant minister—and I am not sure whether she hand-picked the assistant minister; perhaps factionally she did—between the two of them we have reached the point where, despite the introduction of five new taxes—and somewhere in the recesses of my mind I remember hearing in the lead-up to the last state election around this time last year, 'No. No new taxes. Nothing to worry about here. It's all tickety-boo. Things will be fine.' I can distinctly recall the footage, 'No, nothing to see.' Do

honourable members know what happened then? They just snuck it in through the back door when they needed to because we do not have one motor synapse on the other side of the chamber that knows anything about the way the economy runs.

If it were not for that word that we dare not hear from the Deputy Premier—and it begins with ‘c’ and ends in ‘l’ and all of us on this side of the chamber know what it is—if it were not for coal, the marbles would be totally dry. When it comes to this part of the state, we do not mention coal. When we go north of say—let’s pick a nice geographic marker—the fair seat of Rockhampton, it is absolutely front and centre of debate because, without it, this particular economy would be absolutely gone. Despite the fact that we have had five new taxes, we see from CommSec—and isn’t it amazing to hear the revisionist theory of the democratic socialists on the other side of the chamber?

What was the powwow that the Deputy Premier might have had last night or the night before or maybe even this morning over her latte? It would have been, ‘Alright, the game plan will be that it’s forward looking, onward, forward march, let’s go. We just do not mention the war. We don’t mention Campbell Newman, don’t mention the LNP and the past. No! It’s all forward progress.’ We saw how long that lasted. I think we were only into the third or fourth question in question time this morning when that strategy came a complete cropper because the Deputy Premier simply could not resist it. When it suits her particular side of the argument, she is only too happy to disband what she had said to the House she would not do. However, the moment she needs to resort to it she will do it. I will tell honourable members why. The record that she is presiding over—record deficit—is absolutely scandalous.

Let’s talk a bit about marketing 101 here as well. Marketers define a generation as 25 years. When my colleagues rise to talk about intergenerational debt, the reality will be this—and the member for Toowoomba North put it very succinctly: even if we can pare a billion dollars in savings each consecutive year—simple straightforward mathematics—for 83 years, that is in excess of, from a marketing perspective, three generations of taxpayers.

There is nothing wrong with assets that will last 100 years. Here is an example for the Deputy Premier. There may be a bridge or a bit of kit that will last 100 years, but as long as you can wash four generations of taxpayers through it it is money well spent. When we are consigning to the scrap heap of history the financial futures of our kids and our kids’ kids, it is simply outrageous and it is a woeful performance. It is not good enough!

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.19 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the omnibus bills, but before I speak about the economic provisions I want to talk about the changes to the ability to capture and prohibit substances like turbo yeast to make homemade alcohol. I do so because everyone in this House owes it to our first nation communities—and there are nine discussed in this bill—to do better. No matter how we dress it up, we need to do better through tough enforcement but also through aspiration, hope, the opportunity to get a job and the opportunity to own a home. Unless we can get to a situation where people in Aboriginal communities have that aspiration, everything that we do in this place will only ever tinker at the edges. People deserve the right to be able to earn a living and to come home at the end of the day, sit on their patio, have a drink and relax.

Whilst I support the decision to ensure that things like turbo yeast are captured, there are two elements missing in this and they are both around enforcement. Firstly, there is a real issue with sly grogging in these communities. If we do not address the fact that prohibition has created an underground economy where people are spending an exorbitant amount of their wage each and every week to buy a box of beer, we are kidding ourselves. There is a more sinister thing happening in these Indigenous communities, and that is the rise of ice. It is cheap, it is easy to access and it is ripping the heart out of these communities in the same way it is ripping the heart out of communities like the member for Burdekin and the member for Whitsunday represent. Those little communities, which were once happy and thriving places, are in the grip of ice. Unless we address the elephant in the room and the need for enforcement around sly grogging and ice in these communities, let me tell you that dealing with turbo yeast ain’t going to turbocharge the effort to improve these Indigenous communities.

I will now turn to the economic elements of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) that are part of these omnibus bills, which I would have loved the opportunity to debate separately. We are here being asked to approve half a billion dollars in unforeseen expenditure. I guess that is better than what has been asked for in recent budgets. When you think that in the last few years unforeseen expenditure has been in the order of \$3 billion, you start to ask yourself how well the state’s finances are being managed, because it is undeniable that the economy is worse off. It is undeniable that debt has risen. It is undeniable that the interest repayments on our debt will reach about \$10 million per day. That was an

excellent contribution from the member for Toowoomba North. Think about what that could do in each of your communities. It does not matter which side of the House you are on: think about what \$10 million could get your community, what opportunities it could bring. Think about that.

This tale of woe, of rising debt and interest rates, has not come at a time when we have built incredible infrastructure. We have a situation where Labor governments in this state have sold assets and somehow managed to end up in a worse economic position. It almost seems unbelievable that we could even be discussing it. Normally if assets are sold you would expect new worthwhile infrastructure to be built or you would expect debt to come down, but when you are selling assets to pay for operational expenditure the death spiral continues. Do not take the word of a politician: take the word of Sensis, CCIQ Pulse Survey and CommSec. It is interesting because the CommSec State of the States report was something that those opposite would always quote whenever it suited their agenda, yet now they seek to discredit an independent body portraying the state of Queensland's finances as they see fit. It manifests itself in the big one: the rating from Standard & Poor's. I ask the Deputy Premier: is it more likely that our next rating change will be back to where we belong at AAA, or is it more likely that we will slide again? The latter will see that \$10 million a day figure increase again, and there the spiral continues.

I want to touch on some of the contributions that were made and I will start with the member for Gladstone, who sought to rewrite history regarding the sale of assets. I will lump in with that the member for Miller, who said, 'We take it to the people and seek their mandate.' I will make two points about that. First, the asset sales of the LNP to which the member for Miller refers were taken to an election. The case was outlined, the result was put on the table and it never happened. In contrast, we can go right back to Sun Retail, but the one that my dad always talks about was in 2007—Golden Casket. Somehow that was symbolic. That one meant something, particularly to the bush, because they had seen it as a way of them getting a little bit back from their government. It went all the way through: QR was not for sale and then it was hocked off; it was forestry, it was ports and it was airports. Please, member for Miller and member for Gladstone, do not come in here talking about asset sales because there has only been one side that has done it, and we will remind you of it every single minute of every single day.

Then there was the member for Redlands, who came in here and rattled off figures as though somehow saying big numbers really quickly means something to the everyday person. Let me tell you what means something to the everyday person: the ability to pick up a phone and know that there are more coppers at your local station or the ability to have your loved ones in an ambulance and know that when they turn up at a hospital they are not going to be sitting there waiting like they are at a buffet.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order!

Mr CRISAFULLI: The words 'learn a lesson' have just been thrown across the chamber. I said no more than three minutes ago that a position on asset sales was openly and transparently taken to the people, it was rejected and the trust was not breached. I have not even had the chance to talk about the five new taxes, four of which were announced at one minute to midnight and the other in response to a crisis of interstate dumping: 'We are going to tax everybody right across Queensland.'

The change in economic position under the watch of the Treasurer has not been a good one. The vision for a better Queensland is not prevalent. Had it not been for a surge in income from resources, which she rails against in her electorate, the state of Queensland would be far worse.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (5.30 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I refer to the clause that addresses the restriction on the sale of yeast in communities. I will talk about Mornington Island, which a few people have mentioned. I say at the outset that this is a good move and is welcome but it goes nowhere near far enough. It is very frustrating to see this issue come up. I am gratified to see some movement on it finally. I have been the member representing that area almost seven years. In my first or second year I visited Mornington Island with the then minister, the former member for Noosa. Subsequently I have visited with one or two other ministers. I believe there have been at least five visits from ministers in the time I have been the member. Every time they hear the same message of frustration. The community wants to move forward. There is always talk of reviewing the AMP. It was a bit difficult at the start because there was still pushback from the QPS. They said, 'We don't know what the community wants.' For 12 months we have known what the community wants. We have the QPS, the hospital and health service and everyone else on board. Everyone wants it. It is there to change now. We welcome this, but we desperately need to move towards management plans, because that is what is needed to really make a difference there.

We have heard a lot about the effects of the alcohol management plan. It was all done with the best of intentions. I think the reports were that crime levels and rates of violence went down initially, but inadvertently it has caused the rise of drugs and home-brew, which is why we are addressing the issue of yeast in this bill.

Alcohol is a really big issue in that community, as I am sure it is in many other places. If you throw into the mix other issues, such as blue cards, it creates a deadly cocktail resulting in social outcomes that we are experiencing and battling up there. I could not say in stronger terms that this issue desperately needs attention and another review or talkfest with the community. It has been done to death. They just want some action on alcohol management plans so that someone up there can have a beer.

In discussions about blue cards for people in those communities people have said to me, 'Do you want different laws for people up there than for everywhere else?' I have said that we already have that with alcohol management, because you are not allowed to drink up there. There is a plan. One plan was for a canteen; the other plan was for a local, individual licence to purchase alcohol which focused back on the individual. They have landed on the canteen. That needs to go back into the community to address the rise of home-brew. I have heard stories that there has been up to 60 per cent ethanol in some of those concoctions. That would be lethal. It is a ticking time bomb ready to explode.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr KATTER: I take that interjection, that you cannot distil to 60 per cent. The member should talk to the QPS officers up there. That is the report they get. They are worried about it. If you want to play down the issue—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The member for Traeger will speak through the chair. The member for Logan will cease interjecting.

Mr KATTER: It is a very serious issue that we have to address. The alcohol management plans need to be reviewed. It needs the leadership of the government to do that. They are doing their work at the base but they need to expand on that.

An issue that I must admit crept up on us—we have not had good engagement with various stakeholders—is the first claim issue that was spoken about at length. The KAP is very concerned about this. There are often some—I would not go so far as to say 'devious'—poor outcomes when there is argy-bargy around claims and people moving in from other areas who have not been there for a long time and making decisions. Parts of the community are excluded from the decision-making process, and this often results in what I would see as a very poor outcome overall for the community. We express very serious concerns about that part of the legislation. I regret that we did not have more time or resources to engage stakeholders on that.

I implore the House and the Deputy Premier to address alcohol management plans. They must be reviewed and changed for Mornington Island so that the community can start to move forward. Just as important as the issues of title deeds and blue cards is the issue of alcohol management plans. We welcome the restriction on sale of turbo yeast, but that falls hopelessly short of what can be done by this government and what has been talked about for at least five years in this House. I could outline the number of questions I have asked, letters I have sent and meetings I have had. It is very frustrating that we still have not seen any action. It is very disappointing indeed, when compared to other issues that have been dealt with expeditiously by the House because people's lives are at risk.

I challenge anyone to find a more widespread, insidious and acute health problem affecting communities across Queensland. I cannot help but think that Mornington Island's geographical position—it is nudging 3,000 kilometres away from where we are right now—has something to do with the fact that the issue has not been addressed. There have been visits but no action. Action needs to happen. The problem is becoming more and more serious. As I said, the QPS and the health services are saying that this is a ticking time bomb, putting people's lives at risk.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.37 pm): It is a pleasure to rise to speak to Appropriation Bill (No. 2), because there was a time under Labor in Queensland when we would not be given this opportunity. Appropriation Bill (No. 2) was wiped from the legislative agenda in 2008. I remember, because there was an Ethics Committee report—report No. 102—that investigated the move of then treasurer Andrew Fraser to remove Appropriation Bill (No. 2) from the entire discussion of this parliament. Members who were not around at that time—there are plenty—might not be aware that Appropriation Bill (No. 2) dealing with unforeseen expenditure for 2007-08 would not have been debated until August 2009, some 14 months later.

One of the things the LNP government did to increase transparency and openness and to provide appropriate reporting was reintroduce Appropriation Bill (No. 2), the bill we are debating today, and to lodge that bill with the Consolidated Fund financial report so that people can have an accurate idea of how much is being spent—or how much is being overspent—each year in the year that that money is actually being spent. Most people would regard that as being a normal part of business, unless you are in the Labor Party.

Turning to the appropriations themselves and Appropriation Bill (No. 2), I do of course with some fondness recall the incoming government brief to the LNP government in 2012 and the opening words of the incoming government brief prepared by the independent officers of Treasury: the state of Queensland's finances is unsustainable and restoration must be an urgent priority for this term of government. That was the independent advice and that was when debt was heading to \$85 billion. The \$85 billion number of course, as we subsequently found out, was a hopelessly optimistic number because it was predicated on revenues coming in—for example, stamp duty revenue—at 14 per cent as an increase year on year on year. At the height of the global financial crisis, Labor was predicting 14 per cent revenue increases.

We also had to write off over \$5 billion of coal royalty because of the hopelessly optimistic forecasts of the Labor government at that time. Speaking of coal, today I was listening to the member for Stafford, the Minister for Natural Resources, talking about the government's powering energy plan and how it had a clean and green agenda. I heard the Premier talk about a need for everyone to declare whether they believe in climate change, but did we hear anything, colleagues, about the love that Labor has for that whose name it dares not speak—that is, its love for coal and its love for the coal royalty resources? Those opposite stand up there week in and week out saying, 'Look at all the income. Look at our trade exports. They're more than X times they were under the LNP government.' What they are not telling you is that there has been a 20 per cent devaluation in the Australian dollar that means that we can now sell our coal and what they are not telling you is that demand in the world has picked up and they are riding on the coalminer's back here in Queensland.

Mrs Wilson: Absolutely.

Mr NICHOLLS: They are absolutely doing it, but they will not mention that. Here is a challenge for the Premier: will the Premier stand up and say she remains committed to digging coal out of the ground in Queensland, supporting rural and regional communities and burning that coal to provide cheap, affordable, reliable power throughout this state and throughout the developing countries in our region?

Returning to the appropriation bills and what is occurring there, what else did we hear back in 2012 apart from the fact that Queensland's finances were unsustainable? What did we hear from the Queensland Treasury Corporation? What did it say? It said that with the level of debt on issue and likely to be required Queensland is heading into uncharted waters. What did the independent Commission of Audit say with respect to it all? It said that Queensland's level of debt is very high and will require a very substantial proportion of repayment if the state's economic strength is to be regained. More recently, what has Sir Leo Hielscher said? What did Sir Leo say only three months ago in relation to the debt here? He said that it is unsustainable and something needs to be done about it. Quite frankly, nothing is being done about it under this Labor government.

When we came to office debt was budgeted to hit \$85 billion but was actually found to be heading to \$100 billion, and when we left office debt was under control. I heard the member for Stretton in his disingenuous remarks comment in relation to that. When we left office where did debt end up? It ended up \$2 billion less than we projected in the midyear economic forecast in December 2014—\$2 billion less than we forecast and \$10 billion less than those opposite forecast a year after we came to government. That was the record of the LNP government in controlling debt, and we managed to control unforeseen expenditure as well. We kept a tight rein on expenses so that Queenslanders got the services they needed at a price they could pay. At the same time we reduced stamp duty on the family home that Labor had increased by up to \$7,500, we gave everyone a bulk water rebate of \$95, we froze car registration for three years, we froze electricity bills in the first year and we cut payroll tax for the first time for businesses. We reduced payroll tax for small businesses, and what happened? Business said, 'We'd like to invest in Queensland. This is a government that knows what it's doing.' What are they saying under this government? They are saying, 'This is a government that doesn't know what it's doing.'

This is a government that, despite receiving a windfall from coal royalties, despite receiving a windfall from the change in the Australian-US dollar relationship and despite budgeting and receiving billions of dollars more in taxes, continues to fail to deliver services, continues to fail to deliver the

infrastructure that it needs and continues to trumpet raising taxes as a way of lifting Queensland out of the doldrums that Labor has created. This government is a government without a financial or economic plan. This government is a government that does not know, nor does it care, to pay down or address issues in relation to debt. This is a government that, despite employing 23,000 more public servants, still cannot deliver the services that Queenslanders need. Whether you want to go to the hospital, whether you want to get to work or whether you want a decent education for your kid, this government still fails to deliver in so many areas and still charges Queenslanders excessive amounts for the pleasure of doing so.

Some 40 per cent of the budget now goes on salaries and wages here in Queensland—40 per cent of some \$55-plus billion—and Queenslanders are not getting any better reward as a result of that expenditure. All we see is excuses, investigations, cover-ups and another inquiry into the Public Service headed by Peter Coaldrake after the KPMG report was sat on for a year. Things must be going terribly well if Peter Coaldrake is back again doing it all over again—terribly well! There is no delivery of services and a budget that is out of control, a budget that was doing so well that the former person in charge of it was given the sack from the job by his own side after only two weeks.

Mr Pegg interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Do not worry, member for Stretton: you will never get the job! I observed the member for Stretton deliver his usual—I hesitate to say this, but anyway—contribution. As someone on the government side with all of the briefing notes, he spoke for a grand total of six minutes. There is a sign of someone—well, he is following in the tracks of the Treasurer! This is a failed government with a failed budget and no economic plan.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.47 pm): Today I rise to speak on the cognate debate in relation to the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018. Here we are again addressing the ham-fisted manner in which this Palaszczuk Labor government goes about the business of administering Queensland's finances—a Labor government that has seen unforeseen expenditure amount to \$3.16 billion during the last three years, a Labor government that received a massive windfall from coal royalties, introduced five new taxes and borrows money hand over fist to plug its budget black hole.

In my past experience as an agribusiness manager assisting farmers and graziers with their budgeting and cash flow, any primary producer who failed so dismally to anticipate their expenses and obligations would find themselves under a considerable amount of pressure. Such failures are a warning sign of a business that is either mismanaged or struggling financially and at risk of failure. Indeed, such warning signs are used by banks and credit rating agencies to assess the credit risk of their clients.

It is no surprise that independent analysts consider Queensland is quickly becoming an economic backwater. The CommSec State of the States report has Queensland slipping to sixth out of the eight states and territories. Ratings agency Moody's has warned that the gap between growth and revenue in the state's economy and the growth in spending under this government over the next four years poses a challenge. Moody's state—

This imbalance would lead to a growth in debt over the forecast period, challenging the state's credit profile.

In October 2016, the then treasurer, Curtis Pitt, said that Queensland could regain its AAA credit rating within two years. Here we are, two years later in October 2018, and the only thing less likely to occur is that we see the member for South Brisbane running in her own seat at the next state election. It is a familiar refrain that Queenslanders have to endure with this lazy, incompetent, arrogant Palaszczuk Labor government. It simply mouths empty platitudes and gives lip-service to the facts.

Speaking of paying lip-service to the facts, earlier we heard from the insipid member for Stretton who, in his contribution, tried to suggest that—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Member for Buderim, those remarks are unparliamentary. I think you should withdraw them.

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. Speaking of paying lip-service to the facts, earlier we heard from the member for Stretton who, in his contribution, tried to suggest that unforeseen expenditure under Labor was similar to that under the LNP government. During the three years of the LNP government, unforeseen expenditure averaged—

Government members interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Deputy Speaker, clearly, they do not want to hear.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Buderim will speak through the chair. Those on my right will cease interjecting.

Mr MICKELBERG: That is all they have. During the three years of the LNP government, unforeseen expenditure averaged \$174.35 million per annum. Let me compare that figure to the record of the Palaszczuk Labor government over the following three-year period to now. Under this government, average unforeseen expenditure has amounted to \$1.054 billion per annum—six times more than that delivered by an LNP government. The facts are that this government is just the latest in a long line of incompetent Labor economic managers. Speaking of incompetent economic managers, earlier we heard from the assistant treasurer, the member for Gladstone, who proffered that the only alternative to raising taxes was to sell assets. If Queenslanders were ever in any doubt as to the capability of Labor to be an economic manager, they should not be in any doubt anymore.

There is an alternative. It is called better management. It is about holding ministers responsible for delivering for Queenslanders. It is about providing better front-line services for Queenslanders, not bigger government. Throwing money at a problem does not address the fundamental inefficiency of bureaucracy. That can only be rectified by making hard decisions and holding people to account. Unfortunately, time and time again we have seen this weak Premier and her incompetent government fail to do either.

It is a scary thing to know that Labor has form on selling assets: \$3 billion for Queensland motorways, \$1.8 billion for Abbot Point, \$4 billion for QR National—look at how well that is playing out right now—and \$2.1 billion for the Port of Brisbane, Brisbane Airport, Cairns Airport and Mackay Airport. The list goes on. They were all sold by Labor. I wonder what the plan will be when this incompetent government runs out of new taxes to dream up. Will it finally do the right thing and live within its means, or will it just sell the very assets that it loves to accuse the LNP of selling every question time? Frankly, I am not holding my breath.

Earlier, we heard from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, who said that the Palaszczuk Labor government took its economic platform to the electorate last November. He conveniently neglected to mention that Labor failed to tell Queenslanders that it was going to slug them with an extra \$1.2 billion waste tax. Perhaps the minister did not get that memo because it was sent to his ministerial email account.

Economic commentator Nick Behrens stated the following about this government's track record on the economy—

Queensland is quite simply not investing enough with our current capital spend as a percentage of the economy at 24.4% vs our long term 25 year average of 26.9%. Quite simply we are drawing down on our wealth & stealing from future generations.

This government is stealing from future generations with its new taxes and unsustainable debt. This government does not have a plan other than to spend money on pet projects such as Cross River Rail in the Deputy Premier's electorate. It is not good enough and Queenslanders deserve better.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (5.54 pm): I rise to make a contribution to this cognate debate on the bills before the House. I will make my comments only in relation to the two appropriation bills. I note that, again, this government has its hand in the pockets of Queenslanders to the tune of an additional half a billion dollars to meet its shortfall in funding for the ongoing costs of various departments. The shocking thing is that we should not be surprised by that, because we know that in 2016-17 the government had to dip back into the pockets of Queenslanders for \$2.72 billion and, in 2015-16, \$390 million. This activity is becoming a habit of the Labor government. It is becoming the norm for this Palaszczuk government and this Treasurer.

We should not expect anything less than this, because, as we see, the debt in this state that is having to be met by Queenslanders is rising towards \$83 billion. One way a million dollars can be turned into a thousand dollars is to give it to a Labor government. A Labor government will waste that money, not spend it wisely, and come back for more money to make up the difference.

Importantly, the debt action plan that we heard so much about from this Treasurer has been abandoned totally. At the same time, the Treasurer has put her hand into the public servants' superannuation fund to the tune of some \$4 billion. This is the first time that funds have been taken from the public servants' superannuation fund and it has gone. There is no accountability, no transparency, no concept as to where that money has gone, yet the debt is still \$83 billion and it keeps going up.

The five new taxes that Queenslanders are going to be hit with in the foreseeable future dovetail nicely with the assistant Treasurer's mantra of 'Let's tax Queenslanders so that we can get more money in the coffers'—or, in this case, the coffin—of Trade and Investment Queensland and Queensland Treasury.' This Labor government can gather all the money it can, yet it goes nowhere. Labor governments in this state have a very clear history of mismanaging the economy and getting this state into a financial mess. Who could forget the \$1.2 billion that the LNP had to fund when it was in government to clear the payroll debacle. What could \$1.2 billion buy today? What could we use those moneys for?

On a number of occasions during this debate asset sales have been mentioned. I point out that those assets were sold from 2009 onwards. In 2010, forestry plantations, the Port of Brisbane and QR National were sold. In 2011, the Abbot Point port and Queensland motorways were sold. At that time—in 2009—the Premier; the Minister for State Development, Cameron Dick; the member for Sandgate, Stirling Hinchliffe; and the member for Cooper in part were in the cabinet and they ticked off on the sale of those assets. Not one of them stood up and said, 'No, this is the wrong thing to do,' yet they have the gall to come in here and accuse this side of the chamber of selling assets.

The LNP did the right thing: we asked the people of Queensland. I remember before the election campaign in 2009 Anna Bligh saying, 'You have no worries with me. I will not sell an asset.' Within weeks of winning government she came in here and flogged off assets, and the Premier was part of the cabinet that ticked it off.

The Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning sat around the cabinet table and ticked it off. The member for Sandgate sat around the table and ticked it off. The member for Cooper for part of the time sat around that table and ticked it off. The only party that has misled—and in my opinion deliberately misled—the people of Queensland on asset sales is the ALP. They misled the people of Queensland and then turned around and flogged off the assets.

Let us not forget the water grid. We spent \$9 billion on a water grid because Peter Beattie and Labor did not understand what was coming down the track. They did not plan to put in place a water grid. It was tender by invoice. Anybody with a truck and a shovel could get paid for doing anything they wanted.

Ms Simpson: With no business case!

Mr McARDLE: I take the interjection from the member for Maroochydhore. I refer members to the Queensland Audit Office report No. 14 of 2012-13, *Maintenance of water and infrastructure assets*, a damning document condemning the Labor government for its failure to do the basic tests in relation to spending \$9 billion for the simple reason that Peter Beattie could not get it right, neither could Labor, at a time when there were rivers of gold—there is a phrase from the past—in royalties pouring into this state. They simply could not balance the books nor foresee the future in relation to what needed to be done.

The member for Clayfield made the point that 40 per cent of the budget is spent on salaries and wages. That would be acceptable if we could look out across Queensland and see that the moneys are being spent with a return to Queenslanders commensurate with the dollar value. Reading the annual reports of the HHSs—the Sunshine Coast is one—one cannot argue that those moneys have been spent wisely or with wisdom.

I remember when Anna Bligh was the Premier of this state and Andrew Fraser was the treasurer. There are not many here who can recall those two. Those two collectively, by sheer brilliance, lost a AAA credit rating in a state that was swimming in money. In a state that had money roaring through the door they lost a AAA credit rating. I can also remember the day that Rachel Nolan was asked the question about the sale of QR and she stood in this House and said, 'No, it is not happening.' I can remember that a cycle of 48 hours went by and suddenly poor old Rachel was left out in the rain dripping wet and had to be rescued because what she had told the parliament was not correct. I do not think Rachel knew. I do not think Anna Bligh told her what was going on. That is how much those in cabinet were kept in the dark by both Anna Bligh and the treasurer at the time.

What I think will gall Queenslanders is the half a million dollars that will be spent in relation to the renaming of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. I have said in the House before that we have a Premier who is a woman, a Deputy Premier who is a woman and a minister for women, and not one of those women have stood up for the woman who was at the forefront of paediatrics and the care of women in relation to children. She was a life member, if I recall, of the AMAQ. She was acknowledged right across this nation for the great work that she did in her role as a doctor. The ridiculous excuse for

the renaming is that people will not know that the hospital is a public hospital. Can I remind people that the former health minister removed the word 'public' from the Sunshine Coast University 'Public' Hospital. We also have the Princess Alexandra Hospital, the QEII Hospital and the Prince Charles Hospital. Those are names synonymous with people well known right across the globe.

The Lady Cilento Children's Hospital was named after a woman who provided exceptional care, loving care and ongoing care for mothers and children, and that is why the name of the hospital was given to her. It was a tribute and it was, in my opinion, a fitting tribute to a woman who had given so many years service to the women and children of Queensland. For this government to tear that down and not put the word 'public' in the title is simply reprehensible. It is the small things that get on people's goat. It is the small things that matter to mums and dads. These sorts of issues matter to Queenslanders and we will not let them forget.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (6.04 pm): I rise to speak on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018, the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018 and the Revenue and Other Legislation Bill 2018. First to the appropriation bills: the purpose of these bills is to approve supplementary appropriation for unseen expenditure during the 2017-18 financial year. Historically, these kinds of bills account for matters that have arisen external to the purposes allocated in the budget. In respect to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018 the committee was informed in Treasury's briefing on 17 September that the first bill, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2), seeks to supplement unforeseen expenditure in the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service. The supplementary expenditure sought in this bill is mainly the result of costs associated with the 2017 boundary distribution and the November state election. These total \$5.14 million.

Treasury advised the committee of contributing factors to this figure; for example, the addition of four members to the parliament and the consequential costs, such as electorate officers and staff, as well as severance payments and transition allowances to electorate officers and defeated members respectively. I personally can understand that events like an election and electoral boundary distribution bring extra costs but, as the member for Mermaid Beach raised in the public briefing, these can hardly be classified as unforeseen circumstances. The reallocation and addition of seats was known prior to the 2017-18 budget. Although it was not known when the election would be, it was known that there would be one. The question naturally follows: why was the extra \$5 million not anticipated in the budget? Treasury's response to this question in the briefing was that the timing of an election in the financial year has an effect on its overall costs. I would hope that Treasury pays closer attention to this detail in allocating costs for the next election year's budget.

Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018, the second of these two bills, seeks to supplement unforeseen expenditure in departments for the 2017-18 financial year. This expenditure came from seven departments and totalled approximately \$494.9 million. The committee was advised that there were three major contributors to this amount. The most significant of these was the Department of Transport and Main Roads, which was responsible for approximately \$231.2 million of the total unforeseen spending for 2017. Treasury advised that this amount can largely be attributed to accelerated funding on a state and federal level for capital programs. Committee member Sam O'Connor, the member for Bonney, requested a further breakdown on where this funding went specifically. Treasury's answer explained that the Bruce Highway upgrades account for a large proportion of additional expenditure, as well as the Gateway Motorway North upgrade and additional works on the Rockhampton Northern Access, Pacific Motorway and the Warrego Highway.

The second major contributor was the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs where unforeseen spending totalled approximately \$187.9 million. Treasury advised that this amount was mainly due to the prepayment by the federal government of the following financial year's assistance grants to local governments. The committee was advised in the briefing that due to this early distribution of funding from the Commonwealth, the state government decided to pass on this expenditure in the 2017-18 financial year as opposed to the following one, which had not been originally planned for the budget. There is a common theme here: lack of planning. As Treasury advised, there is an expectation at budget time about when funds will be spent; however, sometimes this prediction is inaccurate. Sometimes spending takes place earlier or later.

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy was the third significant contributor to unforeseen expenditure. Their portion totalled \$54.57 million. Treasury has indicated that the reason for this was the reallocation of funding from the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs for the Affordable Energy Plan and the Townsville water security enhancement project.

The Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women contributed \$12.479 million. Treasury advised that this was largely because of timing adjustments as well as additional services to provide support to young people in care who have complex and challenging behaviours. A sum of \$8.597 million in additional spending came from Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. The Treasury's briefing note to the committee attributed that amount mostly to enterprise bargain agreement provisions and the transfer of funds from the Public Safety Business Agency to the flood focused road safety campaign.

The final two areas that contributed to unforeseen expenditure are the Queensland Audit Office and the Office of the Governor. In the case of the Audit Office, the primary reason offered was additional spending of \$57,000 as a result of increased remuneration costs. In respect to the Governor, unforeseen expenditure of \$13,000 was largely from the transfer from departmental services to equity for restoration works.

We do know that this Labor government knows how to spend. They spend and spend and spend. We know they know how to tax, because in this year's budget we saw five new taxes. What I find particularly galling is that they also know how to sell but continue to deny it. Let us look at their track record. In 2011, who sold Queensland Motorways for \$3 billion? It was sold by Labor. In 2011, who sold the Abbot Point port for \$1.8 billion? It was sold by Labor. In 2010, who sold QR for \$4 billion? It was sold by Labor. In 2010, who sold Forestry Plantations Queensland for \$600 million? It was sold by Labor.

Of course, we have heard the Premier and some of the current ministers say, 'That wasn't us; it was the other guys.' It was around 2009 when some of those ministers joined the cabinet, along with the Premier. What have we seen since Annastacia Palaszczuk became a member of cabinet? More asset sales. From those opposite we hear accusations about the LNP selling assets, but we have not sold any. What have Labor sold? In 2008, the Cairns and Mackay airports were sold by Labor for \$738 million. In 2008, the Brisbane airport was sold for \$289 million. In 2007, wind energy assets were sold for \$460 million. In 2007, gas assets and Enertrade were sold for \$268 million. They sold off the Golden Casket for \$530 million, PowerDirect for \$1.2 billion, Sun Gas for \$75 million, Sun Retail for \$1.2 billion and so it goes on. They were all sold by Labor.

One can only wonder what this reckless Labor government will sell next to try to cover the shortfalls in their reckless spending. As we heard from the member for Clayfield, in the past two years we have seen that they are addicted to the royalties from coal. They are coal deniers, but they are addicted to the royalties from coal and to the windfall premiums that we have been receiving from power sales to other states around Australia. Where should that money be going? It should be reducing energy costs, not propping up poor financial management by those on the other side of the House.

Just this evening outside this House several hundred members of the Together Union were protesting against their own mates. Even the government's own supporters are starting to turn on them. We saw that in 2012 when the Police Union and other unions turned on the Labor government of the day because they were disappointed with them. Well should they be disappointed, because we have not seen improved services. In fact, we have seen an increase in assaults and a decrease in the effectiveness of law and order across the state. Are we seeing better results from our schools? According to the latest NAPLAN results, no, we are not, but we are seeing more and more being money poured into schools. Are we seeing better health services? No, but we are seeing ambulances ramping and wait lists again blowing out, because those on the government side of the House are reckless financial managers. They do not know how to be accountable. They do not understand that it is not okay to keep spending money that you do not have.

Under this Treasurer we are seeing our debt continuing to spiral out of control. My concern is that if we lose our credit rating it will not affect just the state government; it will affect every single council across the state that has debt and their costs will go up. I saw that on the Gold Coast council under Anna Bligh and Andrew Fraser. When the rating dropped, the Gold Coast council incurred another \$12 million a year in interest—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (6.14 pm), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate on the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and the appropriation bills. I thank all of those who have contributed to the debate on the cognate bills. In particular, I thank the member for Southern Downs who again made an excellent contribution. I think his contribution was much better than that of the shadow Treasurer and I look forward to him eventually joining the opposition front bench—

Mr Lister: I don't need your approval.

Ms TRAD: You need someone. I look forward to him eventually joining the opposition front bench, because we know that after the next LNP state council meeting both the member for Clayfield and the member for Chatsworth may not be here to take on the role of shadow Treasurer. The shadow Treasurer's contribution to the debate was pretty appalling. There was no vision, no views and no plans; just a whole lot of rhetoric and hot air.

I start my contribution by emphasising that the bills do not contain any new revenue measures or tax increases, as I commented in my opening remarks. There has been some pretty wide-ranging and spurious commentary from those opposite relating to various issues ranging from government borrowings and various economic reports to unforeseen expenditure. I take this opportunity to set a few things straight for those opposite.

The member for Everton spoke in particular about unforeseen expenditure and tried to compare the record of the LNP to that of Labor. As I said in my opening remarks, the unforeseen expenditure of half a billion dollars represents 0.98 per cent of the 2017-18 budgeted appropriation. It is below the annual average of \$637 million over the previous five years. I can advise the House that more than \$357 million of the unforeseen expenditure that the Palaszczuk government has had to account for this year can be traced directly to the decisions of the dysfunctional Liberal National coalition in Canberra. In other words, almost three-quarters of the unforeseen expenditure that the Queensland LNP wants to lay at Labor's feet can be dumped squarely on the doorstep of the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison federal government. Nearly \$188 million—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Members on my left will cease interjecting.

Ms TRAD: I will explain this simply for those opposite. The federal government has brought forward grants that are administered through the state government. The Commonwealth government has brought forward grants that are administered through the state government as is constitutionally required. We are required to spend them within the year that the federal government has told us to spend them. That was 2017-18. That is more than three-quarters of the unforeseen expenditure. Therefore, I say to those opposite that they should get their facts right before they come into this House. In my opening remarks I clearly laid out the majority contribution to the unforeseen expenditure. Those opposite should pay attention before they stand in here and make ill-informed commentary.

Nearly \$188 million of the unforeseen expenditure that the Queensland LNP wants to malign is, in fact, grants to local governments. I do not see them complaining about that. I can understand that the Queensland LNP might want to distance itself from the chaotic coalition in Canberra—who would not, quite frankly—but to claim for Labor \$357 million of spending that in fact relates to Commonwealth funding is uniquely short-sighted not only by the standards of unforeseen expenditure but also by the rock-bottom standards of the LNP.

Various LNP members have used this debate to rake over their tired, old lines on government borrowings, but let us state some facts again for the record. Debt is lower under this government than under the LNP by more than \$13 billion. In 2021-22 debt in Queensland will still be lower than it was under the LNP. We know the LNP have no plan for our state and no plan to manage debt. Their only ideas are selling assets or cutting jobs and axing services.

Let us not forget the member for Everton's contribution after the budget when he went on radio and said that it would be crazy for the LNP to have a plan to reduce debt—absolutely crazy. For the benefit of the House I will quote him. He said—

It's two and a half years away from the next election, we don't know what the debt levels will be, and we don't know what the financial situation will be at that time. It would be crazy for us to come out with a detailed plan on how we are going to reduce the debt at this stage without knowing all those figures.

We know when those opposite were last in government—which thankfully lasted only a very short period of time—that they created much havoc and caused much destruction in our state economy. Their way of getting back to a AAA credit rating was through radical austerity—by sacking 14,000 public servants and spending \$70 million on the Strong Choices campaign. The member for Toowoomba North wants to talk about wasting money. I know how many schools could be constructed with the \$70 million that was squandered on the Strong Choices campaign, which did not get them very far at all. This government understands that we need to manage our debt in a sustainable and stable way. Queenslanders have rejected the radical austerity of those opposite—the radical cut, sack and sell agenda of the Queensland LNP.

Many members of the LNP today have been critical of the government's modest revenue measures and parroted the line from the LNP leadership that the LNP government would introduce no new taxes. What was illustrative was what they did not say. They did not come into this place and commit to repealing any of the new revenue measures. They love to criticise, but they will not go so far as to repeal any of these measures.

Look at their record when they were in government. The LNP promised no new taxes when they were elected in 2012. Once they were elected they increased taxes and levies by more than \$2.6 billion including increasing taxes on insurance on the family home. This was not revealed before the election but it certainly hit the hip pocket of households after the election. Taxes were higher as a percentage of the economy under the LNP. They are lower under Labor. Compared to the average of other states, our taxes per capita are lower under Labor compared to every year under the LNP.

Many LNP members chose to focus on the CommSec report released yesterday. Of course, those opposite prefer to ignore the numerous reports which paint a positive outlook for Queensland's economy. Using its flawed methodology, the CommSec report compares Queensland now to 10 years ago at the height of the resources boom—a resources boom that in fact was driven by the former Labor government.

It looks backwards while as a government we are looking forward. The report is at odds with every other economic report. We are focused on what we are doing now, which is creating 170,000 jobs since we came into government, attracting investment—double-digit growth in private business investment in our state—and investing in our traditional and new industries.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): The member for Maroochydore will cease interjecting.

Ms TRAD: We are delivering a record \$45.8 billion infrastructure spend. We have created more jobs in Queensland than Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, Northern Territory and the ACT combined over the past 12 months. Last week's Deloitte business outlook forecast Queensland to lead the nation with up to four per cent growth next financial year.

I will turn to the substance of the bills, which those opposite spent very little time focused on. The amendments support the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy's phased expansion of e-conveyancing and an expanded range of e-conveyancing transactions more generally. This will contribute to providing Queenslanders with greater flexibility in the way that they undertake particular land based dutiable transactions. The bill also facilitates proper revenue administration as it includes amendments to ensure the charitable institution registration requirements operate as intended and to maintain the currency and ensure the continued proper operation of the revenue laws by giving retrospective legislative effect to a number of beneficial administrative arrangements.

The bill additionally supports the implementation of the new service delivery model for the State Penalties Enforcement Registry by amending the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, the State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Act 2017 and the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 to address minor technical issues. The member for Maroochydore raised a specific issue in relation to court ordered restitution. There is a range of reasons SPER may not be able to collect court ordered restitution, including a debtor's lack of capacity to meet their debts, a debtor being incarcerated or because a debtor has a number of restitution debts which must be paid in order. In 2013-14, under the LNP, \$4.4 million was remaining in court ordered restitution debt and was referred to SPER as at 30 June 2018.

In my opening remarks I emphasised the government's commitment to listening to communities to address the serious safety and health concerns created by homemade alcohol in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Of particular concern for communities are substances such as turbo yeast which provide a cheap and fast way to make homemade alcohol with high alcohol levels. This amendment addresses the issue of turbo yeast and we commit to reviewing the operation of this amendment in 12 months time.

However, rather than simply prohibiting the possession of turbo yeast, amendments to the JLOM Act also anticipate new and emerging substances that could be used to make homemade alcohol. This means that it will be an offence to be in possession of a substance or combination of substances with the intent of making homemade alcohol. It should be stressed that people who have everyday products—for example, yeast and Vegemite—in their homes for their ordinary uses will not be charged simply because they possess these items in their homes.

The element of intent in the offence is an important safeguard. Police will need to collect evidence that a person intended to make homemade alcohol with the substance or substances. As I noted earlier, these amendments respond to the issues raised in the communities, including Mornington Shire Council, which have been strong advocates for the amendments. The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships will continue to work with the discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and partner agencies to prevent and address the impacts of alcohol misuse in these communities.

Alcohol management is a complex and contentious issue. I note the comments from the member for Traeger. In progressing the AMP review, it has been important to take the time to ensure that the views of all community members and stakeholders are taken into consideration and to ensure the government's position is clear, particularly getting the balance right between alcohol restrictions and community safety. It is important to make sure that AMPs will continue to improve the safety and wellbeing of community members, particularly for those most vulnerable such as women and children. These amendments will contribute to improving community safety and wellbeing in discrete Indigenous communities. I am happy to continue to discuss this issue with the member for Traeger, as I have been in the communities I visit as the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.

I turn to the Cultural Heritage Act amendments. The amendments to the Cultural Heritage Act will reinstate the previous understanding of the 'last claim standing' provision and ensure that certainty is provided to affected stakeholders. The amendments clarify that the 'last claim standing' provision applies to a registered native title holder which is a person who has been previously determined by the Federal Court to hold native title under the Commonwealth Native Title Act. There is no inconsistency with the Commonwealth laws as common law rights to native title will continue to exist and parties can seek determinations on those rights through an application under the Commonwealth Native Title Act. These amendments will provide certainty for all stakeholders, including land users and Aboriginal parties, in the protection of cultural heritage matters. The transitional and validating provisions will ensure that actions undertaken, decisions made or processes commenced will be preserved.

The policy merit behind the 'last claim standing' provision and the operation of the cultural heritage acts as a whole were raised by some stakeholders during the committee process. As I have previously mentioned, the broad review of the cultural heritage acts commencing next year in 2019 will provide a valuable opportunity to examine the acts in further detail. The review will help to ensure that the cultural heritage acts continue to provide a contemporary framework for recognising, protecting and conserving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage in Queensland.

The bill will also make minor amendments to the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act and the Acquisition of Land Act to enhance the administrative efficiency of the delivery authority. Submissions to the Economics and Governance Committee confirmed strong support for these amendments from the Australian Property Council, which described the Cross River Rail project as 'imperative to meeting the challenges of expected population growth in South-East Queensland'.

In concluding my remarks, I want to thank again all those who have contributed to the debate, particularly the government members who I think have made a valuable contribution not just to this debate but to every debate and every action and program that this government does to better the lives of Queenslanders by creating jobs, by driving economic growth and by making sure that we are attracting new industries and supporting traditional industries in our state.

I particularly want to thank the parliamentary committee for their work and the secretariat, all of the Treasury officials and the officials from the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. I commend the bills to the House.

Question put—That the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Clauses 1 to 83—

Mr BLEIJIE (6.32 pm): With respect to clauses 1 to 83, the Deputy Premier just thanked all honourable members for their contributions during this debate. What the Deputy Premier failed to mention is that seven members did not get a chance to contribute to clauses 1 to 83 because the Deputy Premier guillotined her own guillotine debate. Again, they are making history. We have never seen this before.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Members will cease interjecting.

Mr BLEIJIE: The government only this morning moved a motion setting out the time line for this debate of five hours and then could not be bothered having five hours of debate.

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Capalaba will cease interjecting.

Mr BLEIJIE: The Deputy Premier, as we know, as one of the most arrogant members in this chamber, jumped up and closed the debate down, just like the Leader of the House did when she jumped up this morning and closed another debate on a motion. It reinforces everything I said about the arrogance of this government.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. He should be speaking to the bill and to the clauses of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, it would help the House if you could come back to the bill and the clauses.

Mr BLEIJIE: The Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is quite a broad bill. I listened to the debate and it ranged across everything from the only party in Queensland that sold assets was the Labor Party to record debt levels heading towards \$83 billion—the Labor Party. There was also the infrastructure underspend—the Labor Party. I heard all of this in the debate—all relevant to clauses 1 to 83. I heard all of the issues that the Sunshine Coast community are missing out on like the rail duplication and the Mooloolah River interchange—all relevant to clauses 1 to 83.

More importantly, now is the opportunity for the honourable members who want to talk to clauses 1 to 83 to stand up in this chamber whilst we have this debate time as set by the parliament this morning. I would encourage all honourable members who missed out—the members for Condamine, Nicklin, Hill, Theodore, Burleigh, Lockyer and, of course, me—who were denied the opportunity to speak, to speak now on behalf of their constituents with respect to this very important bill.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members will cease interjecting.

Mr BLEIJIE: As I said this morning, the parliament not only set the time line for the debate which we opposed at the time because it was not enough but then for the Deputy Premier and Treasurer to come in here and guillotine her own time line because she cannot be bothered—does she have somewhere else to be? I would say so.

We will support clauses 1 to 83. I would encourage members who missed the opportunity to put forward their constituents' issues with respect to these important matters pertaining to clauses 1 to 83 to speak now or forever hold their peace before the Deputy Premier jumps up and closes debate in this House again, as she is known for.

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, she tried it again. I was on the speaking list to speak to these cognate—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member is not being provocative. Those on my right will cease interjecting.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Logan will cease interjecting.

Mr HART: It must be really funny. Maybe they would like to share the joke. I missed it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member will come to the clauses.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Those on my right will cease interjecting.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Education, I warn you under the standing orders.

Mr HART: This is a very important bill, so I will have to speak to the clauses.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Those on my right will cease interjecting.

Mr HART: This government has put us in a position where this state is heading towards \$83 billion worth of debt. They continually accuse us on this side of selling assets. The Minister for Energy said on radio a few months ago that the LNP had sold energy assets. That is a complete fabrication. In fact, the only people in this House who ever sold energy assets are sitting on the other side of the chamber. They sold the retail assets that the government owned. They privatised them and they made millions of dollars. They sold Ergon's retail business in 2007 for \$1.2 billion. That money may as well have gone up in smoke because, quite frankly, it has disappeared. It did not come off the credit card. In fact, it was added to the credit card.

We need to remember that these are the people who shifted \$4 billion worth of debt over to the energy GOCs in their first term of government. In 2015, the very first thing they did was move \$4 billion worth of assets off the government books and on to the GOCs. All of that has to be paid for by the people of Queensland. They are suffering. They are paying for that in their electricity bills. That is why they are complaining so loudly.

Government members interjected.

Mr HART: Apparently members on the other side do not think that interest payments have to be made on borrowings. I have news for them: they do. They have to pay the interest bills back. The interest bills in this state are now over \$3 billion a year. This government is hopeless when it comes to finances. That is why we are debating this bill tonight.

(Time expired)

Ms TRAD: Mr Chair—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I remind the House that we are now debating the clauses and members will need to demonstrate that they are speaking to the clauses. I heard the Deputy Premier first so the Deputy Premier has the call.

Ms TRAD: These are very sensible administrative changes to the way in which we manage revenue arrangements in Queensland. As I have said, we are looking at expanding e-conveyancing. This is what this bill actually does. That is actually going to be an improvement in the lives of everyday Queenslanders who want a more efficient and cheaper way of conducting conveyancing activities here in Queensland.

As I also said, this bill also enables better administration of work and development orders for SPER fines. We know that there are a lot of Queenslanders who have SPER fines and who for various reasons cannot pay them off. We are providing them with real choice in relation to paying down their debt to the state by undertaking work that has been approved, and this bill facilitates that activity to a greater degree.

As I have also outlined, this bill addresses the issue of turbo yeast in Indigenous communities, which is an issue that has been particularly raised by the Mornington Island community. This is a very important step. When I first became Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander minister, one of the first communities I went to visit was Mornington Island and I was incredibly impressed by that community and the whole range of activities being undertaken there. I did take very seriously the concerns they raised in relation to turbo yeast. I believe the provisions within this bill will go a long way to giving law enforcement officers within that community and within a whole range of communities the ability to crack down on the use of turbo yeast for accelerated home-brewing activities. This will go a big way to improving community safety within Mornington Island and other communities.

Finally, the other areas that this bill goes to are amendments to the cultural heritage act to ensure that the intent around the 'last claim standing' provision continues to prevail within our state acts, particularly after the Nuga Nuga decision, and we are also looking at ensuring that there are stronger administrative arrangements for the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority in terms of land acquisition and vacancies that may occur on the board. These are very simple administrative measures that should be supported by everyone in this chamber. It has been incredibly unfortunate that those opposite have used this debate to traverse every imaginable crevice within their bitter experience from sitting on the opposition benches while Labor has occupied the government benches. Those opposite can talk as much as they like—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Those on my left will cease interjecting.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana!

Ms TRAD: Those opposite can talk as much as they like about the Queensland economy, but fundamentally the chief judges, the chief arbiters, on who is best to manage the Queensland economy and their jobs, their children's education and the health of their family members are the Queensland population. It is Queenslanders.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms TRAD: Queenslanders demonstrated at the last state election and the state election before that one that they had no faith—no faith—in the Liberal National Party of Queensland to look after their jobs, to look after the education of their children and to look after the hospital system in this state.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I warn the member for Kawana under the standing orders for your repeated interjections.

Mr HUNT: Before this arrogant Labor government decided to guillotine the guillotined debate, before they decided that they did not want to hear from the people of Nicklin, I had prepared a contribution.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Logan, you are out of order. You are walking around the chamber interjecting. I have already mentioned you a few times so you are now warned under the standing orders as well.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who was that?

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Whitsunday, I warn you also under the standing orders.

Mr HUNT: I prepared a contribution on behalf of the people of Nicklin. I know that the Labor Party do not want to hear from the people of Nicklin. They neglect the area enough. They do not want to know about the duplicated rail line we need. They do not want to hear about the neglect in Nicklin caused by the budget.

I was going to talk about the 25 of the last 30 years, or thereabouts, of Labor spending more than we earn which has left us \$83 billion in debt, and this is of concern to the people of Nicklin. The people of Nicklin elected me to come to this House and point out that failure to the government and hold them to account. I will continue to do that, albeit I only have three minutes instead of the 10 that Labor agreed to in their standing orders amendments this morning. However, in this three minutes I will outline some of the concerns of the people of Nicklin.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I apologise to the member for Nicklin, but the member for Logan is making hand gestures to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, as in you should be calling the member who is on his feet to order. The member for Logan is reflecting on the chair and trying by hand gestures to advise you how to do your job. He is already on a warning.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. I have not interpreted it as any reflection on the chair, but I thank you for pointing that out.

Mr HUNT: The people of Nicklin are concerned about the government having their hands in their pockets with tax, tax, tax, tax, tax—five new taxes in these bills. Despite the government taking all the money from Queenslanders and the people of Nicklin, they are neglecting the infrastructure that Nicklin needs. I would have in my contribution—

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Pine Rivers will cease interjecting or she will be under a warning too.

Mr HUNT: I would have pointed out that the police station in Nicklin is not in the budget as promised, that it has been pushed out another year. Now they are talking about removing it from the budget altogether and looking at leased options, which might not be available for years, while our detectives work in an old carport that floods every time it rains.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, I remind you that you are meant to be specifically speaking to the clauses. I know it has been a wide-ranging debate and there is a lot of latitude in this bill, but I do ask you to be relevant to the clauses.

Mr HUNT: This arrogant government talks about this myth we see every day in this House about asset sales. As pointed out in the contributions made by members on this side of the House today, we know who is selling the assets of Queenslanders and the people of Nicklin. It is Labor. Are the people of Nicklin seeing results from the higher taxes—

Ms TRAD: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is no provision in this legislation—no clauses—that speak to asset sales or privatisation at all. I ask you to again guide the member to relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, you need to speak to the clauses or else you will have to finish your contribution.

Mr HUNT: I will conclude my contribution there just to say that I am absolutely disgusted in this Labor government shutting down this debate and not wanting to hear from the people of Nicklin. I appreciate this small opportunity I had to outline some of their concerns.

Ms GRACE: I rise to speak in support of the clauses in this revenue bill. In my electorate it is very important that we get Cross River Rail up and going. I think we need to make it as smooth a transition as possible to deliver what is the No. 1 infrastructure project in Australia. Who is putting the money on the table and making the necessary changes in these clauses? It is a Labor government that will deliver a fantastic, new transport system here in the heart of Brisbane.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Cross River Rail is clause 101. We are not up to that yet. We are debating clauses 1 to 83 as I understand.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Thank you, member for Kawana. As with other speakers, I ask the member to be relevant to the current clauses.

Ms GRACE: It is still relevant to the clauses, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is very important that we make sure that this project is undertaken in a very economical and fast way and that land acquisitions are also completed in a timely manner.

When it comes to my electorate I welcome the introduction of e-conveyancing. A lot of transactions occur in my electorate. There are probably more apartments being built in my electorate than anywhere else in the state of Queensland. Being able to complete conveyancing through an e-conveyancing system, which is provided for in this clause, is absolutely fantastic for my constituents. I have heard them say how much easier this will make their life as opposed to having to complete the paperwork as they do at the moment. I support the clauses in relation to that and I commend the Treasurer for bringing that forward. It is a wonderful system that will make it much easier to transact when buying properties in the inner city. There is no better place to buy properties than in the seat of McConnell. I thank the Treasurer for bringing this in.

The issue of SPER fines is one we need to address, and it has taken a Labor government to address this. In these clauses we will ensure there is a better way of bringing down the debt in relation to SPER. SPER is a very difficult one to tackle. We are going to give those with a debt more choice in how they can pay it off. This has been a bit of a stumbling block. If people do the wrong thing, unfortunately they have to pay their fines. We understand that sometimes that can be a bit of a burden on the budget. This clause, which allows people the choice in how they pay off that SPER fine, is a step in the right direction. I support the Treasurer 100 per cent.

As minister for multicultural affairs in the previous government, I can say that the changes to the cultural heritage act are very much welcomed. I also say that those clauses in the bill that deal with the turbo yeast issue in the Mornington Island area in particular—giving our police force the ability to address this issue in that society—is also a step in the right direction and should definitely be supported. This is a great bill. I support all the clauses. I look forward to seeing it pass in this House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): In order to comply with the business program motion agreed to by the House today I am now going to put the remaining questions.

Question put—That the Treasurer's amendment to the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as circulated, be agreed to and clauses 1 to 111, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Amendment as circulated—

1 Clause 84 (Insertion of new pt 21)

Page 54, line 29 and page 55, lines 1 to 4—

omit, insert—

until the day that is 2 years after the commencement.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 111, as amended, agreed to.

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2)

Question put—That clauses 1 and 2 and schedule 1 of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 and 2 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Appropriation Bill (No. 2)

Question put—That clauses 1 and 2 and schedule 1 of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 and 2 and schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): In accordance with the resolution of the House, separate questions will be put for the third readings.

Question put—That the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—That the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): In accordance with the resolution of the House, separate questions will be put for the long titles.

Question put—That the long title of the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Stanwell Corporation

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (6.55 pm): I rise to make a ministerial statement. I refer to the letter tabled today by the member for Everton on behalf of a former Stanwell employee. My office received this letter, along with the Treasurer, on 4 October. Obviously this was also sent to other members of this House.

Issues such as those raised within the letter are treated very seriously. It is important to ensure that the individual is afforded the appropriate rights to ensure their anonymity. In cases such as these, the chief executive of the agency responsible for the Government Owned Corporations Act, in this case the Under Treasurer, is the responsible officer. I am advised that Treasury officers on behalf of the Under Treasurer are assessing the complaint and liaising directly with the complainant regarding the content of the allegations and that this matter will be considered as per Treasury standard process for complaints received regarding alleged corrupt conduct.

If the member for Everton wishes to notify the Crime and Corruption Commission about this matter, as he has been able to do since 8 October 2018, he is also free to take this course of action.

MOTION

Order of Business

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.56 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That government business orders of the day Nos 4 to 12 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 18 October (see p. 3050).

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (6.57 pm), continuing: There are some very exciting projects that will make Brisbane an absolute world-class city by the time they are delivered. It is a Labor government that is making sure we are facilitating these. I recently held an afternoon tea which over 130 residents attended and we spoke about some of the exciting projects. One of those, of course, is the new Fortitude Valley state high school. That is not its proper name. It will be opened in 2020. We saved the school from sale by the previous LNP government. We are now welcoming the new principal, Sharon Barker, who has already started. She is located in Fortitude Valley, a fantastic principal. I welcome Sharon.

Mr Watts: A good principal, too.

Ms GRACE: I take the interjection from the member for Toowoomba North, who knows of her great work in the Toowoomba area over many years. I welcome her to the school. I know she will do a wonderful job in preparing that school so that it is ready for students in 2020.

I have talked previously about the fully funded Cross River Rail, delivering brand-new stations in my electorate at Albert Street, the CBD and the exhibition station at Bowen Hills. It will be transforming public transport in the inner city. When we consider that as at today, 2018, there is only one cross-river bridge for rail, this is an essential project that only a Labor government will be able to deliver. It will transport passengers right across our great city and from here to the airport.

There is also Brisbane Live, an exciting entertainment precinct in the Roma Street railyards with a 17,000-seat arena. What an exciting project! People who attended that afternoon tea, my residents in the inner city, were absolutely thrilled to hear about that exciting project. Of course there is the \$1.1 billion Herston Quarter project, the Eagle Street precinct project, the Howard Street Wharves project that I visited on Friday—and what an exciting project that is. Members should take the opportunity to walk around that site and see what is happening under our great Story Bridge. It is incredible and world-class.

Debate, on motion of Ms Grace, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Racing Industry

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.00 pm): I have been involved with racing for over 50 years since first listening to the radio with my mum—I think it was a wireless back then—as Tulloch won many races end on end, and I have never seen the industry so shattered and shell-shocked that it had to strike collegiately, with owners, trainers and jockeys combining not to race in Queensland last Saturday. I note that this drastic action has drawn out a financial commitment from the Palaszczuk Labor government to temporarily silence the unhappy multitude of racing participants, who genuinely cannot believe this Palaszczuk Labor government's treatment of an industry that is at the forefront of enjoyment and dedication for hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders. For the Treasurer to whack on a 15 per cent point-of-consumption tax—the highest taxing rate in Australia—and return none of that funding to the industry on a permanent basis is as incredulous as it is degrading to the racing industry.

Labor has always been dismissive of the racing industry, with no ministers with racing knowledge appointed by Labor in a Sergeant Schultz response to an industry they have little regard for. They put Bob Bentley in charge under their watch and stood by as Mr Bentley ran the industry into the ground. I cannot tell you how many speeches I have made in this House on the racing industry money that Bob Bentley squandered on wild plans and irrational largesse for Labor mates and Labor electorates. The LNP while in government had a brief period to undo the damage Bob Bentley created and eventually came up with a three-code model that would have ensured long-term sustainability, but 12 months after commencement we were out of office.

Then the rot set in again, with Labor spending millions and millions of racing industry money on a Keystone Cops integrity unit that provided a generous retirement job—on his defined benefits superannuation scheme—for police assistant commissioner Ross Barnett. Nice work if you can get it. The promises given by this incompetent racing minister—the same minister who brought Queensland the rail fail—are a temporary bandaid solution to stop the political bleed from the racing industry. The industry needs a guaranteed ongoing source of racing industry revenue, and the POC tax provided the perfect opportunity for that to occur.

Currently, with the Palaszczuk government's complete lack of faith in, and commitment to, the racing industry, there is no certainty that Labor's one-off political peace offering to the racing industry will be around next year, when it is likely that a fiscal downgrade of the Palaszczuk Labor government's AA credit rating will make next year's 2019-20 budget an even tougher proposition to secure much needed racing industry funding. As our Indigenous forefathers may have said, 'Beware of white men bearing gifts.' I urge all racing industry—

(Time expired)

Nursery Road Special School; Coorparoo Secondary College

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.03 pm): Tonight I wish to share with the House the tale of two ovals: Nursery Road Special School and Coorparoo Secondary College. If you want an example of Labor's good financial management leading to good outcomes, you could find no better example than the ovals at Nursery Road Special School and Coorparoo Secondary College. I had the privilege of representing the minister at the opening of the Nursery Road Special School oval last week, and it shows that Labor is committed to ensuring that students right across this state have opportunities to participate in good education, including sport and physical education.

I have had 20 years of involvement with the Nursery Road Special School through my former work with Q-RAPID, where we used to run sporting programs for students with intellectual disabilities, so it was really pleasing to go back. When we used to run those programs 20 years ago they were run under a little shed, whereas now the students have a lovely oval with a running track, basketball hoops and a whole range of facilities. It was lovely to go back for the opening and see the kids enjoying those facilities. In spite of the heat, in spite of my suit and in spite of my lack of shoes, I participated in the sporting events. I cannot say that I did particularly well at the running or the soccer, and in basketball I did not get one single hoop, but I did find that parachute ball is a game at which I can excel. We could not get the kids off the oval, they were so excited. I look forward to returning to that school over the coming years, driving past and seeing students with disabilities having the same opportunities as every other student in our fine state.

I would like to acknowledge the students from the catering department at Nursery Road Special School who are learning hospitality skills. They put on what could only be described as a fantastic morning tea. The skills of the baristas were second to none.

I would now like to turn to the Coorparoo Secondary College. It is a fantastic local school. Coorparoo Secondary College has great education programs. It has great teachers, and I acknowledged them after World Teachers' Day last week.

Mr Minnikin: It has some great past students.

Mr KELLY: It has some great past students; I will take that interjection. It has great facilities. It is for this reason that it has been listed amongst the top 10 improving schools in Queensland, and that is why we are seeing growing enrolments at Coorparoo Secondary College. We are now adding to those facilities by refurbishing an AFL oval, which will allow Coorparoo Secondary College to work with the Coorparoo Junior Aussie Rules club to implement a program of excellence.

The Roos next door have done a fine job of creating pathways for girls from under 5s right through to professional levels, so no doubt when we see them working with Coorparoo Secondary College we will see great outcomes in the future. The Gabba is less than a kilometre away from Coorparoo Secondary College, and I know that we will see many students, both women and men, running on for the Lions at the Gabba from Coorparoo Secondary College. Two ovals, two communities, building sporting participation and excellence for all students—

(Time expired)

Carina Men's Shed

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (7.06 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of the House a Chatsworth community group that is very close to my heart: the Men's Shed at Carina. I have spoken about this group several times since I was first elected. After a visit to the Men's Shed at Carina I always get a fresh perspective on what a tight-knit community group really should be all about. Having visited the group many times over the years since I was first elected, I have witnessed firsthand the importance of the men's shed communities not only in Carina but also across the state with other men's sheds I have been privileged to visit.

Mateship and purpose are two core fundamentals of the Australian way of life, and every time I visit this group I am reminded by the smiles on blokes' faces that those two reasons are why these men give their time each and every week to make all sorts of goods for the broader Chatsworth community. As a large portion of their members are no longer in the full-time workforce, the shed allows these men to continue to have something that gets them out of the house and around their mates. The Men's Shed at Carina is a one-stop shop for pretty much almost any hobby you could possibly think of. You name a hobby and the Men's Shed at Carina has it. With so much to do, the members never have a dull day in the shed.

As we all know, mental health in men is a challenge for our society to overcome, and I sincerely believe in community groups like the Men's Shed at Carina. They do a fantastic job in this space for their members and, more importantly, the wider community. The group not only looks after their own members but they also work closely with Sergeant Dave Beard of the Carindale PCYC to run a Youth Shed mentoring program. This program involves certain members of the shed who offer guidance to the community's youth and teach them valuable skills in woodwork, glasswork, leatherwork and effectively how to be decent blokes and contribute to a functioning society.

Recently I was pleased to visit the Carina Men's Shed to present the club as recipients of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund round 96. The funding from the grant will be used to install air conditioning in the shed, so the lads will not feel hot or sweaty during the upcoming summer months. Due to their endless goodwill in the community, the club is truly a deserving recipient of the funding. I hope that this will allow the group to continue their amazing projects throughout the hot summer.

I have to commend the efforts of the club's secretary, Mr Roger Appleby, in organising the grant application and my recent tour of the shed. I must also give credit to the president, Bob Ikin, and the rest of the executive team for their smooth organisation of multiple community programs. They are always informative. They give so much more to the overall community. I absolutely commend the Carina Men's Shed to the House.

Deception Bay, Community Champions

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.09 pm): I rise to pay tribute to three community champions in Deception Bay who have passed away. Tom McLoughlin was the mayor of Caboolture shire from 1997 to 2000 and a councillor from 1970 to 1997. Tom grew up in Morayfield. His parents were sharefarmers

on Oakey Flat Road. He joined the railways. He also farmed chickens and pineapples around Morayfield. He was a life member of the Caboolture Show Society and the Caboolture Historical Society. His greatest achievement, he felt, was laying bitumen on all those roads in the old Caboolture shire south of the river. When he started, virtually none were paved; when he left, virtually all of them were paved. It was a truly remarkable achievement. Tom was a Labor man and he stood up for what he believed in. He was a very loyal person. He was married to Ev for 38 years and to Pat for 28 years. I also pay tribute to Pat, who is another community champion.

Arthur Hayes was another community champion. His funeral was one of the largest we had seen in Deception Bay. Arthur was awarded an OAM for his services to Deception Bay. He was the backbone and heart of the Deception Bay Lions and the regional leader for Youth Insearch. Youth Insearch was his proudest achievement—guiding dozens of kids back onto the right track, taking them out to Camp Duckadang and giving them unconditional love and support. Arthur was inexhaustible. He literally wore his body down helping out the community. He was a nasho, a member of the Army and also a firey. He married his beloved Lin when they were teenagers. They were married for nearly 60 years. He was also a true community champion—someone we will all miss—and a true friend of mine.

Ian Burgett was another true community champion in Deception Bay. He guided the Deception Bay Sports Club. He was instrumental in the community council and active in community renewal in Deception Bay. He was a councillor on Sunshine Coast TAFE. He was a great friend of former member Ken Hayward and a mentor to the member for Morayfield and me. Ian came from Lismore. He met Michele when they were teenagers. He worked in the department of civil aviation, then spent many years working for the Miscellaneous Workers Union. Another true Labor man, he ran for Fisher in 1993 and Longman in 1996. He prompted me to run for council. When I said that so much needed to be done in the area, he said, 'Why don't you run for council?'

Mr Butcher: A good bloke.

Mr WHITING: He was a good bloke indeed. He leaves behind Michelle, Janey, Ruth and his grandchildren. These are three men who I am proud to stand up and call my friends. They are true community champions in Deception Bay.

Women in Agriculture

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (7.13 pm): They say that behind every great man is an even greater woman. This statement could not be more true than in the world of agriculture and for rural women everywhere. The International Day of Rural Women was celebrated on Monday, 15 October. There did not appear to be much fanfare or publicity about this special day. Rural women mostly did what that they do best every day: work in the paddock, the laboratory, the office or anywhere their particular agricultural pathway has taken them.

Rural women, no matter where they live, are strong, independent people who at times have to juggle running a household, bringing up children, organising the finances, keeping the books, working either on-farm or off-farm and keeping the home fires burning for their partners. Without them, we would be lost. They are the backbone of their family and often their community, giving selflessly of themselves at all times, day and night.

The agricultural sector offers a great diversity of employment opportunities, and women are strongly represented in all sectors. Women work in their own rural businesses or are employed in the areas of agribusiness, research, media, cropping, animal husbandry, horticulture, sales and education, to name just a few. When I was farming I had a female agronomist, Belinda Chase, who was both extremely professional and passionate about what she did. I appreciated her dedication to my farming enterprise and the agriculture industry as a whole and her enthusiasm for being a woman in agriculture.

Women, generally speaking, are often overlooked to be at the helm of companies or organisations. In agriculture, this was also the case; however, now there has been a turning of the tide, even in my local area, with the first ever female president of the Darling Downs Cotton Growers Association, Georgie Krieg. Fiona Simpson is the president of the National Farmers' Federation. Simone Jolliffe is the president of the Australian Dairy Farmers. Ruth Wade is the commissioner and chair of the GasFields Commission and a former CEO of the Queensland Farmers' Federation. Georgie Somerset is the general president of AgForce. These are just a few of the women directing the future of agriculture.

I have had the good fortune to know many women in rural Queensland, starting from my days as a young boy growing up watching my mother support my father in his farming pursuits, often having to help run the tractor down the paddock or help repair a gate—all this while raising me and my five

siblings, ensuring there was always a positive word every night, no matter how dry it was in the paddock, cooking and helping us with our schoolwork. That support was a great comfort to all of us growing up.

The contribution women all over the world make to agriculture and the rural communities they live in is extraordinary. I, for one, am very proud to have the opportunity to acknowledge that tonight.

Capricorn Sandstone Quarries

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.16 pm): Recently I had the pleasure of visiting Capricorn Sandstone Quarries, situated on Power Station Road at Stanwell, about 25 kilometres west of Rockhampton. It has won a number of awards over the years. Last year it was the winner of the Capricornia Business Awards 'Best National/International Exporter of Local Products & Services'. The award recognises success in exporting goods or services at a national or international level while simultaneously promoting the Capricorn region.

The quarry is one of the largest dimensional sandstone quarries in Australia, uniquely producing landscape sandstone through to restoration grade sandstone in a variety of colours. The quarry sits on 70 hectares and has approximately seven million cubic metres of sandstone. The family owned business has over 50 years combined experience in sandstone quarrying, processing and manufacturing and has developed quarries in New South Wales and Western Australia.

The Stanwell quarry cut stone for many fine buildings in the 1800s and early 1900s. Those buildings remain solid today—a testament to the quarry's sandstone quality and durability. The quarry was revived by Roy Gough in 1994. Now his son, Reece, runs the business and has expanded into the sandstone export market. Reece employs about 15 staff on a full-time basis. To me, it seems to be a company that really invests in its staff. It is reflective in that it does not have much staff turnover and recently had one staff member retire after working for the company for over 20 years. I think it would be a very hard job in the Central Queensland heat. Staff have access to good training, modern equipment and large shade structures to work under.

The quarry supplies beautiful Capricorn Buff and Heritage Rose for restoration projects across Australia. This very sandstone has been used right here in Parliament House since 1996 for the repair work done by Building and Asset Services staff. What an excellent job they do here and across the state. I have to mention one of their excellent employees, stonemason Dave Thurlow, a third-generation stonemason. He now has his son Mitchell following in his footsteps. How good is that?

How wonderful it was to visit this amazing business that has continued to grow and is now exporting all over Australia and around the world. I congratulate Reece Gough and his business manager for their vision and expertise.

(Time expired)

Burdekin Electorate, Banking Services

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (7.19 pm): I rise to inform the House of a serious threat to rural towns throughout regional Queensland and, more specifically, within my electorate of Burdekin. In recent years bank branches in regional Queensland have closed at an alarming rate, leaving towns such as Collinsville and Moranbah with one bank branch and centres such as Clermont, Glenden, Middlemount and Dysart without a single bank branch. To ensure the long-term viability of large areas of regional Queensland, we must ensure that bank branches are maintained, or established, in areas where there are currently limited or no banking facilities. In my recent submission I called on the federal banking royal commission to recommend legislation be implemented to force banks to provide services to regional Queensland if they will not do so voluntarily.

It is simply not acceptable that large portions of Australia are left unserved by the banking industry. In 2018 it is not acceptable that entire communities can be left for periods without access to their money. It is not acceptable that good-willed citizens can be asked to travel hundreds of kilometres to conduct banking for a community group and, above all, it is not acceptable that the banking industry can earn profits in areas where there is little to no option for competition. Today the closure of bank branches in regional Queensland is causing increased angst for farmers affected by drought. It is hampering economic development and it is causing financial exclusion which can lead to increased vulnerability to financial stress.

In the broader community we are seeing added pressure on community groups that are already struggling. The activities of these groups are restricted or severely affected by the lack of bank branches, leaving community minded individuals to travel considerable distances to obtain basic

banking services, often at their own expense. We are seeing volunteers refusing to take up executive positions within community organisations due to the need to transport large amounts of cash. Today constituents of mine face restrictions on how much money they can withdraw and even deposit. They are paying up to \$3 per transaction and travelling an average of 206 kilometres to access a bank branch.

As you would understand, Mr Speaker, if my constituent needs to spend two hours driving to do their banking, it is highly likely that they will also do their shopping in the same trip. This takes revenue from shops in smaller areas and can lead to a domino effect of closures of other services such as supermarkets. Unfortunately, community banks and credit unions are not viable alternatives. Despite the lack of internet access, the 'big four' simply advise constituents to use online services or the applicable app. We cannot stand by and watch families relocate and small towns die. If we truly support rural and regional areas, we must stand side by side with Queenslanders and ensure the banking services they need are available.

Jordan Electorate, Young Entrepreneurs

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.22 pm): The future is bright and I was reminded of this through the entrepreneurial zeal and achievement of three fantastic young people in the Jordan electorate. Springfield Central State High School year 9 student Tanieka Booth-McNeill is only 14 but is already showing incredible business acumen through her invention of Shielded Socks. These special soulful socks—white on top and colourful underneath—have hidden messages for high school students, with the aim of helping students overcome mental health issues. Tanieka's business idea is to give students socks that inspire confidence and help them through the day. It is a great idea and Tanieka was recently the worthy winner of a *Shark Tank* style competition for Brisbane students. She has won a valuable mentorship and a \$10,000 prize to get her business started, but she also received some fantastic support through the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce which allowed Tanieka to do a 'practice pitch' to its members, landing her a local backer to help her get her socks developed and marketed.

Addressing a pressing issue was also the motivation behind an anti-tailgating app invented by Springfield Anglican College student William Newman. William, who is 13, has invented a safety app for cars called the Road Vue app which identifies drivers who persistently tailgate. The app uses GPS, speedometers and cameras at the front and rear of the car to note a tailgater's numberplate. William has made the top 12 from more than 3,000 entries in Origin's national littleBIGidea competition. He has already received \$1,000 in prize money and attended a design workshop in Melbourne last month with the other finalists. He is hoping to be the ultimate Origin littleBIGidea national winner which includes a trip to NASA's Kennedy Space Center and I know our community is really cheering him on.

We know that students who engage in coding and robotics are learning the skills and knowledge they need to participate successfully in a technology based global economy. That is why I am a big supporter of the Premier's Creating Queensland's Future coding competition, now in its second year. The theme for this year's coding competition was Stand Up to Cyberbullies, which supports our government's commitment to providing safe and respectful learning environments for students. I was so pleased to see local Springfield Central State School student Mariah Smith announced as the winner of the year 3 to 4 individual category, having been selected from over 215 entries received across the state. I was so impressed by Mariah's work and the creative solutions she came up with to address the anticiberbullying message. The judges assessed Mariah's work as one which illustrates a deep understanding of coding concepts and product development.

Tanieka, William and Mariah have each demonstrated a willingness to take a good idea and develop it into a potential business or social enterprise opportunity. These are the very skills and knowledge that our government is developing through the Advance Queensland initiative, fostering innovation to create jobs and build a strong and diverse economy. With young people like Tanieka, William and Mariah in the Jordan electorate, we are indeed moving forward.

Hill Electorate, Road Infrastructure

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (7.25 pm): It is with great frustration that I once again bring to the attention of the House a road that desperately needs to be upgraded and sealed, and that is the Herberton Petford Road to Irvinebank. The road is in a deplorable state and needs to be sealed. Year in, year out the road is graded and the rocks still project through, so it does not alleviate the problem or produce a smooth, safe road. This road is a main arterial road connecting the communities of Watsonville and Irvinebank in the south-west and extends through to Petford in the north-west of the Tablelands which provides a shortcut to Chillagoe. It also saves 30 kilometres for travellers who are

travelling from Mount Garnet in the south to Herberton. Rather than going through the Atherton Tablelands, road users are able to take the shortcut to Chillagoe and likewise to Dimbulah. Every year this road deteriorates to an unusable standard that requires continuous grading. However, this causes rocks to project out through the road which leads to significant vehicle damage and unsafe driving. Herberton Petford Road is also a designated school bus route so this places children's lives at risk and it costs up to \$20,000 each year to repair the damage to that school bus.

We cannot keep asking the Mareeba Shire Council to grade that road every year. If we put bitumen over the top we would not have this problem year after year. It is very important that we upgrade and seal that road. We do not want to keep resheeting it. It is a waste of money and a short-term solution. I have tabled petitions, letters and photos in the House on numerous occasions, and yet while we appreciate the small amount allocated and the fraction of road that has been sealed it does not go far enough. The problem would be solved if this significant piece of Tablelands road infrastructure was just sealed once and for all. I will now read an email sent to me by Dr Robert Keane. He says—

I am writing this in response to the awful state of the gravel road Watsonville to Irvinebank.

I had a stroke and a heart attack in August of last year ...

As I bump over the corrugated road each week when I am being driven to town ... I think, what's happening to my rates money.

I get nothing for it, neither curbing, nor lighting, nor postal delivery, nor garbage disposal and certainly not roads that don't tire my system.

This email is one of many I have received from residents begging the government to stop throwing money away and instead implement a permanent solution. I call on the government to stop wasting money and seal this section of road once and for all.

Homeless United

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (7.27 pm): I want to update the House on a fantastic new initiative in my electorate of Capalaba that I had the honour to help launch a couple of weeks ago—Homeless United. Before I talk about the program, I want to talk about the man behind the idea and the implementation of the program. Horowai Rameka, or Hori to his mates, is the man behind it. He had it all but lost a good job and a beautiful family due to an addiction to pokies—his job, his house, his family. It nearly came to the stage where he took his own life. In a tent in Capalaba Hori hit rock bottom but had the realisation that he had to turn his life around, so he started by visiting the Redland Community Centre, like so many do in my electorate to reach out for help.

Hori started to attend the drug and alcohol addiction meetings. However, Hori was not addicted to drugs and alcohol but did find the service useful to deal with his addiction and went cold turkey from that day on. From there Hori knew that he needed to do more and started working with general manager Allison Wicks to do just that. They started the Homeless United program which feeds the homeless seven days a week with home-cooked meals for breakfast and dinner, feeding about 15 to 20 people per session. This is not just a meal. As someone who has volunteered serving these meals, I have seen firsthand the counselling that occurs during these meals.

It is great to see how Hori and Allison were also able to pull together businesses and community partners to help out these homeless people—like the Capalaba Warriors Rugby League club which opens its showers in the morning, local hairdressers that offer free haircuts, the Capalaba Laundromat for laundry services and coffee vans that offer free coffees and hot chocolates. More recently, the blue bus service comes at night-time which also offers a shower and laundry service.

I want to thank the Capalaba department of housing, which regularly comes along at night, for successfully housing some of those who were homeless. Hori actually passed up offers for a house because he knew that there were others in need and he also wanted to remain in his tent to help others still there. However, I am happy to report that Hori has now been housed for five months and, more importantly, after being homeless in that tent Hori has his family back. They have a place now and they use the downstairs as crisis accommodation for people to come in to use their gym, make a coffee, watch TV, charge their phone and, most importantly, have a chat to Hori and Hori's groups that help those in our local area to get to that next stage. I want to thank Allison Wicks and the chair of the Redland Community Centre, Chris, for their tireless work and the volunteers. Most importantly, I want to pay respect to the local hero, Hori. You are a true champion, mate.

The House adjourned at 7.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson