


### **Prince Charles Hospital**

 **Dr DAVIS** (Stafford—LNP) (3.57 pm): Much is made of issues in our health care system and I think it is very important to provide a perspective on the excellent work done through so many of our hospitals and other health care settings in this state. I take this opportunity to mention the excellent work done at the Prince Charles Hospital, which I am very proud to have in my electorate. On average, we admit about 3,500 inpatients per month, we have accumulatively about 17,500 accrued inpatient episodes per month and an amazing 40,000 nonadmitted patients per month or 1,300 per day. A survey of patient satisfaction in our emergency department last year indicated that some 94 per cent were satisfied, in other words, they indicated that their health care was good, very good or excellent. That is an amazing tribute to our staff.

Of course the gap of six per cent is still of concern and it is great that the LNP has a solution—our hospital boards will provide wonderful local input into the community's needs, with the opportunity for the community to work with the local board to then work with our excellent staff and address those issues. The local boards will also provide a very valuable opportunity not only for the community but also for the staff, the staff who simply were not heard under previous arrangements. The payroll example is just one example.

Can I say as a staff member that, even though I was responsible for a very big department at the Prince Charles Hospital with a budget in excess of \$20 million per year, I was not consulted at all as to the sort of payroll system that would work for my staff and work for the accountability that we all have, and we have seen the consequences. We talk about the financial consequences but there were also very real consequences for the staff and the payroll staff who had all the stress of actually having to deal with this issue.


So it is a very exciting time that we will now be changing the culture in our hospitals, getting even better results for patients, better results for staff and, of course, getting the very valuable input from local boards. I have to say that in a previous life I was a general manager of a hospital board elsewhere, and the hospital boards are really a very useful vehicle. I highly commend the LNP for taking this very valuable input into advancing health services in Queensland and my electorate of Stafford.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Cunningham): Order! The time for private member's statements has expired.

### **ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

Resumed from p. 378.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Cunningham): Order! Before calling the member for Nudgee, I remind honourable members that this is member's maiden speech and should be accorded the regular courtesies. I call the member for Nudgee.

 **Mr WOODFORTH** (Nudgee—LNP) (4.01 pm): I respond to Her Excellency the Governor and I pledge my allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I congratulate Madam Speaker on her elevation to the role and that of being the first female Speaker of the House. I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which this parliament sits and that of my electorate of Nudgee.

It is with great honour and humility that I stand here in this chamber today, elected by the people of Nudgee to this the 54th Parliament of Queensland. It is a privilege to serve the Queensland community and I thank the electorate of Nudgee for this opportunity. I sincerely thank the LNP for the opportunity they have given me to be a part of this historic Newman-led government as their representative for Nudgee, and I congratulate them on their unwavering commitment to an above-the-line campaign.

I would like to congratulate my fellow first-time MP and now Premier, Campbell Newman. Premier, your exemplary leadership during the campaign that was evidenced through your commitment to ethics and morals has provided a platform of standards and expectations for us to follow. I look forward to providing this level of leadership to you, the state of Queensland and the electorate of Nudgee to which I have this privilege.

For those unfamiliar with the area, the electorate of Nudgee houses the suburbs of Nudgee, Nudgee Beach, Banyo, Virginia, Geebung, Zillmere, Boondall and parts of Wavell Heights, Nundah and Chermside. We take great pride in the quality of schools within the electorate such as Wavell State High School, Nudgee College, Earnshaw State College and many state and Catholic primary schools that grace the electorate. The people of Nudgee have embraced the expansion of the Australian Catholic University, which has grown substantially over the last 10 years and now caters for more than 4,000 students and growing.

We have numerous RSLs, sporting clubs, bowls clubs, golf clubs, community centres, senior activity centres, churches, aged-care facilities, and we are home to the Toombul and Chermside shopping centres. Nudgee certainly has a lot to offer. But on top of all this, we also have the lovely

Nudgee Beach, the protected Boondall wetlands, more than 1,000 hectares of tidal flats and mangroves, with a range of open forests, woodlands, grasslands and salt marshes, and not to forget the Nudgee waterholes and bora ring.

Historically, Nudgee has been deeply entwined with our service personnel, with many of the streets in Zillmere named after our war heroes. This includes Sergeant H Fowles, who gave what Abraham Lincoln describes as 'the last full measure of devotion' for your country. Zillmere's young men were some of the first ashore during battle. The Geebung and Kedron-Wavell RSL clubs, including the Banyo and Zillmere sub-branches, are steeped in the traditions of Anzac Day. I took great pride this year in attending several services in my formal capacity as the state member.

It is not just Nudgee's military achievements that run a thread through our community. Not only is the iconic Golden Circle Cannery part of the Nudgee electorate but its products have adorned the pantries of almost every Australian household since it began. And it has not just been Australian pantries. Queensland's gift on the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten in 1947 was 500 tins of pineapple from the Northgate cannery. I am not too sure what one does with 500 tins of pineapple!

Of course the demand for casual labour at the cannery brought a range of people into the area—students and women, and migrants—who were not a part of the traditional workforce. This continues today, with immigration adding to the richness of the area, not least through our food such as Singh's Curry House at Banyo.

Adding to the diverse nature of the electorate is the Virginia industrial area, home to literally thousands of small and medium businesses and large businesses like the Arnotts biscuit factory. In Geebung we find 'Gerns meats', the local butcher—and we also find him in the gallery today—still family owned, established in 1895 and continuing to provide their famous Christmas hams to many businesses and families in the surrounding areas and beyond.

I believe that the history and the rich diversity embedded in the electorate of Nudgee is a direct reflection of the people within it. I am excited to be a part of this community and I am committed to representing the electorate of Nudgee, ensuring that the progress of this state reflects the needs of the community.

My campaign was long—over a year. It had its ups and downs, its highs and lows. But for every person who stopped and told me that they had voted Labor all their life but never again, it made it all worthwhile. To Labor this was a seat they could not lose, a safe seat. The seat of Nudgee had only ever been a Labor seat, and it makes me very happy to say that at this election the LNP won with a swing of over 17 per cent—a fantastic outcome but not one to be taken for granted.

There are many people who supported me through this campaign, but my first thanks must go to the people who encouraged me to nominate for preselection—Councillor Fiona King and Mr Mike Dowd. Without meeting both Fiona and Mike, and without the mentoring I received from them respectively, I would not be standing here today.

To my campaign team, first and foremost I would like to pay tribute to my campaign manager Rod McGarvie. Rod is an exemplary Australian who embodies the spirit of service to others. He has done this through his service in the Army and his humanitarian service as a missionary in Africa. I hope he will be able to build on his success in out polling Wayne Swan on primaries at the last federal election to one day serve the people of Lilley in the federal parliament.

Other dedicated members of the team who I sincerely thank for providing me with support and commitment include—the two Neils, Rob, Dom, Matt, Adin, Greg, Scott, Bill, Bruce, Cheryl, Cindy, Laurie, Lisa, Mark, Kevin, Stuart, Annie and a special mention to my good friend Andy, who flew up from Melbourne to be a part of the team on polling day. I apologise to anyone I may have left out. To all the booth workers, those who provided sign sites and all those who spent even just five minutes helping me, I thank you.

To my family, you supported me all the way until the polling booths closed. To dad and Judy, Jodine, Sarah, Rohan, Angela and to my two sons, Mitch and Matt, who would often get offended every time a voter refused one of my how-to-vote cards and at times would chase them down the path. They eventually learnt not to take it personally. To my mum, she is with us in body but not in mind. I know she would be proud, God bless you, mum.

Of course being a new member of parliament and even as a candidate, the electors of Nudgee want to know a bit about who you are and where you came from. My parents, Peter and Dale Woodforth, both hardworking, had four children—I am the second of the four. My dad worked for the Brisbane City Council for over 44 years and built our first home. Even today in his 70s he continues to keep his hand in building and renovating. And until the day my mother could no longer work, she never stopped, working up to three part-time jobs at a time to ensure all bills were paid and food was on the table.

My father also coached club and state softball teams for many years and, together with mum—a talented softball player herself—they formed the Panthers Softball Club back in 1958, a club that is still going strong today 54 years later.

I have fond memories of growing up in the seventies and eighties. I remember Chermside Shopping Centre when it was just the size of a postage stamp compared to the monstrosity it is today. Our parents would let us walk to school without fear. We rode our bikes—without helmets. Possibly there is a hint of what I think about helmet laws, the loss of freedom of choice and the increasing growth of legislation for legislation sake.

Weekends and many week nights were spent at sporting fields somewhere around Brisbane playing baseball—the sport I loved and played for 25 years—and any other sport I could find when time permitted. You could say that sport was a major part of my life growing up and still to this day plays a massive part in my life. I have been a proud northsider for all of my 41 years, and my colleagues from the south side can tell you there is no greater divide in Brisbane than the Brisbane River.

For the last 14 years I have lived in the electorate of Nudgee, and the rest of my life has been spent in and around it as circumstances or Nudgee's boundaries have changed. My sporting background has taken me to almost every suburb in Brisbane, every major town in Queensland and every capital city in Australia. My business has taken me further, to many locations around the world. Despite seeing many beautiful parts of Australia and the world, I still proudly call north Brisbane my home.

Whilst sport has been a major part of my life, so, too, has health, and for the last eight years in my electorate I have owned and managed a business in health and fitness. So it would be remiss of me not to spend some time sharing my thoughts on and concerns for our health and our future. Health and fitness are very important to me, and I believe they should be important to all Queenslanders. It is estimated that 90 per cent—90 per cent—of health problems in Queensland are due to preventable chronic disease. This means that there is an opportunity for us to explore and develop programs that can educate families and young children in relation to making good choices, for ourselves and our families.

While a better lifestyle will result in a longer and healthier life for our community, the opportunity to work proactively towards reducing and hopefully preventing chronic disease in our communities also means that we as a community could potentially see a decrease in the healthcare costs currently being demanded of this system. The *Australian* of 24 February 2012 states—

Within the next 10 to 15 years it is predicted that the Australian federal and state budgets will be totally consumed by the expanding cost of healthcare.

Under this scenario, if we were simply to maintain services ... at present levels there would be no money left for roads, rail, education and many other essential services.

Over the last 25 years the Queensland population has not quite doubled, from 2.6 million to 4.5 million people. The Health budget, on the other hand, has risen dramatically, from \$1 billion to \$11 billion. I am not going to dwell on the failures of the previous government today, but I think we can all agree that the way Health has been managed over the past 20 years could not be regarded as a success.

We need to do better in administration, practice and, most importantly, preventative measures. I have already had the privilege of visiting Boondall State School and learning about the Friday Fresh Menu program they have implemented. It was interesting to hear from the deputy principal that Fridays are their best day for student behaviour. For me, that is food for thought. It is also great to see many schools actively encouraging students to participate in walk-to-school days, to not be picked up and dropped off at the gate but a few blocks away and to participate in school sports and not have an option to sit out. These are fantastic initiatives, but we need to continue to improve on and expand them. Every generation should live better than the last, but from a health perspective are we? I say not. We lose around 1,500 Australians each year on our roads. We lose 15,000 each year due to smoking and 16,000 due to obesity related diseases. I could go on about this subject that I love, but time is limited.

I mentioned earlier that I owned a business. There are a lot of business owners in my area. I see firsthand the challenges facing them each and every day. I talk to other businesses, and our stories have a certain similarity. There was a time in Australia when hard work was rewarded. There are a lot of businesses in our community who exist solely to pay their suppliers, their staff and the government. There is very little money left over to pay the owners. Sometimes there is nothing left. In an internet age, many businesses, including mine, are competing against overseas suppliers that do not have to pay GST, minimum wages, high rents, rising public liability insurance, import taxes and AQIS fees or comply with workplace health and safety laws, added labelling requirements and a host of other imposts. Yet we are told to come up with better ways. Better ways to what? Work out how not to pay tax, not to pay staff high wages, not to pay the high rents and the ever-increasing electricity costs?

There are solutions out there, and this new LNP government is setting about putting many of these in place, where possible from a state perspective. Unfortunately, federally it is not the case, and everyone is about to take a new hit that will make things worse. On 1 July the carbon tax will hit every

Queenslander and every Australian. I have an open mind on many issues; however, of the so-called science on climate change I am yet to be convinced. We must separate climate change from carbon tax. Even if one were to believe in climate change, how could we embrace with all our hearts the concept of climate change and reject with all our hearts the people whom this tax will cruel? How can we turn our hearts away from the workers, the families and the children who will suffer as jobs are lost? No truly compassionate Australian can do this. Nor should they.

I became involved because I was sick of the lies, the deceit, the waste. If I ran my business like the previous government ran Queensland, I would be out of business. I say to the opposition: I welcome you to parliament as part of the solution, not as part of the problem. Do not carry the baggage of the past. Instead, I urge you to be part of making Queensland and your individual electorates great again. You were elected to government, not elected to the opposition. In 1829 Henry Clay said—


Government is a trust, and the officers of the government are trustees; and both the trust and the trustees are created for the benefit of the people.

I look forward to addressing many areas of neglect in Nudgee over the next three years. That is the problem sometimes with so-called safe seats: over time the government and opposition get complacent about the work they have to do. Nudgee is now a marginal seat, and our side of politics will start delivering for Nudgee.

There are a number of concerns that constituents in Nudgee have already raised with me, and I am committed to working in conjunction with government to meet the needs of the community. Our current objectives include delivery of the Geebung rail overpass, together with the Telegraph Road overpass for Aspley and Sandgate. These two improvements will have a dramatic effect on road traffic on the north side. A commitment to extra front-line police will deliver more officers in Zillmere, Geebung and Banyo, making Nudgee safer. We will attack the cost-of-living problems in Queensland by cutting waste. I will continue to highlight the need for increased upgrades for the federally funded Gateway Motorway at Nudgee, currently the most expensive car park in Australia. This will provide benefits not just for Nudgee and relieve the congestion this causes every day on Sandgate Road but also for my colleagues in Sandgate, Redcliffe, Aspley and seats further north. I will investigate options for a rail-crossing solution at Banyo as well as improving safety around the Banyo shops and increased bus and rail services. I will undertake consultation in relation to flashing lights at all schools, realistic school zone times and matching those times so they are relevant to each school. I will also investigate the upgrading of safety at school crossing lights such as on Newman and Handford roads.

In closing, I say this: in this chamber I will not be afraid to change my mind based on new and better information. The greater cowardice is the fear to change your own mind because of how you feel other people will see you. I am committed to leading the electorate of Nudgee through the opportunity they have afforded me, and I am excited about the positive changes we will see in our communities through the collective leadership of this LNP government. I look forward to the challenges that face me in the years ahead.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Ruthenberg): Order! Before I call the next speaker, I remind the House that this is the member's first speech, and I would ask that the House afford the courtesies associated with a maiden speech.

 **Mrs OSTAPOVITCH** (Stretton—LNP) (4.17 pm): It is indeed awesome to see the enthusiastic faces of my colleagues sitting here, in particular the candidates who ran with me in 2009. Only a few candidates ever try a second time, so we are either very determined people or a fork short of a cutlery set! But it is my absolute joy to be with my friends from neighbouring Springwood, Algester, Sunnybank, Mansfield, Waterford and Albert—colleagues who I know will take the responsibility placed upon us seriously, with a diligent and sensible attitude.

I joined the LNP when it was formed in 2008 and soon after ran for Waterford. After an unpleasant defeat, which was later proven to be the result of an overall deceitful campaign, I was so impressed with LNP leaders Lawrence Springborg, John-Paul Langbroek, Bruce McIver and Gary Spence that I decided to stay on and help the LNP cause. I found in them a great integrity and deep desire for a better Queensland—inspirational leaders that you just want to follow. Of course, there is no denying the Newman factor in my victory, but I pledge that next election I will win on my own merit because I will have done a great job for my Stretton, a community that is culturally diverse but very much Aussie and has the most wonderful, generous and friendly people you could wish for. I knocked on over 14,000 doors over 12 months and not an ill-tempered person did I ever meet. To the 2,000 households I missed: I promise you I will get to you over the next few months. I made a commitment and I plan to deliver on it.

I am also responsible to the thousands of animals and flora of Karawatha Forest, and never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be saving frogs in my first week. It sounds funny, but it was actually a very serious threat to the \$60 million council investment. I would like to thank the Karawatha Forest Protection Society for bringing it to my attention and to LinkWater for finding us a solution. If only frogs could vote.

We all know that no-one gets to this place on their own so I want to thank the people who stood alongside me. In particular, I thank my campaign managers, David Lin and Vivien Ouwerkerk. Likewise,

I thank mentors like Mayor Pam Parker, Mayor Graham Quirk, Don Cameron, Senator Sue Boyce and the ever passionate Senator Barnaby Joyce. To a true lady with a big heart, Lisa Newman: you have my absolute admiration.

I thank my friend, Nina Schrinner, who was always there to encourage me, especially when the Labor candidate stooped to sending out vile letters to my large ethnic community attempting to link me to the racist philosophy of another party that I have never even belonged to. I cannot describe how offensive that letter was to me, but it backfired because my ethnic community had already come to know me and they knew that I have a genuine love and interest in all people regardless of race or religion. The Labor candidate even replaced Anna Bligh with Kevin Rudd in all of his advertising. I think he must have had too much sun and forgot who his leader was. What an insult to the intelligence of the Chinese community. Hence, I was given even more encouragement and help by the Taiwanese, Chinese, Vietnamese and Indian communities, and I am truly grateful for their friendship which just gets stronger.

Of course I must thank my husband of 36 years, Don, and my two sons, Senior Constable Kyle Ostapovitch and Dr Michael Ostapovitch. Witnessing their servitude under difficult and dangerous conditions has inspired me to want to make things better for Queenslanders. They choose to serve the community but I am sad because that servitude comes at a price. For their own mental wellbeing, they have to put aside their emotions when they don the uniform because they both see more pain, suffering, cruelty and death every day than anyone should see in a lifetime. That is particularly timely on this very day, as we all remember the life of Damian Leeding that was cut short. As the mother of a detective, it is particularly confronting. So today I want to publicly in this place commend and honour all the police officers, nurses, doctors, paramedics and social workers out there and give them my thanks—and I am sure the thanks of this new parliament—for their unselfish, daily sacrifice to protect and heal their fellow man. We should never take their service for granted.

There are a lot of things I hope to achieve during my time in parliament. I hope to make life better for people living in the electorate of Stretton. I hope to be useful to the team sitting in this chamber in the important job of getting Queensland back on track. I hope as a member of the Finance and Administration Committee that I can help make wise decisions with the taxpayers' money and pass sensible laws that make life better for Queenslanders—laws that encourage people to work and contribute to society and, most importantly, laws that discourage idleness, selfishness and crime.

I also really want to be a voice for those who are vulnerable—that is, our elderly and our children. The truth is that kids need very little to be happy. It is not things they need; it is the love of their parents. I have been to places where families live in dirt floor shacks and I have seen children leave those shacks in pristine clean and ironed school uniforms and skip down the road with big smiles on their faces.

Parents in developing countries sacrifice what little they have with the hope that an education will give their children a better life. Indeed, hope is vital to good mental health. My experience is that a frightening number of Australians have lost hope. It has always perplexed me as to why Australia has the highest rate of teen suicide per capita in the world—a disgraceful statistic. We need to be proactive in finding the root of the problem of youth suicide. Why are so many of our youth troubled? By and large, most parents love and protect their children but perhaps we indulge our children too much. Do we protect them from sadness and disappointment to the extent that they grow up not learning how to cope with these things? There is a saying that to experience the rainbow you must first embrace the rain. Do we need to allow our children to stand in the rain? They need to learn that they are strong enough to get over sad times, that it is not the end of the world when they get a pimple and, sorry to be trivial, that things always get better with time and that people need to have that hope.

I have always found it helpful to have an attitude of gratitude. Even though my father abandoned my mother and me when I was 10 and I have not heard from him since, I know that experience has made me the empathetic person I am today. To say I grew up with emotional baggage is an understatement, but by the grace of God I found a good and loyal man when I was only 19 which probably saved me from myself. I also replaced my wayward father with one who will never abandon me.

What I did determine while still young was that I would not let my past dictate my future. You cannot move forward if you are always looking back at the past. Indeed, after training as a psychiatric nurse at a large psychiatric hospital, I chose a career in sales and business where rejection is an everyday occurrence. And fancy someone with rejection issues running for parliament—twice. Talk about facing your fears.

A wise man once said that the secret of happiness is to find contentment whatever situation you are in. Be it in times of need or times of plenty, just accept it and be as happy as you can be. Indeed, I have seen this in action as I have travelled the world—people who I would call poor but are happy and content. I have seen the real poor; I have seen children living by garbage tips because that is where they find food and items to sell.

When I was a child, my friend's mother had a plaque in her kitchen that said, 'I used to complain I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet.' It is funny the things that stick in your head throughout

your life, but that little saying has always come to mind when I have allowed myself to wallow in self-pity. It is all about attitude. There is always someone worse off than you. Sometimes I find it hard to listen to an able-bodied person complaining, but I remind myself of what I learnt while I was a nurse—that everyone just wants to feel they are important enough to be listened to. I wish we could all listen to one another more because that would make a significant difference to our society.

A number of years ago I decided to take a break from my school and sports photography business to volunteer in the community. During my time as the president of a large community centre and volunteer on many associated social welfare association committees, I witnessed the best of humankind and the worst. Firstly, I witnessed the generosity of my fellow volunteers who gave so freely of their time. I encourage anyone who wants to find some purpose in their lives to contact Volunteering Queensland which offers an incredible variety of opportunities to suit all.

But I am sad to say that I saw some very sad cases of child abuse and neglect. There is an epidemic of selfishness out there. We all have bouts of selfish behaviour at times, but it is shameful when a parent continually puts their own desires above the wellbeing of their child. When a government neglects to discipline a youth who has made a bad choice, they neglect their duty to them as well as society. It is indeed cruel to set in motion a dysfunctional future for a child. The statistics are that 6,500 children appeared on 19,000 charges in 2011 and that 200 kids were responsible for one-quarter of the crimes.

Pam Dowse, Queensland's only dedicated children's magistrate, tells of offenders who are malnourished, ill clad, neglected, abused and unloved products of dysfunctional parents. She continues in the *Courier-Mail* story that they are often children crying out for rescue rather than retribution. What a disgraceful legacy the Labor government has left Queensland. For almost 22 years it has failed our children and hence failed the basic needs of our society, which has the right to expect safety in their homes and businesses. I almost fell to the floor when I heard the member in the corner here cite success in child safety as a Labor achievement. You have got to be kidding! I say spend some time in the real world!

I have seen parents send their children to school without breakfast or lunch. I have heard of teenagers who did not know how to use a knife and fork because they had only ever eaten from a takeaway wrapper. There are parents who tell their kids that they are stupid. There are parents who spend any money they get on themselves and expect their working neighbours to feed, clothe and give Christmas presents to their children. There are parents who see their children as a burden and tell them to get out of the house so they can spend time with their new boyfriend. There are parents who expect day-care centre staff to toilet train their child. Some parents even drop off their children in filthy nappies. There are parents who beat their child and parents who rape their child and there is even a mother out there who sells her child as a sex toy for the perverted.

These are hard things to hear, but they need to be said because we cannot change what we do not know of. I believe there are things we can do as a government if we approach the task from a prevention point of view. We are now raising children to become adults who will suffer from depression or a need to escape in a world of binge drinking and substance abuse, or an adult who habitually hurts others and spends their life in and out of jail. This is the result for most kids who grow up unloved or undisciplined. A month ago two teenage girls mercilessly bashed a seven-year-old girl in the toilets of a cinema while her mother was outside. Kids are taking knives to school and stabbing each other—kids, not adults! We are failing our children. When are we going to say enough is enough? The relative slap on the wrist is not working. We need to show tough love, with an emphasis on the love. It is a sad fact that we have more programs available to train our dogs than our children.

I also believe we need to take the reins back from children who are more and more realising they have power over authority. How did we get to the situation where youths are calling the shots? Right now there is a culture that encourages children to disrespect authority of parents, teachers and police. For example, a 15-year-old who had been an extremely smart student had become so addicted to computer games that he was sneaking back to his house instead of going to school. His grades were failing and so was his quality of life. His mother took his computer to a store to have all the games wiped. Her son was angry and found a sympathetic ear in a so-called school social worker, who then confronted the mother that this was an abuse of his right to have whatever he wanted on his own computer. When his mother strongly objected to that, the son was encouraged to leave his mother and told he would get money from the government so he could live independently. Fortunately the mother convinced her son to live downstairs in the granny flat to stay close to his family. However, he was still given government assistance. He fended for himself the whole time he lived under his mother's house until he left high school. Thankfully, he pulled his socks up and was given a scholarship to UQ, but what an insane story that is—an example of waste.

Stand outside any Children's Court and watch the youths leave laughing and mocking our judicial system due to bad policy that does nothing to curb an appetite for crime and violence. Recently we have heard of youths abusing the no child left behind legislation and forcing bus drivers to take them without payment. To me it is child neglect to set children up to disregard authority and our laws. No good can

come of it—not for society and not for the child. So what are we as a society going to do about it? It is a problem we all pay for, so we should all think about what we can do to help. I want to see discussion about this on the TV and radio, at P&Cs and coffee shops and over the back fence. When society bands together and says that it will no longer accept child neglect, then we have a real chance to reduce it.

Most of the time it is not about taking children away from their mother; it is about showing the mother how to be a mother, a father how to be a father. Some of them never learnt that from their mothers or fathers. Any life we save from the cycle of the abused becoming the abuser or a life of mental illness or a life of crime is worth the effort. Our children deserve it and society deserves it. The best way we can all help is to change behaviour by changing attitudes. Mentoring is the way. I know that all it takes is one significant adult in a young person's life to change it—just one person to care. I also think that governments have got to stop enabling people to self-destruct by giving them money without conditions. We all know that many handouts to families do not reach the children. It disgusts me that a parent would spend money on alcohol, cigarettes, drugs and gambling and not on feeding, clothing or educating their own child—and society, in many ways, pays for it.

Billions and billions goes towards putting band-aids on youths and adults with gaping wounds—a wound that could have been avoided if treated when it was just a sore. Imagine a Queensland where there were less people in jails, less crime, less people on welfare, less people with mental illness, less people in hospital, less people self-medicating on drugs and binge drinking, less cruelty, less abuse and neglect. In fact, there probably are not many areas that our taxes go to now that could not be reduced if we took more notice of how we raise our children. It is time we all talk about it instead of sweeping it under the rug because it makes us uncomfortable. Perhaps when selfish parents recognise their behaviour they will seek help to change. We know that people can change. Humans have the ability to change. We are not trees. Anyone can make the decision to say, 'Today will be a new day. Today I will change for the sake of my family and for my own sake,' and there are thousands of success stories to prove this. People just need the courage to take the first step.

So let us have the conversation and let us all figure out how we can help someone who is struggling with life, and here is an idea: what if we taught children in school about self-esteem or life and parenting skills, how to budget, anger management or—heaven forbid—some manners and moral lessons too? What is wrong with developing a conscience in a child that how you treat others matters? A teacher told me recently that there was no time to do that because the focus is on academia and that those things are meant to be taught by parents and/or churches. I agree, but that does not help the child who has a parent who does not think those things are important. It seems to me that if we can make time for sex education we can make time to teach children life skills, including how to be loving and responsible parents.

I hope that when I review my maiden speech in 10 years time I will feel proud that it was my LNP government that had the foresight to plan for the future of our children. After all, we have a leader who had the foresight to build bridges and tunnels because they are cheaper and less disruptive to motorists. I remind those without vision that 20 years ago when the Gateway Bridge was first built we heard the same complaints. Well, can anyone imagine not having that bridge today? Of course not! In fact, we even needed to duplicate it. So, Premier, I look forward to looking back when my time on earth is done and feeling proud of what we did. There is no doubt in my mind that we will do it. During my time in office I will quote my favourite saying—


I ask God to grant me the peace of mind to change the things I can

Accept the things I can't

And most importantly the wisdom to know the difference.

Thank you.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Ruthenberg): Order! Before I call the next member I remind the House this is the member's maiden speech and I would ask that the House afford the courtesies associated with this occasion and listen in silence.

 **Mr STEWART** (Sunnybank—LNP) (4.39 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. May I first congratulate the member for Stretton on her maiden speech and begin by extending through you my personal congratulations to Madam Speaker on her election to that office. I have every confidence that she will continue to serve this parliament and the people of Queensland with the utmost dignity and integrity as she has throughout her parliamentary career. May I also extend to you my congratulations on your appointment as Deputy Speaker.

I also extend my congratulations to our Premier, the Hon. Campbell Newman. When it was confirmed that he had joined the state campaign team, I was very excited, but not primarily for the benefit that he would bring to the state campaign but for the long-term benefit of Queensland. My excitement has been vindicated by the whirlwind of change and progress since the day he was sworn in as Premier. I believe that Premier Newman will lead Queensland from the dismal state of unemployment, missed opportunity and financial insecurities to prosperity and bring back a government of which we are all proud. He will lead and inspire us to a decade that will be remembered as the golden

years of Queensland—a time of economic prosperity, social cohesion and a return of fundamental values of honesty and integrity in public office.

My congratulations are also warmly extended to Premier Newman's cabinet colleagues for not only their election or re-election to their seats but also on their appointment as ministers of the Crown. In particular, I extend my personal appreciation and that of my campaign team to the Hon. Premier, the Hon. Fiona Simpson, the Hon. Tim Nicholls, the Hon. Dr Bruce Flegg, the Hon. Scott Emerson, the Hon. John-Paul Langbroek and the member for Gympie, David Gibson, for their personal assistance in visiting the electorate of Sunnybank during and before the election campaign. To all the other members of Her Majesty's government and opposition, I congratulate you on your election. I believe that we have been gifted with great responsibilities and opportunities at a critical time in the state's history. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the unsuccessful candidates for the electorate of Sunnybank for their contribution to a fair but extremely hard-fought campaign.

Our state campaign was executed with great precision and to Bruce McIver, Gary Spence, Michael O'Dwyer, James McGrath, Matt McEachan and Mitch Redford and the remaining LNP team, their efforts to ensure that we had an honest, clean and coordinated campaign with results-driven policies was critical to the success of the government in Sunnybank.

It is also appropriate at this time that I recognise the contribution of the previous member for Sunnybank, the Hon. Judy Spence. As one of Queensland's longest-serving female members of parliament, her efforts in serving the people of Sunnybank are well recognised. On a personal level, I have many recollections of her presence at annual Anzac Day ceremonies at the RSL hall at Lister Street, Sunnybank from the early 1990s until last year and on other occasions within the electorate. Her service as police minister was highly regarded by serving police and employees and I wish her all the best in her retirement.

After being in this place for just a few weeks, it was obvious that every honourable member believes that his or her electorate is the jewel in Queensland's crown. It would come as no surprise to members that such is my view of the Sunnybank electorate. Having lived and attended school in Runcorn, I have many memories of bicycle rides on gravel roads, walking to school past market gardens and horse paddocks—a much slower pace of life than is generally the case today. My schooling and upbringing in this wonderful area has profoundly contributed to my belief and values and to the characteristics and standards by which I have lived my life to the present time. This will be the basis upon which this new and exciting phase of my working career will be based.

If asked in future years, 'Who do you work for?' my answer will not be the Jimmy Durante one-liner that was often repeated on local radio stations as I travelled to school—'The same old bunch; the wife and the kids.' Rather, it will be, 'I work for the people of Sunnybank.' I am committed to working tirelessly for all of those who were privileged to have been born here and for all of those who have taken the bold step in choosing to live here. I work for those who are privileged to be employed and those who are not as fortunate. I work for those who are healthy and for those who are not and also those who suffer disabilities. I work for families and I work for the young as well as those who deserve every respect and dignity as they enjoy their years of retirement. It is my pledge today that I will do so for every elector in the years ahead who seeks assistance through my office regardless of their station in life and regardless of how they choose to vote.

To demonstrate my commitment to the electorate, I promised months before the campaign started that I would move from my home in Mount Gravatt, which was only a few kilometres from the electorate, to live in it. I did this as I intended to be a local member who works in and with the community that I will represent as a backbencher in this parliament. I wanted to hear what is of concern first and to see the reality of problems and the impact on my community. I have kept this promise and the weekend before I was sworn in in this very chamber my family moved to our new home at Eight Mile Plains just over a kilometre from where I lived for my first 18 years and just down the road from my first school and the sports fields where I played cricket, soccer, basketball and rugby. I am a man of my word. I will keep every other promise that I have made to faithfully serve as a member of parliament. Without our word and our reputation, who are we? It is shameful that this was not the standard that was adhered to and believed by our predecessors in office.

Allow me to return to the Sunnybank electorate for just a few more moments. Sunnybank is a unique electorate—a mini city within a city. Contained within its boundaries are QEII Hospital; Sunnybank Private Hospital; Archerfield Airport; a major road and rail transport hub at Acacia Ridge; and a large industrial corridor in which many small office, commercial, retail and industrial outlets and buildings are located. There are business owners and proprietors who provide great opportunities for other small businesses and large businesses throughout Brisbane. They provide employment and common wealth to our economy. There is also a vibrant retail and restaurant sector that is a tribute to the many thousands of Queenslanders who are able to bring diversity of culture and food to the streets and suburbs. The Sunnybank electorate has a great sense of energy and vibrancy that is demonstrated each and every day. In a transport sense, Sunnybank is serviced by both the Queensland Rail network and major roads such as Logan, Beaudesert and Mains road and the South East Freeway.



But all of this is not what makes Sunnybank truly great. Sunnybank is unique, with a diverse multicultural community that is questionably larger than in any other electorate with a real sense of community. It is a place where the dignity of all people is by and large respected. All of those who live in Queensland are much better for this outstanding example of Queensland in the 21st century.

There is a fantastic community centre in Acacia Ridge led by wonderful staff who go that extra mile every day for the residents, working with other community services to ensure that the needs of others are met in the community. But they are not alone. Rotary and Lions clubs work together to serve the community. This was extremely evident during and after the floods, when the community groups and individuals worked together to help their neighbours. Some residential and industrial parts of the electorate were directly affected and many other residents were affected through their employment. This level of community support is one of the features that makes me very proud to be a Queenslander. Another is the string of success of the State of Origin series.

There is one statistic that I must share with the honourable members today and it is one of the reasons I am so proud to be representing Sunnybank. Whilst QEII Hospital is only a relatively small hospital by Brisbane standards and has limited services, it has around 140 volunteers providing great services like patient visiting, craft, reading and, with the Red Cross, providing much needed medical equipment hire.

One of my first functions as the member for Sunnybank was to attend the service awards for the local Meals on Wheels where three members of the community had over 40 years of service and another eight members had over 30 years of service. There are many community groups in Sunnybank and there is insufficient time for me to preach their good deeds today, but rest assured that I will do so both in this place and throughout the electorate in the months and years to come. The same can be said about the vast group of sporting bodies, schools—both public and private—and the range of business, arts, religious and cultural bodies that breathe life and a sense of community throughout our suburbs.

A sound education is one of the greatest benefits provided to my generation and previous generations. It is a hallmark of civilised communities and one of the greatest legacies of a government in this state. Sunnybank has many of the best schools in the state, including the state's first and only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander private school. Throughout the last 18 months I have attended many hundreds of events and gatherings in the electorate in many different venues. Throughout that time it was abundantly clear to me that Queensland families are doing it tough and struggling to make ends meet and that is why they have given this government an historic mandate to help them and to support them.

May I extend a sincere thank you to the voters of Sunnybank. I know that many of you voted for this side of politics for the first time and while Sunnybank received the second largest swing to the government—over 20 per cent—I realise that this tide of support will well turn against me unless I deliver what was promised and that we continue to talk, walk and act straight, precisely as we have promised. I can assure this House that I will work constantly to ensure that we keep those promises, that the voice of the people in Sunnybank is heard and also that Sunnybank gets its fair and reasonable share of resources.

There are many issues that are of concern in my electorate over and above those that have been dealt with during the election campaign. Student accommodation in suburbs close to universities is a challenge in many locations, as it is in Mount Gravatt. Additional police resources that are used to provide more rapid local responses are critical given the current climate in which the commission of criminal offences has apparently increased. Rail crossings, additional front-line nursing staff and the delivery of infrastructure with minimal disruption to business activities are further issues genuinely and properly raised with me and are ones that I shall pursue through the most appropriate channels to achieve the best outcomes.

Prior to seeking preselection for the state seat of Sunnybank I was not active in party politics. Out of a deep sense of frustration that real people were not getting fair treatment and that there was a better way of government delivering services, I put my hand up to signify that I was ready to fight on behalf of the community. From my experience in the community and having worked in both public and private sectors, my belief is that government can learn much from industry and, in return, there are aspects of government from which the private sector can learn.

Many people have contributed to my taking a seat in this 54th Parliament. I would like to particularly recognise my campaign team, local supporters and their families. My team was led by Duncan MacLaine, my campaign director, and supported by Ken Browning, Reg Marshall, Juan Alvarez, Bill and Shirley Tree, Imelda Spoljarevic, Luke Manning, Tony Meredith, Jacki Clayton, Ben Faint, Brian and Kathleen Marsden, Marie Jackson, Angela O'Neale, Loretta and Brian Stewart with additional help from Ian Ollsson, Natasha, Vivian, Sheena, Mike, Andrew, Daniel, Claire, Julia and many more. I would also like to particularly thank the recently elected Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Graham Quirk, whose initial support and advice was paramount to the good start that we had in our local campaign.

To my fellow elected representatives in both state and local government in adjacent as well as overlapping electorates, the team work that was evident in our campaign was also key to the success

that we received and I thank you for your support. The support did not stop there. While we had fantastic local support, friends and family came from Beaudesert to Pine Rivers—and I must confess to the Premier that I did have some volunteers who came from Ashgrove. In fact, many of the people who offered and gave assistance had no allegiance to any particular political party and some said that they had previously done everything possible not to vote and they had lost faith in the accountability of government and in their elected representatives. This is one of the most important things that needs to be restored.

As far as in-laws go I consider myself very fortunate, not only for bringing up my wife with a strong work ethic but for their dedication and willingness to drop anything to lend a hand. To Janette and Geoff Bladin, I thank you for your much-needed support. I was raised in Runcorn, not far from where both my grandparents lived, with my two older sisters, Angela and Rosie. My parents worked hard to ensure that we were all brought up with good principles, a strong work ethic and, most importantly, became a strong and united family. After all, the family is the most important thing. To Brian and Loretta Stewart, Mum and Dad, thank you for all that you have done for me and my family. You are both an inspiration to me. If it was not for your help I would not be able to serve the good people of Sunnybank.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as you and other members know, running for public office is not a decision that can be taken lightly. It is a decision that impacts on family and friends greatly. I cannot pretend that the past 17 months have been smooth sailing. During my campaign there was someone by my side every step of the way, my wife, Kareena. I owe my appointment to you, my well organised and dedicated wife. There are not many women out there who could run and organise an election campaign while juggling employment and being a fantastic mother to two young children. In fact, my youngest child was only two days old when the election was called. You are my friend and my rock. Thank you for your love and support. To my sons, Bradley and Nathan, while you are too young to understand why your father is unable to spend a lot of time with you now, please know that I do this with you in mind and that the time we spend together as a family will be all the more special.


In closing, I feel privileged to join the ranks of many experienced members and I am honoured to be able to represent Sunnybank, Queensland, and this great democracy that many take for granted. I will play my part to ensure that it is safeguarded for years to come and for future generations.

I have been guided for many years by the companionship of many Cub, Scout, Venturer and Rover leaders and have been shaped by my friendships in the scouting movement as well as my family. Many remain my closest friends to this day. I have also been guided by these words by Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of scouting, whose vision for the future was so precisely stated many years ago—

Try and leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best

I will do my best as I have solemnly sworn to do in the days and years ahead. Thank you.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Ruthenberg): Order! Before I call the member for Logan, I remind the House that this is the member's maiden speech and I would ask that members afford him the courtesies associated with this time and listen to him in silence.

 **Mr PUCCI** (Logan—LNP) (5.00 pm): I rise to address the House today as the member for Logan and a proud Australian, grateful for the opportunities Queensland has offered my family. The fact that I can rise here as an Australian is not by sheer luck. The right for anyone to stand and have their say in this House and the right for the people's voice to be heard anywhere has been hard fought for and long guarded by so many valiant Queenslanders, in fact, by so many people from my home, Logan. I pay honour and respect to those generations, past and present, including our first people, the traditional owners of the land. In fact, I pay tribute to all those Australians who have contributed to making our great state, our wonderful nation, our home, a place of freedom and prosperity and a land of endless opportunity. The freedom we enjoy can be directly related to the bloodless development of our nation's democracy. There is an inherent stability provided in our constitutional democracy, with a parliament, executive and rule of law at its core.

Today I pay my respects to our Madam Speaker and congratulate her as our first female Speaker and for the role she will play in protecting and promoting the function of this House. I also pay my respects and affirm my loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who, through 60 years of loyal service to the throne and Queensland, has demonstrated admirably the qualities of honour, courage, commitment and a positive attitude. Charles Swindoll, a Christian pastor, author and educator, was quoted as saying—

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failure, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our Attitudes.

Australians have the type of attitude everyone worldwide adores. It is the type of attitude I noticed when I fell in love with my wife while on deployment to Australia as part of the joint Australian-US

exercise, Croc 99. The previous speaker seems to have made me all emotional. My wife, Anna Pucci, is a beautiful Brisbane woman who typifies everything that is so wonderful about this nation: bright, sparkly and full of energy, just like the people of Logan. On the surface, people from the outside may think we are totally relaxed, but just take a walk around my electorate of Logan and you will see real Australia bubbling forth.

The families of Logan are hard working and well set in the attitude of making things happen. In Logan and across Queensland there is a sense of a bright new dawn, an era of prosperity and opportunity established by the hard work of generations past and the foresight of our currently elected leaders. The people of Logan are honourable people. A handshake is their bond, their courage is signified by the stoic way they deal with life's obstacles and their commitment is shown by the kindness they show for their neighbours and the love they have for their families. I have been privileged to serve in the US Marines from Korea to Japan, from Saudi Arabia to Australia. In the Gulf War I was honoured to have fought alongside Australian troops to protect the freedom of the people of Kuwait. I have been exposed to many cultures and lived amongst many people from the Asia-Pacific to the Middle East and the Americas. But nowhere is there a greater group of people who make things happen with what they have than here in our home of Queensland, and especially in my home of Logan.

I am a citizen of the world and, no matter where I go and no matter who I see or who I talk to, I have learnt that everyone is basically the same in their core principle; that is, mothers want the best for their children, fathers want to provide for their families and each generation wants what is right and what is better for the next generation. No matter where one comes from and no matter where one lives or who one votes for, people are people. Wayne Goss, a former Queensland Premier but more auspiciously a former member for Logan, said—

I think anybody who has the opportunity to get into government... finds that if you apply yourself in a positive and diligent way, there is much that can be achieved to transform a community or make changes that affect people.

People do not expect much more from governments other than competence.

I am determined to make my mark in this place by ensuring Logan is front and centre in the minds of government, that we grasp the attitude of hard work and making things happen and bring about real change to people's lives, and that we finally take action and deliver for Logan, not just talk about it. We want change, not by implementing more government but by removing the excessive burden of government. I am committed to this honourable task—totally committed.

What a wonderful day 24 March 2012 was. From Weipa to Mudgeeraba and from Windorah to Maryborough, Queenslanders embraced the Liberal National Party's attitude of making things happen. They wholeheartedly embraced change in the electorate of Logan from Browns Plains, Regents Park and Crestmead in the north, Park Ridge and Munruben in the centre, Logan Village in the east, and Flagstone and Greenbank in the south-west. Those people realised that the Queensland of old, mired in debt and high cost of living, ground still by government waste and inefficiency, just had to change. Locals across the state called on the Liberal National Party to take charge, make things happen and have a positive attitude.

What do the people of Logan tell me they want? What do they expect from their new government? How am I going to assist them? The key to a successful future for Logan will be the work this government can do towards implementing the five-point plan that we took to the people. Our action plan is unequivocal, it is tactile, it will deliver. As our Premier, the Hon. Campbell Newman, has articulated.

... our action plan involves growing a four pillar economy—focusing on tourism, agriculture, resources and construction; lowering the cost of living for families by cutting waste; delivering better infrastructure and better planning; revitalising frontline services for families; and restoring accountability in government.

Growth in the four-pillar economy will ensure that Logan's stubbornly high unemployment can finally be reduced. We need to attract tourists to our area from wide and far. In northern Australia, we have a new Marine deployment and I want to encourage those serving members of the US armed services to spend their R and R here in the Sunshine State. I hope to use my contacts throughout Australia and overseas to bring more tourists to our part of the world. Logan needs fresh ideas to attract visitors and tourists, and I am committed to the task of growing our tourism base.

Logan must be allowed to take advantage of the mining boom by further developing its manufacturing industry. It is no hidden fact that Logan is a manufacturing community, with the 2006 census showing 15.8 per cent of Logan's population coming from the blue-collar sector, which was higher than any other sector. The government's recently introduced measures to cut payroll tax will boost employment and help with this process, as will measures to cut business red tape. Recently, I talked to business executives from around the world and local entrepreneurs who manufacture crushing and screening machinery for quarries and mines. Logan's men and women need not go west to find employment in the mines if we can successfully promote the local growth of the industries that serve the mines and minerals sector.

Once Logan was just a rural area on the outskirts of Brisbane, but now it has a diverse and developed economy. Driving our local economy is not only the manufacturing industry but also the

construction industry, which I am keen to support. It is also important that we support our traditional agricultural businesses, which I know are still developing across Logan, such as the Mushroom Exchange in North Maclean. As the local member I hope to encourage agricultural enterprises that are employment intensive and teach valuable skills like aquaculture and permaculture.

After many years of neglect by the Labor Party, in Logan our police services are overworked and under-resourced. We must address this issue so that the people of Logan can be confident they live and work in a safe community. The government's plan to put 100 more police on the streets of Logan and the Gold coast is a good start.

I look forward to working with newly re-elected unopposed Mayor, Pam Parker, and her team of councillors and council officers at Logan City Council to implement a strategy to ensure Logan shines and that together all tiers of government do whatever it takes to make life better for Logan residents. Logan residents can be assured that, unlike the tribulations that they endured in the past, I am truly committed to collaboration and listening to the community. People want an honest dialogue, not false accusations, blame shifting in government and name calling in the press. Ronald Reagan, a great American President whom I was proud to serve as a Marine, said, 'Government does not solve problems; it subsidizes them.' We have to move beyond an expectation of governments throwing money at problems, which in turn creates more problems and higher taxes. People feel like they have been taxed enough already. Throughout Logan locals tell me they just need a hand up to realise their dreams and a change in the machinery of government so that it is not overbearing, but instead is an institution that lightly touches their lives and does not interfere with people's opportunities, either private or in business. Government should have the same attitude as most Australians, that is, people deserve reward for their hard work.

My mind turns to the many people I have met throughout Logan and most recently during my campaign such as Frank Lipanovic of Crestmead, born in the 1930s here in Australia, of Croatian heritage. Frank is a school bus driver and is working hard in his retirement in the job that he loves, getting kids to and from school safely. I also recall Regina Keil, a young mother from Regents Park in her 20s who has a small bub and one on the way. Regina and her partner are working to pay the bills and build a great life for her children. People such as these are why we have such a great nation, a great state. In their lives and in their work they think only of the next generation and their kids. That is why we are the land of opportunity and forever progressing as a state, as a country, because we allow freedom to reign and opportunity to flourish.

Here, people think of others as much as they think of themselves. The government must encourage not hinder, promote not strangle, deregulate not regulate the lives of these people of Logan, of Queensland, who seek out a better life. It is an honourable cause to reduce the burden of government, and it is a core responsibility that the people have charged the Newman government with.

The honourable and committed spirit of Logan was truly on display in early 2011 when South-East Queensland was so badly affected by the floods. Generously, Logan adopted the Lockyer Valley Regional Council and raised over \$74,000 for the mayor's appeal. Our dedicated SES and rural fire brigades helped clean up on the ground.

The electorate of Logan has changed greatly since it was first established as a seat in 1872, with Philip Nind being the first member. It has existed in many forms and covered large tracks of the state since that time. It has even been abolished but always managing to be reincarnated. I would like to acknowledge that our previous state member was John Mickel, who also held the position of Speaker. I thank Mr Mickel for his notable work as Speaker.

Logan has had a leader of the Liberal Party and an Acting Premier in Sir Thomas Hiley, a former Premier in Wayne Goss and a senior minister in John Mickel all represent the seat. Sir Thomas Hiley, a member of the Nicklin cabinet, was a most colourful and inspirational member for the seat of Logan. Always immaculately dressed, always ready to fight for our state and take on the Commonwealth, Hiley was a highly regarded and austere Treasurer of this great state and he led the parliamentary Liberal Party. Hiley displayed the qualities of courage, dignity and positive attitude.

The story of Logan is partly an immigration story, a story of tribulations, people fleeing persecution, people just hoping for something better. Figures from 2006 show that 25 per cent of all people from Logan were born overseas and half of these from non-English-speaking backgrounds. That figure is expected to climb when the 2011 numbers are released. These people are welcomed by average Aussies who together work hard for their communities and their neighbours. The department of immigration tells us that most recently Logan has seen immigration predominately from Afghanistan, Burma and the Congo. We also have a very large Pacific Islander and Asian population within our borders. I will doggedly represent residents from all walks of life—Australian citizens and non-citizens alike. There will be no class distinction made by me. I believe everyone deserves a fair go.

Logan has some of the most hard done by and struggling families in the state living within our boundaries. I think of the homeless people that I have met in Logan and the struggles they go through. We need to get our housing policies right so they can have dignity and a place to sleep at night. And I think of the bright young people I have met at TAFE, people who want to finish their apprenticeships and

break the welfare cycle that some of them have told me hold their families back. These are bright young people on the path to success whom I am so proud to call the people I represent.

Within our borders we have a wide and diverse group of people from all backgrounds, like my family. When I arrived in Australia I started work in a cleaning business. Through teamwork and commitment, that business was forged into a state-wide facilities management company of which I became the executive manager, a position I held until my election. Logan's story is the story of my family—I am one of them and they are one of me. The people of Logan are honourable to the core, courageous in adversity and committed to their communities.

When I think of Logan's story I can't help but think of my wife's story, the wonderful Anna Pucci, who I talked of earlier. Anna is a first generation Aussie whose family escaped the ravages of communist Russia and then communist China in the dark of night to build a new home in Australia. I recall a quote by John Winston Howard, who said—

I thank all of those who weren't born in this country for coming here and making a contribution to Australia. We are the least discriminatory country in the world, in my view.

John Howard was a masterful political leader who showed true signs of honour, courage and commitment while at the helm of our great nation. Mr Howard recognised the importance of immigration to the national story and proudly talked always of our nation's rich cultural tapestry. Today I pay honour and respect to the man who did so much for our great nation and whose honourable example guided me into this place.

You may have noticed my unique Aussie accent, Mr Deputy Speaker. Growing up in Wisconsin was my greatest exposure to life's harsh realities of needing to work hard to earn your keep. Wisconsin, USA, is like Queensland—a state built on mining, an agricultural state with dairy at its core. I was the youngest of eight and at the age of 11 I started working shovelling snow. The money I made went to my family. Mum struggled on her own. When I was seven my parents separated and when I was 15 my father passed away. I was 22 when mum, Eileen, also passed. I was blessed to have the loving support of my older brothers and sisters during this period of my life and I thank them all for it.

My USA NFL team is the Green Bay Packers, a team that has won more championships than any other NFL team. These days I enjoy watching the Broncos beat the Roosters—in fact, watching the Broncos beat any team from New South Wales is glorious enough in itself. But, better still, at the top of my list is watching the mighty Maroons beat the Blues in the State of Origin.

The story of my family, both as I was growing up and even today, is just like the story of families from one end of Logan to the other—large broods struggling to pay the bills, folk who love and live their various sports and recreation. Like everyone else, I am proud of family. Allow me to honour Brian, my older brother and mentor who passed away just a couple weeks ago and was laid to rest on the date I was sworn into parliament, on 15 May. Brian organised my first real job as a detailer at a car dealership and helped me buy my first ever vehicle—a 1969 Buick Electra, a smooth metallic green. He was a Vietnam veteran who suffered the consequences of that war and has now met an early demise. Brian, I will miss you and always love you.

It is important for me to thank the many supporters and helpers that ensured a can-do member was elected to parliament for Logan: Betty Graver, who worked on our prepoll along with Hillary Newton; Ken Lock and his partner, Helen; Emma Paznikov, my campaign coordinator, who with my campaign manager and chair of the Logan SEC, Sean Black, kept all things under control and the campaign on track; Anna and Darryl Sluggett, dear friends; Juanita Gibson and her husband who gave much needed support; the people who manned our booths, Sheree and Boris Chipizupov, David Goodridge and his family, Ian Anderson, Martin Day, Telisha and Kellie Doolan, Anastasia and Matthew Speirs.

Thank you to my neighbours Terry Wiseman and Alex Surdonjic for your support. Wayne Upton, my good friend, thank you for your moral encouragement and everything you did and do for my family. Thank you Peter Paznikov and Ally Charles—two young people who did whatever was asked of them without complaint. Thanks to Kate Wilson, Felicity Stevenson and all those in the LNP team who provided guidance and support.

To Bert van Manen, the federal member for Forde, I thank you not only for encouraging me to join the LNP and run for preselection but also for your help during the campaign. I also want to thank the Hon. John-Paul Langbroek, the Minister for Education, Training and Employment, for the advice and support that you have provided throughout my campaign and for your guidance you continue to provide. Of course I thank the people of Logan for their trust. It is not misplaced and I will never take the opportunity you have given me for granted.


To my loving daughter, Nikole, and my son, RJ, and all of my family in the US: thank you for your constant encouragement and sage advice. To my darling wife, Anna, who did not just stand beside me throughout the campaign but at times got behind me and pushed. And to my two young daughters, Lidia and Marie, who stood by me through the heat, cold, dry and wet weather on roadsides, letterboxing and doorknocking: thank you my beautiful, sweet ladies. I love you all dearly and it is an honour to be loved by you. I truly am blessed.

In the spirit of teamwork, I am proud to say I come to this place like a forward prop goes to the field—a true team member of the Liberal National Party united under the leadership of the courageous Hon. Campbell Newman. We were forged from the Liberal and National parties, a merger that could not have happened if it were not for the brilliant vision of our party leaders. I know our party will set a course for Logan and Queensland that will reignite our passion as a state, establish a new positive attitude and bring forth growth and prosperity to all people from all backgrounds.

The people of Logan can be assured that I seek to be a proactive member of this House. I will serve the people of Logan diligently. I will work with honour, courage and commitment in all dealings with community organisations and my constituents. I will work together with them, always with a positive attitude, to ensure that Logan shines and it is a better place to raise a family, live and work. They will instruct me as their representative—I am them; they are me.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Ruthenberg): Order! Before I call the member for Ipswich, I remind the House that this is the member's maiden speech. As such, I would ask that you afford him the courtesies associated with this occasion and listen to the member in silence.

 **Mr BERRY** (Ipswich—LNP) (5.20 pm): I pledge my loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in her jubilee year and give my respects to the Jagera, Turrbal, Yuggera and Ugarapul people on whose lands Ipswich now stands. I pay my respects to Uncle Rossy and Auntie Narella and their families. Both of them gave me encouragement in my campaign. The occasion of the appointment of Queensland's first woman Speaker of this Legislative Assembly is momentous, and I congratulate the member for Maroochydore. She has served and continues to serve her electorate and this parliament with distinction.

The swing against the Labor government in Ipswich was an unprecedented 20.7 per cent. The electors voted for a positive plan and emphatically rejected the negative and baseless smear of the former government. I wish to acknowledge the Premier, Campbell Newman, for at all times remaining focused on getting Queensland back on track. To your family, Premier, especially Lisa, who remained stoic throughout: never again should the family of a public figure be subjected to such an uncivilised and unwarranted personal attack.

As history tells us a little about who we are, I am compelled to give a brief account of the proud history of Ipswich. This history tells of the spirit of its people and explains why Ipswich people are so fiercely proud of our city and its identity. In December 1826 Captain Logan, the commandant of the penal settlement at Brisbane, on landing his boat on Bremer River noticed hills of limestone. Some months later a burning kiln was erected, and thus began Ipswich's manufacturing industry of making lime from the limestone dug from the quarries by the convicts. This lime was used in the erection of stone buildings in Brisbane, namely the store buildings. Allan Cunningham camped in Ipswich on his way to discover the gap which bears his name. We remember him as the man who discovered a seam of coal on 24 February 1828. The settlement of Ipswich laid the groundwork for the four-pillar economy, for it had the coalmining, the lime making, the transportation, the farming and, by the late 1840s, the fourth pillar of tourism.

From the halls of academia to our sporting fields and in politics, Ipswich has a proud record of individual achievement that has enriched both our state and this nation. Sir Llewellyn Edwards AC, affectionately known to us all in Ipswich as Sir Llew, commenced his working life as an apprentice electrician. After injury, he studied medicine at the University of Queensland and then practised in Ipswich. Sir Llew was the only Liberal member of the Legislative Assembly to represent Ipswich. After being first elected in 1972, in 1974 he was promoted to health minister and rose up quickly to become Queensland's Treasurer and Deputy Premier. After leaving politics Sir Llew became the chair of Expo '88 and subsequently served with distinction for 16 years as chancellor of the University of Queensland until his retirement in February 2009. I stand here before you to pay tribute to his contribution to Ipswich and to Queensland.

The late Neville Bonner was a remarkable man in a turbulent time. From absolute poverty at his birth in 1922—he said he was born under a palm tree around the mouth of the Tweed River—he went on to become the first Indigenous person to sit in federal parliament, serving as a Liberal senator for Queensland from 1971 to 1983. Now a matter of public record, his contribution to the cause of furthering the rights of Indigenous people holds him as one of Ipswich's sons. These people I admire and respect. They gave a substantial part of their lives to public service and maintained their principles, integrity, humility and, above all, their core values.

Queenslanders, like Ipswich people, have many reasons to question the previous government's performance, values and direction—the loss of Queensland's AAA credit rating, increased water charges, increased registration fees, increased regulation, a waste tax, a dysfunctional health system, abolition of the fuel subsidy, abolition of the stamp duty concession, and the list goes on. Rising costs are eroding the already slender profitability of business in Ipswich and throughout Queensland, and everyone will struggle even further when the punitive carbon tax hits us in July.

But there is one issue in particular that can be cited as the reason the previous government incurred the wrath and fury of Ipswich voters. The sale of Queensland Rail was a bullet to the heart of Ipswich and an attack on the identity of Ipswich. It was a betrayal of the workers who believed that if they worked hard and remained loyal their jobs would be secure. The former member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan, in answer to a question from the now Speaker of the House, two weeks before the sale was announced, emphatically and without equivocation stated that Queensland Rail was not for sale. If it was not for sale then it must go down the annals of conveyancing history as the fastest sale in the west. I thank the Premier for committing to voters in this state that he will go to an election over the sale of an asset.

The devastation caused by the 2011 floods was vast, and it is seared into the memories of many Ipswich residents. There are still households and businesses in recovery mode. One example is Bob and Jihong Gartside, whose house and business were completely inundated. He suffers health problems but he is doing his best to get back on track. While Grantham and surrounding communities suffered disproportionately in terms of devastation and loss of life, Ipswich was not without its tragedies. I cannot forget the loss of young Robbie, whose life was tragically taken. To the Bromage family I extend my sympathies for their loss of a loved one. To all families who have borne and continue to bear the tragedy of the floods: we shall never forget.

I pay tribute to all the emergency services workers, the defence personnel and especially all the volunteers whose assistance and compassion in the aftermath of the flood were truly remarkable. Extraordinary circumstances bring out the best in people. I wish to make special mention of Van and Dianne Dimitrov, who spearheaded a relief effort for the residents surrounding Andrew Street, Bundamba. The Dimitrovs took the initiative in organising a localised relief effort, helping over 100 families in their area in their greatest hour of need. I thank the Premier for visiting the affected communities in Ipswich and at Andrew Street, Bundamba, to see firsthand the suffering of flood victims and the tremendous response of the volunteer community operation. I know that the Premier was truly touched by the stories of heartache and despair. This LNP government will do everything that can reasonably be done to ensure that South-East Queensland never again suffers devastation from such a major flood event as we had last year.

I wish to acknowledge Mayor Paul Pisasale. When leadership was necessary to keep the city together in the most challenging and perilous of times, Mayor Pisasale delivered. Mayor Pisasale was recently elected by an overwhelming majority, and I look forward to continuing to work closely with him and his council team in serving the people of Ipswich.

I was born in Brisbane to parents Keith and Lesley Berry, the second eldest of five children. I was raised in Sherwood and attended Sherwood State School, then Brisbane Boys' College and finally Corinda high school. I am very proud of my parents, both of whom made many sacrifices to raise five children—through the very hard times when my father had contracted tuberculosis which was obtained from his war years, to the time he broke his leg on his milk run and mum took over delivering the milk, to raising a family and putting us through private schooling. Until the latter days of his working life, my father was self-employed as a milkman in Corinda and, with little exception, made a friend of everybody he met.

I am also proud of the wartime service of my family: from the Boer War, where Sergeant RE Berry gave his life; to my grandfather, Charlie McConachy, a drover from Longreach, who served in the 2nd Light Horse Regiment and the great war; and of course to my father, who served in the Navy as a young 17-year-old on HMAS *Katoomba* serving in New Guinea. My parents always worked hard all of their lives. When it was their time to enjoy life, dad was diagnosed with cancer in 1988 and died shortly thereafter. I know my mother misses him, as do we all of his children.

On 20 July 1976, after completing my articles of clerkship with Ronald Edward Lowe and Clive Alexander Wyman, I set about earning a living as a solicitor. In 1978, I sought and obtained employment with Palmer and Williams solicitors of Ipswich. My love for Ipswich commenced at that time. After a short time with the department of main roads, I returned to Ipswich to enter into a legal partnership, and it did not take much time to convince my wife, Karen, that Ipswich was the ideal place to raise our children.

I have always been involved in the legal community. My time as president of the Ipswich and District Law Association commenced a natural progression to serving on the Queensland Law Society's many committees. In 2002 I was elected as a Law Society councillor and was ultimately elected as its deputy president in 2008, and I had the great privilege of serving as Queensland Law Society president in 2009. I enjoyed my years at the Law Society as it offered me the opportunity to tour throughout the decentralised and diverse state of ours. I have been fortunate to meet many solicitors and discover how actively engaged and committed they are to their local communities. It was during this time that I met Jason and Deb Frecklington at Kingaroy and we had dinner together.

I have also been fortunate enough to serve as a trustee on the board of the Ipswich Girls' Grammar School—and I note that Deb is an old girl. The experience of being involved in the running of a school was both exciting and challenging. School numbers were always a concern, when on the one

hand the school must sustain itself and on the other hand it must constantly update and improve its facilities.

I have truly been blessed to have voluntarily served with many organisations in Ipswich. I am currently a member of the Rotary Club of Ipswich City. I have shared that role with my wife, Karen, and I have found it rewarding to contribute to the lives of intellectually disabled people. Ipswich has a number of intellectually disabled people. On the closing of the Challinor Centre in Ipswich, the intellectually disabled clients were moved out into the community. With other passionate people in Ipswich, we created an organisation which provided assisted housing to clients. Eventually, through time, it was left to only Karen and me to run Service Assistance to Intellectually Disabled Inc. Ultimately, the housing became dated and more suitable modern accommodation was constructed. My wife has always had a passion to care for the less privileged. Just after we married, Karen fostered a six-year-old Down syndrome intellectually disabled boy, Paul, from the Basil Stafford Centre. We cared for him until his placement in more permanent residential accommodation.

Ipswich has been my family's home since 1982. My wife, Karen, and I have raised our children and have been fortunate in not only being welcomed but also making many longstanding friends. That is what makes Ipswich so liveable. Ipswich has a strong sense of community and by that I mean we help each other and we readily volunteer.

I am blessed with a wife who understands me most of the time. I have my weaknesses but she loves me anyway. She dutifully tells me when I am not listening and she finds my keys when someone has shifted them without my knowing. She was my school sweetheart and we have now enjoyed 37 years of marriage—38 this year. We are blessed with four children—Rebecca, Justin, Sarah and Hayley—and seven grandchildren, Tyler, Dalton, Ethan, Paige, Tivoli, Calum and Codie. I love you all. It was destiny for us to marry and enjoy a lasting relationship; after all we share the same birthday—I am four years older—and both of us suffer from second child syndrome. Karen is recovering from a near-death experience and she is on that long road to recovery and it is a road we both walk together.

I wish to pay tribute to those who have helped me throughout the election campaign and without whom I would not be here today. I thank the LNP Ipswich executive of Thomas McEniery, Juneau Limpus, Suzie Holmes, James Sedman, Ray Martin, Mark Smits, Kevin Rose and others. In all weather, Juneau has been the cornerstone of the Liberal National Party and now the LNP in Ipswich. Ray Martin helped me with putting up the yard signs and then sent me back out when I made the rookie error of not having the signs facing towards the oncoming traffic—very embarrassing. To my friends Bill Leather and David Love who helped me with the letterbox drop, I thank you. Bill would run 30 kilometres on a Saturday morning and then come out letterbox dropping with me. He is a true friend and I thank him very much for both his support and his friendship.

To Martin Corkey, a fellow Rotarian whose support, loyalty and friendship meant so much to me, I thank him for his support. I thank Kevin Rose, his wife and sister-in-law Macca who painted and donated a piece of her Indigenous art. That was the commencement of and probably our only fundraising. We started off with \$900. However, we did increase it a little over that by the end of the campaign.

I wish to particularly thank my daughter Hayley for her love, her enthusiasm, her undivided loyalty and her invaluable organisational skills. She put our roadshow together. She forced me out of bed. She forced me back on the road after lunch. She told me how to wave at cars. I received many valuable lessons. Hayley was a spruiker from past days and I did not realise there was an artful skill to waving at cars and waving signs.

I thank all of the volunteers and supporters, of which there are too many to name. I extend to them my sincere gratitude. Members should keep in mind that placing an LNP sign in your front yard in Ipswich was something that had not been done for a substantial number of years, so to those Ipswich residents I thank you for your support and your loyalty and for getting off the fence. The enthusiasm of the whole team was infectious and I am really proud to have been your standard bearer throughout the campaign. The efforts of everyone who helped out are sincerely appreciated.

There are special people I wish to thank. I thank the LNP Bundamba team for all of the cooperation and assistance that was rendered to me. In particular, I thank Michael Kitzelmann. He is a true friend—hardworking, loyal, unselfish and forever giving of his time. He showed me how to doorknock. I had no idea! He worked the hardest in any campaign that I have seen of any candidate. To come within a few hundred votes was extraordinary. Unfortunately for Michael, it was not meant to be this time. I pay my respects to the former member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan. Contrary to what happened in Queensland, she fought a hard but honourable campaign and I wish her well. Finally but most importantly, I thank the people of Ipswich for entrusting me to serve as their member of parliament. I thank the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! Before calling the member for Cook, I remind the House that this is the member's inaugural speech and as such he shall be heard in silence. I call the member for Cook.



**Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (5.40 pm): I acknowledge the Premier, Campbell Newman, who has provided us all with a vision for change and a strong hand on the tiller; the Deputy Premier, Jeff Seeney, who counselled temperance when things got heated during the campaign; all of the shadow ministers and now ministers who supported me over the past 12 months; and my colleagues of this the 54th Parliament of Queensland. I congratulate the Speaker of the House on her historic and timely appointment. I want to acknowledge my friend Eric Deeral, a Gamay elder of the Guugu Yimithirr nation, who held the seat of Cook for our party from 1974 to 1977 as the first Aboriginal parliamentarian in Queensland. I also acknowledge Edmond Willie Woibo, a Binthi man, a true visionary who left us before his work was done. He was my friend and mentor. I also want to acknowledge Detective Senior Constable Damian Leeding in whose memory I wear this tie today. I thank the parliamentary staff for their guidance and infinite patience over past weeks in coping with all 50 new members who, in the first week, walked around these halls trying to look important, acting as if we knew where we were going. An attendant remarked that we looked like a mob of ducklings—where one would go, the rest would scurry. That might explain how 25 of us ended up in the toilet!

Entry to political life has always been with the best of intention and, in most cases, a very noble undertaking. But why do we rise to the call to politics? The usual response is that we are here to make a difference. When I was posed with the 'why' question, it turned out for me there was no simple answer. There are, however, three possibilities—firstly, the phases of life. Self-interest dominates the initial phase of our life as children, teenagers and young adults. How do we get our needs met? How do we interact at school? How do we get on socially? For kids it is all about cars, bars and iPhones. Family occupies much of the second phase, typically involving marriage, a home, securing a future, raising kids with good values, stacking away super and trying to keep our hair on and our weight off! The third phase involves providing us with an opportunity to use our wisdom, our lifestyles and our experience to serve our community in a full-time capacity. So we transition from self to family to community. Serving my community is where I find myself after 35 years in the law. I can only admire those among us who manage to balance self, life and community at the one time. Having spent most of my working life away from my family, I urge each of you with young children to spend some quality time in your children's space as often as possible. Talk to them about whatever is going on in their lives because it is as important to them as the four pillars are to us.

The second-most compelling influence arose through a professional lifetime of battling government and bureaucrats as I witnessed the erosion of property rights and personal interests throughout this great state. By way of example, what successive Labor governments have done to the once great pastoral industry of Queensland at the behest of the ideological green movement would cause our forefathers to turn in their graves. I acted for a young family who about 20 years ago purchased a run-down grazing lease near Emerald, using their life savings and some borrowings. This family with their three kids lived under a blue tarp strung over a pole whilst they built a home and developed a lease into an exemplary grazing property. In true Queensland tradition, these battlers built a castle from a pile of rocks with blood, sweat and tears. In their hands this property became a highly productive, weed and feral animal-free enterprise and represented their life's work. It was that family's future. Their dream never faded, even with the loss of one of those children in tragic circumstances.

The grazing lease was over a state forest which had long since ceased being a timber resource. In the late nineties the Labor government signed a deal with the Greens to convert all timber reserves in state forests in Queensland into national parks. This meant that as grazing leases over forest reserves came to an end they would not be renewed and would be converted into national parks. This young Queensland family who knew no other lifestyle or vocation were going to be thrown off their family farm by a Labor government without compensation. They would be left holding a mortgage to the bank and a very uncertain future. They approached me for help and together we took the Labor government to the Supreme Court. The state started a war of attrition against this young family, thinking that we would run out of money before the matter got to trial. This was never going to happen, because neither the family nor I had any money and me as a sole practitioner did not have any to start with! What we did have was a determination not to be bullied by an uncaring Labor government, and when the government realised it was not going to win it folded and renewed the lease. I have not heard from that family since that matter settled—until last night when I got home and checked my emails. By some divine process, here was the message I received, and I have to say that these people had no idea that I was delivering my maiden speech here today—

Hi David, we both wanted to congratulate you on your new position. We will never forget how you got our lease back for us here at 'Crystal Creek' Capella, but is our battle won yet, as the years are still ticking closer to our 10 year lease running out. It is you that saved us from losing our home. I am grateful to you each day. We hope the change in Government looks hopeful things will improve for all of us that have leasehold land.

Regards, Wendy and Richard Barlow

This will be a matter that I will be taking up with Mr Cripps quite soon. This is by no means an isolated example.

The third reason for my entry into politics is opportunity. The electorate of Cook and the Premier, in his infinite wisdom, have given me an opportunity to bring a life's work and experience to the

electorate, this parliament and the ministry. I am humbled by my election and the appointment. It is my view that to succeed as politicians and as a party we must continually check in with our values and motivations. I value family, integrity, friendship and, above all, a fair go for all.

I want to reflect briefly on leadership. Leadership usually attracts such descriptors as strong, accountable, visionary and humility. There are, however, two important leadership qualities that became evident in the 2012 campaign. A good leader must define him or herself at the outset. What does he stand for? What are his core values? What is his history? How does he communicate with his peers and with his people? Our leader, Campbell Newman, etched his style early as a no-nonsense, fair and inclusive leader who likes to get things done and has remained true to this position throughout his political life. It has a whole lot more to do with integrity and trust than being popular. The second leadership attribute becomes obvious during the unparalleled and totally unjustified assault by the Labor Party on the Newman family during the election campaign. Campbell Newman did what a vast majority of the community would have done in his position: he got on with the job of getting elected and did not engage in the disgusting tactics of Labor. People want a leader who are like them and who does what they would do in a time of crisis.

I was born in central New South Wales a long time ago and grew up on a small cattle property and learned about hard work very early. I never accepted the word 'can't' as a reason for not doing something, and I still do not. My parents were not wealthy. However, they saw all six children achieve a university education and go on to lead productive lives and raise families of their own—although not with the same enthusiasm for offspring as exhibited by my parents!

I entered law in 1976 and was admitted as a solicitor and barrister in 1982 in the Supreme Court of the ACT and the Federal Court and the High Court. I was later admitted into practice in New South Wales and ultimately in Queensland in 1988. I was not known as a conformist and was never afraid to take the extra step to see justice afforded to my clients. I came to Cape York as a tourist in 1985 on a pilgrimage around Australia. My motor car, a current model Toyota, broke down in Cooktown and by the time the parts arrived I was a local—and they still have not arrived. In 1988, I set up the first law practice in Cooktown since 1935, which proved to be an exciting and richly rewarding experience, although not in any monetary sense. I purchased a small farm on the Endeavour River where I raised my family. I part-owned and managed a cattle station in Cape York in the late 1990s, which gave me a great insight into how tough life can be in Cape York. It was here I was able to live out my passion to play cowboys. Michael Trout has not eaten dust until he chews on the bulldust of Cape York.

I became involved in the Wik native title claim on behalf of the farmers in about 1996 as the pendulum swung to and fro in the courts—a decision favouring the applicants, an appeal that swung to the pastoralists, followed by another appeal and another round of endless litigation. It seemed to me that the pastoralists and the Aboriginal elders were saying the same thing. They had existed together in Cape York for a long time and wanted to sort out a solution among themselves. We got the parties together and nipped out an agreement between the pastoral leaseholders and the native title claimants that endures today. I was excited by this notion of negotiated outcomes and I am proud to say that the Wik claim did not thereafter return to court until the final determination in 2004.

I moved to Cairns in 2003 to put my girls through school, and I am very keen now to get back to the bush. I had never been a member of a political party until just prior to my preselection in June last year. There can be no doubt, however, as to my political leanings. I have made my presence felt to every Labor government in Queensland in the last 20 years.

I have heard many members who have spoken before me waxing lyrical about their wonderful electorates with diverse cultures and amazing landscapes and the exciting challenges they face. I can assure members that my electorate surpasses all of these well-intentioned but feeble efforts at electoral supremacy, no matter how eloquent, glossy or descriptive they might be. The number of visits by the Premier, the ministers, federal colleagues and other dignitaries stands as testimony to my claim. Who else can boast—yes, boast—dense rainforests, spectacular reefs, tumbling waterfalls, savanna woodlands, amazingly untamed rivers—and I dare not use the word 'wild'—the best barramundi and reef fishing in the world, cattle stations, Aboriginal communities, mining towns, agriculture and farming communities, and the jewel in the crown, of course, the spectacular Torres Strait, and I am not even going to talk about the weather. I rest my case.

The electorate of Cook presents an enormous challenge. We have talked about the mess Queensland is in and the problems that face my electorate are many and serious and I do not intend to list them here. I will, however, mention a few needs. For the Tablelands, it is all about infrastructure and services, cheaper power and water, transport, a hospital, law and order, a much needed wind farm and, of course, undoing the devastating impact of Labor's heartless act of amalgamation. In Douglas, we again have amalgamation, a sugar industry crippled by red tape, flagging tourism, no aged care and a stalled waterfront development. Cooktown needs all of the above. All of the industries of the Cook electorate—grazing, mining, fishing, tourism and agriculture—suffer from years of neglect, red tape, lack of infrastructure support and research and development. Weipa has a chronic shortage of housing and lack of essential services and faces the issue of normalisation.

The federal government's interference with the South of Emberley expansion at the request of the Wilderness Society is an abuse of power. It is a serious threat to the economic future of several Indigenous communities, the town of Weipa and this state. I will expend all my effort in making the Cook electorate an example of what works well by adhering closely to the policies of this government and its plan for the future. This will be done in consultation with communities and hard work.

I have lived and worked and travelled throughout Cape York for over a quarter of a century. Can I say that successive state and federal Labor governments have spent millions, if not billions, of dollars keeping our first Australians living in a Third World condition. This is a blight upon our country and cannot upon any interpretation find harmony with the vision, values and goals for this great state as portrayed first in the Premier's address to this House and echoed in every maiden speech since. The Premier and his leadership team have embarked upon a process of change that will define this government in the history of Indigenous relations as courageous, innovative and responsive.

My appointment to the position of Assistant Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs is as onerous as it is humbling. In Glen Elmes we have a minister who is unafraid to make the hard calls, yet displays great insight and understanding. Together we will represent a formidable force against those who think it will be business as usual in the Cook electorate. I have talked widely with the elected representatives, elders and communities of the electorate of Cook and, if I am able to exert any influence, this government will for the first time in the history of this state return dignity and respect and provide real self-determination to the Indigenous communities that populate vast areas of Queensland.

I believe that we should concentrate on the potential of communities to provide their own solution and not to continue to portray them as the problem. I believe in the potential of every human being to contribute to their own wellbeing and the community in which they exist. Indigenous communities do not need more empowerment, capability building, traineeships, partnerships or any of the other plethora of ideas that we have developed for them; they simply need to be given a choice. By providing all Indigenous communities with a choice to decide their own future, manage their own issues and participate in a real economy, there is an opportunity to bring about positive and sustainable change. This will be by way of community owned and driven long-term plans that will become a blueprint against which all programs, projects and funding will be aligned. With this comes a community responsibility for leadership, probity and engagement.

We need to shift our emphasis from spending large amounts of money on infrastructure and services that are often not fit for purpose. We need to support community growth and economic development. We need to provide every Indigenous person in Queensland with an opportunity to own their own home—a freehold home just like ours. Tenure underpins community growth and economic development. The biggest threat to lasting change in Indigenous communities is the welfare mentality of bureaucracy and outside agencies, all well-meaning but often misguided.

I now turn to the environment. In forming an alliance with the Greens for the sake of a few preference votes, Labor's failed environmental management policy in Cape York has foreclosed on economic development and community growth in my electorate. Labor has failed to comprehend that an environment comprises natural systems and the people who live in and interact within those systems. A recent independent assessment of environmental management in Cape York in respect of which the previous government participated revealed that the past practices have wholly failed to deliver. On a score of 100, where 40 represents a total system failure, Labor's environmental management policy rated 64. Like Labor, this policy is bankrupt.


The national park expansion strategy, wild rivers and the proposed blanket World Heritage listing of Cape York are all failures and have been overwhelmingly rejected by the community. We need as a government to act quickly to unwind the devastating impact of these failed experiments. The Wild Rivers Act is an absolute disgrace. What a contemptuous, altruistic and insulting attempt at environmental protection! Whenever did effective management come about by prohibition? All management strategies and policies must be inclusive of the community if they are to succeed. The three biggest threats to the environment we know as Cape York are weeds, feral animals and the Greens. We need to eradicate all three from Cape York.

I would like to thank my campaign manager, Max Dickensen, and all of my campaign team who drove me across the line to end over 40 years of mediocrity in the Cook electorate in a hard-fought and well-won election. I would like to acknowledge that my two daughters, Melanie and Sophie, are the light of my life and my inspiration. I thank my parents, my family and all my friends for their support. I acknowledge the tireless efforts of the Premier and all the shadow ministers who travelled frequently north to assist to get us all over the line.

I acknowledge Joe Hockey who launched my campaign, Warren Entsch who has given me unlimited access to his time and knowledge and I thank Barnaby Joyce. I give heartfelt thanks to all those friends, old and new, some who are in the gallery, who have supported me in so many ways, people too many to name but who I have thanked personally and to whom I am forever grateful. I thank Gavin King and Michael Trout for their unswerving support. We will stand together to make sure distance does not dim our presence here in the south-east.

I acknowledge Robyn Quick who not only would have made an excellent member but would have gone part way to correct the gender imbalance in our party, something we should strive for in the future. Finally I thank the people of Cook who have given me an opportunity to serve my community and in doing so fulfil a dream. I give my pledge before this House that I am determined to respect my people and my party and to ensure that the trust in me is honoured.

I would like to conclude with a referee story and perhaps a lesson for us all. In his maiden speech my colleague Tim Mander recounted his ambition to be a footballer. However, his calling extended only to being a referee. I recently received by email a request from a local football club which I scanned quickly and read it to say 'we need your support for a funding application and to be a referee'. So I got on to my personal assistant and I said to please respond that I was happy to support the proposal however I had not been involved in football for 35 years and would not know the rules to be able to be an adequate referee. They wrote back and said, 'We don't want him to referee the football, we just want him to referee the funding application'. This is a lesson to us all: read your emails. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you, parliament.

 **Mr DOWLING** (Redlands—LNP) (6.02 pm): Tonight I rise to deliver my address-in-reply. Can I begin by pledging my loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors in this her jubilee year. I also recognise the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Penelope Wensley. I also further congratulate Madam Speaker for her appointment and yourself as Deputy Speaker and also the panel of Temporary Speakers. I also commit my support to our Premier, the Hon. Campbell Newman, in whatever way he needs, to be a part of his team to serve this state of Queensland. I recognise his leadership—leadership in the face of the most vitriolic personal campaign from a failed Labor government, a government with nothing to offer Queensland, nothing to offer Queenslanders and nothing to offer its own constituency. I also recognise the class, the style and the dignity shown by Lisa Newman and the extended family through that most venomous attack and I ask the Premier to convey that sentiment to Mrs Newman.

I congratulate the LNP party—the machinery—led by state campaign director James McGrath, party president Bruce McIver and other executive members: Gary Spence, Barry O'Sullivan, Michael O'Dwyer, Matt McEachen, Mitch Redford, James Martin, Gerard Benedet and so many more of the LNP campaign team. I also recognise my office team, Lisa Horan, Penny Carr and Karen Lusk who made sure that the people of Redlands were not left wanting, that the calls were answered and that their issues were addressed during that hectic campaign period. I also recognise my local LNP branch for entrusting me to be the candidate for the LNP in Redlands.

I would also like to thank my family: my wife Helen, who is here tonight in the gallery, and whom I stole from the playground many years ago—30 years ago, actually; my two now adult children who have lived and breathed through five election campaigns, three local and two state; and my sister Sheena and brother-in-law Lance Hewlett, two of the best campaigners anyone could ever have on their team. For the endless roadsides, shopping centre meet and greets, rosters for prepolling and handing out on election day, I can only say thank you. In recognising Helen up in the gallery, I also recognise that we have some friends here tonight, Ron and Joan Morton, who have joined us this evening. I also recognise my mum Evelyn Dowling. The mums, dads, brothers, sisters and children of the 89 members here are very proud of our achievement at arriving in this place.

But let me move to the message—and what a clear message it was—that was sent to Labor, who still do not get it, who still have not apologised to the people of Queensland: Queenslanders do not want more of the same. They do not want any more waste. They said no to waste. They said no to an arrogant, self-serving, tired Labor government. They said no to debt. They said no to mismanagement. They said no to runaway inflation through cost-of-living pressures, water prices and the cost of running vehicles. Do members know what else they said? They said that talk is cheap and spin gets you nowhere, and that is what Labor had in spades.

Queenslanders want and need what the LNP and our can-do government stands for. The commitment that the now Premier, Premier Newman, and the LNP team articulated every day of the campaign was our five-point plan. It was to grow a four-pillar economy. While Redlands is not noted for its agricultural contribution, other than the famous Redlands strawberry, we appreciate the importance of agriculture as a key driver in our economy.

**Mr Gibson** interjected.

**Mr DOWLING:** I take the interjection from the member for Gympie. Everyone loves Redlands strawberries. My own community and that of the adjoining communities rely very heavily on construction as a source of employment and growth and development in our communities. I have a trade background. My son refers to my trade, which was painting, as a hobby as compared to his trade, which is plumbing. I also recognise the importance that resources will play in the future economy of Queensland. Without driving the powerhouse that is resources, Queensland will not come back from the \$85 billion debt left by this Labor government. The fourth pillar is tourism. Tourism is critical for my community and that of Cleveland, the Deputy Speaker's electorate. We have Stradbroke Island, which is so underdone; we have Moreton Bay and fishing; and we have Sirromet. We have that whole lifestyle

that is tourism. The other pillars are based on lowering the cost of living for all Queensland families by reducing waste, restoring accountability in government, revitalising front-line services—and that means, for Redlands and for many other members here, more police, more teachers, more healthcare workers—and delivering better infrastructure on time.

What a breath of fresh air we have in this Queensland parliament with so many new members, each and every one of them fresh and energetic with new ideas and commitment. We have cast a wide net and reaped a great harvest. I can only echo the sentiments of many other members in this House at the quality and calibre of those members who join us. The maiden speeches have been outstanding. They have been outstanding in their content and in their contrast. We have a true representation and reflection of Queensland and I congratulate each and every one of you. I look forward to working with you, mentoring you, guiding you. But more importantly, I look forward to each and every one of you working with me, mentoring me and guiding me as together we set about the task of getting Queensland back on track. We have each entered into a commitment with our constituency to deliver a better Queensland. A better Queensland may differ between electorates, it may differ slightly, but the overarching principles will be consistent: good governance, accountability and delivery.

My community is made up of a most diverse cohort, equalled only by its geographic diversity and its incredible beauty. I extend an invitation to each and every member to visit my electorate, whether to sail around Moreton Bay, to go boating, paddling or fishing in the waters of Moreton Bay or the Logan River, or to visit one of the five islands—Russell, Lamb, Macleay, Karragarra and Coochiemudlo. I invite members to taste the finest food and wine at Sirromet, Mount Cotton. Between wine maker Adam Chapman and chef Andrew Mirosh, I challenge any member to find a venue with better wine, better food and a better view. Members may enjoy a day on the green. What a fabulous vision delivered by Terry Morris! I recognise his contribution to my community and tourism within my community. The Redlands electorate has forests and parks to walk through where you can look for one of our iconic Redlands residents, the koala. We have safe beaches for swimming and foreshore parks for families to enjoy that which is most precious about Queensland, our lifestyle. We have a motor racing track that I have done a few hot laps on. We have riding trails. We are a cycling and walking friendly community.

Ours is a community that has been neglected by previous Labor governments over 20 years. That means it is a community with both great expectation and great opportunity. Residents have entrusted the LNP to free up those opportunities, to allow them to prosper and to sustain, through better transport, better development opportunities, employment opportunities, infrastructure, education, health and law and order—all hallmarks of an LNP government.


In closing, I add my congratulations to the new Mayor of Redland City, Councillor Karen Williams, and her new councillors: Councillor Kim Hardman, Division 3; Councillor Lance Hewlett, Division 4, who coincidentally is my brother-in-law; Councillor Mark Edwards, Division 5; and Councillor Julie Talty, Division 6. We share collectively the responsibility for representing the people of my electorate of Redlands and the southern part of Redland City. Not only is there a new positive mood in Queensland; that optimism has spread to Redlands City since the local government election.

**Mr Newman** interjected.

**Mr Dowling:** It has come in spades. I take the interjection from the honourable Premier. I look forward to working proactively with my parliamentary colleagues and friends: Mark Robinson, the member for Cleveland and Deputy Speaker; Steve Davies, the member for Capalaba; and the new mayor and councillors serving Redland City. Finally, I thank my constituents for voting for the LNP, for voting for a new Premier and a new Queensland, and for voting for me. So strong was the anger at Labor and the mood for change that Redlands no longer has the dubious honour of being the most marginal seat in Queensland, held by less than one per cent and a meagre 34 votes. It now boasts a margin of over 20 per cent and almost 11,000 votes. The honour of having the most marginal electorate now rests with my friend Aaron Dillaway, the member for Bulimba.

**Mr Dillaway:** I gladly take it.

**Mr DOWLING:** And he gladly takes it. I thank Premier Newman, I thank the LNP and I thank the residents of Redlands.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (6.12 pm): I reconfirm my allegiance to our Queen, Elizabeth II, by the grace of God, Queen of Australia and her other realms and territories, head of the Commonwealth.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I also acknowledge Her Excellency the Governor in opening the 54th Parliament of Queensland. Her Excellency and Mr McCosker have always extended the most gracious courtesies to me and my family on the occasions that we have enjoyed their company, which is certainly not lost on this proud monarchist.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I ask you to convey my congratulations to Madam Speaker for the unanimous support that she received on her nomination to the speakership of this parliament. Over the

past three years, we have worked together in opposition and we represent electorates that share a border and common issues. Therefore, I have every confidence in her capacity, not only to fulfil her role with honour and distinction but also to do it with her own style and good humour. On occasion, of course, that humour may be tested with robust debate and interjections from honourable members, but I trust that honourable members will be reminded when they cross the line that she sets. Mr Deputy Speaker, please convey to Madam Speaker my best wishes and remind her that I served with her in the shadow ministry and in opposition when she was under continual attack from the former government and that I was always there to backup Madam Speaker. I hope that Madam Speaker can now return the favour in parliament, by looking after both the member for Gregory and the member for Kawana. Mr Deputy Speaker, I would be pleased if you would convey that message to Madam Speaker and remind her of that fact.

In acknowledging Her Majesty as I did, I ought tell members that on 15 June this year Kawana will celebrate the most historic occasion of Her Majesty's diamond jubilee, which celebrates her 60 years on the throne. I invite all honourable members and the hundreds of Kawana residents and constituents who are watching the live feed of the parliament on the internet at the moment to the diamond jubilee celebration that we are holding in Kawana. It was unfortunate that our local council did not organise anything. However, I have applied to the Premier's office for the diamond jubilee pack, to get some bunting and other merchandise. Every year my Kawana Community Day Awards celebrate about 100 Kawana residents. I thought this was a prime opportunity to incorporate the awards ceremony, as we celebrate Queensland Week, with celebrating Her Majesty's most historic diamond jubilee. I am pleased to announce that her Excellency the Governor will be in attendance. It is a great coup for the Sunshine Coast and Kawana to have Her Excellency attend on 15 June. My constituents will be most pleased to receive Her Excellency into the Kawana electorate.

The Queensland public has had a say. As the Premier has indicated on many occasions, it is certainly the biggest committee in this state. That committee has put in its report and given the LNP a strong mandate to get Queensland back on track and, of course, to implement our policies on growing a four-pillar economy based on tourism, agriculture, resources and construction; lower the cost of living for families by cutting waste; deliver better infrastructure and better planning; revitalise front-line services; and, the most important item that the Premier, other members on this side and I have spoken about, that is, to restore accountability in government. I suggest that if there was anything that disturbed Queenslanders most during the campaign, it was accountability and integrity issues. On this side we have accountability and integrity. A little later I will go into the elements of the campaign that Queenslanders had particular distaste for. Accountability in government and restoring that accountability is the highest priority of the Newman government.

As the member for Kawana, I thank my constituents for the faith they have shown in re-electing me as their representative in this parliament. Of course, my foremost responsibility is to my electorate and representing their needs and issues. I strongly attest that I will continue in the same grassroots approach of consultation and advocacy that the Kawana constituents have come to expect since I was elected in 2009. I know that on 24 March 2012, many Kawana residents voted for me and for conservative politics for the first time in their lives. That was evident to me on polling day. People did not want how-to-vote cards, they did not want to indicate preferences, but, of course, their wishes were indicated by the vote at the end of the day. That shows that Queenslanders wanted change. They were sick and tired of their electricity bills going up and the cost-of-living pressures they were subjected to, and they believed that the opposition, as it was at the time, had the plans and the policies to get Queensland back on track. I am extremely humbled to be a part of the team that will, in fact, reach that outcome.

I am honoured and privilege to represent Kawana in this 54th Parliament. My electorate is a place I hold dear. All members assert that their electorates are the best. We have heard that said in every maiden speech and every address-in-reply speech. Members will hear it again from the member for Kawana. Kawana is where I have lived for most of my life. It is where my wife, Sally, and I are raising our family. It is a place that is steeped with opportunity and it is a place that is spirited with people who value and love their communities. Kawana is a coastal urban electorate to the east of the Bruce Highway and home to the suburbs of Sippy Downs, Minyama, Buddina, Parrearra, Birtinya, Warana, Bokarina, Wurtulla, Meridan Plains, Currimundi, Aroona and Little Mountain. It was formed in 2001, essentially replacing the former electorate of Mooloolah, held by my great friend a supporter Bruce Laming.

I congratulate the honourable the Premier on his election as Premier of Queensland, but what is more pleasing for me is to actually congratulate the Premier on winning the seat of Ashgrove.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The new members—and it is great to see so many of them in here—would not have experienced the last 12 months of the parliament where the honourable the Premier, whilst having coffee in Ashgrove, sent his troops in here in their flap jackets to defend him, to defend his reputation and to fight the former member for Ashgrove, Kate Jones. I would say that she took a particular interest in Ashgrove in the last 12 months. In fact, I think she made more speeches about Ashgrove in the last

12 months than she did in the entirety of her time in this parliament prior to the last 12 months and prior to our candidate in Campbell Newman coming on to the scene.

I think Campbell Newman will go down in history as one of our leaders who ran one of the most positive campaigns. He was not distracted by the accusations and innuendos thrown at him from all corners, particularly that corner over there, represented still by five members, some of whom were ministers and were duly responsible for that campaign that was targeted against Campbell Newman and his family. I think Queenslanders will not be satisfied until the Labor Party in Queensland apologise, apologise not only to the people of Queensland but apologise to this honourable gentleman in front of me who now serves as premier of Queensland. No-one—no-one—should have to go through what the Hon. Campbell Newman, his wife, Lisa, their children, their cousins, their aunts and their uncles—and I recall one press release, Premier, that mentioned dogs and cats—went through. No-one should have to go through what they went through when wanting to serve for public office. We fought a battle on positive policies, and I am just absolutely excited that Queensland accepted that campaign style and absolutely rejected the Queensland Labor Party's style.

What frightens me though, honourable members, is that the one person directly or deputised responsible for that is the member for South Brisbane, who was serving as assistant secretary of the Labor Party at the time. It concerns me deeply that that person now serves in this place and was put up by the Labor Party for preselection. If that was the type of muckery that she was going to be involved in prior to getting into this place, then it does scare me and should scare honourable members what that member is in fact capable of in the future.

We have seen in only the last two weeks how nothing has changed from that style. You would have thought that when the honourable opposition leader stood up at the May Day rally and apologised to the workers of Queensland for selling assets without telling them that they would have the decency to come into this place and also accept responsibility for that election campaign. But they cannot. They cannot do it because the person responsible for the election campaign now sits in that seat at the back there. And they cannot do it because we all know that the member for South Brisbane will be the leader of the Labor Party in Queensland in the not too distant future, although from the way the member for Bundamba was acting today, who is their little attack guru now I suspect, she may be running for the job of opposition leader.

But we know that the honourable opposition leader will not be there for long, because we know that the Labor Party had a plan for the member for South Brisbane and that is to instal her as leader of the Labor Party in the not too distant future. As the Premier said the other day, she is strategically placed in that seat behind the opposition leader. So we watch that with interest.

I congratulate the Premier again on a positive campaign to get Queensland back on track and for not getting involved in the dirty politics of that which is the Labor Party and which Queenslanders overwhelmingly rejected.

We talk about the honourable the Premier and its leads to family. His family supported him. We all have families who support us through this journey. Family is what grounds us. Of course without the love and support of family I know that I would struggle to fulfil this role in the public service of my electorate and the people of Queensland. I would like to thank my wife, Sally, of almost 10 years and our three children, Taylor, Madison and Jasper, for their love and of course unwavering support. I would like to thank my parents, Christine and Pieter, for their unconditional love and support of the Bleijie family and my extended family. I am extremely lucky and blessed to have parents who will do whatever they can to support all their children, something which I endeavour to emanate with our own children.

I would not be in this place without my campaign team and the support of local, good, solid grassroots Liberal National Party members. I acknowledge my campaign director, Ms Carol Humphries, and Ken Crooke for their leadership and guidance to me as the candidate for Kawana in both 2009 and 2012. I thank them for their honest and considered opinions and advice—particularly at times when I most needed their counsel and sometimes when I ought to have had their counsel but did not necessarily want their counsel or did not like what I heard. I always like to engage in grassroots politics and sometimes I get a little overexcited, and you do need people to ground you and to bring you back to a place or to give you a second option. So I always hold them dear in that regard for keeping me on the straight and narrow during my election campaign.

I thank the entire campaign team who have worked tirelessly and diligently for the past three years and particularly, I think in this new realm of electoral disclosures and funding laws, our campaign treasurers—laws that were not of our making, laws that were passed for the benefit of the Australian Labor Party Queensland division and the unions because we all know that Peel Street funds dried up. They dried up because they thought the Labor Party were not going to get elected. So, instead of accepting that proposition, the Labor Party came in here—and I was shadow AG at the time—and changed the electoral laws in Queensland to benefit themselves. As I recall correctly, we had the debate in parliament between the budget and Gordon Nuttall coming in. I think that legislation was passed on the middle day of that week.

We know that now in government we have an opportunity to correct those wrongs and I certainly look forward, as the Premier said, to that review taking place to those electoral amendments to balance it out in Queensland and to not pass laws that simply benefit one particular party. Hence, we are bringing section 57 of the Criminal Code back in.

Coming back to my local Kawana branch, I thank all the branch members and the state electorate council, because it was humbling that we received what I think is the second highest primary vote in Queensland and the fourth highest two-party preferred vote in Queensland. Coming into Kawana, which in fact was held by the Labor Party for a period of time—and some honourable members, particularly the member for Gregory and the member for Callide, will recall Chris Cummins in this place, who actually quite embarrassingly was the member for Kawana for a period of time.

**Mr Seeney:** The minister for nothing.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The minister for nothing; that is right. I believe he nearly burnt down Parliament House because he left his toast in the toaster and set the fire alarms off in his bedroom.

**Mr Seeney:** That's what he's remembered for.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** That is right. The biggest issue in Kawana is of course health and also jobs, the economy and the cost of living. The Labor Party delayed the Sunshine Coast University Hospital for two years, from 2014 to 2016. I congratulate and encourage the community of Kawana because over those last three years we have continually shouted in the streets, 'Hospital delay; no way!' We have run a successful, highly politically engaged and public campaign against the delay, because we have over 200 people travelling each day to Brisbane to get health services for a region of some 300,000 people on the Sunshine Coast. So again it was another broken promise by the former government. They said just prior to the 2009 election, 'We are building this hospital,' and three months after the election they delayed the hospital by many years. We have a commitment to get that hospital built, to build the hospital on time and ahead of budget.

I look forward to working with my ministerial colleagues. I thank the Premier for giving me the opportunity to serve in his first cabinet as Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. I do not take that responsibility lightly.

Queensland faces many challenges. Over the last two weeks I have been meeting with members, particularly the enthusiastic members from North Queensland, who have particular issues with juvenile justice and crime. We will get these matters sorted out. It will take time—Queenslanders are understand that—because we are dealing with the legacy of 14 years of failed policy.

I look forward to a new era of opportunity in Queensland—an era of job creation and cost-of-living reductions. The policies implemented by the Labor Party over a number of years directly hurt the people they always purport to represent—that is, the working-class people of Queensland. Yet the working-class people of Queensland use electricity, have showers, use water, fill up their car with petrol and register their car. Everything the Labor Party has done over the past 12 years has in fact contributed to the cost-of-living pressures felt by all Queenslanders but particularly the workers they say they represent.


I look forward to the opportunity for the Liberal National Party to right the wrongs. In my portfolio area we can offer our Safer Streets Crime Action Plan. We can tackle illegal hooning across Queensland. We can break the cycle of youth crime. That will not be an easy task, but it is one that all Liberal National Party members will undertake with absolute courage and determination. We understand that the answer to young juvenile offenders is not to lock them up and throw away the key; the answer is to encourage them and instill in them responsibility and respect so that they know they can contribute positively to society and get a job. We on this side of the House understand that.

I look forward to tackling the bigger issues—illegal drugs and illegal weaponry, particularly on the Gold Coast at the moment with respect to hand guns and sawn-off shotguns. We need to restore the faith of Queenslanders in our justice system by ensuring community input on the issues of sentencing and our laws. In my role as first law officer of the state I will uphold and protect the separation of powers between the judiciary and executive government.

I conclude by congratulating all honourable members on their election or re-election to this House. One of the best parts about this job is the camaraderie between parliamentarians and the friendships developed during these long sittings in this grand old building. I look forward to working with all members over the next three years, particularly with my colleagues on this six-eighths of the House, and making the state a can-do state. Let us all get Queensland back on track.

Sitting suspended from 6.33 pm to 7.30 pm.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Berry): Order! Before calling the member for Yeerongpilly, I remind the House that this is the member's maiden speech and as such the member shall be heard in silence.

 **Mr JUDGE** (Yeerongpilly—LNP) (7.31 pm): I am honoured to reply to the Governor's address. May I begin, as others have, by congratulating Madam Speaker on her re-election as the member for



Maroochydore and, significantly, on her election as the first female Speaker of the Parliament. I also congratulate all other members of the 54th Parliament on their election or re-election.

I value and respect my community. I feel humbled and privileged to represent the people of Yeerongpilly and I thank them for placing their faith in me. I will work with energy and commitment to serve my electorate, well and truly. As the member for Yeerongpilly it is only right for me to acknowledge the service provided to the community by the former member, the honourable Simon Finn. In doing so, I recognise the electorate staff who supported him from 2004 until the recent state election.

I have lived in the Yeerongpilly electorate with my family since 2003 and our affection for it continues to grow. It is the place where my wife was born and raised, it is the place where my two daughters have grown from girls into young ladies and it is the place where my wife and I welcomed the arrival of our first son.

Historically, the seat of Yeerongpilly has existed since 2001. Originally it was known as Yeronga, from 1950. The Liberal Party's Winston Noble served as the first member for Yeronga, holding the seat from 1950 to 1964. In turn, he was succeeded by Norm Lee, who held the seat for the next 25 years, until 1989. As a member of the Liberal National Party I am very proud to be associated with these two gentlemen, who represented the electorate so well for so long.

Yeerongpilly has changed considerably over the years and today is a very complex electorate. It covers the inner-southern suburbs of Brisbane and is roughly bounded by Kessels Road, the South East Freeway, the Brisbane River and Oxley Creek. In 2011 these waterways inflicted misery on many people in my electorate. I admire their resilient character and commend the work of the Yeronga flood recovery centre and the many other community service organisations and volunteers involved in supporting flood victims.

Yeerongpilly is a place where people from diverse backgrounds face wide-ranging issues, but to some extent they share similar challenges. Some people are still struggling to re-establish their homes after the 2011 floods, some people are struggling to re-establish their businesses, and other people are struggling to re-establish their lives and families after desperately fleeing foreign homelands. Many people are also struggling with cost-of-living pressures, and young families are struggling to secure a future that earlier generations took for granted.

As at 30 June 2010, the estimated resident population of Yeerongpilly was 48,314 people. I realise that each person in my electorate may have specific concerns, and that is why I assure all people that they have equal access to my representation. I will work tirelessly to improve health, police, education and other front-line services for my electorate so as to enhance people's safety and quality of life there. I will also work to improve green spaces so that parents can take their children to freely enjoy local parks, sporting fields and the environment generally.

In addition, I will work to address important issues for marginalised people. On this point, at the time of the 2006 census 1,642 people living in the Yeerongpilly electorate had profound or severe disability, all in need of assistance. Since the 2012 state election, many people in my electorate have informed me that the National Disability Insurance Scheme is a matter of high importance for them. I commend the Newman government for supporting the NDIS in principle, and I join in the call for the federal government to get serious by putting an affordable, long-term funding proposal on the table.

Taking similar responsibility for creating an affordable Public Service is a basic concept that the state Labor government also failed to grasp. Along with their incapacity to create and sustain an environment that allows businesses to survive and thrive, Labor's reckless spending is not the hallmark of a party that may lay claim to looking after working families. Quite the opposite. They deceitfully sold our state's assets and still did not pay down the debt. The shameful reality is that, because of economic mismanagement, the former Labor government is responsible for increasing cost-of-living pressures on hardworking families. It is the fault of the ousted Labor government that the Public Service must now be rationalised—a sad burden inherited by the Newman government because of the serious state debt, irresponsibly and unsustainably incurred by the Labor Party. Our side of politics understands that it is the relentless attention to the engine room of the Australian economy that is small business and medium sized business that fundamentally guarantees security of employment for working families, not Labor's obsession with building a bloated bureaucracy of false jobs on temporary contracts.

In 2008-09 there were 4,798 businesses in Yeerongpilly. Some 4,499 were small businesses, 253 were medium sized and just 46 were identified as large sized businesses. Many if not all of these businesses have struggled under the Labor government, responsible for stifling and strangling businesses with red tape—another Labor legacy inherited by the Newman government.

In 2008-09 the construction industry had the greatest number of businesses in my electorate, with 637 there—all typically small businesses. Because of the Labor government, many business owners in the industry are now desperately struggling to keep their businesses afloat and tradespeople and apprentices employed. The truth is that these good people and other business owners like them are the ones who support working families, not the Labor Party, and the fact is that the former Labor government failed to build an economy that produced real jobs on a permanent basis.

Labor also failed to build infrastructure and plan efficiently. In my electorate many constituents have informed me that they were not properly consulted on Cross River Rail or the transit oriented development. This angered them. I have assured these people that the Newman government will and can do better. Together with my LNP colleagues I will work tirelessly with the Premier and the leadership team of the Newman government to respect Queenslanders, including by honouring the five well-documented pledges that we have all made to the people of this state.

I understand that people, families and business owners across this great state are counting on us to get Queensland back on track. The Premier has spoken about our plans to build a broader and stronger Queensland economy based on the four key pillars of agriculture, resources, tourism and construction. During my life I have worked throughout this state and witnessed how the Newman government's targeted and much needed plan to support key industries and jobs in metropolitan, regional and rural communities is much needed. As the member for Yeerongpilly I will do everything possible to support our Premier and the LNP's leadership team to firmly set these pillars in place to revitalise Queensland's economy.

Let us not sugar coat the truth in here. The real difference between the members of the Liberal National Party and the Labor Party is that our members really do come from all walks of life. We possess the real-life experience and the collective experience needed to understand and represent all people and to competently perform our role.

Might I add to the personal backgrounds already provided by many of our LNP colleagues. My late father was a boilermaker and my late mother was a postal worker. My father, Clifford Judge, is a person whom I loved and admired. He loved his family, and during his short life he also served his country as a submariner in the Royal Australian Navy. Lyn Beasley was a wonderful mother to me and my brother, Leo. Mum did her best to protect and support us for her entire life, which also ended too soon. She died when my daughters were young and never met my son. Mum sometimes struggled to keep bread on the table but freely poured out her love upon her children. During troubled times in our young years, my grandparents, Alf and Dorothy Beasley, made sure that we were all okay.

My big brother, Leo, also did his best to help mum keep me in line as a kid but he stood up for me as needed and I still know that today I can count on him. My stepfather, Kevin Grubb, likewise made a difference in our lives and I respect him for it. He shared a few short years with my mother and brought her much happiness before losing his battle with cancer when I was 14.

These are the people who taught me how to be a good person in life. They taught me how to respect and care for others, to embrace and live life, to value it and, when the time comes, to leave it in the comfort of knowing you have made a difference for others, especially in the lives of children. I will always do my best to follow their example and live up to their standards, including as the member for Yeerongpilly.

I was raised by these people at Rockhampton where I attended school and then completed a trade as a motor mechanic before joining the Queensland Police Service in 1991. Over the past 20 years I have worked days, nights, weekends and weekdays as a police officer, paid a mortgage, raised a family and, in my spare time, have studied to gain undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications. I have always sought to broaden my knowledge and most recently completed a Master of Human Service (Management and Policy). I entered state politics to serve the people of Queensland. From this perspective, it has seemed like a natural progression from my policing career—from pursuing law-breakers to joining law makers.

As a sworn officer, I had the honour of serving people in communities throughout our state: in the central region at Gladstone, Rockhampton and Lakes Creek; in the northern region at Halifax near Ingham; and in the south-east region at Indooroopilly, Logan, Browns Plains and Slacks Creek and later at police headquarters in Brisbane. I have worked as a uniformed police officer at small one- and two-officer stations and walked the beat in metropolitan areas like Fortitude Valley to deal with alcohol fuelled violence in drink-safe precincts. I have served as a detective in arson and fraud squads and specialised in child protection, serving at a number of dedicated units including Task Force Argos at State Crime Operations Command investigating historical crimes and online child abuse.

Towards the end of my career, I also served as a senior sergeant in the policy and legislation development unit. I want to put it on the record that the Queensland Police Service is today a very professional organisation with rigorous systems of accountability to prevent and detect corruption—far removed from the so-called Fitzgerald era. It is an organisation that is made up of fine men and women and they deserve to be collectively recognised for their integrity. They also deserve to be respected for their brave commitment to upholding the law while protecting our communities. I pay respect to Senior Constable Damien Leeding.

I value integrity and commitment, and I stand here today equally proud to be associated with my LNP colleagues in the same way that I was proud to be a member of the Queensland Police Service. Accordingly, I challenge the opposition to move away from their smear tactics and attempts to portray the Newman government as somehow being on a slippery slope to an 'abuse of power and corruption era'. The Labor Party should have left this nonsense behind after its vile state election campaign. Such

behaviour now serves to warn the public that the Labor Party is still out of touch and simply cannot do better. While listening respectfully to the member for Rockhampton give his maiden speech, I noted him saying that every member of this chamber should commit to raising people's opinions about the political process and politicians more generally. Let us hope that his Labor Party colleagues listened to him.

Because of my real-life experience and commitment to broadening my knowledge, I comprehend the importance of ensuring that legislation translates into operational effectiveness for police on the front line who are tasked to fight crime and keep our communities safe. I also understand the importance of research and ensuring that political initiatives and responses are evidence based. To this end, I highlight the importance of information sharing and partnerships between our universities and the government. To illustrate, Griffith University's Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security is located at the Nathan campus in the Yeerongpilly electorate. It is an unrivalled resource that we can effectively engage with to help investigate and strengthen our law enforcement responses and community safety initiatives.

I will work tirelessly to create a stronger, safer and even more supportive community. I am proud to say that Yeerongpilly already has a record of being a supportive community. At the time of the 2006 census, it was identified that there were 7,314 volunteers in the electorate. That is more than 20 per cent of people aged 15 years and over, and it is a figure which is higher than the state's average. Many local volunteers joined the mud army response to the 2011 floods. I also recognise that a large number of volunteers regularly work in our local community service organisations and, likewise, many do their best to keep our sporting clubs operating. I realise that these community groups and sporting clubs are at the heart of community life.


To illustrate, I recently attended the 100-year celebration for the Yeronga Bowls Club in my electorate. Club officials, all volunteers, spoke about how the club was started and has developed over the years, along with the successes of the club in terms of outstanding sporting representatives. What I also heard during the evening were stories of people becoming lifelong friends and supporting each other through the challenges of their lives. For these reasons, I will do everything possible to support community service organisations and sporting clubs in my electorate.

At this point, I want to thank the people who voluntarily gave their time and energy to create this opportunity for me to be here and serve my community. First, I want to thank my campaign director, John Matthews, for his leadership, guidance and friendship. I also want to thank the other campaign team members who worked so tirelessly to support me during every week over the past year—in particular, Annabelle Matthews, Marcus Knapp, Anthony Stokes, Andrew Kriedemenn, Paul Darwen, Ray Wilson, Ana Brown, Angela Yin, Rhys Bosley, James Burgess and Judy Holland. I also pay special thanks to Deb, Eliza and Robert Matthews, Angela and Jules Moxon, Marilyn Wilson, Gillian Dawson, and Don and Lila Cameron. There are just too many people to mention by name but I sincerely thank everyone who helped me. It was a hard-fought election but I respect having to earn the trust of the people in my electorate and the privilege of being their local member of parliament.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank my family. My wife, Melissa, and two daughters, Keely and Haley, have all supported me and travelled beside me on the challenging journey to get here, and my baby son, Braden, has been a joy since birth and keeps life in perspective for us. I love you all and know that I am a very fortunate man to have each of you in my life.

I conclude by paying an everlasting respect to my late parents and grandparents who all helped shape me. I accept that they would be proud of me today. I feel very humbled and privileged to be the member for Yeerongpilly and reaffirm that I will work with energy and commitment to serve all people from my electorate well and truly.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Berry): Order! Before calling the member for Murrumbidgee, I remind the House that it is the member's maiden speech and as such the member shall be heard in silence.

 **Mr GULLEY** (Murrumbidgee—LNP) (7.47 pm): I wish to acknowledge the great privilege and the heavy responsibility it is to be elected by the voters of Murrumbidgee. I congratulate the Hon. Fiona Simpson on her election to the high office as Madam Speaker, and I congratulate the Hon. Campbell Newman on his election as Premier of this fine state. I acknowledge Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who in her 60th year as sovereign of Australia has set a distinguished example of public service.

Murrumbidgee is a great place, but do not take my word for it. The name 'Murrumbidgee' was first used by the early pioneer, Thomas Petrie, who in 1859 purchased a property in the region then known as Pine Creek district and named it Murrumbidgee. Murrumbidgee is an Aboriginal word for good place. If Thomas Petrie were here today, I believe he would have called it a great place.

Today the seat of Murrumbidgee includes the suburbs of Burpengary, Deception Bay, Griffin, Mango Hill, North Lakes, Rothwell and parts of Kippa-Ring. It is one of the fastest growing residential areas of Queensland, complete with its own bushland and national park, bayside parks, two rivers and suburbs where kangaroos still graze—a great place. But Murrumbidgee is more than just place names; it is great people and great communities—communities that were suffering under the last government.

Cost of living—surprise, surprise—was the single most important issue raised by people when I was campaigning. Of the thousands of people I met and spoke with during the campaign, the one

conversation I want to share is this one. With my manager, I met an age pensioner who said that they had voted Labor all of their lives but could no longer afford to vote Labor. It was humbling to listen to someone share their story about going to bed at 6.30 at night in winter because they could not afford the electricity. I could feel their anger, their disappointment and their surprise at sharing their story with a conservative candidate while standing in sight of the ALP member's office. Just a couple of days later at a public forum the previous member proudly stated that battlers are always better off under Labor. That clearly was not the case. What sort of government is that out of touch? Only a government that was, sadly, more concerned about itself rather than the people it was elected by.

The big issues for my constituents not only include cost of living but transport, and I support today and have always supported the Moreton Bay rail link. During the 2006 campaign for the seat, I actively campaigned for the railway at a time when my predecessor was chopping down Anzac pines to make way for the first and now only stage of the busway that was intended to replace the rail link. I look forward to working with the minister and the other two levels of government to see this vital piece of infrastructure completed.

I want to acknowledge the previous members for Murrumba. The seat is an old seat, created in 1912, and yet it has only had seven members, with me being only the eighth to serve. The most significant of the former members was Sir Frank Nicklin, whom the Premier spoke so positively about last sitting week as one of the great premiers of Queensland, who served Murrumba from 1932 to 1950. I know that Sir Frank Nicklin was known for his honesty—a reputation that I aim to emulate whilst acknowledging that a reputation for honesty is earned and not bestowed. I want to acknowledge the former member, the Hon. Dean Wells. The vanquished deserve respect and I acknowledge the achievements of Dean, who served Murrumba for 26 years up until his defeat in March. Dean has only ever been professional in all of his dealings with me and I wish him well in his future endeavours.

Who is Reg? What is my background? On being elected to parliament I am continuing over 130 years of service by the Gulley family to society. English-born Frederick Burgess Gulley served as the first mayor of the northern New South Wales town of Casino in 1880 and served as its mayor eight times. His son, Frederick William, also served—being the publican of the Byron Bay Railway Hotel, a different type of service but a fine service nonetheless. His son, my grandfather, Don Gulley—the Don—served Australia in the First World War as an air pilot and was injured twice. The town of Kyogle recognised his service to it by naming the Don Gulley Oval after him. My father, Bruce Gulley, who is in the gallery tonight, also served many communities, this time in Queensland—yes, and he does support the Maroons—in his capacity as a clergyman, an ancient profession, a profession that I believe includes the original community and social workers.

The other example of service that I want to draw attention to is that of my mother, Jannie, who came to Australia as a teenager with her family from Holland after experiencing the horrors of wartime occupation. The childhood example that my mother gave me in her own way was also of service in that my mother saw a need in her community and did something about it. In my childhood I saw her inspiration and leadership in setting up the Balmoral Uniting Community Centre, an activity of Wesley Mission Brisbane. This centre has been offering personal support for over 150 people each week for the last 30 years, working with the marginalised in society and offering them friendship and support. I am merely standing here today following the example of the service that was given to me by my parents.

I had the good fortune of some great state schools and attending the University of Queensland. I paid my way through university by fruit picking in the holidays in such great places like Hervey Bay and Gympie and by being groundsman during term. I am the fourth son in a family of six and my theory is that my parents ran out of names, hence Reg—not short for Reginald, no middle name—Gulley. I remember my first T-shirt which had a print on it. I remember walking to school in bare feet, making my own go-carts out of spare parts, taking myself to high school on the first day and I remember asking my father whilst still in primary school to help me set up my first bank account and getting the reply, 'I think you're old enough to do that yourself, son.'

Members will be interested that I was awarded the citizenship award at the end of grade 12. I was not expecting it, having only attended that school for one year. I only mention it today as the award was the Lin and Jann Powell Award. As many in this chamber will know, Lin went on to be Speaker of this very House.

I bring to this House and to Murrumba over 20 years of professional and commercial experience in senior accounting and executive roles in Brisbane, Sydney and London—and, yes, accountants can speak; sometimes—in industries such as communication, retail, finance, manufacturing and education. This background in the rough and tumble world of commerce has given me a wide set of experiences to draw from in order to serve both Murrumba and the state of Queensland.

What do I believe in? I believe Queensland is a diverse and secular society, rightfully represented by the secular principles of Westminster government. I am not going to be shy in declaring that my personal foundation is based on my Christian faith, of which I am certain will sustain me in carrying out my responsibilities. I believe in the freedom of the individual to choose his or her own course in life. I believe that the most important structure in our society is the family, which should be supported and not

undermined, and that we owe a great responsibility to our children to nurture them to their fullest potential. I believe we have a great responsibility to the frail and marginalised in our society and that government has a heavy responsibility to act on society's behalf whilst at the same time protecting the liberty of the individual. I believe that governments should be efficient, effective and ethical and face the heavy chore of balancing social needs, economic needs and environmental needs in every decision. I believe that free commerce is the best engine room to create wealth for both individuals and for society as a whole and should be supported by small and nimble government. I believe in the following quote from Martin Luther, one of the most influential men of all times—

There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor political, nor popular, but he must take it because his conscience tells him it is right.

Many people asked me why I chose to run for political office, which, for the record, I first ran for as a Liberal for Murrumbidgee in 2006. I can say that the catalyst for me joining the Liberal Party as it was known then was Gordon Nuttall's treatment of the health workers at the Bundaberg Base Hospital.

The more I read and heard of his bullying tactics towards the staff of that hospital and the complete lack of respect shown to servants of society, the more it made me realise he could not be acting alone and that he was only able to act in this manner because his party and his leader allowed him to. I came to the recognition that the once proud ALP—the party that once was a party of social conscience—was now devoid of ethics and, therefore, reprehensible. I could no longer sit on the sidelines and decided to do something. I refer again to Martin Luther's quote, 'My conscience told me I needed to do something.' Later in 2006 every state member of the ALP voted to change section 57 of the Criminal Code to allow lying to parliament—arguably the most shameful legislative action ever committed by the ALP. This only reinforced my drive to work hard to see this government defeated.

Before I start my giving my thanks, I would like to say that arguably the most satisfying aspect of the 2012 campaign was working with volunteers of such high personal character and integrity. It was such a joy to lead and work beside such a great bunch of people. I would like to thank Luke Howarth as the manager of the campaign, my financial supports, branch members, booth captains, booth workers, letterbox droppers, my sign site manager and the generous people who put my sign in their front yards, to the crew who joined me each Saturday morning for waving and doorknocking and to Bruce McIver and Campbell Newman, on behalf of the LNP, for such a great campaign.

In addition to my parents—and my parents are here today—I need to thank my parents-in-law for which my own family has relied upon so heavily during the campaign. To Captain Peter Hooper and Annabelle Wikiahu Hooper, I thank you. Did they ever think that the long-haired young man who turned up to their Petrie home in a HQ panel van would one day become their son-in-law? My last thankyou goes to the most important member of the campaign, my wife of 20 years, Jodi. I will not repeat here what she thought of me when she first met me, but I thank her for relenting to my persistence. Thank you for supporting my endeavour to serve and accepting the consequence of now living in the public eye. Thank you for your counsel and for carrying my share of family life. To my daughters, Tabitha, Cassia and Ester, thank you for the resilience, patience and understanding that you show your father.

In conclusion, my commitment is to return the concept of service to the phrase 'public service'. My commitment is to live to the highest example of public and private life. My commitment is to represent all constituents from all walks of life and regardless of political persuasions. My commitment is to vote in the best interests of Murrumbidgee within the political philosophy that I was elected to. I humbly accept the great privilege and profound responsibility to serve the people of Murrumbidgee.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!



**Hon. JM DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (8.03 pm): It is a great privilege to follow the member for Murrumbidgee and to see the quality of the members in this House that we have here. Obviously, the member for Murrumbidgee has made up for his short name by giving his beautiful daughters their lovely names with which they will be graced for the rest of their lives.

It is a great privilege to be a member of this innovative, new LNP government and to be re-elected as the member to represent the wonderful region of Bundaberg. When I look around this chamber, it is indeed a great pleasure to see the diversity of the members and the quality of the present government. Also, it gives me great pleasure to think of the future as we put our heads down and toil to serve the people of Queensland with a great deal of dedication.

For me, Bundaberg is home. It is a great region. It is a place where I decided to bring up my family. The region is close to my heart and I really appreciate the responsibility of representing it as its member. I certainly will not take that responsibility lightly. My family and I moved to Bundaberg and it was through my work as a police officer that we quickly became part of the community. For me, I would never have dreamt during my career with the Queensland Police Service that one day I would have the great privilege to be the Minister for Police and Community Safety. My 19 years with the Police Service has given me a valuable insight into police, ambulance, SES, EMQ, QFRS and corrections. There are many areas of my portfolio that have suffered 20 years of neglect from previous Labor governments. However, the LNP is determined to hit the ground running. We have already identified major areas that are desperately in need of reform. We have already embarked on a program of legislative reform that

will revitalise the Queensland Police Service and again give our officers a career to be proud of and to know that the Newman government and the community are right behind them.

In recent years, it has not been easy for our 10,500-plus police officers. Law and order was never a priority of the previous Labor government. We saw—and I served in—a Police Service that continually had officer numbers stripped away and its hands tied with copious amount of red tape and bureaucracy.

**Mr Newman:** They had no respect for the police.

**Mr DEMPSEY:** I will take that interjection. They certainly put the rights of the offender first, then the rights of the community and the victim came last, which is quite remarkable and a reason they are no longer in government.

This government is right behind our front-line officers. We will ensure that the rights of the victims always come first. We will be revitalising law and order in this state by delivering 1,100 extra new front-line police to where they are needed to fight crime—on our streets. We will provide up to \$275 million for this surge, with 300 to be recruited in the first year. At least 100 of the 1,100 new police will go to the Gold Coast and Logan areas. We will return 50 police each year from non-operational duties back to our front line. That means up to an additional 200 experienced front-line police over the next four years to keep our streets extra safe.

We will also plan to make sure that people who commit the types of crime that disgust all Queenslanders are given the sentences that they deserved. Under a Newman LNP government we are proposing that illegal firearm traffickers face a mandatory minimum term of five years in jail. The supply of illegal firearms will carry a three-year minimum term, while someone convicted of possessing an illegal firearm used for an offence will serve at least 18 months. The possession of an illegal firearm in a public place will carry a one year minimum jail term. The maximum penalty for serious assaults on a police officer will be doubled from seven to 14 years and a new offence of murdering a police officer will attract a non-parole period of 25 years imprisonment.

Under Labor, Queensland, and in particular the Gold Coast, has become a haven for outlaw motorcycle gangs and criminal groups. The LNP has a clear plan to tackle organised crime groups and criminals seeking to reap economic gain through illegal and criminal activities. Task Force Hydra has been responsible for the management and investigation of 83 operations targeting outlaw motorcycle groups, their members and activities in Queensland. After the recent spate of violence, the Newman government acted quickly to put an extra 20 detectives into the fight against organised criminals and outlaw motorcycle gangs at a cost \$750,000.

An LNP government will also act to toughen unexplained wealth laws so that the police will have an additional tool with which to combat organised crime. Police and the CMC will be able to apply for orders requiring crime groups to explain how they acquired their wealth. If they cannot, criminals will face confiscation of any unexplained wealth.

All this adds up to a zero tolerance approach to the type of crime that was allowed to fester under the Labor government. However, allow me to make it absolutely clear that these changes are directed totally at criminals. They are not aimed at the thousands of law-abiding gun owners in our society. We will build in safeguards to avoid them being captured in this legislation. To law-abiding gun owners I say that you have nothing to fear from the Newman government. On the contrary, we are introducing changes to our weapons licensing management system that will fast track new licences and permits via a safe and secure online facility. To outlaws and criminals I say change your behaviour or wear the consequences.

We have also pledged to provide Queensland with two state-of-the-art police helicopters. Under two decades of Labor, criminals and dangerous drivers were escaping detection and penalties due to the lack of a police helicopter here in Queensland. The LNP will spend \$18 million over four years to deliver two police helicopters to provide air support to criminal investigations and high-speed pursuits. We will also introduce tough new laws to tackle criminals who refuse to stop and lead police on high-speed pursuits. The LNP will introduce new fines and an automatic two-year loss of licence for evading police. Not only do they put lives at risk, but they cause fear in our suburbs and make life unbearable for those within earshot of their activities. The LNP will crack down on hoons by introducing the toughest hooning laws in the nation.

I am also proud to be minister for the tremendous men and women of the Queensland Ambulance Service. For 24 hours a day we have 3,200 operational ambulance officers ready at a moment's notice not only to take the 000 calls from those in urgent medical need but also to respond. Paramedics and emergency medical despatchers do their jobs selflessly to ensure the people of Queensland receive the best prehospital care available. The QAS emergency medical despatchers are the people taking calls from people within the community who are in urgent need of medical assistance. Imagine taking a call from a frantic mother with a choking infant or from a person first on the scene of a serious traffic accident. While you are taking these calls from a person in great distress you have to grasp the seriousness of the case, correctly triage and prioritise it, then select and despatch aptly skilled

paramedics. It is a tough job and they are truly the angels on the other end of the phone when we need them most.

Despatched to the scene are the country's highest trained paramedics, the QAS advanced care and intensive care paramedics, who arrive on the scene and commence emergency prehospital care. I recently attended the induction of these paramedics at Kedron. They are highly professional and have a great attitude towards serving the people of Queensland. The tasks these paramedics undertake include administering more than 30 life-saving drugs and carrying out procedures that not long ago were only performed by emergency department doctors. In the past, Queensland paramedics have taken on ambulance services from around the world and have won the Emergency Medical Technician Games. One can only imagine what those technical games involve. They are consummate professionals and we, as Queenslanders, are truly fortunate to have them looking over us.

Similarly, we are proud of the men and women of Emergency Management Queensland. EMQ comprises the State Emergency Service, the Helicopter Rescue Service, disaster management, Volunteer Marine Rescue and emergency cadets. One does not have to think too far back to remember what a sensational collective effort each one of these services played in the Queensland floods and cyclones Yasi and Larry. It was during these natural disasters that the people of EMQ came into their own. Before these disasters struck, thousands of volunteers descended onto our streets and into our towns and neighbourhoods to help us prepare for the impending danger. One only has to remember what the mud army did here in Brisbane. Over the last couple of weeks I have been fortunate to meet with many individuals and teams from all over the world who have come to study what we did here in Queensland as a community in relation to the mud army and working shoulder to shoulder with our mates and fellow Queenslanders. It is something we will continue to be proud of and the rest of the world is looking at what happened during those times and taking it back to their communities. All Queenslanders deserve to be proud.


After the floods and cyclones the men and women of EMQ were the first out there assisting us to get our lives and property back to as close to normal as quickly as possible. While the SES were sandbagging, the VMR were patrolling our rivers. While disaster management was coordinating food drops, EMQ helicopter pilots were rescuing stranded homeowners from their roofs. These are images that will stay with every Australian. They are actions that will never be forgotten by an entire generation of Queenslanders. I can remember as a young boy growing up in Riverview in Ipswich seeing Duncan street blocked off and looking out at the different boats and neighbours looking after each other. Those memories stay with me. The memories of the last floods will stay with my five children and the many children of this generation throughout Queensland for years to come. As I said previously, it will be the image of mates standing up and taking care of each other.

I would also like to highlight the brave men and women of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, especially the 34,000 volunteers who give up their time freely to help others. Their work has never been more important as we face a challenging fire season. As a police officer I worked side by side with these incredible men and women during road accident rescues and now as minister I look forward to championing their cause. Fires of today do much more than fight blazes. At road crashes they are there extricating victims with the jaws of life while assisting paramedics to stabilise those requiring medical assistance.

The QFRS technical rescue crews are among the best in the world, many of whom, along with specially trained paramedics, make up Queensland's urban search and rescue team. QFRS technical rescue crews undertake some of the most dangerous work of all emergency crews. To save the lives of others, these men and women undertake swift water rescues, as we all saw on television during the 2011 floods, along with conducting confined space, trench and high-angle rescues. We saw that type of rescue only a few days ago in Brisbane where an excavator had fallen over. The USAR teams were also among the first international teams into earthquake affected zones in Christchurch, Japan and Sumatra. And it was Queensland's USAR that spent weeks in Banda Aceh, after the tsunami swept through entire communities, recovering people trapped under debris and providing medical assistance to men, women and children.

Additionally, the fires of the QFRS scientific branch respond to hundreds of jobs each year with the world's most advanced hazardous chemical detecting and identification equipment. They work with volunteer scientists around the state protecting life and environments from biological threats. All of these fire related events are coordinated by the excellent work of the QFRS communications officers.

I would also like to honour the great work of our corrections officers. Our correction teams manage thousands of prisoners every day. This is a tremendous effort. It is a job that has evolved tremendously over many years from prison guards into highly respected professional correctional officers. Their job is one that straddles many aspects of the corrections process including that of containment, education and mentoring. While this government is tough on crime, we also believe most people can turn their lives around and should have the chance to become productive members of the community again. I am proud to lead a portfolio that encapsulates what is good and decent about human nature, and I am also proud to be part of a team that will get Queensland back on track.

 **Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (8.18 pm): For the ninth time I rise in this chamber to speak in reply to the Governor's opening speech. In doing so, I congratulate the Speaker of the Queensland parliament, the member for Maroochydore. I think she will do an absolutely wonderful job. I have been privileged to serve in this parliament with our Speaker for eight terms. I know that she will carry forward the dignity, application and diligence that she has shown since 1992 when she first entered this place. I also congratulate the Deputy Speakers.

I congratulate all members of the parliament who have been re-elected for whatever number of terms. I also congratulate the people who have been elected to this place for the first time. It is, indeed, a great honour. Many hundreds of Queenslanders aspire to this position by putting their names forward on a ballot paper every three years or thereabouts. Chosen from those are only 89 people. That is against a backdrop of a population of 4.5 million Queenslanders. In many ways it is an exclusive club, but it is a club that is all about representation. It is about making sure that we bring into this place a set of values and that we can provide service above self. As I indicated, if we look at the total population of Queensland, to have few people chosen is an indication of what a very great honour it is to serve in this place.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Premier and all of my ministerial and government colleagues. Certainly in his role before he came into this place, the Premier led us with a great degree of energy, tenacity and diligence. He was able to withstand what was one of the most regrettable campaigns run against any political leader or any political party over a long period. Those opposite will live to rue the day that they did that.

I express my loyalty and affection for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I am an unashamed monarchist, I have been for my entire life and I will continue to be so. I particularly congratulate Her Majesty on her Diamond Jubilee year. I congratulate her for the dignity and confidence that she brings to her job, for the wonderful way that she leads by example and also for the extraordinary leadership that she has shown as a monarch. I acknowledge her empathy for the people of the Commonwealth and the more broader communities of the world. At a time such as this, when the world is experiencing a great degree of instability and there is an enormous amount of uncertainty in our society, the wonderful thing about a constitutional monarchy, led by somebody such as Queen Elizabeth, is that it provides an element of stability and certainty at a time when people do not have that in their lives. I am sure that there are many countries around the world where people yearn for that sort of stability. Even though the United States severed its royal connections over 200 years ago, its people have a great affection for and interest in things such as the wedding of William and Kate. We can see that in many ways they yearn for a reattachment to the royal family. Certainly in a sea of change and despair, we have continuity. We have an absolutely brilliant and outstanding monarch who has been able to serve us very well in that time.

I thank my family who have diligently stood by me and provided me with a great amount of support over the 22 and a half years that I have been in this place. I thank my wife, Linda. I thank my four children, Megan, Jens, Laura and Thomas, who were born in the time that I have been in this place and basically have known their father to be away most of their lives. My wife does an extraordinarily good and diligent job in the challenging environment of raising children. That can be a significant challenge for a united couple who are both present every day of the week, but it is even more challenging when one partner is away most of the time. I pay tribute to my wife for being so supportive and for raising the children so very well in my absence.

I thank my campaign team, led by David Littleproud, and all of the wonderful people, who are too numerous to mention, for their support in assisting me in gaining my ninth term in this place. To my electorate, thank you very much. My constituents have given me with an enormously high honour. I have tried to repay the faith that they have put in me over a long period. Hopefully, we will be able to do it in spades, as finally we have not only reached government but have reached government with an overwhelming majority. Certainly I would not be able to do the job without my staff at a ministerial and an electorate office level. Every member would appreciate the importance of having really good staff, because they keep the home fires burning when we are away on long absences, such as when we have cumulative parliamentary weeks or if you hold a ministerial position or a position as an opposition shadow minister or an opposition leader, which are positions that I have held in the past. In some ways I have a degree of empathy for members opposite, because only about 10 years ago I lead the opposition at a time when we had about 11 members. That indicates the vagaries of what happens in this place from time to time. No doubt, the future will see those sorts of things transpire again, but not too quickly.

I want to talk about the LNP. The LNP has been a remarkable success story in Queensland. As we embarked upon the formation of the LNP over the past decade, many people stood in the road. Many people said that it could not be done. Many of those people were motivated by absolute and blatant self-interest. They were more concerned about the preservation of the relevancy that they surrounded themselves in over such a long period. The people of Queensland were yearning for something much more than that. The people of this state were sick and tired of the Liberal and National parties being incoherent and incohesive when it came to presenting a united alternative for the state. I thank all of those people who joined in the journey for the formation of the LNP in this state.



In 2009, in our first outing, in many ways we laid the foundations for what we were able to achieve in 2012. What we saw in the federal election of 2010 gave a clear indication of Queensland's growing confidence towards the LNP, which almost single handedly delivered Tony Abbott the Lodge after just one term in opposition. On this occasion what we have seen is absolutely extraordinary and unprecedented in the history of Australian politics. It proves that they who dare embark upon such a dangerous path in the eyes of some, but nevertheless a path of such reward, ultimately can be rewarded, but the greatest reward will be our chance to repay the people of Queensland for their faith and their confidence.

It is the people of Queensland who have supported the values of the LNP. They are the values that underpin individual aspiration in Queensland. They are the values and the ideologies of lower taxation, of better management, of smaller government, of individual enterprise and of individual responsibility. That is the sort of thing that establishes the individual, not the nanny state, as the most important consideration. That is the way that our side of politics wishes to operate as opposed to those who sit on the other side. We believe in smaller government; they believe in larger government. They believe in a government that intrudes more and more into every aspect of people's lives and that the people cannot be trusted to make their own decisions. We believe that people should be given more responsibility to make their own decisions. That is why we are going to make government far more efficient and far more effective, based around that very key philosophical value of individual enterprise. For far too long in Queensland people have felt shackled by big government. As we move towards a more deregulatory environment in terms of the amount of regulation that binds up people as individuals or businesses, we will see aspiration once again rise to the top and not be constrained and shackled as we have seen in Queensland in recent decades under Labor.

We will also see a way of rebuilding government in this state that is far more service orientated. Indeed, in my portfolio area of health I am hoping to preside over the further breakdown and devolution of the health system and put control back into our communities. In the time that I have been in this place, in just over 20 years, I have seen the community become disempowered. We need to re-empower the community. We need to give them control over their own destiny.

When I came into this place in the early 1990s we still had hospital boards, we had ambulance boards, we had fire boards and we had a whole range of other areas that were devolved to the community. We saw a situation where people were far more comfortable and more confident with what was happening in their community because they felt that they owned the decisions, that they were in charge of the decisions that the government was making and that they had some say.

What we have seen happen in the last 20 years is an encroaching process of centralism and socialism where we have seen the previous government go into communities and say, 'This is our solution for you; now you implement it for us.' We look at it a different way. We actually believe that the individual has all the inherent capability of being able to deliver the best outcomes around their communities. We are not like Mao's China, where we all run around in little Mao suits, dressed up and jumping around singing Mao chants. People live in different areas of Queensland because of the particular peculiarities of those areas—the things that really tickle them, the things that really make them feel a part of that community. Indeed, my colleague the honourable member for Mundingburra is seeking to re-establish that as he re-engages with local government around Queensland.

One of the saddest things the Labor Party did was basically disembowel and disempower local communities through the process of forced amalgamations. The reason that people choose to live in different parts of Queensland is that there are different things about those places, different flavours, that they like. That is the great thing about being individuals in a libertarian society. You cannot force people to be all the same. That is what Labor basically sought to do. That is why people revolted so much. That is why we have seen such angst when it comes to a one-size-fits-all approach by the Labor Party opposite. We are going to give the community the opportunity to reconnect and to actually have faith and confidence in the government—a government which is their servant, not their master.

In health I look forward to the opportunity to value our 82,000 staff, those people who principally make up about 80 per cent of front-line workers—our doctors, our nurses, our allied health professionals, the people who provide the clinical and technical support that backs them up and who are also supported by an appropriately resourced back office. Indeed, there will be changes in health and in the way that the health organisation operates in the future, and so there should be, because I think that we have seen living proof of what happens when you centralise, as I said before—that is, going away from a community owned, community controlled, maximum community input to the way health care is delivered to a maximum centralist model. My vision for Queensland Health is to see Queensland Health—the central agency—be lean, be focused and having the role of being system manager, concentrating on best policy for the state of Queensland and working with our hospital boards as they go about connecting their local community.

I believe that we should trust in local people to be able to deliver. They have proven they could do it in the past, so they can actually do it in the future. My values for Queensland Health are these: having better services for our patients; having better community health; valuing Queensland Health employees

and empowering in particular our front-line staff; empowering local communities with a greater say over their hospital and local health services—that is, what we are going to do with our hospital boards which we will be debating in this place some time in the next few weeks or so—and having an approach of openness, because we did not see an approach of openness enough from those members opposite when they were in government. I think that if you take people into your confidence then they are going to understand some of the realities and some of the challenges of Queensland Health.

The situation is this: we all understand that there are two ways of getting access to health services—the first is that you are able to pay for it; the second is time. So you either have to open your wallet or you have to wait for it. The issue when you are dealing with a public health system is how long is a reasonable time to wait for a service. Indeed, when we have people on our books who have been waiting—whether it be for a dental appointment, a dental procedure or another medical procedure—in some cases beyond 10 years, you would have to say that that is indeed too long. Most people understand that they do have to wait some considerable period of time in some cases to access a public health service, but they do draw the line at something which is unreasonable.

What I envisage is that the waiting list figures, including the list of people who are waiting to see a specialist, will ultimately be published and published reliably and published regularly so that people know what they are confronted with when they are dealing with our public health system in Queensland and to have a range of options so that they and their medical advisers and their treating doctors know where they might be able to access a service much earlier. Those sorts of things I think people understand and appreciate do need to be done as we go forward.

I look forward to the opportunity to roll out the LNP's mums and bubs policy, which will see us invest \$92 million in providing the best—the best—care for mothers and babies across Queensland. That will see them being able to have a home visit at two and four weeks and then having access at two, four, eight and 12 months to a maternity health facility so that those mothers can be supported in what can be a very challenging time in their life.

I have also had the great opportunity in recent weeks to travel to Townsville with my colleagues to make our commitment to ensuring that the paediatric intensive care service in Townsville can get up and going, to make that commitment so that service can get up and going on 1 July this year. We know that that is a very, very important regional tertiary hospital in a remote area of Queensland which has a huge catchment area. Therefore, to establish a facility such as this, which will see fewer children with intensive care paediatric needs having to be flown down to Brisbane, will be of significant benefit to the people of not only Townsville but also the catchment area across North Queensland.

I have also had the opportunity to put in place the first stage of our commitment to moving Cairns Base Hospital towards becoming a tier 1 facility—the first stage of a \$15 million commitment to enable that hospital to advance to the next stage of being able to take on additional clinical services, advanced clinical services. This commitment of \$4 million only recently was the first stage of our \$15 million commitment to upgrade the capability of that hospital over the next three to four years. That is a commitment that recognises that people in rural and remote and regional areas do have to travel quite extensive distances to access patient care and that is very costly. That is why our enhancement to the patient transport assistance scheme will see us, during the course of this term, advance the kilometric allowance from 15c a kilometre to 30c a kilometre and advance the accommodation allowance from \$30 per night to \$60 per night.

At the same time, we will be working to ensure that we can re-establish a whole range of rural and regional services which have been taken away over a period of time, and a lot of that happened around the abolition of the boards some 20 years ago. It became a self-fulfilling prophecy as it became regionalised, then centralised and then embraced in a district model which was unworkable and unrepresentative. Therefore, we saw an attitude within government which actually took services that could be competently, safely and clinically provided in those areas and moved them to major regional centres and then moved even further on to our capital city hospitals. We need to be able to give people more access to those services in their local areas.

I also look forward to implementing our \$129 million commitment for better access for emergency healthcare needs across Queensland, where we can actually bring on board more front-line staff in peak times and also make an investment in reducing the long wait surgery times in Queensland by up to 8,000. We have also made a \$12 million commitment for 44,000 extra public specialist outpatient appointments. One of the great challenges we have is those people who are waiting to see a specialist to be assessed as to whether they need further surgical care or whether their healthcare needs can be dealt with in another way.

I look forward to doing all of those things against the background and the realisation that I still have to represent the wonderful people of Southern Downs and the many things that they will be looking to this government to deliver for them as well as we go about establishing our four key pillars of the Queensland economy, re-establishing DPI and delivering better services in their area.



**Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (8.39 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise in reply to the Governor of

Queensland's opening speech, delivered on Wednesday, 16 May 2012, as a member of Queensland's 54th Parliament. As so many others here in this parliament have done, I pledge my loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

I am deeply privileged to have been asked to be the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games in the Newman government—a government with a plan to get Queensland back on track—and I wish to place on record what a great honour it is to serve the people of the Currumbin electorate for a fourth term. I thank them for once again placing their faith in me to be their representative in the state parliament, and I assure them that I am as dedicated and as enthusiastic as I was in February 2004. There are still days on which I walk around the Currumbin foreshore that I have to pinch myself that I really do represent this electorate, blessed with such great people and such breathtaking natural beauty.

I extend my sincere congratulations to every newly elected member and to my colleagues upon their successful re-election, in particular the class of 2004. I would also like to congratulate the honourable member for Maroochydore upon her election and subsequent appointment as Madam Speaker, making history to become Queensland's first female in this role. Having worked with the honourable member for a number of years in this House, I am sure that she will foster fairness and respect in her new role.

After so many years in opposition it is indeed a rewarding, yet somewhat surreal, feeling to be the government. Having said that, I am acutely aware of the responsibility that brings to each of us and the high expectations of the people of Queensland, as well as the legacy of debt left behind by years of Labor's incompetence and reckless spending.

The LNP members are all indebted to our Premier, Campbell Newman, for his herculean efforts and strong, decisive leadership which saw us win 78 seats in the Queensland parliament. My colleagues the honourable members for Clayfield and Callide are to be applauded for steering us along the tumultuous journey leading up to the state election. And let us not forget the formation of the LNP under the guidance of the honourable member for Southern Downs and the honourable member for Caloundra. We have much to thank them for.

However, it was our leader, Campbell Newman, and his family who were targeted incessantly, in a cowardly and callous manner that eventually disgusted even the most loyal of Labor voters. As they say, though, what goes around comes around. And the rest is now history. Like I said, Labor voters were appalled by this gutter campaign and were further disenchanted when Labor ran a candidate in Currumbin who lived in Brisbane and did not even bother to set foot in the electorate—not even on polling day.

Much has been said about the 2012 election being a dirty campaign—if not the dirtiest campaign in Queensland history. Well, I have seen a few in my time, and I can say that the dishing of dirt started well before the campaign proper. It was the normal behaviour of Labor in this House as they showed a complete lack of respect for the parliament and those of us on opposition benches.

Elections require enormous amounts of human resources, and it is fitting that the scores of people who volunteered to assist in some way in the lead-up to and during polling day are adequately recognised and applauded for their significant efforts. Some of my new colleagues campaigned solidly for 18 months prior to the election, putting in marathon efforts which clearly contributed enormously to the outcome. Travelling around the state in my shadow ministerial role I got to know many candidates and saw firsthand the hard yards that they were putting in. Now, here they are as honourable members of this parliament. And I am sure they will continue to put in the hard yards with renewed vigour as we get on with lowering the cost of living and making Queensland a powerhouse once again.

As the mentoring member for the seat of Burleigh I wish to acknowledge the hard work of Michael Hart and his team. Stumping up for a third tilt in a row takes a lot of persistence and, to Michael's credit, he kept working away on local issues for the betterment of his community.

I now wish to express my deep gratitude to the members of my campaign team and my branch, many of whom have been campaigning on my behalf for literally over a decade. Currumbin are a vibrant and active group of people who are always ready to lend a hand. Thank you, one and all, for your friendship and belief in me as your member.

To salt-of-the-earth residents like Bill Garay, who gave up three weeks to man three poll booths, one of them a very quiet one that had maybe 10 votes a day: I say thank you. Countless others assisted with fundraising, hosting signage, feeding the troops on polling day and numerous related tasks. I am truly grateful to each one of them. To my fantastic campaign team—Richard Stuckey, Carley McNeil, Tim Gear, Peter Barrett, Ben Naday, Anne and Robert Wright, Virginia Freebody and Minna Knight: you are simply the best. I would also like to thank my hardworking electorate office staff, Robin Prior and Kadie Scott, for making sure that constituents are respectfully and efficiently handled; and my former policy adviser Michael Read for his guidance and support. The team at LNP headquarters did a fantastic job over such a long period of time. I say well done to all concerned.

The support of family has featured in members' maiden and not-so-maiden speeches. I am no different and simply could not have managed without the love and sustenance of my husband, Richard. He has made many sacrifices over the years for me to realise this goal, and I am profoundly appreciative of his generosity of spirit. It was also very comforting to have both our children, Olivia and Edward, home for the election, to share in this historic and humbling victory.

As I said earlier in my speech, Currumbin is blessed with attributes. Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is one of these. The LNP announced a pre-election pledge to a \$26.5 million koala protection policy, with some funds allocated towards koala rescue and rehabilitation services. I will continue to wholeheartedly support the sanctuary and the incredible efforts of the staff and volunteers at the wildlife hospital to gain a share of any available funding so they can continue their life-saving work.

Law and order remains an issue in the Currumbin electorate, with residents continuously contacting me with concerns about hooning, graffiti and general crime. Extra police numbers pledged by the LNP during the election are sorely needed. Already our minister for police has put 20 detectives into the Gold Coast at a cost of \$750,000, and at least 100 of the 1,100 new police promised by the LNP will be sent to the Gold Coast and Logan areas. Unlike Labor, the LNP is tough on crime.

In 2008 I started a Hoon Watch initiative to provide an avenue for the community to appropriately report incidents of hooning. Under the Newman government, the residents of Currumbin will finally see some action against these hoons with our plans to introduce the toughest hooning laws in Australia. Offenders will see their cars clamped and off the road for their first offence, and subsequent offences will see the cars forfeited or crushed. These laws will send a strong message to hoons that their activities will no longer be tolerated and will provide some peace of mind for the residents of Currumbin in their bid to make our streets safer.

The government also has followed through with its promise to continue funding the police helicopter for the Gold Coast. Our police minister, the honourable member for Bundaberg, announced that the chopper will be funded by the state government for 20 hours of flying time per week.

The Newman government has also shown its support for Neighbourhood Watch, a wonderful community initiative, by providing an extra \$1 million a year in funding to boost community policing initiatives. Currumbin has seven Neighbourhood Watch groups which will benefit from this commitment. These groups are so important in our community, and it is refreshing to note that we as the new government will ensure their presence can continue to be felt throughout Queensland.

The Currumbin electorate has suffered enormously under 20 years of Labor government, with cost-of-living pressures through the roof. Under the Newman government Currumbin will immediately begin to feel the ease in cost-of-living pressures, with the introduction of a number of LNP initiatives.

Ongoing issues surrounding the \$1.2 billion desalination plant in Tugun have caused enormous upheaval and unrest for residents in my electorate. The previous government was only too happy to pose for photo opportunities while this showpiece of the \$7 billion water grid was being built, but they failed to come near the site or the nearby residents who put up with all the dust, dirt, noise and disruption as the series of faults and failures unfolded.

The Labor government were experts at keeping residents in the dark about the operation and continual failures of the plant. Their excuses were not only creative; they were downright shifty. As I have said many times, the Tugun desal plant has had more episodes than *Days Of Our Lives* and twice as many heartaches. I recently visited the site with the Minister for Energy and Water Supply, the honourable member for Caloundra, to review the operation—or lack thereof—of this trouble prone facility which is currently costing taxpayers \$19 million every year to keep it operating in hot standby mode with twice weekly flush outs. I have a feeling there will be more episodes to come and I am very pleased the minister has shown an interest in the status of this plant.

I wish now to touch briefly on the portfolio that I am so proud to represent as a minister in this government—that is, Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games. The Newman government recognises tourism as one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy. Under Labor, tourism languished through neglect. Jobs were lost and businesses went to the wall. Bringing these intrinsically linked agencies together provides a unique opportunity to maximise and reinvigorate our marketing and planning efforts to achieve our goal of returning Queensland to No. 1.


We will accomplish this in part through the revolutionary DestinationQ strategy—a genuine whole-of-government approach to tourism that will provide our industry with the support and focus it needs to reach its potential. In partnership with industry, we will work towards the goal of doubling overnight visitor expenditure to \$30 billion by 2020. An important component of the DestinationQ strategy is the tourism cabinet committee which has been established with ministers whose portfolios have wide-reaching effects on tourism. They are State Development, Infrastructure and Planning; Education, Training and Employment; Transport and Main Roads; and National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. Today members of the newly formed tourism backbench committee were determined, and the assistant minister, the honourable member for Cairns, will be chairing this committee so that all of Queensland will be able to contribute to our tourism industry's future.

Industry First Response is another revolutionary aspect of our DestinationQ strategy. Under this initiative, immediate steps will be taken to provide enhanced cooperative marketing opportunities, product development intelligence and trade events. As nine in 10 tourism businesses are small businesses, Industry First Response will be a useful tool to assist operators who have been doing it tough.

Our government understands small businesses. We know what makes them tick. So many LNP members of this parliament have small business backgrounds and know too well of the torture Labor have put them through with strangling red tape and regulations. Queensland has some 400,000 small businesses representing over 95 per cent of all businesses in this state. We need to get our small business sector back on track which is why the Newman government has committed to cutting red tape by 20 per cent over six years and to achieving four per cent unemployment over the same period. This is hugely positive news not only for Currumbin but for all of Queensland.

As a state the size of Queensland, we cannot underestimate the value that events bring to our economy and our regions. In 2011-12, major events had delivered an economic boost to Queensland estimated at \$290 million. The Queensland government supports an enormous portfolio of events in all corners of our great state and will be working even harder to ensure we can become the premier tourism and events destination.

With the Commonwealth Games coming to the Gold Coast in 2018, we will be looking to maximise employment opportunities in the region. The Commonwealth Games are not only a great international sporting event but an important marketing and branding tool for our great state. There is a lot of work to do to prepare our city, the Gold Coast, for the games which are expected to deliver a \$2 billion boost to our economy and create some 30,000 jobs. I have every confidence in the newly appointed Commonwealth Games Corporation Board to deliver this significant project on time and on budget and to leave behind a legacy the Gold Coast can be truly proud of. I look forward to championing the cause of tourism operators and small businesses through this exciting portfolio and continuing to serve the good people of Currumbin for the benefit of our community.

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (8.54 pm): I start by also expressing my appreciation of Her Excellency the Governor for opening this the 54th Parliament of Queensland. I also acknowledge Mr Stuart McCosker. Her Excellency and Mr McCosker have been frequent visitors to the electorate of Glass House, and it was a pleasure to welcome them again as recently as Sunday to the Bankfoot House Open Day. I suspect in my new role as minister not only for the environment but also heritage and given Her Excellency's avid interest in heritage matters that our paths shall cross on numerous more occasions.

I also acknowledge our Premier. Premier, to you, to Lisa, to your daughters and to your extended families, thank you. You withstood the vilest of storms, carried yourselves with honour and dignity and drove with your usual verve and vigour our campaign to success and the LNP to government. Premier, I thank you for the honour and responsibility you have bestowed upon me in my appointment as the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Your leadership within the parliament in the lead-up to the election was exemplary, your friendship and advice priceless.

Three years ago, I delivered my first speech—my first address-in-reply speech. At the time I was staggered that a former frustrated public servant had been humbly elected as the new LNP member for Glass House. I am still struggling to understand where those last three years have gone. As I grappled with the responsibility of representing a wonderful part of a wonderful state in this esteemed chamber, I spoke of how I wanted to approach this important position. I spoke about Sir Francis Nicklin, as many others have also done in their maiden speeches over the last couple of weeks. Sir Francis Nicklin hailed from my hometown of Palmwoods. He was renowned, as the good member for Murrumba mentioned in his speech this evening, for his trustworthiness, honesty, resilience, conciliation, assertiveness and sternness. I knew I could do far worse than seek direction from the example left for me by Sir Nicklin.

Three years ago, I spoke about my Christian faith and spoke of the challenge that whoever wants to be great must become a servant. I also mentioned my university studies in geography and history as well as politics, but I did not mention I also studied Russian language and culture for four years. I remember—not necessarily with the fondest of memories—one particular subject on the Russian Intelligentsia. It was pretty tough going—

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr POWELL:** No, I am not a Communist, member for Mermaid Beach. I am sitting on the wrong side of the chamber for that. It was pretty tough going but I do recall reading some of the works of Leo Tolstoy. I need to declare—just in case the member for Mermaid Beach gets carried away again—that I do not share Tolstoy's eventual anarchistic predilections but Tolstoy did leave us some wise words of wisdom. It was Tolstoy who wrote—

Joy can be real only if people look upon their life as a service, and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness.

I have chosen—and the people of Glass House have again afforded me the opportunity—to live a life of service. After three years in the role and with the prospect of serving in the Newman government for the next three years, I can assure everyone that Tolstoy was spot on. This job, this service, brings joy.

If I look at just some examples in my own electorate over the last three years of the joy that I have received because of the work and the outcomes we have been able to achieve in Glass House, members may get some sense of that joy. I will look at electorate-wide issues and focus perhaps on public transport. I stood up alongside other members on the Sunshine Coast when Sunshine Coast commuters were treated with absolute and utter disregard when a new timetable was promoted for the North Coast rail line.

I thank the member for Caloundra for his support and my fellow colleagues in this chamber. We stood up for the voices of Sunshine Coast commuters and, whilst not achieving all that we intended, helped get the then government to back down on its proposed timetable. Even more joyful is the fact that in electing an LNP government I know that Sunshine Coast commuters will not be facing 15 per cent fare increases year after year after year. This LNP government is committed to drive down the cost of living, and we are doing that for Sunshine Coast commuters by halving those fare increases each and every year.

If I focus on the townships in my electorate—and there are more than a dozen of them—we have had success at the township level as well. An early win was to get a fully funded and supervised pedestrian crossing for Elimbah State School. I acknowledge my comrade in arms—and do not get carried away again, member for Mermaid Beach—Councillor Adrian Raedel from the Moreton Bay Regional Council who, together with the P&C at Elimbah State School, fought the fight to ensure that we had a supervised crossing on Beerburum Road outside Elimbah State School. For too long that school community had been fighting for that crossing. Too many times kids had been hit or nearly hit, and one final accident was one too many. With the assistance of the good council and the good councillor, we were able to achieve that outcome by pressuring the then state government to provide that.

I refer to the township of Conondale. All of us have experienced the heartache of the 2011 floods. I, like many others, continue to see the damage wreaked upon the electorate of Glass House. There are still four roads that are either fully closed or partially closed while they continue to be repaired. But for the community of Conondale, Grigor Bridge is such an intrinsic part of its infrastructure and its ability to get to the outside world. Every time it rained in 2010 or 2011 that nearly century-old bridge was damaged again and again and again. It was closed for weeks on end after each incident, causing people to have to travel more than 40 kilometres out of their way to get to places like Maleny—and I am talking kids trying to get to school. The government at the time in its wisdom believed that it was only a case of repairing the bridge instead of replacing it. I thank Major General Mick Slater for taking the time to visit Conondale and for helping me convince the former Labor government that it was time to replace this bridge, not repair it. The good news is that those works will start in the next couple of months.

At the personal level or the family level, I can think of examples where, through the work of my office and through my intervention, we have achieved outcomes for families and individuals in the electorate of Glass House. I think of Mat and Lisa Sherry, a fellow Palmwoods family who were the only family in their street whose property was not going to be resumed as part of the north coast rail duplication. They were going to be left isolated by that work. They were going to lose their dam that is the main water source for their horses. When Transport did the original study it looked at an air photo rather than testing it on the ground and therefore they were not to be bought out. We convinced the government to get out of George Street, go to Palmwoods and witness firsthand the fact that their property was going to be impacted just as much as their neighbours' properties. As a result, the Sherrys received fair compensation. The fantastic news is that they moved only within the township of Palmwoods itself and Mat and Lisa continue to be an intrinsic part of the Palmwoods Devils rugby league club. Joy in this job has also now come from my role in the environment portfolio, first as the shadow opposition spokesperson and now as the minister.

**Mr Cripps:** And what a tremendous minister you are as well.

**Mr POWELL:** Again, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, you are getting a little carried away, but I take the interjection and I thank you for your kind words. I had wonderful pleasure in visiting many of the electorates now represented by LNP members in this House. It was a fantastic opportunity to see the best parts of the state—the environmental parts of this state.

**Mr Johnson:** Have you been out to Gregory yet?

**Mr POWELL:** Member for Gregory, I have not, but we are coming soon.

**Mr Johnson:** Because that's the rest of Queensland!

**Mr POWELL:** Yes, that is the rest of Queensland—the only third of Queensland I have not seen. I need to follow up with the member for Gregory to ensure that we get out there very soon.

**Mr Johnson:** It's the real part of Queensland.

**Mr POWELL:** So I am told, member for Gregory. Those visits allowed me to also develop the policies we needed to take to the election to convince Queensland that we stand for strong environmental protection but that we do so in a balanced and reasonable way. It is now my pleasure to be implementing many of those policies, whether it be to remove the waste levy, to work on the cape or to address many of the wildlife issues in our state, and I again thank the Premier for the opportunity in which to do that. We are very much about a balance in this portfolio. We are about putting science first, not politics.

**Mr Newman:** Hear, hear! It's not about Greens preferences, is it?

**Mr POWELL:** This is not and never will be about Greens preferences, and I take that interjection from the Premier. We will never make decisions on Green party political preferences. We will make decisions—the right decisions, the best decisions—for the environment based on the science. We will not sell out.

But let me return to Tolstoy. Joy can be real only if people look upon their life as a service and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness. Not only do I have joy through a life of service; I have a definite object in life outside of myself, and that is to be the best husband and father I can be. Fortunately, at a time where I could have taken my eye off that object, I have been reminded in a very real and in a very hard way that, as important as this new role as minister is, my family comes first. They are the source of my true happiness.

On that note I again thank the Premier and Deputy Premier and my colleagues for their support through what has been the most challenging period of my life to date and to my many friends and family who through their prayer and support have strengthened me and my family. To my wife Taryn, I do not know where to begin for fear I will not be able to stop. Thank you. Thank you for continuing to support me in this amazing adventure. Thank you for caring so diligently for our crazy young brood. Thank you for being forgiving and understanding. But thank you most of all for getting well again. In those dark hours of the past two months, my mind has taken me to a place I do not want to return to for a very, very long time. A future without you is no future at all.

To my kids Daniel, Erin, Brielle, Benjamin and Rohanna: boy, haven't we had some fun and adventure! Thank you for being the troopers you are. Dan and Erin, you stepped up when mum and dad needed you to. You have had to grow in wisdom and maturity far too fast. Keep having fun, big kids. We do not need to rush you anymore. Adolescence will come soon enough.

**Mr Elmes:** And don't you know it then!

**Mr POWELL:** Yes, won't I know it then! I take that interjection from the member for Noosa. Brielle, dad misses your hugs, beautiful girl. Benjamin, I'll be home soon to read you *A Dragon in a Wagon*. Rohanna, keep on being the little imp you are. Kids, I love each of you so very, very much; I just hope you have recovered from Sweden's win in Eurovision by the time I get home—crushing win, crushing win!

In the time left to me I need to thank team Glass House. Alaina, you have been with me since the 2009 election campaign. I hope you are with me for plenty more. You juggle the responsibilities of the electorate office with shadow portfolio responsibilities so effortlessly and efficiently. I know there is a new world for both of us now. Hang in there. Frangi, thanks for coming on board and holding the fort. There is no doubt you won over the people of Glass House and the environmental stakeholders with your bubbly and friendly persona. You are an asset to the team, girl, and I thank you. Johanna, we did it! You stepped up and helped out in a portfolio that potentially could not have been further removed from your strengths and experiences, but I think in hindsight that helped us, helped me and helped the LNP in the preparation of a strong suite of environmental policies. Congratulations on your new role. May the friendship and professional relationship long continue. To my campaign managers Joyce and Bob, where do I start? Joyce, I hope one of these days you are able to find a less taxing hobby, but in the meantime keep doing what you are doing. Bob, bad luck in your own election effort, mate. You put in a great attempt and should be very proud of what you have achieved for the Sunshine Coast hinterland. To my campaign treasurer Susannah, who had to grapple with the Labor imposed laws and regulations surrounding campaign finances, you set a benchmark that few electorates could match, and I thank you.

To Greg, Florence, Margaret, Stan, Bob, Peter, John, Cary, John, Kel, Gerry, Annette, Rod, Graham, David, and everyone else who helped in each of the four branches of Palmwoods, Maleny, Glass House-Beerwah, Wamuran-Woodford—and I must not forget the women's sections as well of Maleny and Glass House—you humble me with your efforts and your enthusiasm. To all of the election day workers, I thank them. To Bruce McIver, James McGrath, David Moore, Matt McEachan, Peter, Zoe, Paul, Mitch, Maddy, Danielle and so, so many others, we are here because of your efforts.

To my family, in particular my father, Steve, and my brother, Glenn, who manned the Forest Glen booth all day and to Jono, thanks for giving us a hand. You must be pretty stoked. You helped to bring in the new LNP member for Kallangur in your home town of Petrie in the morning and then turned up to help me in the afternoon and get your brother returned as well. To mum, thanks for being one of my

biggest fans and to my sister Suzanne as well. Mum and dad, I am who you raised me to be and I hope I have made you proud.

I want to also put on the record my thanks to my new ministerial team. It is early days but I am excited by what I see. Finally, my greatest appreciation goes once again to the people of Glass House. It is they who have allowed me to discover real joy. It is they who I serve. As Tolstoy said—

Joy can only be real only if people look upon their life as a service, and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness.

All I can say is I am a pretty happy man.


**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

Debate, on motion of Mr Stevens, adjourned.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Manager of Government Business) (9.11 pm): I move—  
That the House do now adjourn.

### **St Augustine's College**

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (9.11 pm): Last Saturday I had the great pleasure of attending the third biennial St Augustine's College fete. St Augustine's College is a private college in my electorate located at Augustine Heights. It is a great school that has been in existence now for 10 years and in that time I have seen it grow and go from strength to strength. The school is developing a great reputation in the community for providing quality education. I am proud that over the years it was supported by our then Labor government that I was a part of to achieve that growth and meet the demands of a growing school community. I hope this association can continue for many more years to come with the students being the focus of the positive outcomes that working together can achieve.


The Worlds of Fun fete was a fantastic day for the school community and I wish to congratulate Greg Brown—a great bloke—the P&F president and his great team of volunteers for a very successful event. The parents, staff and students gave up countless hours over the past 12 months planning this biennial event. This year was the third fete held by the P&F and is its major fundraising event on the school's calendar. There were lots of rides for the kids, face painting, dodgem cars and the usual fare: great cake stalls and jams and preserves and also an international food court to keep people fed. There were cooking demonstrations, a bucking bull, sumo suits for wrestling, camel rides, an animal farm and other great activities to fit the theme of Worlds of Fun—and it indeed was worlds of fun!

I especially enjoyed the great performances from students at the fete and a sneak peak of the upcoming musical at the school *The Wiz*. I love seeing the students perform and think it does a great deal, on top of the academic stream of their education, in assisting them to become great citizens, confident and able to contribute to their community.

Other great entertainment on the day included a fashion show and a spectacular laser light show. All in all, it was a very successful event, with over 3,000 people in attendance and it raised approximately \$40,000 for the school. The funds raised will be put towards the school's project for a multipurpose court facility, which has been identified as a priority by the school community. The school has taken it upon itself to fund this great new facility.

As well as the great volunteers of St Augustine's College, I would also like to thank the local businesses that so strongly supported the fete, particularly Springfield Orthodontics and the other sponsors including Stocklands, Australand and New Hope Collieries as well as TrackStar Alliance, which is building the great new railway line through to Springfield. Like the many others who attended this fete, I cannot wait for the 2014 event to come along. I would particularly like to thank the grandmas who crocheted the rugs that were on sale. I bought one. It is not just an ordinary rug; to me it is a work of art that I will treasure forever.

### **Ipswich Show**

 **Mr BERRY** (Ipswich—LNP) (9.14 pm): On Friday, 18 May 2012, Ipswich celebrated the Ipswich Show holiday—a proud annual fixture on the Ipswich calendar. The Ipswich Agricultural and Horticultural Society was established on 14 March 1866. It then became the Queensland Pastoral and Agricultural Society on 28 August 1872 and it is now called the Ipswich Show Society. The first Ipswich Show was held on 13 May 1873. Many Ipswich locals will know the Ipswich showgrounds well. However, originally, the show was not held at that site. The first show in 1873 was held at a site in Churchill facing the Bremer River and was subsequently moved to its present site on Warwick Road in 1877.

The Ipswich Show Society is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to promote and encourage the development of pastoral, agricultural, horticultural and industrial interests in the Ipswich and West