

TUESDAY, 25 AUGUST 1992

Under the provisions of the motion for special adjournment agreed to by the House on 6 August, the House met at 10 a.m.

Mr SPEAKER (Hon. J. Fouras, Ashgrove) read prayers and took the chair.

ASSENT TO BILLS

Assent to the following Bills reported by Mr Speaker—

Appropriation Bill (No. 1);

Justice Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill;

Domestic Violence (Family Protection) Amendment Bill;

Audit and Parliamentary Committees (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill;

Agricultural Standards Amendment Bill;

Freedom of Information Bill;

Juvenile Justice Bill;

Childrens Court Bill.

PAPERS TABLED DURING RECESS

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members, I have to advise the House that the following papers were tabled during the recess as outlined in the list circulated to members in the Chamber—

“The Clerk of the Parliament—

In accordance with section 46N(3) of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977.

17 August—

Trustees of the Queensland Fire Brigades Employees' Superannuation Plan—Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 1992.

Ordered to be printed.

24 August—

Griffith University 1991—Explanation for the granting of an extension for the submission of an annual report.”

PETITIONS

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

Prospectors and Fossickers

From **Mr Pitt** (1 047 signatories) praying for the implementation of workable regulations separate from the large mining sector to protect the heritage of the prospector and fossicker.

Newsagencies, Display of Posters Demeaning Women

From **Mr Fenlon** (72 signatories) concerned at the display of posters outside newsagents demeaning women.

Cathedral College, Thursday Island

From **Mr Bredhauer** (42 signatories) praying that a subsidy be provided for the Australian-born Torres Strait Islanders boarding at Cathedral College, Thursday Island to enable them continued access to secondary education.

Heavy Vehicles, Driving Hours

From **Mr Fenlon** (78 signatories) praying that consideration be given to an increase in driving hours for heavy vehicles to 14 hours per 24-hour period.

Abortion Law

From **Mr Foley** (35 signatories) praying that action be taken to ensure that the law prohibiting abortion on request be enforced.

State Education Department Subsidies Scheme

From **Mr Prest** (61 signatories) praying that sufficient funds be provided in the 1992-93 Budget to enable the State Education Department Subsidies (SEDS) scheme to provide various levels of subsidies for creches and kindergartens and to provide for further increase in salaries and wages of staff arising from award restructuring.

Similar petitions were received from **Mr Campbell** (10 signatories), **Mr Springborg** (10 signatories), **Ms Spence** (20 signatories), **Mr Lingard** (35 signatories), **Mr Fenlon** (10 signatories) and **Mrs Sheldon** (20 signatories).

Petitions received.

SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

In accordance with the schedule circulated by the Clerk to members in the Chamber, the following documents were tabled—

Building Units and Group Titles Act—

- Lands Legislation (Variation of Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 245

Casino Control Act—

- Casino Control Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 1992, No. 260

Credit Societies Act—

- Credit Societies (Approved Organisations and Sanctioned Corporations) Order 1992, No. 82
- Credit Societies (Authorised Investments) Regulation 1992, No. 83

Education (Senior Secondary School Studies) Act—

- Board of Senior Secondary School Studies Amendment By-law (No. 1) 1992, No. 252

Electoral Act—

- Electoral Regulation 1992, No. 255

Equal Opportunity in Public Employment Act—

- Proclamation—Commencement of provisions not in force (other than Division 5 of Part 3)—16 May 1992, No. 92

Fauna Conservation Act—

- Declared Fauna Order 1992, No. 263

- Permanently Protected Fauna Order 1992, No. 265
 - Prohibited Fauna Order 1992, No. 264
- Financial Administration and Audit Act—
- Financial Administration and Audit (Freshmark Ltd Audit Exemption) Order 1992, No. 125
- Fishing Industry Organization and Marketing Act—
- Fishing Industry (Closure of Waters) Amendment Order (No. 2) 1992, No. 243
- Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act—
- Lands Legislation (Variation of Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 245
- Forestry Act—
- Forestry Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 1992, No. 244
- Grain Industry (Restructuring) Act—
- Grain Industry (Hail Compensation Scheme) Regulation 1992, No. 251
- Land Act—
- Lands Legislation (Variation of Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 245
- Land Sales Act—
- Land Sales (Non-Application of Part 2 of Act) Order 1992, No. 247
- Land Tax Act—
- Land Tax Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 1992, No. 102
- Local Government Act—
- Local Government (Enterprises) Regulation 1992, No. 258
 - Local Government (Review of External Boundaries) Regulation 1992, No. 269
 - Reference to Local Government Commissioner—Redland Shire Council's request to be granted City status dated 22 July 1992
- Local Government Legislation Amendment Act—
- Proclamation—Commencement of section 17—24 August 1992, No. 257
- Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act—
- Local Government (Interim Development Control-Diamantina Shire Council) Order 1992, No. 248
- Mineral Resources Act—
- Mineral Resources (Mount Isa Mining District) Order 1992, No. 268
 - Mineral Resources (Winton Mining District) Order 1992, No. 267
- Miners' Homestead Leases Act—
- Lands Legislation (Variation of Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 245
- Mining Titles Freeholding Act—
- Lands Legislation (Variation of Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 245
- Motor Vehicles Insurance Act—
- Motor Vehicles Insurance Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 94
- National Parks and Wildlife Act—
- National Park 26 County of Tate (Extension) Order 1992, No. 246

- National Park 1462 County of Canning (Extension) Order 1992, No. 262
- Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act—
- Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Amendment Order (No. 2) 1992, No. 250
- Queensland Heritage Act—
- Proclamation—Commencement of provisions not in force—21 August 1992, No. 253
 - Queensland Heritage Regulation 1992, No. 254
- Queensland Marine Act—
- Motor Boat and Motor Vessel Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 127
 - Queensland Marine (Motor Boat and Motor Vessel) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 1992, No. 241
 - Queensland Marine (Pleasure Yacht Equipment) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 242
- Queensland Office of Financial Supervision Act—
- Proclamation—Commencement of provisions not in force—29 May 1992, No. 109
- Real Property Act—
- Lands Legislation (Variation of Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 245
- Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act—
- Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements (QIDC) Order 1992, No. 81
- Stock Act—
- Stock (Avian Influenza) Order 1992, No. 249
- Sugar Industry Act—
- Sugar Industry (Mill Peak Adjustments) Amendment Guideline (No. 1) 1992, No. 256
- Superannuation (Government and Other Employees) Act—
- Superannuation (Definition of Employee-QTAC) Order 1992, No. 124
 - Superannuation (Government and Other Employees) Amendment of Articles Order (No. 1) 1992, No. 126
- Surveyors Act—
- Surveyors Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 266
- Townsville/Thuringowa Water Supply Board Act—
- Townsville/Thuringowa Water Supply Board (Financial Arrangements) Regulation 1992, No. 261
- Traffic Act—
- Traffic Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 116
- Valuation of Land Act—
- Lands Legislation (Variation of Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 245.

PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION

Estimates for 1992-93

Hon. P. J. BRADDY (Rockhampton—Leader of the House) (10.04 a.m.): I lay upon the table of the House Estimates of the Legislative Assembly, Parliamentary Service Commission, for 1992-93 prepared in accordance with section 54 of the Parliamentary Service Act.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL STATEMENT 1991-92

Hon. K. E. De LACY (Cairns—Treasurer) (10.05 a.m.): I lay upon the table of the House the Treasurer's Annual Statement 1991-92, and move that it be printed.

Ordered to be printed.

PAPERS

The following papers and reports were laid upon the table of the House—

Mr Milliner—

Statistical returns showing the votes recorded for "Yes" and for "No" at the Daylight Saving Referendum taken on Saturday February 22, 1992.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Smith—

- (1) Eighth report of the Mediator appointed under the provisions of the Retail Shop Leases Act 1984-1990.
- (2) Eighth report of the Chairman, His Honour Judge Loewenthal and members of the Retail Shop Leases Tribunal appointed under the provisions of the Retail Shop Leases Act 1984-1990.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

Hon. T. Ward, MP (Papua New Guinea)

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members, I have to advise the House that the Papua New Guinea Minister for Lands, the Honourable Timothy Ward, is in the Speaker's Gallery.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Ministerial Expenditure Guidelines

Hon. K. E. De LACY (Cairns—Treasurer) (10.07 a.m.), by leave: One of the very first decisions of this Government on coming to office in 1989 was to set in place a set of *Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Office of the Minister* to replace the haphazard and frequently non-existent arrangements which existed previously. These guidelines were a major advance in accountability in that they set out in clear and unequivocal terms exactly what was and what was not acceptable in terms of the financial management of Ministers' offices. They set standards and they set in place a mechanism for ensuring that these standards were applied rigorously and consistently across all offices.

Responsibility for administration of the guidelines has fallen to the Ministerial Services Branch within my Treasury Department. I pay a tribute to the officers of that branch for their efforts in coping so well in an environment requiring both firmness and tact. As with other guidelines approved early in the life of this Government—I specifically cite the *Cabinet Handbook* which the Premier tabled in this House during the last sitting week—it was recognised from the outset that a period of settling in was necessary to ensure that the guidelines maintained the highest standards of probity while not being unduly administratively burdensome. We sought practical accountability rather than red tape for its own sake. Accordingly, prior to their being tabled in this

House, a thorough review has been undertaken of the guidelines, with special reference to those in place in other jurisdictions. In addition, the operations of the branch, including its guidelines, have also been reviewed by the Treasury's Internal Audit Unit. The Auditor-General had, of course, audited the branch's operations in each year of its operations and audit comments have also been taken into account. I am pleased to table here today the outcome of nearly three years of experience as well as a strong initial set of guidelines based on the Ministers' code of ethics.

As all members would be aware, since the beginning, one of the requirements of the guidelines has been the tabling of a summary of ministerial expenditure in the previous financial year. Today, I am also tabling that summary. In doing so, I draw the attention of members to the relevant section of the Budget papers that will be tabled this afternoon which will provide further aggregate expenditure information on offices of Ministers.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Visit to Hong Kong and Taiwan by Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations

Hon. K. H. VAUGHAN (Nudgee—Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations) (10.09 a.m.): I rise to inform the House about my recent visit to Hong Kong and Taiwan. The trip had a dual purpose: to promote Queensland TAFE's programs to fee-paying overseas students and to lay the groundwork for closer educational links between our respective vocational education and training systems. I was accompanied by Stan Sielaff, the Executive Director of TAFETEQ, the division of my department which deals with vocational education, training and employment; the manager of the International Programs Branch, Helen Symes; and my media adviser, Jan Martin. I feel confident in saying that the trip was successful and should bring concrete benefits on two fronts for Queensland's TAFE system and its students.

The first of those areas is in the generation of income for the TAFE system. Over the past four years, fee-paying overseas students have contributed more than \$10.2m in gross income to the TAFE system. In 1991 alone, fees paid by overseas students funded more than 160 000 student contact hours for Queenslanders. One of my tasks was to open negotiations on gaining formal recognition of TAFE qualifications by the respective authorities in each country so that TAFE was a more attractive study option for Hong Kong and Taiwanese students. I can report that, following my initial approaches, formal correspondence is now being prepared to Mr Michael Lee, the Director of the Bureau of International, Cultural and Educational Relations in the Taiwanese Ministry of Education and with Mr John Chen, the Secretary for Education and Manpower in Hong Kong. My meeting with hotel industry leaders in Taiwan also revealed a potentially large market for training courses developed on a purely commercial basis for Taiwanese tourism and hospitality industry staff, as training facilities in Taiwan are limited.

The second area of benefit from my visit is in the further development of international links between our vocational education and training systems and institutions. The two most immediately promising areas are in tourism and hospitality—an expanding industry for Taiwan in particular—and fashion design and manufacture. Following my informal initial discussions at the Hong Kong Polytechnic, discussions will begin this week between the polytechnic and the College of Tourism and Hospitality at South Brisbane and the Mount Gravatt College of TAFE. The goal is to develop staff and student exchanges, with students from Hong Kong and Queensland completing part of their studies in both regions. Queensland's future lies in the Asian region, and TAFE graduates will be doing business in Asia with Asian colleagues and competitors. An international education will give them a hands-on understanding of the markets in which they will be competing and of the people with whom they will be working in the Asia-Pacific region.

So that I will not take up more of the time of the House, I now table a detailed report and itinerary.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2) 1992

Public Bill; Procedure and Time Limits

Hon. P. J. BRADDY (Rockhampton—Leader of the House) (10.12 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended to enable the debate on the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 1992 to be conducted in the following manner—

- (1) The Bill to be introduced and debated as a public Bill as defined by Chapter XVII of the Standing Rules and Orders, but subject to the resolution of the House of Tuesday, 4 August.
- (2) That the following procedure and time limits apply with respect to debate in Committee on the Bill—
 - (a) that all clauses be postponed until debate on the Schedule has concluded;
 - (b) that each Minister’s Estimates be given 1 hour 20 minutes for debate: 10 minutes for the Minister to introduce the Estimates; six members, 10 minutes each; and Minister in reply, 10 minutes.”

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The question is, “That the motion be agreed to.”

Dr WATSON: Mr Speaker!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Does the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party wish to debate that motion?

Dr WATSON: Yes.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! In that case, the motion must be seconded.

Hon. K. E. De LACY (Cairns—Treasurer) (10.13 a.m.): I second the motion.

Dr WATSON (Moggill—Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party) (10.14 a.m.): I find the motion quite objectionable. A couple of weeks ago in this Chamber, I heard the member for Bundaberg explain how the new system would allow greater accountability and scrutiny of Ministers. At that time, I commended the member, because I thought that he made a very good speech. However, the speech was based upon the Budget debate following the same procedure as we undertake in debating an ordinary Bill in this place and proceeding through to the Committee stage. The member for Bundaberg, who, I presume, was speaking with the support of the Government, told us that Ministers would be able to be cross-examined in this place by members of the Opposition. We were told that we would adopt the same kind of procedure whereby a member could ask a Minister a question and obtain an answer. The system was to provide some Executive accountability to this Parliament, something which the Goss Government continues to crow about. But what do we get today? The Leader of the House has moved a motion of which Opposition members have received no warning, apart from a telephone call from the Leader of the House to the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Party a few minutes prior to the commencement of this morning’s sitting. That motion effectively reduces by two-thirds the debating time for the Estimates. That is what it is doing. The motion is cutting the Estimates debate from four hours to an hour and 20 minutes. I find that quite objectionable.

The Government said that it was going to reform the process but, in fact, the only reformation carried out has been the reduction in the amount of debating time in this

place. I find it incredible that the member for Bundaberg spoke about how the Parliament was going to increase the accountability of the Executive to Parliament. At that time, we were speaking to a Bill which did something about increasing the ability of the Public Accounts Committee and the Public Works Committee to scrutinise the Executive. But, when it comes to a critical part of the process of parliamentary scrutiny, the Estimates debate in this Parliament, we find that the Goss Government is going the other way. The Liberal Party finds it quite objectionable.

Hon. P. J. BRADDY (Rockhampton—Minister for Education), (10.16 a.m.), in reply: One of the obvious things about the cynical attitude of the Liberal Party is that for years it supported the National Party in Government when only a handful—usually three—Estimates of departments were debated in this place.

Mr FitzGerald interjected.

Mr BRADDY: Six departments, so it would take three years to debate all the departments. Every year during our term in Government, the Estimates of all departments have been debated. I have looked at the Estimates debate for the last couple of years and, quite frankly, an enormous amount of time was wasted. In previous years, the Liberal Party did not make good use of the time allocated. In this election year, when time has to be allocated for other events that have to occur in the State, the Government is still providing an opportunity for the Estimates of every department to be debated—something that the Liberal Party and National Party never did.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put; and the House divided—

AYES, 51		NOES, 34	
Ardill	McElligott	Beanland	Stephan
Barber	McGrady	Booth	Stoneman
Beattie	McLean	Borbidge	Turner
Bird	Milliner	Connor	Veivers
Braddy	Nunn	Coomber	Watson
Bredhauer	Palaszczuk	Cooper	
Briskey	Pearce	Dunworth	
Campbell	Power	Elliott	
Casey	Robson	FitzGerald	
Clark	Schwarten	Gilmore	
Comben	Smith	Goss J. N.	
Davies	Smyth	Gunn	
De Lacy	Spence	Harper	
Dollin	Sullivan J. H.	Hobbs	
Eaton	Sullivan T. B.	Horan	
Edmond	Szczerbanik	Johnson	
Elder	Vaughan	Katter	
Fenlon	Warburton	Lester	
Flynn	Warner	Lingard	
Foley	Welford	Littleproud	
Gibbs	Wells	McCauley	
Goss W. K.	Woodgate	Randell	
Hamill		Rowell	
Hayward		Santoro	
Hollis	<i>Tellers:</i>	Sheldon	<i>Tellers:</i>
Livingstone	Prest	Slack	Neal
Mackenroth	Pitt	Springborg	Quinn

Resolved in the affirmative.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Report and Transcript of Evidence

Dr FLYNN (Toowoomba North) (10.23 a.m.): I lay upon the table of the House the third annual report of the Parliamentary Committee of Public Accounts. The Parliamentary Committee of Public Accounts of the Forty-sixth Parliament is pleased to

present its third annual report, for the period 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992, in accordance with section 17 of the Public Accounts Committee Act 1988. The report differs from those of previous years in focusing on the performance of the committee rather than simply its activities. This change reflects the committee's newly adopted strategic plan which has provided a cogent statement of the committee's mission and the means of achieving that mission. The development of a strategic approach has been an exercise in revitalisation for the committee which has given a new clarity to its *raison d'être*.

I commend the contribution made by all members who have served on the committee during the year. The unanimity of the committee's approach reflects favourably on their commitment to the Parliament's role in our system of representative democracy. I move that the report be printed.

Ordered to be printed.

Dr FLYNN: I also lay upon the table of the House transcripts of evidence taken at public hearings before the Public Accounts Committee. As part of its inquiry into the implementation of the Public Finance Standards, the Parliamentary Committee of Public Accounts conducted further public hearings at Parliament House on 15 June 1992 and 3 August 1992, at which evidence was taken from representatives of the following organisations: Monday, 15 June 1992, the University of Queensland and Queensland Treasury; Monday, 3 August 1992, the South East Queensland Water Board, Department of Education and Queensland Health. In accordance with Standing Order 205, the committee is pleased to present the transcript of the proceedings at those hearings.

COMMITTEE OF SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Report

Mr BARBER (Cooroora) (10.26 a.m.): I lay upon the table of the House the annual report of the Committee of Subordinate Legislation. In doing so, I express the committee's appreciation for the work carried out by the committee's previous legal adviser, Miss Sally Munro, and the current legal adviser, Mr Greg Cooper. The committee wishes to thank its secretary, Miss Madeline Cook, and members of the committee's secretariat, Miss Monica Hayes and Miss Sarah Reilly, for work undertaken for the committee. I move that the report be printed.

Ordered to be printed.

VISIT TO UNITED KINGDOM BY MEMBER FOR MANLY

Report

Mr ELDER (Manly) (10.27 a.m.): It is with much pleasure that I present to the Parliament a report on my visit to the United Kingdom earlier this year. The primary purpose of the days spent on parliamentary duties was to study parliamentary committee procedures and examine in particular the provision of emergency services in the United Kingdom. I table the report and accompanying documents for the information of the House.

QUESTION UPON NOTICE

Rockhampton Correctional Centre

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Justice and Corrective Services—

“With reference to the sacking of three Custodial Officers by the Corrective Services Commission at the Rockhampton Correctional Centre on 8 June—

(1) How did the Commission arrive at that decision?

(2) As the officers concerned have not yet had the allegations against them officially heard and have not officially presented their evidence nor the testimony of their witnesses, does he recognise that one of the basic rules of natural justice is that both sides of the case be heard before judgement could be determined?”

Mr MILLINER: (1 and 2) I table the answer and ask that it be incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, the Member for Lockyer is grossly misinformed on the facts surrounding the dismissal of three custodial officers from Rockhampton Correctional Centre and I welcome this opportunity to put the facts of the matter on public record.

The decision to dismiss the three officers was not taken lightly by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission and certainly occurred after a lengthy and due process had been followed.

On 7 February, 1992 an Inspector was appointed by the QCSC to investigate certain complaints made by a professional officer at the Rockhampton Correctional Centre. Following an extensive examination and interviews of staff and prisoners at the centre, the Inspector tabled a comprehensive report and recommendations on 14 March, 1992. Among these was a recommendation to discipline the three officers in question. In the case of two of the officers (Story and Brown) the disciplinary action was recommended as a result of serious breaches of the Code of Conduct, in particular their failure to appropriately deal with prisoners.

The other case (Hurley) also involved serious breaches of the Code of Conduct in respect to the treatment of prisoners and the wilful failure to comply with a lawful direction on two separate occasions. As a result of these recommendations, all three officers were suspended without pay on 27 March, 1992 and asked to show cause why disciplinary action should not be taken against them.

The QCSC legislation makes provision for appeals against suspension without pay. All three officers lodged appeals which were heard by a duly constituted tripartite tribunal. As a result of these appeals, one officer remained on suspension without pay and two other officers were suspended with pay. Following a careful examination of submissions received from the officers in response to the request to show cause, all three officers were dismissed on 8 June, 1992. The QCSC legislation allows a further appeal against dismissal. I am advised that all three officers have lodged appeals and these are yet to be heard. In the meantime, in accordance with their legislation, the QCSC has not implemented the dismissal orders and the officers remain on suspension pending the outcome of the appeal.

As you can see, a very thorough and comprehensive process has been followed by the QCSC that is well in accordance with the basic rules of natural justice.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Capital Works Program

Mr BORBIDGE: In directing a question to the Treasurer, I refer him to his Budget Speech last year, when he said—

“I need to stress, however, that this year’s level of capital works should not be regarded as a benchmark for future years. The Government expects the capital program to return to more normal levels next year as private sector activity strengthens.”

I ask the Treasurer: given that each of his previous two Budgets has contained so-called “record” levels of capital works spending and that during this period unemployment has

increased by 78 per cent, what comfort can Queensland's 170 000 unemployed take from today's "rubbery figures"?

Mr De LACY: I thank the honourable member for the question. Last year, I did indeed make the comment that the accelerated capital works program was not to be seen as a benchmark for the future, because we were hoping at that time that private sector activity would pick up sufficiently and that we could rein back our accelerated expenditure. It is fair to say that private sector activity has not picked up to the extent that we were hoping, so therefore today's Budget, once again, will be focused on creating jobs and doing something positive for Queensland. Despite all the wishful thinking of the Leader of the Opposition, there will be an increase in capital works funding, and 80 per cent of it will be taken up by the private sector.

Mr Borbidge: Like it was last year?

Mr De LACY: I will take that up as well. Last year, we brought in a Budget which was aimed at stimulating employment in Queensland, and as a result the employment growth was about three times the national average. We will be bringing down a Budget which will further increase employment in Queensland, which will be playing its part in bringing Australia out of the recession. I know that honourable members opposite do not like me saying it, but I know that this Budget will be the best jobs Budget in Australia.

Unemployment

Mr BORBIDGE: In directing a question to the Treasurer, I refer to last year's Budget in which he claimed that an injection of \$3 billion into capital works would create an additional 8 000 jobs, yet an injection of \$8m into tourism would create 20 000 jobs. In view of the Treasurer's current claim that 39 000 jobs will be created by an injection of \$3.3 billion, I ask: how can the same amount of capital works funds create almost five times as many jobs as they were supposed to create in the Treasurer's Budget of last year? In addition, in the face of record unemployment, will the Treasurer now admit that his Budget job creation estimates are rubbery?

Mr De LACY: Will you admit that you do not know what you are talking about?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I suggest that the Treasurer addresses his comments through the Chair. We will have a much better question-time.

Mr Borbidge: Your Budget Speech.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr De LACY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. This afternoon, the Leader of the Opposition will see what is in the Budget. A \$3.3 billion capital works program will employ 39 000 Queenslanders, which is an additional 8 000. Last year, the total job creation in Queensland was in excess of 40 000. Today, 40 000 more Queenslanders are employed than were employed 12 months ago. I repeat: 40 000 more Queenslanders are employed today than were employed 12 months ago.

Mr Stephan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Gympie under Standing Order 123A.

Mr De LACY: For the benefit of all honourable members in this House, I should make the point that increases in unemployment in Queensland have not been caused by a loss of jobs. Increases in unemployment in Queensland have been caused—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr De LACY: I know that members opposite do not want to face reality. They will do anything to talk Queensland down—anything at all. Let me state the facts. The increase in unemployment in Queensland has not been caused by a loss of jobs; it has been caused by an increase in the labour force. In Queensland, the labour force is growing at twice the rate of the national average. Every independent commentator in

Australia knows that. Most people in Queensland know it. The only people who will not accept it—

Mr Hobbs interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Warrego will cease interjecting.

Mr De LACY: The only people who will not accept that fact are those people who see some political benefit in talking Queensland down. They will find out that they are out of step with the whole of the Queensland community.

Drought

Mr PREST: I direct a question to the Premier. As drought is a major concern of the Premier, I ask him to outline to the House the State Government's response to the worsening drought in parts of Queensland.

Mr Stoneman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Burdekin will cease interjecting.

Mr W. K. GOSS: In the very serious drought that has affected Queensland in recent times, the Government has acted, I believe, comprehensively and within the limits of our ability as a State Government to give some relief to drought-stricken areas. That has certainly been recognised by rural industry leaders, if not by the negative complainers opposite. Some relief was brought to the drought by rain, which is now again desperately needed. In certain sections of Queensland, the drought has worsened and the situation is again very serious. Unfortunately, the areas that are worst affected are in the south west of Queensland, further up in the north, particularly around Mackay, and in some sections of the north west. Clearly, if substantial relieving rain does not come in the near future, difficult times are ahead.

As a consequence of an invitation that I received a couple of weeks ago from the head of the United Graziers Association, on Sunday I went with the Deputy Premier, Mr Tom Burns, to Dirranbandi, where I met with Mr Bonthron and a number of local graziers. We discussed the issues that were affecting them and the possible Government response. Mr Burns and I went with Mr Bonthron and other graziers on a tour of various drought-affected properties. We have agreed with the industry leaders to convene another meeting of the drought working group on 1 September. That organisation comprises, firstly, senior departmental people with expertise in that area and, secondly, industry leaders. It is another case of the Government working cooperatively with industry leaders to achieve the best result that we can in difficult circumstances.

Mr Borbidge: How many stock will die?

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr W. K. GOSS: Let the people opposite give us an explanation of the role of their particular side of politics in respect of the recent disappointing announcement on the national drought policy statement issued by the Federal Government. One of the key reasons why that drought policy statement was, we believe, short in terms of what was needed was the failure of the National Party and the Liberal Party in New South Wales to support the Queensland Government when it came to including—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr W. K. GOSS: In terms of a national drought policy, Queensland put up the argument for a range of measures, which were negotiated—

Mr HOBBS: I rise to a point of order. It was the Labor Government that took drought off the natural disaster list.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. I warn the member for Warrego about taking spurious points of order.

Mr W. K. GOSS: Six months ago in Toowoomba, the Queensland Government, together with the rural industry leaders, drafted a national drought policy to move the industries towards long-term self-reliance. However, two key components of that were left out of the final national policy statement. A significant reason for that was the failure of the Nationals and the Liberals in New South Wales to support the Queensland argument for two things. The first was transactional subsidies in relation to fodder and agistment. The second was taxation deductions for drought mitigation, such as the construction of silos and dams, to get producers through the drought. Let members opposite, on their side of politics, explain why the Nationals and Liberals in New South Wales—their soul brothers and sisters—failed to support those significant measures. This Government will continue to work with rural industry to do what can be done. Ultimately, of course, the only thing that will solve the problem is significant relieving rain. However, we will do what we reasonably can, despite the failure of the National and Liberal Parties to support a worthwhile policy supported by this Government and by rural industry in Queensland.

Port of Brisbane

Mr PREST: I ask the Minister for Transport: is he aware of the independent report by construction consultants Rider Hunt in which it is predicted that the port of Brisbane is on track to become Australia's main sea link with Asia? Can he tell the House what this Government has done to encourage continued growth and efficiency within the port?

Mr HAMILL: I am aware of Rider Hunt's independent analysis. I could not agree with it more. In fact, it states quite clearly that Brisbane is on a path for significant growth. This Government's policies have contributed greatly to that growth. Another independent assessment, that of the Waterfront Industry Reform Authority—WIRA—has shown quite clearly the great efficiencies in container handling which have been obtained at the port of Brisbane. They are the sorts of efficiencies which have reduced port costs and attracted new business such as the Colly Farms establishment, which exports cotton, and the importation of Nissan cars—business which was taken away from other capital city ports.

Last year, at a time when other ports in Australia were going backwards, the port of Brisbane handled a record of over 200 000 containers. We see also the construction of infrastructure, such as the standard-gauge rail link, announced in the Port of Brisbane Authority's strategic plan. That represents \$300m worth of investment in the port of Brisbane. What did Rider Hunt's report say about those investments? It said—

“This is real micro-economic reform at work.”

Coming on top of that was the Premier's announcement that Mr Ron Paul, a respected businessman and the Chairman of the South Bank Authority, will chair a joint industry/Government working group to develop the Gateway port concept. With the siting of the seaport at Fisherman Islands and, of course, across the river the airport facility and the international airport development, which will be an important boost for tourism in south-east Queensland coming together, there is an enormous opportunity for a further boost to the economy and job creation in this State. The enormous benefits from that flow through into the local economy. In its report, Rider Hunt stated that the spin-offs of the economic development, which this Government has fostered, at the port of Brisbane will generate an 80 per cent growth in trade at Brisbane to 29 million tonnes by the year 2005; the creation of 3 640 extra jobs in Queensland as a result of this investment; an annual injection into the regional economy of \$870m; and the output from the regional economy rising to \$640m during the construction of the infrastructure development. This is a clear demonstration that correct and responsible public sector investment in infrastructure can generate thousands of jobs in the private sector. In conclusion, I will quote Rider Hunt's independent report, which states—

“It should be obvious to any company contemplating establishing a new investment in Australia that south-east Queensland is the place to be.”

Commissioner of Police

Mrs SHELDON: I refer the Premier to an article on page 3 of the *Weekend Australian*, which I table, that refers to what is described as "a significant error" in a parliamentary attack he made on the Police Commissioner on 7 May. The error was that the then Police Minister was not overseas when Mr Newnham sought a private meeting with the Premier to discuss a Federal Police transcript naming the member for Chatsworth. I ask the Premier: why did he choose to involve himself in the vendetta against the Police Commissioner by deliberately misleading this Parliament to denigrate Mr Newnham?

Mr W. K. GOSS: Out of deference to the member for Landsborough's new-found sensitivity, I will try not to make this answer too interesting. Let me make a couple of points. Firstly, I reject out of hand the allegations made by the member for Landsborough as part of her involvement in an organised smear campaign against the member for Chatsworth. In relation to the particular date to which she refers—I do not know for sure what the date is, but the date is not material; that is something that is a bit of a preoccupation with certain people. It really is a red herring. The date is not important. What is important is the substance of the conversation, not the date.

In relation to the difficulties that occurred between the member for Chatsworth and the Police Commissioner, let me simply say that I have mixed views in the sense that, in respect of both of those gentlemen, I believe that they were well motivated in the work that they carried out respectively as Minister and Commissioner and both contributed a lot to the department in a quite positive and constructive way, save in one regard that I was very disappointed in the feud or the conflict that arose between them in terms of the shots or the swipes that have gone backwards and forwards, many of which I should add have not come from the two individuals so much as the hangers-on and other players with other agendas. That said, I think it is obvious to all that both gentlemen have suffered greatly in terms of their careers and personally as a consequence of the feud and the conflict between them. That is a matter of regret. As I have stated before in this House, once it came to my attention that there was a serious problem, I, together with Sir Max Bingham, moved to see what could be done to resolve it, but shortly thereafter other events overtook it.

The point needs to be made that quite grubby suggestions and innuendos have come from the member for Landsborough, who claims that something sinister is involved in this transcript. I will not transgress matters which could impinge on any proceedings before the court. Without transgressing the sub judice rule, I believe that I can say, firstly, that the matters to which I referred in the transcript, in so far as they involve the member for Chatsworth, reveal no impropriety—

Mr Elliott interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Cunningham under Standing Order 123A.

Mr W. K. GOSS: They reveal no impropriety on his part whatsoever. Immediately after I became aware of these matters, I discussed with Sir Max Bingham from the Criminal Justice Commission whether some further action on my part was warranted. Sir Max Bingham indicated to me that he concurred with my view that there was no impropriety in the actions of the member for Chatsworth. I am pleased to say that Sir Max Bingham has subsequently confirmed that view to me in writing. Some of the posturing by the Liberal Party in respect of this matter is, of course, quite hypocritical, when one considers that, in so far as it refers to a donation to the Labor Party campaign in that area, it is no different from the donation made by the same person to the Liberal Party campaign in that same electorate in 1977.

Commissioner of Police

Mrs SHELDON: In directing my second question to the Premier, I refer to a meeting that he had with the Police Commissioner in early 1990, and I ask: will he now inform the House exactly what factual material he placed before the CJC Chairman, Sir

Max Bingham, about a \$5,000 payment to the former disgraced Police Minister and member for Chatsworth from a person then subject to criminal investigation? Did this material include a transcript—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I reaffirm my ruling that that matter is sub judice. I will not allow matters such as that to be discussed at this point. I rule that question out of order.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members, I am trying to be fair. I am in a difficult situation. The question is getting very close to matters that are before the court. I ask the member for Landsborough to rephrase the question so that it gets away from matters that are before the court. I cannot approach this matter in any other way. I ask her to try to rephrase her question so that it does not refer to matters that are sub judice. The Crown Solicitor and the Solicitor-General have advised me that the matters remains sub judice and that, until such time as there are no longer any proceedings pending—

Mr Veivers: What about what the Premier said?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I take the comment from the member for Southport. What the Premier said did not concern me, because it did not touch on the facts. I leave it at that. I ask the member for Landsborough to be careful—

Mr BORBIDGE: I rise to a point of order. My understanding is that the question of the honourable member for Landsborough related to whether certain information had been placed before the Chairman of the CJC, and not to any court case that is under way.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I accept that. I am just warning the member for Landsborough to be careful. She may refer to certain information, as long as she does not become specific about that information. In that case, the sub judice rule will not be breached.

Mrs SHELDON: Mr Speaker, before I rephrase the question, I ask for clarification on the sub judice convention in this Parliament. On 4 August, a jury was considering allegations of perjury against a solicitor, Mr Quentin George, which arose from the Cooke inquiry. On the same day in this House, the Premier attacked the Cooke inquiry, describing it as a \$6m "Cooke's tour" that found only a little bit of corruption and was a waste of time and money. Mr Speaker, at no time did you or the Attorney-General seek to intervene, when clearly it could have been argued that the Premier's attack—

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs SHELDON: Mr Speaker, I am asking for clarification.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! That is not relevant.

Mrs SHELDON: I think that it is entirely relevant.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am not aware of those events. I am clearly aware that this matter is sub judice. I reaffirm the application of the sub judice convention of this Parliament. I insist that it be upheld. I have been tolerant with the member for Landsborough. I have asked her to rephrase the question so that it does not raise matters which, in my view, would be sub judice. That is all I am asking. I am asking the honourable member to get around it without raising matters that would affect and prejudice a trial and an appeal that is to be heard by the courts.

Mrs SHELDON: Mr Speaker, that was the clarification that I was seeking from you. The case to which I refer was indeed before the courts on the same day as the Premier was discussing this matter in the House.

A Government member interjected.

Mrs SHELDON: Yes, but the honourable member does not. Mr Speaker, I will rephrase the question. I ask: will the Premier now inform the House exactly what factual material he placed before the CJC Chairman, Sir Max Bingham? Did this material include a transcript from a Federal Police intercept of a conversation about the \$5,000 payment

to Mr Mackenroth? Will the Premier table in the House all the material that he put before Sir Max Bingham and provide the House with any written advice or any other proof that Sir Max had ruled out any improper conduct by the member for Chatsworth?

Mr W. K. GOSS: I provided to Sir Max Bingham the same advice that was tendered to me by the Police Commissioner. I do not have possession of any transcript. It would be quite improper to have such a document because, under the law, possession of that transcript is restricted to certain people named in the order. I will not go into who subsequently received copies of that transcript when, under the terms of the court order, they were not entitled to do so. The information that was conveyed to me by the Police Commissioner was then conveyed by me to Sir Max Bingham. During a discussion in my office, Sir Max Bingham advised me that he saw no impropriety at all in the matter. Earlier this year, when certain references to this matter appeared in the newspaper as a result of Mrs Sheldon's disgraceful conduct, I subsequently wrote to Sir Max Bingham. He wrote back to me, and I am happy to show that letter to the member for Landsborough. Because it is a confidential letter, I do not think that it is appropriate to table it. However, I will read to the House an extract from it. If the member for Landsborough wishes to read the whole letter, I will let her read it. Obviously, I cannot trust her to take it away—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr W. K. GOSS: I am happy to withdraw it, but as Senator Parer—

Mr BORBIDGE: I move—

“That the document referred to by the Premier be tabled.”

Under the Standing Orders, I am entitled to do so.

Mr SPEAKER: I have been advised by the Clerk that that motion must be put without amendment or debate. I put the motion from the Leader of the Opposition that that document be tabled. The document has been referred to in the Premier's answer.

Mr W. K. GOSS: I rise to a point of order—

Motion agreed to.

Mr W. K. GOSS: The point of order that I was trying to make, but which I was not allowed to make because the Leader of the Opposition was given precedence, was simply that—

Mr FitzGerald: Standing Orders.

Mr W. K. GOSS: As the member for Lockyer has pointed out, and as I understand it, the Standing Orders state that if any member refers to a document, he or she can be compelled to table that document. I was simply asking that the courtesy be extended to Sir Max Bingham and me of having that letter remain confidential. I indicated that I was prepared to read the relevant paragraph. Furthermore, I indicated that I was prepared to let the member for Landsborough read it. I cannot be more open than that.

Mr Johnson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Gregory!

Mr W. K. GOSS: Mr Speaker, in accordance with your ruling and the decision of the House, I will table the letter. Firstly, I will read the relevant paragraph of the letter from Sir Max Bingham dated 20 May 1992, which states—

“For the record, it is my recollection that you informed me a \$5,000 donation had been received by Mr Mackenroth, and it had been paid to ALP funds and receipted. Further, when a matter involving the donor had been before Cabinet the Minister concerned had withdrawn from discussion. I told you that I could see no impropriety in that; and that remains my view.”

That is two years later. I table that letter.

Chairman of Criminal Justice Commission

Mr PITT: I ask the Premier: can he inform the House of the process that is required for the selection of a new Chairman of the Criminal Justice Commission?

Mr W. K. GOSS: I believe that the process is important because we seek to attract a person of the highest calibre to the very significant position of Chairman of the Criminal Justice Commission. I will give honourable members a complete outline of the situation. Some months ago, I discussed the succession arrangements with Sir Max Bingham.

Mr BORBIDGE: I rise to a point of order. Is it appropriate for matters that are before an all-party parliamentary committee to be canvassed by the Premier in debates during question time?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Mr W. K. GOSS: The Leader of the Opposition knew that that was not a point of order. A couple of months ago, Sir Max Bingham and I discussed the succession arrangements. As a result of that discussion, the position was advertised nationally. During the course of the conversation that I had with Sir Max Bingham, I asked him whether he was aware of any good candidates who were interested in the position. He said that he was not, but he also said—not in a formal manner, but in a casual manner—that he would like to see people like Mr O'Regan, QC, apply for the position. As to the grubby slur made by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday in relation to Mr O'Regan's affiliations—Mr O'Regan's name came to mind for two reasons: firstly, because he was short-listed by Sir Max Bingham under the previous National Party Government in 1989; secondly, because he has been used extensively as counsel by the Criminal Justice Commission.

I have another letter from Sir Max Bingham dated 24 August 1992. I will table it before the Leader of the Opposition jumps to his feet and catches me out again. It indicates quite clearly that Mr O'Regan has the support and confidence of the commission. I thought that it was best to be open and up-front in relation to the fact that I approached him. I approached Mr O'Regan only after it became clear on Wednesday or Thursday of last week that we had only four applications from people who were not well-known in Queensland. It was considered that we should try to attract a wider field, including senior members of the Queensland Bar. Sir Max Bingham agreed. I table the letter.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The time allotted for questions has now expired.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**QIDC; Southern Cross/Compass Airlines**

Mr BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—Leader of the Opposition) (11 a.m.): Today, I shall detail to the House a deal involving the Treasurer of this State that indicates beyond any doubt that Queensland Inc is in business; that it is up and running under the Goss Government. This deal has been the subject of an ongoing cover-up by the Treasurer that has at every step served only to get him in deeper. The deal is the Government's support for Southern Cross/Compass which, according to the Treasurer, involves exposure of the Queensland taxpayer to a \$6.875m equity investment in an airline. Any criticism by the Opposition is portrayed by the Treasurer as opposing assistance to Compass. This is not the case. I wish the airline well. However, my concern is for the Queensland taxpayer.

The interesting, revealing and damning thing is how the Government chose to structure that investment and how it has tried to cover up the true nature of the deal and what it says about this Government and the way that it does business. The duplicity begins from the very start. In July, the Government wanted us to believe, as did the Treasurer and/or his staff seek to have Bob Wilson of the *Sunday Mail* and business reporters at *Business Queensland* and the *Courier-Mail* believe, that the Government

had used Treasury funds—and this is a very important point—that were quite separate from those held in the Venture Capital Fund of the Queensland Industry Development Corporation to make that investment. The briefings that Bob Wilson got led him on 27 July to write—

“The Queensland Government has used available venture capital funds from the State Treasury’s allocation for its \$10 million investment in the revamped Compass Airlines.”

Mr Wilson was relying on briefings from the same sources when he wrote on that same date—

“It is understood Treasury decided to use its own capital venture funding to avoid any conflict with autonomous Government-owned bodies like the QIDC, Suncorp, or Queensland Investment Corporation.”

Clever, subtle and highly deceitful political trickery! As members will learn, the QIDC’s autonomy was destroyed totally by the Treasurer. This is what really happened: the Government wanted the QIDC to make the investment via its Venture Capital Fund, which was established by the Ahern Government to boost venture funds in this State. It was a great idea. However, it was established to assist small-business ventures, not take part in multimillion-dollar equity participation in the operations of airlines. The moneys which constitute the fund are Government moneys—they do not come from QIDC operations—and they are managed by the QIDC on behalf of the Treasury. It was from this source that the Government wanted its investment in Southern Cross/Compass to come. The QIDC would not do that. Officers submitted a report recommending to the board that it not make the investment, and it did not. The board backed its officers.

I hold no piece of paper here today to prove that allegation as fact. I challenge the Treasurer to deny it. He knows that the QIDC did not want to invest in Southern Cross/Compass, and that it did not. I challenge anybody in this place with an inquiring mind—a mind which recognises the need to hold this Government accountable and recognises the significance of this duplicity—to ask the QIDC a simple question, “Did you make an investment in Southern Cross/Compass from the Venture Capital Fund?” The answer will be, “No.” I point out that I believe that the board of the QIDC and the board of the Venture Capital Fund, which is a separate entity, and the management of the QIDC and the fund acted with complete propriety throughout this episode. I make that statement without qualification. The onus is not on them but on the Treasurer. The question is: where does the fact that the QIDC did not make that investment leave the Treasurer today? Where does that leave him in relation to the answers that he gave in this House on 6 August? On that day, the Treasurer was asked quite simply and quite directly to answer whether the funding for Southern Cross/Compass came from the QIDC. He said—

“Funding was sourced from the Venture Capital Fund which is managed by QIDC on behalf of the Treasury Department.”

A reasonable person reading that sentence could say, “The money was from the QIDC’s Venture Capital Fund.” That is exactly what the Treasurer wanted people to believe, even though that left business reporters in this city with the knowledge that they had been duded. In July, they had deliberately been given to understand that the money had come directly from Treasury. They had been deliberately and specifically led to believe that the money had not come from the QIDC’s Venture Capital Fund. Even so, we have not yet arrived at the worst. The truth is behind yet another layer of the lie. The truth is that the funds were indeed sourced—just as the Treasurer said—from the QIDC. But they were sourced in this fashion: when the QIDC would not make the investment, the Treasurer simply hauled it off the QIDC. He did what he has so often said that he would not do. He manipulated a Government-owned enterprise. He gave us a piece of Queensland Inc in the best traditions of Cain’s Victoria and Bannon’s South Australia. What proof do we have? The proof of the Treasurer’s answers in this House on 6 August! After conceding that the funds were sourced from the QIDC’s Venture Capital Fund, the Treasurer was asked—

“What amount did the QIDC have available for venture capital lending this financial year and how much of this amount is still available for this purpose?”

The Treasurer's response was that, as of 1 July 1992, the balance was \$10.729m. The balance at 6 August was \$3.625m. If the QIDC did not choose to make that investment, how and why was \$6.875m, which represents the scale of the investment in Southern Cross/Compass, removed from the Venture Capital Fund? Clearly, after the board refused to make the investment, there was a decision, which must ultimately have had at least the authority of the Treasurer, for the Venture Capital Fund to surrender—to stand and deliver—\$6.875m to the Treasury. The Treasurer's own response in this House proves that this happened.

This murky deal by a murky Treasurer is outrageous. Later today the Treasurer will rise in this House and present his third Budget. How can anybody believe one word that that man says? He has shown himself willing to deceive the public and, significantly, the share market over how the Government deals with millions of dollars of taxpayers' funds. He and his agents told journalists—the very same journalists whom in recent days he and his agents have been briefing on the Budget—that the State Government used its own capital venture funds to support Southern Cross/Compass rather than using QIDC capital venture funds. He was happy for them to report that as fact. He wanted them to report that as fact. And all the while, he knew that to be deceptive. Then he came into this place, and here he was content to have members believe he did use the QIDC Venture Capital Fund. But even that double deception is a mere lead-in to the big untruth—the ultimate lie! The Treasurer deliberately misled the Parliament not only on the truth behind the sourcing of those funds but, when he was asked, “Were any directions given by the Minister, his department, or the Queensland Treasury Corporation in respect of the source of such funding?” the Treasurer's response to that was simple and direct, “No.”

I submit that it is utterly incredible for the Treasurer to ask anybody to accept that a reduction in the Venture Capital Fund of the QIDC from \$10.729m on 1 July this year to \$3.625m on 6 August was effected—against the express wish of the board of that fund, which did not want to invest, and did not invest, in Southern Cross/Compass—without a clear direction from somebody in authority in Treasury. He simply cannot ask us to believe that the QIDC would surrender those millions of dollars of funds that it managed without a direction from the Treasury to do so. This is a clear and indisputable case of the Government indulging in the very sort of meddling in State financial institutions which led to the demise of Cain in Victoria, which put Bannon and the Premier's own financial adviser, Paul Woodland, under the spotlight at the royal commission in South Australia and which ruined the reputation of the Burke/Dowding/Lawrence Labor Government of Western Australia. It is textbook manipulation of the public purse of the Labor Inc variety, and it is a direct contradiction of everything the Treasurer has said in relation to this Government's attitude about an arm's length approach to the public corporate sector.

Overseas Visit by Member for Mansfield; Languages Other Than English Program

Ms POWER (Mansfield) (11.10 a.m.): In July, I had the pleasure of travelling on a trade delegation led by the Minister for Resource Industries, the Honourable Tony McGrady, to Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong and China. During the last sitting, the Minister reported to this House on the successful outcomes of that delegation. I would like to highlight some of the experiences that I gained from participating in that delegation. When I first found out that I was included in the trade delegation, I went out and bought numerous publications on the various places to be visited. Friends and colleagues scoffed at my enthusiasm—after all, it was a parliamentary delegation and I would be cocooned from the realities of life. I have always prided myself on being prepared, and I consider myself well travelled and well read. But all my experience and all my reading did not prepare me for the realities of our Asian neighbours. Some people question the validity of backbenchers travelling

overseas and query the use of taxpayers' dollars. For my part, I believe it was money well spent. I saw Asia from the Asian point of view, and it was an eye-opener. Imagine that only 50 or 60 years ago the highland people of Papua New Guinea were living a subsistence existence, some as head-hunters and cannibals, and speaking many different languages. Today, although many still live their tribal life, many others are employed in the mining and related industries and the tourism industry, driving around in four-wheel-drive vehicles and punching out data on computers. Talk about life in the fast lane!

In Papua New Guinea, over 700 different languages are used, but English and pidgin are being used to unify the people and open trading doors for them. In Singapore also, English is a primary language for trade purposes and is a second language to the Chinese, Malays and others who live there. No amount of reading could have given me the experience of being in Indonesia. How can one comprehend a city such as Jakarta, with a population of 14 million—almost the population of Australia in one city! In Jakarta, we were surrounded by people and more people. To cross the road in the city centre requires some talent, or a belief that Allah will not call one up that day. The traffic is so congested that it takes an hour to travel only a few kilometres. The driver can read the paper on the way to work and passengers can catch up on their sleep. As well, people cram like sardines into buses. But they are friendly people. Although I spoke not a syllable of Indonesian, I was greeted with smiles and hellos. My colleagues on both sides of the House will agree that the people were friendly, many speaking English as a second language.

Throughout the province of Semarang in Central Java, we were kindly received. People were keen to know about Queensland and Brisbane—although I am not sure that they knew that Brisbane and Queensland were related. Previous visits by Ministers Hamill and Braddy and the Premier had made quite an impression, and people spoke of them with high regard. For me, the most amazing experience in Indonesia was the respect afforded to politicians, both their own and visitors. I am not saying that politicians are any more loved in Indonesia, but they are certainly treated with respect. How pleasant not to wake up in the morning to Peter Dick and his wisecracks about politicians and his put-downs of them. Wherever we visited—factories, farms, receptions and temples—we were warmly received and treated with extreme politeness. The people in all those places took a great deal of time and made a real effort to show us the operations. They were thorough, and willingly answered question after question. As women traditionally do not hold office, some people wondered how I would be received in those countries. But, in common with what is occurring in most countries, times are slowly changing. In the national Indonesian Parliament, approximately 15 of the 100 members are women. Throughout the trip, I found that I was well received and well treated. Although I am sure that it is the custom of Asian people to be respectful to visitors, I also believe that my treatment by my own colleagues played a significant role in my acceptance. To each of my fellow travellers, I extend my thanks for their companionship over the 13 days.

My travels were interesting and I could earbash the House for hours on the experiences I encountered, but my purpose today is to bring to the attention of the House once again the success of the Languages Other Than English program in Queensland's State schools. After my participation in the trade delegation, I am even more enthused about LOTE and know just how important that program will be not just for the education of our children, but for our economic prosperity in the future. For all of the 13 days during which I was travelling, I often wished I could speak some of the languages and was impressed at the English skills of the Asian people. At the beginning of this year, I offered a book prize to all the primary schools in my electorate studying LOTE to encourage the children's participation. The response was very positive. Of course, I left the hard task of judging to the individual schools. When I saw the work being done by students, I realised what a difficult task I had given the teachers. As the true professionals they are, they rose to the occasion, and I thank them for their assistance. I can assure the House that LOTE is alive and well in the Mansfield electorate and throughout Queensland. Before I get shot down in flames, let me say that

I am aware that some private schools, particularly Catholic parish schools, do not have access to LOTE. That is a problem that is being considered by the Minister and the department. Let us hope that in the future we will be able to say that all children have access to LOTE.

In my speech during the 1990-91 Education Estimates debate, I spoke out against the critics of learning a foreign language. Learning a second language is a valuable tool in understanding the intricacies of our own language. A study of another language also opens the doors of understanding of a different culture and, with that, comes tolerance not only for one different culture but for all the different cultures. The 1991 school year saw the first \$5m allocated to the foreign language program, which will be part of the sum of \$65m expended over the next decade. Queensland is the only State in Australia to embark on a comprehensive foreign language program across its school population. In the 1991-92 Budget, funds were doubled to \$11.9m for the expansion of the LOTE program, including the appointment of an additional 100 specialist teachers. LOTE is now a core part of the State primary curriculum, with the five key language areas being Chinese, Japanese, Indonesian, German and Italian. Teacher exchange programs have been established with China and Japan so that Queensland teachers can receive special training and a greater understanding of the languages and cultures that they are teaching.

The success of LOTE in schools was evident during Education Week last year. A program for the week showed the extent of LOTE in all curriculum areas—a French breakfast, Chinese calligraphy, Tai Chi, German dancing, music from the Indonesian music group Gamelin, French immersion lessons, Spanish singing, Japanese singing and poetry, and the list went on. I was particularly interested in the French immersion lesson given by the Benowa State High School as the Mansfield State High School in my electorate is also studying immersion French. I am amazed at how quickly students have adapted to thinking and speaking French while studying maths, science, history and geography. My ability to parler le Francais pales beside their achievements. Of course, I was proud to see students of the Mount Gravatt South State School take part in Japanese singing, poetry and dancing during that week.

Earlier this month, I had the pleasure of attending a Chinese evening conducted by the schools in the Rochedale cluster, under the supervision of the Chinese language teacher, Ms McAdoo. On arrival, guests were treated to some Chinese tea and spring rolls. Then it was on to the performance—short skits, dancing, singing, bingo, word games, Tai Chi, all of which were compered by the Year 9 students of Chinese at the Rochedale State High School. Another guest at that performance was Alan Langdon, Manager of the Languages and Cultures Unit in the Studies Directorate. Both of us were impressed by the children's language skills, their enthusiasm for the culture and their obvious enjoyment of their study. While Chinese is alive and well in the Rochedale, Eight Mile Plains and Warrigal Road schools, Japanese is thriving at the Mount Gravatt school and French is popular at the Mansfield State High School and the Mansfield primary school.

I am sure that my colleagues on both sides of the House could detail the many exciting learning experiences that are occurring throughout Queensland due to the introduction of LOTE into schools. I am sure also that some of them could refer to the problems that have arisen. This is a long-term project. Each year, we will see improvements—more teachers to allow more children to participate in the courses, more resources, etc.—so that in 10 years we will see an extensive, well-developed foreign language course in use throughout most primary and secondary schools in Queensland. The success of LOTE in schools is due to a number of factors, including the enthusiasm of teachers, and the way in which the community has accepted and supported the project. In electorates such as mine in which some 70 nationalities are represented in the community, it makes good sense to broaden people's horizons. If I may be so bold—the third reason for the success of LOTE is that it is being implemented in an orderly manner, adequately funded and totally supported by the Government. Unlike our predecessors, this Government will not allow this important curriculum development to be introduced haphazardly. Specific programs have been established to ensure its

implementation. Just how successful is LOTE? Statistics from the Languages and Cultures Unit provide the answer. Almost 40 000 secondary students learn a foreign language. Different regions show different trends.

Time expired.

Increase in Crime

Mr CONNOR (Nerang) (11.20 a.m.): In many parts of Brisbane and the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, residents are installing bars on their windows and doors. If your household is like the one in four households around Queensland, and probably more like every second household in south-east Queensland, you have probably been a victim of crime in the last 12 months. The question is: why have we seen this traumatic change in the way in which we live in Queensland? Every time we pick up a newspaper or turn on the radio or television, we see another vicious, violent crime. If you talk to your friends, you will find that they have probably had their car stolen at least once or had their house broken into maybe two or even three times. The question is: why have we had this dramatic increase in crime in Queensland in the last few years? Many people will argue that it is a sign of the times and that it is just another symptom of the recession. New South Wales, which has supposedly done worse than Queensland during the recession, has not had the same increase in crime. The reason for this is that New South Wales criminals are migrating to Queensland. New South Wales exports its crime by being tough on its criminals, and we are not. Queensland's revolving-door prisons are just symptoms of the total breakdown in the criminal justice system in Queensland.

Last year's police annual report showed break and enters to be up 25 per cent. We heard the Police Commissioner say, "Queensland has the highest rate of crime against the person of any Australian State"—in other words, the highest rate of violent crime in Australia. Where, according to the CJC, are the worst parts of Queensland or, in other words, the most dangerous parts of Australia? They are the Gold Coast, Cairns and the inner parts of Brisbane. The officer in charge of the South Eastern Region, Assistant Police Commissioner Laurie Pointing, has said publicly that he would turn around the "grubs", as he calls them, the southern criminals at the border. He knows that the southern criminals are migrating to Queensland. But why is Queensland not doing anything about them, and why are they coming up here? Until now, no hard data was available to be able to calculate the extent of the interstate migration of southern criminals—

Mr Schwarten interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Rockhampton North under Standing Order 123A.

Mr CONNOR:—or what proportion were coming from which State. We now have that information. I table a carton of documents. These are the transportation lists from the Brisbane watch-house staging unit. It is the Corrective Services-run detention unit that houses prisoners in between the courts and the prisons in south-east Queensland. This data shows the massive number of repeat offenders in Queensland who have just been sentenced to prison for the second, third or even fifteenth time. Almost two-thirds, or around 60 per cent, of the prisoners who went through the staging unit were repeat offenders. Probably the most startling finding is the number of recently convicted criminals in Queensland who had also served time in southern States. Most specifically, the majority of these criminals had served their time previously in New South Wales. More than half of our interstate migrant criminals were from New South Wales.

I will list some of our southern criminal immigrants, their offences in Queensland, and where and in what year they were previously imprisoned, in the following table—

NAME	OFFENCE	IMPRISONED	YEAR
Tange	Armed robbery	New South Wales	1987
Ford	Stealing	New South Wales	1990
Packer	Breaking and entering	New South Wales	1990

Kingston	Burglary	New South Wales	1990
McCubbray	Stealing	New South Wales	1989
Owens	Stealing and drug offences	New South Wales	1989
Hinds	Stealing	New South Wales	1990
Hess	Stealing	New South Wales	1991
Thompson	Stealing	New South Wales	1990
Mason	Breaking and entering	New South Wales	1989
Gray	Drugs	New South Wales	1991
Skinner	Stealing	New South Wales	1987
Thomas	Stealing	New South Wales	1989
Burton	Indecent dealing	New South Wales	1990
Burnett	Drugs	New South Wales	1991
Fifita	Breaking and entering	New South Wales	1989
Levey	Stealing	New South Wales	1987
Allen	Unlawful use of a motor vehicle	New South Wales	1991
Petersen	Unlawful use of a motor vehicle	New South Wales	1992
Lansdown	Stealing	New South Wales	1989
Killick	Armed robbery	New South Wales	1985
Wright	Indecent assault	New South Wales	1991
Gibson	Possession of dangerous drug	New South Wales	1989
Brown	Stealing	New South Wales	1992
Cross	Stealing	New South Wales	1991
Uzzell	Breaking and entering	New South Wales	1990
Hastings	Assault	New South Wales	1991
Carroll	Supplying a dangerous drug	New South Wales	1990
Lewis	Unlawful use of a motor vehicle	New South Wales	1991
Blythe	Drugs	New South Wales	1991
Tucker	Supply drug	New South Wales	1988
Roberts	Banned drug	New South Wales	1990.

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN: I rise to a point of order. I think that this Parliament would accept that in New South Wales offenders who commit very serious crime receive short sentences.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Mr CONNOR: The table continues—

NAME	OFFENCE	IMPRISONED	YEAR
Derrin	Breaking and entering	New South Wales	1992
Thompson	House breaking	New South Wales	1989
Wagner	Stealing	New South Wales	1992
Cole	Assault	New South Wales	1990
Salmon	Unlawful use of a motor vehicle	New South Wales	1991
Mallett	Breaking and entering	New South Wales	1992
Brown	Unlawful use of a motor vehicle	New South Wales	1991
Elsayed	Armed robbery	New South Wales	1991
Coyne	Drugs	New South Wales	1991
Brash	Drugs	New South Wales	1989.

The list of almost 200 goes on and on. I table the document. These are the criminals who have been convicted and sentenced in Queensland after having been released recently from southern prisons. It does not include those southern criminals who are on remand awaiting sentence. It does not include southern criminals who have been convicted of traffic related offences. It does not include those southern criminals who came to Queensland before they were caught, and it does not include the majority of southern criminals who were given noncustodial sentences in Queensland. This is just the tip of the iceberg. Literally thousands of professional southern criminals are migrating to Queensland looking for greener pastures.

The previous Government attracted southern businessmen and wealthy retirees to the north and south coasts, but this Goss Labor Government is attracting the grubs. The

question is: how are they attracting the southern grubs? The word has been spread around that Queensland is a soft touch; that Queensland has the best, most comfortable prisons in Australia; that it has the largest number of bleeding hearts running the prisons; and that it has the shortest sentences for the most violent crimes. We only have to remember the incredibly violent, savage and brutal murder of the young girl on the Sunshine Coast by a convicted criminal who had been on parole for only three weeks. He had served only one year of a four-year sentence, one quarter of the sentence handed down by the court. Why should anyone worry about being caught in Queensland? Even if a person is caught and convicted, there is no deterrent value in a prison sentence. He will serve his time in a model prison. He will eat food that is better than what he eats at home, and will serve only a quarter of the sentence. There is just no deterrent. The chances of his being caught, because of the lack of funding of our police force and the fact that we have the second lowest ratio of police to population in Australia, are almost insignificant. In fact, the clear up rate of many crimes is less than one in 20. How could a Government in Queensland make it safe for people to walk down the streets at night? How could it make their home safe from some looter, or their car safe from being stolen? The answer is really quite simple: make the punishment fit the crime and make the criminals do their time. For four years, in New South Wales, a Liberal Government has been doing that. That is why the criminals are migrating to Queensland. In New South Wales, the Liberal Government has a judicial system known as "truth in sentencing". People in New South Wales thought that the Government would not have the guts to honour it, but for four years it has been making the criminals serve their time. If a judge says "four years", they do four years behind bars. That is what it comes down to—truth in sentencing. Life means life—for the term of his natural life. Four years means four years; six months means six months. No more will the bleeding hearts turn those revolving prison doors and send back the violent criminals to bash or kill.

Next time members hear of some vicious and violent crime, say, a brutal rape, they should remember that that rapist has probably just been released from prison after serving about a quarter or a third of his time in prison, just like that prisoner who killed that poor girl on the Sunshine Coast. He had been out of prison for only three weeks. Only 12 months earlier he had bashed another girl. How is it that these criminals are back stealing cars or breaking into homes so quickly? Probably the best kept secret in Queensland is the remission system in our prisons. By merely walking in the front gate of any Queensland prison, a prisoner will have one-third of his sentence taken off immediately. A savage rapist sentenced by a judge to 12 years' imprisonment will walk in the front gate of Wacol prison, or any other prison, and immediately have four years struck off his sentence just because he walked in the front gate. It is known as the automatic one-third prison remission. It is argued that one-third of the sentence has to be taken off, so that if the prisoner does not behave himself inside, the one-third can be added on again. What sort of a joke on the community is that? Where is the prison discipline that says, "You'll do what you're told or you'll end up in solitary"? Instead, prisoners are given remissions. We hear of a multitude of reasons for reductions in sentences. Even though under the law a prisoner has to work, he is given work remissions. In most cases, one month a year is remitted. If a prisoner happens to be working on a farm, he receives what is known as a farm remission. If a prisoner happens to have his security classification reduced to below medium security, he receives a 28 day remission, which means another month is taken off each year of his sentence. Prisoners also receive a remission for Christmas Day. And so it goes on—remission after remission. It is no wonder criminals are released and out offending again after serving only a quarter of their sentences. This is why crime in Queensland is out of control.

Disability Services

Mr BRISKEY (Redlands) (11.29 a.m.): Mr Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to advise you of the birth of our third daughter on Thursday morning. Alison and mother are doing extremely well.

A Government member: How's dad?

Mr BRISKEY: Dad is all right, too. This morning, I wish to speak about parents in my electorate who have severely disabled children. Recently, in this House, the Disability Services Bill was passed. That Bill provided, among other things, that consideration should be given to others involved with people who have disabilities. Many groups within the community spend countless hours caring for and being involved with people who have disabilities. One such group within the Redlands is the Handicapped Association of the Redlands District, which is better known as HARD. I know that the member for Manly, Jim Elder, would agree with me wholeheartedly when I say that HARD and those from the Redlands community involved with HARD are doing an excellent job in working with people in our community who have disabilities. On a number of occasions, I have had the opportunity of visiting HARD's premises and seeing the various programs and activities operating therein. On behalf of the Redlands community, I take this opportunity to thank the staff and volunteers involved with HARD for their hard work and the commitment that they show daily towards helping those in our community with disabilities.

Another group within the Redlands is Baycare. That group provides respite, mainly for people with disabilities who are over the age of 15 years. Those people are part of a new group in the Redlands. I wish them well with their endeavours and I thank all those involved for their efforts. I should also like to pay tribute to the staff and parents and citizens association of the Redland District Special School for their work with children who have disabilities. They are indeed doing an excellent job.

This morning, I wish to mention in particular a group within my electorate that is endeavouring to provide respite for those who care for children with disabilities. That group is the Redland Respite Care Committee Incorporated. I wish to acknowledge the work of Mr Ernest Barry, MBE, and the other members of that group for their work in endeavouring to provide help for families with severely disabled children. I give my full support to that group, because the need for respite in the Redlands for families with severely disabled children under the age of 15 is great. Those families give their whole lives for the care of their children. They give up much. They have little contact with their families and with their friends, and next to no social life. The quality of life that most other people in the community expect is absolutely out of reach for those parents. I have the utmost respect for those parents, who give so much to ensure that their children have the best quality of life that they are able to enjoy. I have memories of visiting an institution at which severely disabled children were living. That memory will be with me for life. I found that experience to be one of the most distressing that I have had. Although that visit was many years ago, the memories are with me still.

Recently, I had an equally moving experience, and that was to visit Leigh Palethorpe, a constituent who, with her family, provides a loving and caring home for their severely disabled son and brother Jason. That visit made me remember those children in the institutional setting. The contrast between the two situations was stark. Jason is living in a loving family relationship with his mother, father, siblings and a dog, who all love him dearly. I cannot describe my feelings regarding Leigh. She gives her all for her son. She is truly one of society's heroes. Another 50 families are, in common with Leigh, caring for and loving their severely disabled children in the Redlands. They would not consider themselves as heroes. They do what they do because of the love that they have for their children. I take this opportunity to read part of a statement written by Leigh about Jason and the care that he requires. She begins—

“Our son is ten years old this year and suffers from severe Cerebral Palsy. This affects him so severely that he is totally dependent on us for all his needs. He can't move, feed, dress himself, go to the toilet or have a biscuit or drink without our help. He can't communicate, only by body language, so we ask lots of questions and do a lot of guessing.

He has undergone six major surgeries—these have been emotionally and physically draining—twice he has had body casts for eight weeks. He is very prone to infection and needs constant nursing care.

One of the most tiring tasks is the repositioning of him at night. This is normally once or twice a night so he doesn't develop pressure spots. Our only full nights through are when Jason is in respite care—these we look forward to with relish.

Our family life suffers in many ways. We lack spontaneity—everything has to be planned around his needs. Drug times, feeding times, wheel chair accessibility—walks along the beach even are out. Outings have to be planned as baby sitters are hard to come by. They have to be specially trained and often expensive which makes an outing expensive. Holidays are also limited due to respite services. At the moment, we can only get a maximum of 10 days in a row at one facility. We are also limited to 28 days of respite a year before our handicapped child allowance is adjusted.”

She continues—

“Jason needs special meals—all must be processed or mixed. He can't eat sandwiches for lunch so he must have at least two cooked meals in a day. He needs added supplements—sustogen and vitamins to try to keep him as healthy as possible. As he needs to be spoon fed this often takes 30 to 40 minutes. This means if our family sits down to dinner it takes the feeder twice as long to eat and meals are often cold then. If Jason is fed first it means two sittings and he doesn't get to join in.

Other expenses such as extra clothes and specially made clothes”—
are needed—

“to dress him easier. His dribbling ruins and stains clothes quickly and furnishings and bed linen also is similarly affected.

We have even had to structure our working life around Jason. After school care is unavailable for these children—there has to be someone to meet him every day at 3.30. This means no unplanned outings, shopping, hair cuts, anything must be cut short to be there for Jason. We work from home to achieve this.

Home programmes, physiotherapy, leave little time for our other children—let alone ourselves.

We desperately need more respite services and local support so we don't have to drive miles for a rest. We need to feel happy where Jason is so we don't worry about him and know that he is also happy and stimulated.

He needs socialisation that a home away will provide him—his circle of friends is very limited to his family, teacher, doctor and therapist. He needs normality as much as we do. Help make our support for him go further and not be embittered by daily chores and tired stressed parents.”

Other family members miss out as a result of the time required to care for severely disabled children who live at home. The family also suffers a large financial burden. It is our responsibility, as a caring and enlightened society, to provide for people with disabilities and to ensure that people with disabilities have the same rights as other members of society. It is equally our responsibility to provide respite for those families who provide care for young children with severe disabilities. I have the highest admiration for those families within the Redlands who provide a loving and caring environment for their severely disabled children. I give my full support to them in their endeavours to have respite care provided in the Redlands for disabled children under the age of 15 years.

Shearing Industry

Mr STONEMAN (Burdekin) (11.39 a.m.): Today, I want to raise the matter of the principle of choice in the workplace as highlighted most recently by the advent of contractual arrangements in the shearing industry. This Government has to start looking at the core problems being faced by graziers as the drought in south-western

Queensland deepens and the nation is again faced with the depletion of a major resource—livestock. For instance, Mr Casey would be doing a service to the wool industry, the people who are part and parcel of that industry and the millions of animals now at risk if he brought back to Cabinet practical proposals to lessen animal suffering in times of drought. Fundamental to animal welfare is the need to allow adjustment of the Shearing Industry Award to include the flexibility to provide, where necessary and agreed, for operation outside the hours of work as set down under the award.

The recent case wherein a shearing contractor was prevented from shearing sheep, resulting in the death of lambs and the fining of the contractor after intervention by two AWU organisers, illustrates perfectly the need for flexibility and choice between employer and employee. As a person involved for many years in the wool industry, I understand the frustrations of both shearers and graziers when they have to watch animals suffer in bad times, much less in circumstances such as those now being experienced. Goss Labor Government Ministers, such as Industrial Relations Minister, Ken Vaughan, are captives of the old union ideology and see every departure from the old order as some sort of diminution of workers' rights. The fact is that those times have long since gone. If Minister Casey has even a basic understanding of his portfolio responsibilities, he should have no hesitation in coming down hard on any action that places at risk the welfare of animals that provide the wealth of the nation and the circumstances facing stock owners in trying to do their best under almost impossible circumstances.

As the drought in Queensland's pastoral areas deepens, it is vital that irresponsible and self-centred industrial dinosaurs, as represented by certain AWU organisers, be brought to account for their actions. The recent actions by AWU organisers in stopping the shearing of drought-stricken sheep, which led to the death of lambs, is in clear contravention of the Animals Protection Act—an Act that the Deputy Premier has used as a vehicle of high emotion and selective action.

Mr J. H. Sullivan interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Palaszczyk): Order! The member for Glass House!

Mr STONEMAN: If this State is ever to break free of archaic industrial regulations—regulations that are being finetuned by union officials with support from the Goss Labor Government—the full force of the law should be applied across-the-board, and that is where Mr Burns must act.

Under the Act, the section relating to "Offences of cruelty" states—

"(1) It shall be an offence against this Act for any person to—

- (a) Ill-treat or cause or procure or encourage to be ill-treated or be a party to ill-treating any animal . . ."

In relation to ownership, the section states—

- "(ba) Being the owner of any animal, fail to provide treatment for injury, disease or illness with which that animal may at any time be afflicted . . ."

The first part of the section applies directly to the AWU officials who were "a party to ill-treating" animals. The second part applies to the same officials who prevented an owner from fulfilling his obligations under the Act. Having outlined that background, I call on the Minister to set aside his pro-trade union inclinations and use the fullest force of the law to prosecute those who caused unnecessary suffering and deaths. To not do so will be for him to make a mockery of his widely proclaimed concern for animal welfare and expose his latest "concern" for rural families as nothing more than crocodile tears in an election lead-up.

Last week, I challenged the Industrial Relations Minister, Ken Vaughan, to give substance to Goss Government claims of being supportive of primary producers by amending legislation to allow full flexibility of industrial agreement between employer and employee in the shearing industry. Goss Labor Government Ministers are blitzing the State in an attempt to woo primary producers into a sense of false security in

respect of the support they claim to be giving them in the current disastrous seasonal and economic conditions. What is being totally overlooked is the impact that overzealous union officials, such as those who earlier this year forced a halt to the shearing of drought-stricken sheep, have on the capacity of the industry to bend the award in humanitarian and sensitive ways. With the advent of the Goss Government, this rear guard of a bygone era are feeling far more secure with their bullyboy ways and know that the union line will find ministerial support. This is happening at a time when the prime objective should be to lessen animal suffering and stock loss, not to mention the hardships being experienced by producers and their families.

In such times and with the knowledge that with every hour that passes economic loss and stock losses mount, the objective of the Government should be to facilitate means by which all parties can work in harmony towards a common goal. It is within the power of the Minister for Industrial Relations to open up the Act to allow work place flexibility to the degree that, where both parties are in accord, shearing operations can proceed regardless of the hour of the day or day of the week. Virtually every other industry allows such flexibility, and it is ludicrous that graziers—who have to care for their flocks 24 hours a day, 365 days a year—have the welfare of their stock jeopardised by archaic award structures being forced upon the industry by court action.

Put in simple terms, allowing for a wet season, weekends, holidays and the out-of-award hours, a grazier has access to shearers for about 13 to 15 per cent of the total time within any 365-day period. If it were possible to negotiate a mutually acceptable weekend structure, the potential time available for shearing would increase by 50 per cent, and total access time would increase to 20 per cent of the hours in a year. Under no circumstances am I suggesting that shearers should be forced to work on weekends. Under no circumstances am I suggesting that the rate of pay should be reduced in any way. Under no circumstances am I suggesting that the general conditions that apply within the industry should be in any way diminished. I am saying that a choice should be available to both the shearer and the grazier so that total industry economics, animal welfare and the management of the national flock are able to be better facilitated. I give my wholehearted moral and physical support to any shearer or contractor who wishes to put into practice what I know has been in the hearts and minds of many industry participants for years, and I challenge the Minister to do likewise. Mr Vaughan and the Goss Labor Government have to make up their minds whether in fact they are the Government of the whole community or apologists for a handful of union officials determined to maintain a level of thinking better suited to the previous century.

Having spent more than half my life involved in the wool industry, I have the greatest respect for the majority of the people within it—shearers, shed hands, classers, rouseabouts—the lot. I understand the difficulty and the hard times that they all confront. However, unless the participants are able to make mutually acceptable arrangements where necessary and when necessary, the whole industry and the national economy will be the losers. Mr Vaughan is no longer an Electrical Trades Union official. He is a Minister of the Crown with a responsibility to the whole Queensland community, and I challenge him to act accordingly.

As part of the widespread recognition of the need for a greater degree of flexibility of arrangement between employers and employees at every level of productivity, last weekend I travelled to Morven, just east of Charleville, to sign on as a contract shearer in a shed at which it was necessary to continue operations into the weekend as part of property management in an area hit severely by drought. The occasion signalled the first legal weekend shearing since the Shearing Industry Award came into being in 1911. It took place at the property of Mr and Mrs Allan Denton at Hillgrove near Morven. As such, it represents a significant step forward in improving the capacity for more relevant stock management practices. It provides a greater degree of choice for shearers. It has the capacity to enhance security in both the shearing and grazing industries. My trip to Morven to shear alongside full-time shearers was part of my belief that persons with a public responsibility should do more than simply give lip-service to matters of principle, and that they should stand alongside those who are undoubtedly contributing to the ultimate greater wellbeing of a significant national industry. With my background in the

wool industry over many years, my previous position as Minister for Primary Industries and my current position as shadow Minister for Industrial Relations, I felt a strong obligation to show a position of leadership in the debate.

During my time at Morven, I had the opportunity to use wide-comb shearing gear for the first time. That equipment was vilified by unions prior to widespread adoption. I could not believe the difference that equipment made in assisting what is purely and simply hard work. The union movement should recognise that similar benefits apply to their members by allowing a greater flexibility of arrangements, such as weekend work, where mutually agreed. Under no circumstances do I suggest that shearers be made to work at weekends. In no way am I implying that they should be paid less. I am merely supporting the concept of choice and giving substance to that by joining the workers at the workplace. Surely it behoves every organisation within the community to band together to assure the speedy recovery of the economy and produce a modern workplace environment that allows an employer and an employee to come to a mutually acceptable and agreeable work practice. The unions have a positive role to play and should set about doing just that.

Employment Prospects

Mr ARDILL (Salisbury) (11.50 a.m.): No doubt exists that providing employment for this State's rapidly increasing population is the greatest issue facing the Goss Government. During the 1980s, under the National Party, Queensland's unemployed army nearly doubled from 60 000 to 117 000, despite the fact that 750 000 jobs were created Australiawide in 1983 after the Hawke Government came to power. The ALP in Queensland viewed job creation as the major issue on election to Government and created a climate which was capable of promoting this as a priority above many of our cherished hopes and ideals. Despite all the criticism by the Opposition, the Labor Party has succeeded.

In 1989, the Queensland work force represented a total of 1 259 100 persons. In three years, that figure has increased by 87 000 to 1 346 000. Unfortunately, although the total number of people employed has increased, so has the number of unemployed, as Queensland's potential work force has escalated due to migration, school leavers and a justified higher expectation amongst women. In the past year, Australia's work force has expanded by 28 000 jobs, of which 21 700 were in Queensland. It now has 10 000 more people employed in business, finance and property than it had under the Nationals. In the same period, 5 000 such jobs have disappeared Australiawide. Queensland not only has gone against the trend but also has 10 000 more people employed, while Australiawide there are 5 000 fewer people employed. In the past decade, 40 000 manufacturing jobs have disappeared in Australia, which has had a tragic effect on the job opportunities of the traditional work force.

The latest breakdown in the composition of Queensland's work force shows the following: wholesale and retail trading, 22.8 per cent; community service, 18.5 per cent; manufacturing, 12.2 per cent; finance, property and business, 10.9 per cent; recreation and other services, including tourism, 8.8 per cent; construction, 7 per cent; primary industries, 6.3 per cent; transport, 4.6 per cent; public administration and defence, 4.3 per cent; mining, 1.9 per cent; communication, 1.4 per cent; and electricity, water and gas, 1.2 per cent. Why has the work force of Queensland increased since the Goss Government came into being? Largely, it has increased because the Government has managed to retain Queensland's image as the low-tax State, yet provide a massive increase in community services such as education, health and police. It has improved the infrastructure that business requires to succeed. That is the key.

State taxes in Queensland have been kept down to the lowest level of taxes paid in any State. Small business, which provides 50 per cent of all employment in Australia, has particularly benefited from the Goss Government's policy. An overwhelming majority of small business in Queensland—87 per cent—does not pay payroll tax. The Liberal Party claims that by abolishing payroll tax, it will provide massive advantages for the small-business sector. It is talking utter, arrant nonsense. In Queensland, 87 per cent of

small business pays no payroll tax. With a payroll of up to \$1m annually, the Queensland rate, which is 3.33 per cent, is equal to the lowest rate in Australia. A business with a payroll of \$10m pays only 5 per cent in comparison with the Australian average of 7 per cent. Queensland, which has a threshold of \$600,000, gives small business a distinct advantage. That threshold is much higher than the threshold of any other State. It exempts many small businesses from paying tax altogether.

Land tax rates have been reduced by this Government, although the effect of that reduction has been nullified in some areas such as Surfers Paradise. Incidentally, Surfers Paradise pays approximately one-sixth of the total land tax paid in Queensland. Grossly inflated land prices in Surfers Paradise have sent land valuations skyrocketing. To some extent, the same thing has occurred on the Gold Coast and in holiday areas in other parts of the State. Overall, taxes on business in Queensland, particularly on small businesses away from Surfers Paradise, are the lowest in Australia. On a per capita basis, State taxes are less than 75 per cent of the average taxes paid in all other States. That is the reason why, with the provision of infrastructure, the Goss Labor Government has presided over an increase in job opportunities that no other State can match.

The Administrative Services Department, under Ron McLean, has provided more apprenticeships for young people than any other Government department in Australia. In fact, this year, 89 apprentices have been taken on in comparison with 62 in all other Government departments throughout Australia. Over the past two decades, because of the rearrangements of business activities in Australia away from manufacturing, and because of automation and new technology, youth employment has shrunk. People in the Labor movement, and notably the Queensland Labor Party President, Ian McLean, have been drawing attention to that matter for decades. In 1975, youth unemployment was at 12.9 per cent, and ever since it has increased steadily in Queensland. In recent times, this Government is the only Government that has done anything to increase the intake of apprentices. Under Ron McLean, the Administrative Services Department is presently training 339 building trades apprentices. That is approximately half of the total Australian complement. The Master Builders Association has reportedly said that there simply will not be enough skilled manpower available to meet the project deadlines. The escalation of prices and the reduction of quality will be the likely outcome if we do not have more apprentices. Of course, this Government has done something about that problem. It is now up to private employers to adopt a long-term view and to take steps to ensure that Queensland's future tradesmen and skilled workers are properly trained. That cannot be achieved by a moving labour force of subcontractors. It can be achieved only with a system of journeyman tutors passing on their skills learned by experience. However, through TAFE training, Governments can assist by providing practical and financial assistance.

Although Queensland must look to the tourism and recreation industries as the major future generators of employment, those industries will be of benefit only if they are properly organised to provide secure and meaningful employment, and a career structure that will be attractive to long-term employees. Only by those means and proper training will Australia, and particularly Queensland, provide the level of service that will maintain such an industry in good esteem and attract tourists. At the same time, if future generations are to have a future, Queensland's manufacturing base must maintain its 12.2 per cent proportion of job opportunities.

Queensland is geographically well placed, and it has the necessary resources to carry out value-added manufacturing activities. Queensland's mining prospects are almost limitless. Under the positive, promotional attitude of Minister Tony McGrady, the business community should feel confident that it is in a climate of expansion. The mining industry must now look to value-added activity beyond what has been previously carried out. An example that can be followed is the bauxite aluminium industry. Despite carping criticism, this Labor Government is certainly on the right track.

Time expired.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Palaszczuk): Order! The time allotted for the Matters of Public Interest debate has expired.

LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. R. J. GIBBS (Wolston—Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing) (12 noon), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the Liquor Act 1992.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill and Explanatory Notes presented and Bill, on motion of Mr Gibbs, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. R. J. GIBBS (Wolston—Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing) (12.02 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

The purpose of this Bill is to continue any right or obligation that a person had under section 18B of the Liquor Act 1912 at the time of its repeal on 1 July of this year as if it had not been repealed. Under section 18B, a licensed victualler who was not the owner of the licensed premises was entitled to deduct from the rent or recoup from the landlord a quarter of the licence fee. If the landlord was also not the owner, that person was entitled in turn to deduct from rent payable for the premises or recoup from the owner the quarter of the licence fee. Section 18B first appeared in the Liquor Act in essentially the same form in 1945. The idea of requiring owners of licensed premises to contribute to the licence fee was linked with other amendments introduced at the same time to provide for the cancellation of a licence if premises were not kept in, or brought up to, the standards of the Act. Licence fees were increased by one half per cent to fund compensation for cancellations, and the 18B provision was inserted so that the contribution to the fund was ultimately made by the owner of the premises.

When the new legislation was drafted, the decision not to retain an 18B type of provision was supported by the liquor industry. However, it was not apparent at the time that some people to whom section 18B applied were locked into tenancy agreements with a higher than market rent that had been negotiated on the basis that the owner would be obliged to pay a quarter of the licence fee. The situation now is that, unless something is done to preserve the rights and obligations that the parties to these agreements had under section 18B, some people will be financially disadvantaged, in some cases, as I understand it, to the extent of tens of thousands of dollars. The effect of this Bill will be to continue the operation of section 18B as it applied at the time of repeal unless the parties to the tenancy to which it applied have varied the tenancy agreement or entered into a new agreement because of the repeal of section 18B.

I take this opportunity to thank the honourable member for Southport, the Opposition spokesman Mr Veivers, and the honourable member for Currumbin, Mr Trevor Coomber, with whom I have conferred in relation to this amendment. Because of the importance of this amendment and the fact that it could have a fairly disastrous effect in a business sense on some of the people who were trapped into that situation, both the Opposition and the Liberal Party have agreed that this minor amendment to the legislation will pass through all stages this week. I thank all members for their contributions and assistance in that regard, and commend the legislation to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Gilmore, adjourned.

BREAD INDUSTRY AUTHORITY REPEAL BILL

Hon. E. D. CASEY (Mackay—Minister for Primary Industries) (12.04 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill for an Act to repeal the Bread Industry Authority Act 1990 and for related purposes.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill and Explanatory Notes presented and Bill, on motion of Mr Casey, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. E. D. CASEY (Mackay—Minister for Primary Industries) (12.06 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

This Bill provides the mechanism for removal of existing regulation of the marketing of bread in Queensland and for the formal winding up of the affairs of the Bread Industry Authority. When the Goss Government came to power, it was faced with a high degree of instability in the bread industry. The Bread Industry Authority Act was introduced in an attempt to remove that instability and provide all participants with a reasonable degree of business surety. However, at the time that that Act was introduced, I indicated that it required industry cooperation to succeed. Unfortunately, in their quest for market share, significant sectors of the industry chose not to comply with the legislation. This resulted in ongoing uncertainty and penalised those in the industry who were attempting to comply with the Act.

Consequently, in May this year, after consultation with industry, the Government decided that it had no option other than to deregulate the industry. Since that time, the Bread Industry Authority has revoked its pricing orders and, for all intents and purposes, for the past three months bread prices have been determined competitively. This places the Queensland industry on a similar footing to that of the industry in all other Australian States. Since deregulation, a range of prices has emerged in the marketplace. While proprietary brand prices for the standard 680-gram loaf are now around the maximum retail price permitted before deregulation, that is, approximately \$1.35, house brands are available in most places for around \$1.14 a loaf. Specials are regularly available, and it is not uncommon for 450-gram loaves to be selling for between 39c and 79c. I take this opportunity to place on record my appreciation and that of the Government for the efforts of the presiding member and the members of the authority. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Gilmore, adjourned.

TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL (DOUGLAS LAND DEVELOPMENT) BILL

Hon. P. J. BRADY (Rockhampton—Leader of the House) (12.07 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill for an Act for the development of land at Douglas, Townsville, and related purposes.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill and Explanatory Notes presented and Bill, on motion of Mr Brady, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. P. J. BRADDY (Rockhampton—Leader of the House) (12.08 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

As many members would be aware, the Townsville City Council has owned a large parcel of land in its area in fee simple for some considerable time. The land in question has an area of some 245 hectares. The land is located in the suburb of Douglas and fronts the Ross River. At this time, it may only be developed in accordance with the provisions of the Townsville City Council (Sale of Land) Act of 1973. Because of the existence of the Act, the whole of the land is included in the Residential A zone under council's planning scheme. This is a further and unnecessary restriction on the type of development that can occur on the land. The Act is site specific and provides for—

the council to progressively develop the land for residential purposes from its own resources;

the subdivision of the developed land into residential lots;

the establishment of fixed sale prices for each lot created and the calling for expressions of interest from bona fide first-home buyers;

the sale of the lots by ballot to those persons who have registered an interest; and

the new owners to commence construction of dwellings within a reasonable time.

Since the passing of the Act, the council has been turning off between 20 and 40 lots each year. The development was inspected early this year and found to be of above-average quality with a pleasant local environment. The land is well located, as it is near the James Cook University campus and can be served conveniently with essential services. It is above normal flood levels. The land has the ability to accommodate at least 2 200 dwelling units and, because of that, it really needs to be developed in accordance with a master plan which will include some higher density residential development, service retail facilities and some support professional offices. Those needs are prohibited by the Act as it stands. From a pure planning perspective, the land in question certainly does need to be properly planned. In addition, the Townsville City Council is running out of land for residential development in its area. Progressive development of the land by the council is a drain on the resources of the council, which argues that it is more appropriate for this work to be carried out by the private sector subject to certain protective controls which should apply for a limited period. As the land is council freehold, the council does not receive any annual benefit from it by way of rate revenue, and the council needs the money.

I am satisfied that the desires of the council are sound. The Bill enables the council to prepare a concept plan for the land it owns and for it to invite expressions of interest from prospective developers which are consistent with the concept. When council determines the most advantageous offers received for all or parts of the land, it will be authorised to negotiate a final plan of development for all or parts of the land, which then will become the master plan for the land. That has to be submitted to the Minister responsible for local government for approval by the Governor in Council and, when that approval is obtained, it becomes the planning control for the area until the last lot in the development is sold and the master plan becomes a part of the development contract between the council and the developer. The Bill also repeals the old Townsville City Council (Sale of Land) Act of 1973. I am satisfied that the proposal is advantageous for the council, the ratepayers and the economic development of that region of the State. In the absence of the Deputy Premier, I have pleasure in commending the Bill on his behalf to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Littleproud, adjourned.

STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL (No. 2)

Hon. P. J. BRADDY (Rockhampton—Leader of the House) (12.12 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill for an Act to make various amendments of the statute law of Queensland, to repeal certain Acts and to declare certain matters.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill and Explanatory Notes presented and Bill, on motion of Mr Braddy, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. P. J. BRADDY (Rockhampton—Leader of the House) (12.13 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

I introduce the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No. 2) 1992. The purpose of this Bill is to facilitate the making of amendments to Acts where the amendments are concise or of a minor nature and are non-controversial. The Bill amends 32 Acts. In addition, the Bill—

- (a) repeals three Acts that are of no further public utility; and
- (b) validates a regulation.

All amendments take effect from the date of assent, unless the contrary is expressly provided. In certain cases amendments are declared to operate retrospectively. In each such case the amendments correct minor errors and are of a technical or machinery nature. The format of the Bill is similar to that used in recent omnibus Bills. The Bill contains six clauses and four Schedules. Each Schedule serves a particular purpose. For example, Schedule 1 deals with minor amendments, that is, amendments of a minor policy nature. Schedule 2 deals with amendments by way of statute law revision. These amendments correct minor errors ranging from typographical errors to the updating of citations. In accordance with past practice, if an Act contains amendments some of which are of a minor policy nature and some of which deal with statute law revision, all amendments to that Act are placed in Schedule 1. The Explanatory Notes are placed at the end of each Act being amended. Each amendment to an Act is numbered and the note explaining the nature of the amendment can be identified easily. The notes are also given headings to give a general indication of the nature of the amendment. The notes are not part of the Bill.

The review of the statute book as a whole continues and, as a result of this Bill, more Acts will be reprinted for the reprint series. In a number of cases, certain statutory instruments made under Acts are declared to be subordinate legislation. This decision has been taken having regard to the relative importance of the instrument and the need to subject it to parliamentary scrutiny. Subordinate legislation is subject to tabling and disallowance. Provision has also been made, for example, in the amendments to the Public Service Management and Employment Act to allow action to be taken to update references to Government departments. At present, departments are named in a Schedule to the Act that may be amended by the use of an Order in Council. This Henry VIII provision has been done away with and, in future, provision will be made by regulation. As Leader of the House and the Minister charged with the carriage of this Bill through the House, I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Littleproud, adjourned.

PRIVILEGE

Treasurer's Budget Press Conference

Mr BORBIDGE (Surfers Paradise—Leader of the Opposition) (12.17 p.m.): I rise on a matter of privilege. The Opposition accepts the fact that press lockups prior to the presentation of the Budget are traditional. I want to record the fact that the Treasurer has held a full press conference.

Mr SPEAKER: What is the honourable member's point of privilege?

Mr BORBIDGE: The Parliament has been treated with contempt. The Treasurer has explained the details of the Budget to a press conference two and a half hours prior to its presentation to the Parliament. This is totally unprecedented. It reflects on the privileges of all members of this Parliament. I do not argue with the practice of a lockup. That has been accepted practice for many years. For the Treasurer of this State to hold a full and open press conference canvassing matters raised in the Budget, and the full Budget itself, in my view constitutes a breach of the privileges of this place. I move—

“That the Treasurer's actions be referred to the Parliamentary Privileges Committee.”

Question put; and the House divided—

AYES, 33		NOES, 48	
Beanland	Springborg	Ardill	McElligott
Booth	Stephan	Barber	McGrady
Borbidge	Stoneman	Beattie	Milliner
Connor	Turner	Bird	Nunn
Coomber	Veivers	Braddy	Palaszczuk
Dunworth	Watson	Bredhauer	Pearce
Elliott		Briskey	Power
FitzGerald		Campbell	Robson
Gilmore		Casey	Schwarten
Goss J. N.		Clark	Smith
Gunn		Comben	Smyth
Harper		Davies	Spence
Hobbs		Dollin	Sullivan J. H.
Horan		Eaton	Sullivan T. B.
Johnson		Edmond	Szczerbanik
Katter		Elder	Vaughan
Lester		Fenlon	Warburton
Lingard		Flynn	Warner
Littleproud		Foley	Welford
McCauley		Gibbs	Wells
Randell		Goss W. K.	Woodgate
Rowell		Hayward	
Santoro	<i>Tellers:</i>	Hollis	<i>Tellers</i>
Sheldon	Neal	Livingstone	Pitt
Slack	Quinn	Mackenroth	Prest

Resolved in the negative.

Sitting suspended from 12.26 to 2.30 p.m.

BUDGET DOCUMENTS

Hon. K. E. De LACY (Cairns—Treasurer) (2.31 p.m.): Mr Speaker, I table the following documents and move that they be printed—

Estimates of Receipts and Expenditure;

Program Statements;

Supplementary Budget Information;

Queensland Economy;

Capital Works;

Financial Relations between the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments;

Statement of Unforeseen Expenditure to be Appropriated.

Ordered to be printed.

STATEMENT OF UNFORESEEN EXPENDITURE TO BE APPROPRIATED 1991-92

Mr SPEAKER read a message from Her Excellency the Governor transmitting the *Statement of Unforeseen Expenditure to be Appropriated 1991-92*.

VOTE ON ACCOUNT, 1993-94

Mr SPEAKER read a message from Her Excellency the Governor recommending that the following provisions be made on account of the services of the year starting 1 July 1993—

From the Consolidated Fund, the sum of \$1,830,000,000;

From the Trust and Special Funds, the sum of \$2,300,000,000.

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE, 1992-93

Mr SPEAKER read a message from Her Excellency the Governor covering the Estimates of Expenditure for 1992-93.

Estimates agreed to.

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2)**First Reading**

A Bill, founded on the Estimates, and Explanatory Notes were presented and the Bill read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. K. E. De LACY (Cairns—Treasurer) (2.33 p.m.): I move—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

I am pleased to present this budget which completes the Goss Government's first term agenda.

This budget is once again based on the twin themes of fiscal discipline and social responsibility.

Three years ago all the States of Australia were sailing along the relatively untroubled waters of economic prosperity. Although there were variations in performance among the States, these differences were for the most part unremarkable.

Certainly the financial markets viewed Queensland's performance as unremarkable—with Queensland Treasury Corporation stock trading well above the benchmark New South Wales stock and on a par with the other States.

Now three years later there has been a dramatic improvement in our position relative to the other States.

The Goss Government has charted a course through the turbulent seas of the worst recession in sixty years, in such a way as to leave the other States floundering in our wake.

As other States responded to collapsing revenue by increasing taxes and debt, Queensland headed in the other direction.

As other States started selling off assets to contain spiralling debt, Queensland chose to pursue efficiency within the framework of public ownership—thereby retaining both the asset and the dividend stream.

And as other States started slashing services, the Queensland Government began a systematic program of social reform aimed at rectifying the neglect of the past.

In three years Queensland has moved ahead of the rest of Australia in all of the key areas of financial performance and consolidated its position as the growth State of Australia—a position attested to by a whole range of independent analyses in recent months.

Probably the most telling analysis was that of the reputable consulting firm Access Economics, which predicted that by June 1996 the total accumulated net debt of all the States of Australia would be \$93.1 billion, with Queensland accounting for the \$0.1 billion—that is, one-tenth of one per cent of the total.

The financial markets, probably the harshest critics of all, have come to a similar conclusion. QTC stock is now the benchmark semi-government stock in Australia, trading below New South Wales and well below all the other States.

But this fiscal reputation has not been gained at the expense of our social obligations.

In this Budget the Government will also meet, and in many cases exceed, its 1989 election commitments to improve essential services:

- Education spending will be up by more than \$350 million in real terms in 1992-93 compared with 3 years ago, well in excess of the \$250 million promised;
- TAFE places have increased by around 18,000, almost 50 per cent higher than the level 3 years ago;
- The promised 1,200 boost in operational Police numbers has been achieved and we are now moving to substantially boost Police resources such as information technology, regional support and training;
- The Environment has been elevated from a bit player to centre stage, funding has been boosted dramatically, and major commitments such as doubling the State's national park estate are well underway.
- Housing has also been given the priority it deserves with an increase in public rental accommodation stock of more than 9,000, and more than 20,000 Queensland households will have been assisted into home ownership primarily through the highly successful H.O.M.E. schemes.
- The Seniors Card has been introduced and more than 7,000 new child care places created throughout Queensland.

JOBS

Mr Speaker, although these achievements are formidable, the Goss Government does not believe that the task is finished.

The challenge of the moment for Australia as a nation is to address the burning issue of unemployment. It is an issue that the Goss Government has been tackling, and will continue to tackle, head on.

Our record on job creation speaks for itself. Contrary to the national experience, increases in the unemployment rate in Queensland have not been caused by the loss of jobs, but rather by an increase in the size of the labour force.

As the labour force is being dramatically bolstered by inter-state migration it becomes obvious that Queensland cannot solve Australia's unemployment problem in this State alone. As fast as jobs are created, new entrants from other states will come in to take them up.

Nevertheless, we have a heavy obligation to maintain the momentum of job creation, and to this end, we have devised a two part strategy.

Our long term strategy was spelt out in the Leading State document released by the Premier in April this year. It recognises that long term sustainable jobs will only be created by growth in the private sector.

The strategy, referred to as market enhancement, aims to create an environment that is conducive to private sector investment and expansion—an environment characterised by low taxation, sound financial management, micro-economic reform and infrastructure provision.

Queensland's superior economic performance relative to the other States is testimony that the strategy is already paying dividends.

However, there is also a need to take some budgetary measures aimed at providing a quicker response to the problem.

We are therefore making jobs and employment creation the focus of this year's Budget.

Mr Speaker, because of the flexibility built into our budget by the consistent application of disciplined financial management principles, we have been able to produce the best jobs' Budget in Australia; a budget that comprehensively responds to the crucial issue of the moment; and a budget that further consolidates Queensland's position as the job creation State of Australia.

The employment package will consist of:

- a further \$500 million or 19 per cent increase to \$3.3 billion on last year's record State Capital Works Program, generating an additional 8,000 jobs and a broadly equivalent number of indirect jobs. It should be noted that the vast majority of these jobs will be created in the private sector.
- included in this Capital Works Program is a special \$60 million addition to roads funding aimed at providing essential infrastructure and boosting job opportunities for men and women in regional Queensland. This special addition to State road funding is expected to generate 1,200 direct and a similar number of indirect jobs.
- full rebate of payroll tax for an estimated 10,000 young Queenslanders, including approximately 2,000 long term unemployed who are also eligible for assistance under the Federal Government's National Employment and Training Plan
- a 6,500 increase in training places in the State's TAFE system, bringing to 18,000 (or almost 50 per cent) the increase in places in the first three Labor budgets
- an additional \$1 million (to \$12.7 million) for labour market programs to assist long term and other disadvantaged job seekers
- a Youth Conservation Corps providing employment and training opportunities for 280 young long term unemployed
- a modest 1 per cent enhancement to State budget sector employment, in priority State service delivery areas.

THE ECONOMIC CONTEXT OF THE BUDGET

There can be no escaping the fact that 1991-92 was a particularly difficult year for the Australian economy. The severity of the recession was much greater than anyone expected. Furthermore, in Queensland, it was accompanied by one of the worst droughts on record.

Despite the impact of the drought, the State economy as a whole grew, on average, by 3.2 per cent in 1991-92, compared with a rise of only 0.4 per cent nationally.

Clearly, the Queensland economy appears to have emerged from recession more strongly than the rest of Australia.

Recent partial indicators provide clear evidence that a recovery is growing in momentum and broadening in its base.

Queensland Treasury forecasts growth in Gross State Product of 4.1 per cent in 1992-93, compared to the 3 per cent for Australia as a whole forecast in the Commonwealth Budget.

This forecast improvement in economic activity should translate into further growth in employment of around 2.2 per cent for the year as a whole—compared to the expected national increase of 1 per cent.

The extent to which this expected further employment growth translates into any appreciable early reduction in Queensland's unacceptably high unemployment rate will depend on the rate of growth in the State's labour force.

For example, since employment bottomed in May last year, Queensland has been creating jobs at the rate of 131 a day—but our labour force has been growing at the rate of 172 a day.

In the past two months, when our unemployment rate moved up to the national average, our rate of job creation was running at 389 a day. But again, this solid growth in employment was outstripped by labour force growth of 654 a day.

In other words, despite strong employment growth in Queensland, unemployment has risen because of labour force growth twice the national average.

A major factor has been the large and increasing interstate migration into Queensland.

Over the past three years interstate migration has been running at more than double the rate for the three years of the last recession in the early 1980s. More recently, the rate of interstate migration has picked-up dramatically, recording increases of at least 25 per cent on each of the preceding three quarters.

An additional important factor in our labour force growth has been the large number of Queenslanders returning to the workforce, obviously encouraged by the clear evidence of better employment opportunities.

Queensland Treasury forecasts that the decline in the State's unemployment rate over the course of 1992-93 should be slightly better than the expected decline in the national rate to about 10 per cent.

The State's recovery is expected to broaden in 1992-93, with business investment and exports forecast to contribute to growth in State product.

Queensland's share of business investment is forecast to increase further to 19 per cent in 1992-93, the highest proportion since the early eighties.

I commend to Honourable Members State Budget Paper No. 5—The Queensland Economy, prepared by my Department. This document contains a full and frank analysis of the performance of the Queensland economy during 1991-92 and prospects for 1992-93.

BUDGET STRATEGY

Clearly, the past 3 years have been some of the most difficult ever faced by the State in economic terms.

The strain on our Budget has been extraordinary. Minimal revenue growth has been available to cope with the pressure for improved services for our expanding population.

However, the Goss Government has kept its nerve. This budget again confirms our commitment to the three central tenets of our financial management strategy:

- once again there are no new taxes and no increases in charges, on average, above CPI—

Mr Stoneman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Burdekin under Standing Order 123A.

Mr De LACY: —

- our policy of full actuarial funding of all long-term liabilities has been continued; and
- there are no borrowings for social capital assets or recurrent programs.

We need to look no further than the State's outstanding bottom line result to see the real dividends from this strategy.

For 1991-92, the Queensland State Government sector achieved a negative Net Financing Requirement (or surplus) of \$447 million. This is in fact equivalent to an

underlying surplus of \$713 million after adjusting for repayments of Commonwealth debt.

Labor's first two Budgets have reduced Queensland's net State Government debt by \$435 million. In real terms debt has fallen by 22 per cent or \$337 for every Queenslanders.

The Queensland General Government sector's financial assets currently exceed its liabilities by some \$2 billion due to our large actuarial reserves. The Public Trading Enterprise sector, associated with the provision of major economic infrastructure, accounts for all of our net debt.

This should be put in context. Queensland is recording surplus outcomes while all other Governments are recording massive deficits totalling billions of dollars.

Perhaps more stark is the contrast between Queensland and the other States in terms of debt servicing costs. If Queensland had the same per capita level of debt servicing as the average of the States, we would need to find another \$1.1 billion—equivalent to our entire budget for social welfare, housing and roads combined.

BUDGET OUTCOME 1992-93

The Consolidated Fund Budget for 1992-93 provides for total outlays of \$9,585 million, an increase of 6.5 per cent on last year's Budget. Total receipts are estimated at \$9,582 million, which will mean a balanced outcome again this year after allowing for the opening surplus of \$3.7 million.

The increase in outlays this year is due in part to the impact of the special Commonwealth/State roads funding, the transfer of disability services from the Commonwealth to the States and purchase of gaming machines which will be leased to operators. Adjusting for these factors, the Budget provides for outlays growth of around 3.5 per cent, or a small decline in real per capita terms.

Growth in Consolidated Fund recurrent outlays is expected to decline in real terms in the following 2 years, based on no policy change forward estimates.

In ABS terms, the Queensland State Government Sector is forecast to again achieve a negative Net Financing Requirement in 1992-93, conservatively estimated to be \$123 million. After adjusting for the repayment of Commonwealth debt, the underlying surplus will be \$411 million—an outcome in stark contrast to increasing debt levels in all other States.

I would also mention that this is the first year that comprehensive ABS Government Finance Statistics have been available in the State's Budget papers. This is the result of a major project by the Queensland Treasury, in co-operation with the ABS, to capture non-Budget sector data some months ahead of the normal ABS schedule.

REVENUES

Reflecting some impact from a pick-up in economic activity and the first full year of poker machine revenue, receipts from taxes, fees and fines are estimated to increase by some 6.1 per cent over 1991-92 receipts. This growth in revenue has been achieved without recourse to new or increased taxes.

Overall Budget receipts will increase by 6.9 per cent.

Queensland already has the lowest rate of payroll tax and the highest payroll tax exemption threshold. This year's Budget provides \$14 million for the full year cost of increasing the payroll tax exemption level to \$600,000 from 1 July this year.

Continuing our approach to encouraging employment growth, I am pleased to announce further targeted payroll tax concessions.

Employers will be able to claim a full rebate of payroll tax for additional employees which meet the same criteria as have been set under the Federal Government's National Employment and Training Plan. All young Queenslanders aged fifteen to nineteen who have been unemployed for a period of 12 months or more will qualify.

In Queensland—Leading State the Government indicated that it had convened an expert Working Group to advise on how Queensland could capitalise on the Federal Government's decision to reduce to 10 per cent the tax rate on income earned by Offshore Banking Units. The Working Group was also asked to report on options for attracting Regional Headquarters of international corporations to Queensland.

In line with the commitment given in Queensland—Leading State, the Government has decided to abolish payroll tax (and other State taxes) in relation to the activities of Offshore Banks and Regional Headquarters which locate in Queensland.

The Government believes this measure will provide further impetus to growth in Queensland's financial services and commercial sectors.

A third area of targeted payroll tax relief included in this year's Budget relates to films and television series substantially produced in Queensland.

Mr Speaker, last year I announced substantial concessions in the area of Land Tax. Due to these concessions and also to stabilisation in land valuations, land tax receipts are expected to fall by around \$16 million or almost 9 per cent in real terms over last year's collections.

Since last year's Budget, the Government has undertaken ongoing consultations with industry in relation to land tax and as a result I am now able to announce two further important reforms.

First, we will implement a system of land valuations which addresses the unique characteristics of each parcel of land including dimensions, area, zoning, gross floor area and heritage implications. The benefits from this reform will be reflected in 1993-94 land tax assessments.

Second, the Government is committing resources to redevelopment of the Lands Department data base which will allow a reduction in the time lag between valuation and land tax assessment from 15 months to 6 months. This will ensure that in future taxpayers will quickly obtain the benefit of any fall in their property values. The benefits of this reform will flow to taxpayers in their 1994-95 assessments.

In respect of other State revenue, I wish to advise a change in the approach to the levying of Government guarantee fees through their replacement with a credit enhancement fee. The credit enhancement fee reflects a more equitable sharing of the benefits that the Queensland Government's financial backing provides to borrowers.

Funds generated from the application of this fee will ensure that the State has adequate reserves to meet any contingent liabilities which, however remote, are still an obligation the Government must meet if its guarantee is ever called upon.

The return from the State's Government Owned Enterprises in the form of dividends and payments in lieu of taxes will increase by some 15 per cent in 1992-93 to \$189 million.

This Budget includes the first full year of revenue from poker machines, estimated at \$44 million. In a Budget where jobs are a priority, we have used this additional revenue to provide the bulk of funding for the special roads program.

OUTLAYS

Mr Speaker, as outlined earlier, the main features of this Budget are an expanded capital program, further growth in training opportunities, substantial improvements in the delivery of law and order and social support programs and initiatives to facilitate further economic development of the State as outlined in Queensland—Leading State.

Capital Works

In last year's Budget, I announced that a record level of capital works expenditure would be undertaken in 1991-92. This expenditure has assisted the Queensland economy in weathering the economic downturn much better than any other part of Australia over the past 12 months.

In 1992-93 we have budgeted for a total capital works program of some \$3.3 billion. This represents an increase of \$500 million or almost 19 per cent on the previous year's expenditure and is easily the largest capital works program ever undertaken in the State.

The program has been structured so that more than 80 per cent of the program will be undertaken by the private sector.

Importantly, more than half the program relates to essential transport and energy infrastructure for new mining and manufacturing capacity.

The program will provide some 39,000 full time jobs for Queenslanders—8,000 more than last year—and continues the Government's commitment to employment generation.

A particular priority in this year's capital works program has been to provide a substantial boost to road funding.

State road spending will increase this year by about \$130 million—including the special \$60 million labour intensive road program referred to earlier.

Together with additional funds from the Federal Government, including the One Nation package, road spending in Queensland is expected to increase by \$227 million or 42 per cent.

Some of the other major economic infrastructure initiatives in this Budget are:

- a rail program of in excess of \$400 million, including the commencement of a \$526 million freight infrastructure upgrading over the next six years, a \$100 million program for railway mineral line expansion including for new coal mines at Gordonstone and North Goonyella, a \$96 million expansion and upgrading of the Brisbane suburban rail network and the Gold Coast rail link;
- expenditure of \$276 million on the 1,400 megawatt Stanwell power station where the first of four turbogenerators will be commissioned this financial year; and
- major port development including commencement of the \$120 million upgrade of road and rail links to the Port of Brisbane, the \$90 million upgrade of the Port of Townsville, the \$85 million expansion of offshore facilities at the Dalrymple Bay coal terminal, and the \$79 million expansion of the Clinton coal facility at Gladstone.

There is also very substantial expenditure provided for social capital works including schools, hospitals, housing, police stations, conservation and recreation.

Full details of the State's capital works expenditure can be found in Budget Paper Number 6—Capital Works.

Training and Employment

Mr Speaker, a key priority for this Government is to provide Queenslanders with the opportunity to access training and skills development programs.

This year's budget provides for around 6,500 additional TAFE places, an increase of 13.5 per cent.

In addition, a further significant number of places are to be funded under the Federal Government's One Nation package.

Over the first three Labor Budgets almost 18,000 additional TAFE places have been created, a 50 per cent increase during the Government's first term.

We are now well on the way to achieving our aim of increasing TAFE participation rates in Queensland to the national average.

\$2.4 million has been allocated for a Youth Conservation Corps providing employment and accredited training opportunities for around 280 trainees in 1992-93.

Law and Order

Police resourcing has increased significantly under the Goss Government.

This Budget delivers on our election commitment of 1,200 additional operational police, and provides for a further increase of 9.1 per cent in recurrent funding.

In addition, we have significantly reformed the police service through initiatives such as a new regional command structure, a major capital program and new university based training for recruits.

Particular priority in this Budget has been placed on improving the information technology resources of the Police Department. \$10 million is being spent on a Technical Support Program—saving hundreds of thousands of hours of paperwork and freeing officers to spend that time on the beat.

The pilot of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Police Liaison Officer program in Townsville has proven to be very successful and will be extended to Mount Isa, Cairns and Rockhampton at a cost of \$1.2 million.

Mr Speaker, juvenile crime is a particular concern of this Government.

To deal with this issue we are implementing a Juvenile Crime Strategy at a cost of \$4.5 million in 1992-93 and around \$6.5 million in a full year.

The objectives of the strategy are to reduce the level of juvenile crime in high crime rate areas and to provide the courts with credible and meaningful sentencing options for young offenders.

There are three main elements of the strategy.

- First, we will implement Juvenile Justice legislation which provides the courts with a wider range of non-custodial sentencing options including community based alternatives to watchhouse detention for young offenders on bail;
- Second, we will establish a separate Children's Court.
- Third, we will implement a juvenile crime prevention initiative designed to involve children aged 10 to 16 years in constructive and productive community activities.

\$3 million will be spent over the next 3 years to expand the Western Outreach Camps program of the Corrective Services Commission. This program involves offender work teams assisting in forestry, national parks, local authority and other public infrastructure work in outback Queensland.

More than \$9 million will also be spent over the next 3 years redeveloping and improving facilities at the Townsville Correctional Centre.

Education

Prior to coming into office we promised to increase Education Department funding by \$250 million in our first term. In fact education funding has been increased by more than \$350 million.

This outcome clearly reflects our commitment to education as a means to improve the equality of opportunity for young Queenslanders.

This year's Education Budget provides for:-

- 475 additional teachers;
- a further \$16 million, three year enhancement to Queensland's pathbreaking comprehensive foreign language program, providing Queensland students with a competitive edge in an increasingly international job market;
- extension of the Sunsmart initiative to cover children from pre-school to year 3—this initiative seeks to raise student awareness of the risks of sun damage; and
- a \$149 million capital program for Government schools.

The Government also recognises the valuable role played by the non-Government sector in the delivery of education.

Recurrent funding for non-Government schools will increase by 9 per cent to \$116.9 million.

In addition \$20.4 million has been allocated for capital assistance to non-Government schools including \$5 million for a new needs-based Capital Assistance Scheme.

Social Programs

Despite the funding constraints within which this Budget has had to be framed, the Government has not turned its back on the implementation of much needed social reforms.

Accordingly, funding for the Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs will be increased substantially in the next 3 years. An additional \$20 million will be provided in this budget increasing the Department's base budget by 13.5 per cent. By 1994-95, the base budget will be increased by almost 20 per cent.

This significant real increase in funding has been made possible by affording social programs a high funding priority from available general revenues, and through the revenue expected to be generated from the gaming machine charities and rehabilitation levy—estimated at around \$11 million in 1992-93.

\$1 million will be allocated to alleviate the impact of addictive gambling on families and individuals.

In order to free up funds for other high priorities in the welfare area, the balance of the Charities and Rehabilitation Benefit Fund will be used to meet existing commitments for financial assistance to church and community groups.

Together with additional Budget funding, this will allow us to implement:

- initiatives to address the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody at a cost of \$10.5 million over the next three years;
- the comprehensive juvenile crime strategy I outlined earlier;
- an improved resource base for the Department;
- increase salary subsidies for workers in church and community groups, including assistance towards the cost of the Superannuation Guarantee Levy; and
- an expanded Alternative Care and Intervention Services program to assist organisations in the provision of services to children in care and preventative family intervention.

\$300 million will be spent on public housing under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, an increase of 5 per cent. A target of 2,400 public housing commencements has been set for 1992-93.

\$600 million of new lending will be available this year through the H.O.M.E. scheme to assist 6,500 Queensland families to secure their own home.

\$9.8 million will be available through the Community Housing Partnership Program to assist community organisations to provide long term accommodation for aged, disabled and single people.

Eligibility for the Seniors Card will be extended to males aged between 60 and 65 in receipt of a means tested pension.

\$4.8 million has been allocated for the implementation of the Aboriginal and the Torres Strait Land Acts.

Mr Speaker, the Goss Government is committed to ensuring the right of all Queensland women to be free of the incidence and fear of violence.

This Budget commits more than \$11 million to initiatives across several Government agencies, dealing both with preventative measures as well as aid to the victims of violence.

A further \$1 million in recurrent funding and \$6.5 million in capital funding is being provided for the construction and operation of community child care centres in Queensland. In combination with Commonwealth funds this will allow the creation of a further 1,350 child care places in 1992-93.

Health

This Budget provides for an increase of \$86 million or 4.5 per cent on the comparable recurrent budget for health last year.

\$61 million has been allocated for health capital works projects in 1992-93.

New facilities to be commissioned during the year include Stage II of the Logan Hospital, a new medical ward at the Royal Children's Hospital, a new ward block at Nambour and the new Queensland Radium Institute centre at the Mater Hospital.

From 1992-93 the net proceeds of Golden Casket lotteries will be fully applied to children's health and hospital projects. Some \$1.5 million will be available in 1992-93.

Funding for the Home and Community Care program will be increased by \$9.8 million or 16 per cent. This will expand the provision of community support services which enable elderly and disabled Queenslanders to stay in their own homes, rather than be forced to move into institutional care.

The expansion of the school dental scheme to students in years 8, 9 and 10 will continue at a cost of \$2.2 million.

Women's health services will be further enhanced this year with the allocation of an additional \$4.8 million to enable the provision of breast and cervical cancer screening assessment services throughout Queensland.

Regional and Rural Queensland

In last year's Budget I outlined the significant regionalisation of Government departments that has occurred under this Government.

I also noted that these decentralisation reforms have highlighted the need for better co-ordination of service delivery to people in country areas, particularly smaller rural communities.

Funding has been provided for the establishment of Government Agent offices in 13 small and remote communities to deliver service and information for the whole of Government.

To assist rural communities improve the standard of water supply and sewerage facilities a special subsidy assistance scheme will be introduced.

In addition, \$7 million will be made available during 1992-93 and 1993-94 to local authorities for the development of total management plans for water supply and sewerage undertakings.

This Budget also provides for a 50 per cent increase to \$25 million in State assistance for local authority road and drainage works.

Mr Speaker, 1991-92 saw a disastrous drought hit our rural sector. The Government responded to the needs of our drought affected primary producers through assistance including fodder freight subsidies and interest subsidies which have helped support over \$500 million of farm debt.

While some relieving rains have reduced the number of drought stricken shires, conditions are relatively dry throughout the State and some parts of the State remain gripped by drought.

Government Schemes assistance will therefore be maintained at the 1991-92 record level. Provision has also been made to meet demand for fodder and stock freight subsidies for drought declared producers.

Further, the Queensland Government has developed a framework for a national drought policy which has largely been accepted by the Commonwealth and other States.

As part of this new policy \$3 million has been allocated to develop extension programs which will foster self reliance on farms.

Our Integrated Catchment Management initiative which aims to improve land management practices will be maintained and complemented with a pilot plantation rainforest timber program.

\$700,000 has been allocated to support the pilot program which initially will involve the planting of some 300 hectares of rainforest timber on private land in North Queensland.

An additional \$600,000 will also be spent on the strategic and preventative control of noxious plants through the establishment of special weed control teams.

Mr Speaker, the combination of the national recession, depressed commodity prices and drought has meant that some parts of rural and regional Queensland have carried a disproportionate burden of unemployment.

The Government has therefore ensured that, within this year's record capital works program, more than half of the \$3.3 billion will be spent on projects outside the south-east corner of the State.

As I noted earlier, the \$60 million special addition to the roads program will be of particular benefit in rural and regional Queensland.

Industry Development

Mr Speaker, under the Goss Government there has been a major change in the approach to industry development. The old emphasis on subsidising the establishment of firms, mostly through the provision of cheap land, has been replaced with a new focus on programs and initiatives to improve the competitiveness of firms.

This new approach complements the Government's general policy approach of market enhancement.

This Budget provides for a number of important industry development initiatives, including measures foreshadowed in Queensland—Leading State.

1992-93 sees the commencement of the Coal Export Incentive package to boost the competitiveness of Queensland's coal industry through potential reductions in coal rail freight rates of \$380 million.

\$1.5 million has been provided for the implementation of an Information Technology Industry Strategic Plan.

\$6 million has been allocated over the next 3 years for the Queensland Export Development Scheme. The scheme provides subsidy assistance to individual firms or consortiums entering export markets.

A Business Information Service will be created at a cost of \$300,000 to provide a single point of access through which the business community can obtain business advice, and information on government assistance schemes and regulations.

In a strategic initiative aimed at boosting the tourist industry, the Government has committed about \$8 million in venture capital funding for the resurrection of Compass Airlines.

In addition, expenditure this year on marketing and promotion by the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation is expected to increase by 13 per cent to over \$13 million.

As I mentioned earlier the Budget provides for the abolition of State taxes on the activities of Offshore Banking Units and Regional Headquarters of international corporations. A small unit has been established in my Department to produce a business plan to encourage their establishment in Queensland.

The Government has also been very active in supporting the establishment of a world-class film and television production facility on the Brisbane-Gold Coast corridor.

In order to enhance Queensland's international competitiveness in the film and television production industry, the Government will implement a three part strategy for films and television series substantially produced in Queensland, comprising:-

- a full rebate of payroll tax;
- a revolving finance fund of \$10 million over 3 years to provide concessional finance; and

- a Film Industry Employment scheme.

Culture and Recreation

An estimated \$17 million will be available in 1992-93 from the special turnover levy on gaming machines to fund sport and recreation programs.

Programs to be funded from this income will include:

- the Queensland Sports Development Scheme which will have its funding more than doubled to \$11 million by 1993-94;
- the relocation of greyhound racing from the 'Gabba to Albion Park at a cost of \$4 million; and
- additional regional sport and recreation officers throughout the State.

A 780 seat drama theatre will be constructed at the Queensland Cultural Centre at a cost of \$48 million over the next three years. This world class specialist drama theatre will complement the current Lyric Theatre and the Concert Hall.

Environment and Conservation

This Budget maintains the Government's strong commitment to protecting the environment for future generations.

\$10.5 million has been allocated to acquire a further 1.0 million hectares of land for National Parks. This, and further acquisitions already programmed over the next 2 to 3 years, will achieve our target of a Park Estate equal to 4 per cent of the State's area.

The Government recognises its responsibility to effectively manage the expanded Park Estate. Accordingly, an additional \$13.5 million over the next three years has been allocated for this purpose including fire control, weed and feral animal control and maintenance of existing infrastructure.

During last year the Government decided to phase out logging on Fraser Island. With Commonwealth Government support, we spent \$12.2 million in 1991-92 on structural adjustment assistance for the Great Sandy region. A further \$25 million has been allocated over the next 3 years to continue the adjustment process and to create alternative sustainable employment opportunities in the region.

MICRO ECONOMIC REFORM

Mr Speaker, this Budget provides further momentum to the Goss Government's micro-economic reform program.

Legislation to give effect to the Government's corporatisation reforms is currently being finalised and will be introduced as soon as possible, following review by the tripartite Steering Committee.

I can further announce today that Cabinet has approved the nomination of the Queensland Industry Development Corporation (Q.I.D.C) to proceed to full corporatisation.

The Corporatisation Steering Committee will identify further corporatisation candidates during 1992-93.

The Public Sector Management Commission has substantially completed its 3 year review program of Government departments. Major gains have been achieved through the restructuring of departments and the elimination of overlap and waste.

This year will also see major progress in the commercialisation of business units of the Administrative Services Department.

Mr Speaker, the Goss Government's micro-economic reform program extends well beyond improving the efficiency of the public sector.

For example, the Government will be amending the Industrial Relations Act to facilitate the making and operation of enterprise agreements.

The Government has also opened up the financing, construction and operation of new infrastructure in Queensland to competitive private sector bidding.

A third important reform is the establishment in the Premier's Department of the Office of the Co-ordinator General with responsibility for guiding major economic development projects through to early final approval.

CONCLUSION

Mr Speaker, this Budget positions Queensland firmly as the Leading State.

The Budget maintains the Government's fiscal discipline and clearly establishes our position as the low tax, low debt and most financially sound State in Australia.

It completes the delivery of the most comprehensive program of service improvements and policy reforms ever undertaken in this State.

Importantly, this Budget lays the foundation for a return to strong economic growth, while ensuring that the benefits are shared throughout the community and those most in need are not left behind.

By any measure, economic, financial or social, this Budget will stand out as the best in Australia. The leading Budget for the leading State.

Mr Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Borbidge, adjourned.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! In accordance with the resolution of the House on 4 August, the debate will resume on Thursday, 27 August, at 11 a.m.

Sitting suspended from 3.17 to 7.30 p.m.

At 4 p.m., a proclamation was issued by Her Excellency the Governor dissolving the Parliament.