

**THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 1992**

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Mr SPEAKER (Hon. J. Fouras, Ashgrove) read prayers and took the chair at 10 a.m.

**COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH**

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have to inform the House that Her Excellency the Governor has been pleased to issue a Commission under the public seal of the State empowering me to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to such members as might hereafter present themselves to be sworn. I now ask the Clerk to read the Commission to the House.

The Clerk read the Commission.

**PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION****Appointment of Members**

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have to advise that pursuant to section 6 of the Parliamentary Service Commission Act 1988 the Parliamentary Service Commission will consist of seven members of the Legislative Assembly. The membership shall include Mr H. Palaszczuk, MLA; the Honourable T. M. Mackenroth, MLA; Mr J. Randell, MLA; and myself.

**PETITIONS**

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

**Police Staffing, Gold Coast**

From **Mr Veivers** (158 signatories) praying for an increase in police numbers on the Gold Coast.

**Townsville Correctional Centre**

From **Mrs Sheldon** (3 094 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will call for an independent inquiry into occupational health and safety, security requirements and manning levels at the Townsville Correctional Centre.

**Sound Barriers, Bruce Highway**

From **Mr J. N. Goss** (333 signatories) praying for the construction of sound barriers along the Bruce Highway to protect the residential environment from the ever-increasing traffic noise.

**Sunshine Coast Police Stations**

From **Mrs Sheldon** (2 003 signatories) praying that more resources be allocated to Sunshine Coast police stations and that construction of the Kawana Police Station be expedited.

**Driving Hours for Heavy Vehicles**

From **Mr Fenlon** (22 signatories) praying that consideration be given to an increase in driving hours for heavy vehicles to 14 hours per 24-hour period.

#### **Community Legal Centres**

From **Mr J. H. Sullivan** (20 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will continue to fund community legal centres.

#### **QEII Hospital**

From **Mrs Sheldon** (214 signatories) praying that there be no restriction on facilities offered by the QEII Hospital and that no services or units be relocated to other hospitals.

#### **State Education Department Subsidies Scheme**

From **Mr W. K. Goss** (10 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 a further increase in salaries and wages of staff arising from award restructuring.

Similar petitions were received from **Dr Watson** (65 signatories), **Mr Slack** (10 signatories), **Mr T. B. Sullivan** (9 signatories), **Mr McGrady** (10 signatories), **Mrs Woodgate** (10 signatories), **Mr Veivers** (10 signatories), **Mr Comben** (10 signatories), **Mrs McCauley** (10 signatories), **Mr Bredhauer** (10 signatories) and **Mr Santoro** (20 signatories).

Petitions received.

### **CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES**

#### **Appointment of Mr H. Palaszczuk**

**Hon. W. K. GOSS** (Logan—Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development) (10.03 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That Heinrich Palaszczuk be appointed Chairman of Committees of the Whole House.”

Motion agreed to.

### **PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN**

**Mr SPEAKER:** Notwithstanding the requirements of Standing Order 13, I nominate the following members to form the panel of Temporary Chairmen for the present Parliament—

Darryl James Briskey, member for the electoral district of Cleveland;  
 Laurel Jean Power, member for the electoral district of Mansfield;  
 Rodney Jon Welford, member for the electoral district of Everton;  
 Fiona Stuart Simpson, member for the electoral district of Maroochydore;  
 Leonard William Stephan, member for the electoral district of Gympie;  
 Bruce William Davidson, member for the electoral district of Noosa.

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

#### **Appointment of Ministry**

**Hon. W. K. GOSS** (Logan—Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development) (10.07 a.m.): I desire to inform the House that on 24 September 1992, Her Excellency the Governor—

(a) Accepted the resignations of—

Neville George Warburton,  
Kenneth Hamilton Vaughan,  
Ronald Thomas McLean,  
Andrew George Eaton,

as members of the Executive Council of Queensland and as Ministers of the Crown;

(b) Appointed—

Wayne Keith Goss,  
Thomas James Burns,  
Keith Ernest De Lacy,  
Robert James Gibbs,  
David John Hamill,  
Edmund Denis Casey,  
Paul Joseph Braddy,  
Patrick Comben,  
Terence Michael Mackenroth,  
Dean MacMillan Wells,  
Anne Marie Warner,  
Glen Richard Milliner,  
Geoffrey Norman Smith,  
Kenneth William Hayward,  
Anthony McGrady,  
Matthew Joseph Foley,  
James Peter Elder,  
Molly Jess Robson,

to be members of the Executive Council of Queensland;

(c) Appointed—

Wayne Keith Goss, to be Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development;

Thomas James Burns, to be Deputy Premier, Minister for Administrative Services and Minister for Rural Communities;

Keith Ernest De Lacy, to be Treasurer;

Robert James Gibbs, to be Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing;

David John Hamill, to be Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development;

Edmund Denis Casey, to be Minister for Primary Industries;

Paul Joseph Braddy, to be Minister for Police and Emergency Services;

Patrick Comben, to be Minister for Education;

Terence Michael Mackenroth, to be Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning;

Dean MacMillan Wells, to be Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts;

Anne Marie Warner, to be Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs;

Glen Richard Milliner, to be Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Corrective Services;

Geoffrey Norman Smith, to be Minister for Lands;  
 Kenneth William Hayward, to be Minister for Health;  
 Anthony McGrady, to be Minister for Minerals and Energy;  
 Matthew Joseph Foley, to be Minister for Employment, Training and  
 Industrial Relations;  
 James Peter Elder, to be Minister for Business, Industry and Regional  
 Development;  
 Molly Jess Robson, to be Minister for Environment and Heritage.

I lay upon the table of the House a copy of the *Queensland Government Gazette Extraordinary* of 24 September 1992 containing the relevant notifications.

#### LEADER OF THE HOUSE

**Hon. W. K. GOSS** (Logan—Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development) (10.10 a.m.): I have to inform the House that arrangements have been made, and yourself as the Honourable the Speaker informed accordingly, for the Honourable Terence Michael Mackenroth, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning, to be Leader of the House.

#### GOVERNMENT WHIP AND GOVERNMENT DEPUTY WHIP

**Hon. W. K. GOSS** (Logan—Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development) (10.10 a.m.): I have to inform the House that Mr Frederick Warren Pitt, member for Mulgrave, has been elected Government Whip, and Mr Donald Wallace Livingstone, member for Ipswich West, has been elected Government Deputy Whip.

#### OPPOSITION APPOINTMENTS

**Mr BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—Leader of the Opposition) (10.11 a.m.): I wish to advise the House of the following Opposition appointments—

Leader of the Opposition—Robert Edward Borbidge, member for Surfers Paradise;  
 Deputy Leader of the Coalition and Leader of the Liberal Party—Joan Mary Sheldon, member for Caloundra;  
 Deputy Leader of the Opposition—Kevin Rowson Lingard, member for Beaudesert;  
 Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party—Santo Santoro, member for Clayfield;  
 Opposition Whip—Lawrence James Springborg, member for Warwick;  
 Opposition Deputy Whip—Bruce Edric Laming, member for Mooloolah;  
 National Party Secretary—Diane Elizabeth McCauley, member for Callide;  
 Liberal Party Secretary—Bruce Edric Laming, member for Mooloolah;  
 Leader of Opposition Business in the House—Andrew Anthony FitzGerald, member for Lockyer.

#### AUDITOR-GENERAL

##### Annual Report

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General his annual report for the period 1991-92.

Ordered to be printed.

**PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS****Report**

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable members, I have to report that I have received the eighteenth report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations Queensland for the period 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992.

Ordered to be printed.

**STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS**

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

## Agricultural Standards Act—

Agricultural Standards Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 304

## Ambulance Service Act—

Ambulance Service Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 309

## Canals Act—

Canals (Solander Waters Estate Stage P1—Final Approval) Order 1992, No. 314

Order in Council granting final approval to Shinko Australia Pty Ltd to construct canals on the land described

Raby Bay Development Stages 15A to 15F (Final Approval to Construct Canals) Order 1992

## Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road Act—

Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 1992, No. 292

Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 1992, No. 322

## Casino Control Act—

Casino Control (Games) Amendment Notice (No. 1) 1992, No. 325

## Coal Industry (Control) Act—

Coal Industry (Control) Order 1992, No. 277

## Coal Mining Act—

Coal Mining Exemption (Callide) Order 1992, No. 312

## Corrective Services Act—

Corrective Services (Regional Community Correction Boards) Order 1992, No. 284

## Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists Act—

Dental Technicians and Dental Prosthetists By-law 1992, No. 295

Proclamation—Commencement of provisions not in force—9 October 1992, No. 294

## Education (General Provisions) Act—

Education (General Provisions) (Approval of Enrolment) Order (No. 1) 1992, No. 324

## Electricity Act—

Electricity Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 313

Electricity (Transfer of Assets to SWQEB) Order (No. 1) 1992, No. 296

## Fauna Conservation Act—

Fauna Conservation (Declaration of Approved Institutions) Order 1992, No. 333

Fauna (Open Season) Amendment Order (No. 1) 1992, No. 315

Milo Station Fauna Sanctuary (Revocation) Order 1992

## Financial Institutions (Queensland) Act—

Financial Institutions (Queensland—Savings and Transitional Provisions) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 316

## Forestry Act—

Forestry (State Forest 50) Order 1992, No. 307

Forestry (State Forests Revocation) Order 1992, No. 308

Proclamation—Exclusion of land described in the Schedule from State Forest 1419, No. 306

State Forest 42 (Extension) Order 1992

State Forest 379 (Extension) Order 1992

## Gaming Machine Act—

Gaming Machine Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 1992, No. 297

## Gladstone Area Water Board Act—

Gladstone Area Water Board Order 1992, No. 305

## Griffith University Act—

Statute of the Griffith University—Statute 14.1—Affiliation with the Queensland Museum

## Griffith University and Queensland Conservatorium of Music Amalgamation and Miscellaneous Amendments Act—

Proclamation—Commencement of Part 4 of the Act - 23 October 1992, No. 323

## Harbours Act—

Abbot Point Harbour Amendment By-Law (No. 3) 1992, No. 301

Citie Centre Projects Pty Ltd (Reclamation of Land) Order (No. 1) 1992

Gladstone Port Authority (Reclamation of Land) Order (No. 1) 1992

Harbour of Hay Point Amendment By-Law (No. 2) 1992, No. 300

Harbours Corporation of Queensland (Vesting of Crown Land) Order (No. 6) 1992

Harbours Corporation of Queensland (Vesting of Crown Land) Order (No. 7) 1992

Harbours (Management of Harbour Works) Order 1992, No. 320

Mackay Port Authority (Vesting of Crown Land) Order (No. 1) 1992

Nagillah Pty Ltd (Reclamation of Land) Order (No. 1) 1992

R L and R B Conde (Reclamation of Land) Order (No. 1) 1992

Townsville Port Authority (Vesting of Crown Land) Order (No. 1) 1992

## Health Act—

Poisons (Adoption of Standard) Notice (No. 4) 1992, No. 286

Industrial Development Act—

Order in Council in relation to the issue of a Deed in Grant in respect of Lot 5 on Plan NR7868, parish of Cairns in the FAR NORTH Region, Cairns Land Office District

Justices Act—

Justices (Offence Notices) Regulation 1992, No. 273

Land Act—

Environmental Park 520 County of Yarrol (Declaration) Order 1992

Liquor Act—

Liquor Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 1992, No. 299

Local Government Act—

Local Government (Swimming Pool Fencing) Order (No. 1) 1992, No. 331

Lotto Act—

Lotto (On-line) Amendment Rule (No. 1) 1992, No. 326

Mineral Resources Act—

Mineral Resources (Restricted Area 270) Order (No. 2) 1992, No. 278

Mineral Resources (Winton Mining District) Amendment Order (No. 1) 1992, No. 310

Restricted Area 183 (Amendment) Order 1992

Restricted Area 274 (Restriction of Grants) Order 1992

Motor Vehicles Control Act—

Motor Vehicles Control (Cooranga North) Order 1992, No. 274

National Parks and Wildlife Act—

National Park 7 Counties of Gregory, Morstone and Mueller (Further Extension) Order 1992

National Park 8 County of Coorajah (Declaration) Order 1992

National Park 435 County of Clinton (Extension) Order 1992

National Park 477 Counties of Cardwell and Wilkie Gray (Extension) Order 1992

National Park 531 County of Cardwell (Extension) Order 1992

National Park 1201 Counties of Cardwell and Wairuna (Extension) Order 1992

Petroleum Act—

Petroleum (Pipeline Charges) Order 1992, No. 311

Santos Ltd. (Permission to Enter Upon Lands) Order 1992

Primary Industries Corporation Act—

Proclamation—Commencement of provisions not in force—30 September 1992, No. 271

Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act—

Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing (Rice Marketing Board) Order 1992, No. 302

Public Service Management and Employment Act—

Public Service Management and Employment Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 1992, No. 318

## Queensland Marine Act—

Queensland Marine (Conservancy Dues Exemption) Order 1992, No. 319

Queensland Marine (Motor Boat and Motor Vessel) Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 1992, No. 329

Queensland Marine (Pleasure Yacht Equipment) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 1992, No. 330

## Queensland Nickel Agreement Act—

Queensland Nickel Agreement Order (No. 2) 1992, No. 280

## Retirement Villages Act—

Assemblies of God Toowoomba Property Limited (Exemption) Order 1992

Castra Retirement Home Limited (Exemption) Order 1992

Dalrymple Villa Incorporated (Exemption) Order 1992

Rosewood Aged People's Home Committee Incorporated (Exemption) Order 1992

Sarina Aged Residential Home Incorporated (Exemption) Order 1992

The Corporation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba (Exemption) Order 1992

The Corporation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Diocese of Rockhampton (Exemption) Order 1992

The Council of the Shire of Johnstone (Exemption) Order 1992

## Rural Lands Protection Act Amendment Act—

Proclamation—Commencement of provisions not in force—22 June 1992, No. 121

## Soccer Football Pools Act—

Pools (On-line) Amendment Rule (No. 1) 1992, No. 327

## Stamp Act—

Stamp Duties Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 298

## State Housing Act—

State Housing Interest Rate Order (No. 3) 1992, No. 270

## State Housing (Freeholding of Land) Act—

State Housing (Freeholding of Land) Interest Rate Order (No. 3) 1992, No. 259

## State Transport Act—

State Transport Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 1992, No. 290

## Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act—

Proclamation—Commencement of section 4 (so far as it repeals the State Securities Registration Act 1925)—1 September 1992, No. 272

## Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act—

Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements (South East Queensland Water Board) Order 1992, No. 288

## Statutory Instruments Act—

Statutory Instruments Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 1992, No. 328

## Supreme Court Act—

Barristers' Admission Rules Amendment Order (No. 1) 1992, No. 282

Criminal Practice Rules Amendment Order (No. 1) 1992, No. 276

Solicitors' Admission Rules Amendment Order (No. 1) 1992, No. 283

Surveyors Act—

Surveyors Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 1992, No. 293

Timber Utilization and Marketing Act—

Timber Utilisation and Marketing Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1992, No. 303

Tow-truck Act—

Tow Truck Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 1992, No. 291

Tow-truck Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 1992, No. 321

Traffic Act—

Traffic Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 1992, No. 275

Traffic Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 1992, No. 281

Transport Infrastructure (Roads) Act—

Notification—Access to land be limited, Pacific Highway (Helensvale-Coolangatta, Albert Shire)

Notification—Access to land be limited, Caloundra-Noosa Road (Maroochy/Noosa Shires)

Notification—Access to the proposed widening of the declared road be limited, Cunningham Arterial Road (Brisbane City)

Notification—Access to the proposed widening of the declared road be limited, Maroochydoore Road (Maroochy Shire)

Notification—Access to the declared roads be limited, Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road (Beaudesert Shire) and Mundoolun Connection Road (Beaudesert Shire)

Transport Infrastructure (Roads) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 1992, No. 289

University of Queensland Act—

A Statute of the University of Queensland which rescinds Statute 6—The Standing Committee of Convocation and makes the following Statute:- Statute 6—Convocation

Workers' Compensation Act—

Cardiac Assessment Tribunal (Appointment of Alternate Member) Order 1992

General Medical Assessment Tribunal (Appointment of Alternate Members) Order 1992

Workplace Health and Safety Act—

Workplace Health and Safety Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 1992, No. 332

Workplace Health and Safety (A-C Sheeting) Exemption Notice (No. 2) 1992, No. 285

Workplace Health and Safety (Officers) Notice 1992, No. 279.

**STATEMENT OF RECURRENT EXPENDITURE FOR OFFICE OF SPEAKER**

**Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH** (Chatsworth—Leader of the House) (10.12 a.m.): I lay upon the table of the House the statement of recurrent expenditure in summary format for the Honourable D. Fouras, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, for the

period 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992, in accordance with section 6.3 of the Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Office of the Speaker.

### PAPERS

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

- (a) Treasurer (Mr De Lacy)—  
 Reports for the year ended 30 June 1992—  
 Suncorp Insurance and Finance.  
 Queensland Industry Development Corporation.  
 Queensland Industry Development Corporation Government Schemes.  
 Queensland Industry Development Corporation Government Schemes  
 Division—Venture Capital Fund.  
 Queensland Investment Corporation.  
 Queensland Machine Gaming Commission.  
 Mortgage Secondary Market Board.  
 The Nominal Defendant (Queensland).  
 Treasury Department.
- (b) Minister for Primary Industries (Mr Casey)—  
 Annual Reports of—  
 The Barley Marketing Board.  
 State Wheat Board.  
 Central Queensland Grain Sorghum Marketing Board for the year ended 31  
 December 1991.  
 The Navy Bean Marketing Board and the Bean Growers' Co-operative  
 Association Limited.  
 The Peanut Marketing Board and the Queensland Peanut Growers' Co-  
 operative Association Limited.  
 The Rice Marketing Board for the year ended 31 March 1992.  
 The Egg marketing Board for year ended 26 June 1992.  
 The Central Queensland Egg Marketing Board for the year ended 26 June  
 1992.  
 Queensland Hen Quota Committee for the year ended 26 June 1992.  
 Brisbane Market Trust for the year ended 30 June 1992.  
 Chicken Meat Industry Committee for the year ended 30 June 1992.  
 Mackay Sugar Co-operative Association Limited for the year ended 30 June  
 1992.  
 Queensland Dairy Industry Authority.  
 Queensland Fish Board for the year ended 30 June 1992.  
 Timber Research and Development Advisory Council of Queensland for the  
 year ended 30 June 1992.
- (c) Minister for Consumer Affairs and Corrective Services (Mr Milliner)—  
 (1) Reports for the year ended 30 June 1992—  
 Department of Justice.  
 The Queensland Corrective Services Commission.

Ordered to be printed.

(2) Report of the Trustees of the Funeral Benefit Trust Fund for the period ended 30 June 1992.

(d) Minister for Lands (Mr Smith)—

Report of the Torres Strait Islander Land Tribunal for the year ended 30 June 1992.

Ordered to be printed.

(e) Minister for Minerals and Energy (Mr McGrady)—

Reports for the year ended 30 June 1992—

Department of Minerals and Energy.

Queensland Electricity Commission.

Queensland Coal Board.

### **SITTING DAYS AND HOURS; MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST; SPECIAL PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DEBATE AND ADJOURNMENT DEBATE**

#### **Sessional Order**

**Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH** (Chatsworth—Leader of the House) (10.15 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That for this session, unless otherwise ordered, and notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders—

(i) Sitting days and hours; Matters of Public Interest; Special Public Importance debate:

The House shall sit on Tuesday at 10 o'clock a.m., Wednesday, 2.30 o'clock p.m. and Thursday at 10 o'clock a.m. and Government business shall take precedence of all other business except for—

(a) that period set aside for discussion of Matters of Public Interest on Tuesday which shall take place between 11 o'clock a.m. and 12 noon; and

(b) that period set aside for a Special Public Importance debate to follow question time on each Wednesday which is not allotted for debate on the Appropriation Bill (No. 2), such debate on a subject which is not formulated as a motion in express terms; the debate may commence at the conclusion of question time and six members may speak for a period not exceeding 10 minutes each on the matter which has been proposed to the Speaker by 6 o'clock p.m. on the Tuesday immediately preceding the debate; if more than one matter is proposed to Mr Speaker he shall select the matter for debate and inform members concerned by 10 o'clock a.m. on the day of debate.

(ii) Adjournment to Close the Sitting: Standing Order 34 be amended—

(a) in line one, paragraph one, after the word 'Tuesday' by inserting the words, 'and Wednesday'; and

(b) by omitting all words in lines one and two, paragraph two and in line three omitting the words, 'Minister to close the business of the day and no' and inserting the word 'No'.

(iii) All other provisions of Standing Orders shall mutatis mutandis continue to apply.”

Motion agreed to.

## PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION

### Appointment of Members

**Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH** (Chatsworth—Leader of the House) (10.17 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That Mr Ken McElligott, Mrs Diane McCauley and Mrs Joan Sheldon be appointed as members of the Parliamentary Service Commission.”

Motion agreed to.

### ADDRESS IN REPLY DEBATE

#### Suspension of Standing Order 17

**Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH** (Chatsworth—Leader of the House) (10.17 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That the provisions of Standing Order 17 be suspended to a future date to enable the Legislative Assembly to consider other business prior to the debate on the Address in Reply to the Governor’s Opening Speech.”

Motion agreed to.

### BUDGET ESTIMATES 1992-93

#### Procedure and Time Limits

**Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH** (Chatsworth—Leader of the House) (10.18 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

- “(1) That notwithstanding anything contained in Standing Orders the Budget Estimates for the 1992-93 financial year for the purpose of debate in the Legislative Assembly shall be in the form of an Appropriation Bill (No. 2) only. Such Bill shall contain all departmental Estimates in a Schedule to the Bill.
- (2) The Appropriation Bill (No. 2) shall be introduced by the Honourable the Treasurer later today and debate on the second reading be adjourned until a later hour of the sitting.
- (3) Debate on the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) shall continue at the following times on the following sitting days—
  - Tuesday, 10 November at 12 noon
  - Wednesday, 11 November at 3.30 p.m.
  - Thursday, 12 November at 11.00 a.m.
  - Tuesday, 24 November at 12 noon
 and shall take precedence over all other business.
- (4) That the following procedure and time limits apply with respect to debate in Committee of the Whole on the Bill—
  - (a) that all clauses be postponed until debate on the Schedule has concluded;
  - (b) that each Minister’s Estimates be given one 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.
- (5) If the Bill has not passed all stages by 2.50 p.m. on Tuesday, 24 November, then all remaining questions necessary to pass the Bill shall be put by Mr

Speaker or the Chairman of Committees, as the case may be, without amendment or debate.”

**Mr BORBIDGE:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Does the Leader of the Opposition wish to debate the motion?

**Mr BORBIDGE:** Yes.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I require a seconder.

**Hon. T. J. BURNS** (Lytton—Deputy Premier, Minister for Administrative Services and Minister for Rural Communities)(10.19 a.m.): I second the motion.

**Mr BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—Leader of the Opposition) (10.20 a.m.): The Opposition opposes the motion moved by the Leader of the House. I believe it is significant that one of the first actions taken by the re-elected Labor Government is to apply the guillotine to the Budget, to gag the Budget. Prior to the election, we had the unprecedented example of the Treasurer handing down a Budget and the Government refusing to debate that Budget. An election has now been held. A new Parliament has been assembled. Once again, debate on the Budget is to be substantially stifled.

Let us examine the ramifications of the motion moved by the Leader of the House. Effectively, it means that this afternoon and this evening the Budget debate will take place. Because the Government has decided to defer the Address in Reply debate, the only real chance for new members of this Parliament to make their maiden speeches before Christmas is this afternoon and this evening during the Budget debate. We have a double whammy. The Government is restricting debate on the Budget and, by the adjournment of the Address in Reply debate, forcing a situation whereby Opposition frontbench members will have to stand aside so that new members can make their maiden speeches. One by one, shadow Ministers will be effectively prevented from participating in the Budget debate.

It gets worse. Next week, when this Parliament sits, we will have the absolute and total farce of the Estimates being squeezed through as they have never been squeezed through before. Ten minutes are allocated for me to debate the Estimates of the Premier and the Premier's Department. Ten minutes! Ten minutes are allocated for the shadow Treasurer to debate the Estimates of the Treasury. If that is the way in which the Government intends to run this Parliament, it does not say much for the Government. Time and time again right around Australia—the latest example being in Western Australia—when Governments have tried to shut down the parliamentary process, major problems have arisen.

**Mr Burns:** Remember old Joh.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I cannot recall the Deputy Premier, when he was in Opposition, ever being restricted to 10 minutes during the Estimates debate. I cannot recall him ever being restricted during the Budget debate in the manner in which this Opposition is being restricted today.

Once again, this Government has dinged out. Prior to the election, this Government was not prepared to debate its Budget. It ran for cover. After the election, this Government is still not prepared to properly debate its Budget. The gag is being applied in this place as it has never been applied before. We have an arrogant Premier and an arrogant Government that are now saying, “We have been re-elected. They can really cop it this time.”

The proposal by the Leader of the House is an insult to this Parliament. It would not be tolerated in any other Parliament around Australia. It comes from the same Government that refused to debate the Budget prior to the election. It comes at a time when the Address in Reply debate—the traditional opportunity for the making of maiden speeches—is to be denied to new members of this place. By adopting that course, shadow Ministers will be prevented from participating in the Budget debate proper.

**Mrs SHELDON** (Caloundra—Leader of the Liberal Party) (10.23 a.m.): The only thing that is more anti-democratic than this Government's attempt to gag the Budget debate since this spurious document was introduced to this House on 25 August is Labor's record of daylight robbery.

**Mr Gibbs:** This is heavy stuff!

**Mrs SHELDON:** It is a heavier speech than the honourable member usually makes. On 25 August, the Treasurer made a number of commitments to the voters and taxpayers of Queensland. Firstly, he indicated that the Budget would be debated on 27 August. Secondly, when he finished reading the Budget at 3.17 p.m. that Tuesday afternoon, he indicated that the House would resume as normal at 7.30 p.m. that evening.

**A Government member** interjected.

**Mrs SHELDON:** I am talking about the Treasurer. He has misled the Parliament on both counts. It is a matter of record that even as the Treasurer was speaking, this Labor Government was drawing up a proclamation to dissolve the Parliament in preparation for an early election. The House never reassembled. Up until now, the Opposition has not had an opportunity to debate the Budget. Obviously, that situation will continue. A compelling reason for this Budget to be debated in full is to have it shown up as the spurious document that it is. What the original Budget statement omitted to mention is more important than its content. It was not until the day after the Budget was delivered that people heard about the Government's plans to increase the tobacco tax by 150 per cent. It was not until even more recently that people heard about Labor's plans to rob the Metway bank of \$20m. The Treasurer is robbing the bank. He is a robber. Is it any wonder that the Government wants to gag the Budget debate?

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I am on my feet. I ask the Deputy Leader of the Coalition to withdraw that unparliamentary word.

**Mrs SHELDON:** I withdraw it. Possibly, a better word would have been "thief". Is it any wonder that the Government wants to gag the Budget debate? I believe that this 1992-93 Labor Budget may take Queensland down the same road as Labor has taken Western Australia with WA Inc, Victoria with its \$1.2 billion loan and its smear of deficit and theft, and South Australia and the way in which it does things. In fact, if the Government allows the debate to run its course, it may be doing itself a favour. Such a debate may save Queensland from following other disgraced Labor States into poverty. It may save this Government from itself.

**Hon. K. E. De LACY** (Cairns—Treasurer) (10.27 a.m.): In response to what has been said by the Opposition Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Coalition—I say that they must have short memories. I have been a member of this House for nine years. During the term of the previous Government, members were never given the opportunity to debate all the Estimates. For 30 years, never once did the previous Government debate all the Estimates. In fact, during that time, some ministerial Estimates were never debated. However, this Government's policy is to debate all the Estimates so that all members of this House have an opportunity to contribute.

**Mr Borbidge** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! That interjection must be withdrawn. It is unparliamentary.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I withdraw the comment that the Treasurer is a pathological liar.

**Mr De LACY:** As to the gratuitous insults from members of the Opposition—most people are becoming aware of the standard that they are setting in this Parliament. On Tuesday, by trying to lower the tone of debate in this House, the Deputy Leader of the National Party made a fool of himself. After listening to some of the comments today, it seems that Opposition members are going—

**Mr Littleproud** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the member for Western Downs under Standing Order 123A.

**Mr De LACY:** Opposition members believe that by sinking into the gutter, they will win the hearts and minds of the people of Queensland. We all know what happened to the Liberal Party, which sank into the gutter during the election campaign. Only nine members of that party were re-elected. We have seen what happened to President Bush, who tried to bring the American election campaign down into the gutter.

**Mr Borbidge:** How did you go in Cairns?

**Mr De LACY:** I will tell the member how I went in Cairns. I am still a member of Parliament.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the Leader of the Opposition under Standing Order 123A for interjecting.

**Mr De LACY:** The Leader of the Opposition said that forcing a Budget through Parliament would not be tolerated in any other State in Australia. The brand new Liberal/National Party Government in Victoria rammed through its Budget in eight hours, leading to the newspaper headline "The Budget rammed through in 8 hours".

**Mr Johnson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the member for Gregory under Standing Order 123A for interjecting.

**Mr De LACY:** That Government's Budget has made some dramatic changes to the way things operate in Victoria. Every householder must now pay a levy of \$100. That Government said nothing in its campaign about that levy. However, it rammed through its Budget in eight hours. This Government is proposing to pass its Budget after five days of debate. Honourable members will have the opportunity to debate every Estimate. The hypocrisy of members of the Opposition! They have short memories. The precedent has been set that, during election years, Parliament has truncated Estimates debates. In the 1983 and 1986 Estimates debates, the same procedure was followed. In fact, the 1986 Budget debate was shorter than this year's Budget debate will be. The Leader of the Opposition will be allowed 60 minutes within which to reply to the Treasurer's Budget Speech. This is probably the most exhaustively debated Budget in the history of Queensland. It was brought down two months ago, and the public has been debating it since then. The public has actually made a judgment on this Budget. It is now over to the Opposition. I believe that the comments made today by the Leader of the Opposition will be seen as the hypocritical comments that they are.

**Mr FITZGERALD (Lockyer) (10.31 a.m.):** When this Government first came to office, it made quite a play of the fact that it would allow a full debate on all the Estimates before the Chamber. In 1991, a period of 74.5 hours was devoted to debate the Estimates. A total of 17 portfolios were debated, each for four hours. The Estimates of the Attorney-General were debated for 3 hours and 45 minutes, and those of the Minister for Family Services were debated for 1 hour and 40 minutes. I understand that something relating to the verdict in the Joh trial, which was delivered on that day, upset some members of this House and they were thrown out. This year, the Government is proposing to truncate the process by allowing 25 hours and 20 minutes to debate the Estimates for 19 departments. In other words, only 1 hour and 20 minutes will be devoted to debate the Estimates for each department.

**Mr W. K. Goss** interjected.

**Mr FITZGERALD:** That was not a Budget in Victoria; it was a mini-Budget. As I said, 1 hour and 20 minutes will be devoted to debate the Estimates for each department. Because each Minister will be allowed 10 minutes to reply, the 70 members of this House, other than the Ministers and the Speaker, will be allowed a total of 70 minutes to debate the Estimates for each department. That works out at one minute per member per set of Estimates. Therefore, if the honourable member for Toowoomba

North, for example, wishes to take issue with a particular aspect of a Minister's departmental Estimates, he will be allowed only one minute to speak to those Estimates. That is an absolute shame. Parliament is becoming irrelevant.

As I said, when this Government first came to office, it claimed that it would allow a full debate on all Estimates. It is a matter for this House to decide whether or not we should debate all Estimates. I believe that this Parliament should have an Estimates committee, because members want to know how much is being spent by this Government. Queensland has a unicameral parliamentary system. I believe that because of the problems that have occurred in other States, the Estimates should be placed under scrutiny. It is an absolute insult to democracy for this Parliament to be used in this way. It is also an insult to this Parliament and, most of all, it is an insult to the people of Queensland. This Government is not going to get away with it. The Opposition will oppose this motion before the House.

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

AYES, 51		NOES, 34	
Ardill	Mackenroth	Beanland	Slack
Barton	McGrady	Borbidge	Stephan
Beattie	Milliner	Connor	Stoneman
Bennett	Nunn	Cooper	Veivers
Bird	Nuttall	Davidson	Watson
Braddy	Palaszczuk	Elliott	
Bredhauer	Pearce	FitzGerald	
Briskey	Power	Gamin	
Budd	Purcell	Gilmore	
Burns	Pyke	Goss J. N.	
Campbell	Robertson	Grice	
Casey	Robson	Healy	
Clark	Rose	Hobbs	
Comben	Smith	Horan	
D'Arcy	Spence	Johnson	
Davies	Sullivan J. H.	Lester	
De Lacy	Sullivan T. B.	Lingard	
Dollin	Szczerbanik	Littleproud	
Edmond	Vaughan	McCauley	
Elder	Warner	Mitchell	
Fenlon	Welford	Perrett	
Foley	Wells	Quinn	
Gibbs		Randell	
Goss W. K.		Rowell	
Hamill	<i>Tellers:</i>	Santoro	<i>Tellers:</i>
Hayward	Pitt	Sheldon	Springborg
Hollis	Livingstone	Simpson	Laming

Resolved in the affirmative.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Overseas Visit by Deputy Premier, Minister for Administrative Services and Minister for Rural Communities

**Hon. T. J. BURNS** (Lytton—Deputy Premier, Minister for Administrative Services and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.41 a.m.), by leave: For the information of honourable members, I table the report on my ministerial visit to London, Glasgow, Newcastle, Nice, Stockholm and Hong Kong. The study tour commenced on Sunday, 26 July and was completed on Tuesday, 11 August 1992. In the four countries visited, I had the opportunity of seeing first hand the importance of properly established regional planning and economic development strategies which link all levels of government. In particular, I found that meaningful involvement of local government is vital to the successful implementation of urban and regional planning and development.

There are salutary lessons for Australia and Queensland on the positive and negative impact of Government intervention in the housing market. There is a vital role for Government in maintaining a stable and balanced housing market for consumers and those involved in production. The visit confirmed my view that the State has a crucial role in providing support, particularly for those on low and moderate incomes. Market forces alone are not able to effectively meet the people's needs for secure, affordable accommodation. To those who continue to knock Australia, let me say that a visit to the UK to see first hand politically created poverty and employment will make them realise how lucky they are to be Australians, and particularly Queenslanders.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Brisbane Casino Selection Process

**Hon. K. E. De LACY** (Cairns—Treasurer) (10.42 a.m.), by leave: In the days leading up to the recent Queensland State election, honourable members may have noticed some criticisms of the process used in the selection of a preferred applicant for the Brisbane Casino licence. Those criticisms seemed to centre on the Commonwealth Senate, presumably because of the benefits of making accusations under the protection of privilege.

Although those criticisms were countered as they were made, this morning I propose to set on the parliamentary record the facts relating to the selection process. I do not believe that the process itself, the public servants involved in that process, or this Government which made the ultimate decision ought to continue to be subjected to the sort of insubstantial and erroneous innuendo which has been the hallmark of much of the comment. Despite the disappointment of at least some of the losers, and their somewhat egotistical belief that they were invincible, I am firmly of the belief that the best proposal won the day—and won fairly.

The criticism of the selection process advanced, or implied, in recent weeks seems to fall into five broad categories—

1. Jupiters in some way bought the licence by a late increase in the offer;
2. Jupiters put in a second bid;
3. Jupiters had a non-conforming founder position;
4. the probity of a Jupiters founder, Daikyo; and
5. allegations of insider trading.

In the interests of time, I seek leave to have incorporated in *Hansard* a detailed response to each of these criticisms together with some comments on heritage issues that have been raised recently in the media.

Leave granted.

1. *Jupiters bought the licence*

It is true that the Jupiters financial offer was significantly higher than the offer of any of its competitors. Clearly they saw the Brisbane casino as of particular strategic significance to them and were accordingly prepared to pay a price. Others obviously did not rate the opportunity so highly.

It is also true that the eventual financial offer which won Jupiters preferred applicant was significantly higher than their initial offer. There is, however, no sinister conclusion to be drawn from this. In fact, all short listed proponents were given—in face to face meetings with the Evaluation Committee—the opportunity to enhance their offers on two occasions. Two of the three proponents accepted this opportunity—indeed Jupiters raised their offers for both short listed sites (the Treasury and South Bank) by broadly the same proportion.

The facts that Jupiters raised both offers and that their final offer was so far ahead of any competitor clearly counters any suggestion that Jupiters Treasury bid had any advance approval or "inside running".

2. *Jupiters put in a second bid, thus, somehow, disadvantaging other proponents*

I'm not sure quite what is meant by this accusation. If this relates to the financial offer then, as already indicated, all short-listed proponents were given two opportunities to improve their offers. Two of the three (including Jupiters) did so.

If this relates to the design, the Casino Control Division of Treasury worked with all short-listed proponents to ensure that designs conformed with Brief requirements and other practical issues of concern to the Division and Government (e.g. traffic arrangements, casino table layouts, etc.). All short-listed proponents modified their designs to accommodate these requirements. Again, Jupiters were given no special treatment on this score. In fact, because of the specific heritage requirements of the Treasury site, this process was probably harder on Jupiters than any other proponent.

There has also been a suggestion that Jupiters bid for the Treasury was non-conforming in that it did not offer 200 hotel rooms.

It is true that the initial Brief to Applicants sought to have a 200 room hotel constructed on any site. This requirement was, however, reviewed by the Evaluation Committee for the Treasury site and reduced to 150 rooms for that site. This decision was taken and advised to all applicants in an Addendum released some seven weeks before the closing date for Expressions of Interest.

Jupiters Treasury proposal, as accepted for preferred applicant status, contained 169 rooms—some 19 in excess of the minimum requirement.

3. *Jupiters Founder Position*

Under the Queensland casino requirements, casino licensees are required to have a proportion of their shares held by approved shareholders (the Founders). These shares can only be transferred subject to Government approval. At the time of lodgement of their bid (September 1991), Jupiters easily met the requirements of the Brief to Applicants in that they had 3 Founders—Conrad, Daikyo and Commonwealth Funds Management. Further, Jupiters offered to increase their Founder holding to meet the requirements of the Brisbane Brief (40% to be Founder shares compared with 20% for their Gold Coast casino).

At the time of closing of submissions, in fact, Jupiters was the only group which could demonstrate ready compliance with the requirements of the Brief.

However, late in the evaluation process, the Committee became aware that Daikyo intended to withdraw from the Founder position and place their shares on the market.

In effect, this left Jupiters with only two committed Founders, thus technically in breach of the 'preferred model' outlined in the Brief. However, neither of the other applicants on the short list fully met this model in every respect at this time. Accordingly, it was considered that equity demanded that the appointment of Jupiters proceed and that they be allowed time to resolve their Founder position. The same opportunity would have been afforded to other applicants (and indeed it already had been during the evaluation process).

Jupiters were accorded no advantage over their competitors on this score.

4. *Allegations that Daikyo was in some way linked with organised crime in Japan and that this affected Jupiters proposal*

At the time Jupiters was awarded preferred applicant status, Daikyo was not a part of the bidding consortium. Accordingly, it is hard to see what relevance these allegations can have.

I should also note that Daikyo no longer hold any shares in Jupiters Limited, in accordance with the intention they advised to the Government prior to the awarding of preferred applicant status to Jupiters.

5. *Allegations of "insider trading" in Jupiters shares prior to the announcement of the granting of preferred applicant status*

An essential ingredient in insider trading is privileged information. Prior to the announcement of preferred applicant status, no indication was given to anyone outside Government of the Committee's recommendation to Government.

In these circumstances, I do not see how insider trading was possible. Further, Treasury has been advised by the ASC that—following an initial review in the wake of comments in the Senate—they do not propose to further investigate this matter.

In all, no issue of substance has been raised against the process of selecting a preferred applicant. I accept that, where large sums are at stake and even the costs of submitting an Expression of Interest are high, failure will inevitably create disappointment and a desire to blame the umpire rather than the performance of one's own team. Nonetheless, I am disappointed that the criticism has continued despite each and every issue raised having been easily and rapidly rebutted.

In addition to comments about the selection process, I have also noted comments implying that the Government will, in some way, truncate or otherwise interfere with the process of review of the project by the Heritage Council.

Let me make the real position abundantly clear. The Queensland Heritage Act provides alternative mechanisms for the Heritage Council to review developments proposed for heritage listed sites by the Crown and by other developers. Because of the nature of the casino development—it is on Crown Land and will be subject to rigorous on-going control through a lease from the Crown and a special Act of Parliament as well as the on-going requirements of the Casino Control Act—and the historical significance of the site, it has been determined that the development should be treated as a Crown development for the purposes of the Heritage Act.

The Heritage Act procedure for a Crown development requires—

- a detailed report on the proposed development to the Heritage Council;
- publication of the details of the proposed development and invitation to public objections; and
- consideration by the Heritage Council of the objection and a recommendation to the responsible Minister as to whether or not the proposed development should be carried out and if so any specified conditions or modifications.

The Government has previously undertaken to put this development through the processes established by the Heritage Act, and this remains the case.

The Brisbane Casino is a major project for this city. The Jupiters proposal is an imaginative and sensitive re-use of a major Brisbane landmark. It will be subject to the rigour of the Queensland Heritage Act. The financial proceeds from this casino will largely fund the construction of a world class Convention and Exhibition Centre on the South Bank—a vital part of the development of this city's tourist infrastructure.

Both projects will provide a major boost to employment, both in the building industry during the construction phase and in an on-going way.

I am determined that groundless carping criticism—for transparently political motives—will not stand in the way of the project.

#### THE BRISBANE CASINO SELECTION PROCESS—SUMMARY

The process began in November 1990 when the Government approved the establishment of an Inter-Departmental Committee to call for and evaluate Expressions of Interest for a Brisbane casino licence. That Committee consisted of

Henry Smerdon	Under Treasurer (Chair)
Erik Finger	Director-General, Department of the Premier, Economic and Trade Development
Ross Dunning	Director-General, Administrative Services Department
Graham Hartley	Executive Director (Policy and Planning), Department of Transport
Kevin Leyshon	Director, Casino Control Division, Queensland Treasury

and was supported by specialist consultants and a Working Group of officers drawn from the following Departments:

- Premier's,
- Treasury,
- Administrative Services,

Transport,  
Lands,  
Housing and Local Government, and  
Environment and Heritage.

In addition, advice on specific aspects of the process was sought from the Brisbane City Council and the South Bank Corporation.

One role for this Committee was to advise Government on the process to be used (including key requirements of any casino development) and the sites to be offered to proponents. The Government, in April 1991, approved the detailed arrangements relating to the casino and the three sites to be offered—Queensland Place, South Bank, and the Treasury Site.

Following this, the Committee called for Expressions of Interest on 12 April 1991, and made available to all interested parties extensive briefing material on both the general requirements for any project and the specific requirements for each site. This material was made available in three parts:

- an explanatory brochure outlining, in summary form, the Government's key criteria and the sites;
- a comprehensive set of documents providing considerable detail on every aspect of the Government's requirements, including relevant legislation and site-specific information; and
- additional supplementary information, including detailed plans, background information, and so forth.

The first of these was made available on request at no charge, the second on payment of a fee to cover printing and distribution costs and the third was held by the Casino Control Division for reference only.

Expressions of Interest closed on 30 September 1991. In the period prior to the closure date, however, as would be expected, interested parties sought guidance on a wide range of issues with regard to the Brief, especially matters of interpretation. Where issues of policy were involved, written questions were sought and the question of response were circulated to all parties who had registered interest by taking out full sets of Briefing Documents.

In addition, where further information (e.g. specific studies which were not finalised at the time of the Brief) became available, these were also distributed with questions and answers as Addenda. Five such Addenda were issues while the period for Expressions of Interest was open.

After the closure of Expressions of Interest, the Evaluation Committee sought formal presentations from each of the five bidding consortia, and the proposals were examined in detail by officers on the Working Group. The Committee also visited casinos in Austria, Nevada and New Jersey as well as Townsville, Adelaide, Perth and the Gold Coast, and held discussions with a number of regulatory authorities. Based on the results of the Working Party's examination of the proposals, a further meeting was held with each proponent, and each was given the opportunity to enhance the financial offer.

From this process, a short-list was selected. Officers of the Working Group and the Casino Control Division worked closely with each short-listed applicant to ensure that the proposal reflected the Government's requirements as far as possible. Again, the full Evaluation Committee met with each short-listed proponent and each was asked to formally confirm all aspects of its proposal including its financial offer, which was then dealt with as firm and final.

Critical issues throughout the evaluation process were:

- the quality of the consortium;
- the capacity, experience, integrity and probity of the casino hotel operators;
- the quality of the design;
- the financial offer; and
- external factors such as contribution to tourism and heritage matters.

Of especial note in the final consideration of the short-list were:

impact on South Bank;  
heritage aspects of the Treasury and Land Administration Buildings;  
relationship with proposed convention and exhibition centre;  
unemployment;  
competition;  
founder equity;  
tourism; and last (but by no means least)  
probity.

At the end of the day, the Committee presented a report to Government recommending that Jupiters be granted preferred applicant status in respect of the Treasury site. The Committee's reasons were publicly released in its Report in May 1992, and the recommendations were accepted by the Government.

The Government's involvement in this whole process was confined to approval of a process and basic criteria (including sites) at the outset of the Committee's work and consideration and approval of the Committee's recommendations at the end of the day. There was no interference by the Government in the work of the expert Committee. The Committee has recognised this and commented appreciatively upon it in its report.

**Mr De LACY:** I believe it may assist honourable members to have a brief outline of the actual process adopted with regard to the Brisbane Casino licence. The statement therefore includes an attachment on the selection process.

For the information of honourable members, I would like also to table the set of briefing documents provided to each casino proponent, the five addenda circulated during the submission period and the report on the evaluation of the Brisbane Casino submission by the inter-departmental committee.

#### **PANEL OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN**

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable members, I advise the House that, when I nominated the six members to form the panel of Temporary Chairmen, I nominated Rodney John Welford, the member for Everton. I wish now to change that nomination. I advise honourable members that Rodney Jon Welford will be replaced by Stephen Bredhauer, the member for Cook.

#### **SOUTH BANK CORPORATION ACT**

##### **Disallowance of Regulation; Withdrawal of Notice of Motion**

**Mr BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—Leader of the Opposition) (10.46 a.m.): I seek leave to withdraw notice of motion No. 2 standing in my name.

Leave granted.

#### **WATER RESOURCES (RATES AND CHARGES) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS (No. 1) 1992**

##### **Disallowance of Regulation; Withdrawal of Notice of Motion**

**Mr HOBBS** (Warrego) (10.46 a.m.): I seek leave to withdraw notice of motion No. 1 standing in my name.

Leave granted.

### **TABLING OF REPORT ON TRIP ON PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS**

**Mr BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central) (10.47 a.m.): During October 1992, I undertook a trip on parliamentary business. I table two copies of the detailed report of my trip for the information of the House.

### **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

#### **Administration of Parliament**

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I ask the Premier: will he confirm that his department has prepared unprecedented legislation which will destroy the independence of the Parliament and greatly diminish the role of the Clerk of the Parliament by removing his financial and administrative control? Can the Premier also confirm that senior public servants of his department, acting on his instructions, are now preparing a takeover of the administration of this Parliament?

**Mr W. K. GOSS:** The answer to the second part of the question is, "No". In relation to the first part of the question, at present consideration is being given to legislation, the drafting of which is under way, to implement the recommendations of the Criminal Justice Commission in relation to an inquiry into the travel expenses of members. The recommendation of the Criminal Justice Commission regarding the role of the Clerk, and the administration of this place, requires attention by the Government and by the Parliament. The Government does propose to address it. Significant issues of principle and administration need to be addressed, in relation to both the Parliament and the Financial Administration and Audit Act. Later this month, we will be putting a proposal before the Parliament for consideration. Let me make it plain that it flows directly from the recommendations of the Criminal Justice Commission.

**Mr Borbidge:** That is the excuse.

**Mr W. K. GOSS:** No. Cabinet held considerable misgivings about the particular recommendation. Cabinet only finally agreed to proceed with the preparation of the legislation after a number of discussions with the Criminal Justice Commission as to whether or not some alternative method of delivering the accountability that the commission believes is necessary could be achieved. Those discussions with the Criminal Justice Commission were not successful, and the Government is proceeding.

**An Opposition member:** So now you will be running it from your department.

**Mr W. K. GOSS:** No, not at all.

**Mr Borbidge:** A public servant?

**Mr W. K. GOSS:** Not at all. Before the paranoid conspiracy runs amok, I reiterate that the legislation will be put before the House. It is not going to be rushed in any sense. Members will be able to have a look at it over the break, if they want. They will have all the time they like. It is a response to a recommendation from the Criminal Justice Commission. I think that National Party members of the parliamentary committee endorsed it, as I recall. I was going to say "the Opposition", but I meant that the coalition, or whatever it is, endorsed the recommendation. I would be happy to talk about it with Opposition members. Indeed, there is nothing to be concerned about. I am happy to make available a member of my department to brief the Leader of the Opposition on the matter.

#### **Duties of the Clerk of the Parliament**

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I ask the Premier: is it the Government's intention to give a number of functions that are currently carried out by the Clerk of this Parliament and the Clerks of all other Parliaments across Australia to a public servant?

**Mr W. K. GOSS:** As I said before, I am prepared to have a senior member of my department brief the Leader of the Opposition. I suggest that this person who trumpets about accountability read the Criminal Justice Commission report in respect of the administration of members' benefits in this place, and read the recommendation of the parliamentary committee. The honourable member should read the report, and we will give him a brief. In respect of the administration of the Parliament, the Government is more than happy to discuss this matter with the Leader of the Opposition and his deputy, whoever his deputy may be.

**Mr Elliott** interjected.

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

**Mr W. K. GOSS:** The recommendation that came to the Parliament—not the Government—and which the Government is now addressing is not one that the Government sought. It is not a course of action that we seek to take. We are concerned that it be implemented responsibly and we are concerned that it be done in a way that properly preserves the role of this Parliament and the role of members. I reject absolutely the inaccurate and, I suspect, deliberately dishonest suggestion by the Leader of the Opposition that it is somehow an attempt by the Premier's Department to run this place. My department does not want to run the Parliament.

### Trade Reforms

**Mr PITT:** I ask the Minister for Primary Industries: is he aware of the alarm being expressed by leaders of Queensland's primary industries over the breakdown in trade relations between the European Community and the United States? Is he able to reassure the rural community that the Government will work to ensure that Queensland producers will not be exposed to further disadvantage because of the failure to achieve international agreement on trade reform?

**Mr CASEY:** I thank the honourable member for his very important question concerning Queensland trade matters. Any global fight that occurs between major trading blocs such as the European Community and the United States has to be of concern to us, because of its subsequent wash around the rest of the world. Australia's trade is in jeopardy. However, in Queensland, there are buffers in relation to a lot of trade. One of them is the way in which this Government has adopted a policy of moving down the track of value adding for sugar, grain and beef products, which are major exports on the world scene. During this term of office, the Government will continue this great policy drive in order to strengthen those buffers.

However, there is a greater struggle going on within Australia that will affect trade, and it is a policy that is supported by every member of the Opposition. It is called Fightback. The way in which the Fightback package is being proposed by the Opposition's Federal counterparts, which members of the Queensland Opposition are sworn to support, are committed to and are following every inch of the way, is a matter of concern, especially as it relates to zero tariffs.

**Mr Stephan:** Tell us about the reduction in taxes.

**Mr CASEY:** Of course, the honourable member for Gympie would not even be aware of the fact that one of the major commitments that he and every other member opposite, including those who live in sugar-growing electorates, have made is to go to zero tariffs in the sugar industry. This will immediately knock \$55 a tonne from the income of cane farmers in this State. That is what each and every member of the Opposition is committed to. Even a former national leader of the National Party, Doug Anthony, said it was naive to the point of absurdity that Opposition members were following such a course. Members of the Opposition are committed to the Fightback

package, which will be detrimental to the farming community of Queensland and to the farming community of Australia, and which must be opposed in every way.

### **Enterprise Bargaining**

**Mr PITT:** I ask the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations: can he inform the House of the arrangements that exist in Queensland for enterprise bargaining? Has there been any successful striking of such arrangements in Queensland?

**Mr FOLEY:** I thank the honourable member for the question. Arrangements are in place in Queensland for enterprise bargaining pursuant to the State Wage Case of February 1992 in which provision is made in accordance with the Industrial Relations Act 1990 that was introduced into this House so ably and eloquently by the honourable Neville Warburton, my predecessor. The principles set out in that case—

**An Opposition member** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable members, that sort of interjection is not really relevant in this House. I ask members to cease interjecting.

**Mr FOLEY:** The essential importance of these principles is that they provide a basis for boosting productivity in Queensland and do not rely upon the slashing of wages and conditions, which has been the hallmark of coalition policies in Victoria and in the Federal arena. In the enterprise bargaining principles set out in the State Wage Case of February 1992, the Industrial Relations Commission made specific provision for enterprise bargaining. I am very pleased to inform the House that there has been significant success in effecting enterprise bargaining agreements that are designed to improve productivity in specific enterprises. In particular, the Queensland Rail agreement has demonstrated that there can be, and indeed is in practice, significant flexibility in assisting employers and employees to get together, identify where there are problems, and make flexible arrangements in order to boost productivity. A similar arrangement was made by way of an enterprise bargaining agreement at APM Petrie.

A range of other companies have made provision for enterprise bargaining in a way which encourages consistency between Federal and State awards, which is facilitated in turn by the cross-commissioning of jurisdiction between State and Federal industrial relations commissioners. Companies such as CCA Snack Foods Pty Ltd, Cooper Flow Control Australia Pty Ltd and Heat and Control Pty Ltd, along with Queensland Rail, demonstrate to prospective employers who are now flocking to this State that in Queensland we have a system based on cooperation and consultation which generates wealth for both the employer and employee. This year, I will introduce into this House legislation to strengthen even further the enterprise bargaining arrangements in Queensland.

### **Australian Financial Institutions Commission Act**

**Mrs SHELDON:** In directing a question to the Treasurer, I refer to his second-reading speech on the Australian Financial Institutions Commission Bill on 5 December last year, in which he stated—

“The ongoing funding of AFIC will be provided by industry. . . AFIC will be obliged to consult with industry before setting its budget and industry levy.”

I ask: why did he mislead the Parliament and force only one successful Queensland bank, the Metway Bank, to shoulder the burden of funding a supervisory body that will regulate Metway's competitors?

**Mr De LACY:** The basis of the honourable member's question is wrong in fact. Metway is not funding anybody's supervision. Let me rephrase that. Metway is funding in part its own supervision through its contributions, or its non-callable deposits, with the Reserve Bank. Metway is not funding the supervision of the building societies. Last

year, I said that the building society industry would have to fund its own supervision. That is the case. The industry throughout Australia will contribute to the funding of AFIC, which is the national body for supervising non-bank financial institutions, and the Queensland industry will fund QOFS—the Queensland Office of Financial Supervision.

It is true that the contingency fund existed, and that it no longer has a purpose. Cabinet made a decision that the Government would continue to use that fund for the purposes for which it was established, that is, for the benefit of building societies and the creditors and depositors of building societies, so that is what the Government is doing. The Leader of the Opposition is running around the State saying that the Government is going to use the building society contingency fund for building societies. So what? That is what the Government ought to be using it for and that is what we will use it for. Some of that money will go into a building society fund and the interest on that fund will help to offset—I repeat, “will help to offset”—the cost of supervision of building societies in Queensland.

It is right. That will give a competitive advantage to Queensland building societies. I say that quite unapologetically. It will give a competitive advantage to Queensland building societies against their interstate competitors and against other financial institutions. In the past 20 years, building societies in Queensland have suffered a significant competitive disadvantage, firstly, because they have been required to contribute to the contingency fund and, secondly, because they have been controlled by prescriptive legislation, which was not in place in New South Wales and other areas—the kind of legislation from which Metway walked away in 1988. Metway walked away from the building society industry, firstly, because it wanted to spread its wings and get bigger market share and, secondly, because it did not want to continue to contribute to the contingency fund. However, from the moment when Metway lost its registration as a building society, it lost all rights and all entitlements to access that building society contingency fund. Metway knew that at the time and it is still the case. Nothing has changed. Metway had no right to it then and has no right to it now.

#### **Permanent Building Societies Contingency Fund**

**Mrs SHELDON:** I ask the Treasurer: as the Permanent Building Societies Contingency Fund is listed in the Budget papers under “Trust and Special Funds”, does not the Treasurer’s theft of the \$17m contributed by Metway Bank mean that his Government can no longer be trusted with trust funds and that any money kept in trust will be stolen by the Treasurer whenever his Government is short of cash for a pet project? Is the Treasurer not concerned that, in his new role as bank robber, the business community’s worst fears have come true—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The term “bank robber” is unparliamentary.

**Mrs SHELDON:** Is the Treasurer not concerned that, in his new role as reliever of bank funds, the business community’s worst fears have come true—that, under a Labor Government, the safest way to protect one’s money is to take it out of the bank and hide it under one’s bed?

**Mr De LACY:** If the question were not so pathetic, I would take offence at some of the allegations made by the honourable member. The question is so pathetic that it is not worth dignifying with a response. However, I will simply say this: that money does not belong to Metway. It has not been taken by the Queensland Government. It is not being used by the Queensland Government. If the Government were to decide—as it is entitled to do—that the money is no longer to be used and if the Government were to decide to appropriate it, put it into the Consolidated Fund and use it for education or something else, the Government could do that. That is within its rights. However, the Government made a decision in the interests of the building society industry in Queensland. The money was put into a fund for the benefit of that industry, and the Government will make sure that it continues to be used for the benefit of building societies.

I am interested in members of the Opposition taking on the building society industry in Queensland. Over the years, the building societies have played a great part in the Queensland economy. Members of the Opposition ought to talk to some of their regional members. I do not know what Mr Horan thinks about that sort of campaign. Building societies throughout Queensland are doing a great job for ordinary Queenslanders in providing cost-effective funds for housing and whatever else. It does not surprise me that the Liberal Party is aligning itself with the banks and going in to bat for them. Metway Bank is trying to get its hands on money that belongs to the building societies, and the Liberal Party supports it. I am saying that the Government has made a decision in the interests of building societies, and the Government will stick to that decision. Members opposite can fight the building societies if they like, but the Government is sticking with them.

#### **Holiday Leave Loading and Penalty Rates**

**Mr LIVINGSTONE:** I ask the Deputy Premier and Minister for Administrative Services: is he aware of moves by the new Liberal/National coalition Government in Victoria to scrap holiday leave loading and penalty rates for ordinary workers, and can he give an assurance to the workers in the Administrative Services Department that similar action is not being contemplated in Queensland?

**Mr BURNS:** I thank the honourable member for the question, because it shows the difference between Liberal, National and Labor Parties in this place, and in Victoria, especially. I believe that a National Party conference or executive meeting will be held this weekend, at which a recommendation will be made for the scrapping of the 17.5 per cent loading. These days, the National and the Liberal Parties are tied into coalition policies. Mr Kennett is only the whipping boy for Hewson. By agreeing on their coalition, the Nationals and Liberals are part of Fightback and part of that attack on the workers of the nation.

As soon as Kennett came to power, his Government raised the wages of some of his Ministers by \$8,000, restored silver service to the dining room and took away money from the workers. That Government has taken away workers' overtime and their 17.5 per cent loading. It has got stuck into the ordinary battler. That is the policy of the Liberal and National Parties. They do not believe in the ordinary person getting a go. They do not believe that the ordinary, average worker is entitled to decent conditions. Kennett decided that everyone who owns a home has to pay an extra \$100. That is Liberal Party and National Party policy. Mr Kennett said that householders have to pay twice the amount they are paying for electricity and double the amount of their water bills. He has taken away the holiday leave loading. He has hit every householder. That is Liberal Party and National Party policy. No wonder members opposite are squirming. If the Victorian election had been held before the Queensland election, none of the members opposite would be here today—not one!

**Mr Slack** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Burnett will cease interjecting. I warn him under Standing Order 123A.

**Mr BURNS:** It is not about what the Victorian Labor Government did—not at all! The trouble in Victoria is not about the workers' wages, it is about the money that was lent by Tricontinental to blokes such as Skase, who was a mate of members opposite. They were all tripping over to Hamilton hill to drink Skase's champagne and going to Pixie's Christmas parties. The photos are there for everyone to see. There were photos of Joh and photos of the Liberal Leader all tripping over to Pixie's Christmas party, which was held with the loan money that came out of the pockets of Victorian workers.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I rise to a point of order. I never received an invitation. I understand that the Premier did.

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

**Mr BURNS:** The Liberal Party and National Party Ministers of the day were sipping the \$200 bottles of champagne in the same way as Mr Kennett is now eating off his silver service. While he is doing that, he is attacking the take-home pay and the weekend penalty rates of the ordinary fellow, and the women who get a few bob working on the weekend to supplement the family wages. They have all been kicked in the guts by the Liberals and the Nationals. It is no wonder it took the Liberals and the Nationals 10 hours to work out whether to go into coalition. The National Party is the loser for it. The people in the bush will be the losers for it. Anybody who goes with the Liberals, anybody who goes with the Kennetts and the Hewsons, and anyone who gets mixed up with those dogs in the manger down south will give away the people in the bush, and that is what is happening.

**Mr Cooper** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the member for Crows Nest under Standing Order 123A for interjecting.

### **Industrial Relations System**

**Mr LIVINGSTONE:** I ask the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations: can he inform the House whether the Government has confidence in the State industrial relations system?

**Mr FOLEY:** Indeed, the Government does have confidence in the State industrial relations system. That is in stark contrast to the proposal of the National Party to abolish the Industrial Relations Commission, a matter on which it is in policy contradiction with the Liberal Party, which has an entirely different policy on the same issue. This Government supports the industrial relations system of this State, built as it is on the boosting of productivity and not on the lowering of wages. The honourable member for Clayfield now finds himself in the unenviable position of having to defend two different positions at the one time. I wish him luck in his endeavours.

The difference between the Government's position and the various positions adopted by the Liberal and National Parties is that this Government has confidence in the role and responsibilities of the Industrial Relations Commission as an independent umpire in the system to protect the rights of ordinary working people and their families. It is that important role which distinguishes the progressive, consultative approach, which is the hallmark of the Queensland Government's industrial relations system, from the confrontational approach that is unfolding now in Victoria, where we see an attempt being made to abolish long service leave and penalty rates and to remove the protection of the trade unions from the ordinary workers and their families. When the Victorian Government speaks of employment contracts, we here in Queensland know the sorry history of those discredited voluntary employment agreements which set David to contract with Goliath in the labour market. It is as a result of having learned from bitter experience that we here have such a progressive industrial relations system. As the Honourable Minister for Industry observed today, we see in Queensland an economic growth. Employers are coming to Queensland because they know that we have in this State a climate in which wealth can be generated for both employers and employees.

### **Tertiary Entrance Procedures Authority**

**Mr LINGARD:** In directing a question to the Minister for Education, I refer to the Government authority TEPA, or the Tertiary Entrance Procedures Authority. Before the last election, TEPA conducted blatant political advertisements using Government money, with Professor Wiltshire saying how the present Government's student profile system was so much better than the system conducted by the previous Government. The ads were blatantly political and TEPA used Government money to pay for them. I

ask: why have the ads not been shown since the election, especially at this time when the new student profile system needs to be explained to students and to parents?

**Mr COMBEN:** The advertisements to which the honourable member referred were not blatantly political. The honourable member also referred to there being some lesser system at present. The present system of student education profiles is a great improvement. Over the next month, considerable public material will be released to explain to employers how they will benefit from a system of student education profiles. Why have the advertisements stopped? The answer is quite simple. At about that time, the students needed to be able to choose which subjects they were taking. They have made those choices. To make those ads today would be a blatant waste of money. It is what I expect from the previous Government.

### Tick Eradication

**Mr LINGARD:** In directing a question to the Deputy Premier, I refer to his blatantly deceptive comments this morning concerning the Opposition front bench. Ten members of the Opposition front bench are from outside south-east Queensland, whereas only five members of the Government front bench are from rural Queensland. With three-quarters of its Ministers from the south-east corner, this Labor Party Government has been unable to control ticks between Warwick and Boonah. I ask: will the Deputy Premier please enlighten the people of rural Queensland as to what methods he intends to use to eradicate ticks in the areas south of a line between Mount Isa and Townsville?

**Mr BURNS:** The first thing that I would do is eliminate the National Party. If one wanted to dispose of the ticks in this place, one would get rid of the National Party. That is a very simple way of eradicating the ticks. The Government will stay on this side of the House as long as it takes to get rid of the ticks opposite.

What an incredible weekend we have had! I do not know what position the honourable member for Beaudesert holds in this place. He is the deputy something-or-other. After 400 years, Galileo was able to get the Pope to make a decision faster than the decision made on the weekend regarding the coalition. Who are Kevvy and Joan and Robbie? They hold the positions of Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Deputy Leader of the Coalition and Leader of the Opposition. In addition to that—

**Mr Lingard** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the member for Beaudesert under Standing Order 123A for interjecting.

**Mrs McCAULEY:** I rise to a point of order. I believe that this question should be answered, because everyone from rural Queensland is interested to know how ticks will be eradicated. The Deputy Premier is not answering the question.

**Mr BURNS:** I am answering it. In his question, the member for Beaudesert referred to the Opposition front bench. I am also referring to the Opposition front bench. We have a Leader of the Opposition, a Deputy Leader of the Opposition, a Deputy Leader of the Coalition, a Deputy Leader of the—

**Mr JOHNSON:** I rise to a point of order. That is totally irrelevant to the question.

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

**Mr BURNS:** I want a bit of quiet so that I can answer this Dorothy Dixier.

**Mr Stephan** interjected.

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

**Mr BURNS:** I want to answer this Dorothy Dixier. Today, more deputies sit on the Opposition side of the House than—

**Mr BEANLAND:** I rise to a point of order. I refer to Standing Order 70, which relates to the answering of questions. I believe that the answer that the Honourable the

Minister is currently giving has nothing to do with the question that was asked. The question referred to ticks. Standing Order 70 clearly states that the answer must be relevant to the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! For the benefit of members on both sides of the House, I make the point that if members seek an answer in relation to a particular matter, they should frame their question in that manner.

**Mr BURNS:** I am referring to the front bench and ticks. Both can be referred to at the same time with no difficulty.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I have warned the member for Warrego under Standing Order 123A for interjecting. I now ask him to leave the Chamber.

**Mr Hobbs:** That's my first warning, Mr Speaker.

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

**Mr BURNS:** On the Opposition side of the Chamber, everyone has a job. Apart from its rump of deputies, the Opposition has 19 shadow Ministers and other extras, and four leaders who fought over the coalition policy and are fighting over the bush—

**Mr BEANLAND:** I rise to a point of order. Again, I refer to Standing Order 70, which refers to the relevance of answers to questions. It is quite clear that the Minister does not know the answer to the question. The Standing Order is quite clear. The Deputy Premier's answer has no relevance to that question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the Deputy Premier to answer the question.

**Mr BURNS:** I am. As I remember it, the member asked about the number of rural representatives in the Ministry, and he talked about rural representatives on the Opposition front bench. I want to talk about the leadership of the Opposition and its four leaders.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I rise to a point of order. On Tuesday, in this Chamber, the Deputy Premier spoke at length about how we have to make this place work. Can I suggest that the behaviour displayed by him today is not leading to any reasonable cooperation from the Opposition side of the House.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr BORBIDGE:** There is an obligation on you, sir—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I call the Deputy Premier.

**Mr BURNS:** I was asked a question about the Government front bench and the Opposition front bench. I was asked a question about ticks. I told the Opposition about ticks. I told Opposition members that no problems exist regarding that issue. I did say that that is not within my ministerial purview, which was a claim made by National Party Ministers when they were in Government.

**Mr BEANLAND:** I rise to a point of order. Standing Order 70 is quite clear in relation to questions. The question referred to ticks.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I have heard the honourable member's point of order. I have given a ruling on that point of order. I warn the member for Indooroopilly under Standing Order 124. I suggest that the Deputy Premier is starting to debate the issue.

**Mr BURNS:** I will just finish on this note: the Opposition pretends to represent rural Queensland. Its leader is a member of the white-shoe brigade from Surfers Paradise. The deputy leader is a Jimboomba cow cocky who would not recognise one end of a cow from the other. In fact, he believes that milk comes out when the cow's tail is raised up and down.

**Mr FITZGERALD:** I rise to a point of order—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Mundingburra.

### Tourism

**Mr DAVIES:** In directing a question to the Treasurer, I refer to the well-recognised contribution of tourism to Queensland's economic recovery, and I ask: is he aware of any threats to the continued contribution of tourism to Queensland's economic recovery?

**Mr De LACY:** I acknowledge, as I am certain that everybody in this House acknowledges, the contribution that tourism has made to Queensland's economy and towards its economic recovery. The honourable member asked me whether or not the economic recovery of the tourism industry was threatened. The answer to that question is, "Yes." Those threats are contained in the Opposition's Fightback package. The Leader of the Opposition, Dr Hewson, has single-mindedly proposed to put in place in Australia a tax policy that will cause grave damage to the tourism industry. Sir Frank Moore has challenged Dr Hewson on this matter. It is not as though he is pushing Labor's barrow; Sir Frank Moore is on the same side of politics as Dr Hewson. What did Dr Hewson say in reply to Sir Frank Moore? He said that Sir Frank Moore is arrogantly self-interested. Geoff Carmody, who was an author of the Fightback package, has said that Dr Hewson has it wrong about the tourism industry. What does Dr Hewson say to that remark? He says that the whole world is wrong and that he is right.

In the meantime, Senator Ian Macdonald is running around north Queensland like a fowl with its head cut off telling tourism industry leaders that Fightback is good for them. However, he is not receiving a very favourable hearing. The award-winning dive/tourism operator, Mr Mike Ball, said that the net impact on his business of the Fightback package will be negative \$450,000. Senator Macdonald said that that was not true, and that he could prove it. Consequently, the tourism operator was prepared to bet the senator \$1,000 that his figures were right, with the result to be judged by an independent assessor. Senator Macdonald said that as he was not into gimmicks, he would not take the bet. That is only another way of saying that he does not know what he has started.

Mike Ball is not the only north Queensland tourism operator who has a similar opinion about the effect of the GST on tourism. Coral Princess Cruises was judged to be the top small business in Queensland. Mr Briggs, who is the principal of that company, said that his costs would increase by 15 per cent overnight. He stated further—

"I am very concerned about the effect of GST on my business. I think it is going to take a lot of potential customers out of the market. While a 15 per cent tax would add \$750,000 in costs"—

**Mr FitzGerald:** Talk about Fightback, not GST.

**Mr De LACY:** I will answer that interjection. Under Fightback, the planned offsets would save Coral Princess Cruises only \$40,000. Consequently, Mr Briggs will be worse off by \$710,000. That is the effect that the Fightback package, which all Opposition members support and have signed their names to, will have on the tourism industry. Fightback will rip out the heart of the tourism industry in this State, yet the Opposition supports it.

### Goods and Services Tax

**Mr DAVIES:** I ask the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development, how will transport in north Queensland be affected by the implementation of the Federal Opposition's proposed GST?

**Mr HAMILL:** I understand the concerns expressed by the member for Mundingburra about the implications that the GST package will have on the transport industry in north Queensland. If we believe the Liberal and National Parties, Fightback is a yellow brick road to prosperity for this country. However, the coalition is arguing

about Fightback. The coalition is merely being led by the tin man, the man with no heart. He is standing with the straw man, the man with no brains.

The National Party should be aware that the implementations that the Fightback package will have on country Queensland and north Queensland are horrendous. The Fightback package impacts on heavy vehicle industry charges. During the past week, that matter has been thrashed out, and the coalition has accepted the charges put forward by the National Road Transport Commission. However, the coalition said, "But we will have another look at mass/distance charges the following year." The spectre of the crippling transport charges, about which Mr Johnson expressed concern before the National Party became part of the coalition, is still alive.

The other concern about the Fightback package relates to road funding. The Fightback package envisages the abolition of taxes that generate the funds that are spent on roads. This year, \$2.1 billion in Commonwealth funds has been given to the States for road construction. In north Queensland, \$90m of Commonwealth funds were allocated to construction projects such as bridges at Cloncurry and Jessamine Creek near Longreach, and similar construction work in Townsville. All members of this House, whether they represent urban or rural electorates, should be concerned about the impact that the Federal coalition package will have on road funding. Quite frankly, the Fightback package, which is endorsed constantly by the coalition in this place, is not a yellow brick road to prosperity; it is more like a nightmare on Elm Street.

### **Metway Bank**

**Mr SANTORO:** Having listened to the Honourable the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations answer an earlier question, I believe that I will not receive a sensible answer to my question. Therefore, I put my question on notice.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! That will be the last time that a question will be put on notice in that way.

**Mr SANTORO:** Mr Speaker, I am happy to abide by your ruling. My first question on notice is to the Honourable the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations. I direct my second question to the Treasurer, and I ask: is it not a fact that his decision to rob Metway Bank and its 15 000 shareholders of \$17m is because the ALP has a vendetta against Metway, which opposed the Government's move to abolish voluntary employment agreements? Is this move a warning from the ALP to the business community that any moves to reduce union power in this State will be crushed, even if it means depriving shareholders of private companies of their money?

**Mr De LACY:** The answers to the honourable member's question are "No" and "No". I must say that members of the Liberal Party are judging everybody else by their own standards.

### **Pavemoss**

**Mr BEATTIE:** In directing a question to the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development, I point out that this morning I heard on radio that the Department of Transport and private enterprise have invented a system called Pavemoss, which could reduce the costs of building Queensland roads by \$3m during this financial year alone. I ask the Minister: what is the potential in overseas markets for that technology and other Queensland-developed products?

**Mr HAMILL:** I thank the member for that question, because this very significant innovation has come about through the melding of the expertise that exists within the Department of Transport with work that has been done by Moss Systems Australasia Pty Ltd. Pavemoss demonstrates quite clearly to me that this country has the necessary expertise and capacity for innovation that will serve us well in opening up new export markets both in our region and elsewhere in the world.

**Mr Elliott** interjected.

**Mr HAMILL:** Opposition members are not interested in exports or innovation. However, they should be pleased to learn that other people in our community are interested in those issues. Pavemoss will provide significant advantages for the delivery of the road program in this State. During next year, \$2m to \$3m will be saved through the use of the Pavemoss software package. I am pleased to report that 12 contracts for the sale of that package have already been negotiated elsewhere in Australia.

**Mr Littleproud:** That's only three miles of road you're talking about.

**Mr HAMILL:** The depth of understanding of the honourable member for Western Downs continues to astound me. One can understand why he has been slowly moved away from the leadership positions on the Opposition front bench. Not only has that software package been sold elsewhere in Australia, but there is also significant interest in it from Europe. Sale of the package to Singapore has already been negotiated. That is significant, because I believe that it demonstrates an awareness within our private enterprise corporations of the need to export. It is the sort of thing that this Government has been encouraging by seeking to develop an export culture among Queensland industry. It also demonstrates the opportunity that exists in Asia—in our region—for Queensland firms to establish an export market in this area. This Government will provide every assistance in that regard. The work that has been done by this Government in opening up Queensland industry to Asia through the establishment of trade and investment offices in the region and by opening up new markets for our industry in countries such as Indonesia, Singapore, China and Vietnam will bear fruit for companies such as that which is developing the product known as Pavemoss. Real opportunities do exist. Despite a lack of support from the National Party, this Government will continue to aid Queensland industry and generate export earnings for this State and other parts of Australia.

#### **Bus and Coach Safety**

**Mr BEATTIE:** I direct a second question to the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development.

**Mr Elliott** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Cunningham!

**Mr BEATTIE:** On 30 October, Queensland hosted the meeting of the Australian Transport Advisory Council—ATAC—in Brisbane. I ask the Minister: what steps were taken at that meeting to address the issue of bus and coach safety?

**Mr HAMILL:** Last Friday, a ministerial council meeting about the National Road Transport Commission considered a number of measures of great significance for road safety in this country. The particular measure to which the member for Brisbane Central referred is no doubt the new Australian Design Rule No. 68, which relates to the implementation in July 1994 of the fitting of seat belts in long-distance coaches in this country. During the years ahead, that major step forward in safety will certainly have significant ramifications in improving the safety of our nation's bus fleet. It follows a number of innovations that have been strongly supported by this Government with respect to improving roll-over strength in coaches and the strength of seating in coaches. Honourable members would no doubt recall some of the tragedies that have occurred on Australian roads over the past few years. I am sure that they would be aware of the need for stronger seat mountings in coaches and of the possibility of avoiding the injuries that occurred to passengers in some of those coaches that were involved in accidents by the fitting of seat belts.

I am pleased that the Queensland Government has been at the forefront of the introduction of those important safety measures. A particular Queensland company stands best prepared to undertake the research and development required to achieve those new standards for our coaches. There was some posturing by the New South

Wales Government, calling for an earlier implementation of the new design standard. I believe that it is very important that Governments consult with industry and assist it to meet safety standards. Through consultation with industry, we were able to determine that something like 18 or 19 months of research and development will be required to meet those new safety standards. As I said, a Queensland company stands best prepared to be able to do that. This Government will give it every encouragement to do that. As a result of that process, we will all be winners and our bus and coach industry will be much safer.

#### **Adoption Privacy Protection Group**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD:** In directing a question to the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, I refer to a meeting which the Minister held with the Adoption Privacy Protection Group on 31 August 1992, at which it was reported that the Minister stated that "innuendo and derogatory comments which could be considered as slanderous and defamatory" had been made against her by that group. I also understand that the group's solicitor has asked the Minister to substantiate this claim but that to date she has refused to do so. I ask: why has the Minister failed to reply to that request? Will she now use the privilege offered by the House and advise how the APPG slandered and defamed her, or is she prepared to leave her allegations unsubstantiated and thus highlight her apparent disregard for members of that group?

**Ms WARNER:** I believe that this whole matter has been taken completely out of context. Basically, I believe that what has been said about me from time to time in various meetings of that group has been very unflattering. I simply made a fairly off-the-cuff comment to that effect. I do not believe that it in any way requires further investigation.

#### **Adoption Privacy Protection Group**

**Mr LITTLEPROUD:** In directing a further question to the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, I refer to another reported statement which the Minister made in her meeting with the Adoption Privacy Protection Group on 31 August this year. She allegedly stated—

"There is no such thing as a stable family. A stable family is a myth."

As the Premier has failed to advise the APPG whether that statement by the Minister represents an official Government attitude, I ask: what was the basis on which the Minister made that rather strange statement, which casts a slur over what would normally be perceived as hundreds of thousands of stable families in the community? Are we to take it that her Government's attitude is one which downplays the importance of stable families in our community and which, consequently, deflects policy and priorities to other areas?

**Ms WARNER:** Again, I find it quite remarkable that the Opposition would feel so sensitive on this issue. I was making a comment to the group about the current problem of instability amongst families. As the Minister for Family Services, I am trying to find solutions and to adopt measures that will afford greater stability to families in the community. I am afraid that the honourable member is trying to put words into my mouth and trying to twist and misrepresent the position to pursue his own ideological goals, which are quite beside the point. The honourable member's question is facetious and ridiculous.

**Mr W. K. Goss** interjected.

**Ms WARNER:** I thank the Premier for his kind assistance, but my responsibility as Minister for Family Services is to try to find solutions to the levels of instability that families are experiencing because of a number of circumstances which the honourable member and his colleagues from time to time bemoan in this Chamber. I was saying to members of the group that nothing is certain within this universe. They kept trying to tell

me that they had absolute faith and certainty in the stability of their own families. All I was saying was that we cannot take those things for granted, that we have to work very hard to maintain stability and that we must try to create a better environment for Queensland families.

### **Whale Watching**

**Mrs BIRD:** I ask the Minister for Environment and Heritage: as whale watching is becoming an important tourist attraction for Queensland, will she inform the House what measures are being taken to prevent tourism activities affecting whales, especially in the Whitsundays?

**Ms ROBSON:** I thank the honourable member for her question and for her assistance on this issue. In the last few years, particularly in the Hervey Bay and Whitsunday areas, whale watching has become a very popular tourist attraction. Because of that, in the Whitsunday area we have had to put in place guidelines to ensure that whales are not disturbed when mating and calving. Through the department, we have received reports of whale sightings at Hervey Bay as the whales proceed southward to colder waters for the winter. However, some of the calves are a bit young and we have had to investigate whether that has resulted from the activities of whale watching in the Whitsunday area. Consequent upon that, I visited the area and spoke with departmental representatives and tourism operators. Clearly, we do not want a diminution in the ability of whales to breed and calve in that region. Moreover, we do not want harm done to the tourism industry. As a result of that visit, we have decided to investigate the matter, consult on a fairly broad basis with both industry and local interest groups and review our recommended guidelines for the operation of tourism in the area concerning whale watching. I thank the member for keeping me up to date on the matter. Clearly, the Government does not want to see any interruption to tourism activities, and it certainly does not want to see anything happen to the whales.

### **Division of Sugar Money**

**Mrs BIRD:** I ask the Minister for Primary Industries: is he aware that representatives of sugarcane growers are presently canvassing extensively within the industry to influence the outcome of inquiries into the division of sugar moneys?

**Mr CASEY:** The matter raised is causing concern at present for many people in the sugar industry in Queensland, especially in the honourable member's electorate, which contains the two major cooperative sugar mills of Proserpine and Farleigh as part of the Mackay Sugar Cooperative. It is timely to remind members of a very important provision of the Sugar Industry Act that was passed in this House last year. It required that, for the first time, the Sugar Corporation, which was established by that legislation, set up an investigation into the division of sugar moneys. The row has been occurring for years. In fact, it was encouraged by the previous Government because it masked that it was doing nothing to modernise or update the sugar industry. The legislation provided that the corporation had to conduct an investigation into the division of sugar moneys and report to me by 15 July 1993. The Sugar Corporation is carrying out that work as authorised under the Act, and the different sectors of the sugar industry, including millers, harvesters and growers, are responding favourably. The corporation is obtaining properly audited figures from different groups, including the milling groups, which have variations in their audited figures. The matter is very complex and not easy to resolve. Unfortunately, its resolution is not being helped by wish lists that some people are putting around the State. That action is achieving further division between growers and millers on the matter.

This is a sensitive matter that will be debated following proposals being put to the Government as to what the new division of moneys may be. Those proposals will depend on the productivity of the sugar industry and the efficiency of individual mills. The corporation will investigate the whole matter. It is not possible for somebody at this

stage to say, "That is what it should be. This is the wish list. That will be great for growers in Queensland." If that action is taken, it will be detrimental to a considerable number of the mills in Queensland that are still owned by growers. The division of sugar moneys will be determined by the formula that the corporation sets out. The corporation will make its recommendations to the Government, which will act in the best interests of all sectors of the sugar industry.

#### **National/Liberal Coalition**

**Ms POWER:** In directing a question to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Administrative Services and the Minister for Rural Communities, I point out that, according to media reports, the Liberal and National Parties in this State appear to have reached some kind of coalition. I ask: as the Minister is responsible for rural communities, can he explain what this new alliance is likely to mean for the people who live in provincial and country areas of Queensland?

**Mr BURNS:** I will finish what I was going to say earlier. I thank the honourable member for the question. She is a member of the Premier's rural task force and has spent a considerable amount of time during the last three years travelling through western Queensland, where we have had to resolve some of the great problems caused by decisions made by the previous Government. The problems could not be resolved by this Opposition front bench. As I was saying earlier, the Opposition has a Leader from Surfers Paradise and a Deputy Leader who used to live in Annerley but who has shifted out to his new electorate, five miles from the boundary of Brisbane. We have a Liberal Deputy Leader from Merthyr—a vagrant from Merthyr—and we have a Liberal Leader from the Sunshine Coast. What happened to Mr Borbidge the first time he was ever taken—

**Mr Santoro** interjected.

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

**Mr BURNS:** Why would the National Party push aside people such as Mr Littleproud, the member for Western Downs?

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

#### **BUDGET DOCUMENTS**

**Hon. K. E. De LACY** (Cairns—Treasurer) (11.48 a.m.): Mr Speaker, I lay upon the table of the House the following documents and move that they be printed—

*Estimates of Receipts and Expenditure;*

*Program Statements;*

*Supplementary Budget Information;*

*The Queensland Economy;*

*Capital Works;*

*Financial Relations between the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments;*

*The Statement of Unforeseen Expenditure to be Appropriated 1991-92.*

Ordered to be printed.

**ESTIMATES OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1992-93; STATEMENT OF UNFORESEEN EXPENDITURE TO BE APPROPRIATED, 1991-92; VOTE ON ACCOUNT, 1993-94**

Mr SPEAKER read a message from Her Excellency the Governor transmitting the *Estimates of Receipts and Expenditure, 1992-93*, and the *Statement of Unforeseen Expenditure to be Appropriated, 1991-92*, and recommending that the following provisions be made on account of the services of the year starting 1 July 1993—

- (a) From the Consolidated Fund, the sum of \$1,830,000,000;
- (b) From the Trust and Special Funds, the sum of \$2,300,000,000.

#### **APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2)**

**Hon. K. E. De LACY** (Cairns—Treasurer) (11.50 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill for an Act authorising amounts to be issued and applied for supply services, and to appropriate certain of the amounts to particular services for the financial years that started on 1 July 1991 and 1 July 1992 and the financial year that starts on 1 July 1993.”

Motion agreed to.

#### **First Reading**

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

#### **Second Reading**

**Hon. K. E. De LACY** (Cairns—Treasurer) (11.51 a.m.): I move—

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

I am pleased to present again the Goss Government Budget for 1992-93. In accordance with our election commitment, the Budget remains unchanged from that introduced prior to the election, apart from minor changes to reflect the new portfolio responsibilities announced by the Premier. In accordance with our election commitment, honourable members will now have the opportunity to debate and pass judgment on the Budget. To a certain extent the people of Queensland have already passed judgment with their resounding affirmation of support for the Goss Government in the recent election. This support was based on a recognition of our commitment to the twin themes of fiscal discipline and social responsibility—themes upon which this Budget is also based.

In introducing this Budget, I stated that it would stand out as the best Budget in Australia and would position Queensland firmly as the leading State. That view has now been strongly endorsed by the media, financial markets and economic analysts. The *Australian Financial Review* noted that Queensland is leading the nation out of recession and it is the only one of the States in a position to budget for a surplus. In fact, its major editorial on State finances stated that “the southern States should learn from Queensland and live within their means”. International debt rating agency, Moody's Investor Services, described Queensland, in one of the great understatements of the year, as one of the best-managed of all the Australian States and confirmed that our AAA rating is very stable.

A wide range of economic commentators have forecast that Queensland's economy will continue to outperform that of other States. The latest such report card on the Queensland economy comes from the respected Sydney merchant banker and Chairman of SBC Dominguez Barry, Mr Jim Dominguez. He told a recent conference in Brisbane that the brighter economic climate maintained by the Goss Government's low-tax, low-debt policies had given the business community the required confidence to begin spending again. Mr Dominguez stated—

"In Queensland, it is now apparent that there has been a significant recovery in investment spending".

Mr Dominguez said that much of this State's good fortunes could be put down to the Queensland Government's financial management in maintaining a Budget surplus while reducing net State debt at the same time.

Most importantly, however, the people of Queensland indicated in the election their strong support for this Government's economic management and our emphasis on jobs. Jobs and employment creation are the focus of this year's Budget, with the major features being—

a further \$500m or 19 per cent increase to \$3.3 billion for the State Capital Works Program. A major component of this is a \$1.4 billion boost to the State's transport infrastructure network comprising—

a \$767m roads program, which is an increase of 42 per cent over last year as a result of the \$60m State regional roads program and additional Commonwealth roads funding;

a rail program in excess of \$400m involving improvements to freight, passenger and mineral services throughout the State;

a port and harbours program of \$152m to upgrade facilities at Dalrymple Bay, Gladstone and Townsville;

payroll tax concessions and labour market programs to assist young Queenslanders, including the Youth Conservation Corps;

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 three Labor Budgets; and

a modest increase in State Budget sector employment in priority service delivery areas.

I also refer honourable members to the wide range of initiatives detailed in the Budget documents in the areas of law and order, education, social programs, health, industry development, culture and recreation and environment and conservation.

The Budget provides for total outlays of \$9,585m and total receipts of \$9,582m, which will mean a balanced outcome again this year after allowing for the opening surplus of \$3.7m. In ABS terms, the Queensland General Government sector is estimated to achieve a surplus of \$283m in 1992-93. This compares with published deficits for the other States as follows—

	\$ Million
New South Wales	1,288
Victoria	2,267
Western Australia	346
South Australia	445
Tasmania	86

**Mr Slack:** Is the \$1.3 billion for Victoria in there?

**Mr De LACY:** Yes, the \$2,267m is Victoria's.

Clearly, we can rightly claim that this State's Budget is the best in Australia and firmly positions Queensland as the leading State. As I said in August, 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. Further, it 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. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Borbidge, adjourned.

#### DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

**Mr SPEAKER:** I wish to inform the House of the presence in the gallery of a delegation from Western Samoa comprising the Honourable Afamasaga Fatu Vaili, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Western Samoa; Mr David Fong, Clerk Assistant/Parliamentary Legal Adviser; Toomata Leota Ropati; Le Tabaloa Leota Pita, Member of Parliament; and the Honourable Faafisi Toleafoa, Deputy Speaker.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr De LACY:** On behalf of the Government, I, too, acknowledge the delegation from Western Samoa.

#### TOBACCO PRODUCTS (LICENSING) AMENDMENT BILL

**Hon. K. E. De LACY** (Cairns—Treasurer) (12 noon), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the Tobacco Products (Licensing) Act 1988.”

Motion agreed to.

#### First Reading

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

#### Second Reading

**Hon. K. E. De LACY** (Cairns—Treasurer) (12.01 p.m.): I move—

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

In my Budget Speech two months ago, I emphasised that jobs and training were the key priorities. As I said at that time, the challenge for Australia as a nation was to address the burning issue of unemployment. The Goss Government has a two-part strategy to address unemployment. The first part of 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. That long-term 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 and employment performance relative to the other States is testimony that our long-term strategy is already paying dividends. However, in framing the 1992-93 Budget, the Government was convinced of the need for a shorter-term strategy aimed at providing a quicker response to the unemployment problem. In line with that second part of our strategy, the Budget I presented provided for a major boost to jobs and training consistent with our financial capacity. This legislation provides the Government with additional funding capacity to bolster our short-term response to the unemployment problem.

But first let me briefly recap some of the initiatives in the Budget—

a State Capital Works Program totalling \$3.3 billion, up \$500m or 19 per cent on the previous year;

- a full rebate of payroll tax for long-term unemployed youth;
- 6 500 additional training places in the TAFE system which will result in almost a 50 per cent increase in TAFE places in our first three Budgets;
- an additional \$1m for labour market programs to assist long-term and other disadvantaged job seekers;
- a Youth Conservation Corps providing employment and training opportunities for young long-term unemployed; and
- a modest increase in State Budget sector employment in priority service delivery areas.

In its own right this represented the best jobs Budget in Australia. However, we recognised that there was much more that could be done if further funding was available.

#### The \$150m Jobs Plan

Accordingly, in the context of the State election we announced a special \$150m Jobs Plan to further boost jobs and training in Queensland. This jobs and training plan has five key elements including—

- a payroll tax incentives plan for Queensland businesses;
- a Youth Jobs Plan to provide jobs and training for disadvantaged young people;
- a Community Jobs Plan to support the training and employment activities of non-Government community organisations such as churches;
- a further large-scale expansion of training places in TAFE; and
- a special Public Infrastructure Program, focusing on schools, bikeways and national parks.

We said we would fund this initiative through a one-off increase in the tobacco licence fee. The increase in the tobacco licence fee also addressed the growing illegal trade in tobacco products resulting from the significant tobacco licence fee differential between Queensland and other States. We believed that the only honest and ethical way to go was to spell out before the election not only our strategy but also how we would fund that strategy—and let the people of Queensland be the judge. It is history now that they gave us resounding support.

Because of the consistent application of disciplined financial management principles, the Goss Government is able to dedicate every cent of the increased licence fee revenue to the specific programs I am about to detail. This discipline, and resultant flexibility, is what distinguishes us from the other States of Australia. This Bill provides for the tobacco licence fee to be increased to the 75 per cent applying in other States from its current level of 30 per cent. This increase will apply to licences issued or renewed for, or in, the licence period December 1992. The increase in the fee is expected to yield just under \$100m in 1992-93 and \$200m in 1993-94.

#### Payroll tax incentives

Queensland already has the highest payroll tax exemption threshold in the nation. Our tax rate of 5 per cent compares to rates of 7 per cent in most other States. Our Jobs Plan provides for the tax exemption level to be increased to \$650,000 from 1 January 1993 and to \$700,000 on 1 July 1993.

**Mr FitzGerald** interjected.

**Mr De LACY:** That is if Fightback is ever introduced. As well as increasing the tax threshold, the level at which the full 5 per cent tax rate applies will also increase to \$2.8m. This means that some 6 000 businesses will have an effective reduction in their rate of payroll tax. In the context of Queensland's more strongly growing economy, this measure should provide an incentive for each of those 6 000 businesses to create, on average, at least one additional job. In addition, we will be extending the payroll tax rebate scheme to employers who take on people up to the age of 25 who have been out

of work for at least nine months. This extension will be effective from 1 January 1993 and will apply for 12 months. The Government expects 3 000 young people to benefit from this rebate.

#### Youth Jobs Plan

The Youth Jobs Plan will directly assist over 1 700 young people. Additional employment opportunities for young unemployed will be provided through an additional 200 subsidised apprenticeship and traineeship places in the public sector and through a Housing Trade Training Program which will involve an additional 200 apprentices on public housing projects. Twenty additional youth employment coordinators will be established to provide guidance skills, training and support services to long-term unemployed and disadvantaged youth. The Jobs Plan also builds on the Youth Conservation Corps initiative included in the Budget. In addition to the 280 trainees provided for in the Budget, another 10 projects will be undertaken providing a further 140 training opportunities through the development of national parks infrastructure.

#### Community Jobs Plan

The important role played by community-based organisations, including churches, in providing training and employment activities is recognised in the Community Jobs Plan, which has been targeted particularly towards assisting mature-age, long-term unemployed people. Additional support for community-based training and placement projects is expected to directly assist 1 000. The plan also provides assistance to establish an additional five community owned and operated enterprise centres to foster the development of new small business enterprises. In addition, the Self Employment Venture Scheme will be expanded. This scheme provides interest free loans of up to \$6,000 for unemployed people to start their own businesses. Contrary to the misguided comments in a recent *Courier-Mail* editorial, this scheme has been operating successfully in Queensland since 1985. Of the 810 ventures assisted by such loans, over 60 per cent are still operating. The Goss Government will provide a further \$1.3m, which is expected to result in well over 200 additional jobs.

#### Expansion of TAFE

As I mentioned earlier, our first three Budgets have provided for almost a 50 per cent increase in TAFE places. However, there remains a substantial demand for TAFE which needs to be addressed. Through the Jobs Plan we will be funding 500 new positions of tutors and demonstrators. These additional positions, to be filled by fully qualified graduates, will free up TAFE lecturers for new and expanded courses providing for an estimated 1 300 additional places. The Jobs Plan also seeks to improve the links between TAFE colleges and the labour market through the creation of job placement officers in all TAFE colleges. The services of these officers will particularly assist young people seeking to break into the labour market, and those seeking to return to the work force, such as mature-aged women.

#### Public infrastructure

Education has clearly been a high priority of this Government. The Jobs Plan signals that education will continue to be a high priority through a \$60m, 12-month refurbishment program for Queensland's schools. This program is the centrepiece of the special Public Infrastructure Program funded from the increase in the tobacco licence fee. This refurbishment program serves two objectives. It redresses a large backlog of school maintenance which was left by the previous Government and it will provide employment and work skills opportunities for some 1 200 unemployed people throughout Queensland. The refurbishment program will allow the upgrading of around 1 500 schools with works including new floor coverings, new furniture and general repairs and maintenance.

To further boost employment, particularly in provincial cities and towns, while at the same time addressing the safety of bike-riders, the Government will be implementing a \$15m Safe Bikeway Program. The program involves over 100 projects which will largely be carried out by local authorities. It is anticipated that the bikeways program will

directly generate some 330 jobs. To further develop our national parks and protect our environment, \$3.5m will be spent on developing visitor facilities at a range of parks across the State which will create around 200 jobs, and \$1.5m will be applied to funding 600 jobskills positions for long-term unemployed adults in national parks management, maintaining park infrastructure and assisting park rangers and scientific staff.

A key feature of the Jobs Plan is a focus on assisting the longer-term and disadvantaged unemployed. Most participants in infrastructure projects will be employed for between 6 and 12 months, providing them with valuable and marketable work experience and skills. Coupled with the initiatives already embodied in the Budget, this Government has set in place a comprehensive strategy to improve employment growth and to set a pace of strong sustained economic growth that will clearly identify Queensland as the leading State.

#### The economic context

There is no doubt that Queensland is leading the nation out of the recession. We have now had four consecutive quarters of positive annual growth. Our annual growth is now comparable to that which followed the recession of 1982-83. This is in contrast to the national experience where the process of recovery has been slow and protracted. Some fundamental differences exist between the pattern of growth in the Queensland economy and that nationally. While consumption spending is contributing to growth in both economies, the underlying strength of consumer spending has been stronger in Queensland. Recent ABS trend data on retail trade puts Queensland's annual growth in retail trade at 6.9 per cent compared with 3.9 per cent nationally. Similarly, the housing sector recovery has been stronger in Queensland. The number of dwelling units approved in Queensland in the September quarter was up 16.6 per cent on the same time a year ago, and compares with a 13.3 per cent rise nationally.

The economic growth being experienced in Queensland is clearly being reflected in employment growth. Employment growth in Queensland over the year to September was 2.7 per cent. During the same period, employment in the rest of Australia actually fell by 0.7 per cent. Little wonder then that people from the southern States are moving to Queensland in such large numbers. However, that interstate migration is impacting on our population and labour force, holding up our unemployment rate at unacceptably high levels. This reinforces our resolve to take further positive steps to tackle the unemployment problem.

#### Improving key services

While the first priority for the application of the additional revenue generated from the tobacco licence fee increase is the Jobs Plan that I have outlined, the increase in our revenue base in subsequent years will allow the Government to improve a wide range of key services for the benefit of all Queenslanders. A 10-year \$1.5 billion hospital rebuilding plan will allow a major upgrading and modernisation of Queensland's hospital and health care system. This program will address our hospital infrastructure needs, maintenance and equipment backlogs, expansion of day surgery facilities and enhance specialist services. The enhanced level of road funding provided in the 1992-93 Budget will also be able to be maintained in future years from the increase in our revenue base.

Building on the 1 200 additional operational police who have been put in place during our first term, a guaranteed growth funding formula will be put in place for the Police budget which will ensure that police resourcing keeps pace with our rapidly growing population. Other specific law and order initiatives that will be put in place include enhancing the police presence in shopping centres and in central business districts, a Home Security Improvement Program for our older citizens and increased resourcing of the drug squad.

There will be a significant enhancement to the use of computers in schools, with particular emphasis on increasing the availability of computers to students in upper primary classes. We will ensure that the school grants system provides for all schools to be equipped with a core set of equipment and that these resources are maintained at a

reasonable standard. Funding for the Small Business Development Corporation will be significantly enhanced. A number of other services will also be improved in the areas of rural communities, environmental protection, child care and support services for the aged.

#### Conclusion

This legislation will provide the Government with the capacity—

- to address the unemployment problem in a meaningful and productive way;
- to take action to restore and improve key infrastructure requirements in terms of schools, hospitals and roads; and
- to provide enhanced Government services to Queenslanders.

Most importantly, it will allow us to address these critical issues without compromising our sound financial position or mortgaging our future, as has happened in some other States. The people of Queensland have demonstrated their support for this Government and for the program that I have outlined. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Sheldon, adjourned.

### **PAY-ROLL TAX AMENDMENT BILL**

**Hon. K. E. De LACY** (Cairns—Treasurer) (12.15 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the Pay-roll Tax Act 1971.”

Motion agreed to.

#### **First Reading**

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

#### **Second Reading**

**Hon. K. E. De LACY** (Cairns—Treasurer) (12.16 p.m.): I move—

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

The purpose of this Bill is to implement a two-stage increase in the maximum payroll tax exemption level, the first from its current level of \$600,000 to \$650,000 as from 1 January 1993, and the second to \$700,000 from 1 July 1993. This initiative was one of the key elements of the special \$150m Jobs Plan announced by the Government during the election campaign. Employers with an annual wages bill below the maximum exemption level are not liable to payroll tax. Where an employer pays wages in excess of the maximum exemption, the exemption reduces by \$1 for every \$3 by which the payroll exceeds the maximum exemption. Therefore, under the proposed arrangements, from 1 July 1993, employers will not pay the full rate of payroll tax until their payrolls exceed \$2.8m annually. The new exemption threshold will save Queensland businesses \$3.2m in 1992-93 and \$13.2m in 1993-94. This is in addition to the \$14m savings already provided in 1992-93 with the increase in the exemption threshold to \$600,000 from 1 July 1992.

A comparison of interstate rates and threshold levels illustrates dramatically the low-tax status of Queensland and underlines the Goss Government's commitment to creating an environment which is good for both business and employment. Just three years ago, Queensland's maximum rate of payroll tax was the same as that in the other States. In 1992, under the Goss Labor Government, Queensland's tax rate of 5 per cent is the lowest of any State. In most States the rate is 7 per cent, including in the one-time

shining star of the conservatives, New South Wales. The Goss Government has also given Queensland businesses the highest payroll tax exemption threshold by far. The new shining star of the conservatives, Victoria, has announced that it will lift that State's threshold by 3 per cent to \$515,000. At that rate of increase, this fiercely pro-business new Government in Victoria will have lifted its payroll tax threshold to Queensland's level in about 10 years' time. That is assuming, of course, that Queensland has not moved out of sight by then. I make this point not to denigrate the efforts of the new Victorian Government in tackling a very difficult task, but rather to illustrate the enormous tax advantage that Queensland business has been given by the Goss Labor Government.

The Government has also announced new payroll tax rebate initiatives which will apply under administrative arrangements. As announced in the Budget in August, a scheme is to be implemented which targets persons in the 15-19 age category who have been unemployed for at least 12 months. The scheme requires that these new employees satisfy the same criteria as have been set under the Federal Government's national Employment and Training Plan. As announced during the election period, the scheme has been expanded for the 1993 calendar year and will apply to employers engaging persons under the age of 25 years who have been unemployed for more than nine months. The cost of the rebate scheme is estimated to be \$4.7m in 1992-93. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Sheldon, adjourned.

### **SUNCORP INSURANCE AND FINANCE AMENDMENT BILL**

**Hon. K. E. De LACY** (Cairns—Treasurer) (12.20 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the Suncorp Insurance and Finance Act 1985.”

Motion agreed to.

#### **First Reading**

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

#### **Second Reading**

**Hon. K. E. De LACY** (Cairns—Treasurer) (12.21 p.m.): I move—

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

This Bill was first introduced into the House on 6 May 1992. Before debate on the Bill could take place, it automatically lapsed on 25 August 1992. The Bill is now reintroduced without any changes. For the benefit of new members, I will briefly outline the Bill. In essence, the Bill will enable any staff member of Suncorp who has been dismissed or suspended from duty to appeal against that action to the Industrial Relations Commission. The present Suncorp Insurance and Finance Act provides for all staff appeals to be made to the Suncorp Board, which appoints a person to hear the appeal.

The provisions reflect the position of public servants at the time that Suncorp was established. Since then, the process in relation to public servants has been changed,

and appeals by public servants against dismissal are now heard by the Industrial Relations Commission. This is the same opportunity as is open to other employees in the private sector. This Bill will bring the appeal rights against dismissal of Suncorp employees into line with appeal rights of public servants and other employees. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Sheldon, adjourned.

### **POLLUTION OF WATERS BY OIL AMENDMENT BILL**

**Hon. D. J. HAMILL** (Ipswich—Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development) (12.23 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the Pollution of Waters by Oil Act 1973.”

Motion agreed to.

#### **First Reading**

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

#### **Second Reading**

**Hon. D. J. HAMILL** (Ipswich—Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development) (12.24 p.m.): I move—

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

During the term of the previous Parliament, this Bill was introduced in this House. As such, I seek leave to table my second-reading speech and incorporate it in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The Pollution of Waters by Oil Act was proclaimed in 1973. The legislation reflected Government and community concern over the occurrence of an increasing number of land and ship sourced oil spills in Queensland waters during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Penalties contained within the Act for contravention of offence provisions, or for failure to comply with the requirements of prescribed Authorities, were obviously intended as a deterrent to would-be polluters, as well as to adequately express the serious nature of such offences against the Act.

While these penalties—the maximum being \$50,000—were appropriate at the time, the alarming number of oil pollution incidents occurring along the Queensland coastline over the last few years—particularly within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park—have demonstrated a blatant and conscious disregard for the existing penalties. This disregard came from some sectors of shipping and related marine industries and those land-based industries operating in port areas, or adjacent to rivers and streams.

Clearly, it is necessary to introduce the proposed amendments which will elevate the present penalties to more realistic amounts, in keeping with today's values.

The increased penalties, of up to \$1m for serious offences, are consistent with fines imposed for oil pollution offences by other administrations, nationally and globally.

By increasing the penalty provision by some 2,000 percent, the Bill seeks to discourage the deliberate or negligent pollution of our coastal seas, foreshores and islands and to our numerous inland waterways, as a vital measure to protect our natural environment.

The need to increase these penalties is supported wholeheartedly by responsible industry organisations, environmental groups and the community in general, all of which are mindful of the toxic and contaminating effects of spilled oil on the environment.

Although the amendments appearing in the Bill alter a number of Sections of the Act, the common theme is one of elevating the penalties relating to provisions of the Act. A small number of minor amendments also appear in the Bill, which reflect modern drafting practice and do not change existing interpretations or the meaning of any provision contained within the Act.

I will now address the amendments appearing in the Bill.

In all Sections of the Act affected by the amendments, penalties have been described as maximum penalties. Therefore, in any proceedings, the fine imposed would take into account the seriousness of the breach and any defences that may be mounted, as allowed by the legislation.

These amendments introduce dual penalty levels for individuals and Corporations. They recognise clearly that the Government has identified that the reasons contributing to a significant proportion of pollution incidents can be directly, or indirectly, attributed to management.

In the amendments contained in the Bill, existing penalties of \$50,000 will be increased to a maximum of \$200,000 in the case of individuals and up to \$1m for Corporations.

For less serious offences, such as failure to keep proper records on the transfer of oil, or hindering or obstructing authorised ship inspectors investigating incidents, the new fines will vary from a minimum of \$8,000 to \$20,000.

Minor consequential amendments have also been made to a number of Sections in the Act.

Section 3 of the Act is omitted as it repeals provisions which have no further operation in the Act, while Section 6 is also excluded as it has no practical effect.

Honourable Members will recognise that the Government has instigated these important amendments to the Pollution of Waters by Oil Act to ensure maximum protection of the Queensland environment, particularly those areas of the fragile Great Barrier Reef.

I am confident, Mr Speaker, that all Honourable Members will agree that these amendments are totally appropriate and long overdue.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Johnson, adjourned.

### **TRANSPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Hon. D. J. HAMILL** (Ipswich—Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development) (12.25 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the Transport Infrastructure (Roads) Act 1991 and to repeal the Driving Training Centre Act 1981.”

Motion agreed to.

#### **First Reading**

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

#### **Second Reading**

**Hon. D. J. HAMILL** (Ipswich—Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development) (12.26 p.m.): I move—

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

The Mount Cotton Driver Training Centre was established in the early 1980s, with the first stage opened in February 1983. The facility is currently a police reserve under the direction of a management committee, with representatives from both the

Queensland Police Service and the Department of Transport. The \$10m centre at Cornubia, about 30 kilometres south-east of Brisbane, comprises a variety of different road surfaces, conditions and hazards to simulate driving and emergency situations on public roads. The centre therefore fulfils an important role in the road transport area in both economic and safety terms, and has several objectives that benefit the industry. These include: making heavy vehicle operators more professional and safer drivers; reducing vehicle operating costs; developing better time management procedures and avoiding driver fatigue; and improving road safety generally.

Mount Cotton itself has the further aims of operating in a cost-effective manner and functioning on a commercial, cost-recovery basis. The complex is a world-class facility at which professional drivers can develop the skills and techniques necessary to meet today's growing demand for transport services. The facilities allow Transport Department officers to provide theoretical and practical instruction to professional drivers from both the public and private sectors. It also ensures a high standard of skill amongst those drivers most often on the road, making the road environment safer for all users. The development of this highly specialised facility depends on the receipt of funds from the sale of personalised numberplates and revenue collected from courses run by my department. These funds are paid into a trust fund currently administered by the Police Service.

The single point management structure being instituted by the legislative changes presented today represents a significant advancement on the current situation and ensures the business and objectives of the centre are pursued effectively and efficiently. While the Director-General of Transport will be responsible for the management, operation and further development of the centre, the transport industry will continue to be closely consulted to ensure the centre meets the industry's driver training needs. The passing of the centre's control to my department is a recommendation of the Public Sector Management Commission. Cabinet has acted on this recommendation, and on 17 February 1992, determined that responsibility for the management of the Mount Cotton Training Centre, the Driving Training Centre Trust Fund and ownership of the reserve should be transferred to the Department of Transport.

The Transport Legislation Amendment Bill 1992 will achieve this transfer by repealing the Driving Training Centre Act 1981 and amending the Transport Infrastructure (Roads) Act 1991. It will enable responsibility for Mount Cotton's management, the Driving Training Centre Trust Fund and ownership of the Police Reserve to be transferred to my department. The Driving Training Centre Act 1981 outlines the operations of the centre and created a Driver Training Centre Management Committee to provide for planning, development and administration. The Act also created a trust fund that was to be used towards the payment of expenses incurred in carrying out the functions outlined in the Act. The proposed legislative changes will formally transfer responsibility for the trust fund, with a current balance of approximately \$2m, to the Director-General of Transport. These funds are committed to new administration and training facilities at the Mount Cotton complex, which will serve the purposes of both the Police Service and the Department of Transport.

The amended Transport Infrastructure (Roads) Act 1991 will only refer to the replacement of the Driving Training Centre Fund with the Driver Training Fund. All other parts of the 1981 Act are not required. The new Driver Training Fund will allow greater scope for the funds to be used in the areas of driver education, road safety and post-licence driver training.

This reform of the legislation is consistent with the Government's policy of achieving a reduction in the amount of legislation. The benefits offered by this action are many. It will achieve a streamlining of the management and operation of the Mount Cotton centre. The transfer of control will increase the Transport Department's involvement in professional driver training and course development for private sector clients. It will also open opportunities to further commercialise the operations of the

centre and allow a more competitive and flexible approach to offering services on the open market. Mount Cotton will have the ability to enhance its activities and offer professional drivers effective skills training. For the Police Service, devolving the 45 hectare reserve and its operation to my department will enable its resources to be directed to more appropriate enforcement activities. However, the changes will not rob the service of a valuable training resource.

The Government recognises the contribution made by Mount Cotton in finetuning the skills of police officers. I stress that the police will retain full use of the centre. The transfer is subject to the continuation of existing arrangements for police driver training on a budget-neutral basis. That is, it will continue to serve as the training venue at no additional costs to the Queensland Police Service. This transfer has not been a simple matter of introducing legislative changes. In line with the Government's policy, stakeholders have been consulted to ensure the actions have a positive, not adverse impact on the transport industry and the community in general. The Queensland Road Transport Association and the Queensland Road Transport Training Council are well aware and fully supportive of the changes.

As I mentioned earlier, appropriate mechanisms will be established in the near future to ensure the training needs of the transport industry are considered in conjunction with the further development of the Mount Cotton centre. Clearly, these amendments are important to the future role Mount Cotton is to play in our transport industry. The centre must be in a position to complement the industry and provide its drivers with the skills and knowledge to operate efficiently and safely in an area that is vital to the economy and to the future growth of this State. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Johnson, adjourned.

#### **BREAD INDUSTRY AUTHORITY REPEAL BILL**

**Hon. E. D. CASEY** (Mackay—Minister for Primary Industries) (12.32 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) (12.33 p.m.): I move—

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

Because my speech in relation to this Bill is exactly the same as the speech that I made to the House when this Bill was first presented earlier this year, I seek leave to table my speech and have it incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The Bread Industry Authority Act Repeal Bill 1992 was originally introduced into the House on the day Parliament was dissolved for the recent general election.

As I indicated at that 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 Act was introduced, I indicated that it required industry cooperation to succeed. Unfortunately significant sectors of the industry chose not to comply with the legislation in their quest for market share. This resulted in on-going uncertainty and penalised those in the industry who were attempting to comply with the Act.

Consequently, after consultation with industry, in May this year the Government decided that it had no other option but to deregulate the industry. Since that time the Bread Industry Authority has revoked its pricing orders and, for all intents and purposes, for the last five months bread prices have been determined competitively. This places the Queensland industry on a similar footing to the industry in all other Australian states.

I would again like to take this opportunity to place on record my appreciation and that of the Government's for the efforts of the Chairman and members of the Authority.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Perrett, adjourned.

### **WATER RESOURCES AMENDMENT BILL**

**Hon. E. D. CASEY** (Mackay—Minister for Primary Industries) (12.34 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the Water Resources Act 1989.”

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) (12.35 p.m.): I move—

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

Once again, my speech in relation to this Bill is exactly the same as the speech that I made to the House when the Bill was first presented earlier this year. Therefore, I seek leave to table my speech and have it incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

In 1989 the National Party Government of Queensland introduced the Water Resources Bill, a large Bill designed to replace four major Acts of Parliament to do with the administration of water development and management. The National Party Government of the day missed a vital opportunity to institute a major and much needed reform to protect water resources and ensure water quality.

The *Water Resources Act* does not address the effect on the riverine environment of development activities or dumping or clearing. This Bill will redress that omission by the previous Government.

Watercourses must be viewed as sophisticated and complex ecosystems. They are not just beds and banks and water, but trees, vegetation and soil as well. If one removes the trees, if one removes the vegetation, a watercourse is fundamentally weakened and the riverine environment itself is greatly endangered. Most importantly Mr Speaker, the water quality of the stream is degraded and that creates problems not just for the culprit but the entire community which depends on that stream.

The *Water Resources Act* as introduced by the National Party Government failed completely to recognise the significance of the total riverine environment.

There will always be pressure from developers to alter riverine environments.

Unfortunately, not everybody is mindful of the importance of those environments to the community at large. Some people fail to adopt a responsible attitude, and that is why it is necessary to introduce this legislation.

The major purpose of the Bill is to enable active management of riverine vegetation in non-tidal watercourses, and of works which might alter the integrity of those watercourses or affect water quality.

The amendments will require a permit to be obtained to clear vegetation or to excavate or to place fill in a non-tidal watercourse. Large penalties will apply for people who carry out those works without a permit.

In order to safeguard the rights of applicants, appeals will lie to the Magistrates Court.

Mr Speaker, this Bill will significantly enhance the capacity of the Government to manage important elements of the riverine environment. It will ensure the sustainability of our rivers and it will go a long way to protecting the community interest in a healthy riverine environment and high quality of water. Under this Bill people will not be able to just clear right up to the edge of streams or push trees into river beds; people will not be able to dump car bodies, people will not be able to shift soil and rocks into watercourses and destroy the riverine environment and reduce water quality. The public interest is clearly served best by having a reasonable scheme of regulation as introduced by this Bill to ensure that those things cannot happen without the public interest being protected.

Honourable members will know that I instituted systematic reviews of all primary industries legislation when this Government first came to power. The *Water Resources Act* is one Act currently under review. I expect to bring to Parliament a major Bill to institute significant reforms some time late next year. However this initiative is too important to wait for the outcome of the review. It is urgently required to address current needs.

The future will see even more reforms which emphasise the importance of environmental issues and water quality issues in the management of this most vital resource, water.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Perrett, adjourned.

### **NURSING BILL**

**Hon. K. W. HAYWARD** (Kallangur—Minister for Health) (12.36 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill for an Act to provide for the registration and enrolment of nurses, the practice of nursing and the education of nurses, and related purposes.”

Motion agreed to.

### **First Reading**

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

### **Second Reading**

**Hon. K. W. HAYWARD** (Kallangur—Minister for Health) (12.37 p.m.): I move—

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

The purpose of this Bill is to update the legislation regulating the education, registration, enrolment and practice of nursing in Queensland by the establishment of the Queensland Nursing Council. Since 1976, nursing matters have been regulated by two separate bodies, namely, the Nurses Registration Board of Queensland and the Board of Nursing Studies, each of which is established under its own legislation. The

Board of Nursing Studies has achieved, in large part, its major purpose of improving the standards of nurse education in this State. The legislation under which the Nurses Registration Board of Queensland currently operates is in need of a general overhaul.

Since the commencement of that legislation, we have seen many changes impact on nursing practice in Queensland, not the least of which is the increased public expectation of safe and accountable practices by health service providers. At the policy level, the Government determined that the membership of bodies regulating providers of health services should be opened up to allow for consumer representation. It has also been determined that adjudicative functions undertaken by such bodies in pursuing cases of misconduct against registered providers should be separated from regulatory functions which involve investigation and prosecution of such cases. At the operational level, there is the advent of mutual recognition of occupations across State borders and the relatively recent trend of nurse education being undertaken by universities. All these factors necessitate the dissolution of the Board of Nursing Studies and the Nurses Registration Board of Queensland, the repeal of their governing Acts and their replacement by a single Act providing for a single body—the Queensland Nursing Council.

Before speaking specifically about the provisions of this Bill, I would like to emphasise to honourable members one aspect of the purpose of regulatory bodies, such as the Queensland Nursing Council, which tend to be overlooked or misunderstood. Although it is true that regulation of a profession is a benefit to the members of that profession—a benefit which accrues by virtue of status afforded through Government recognition, and in being able to self-regulate—the main purpose of such regulatory activity is of increasing importance today to both the public and the Government. That purpose is, of course, consumer protection. Hence the objective of this Bill explicitly refers to “ensuring safe and competent nursing practice”. I believe that the role of regulatory bodies in the Health portfolio, bodies such as the Queensland Nursing Council, will expand, particularly with the Health Rights Commission becoming operational from 1 July 1992, so as to eventually provide a fully integrated consumer protection system in Queensland.

The development of this legislation followed consultation in a variety of forms with the health industry, including a Green Paper released in July 1990. Those consulted included the Queensland Nurses Union of Employees, the Queensland State Service Union, the former Hospital Employees Federation, the Australian Workers Union, the Royal College of Nursing, Australia, the former Australian Mental Health Nurses Congress, the Australian College of Midwives Incorporated and many other special interest groups. Consultation was also undertaken with staff at hospital level in two psychiatric hospitals and two large maternity hospitals. Although complete consensus across such a diverse group is hard to achieve, I have been very encouraged by the many positive comments made about this legislation. I believe it makes progressive provision to ensure that quality nursing care is delivered to the public by nurses with appropriate qualifications.

The Queensland Nursing Council will be a body corporate consisting of 13 members—10 nurses, one of whom must be an enrolled nurse; a legal practitioner; a person representing the users of nursing services; and the full-time executive officer of the council. The chairperson of the council will be appointed by the Governor in Council. The council will have functions appropriate to a registration body, chief of which are—

- advising the Minister on nurse education and nursing practice and the needs of the State in relation to both;
- determining the scope of nursing practice;
- determining eligibility for registration and enrolment;
- establishing and maintaining a register and a roll of nurses; and
- determining a code of conduct for nurses.

Because the council will be responsible for nurse education as well as for registration of providers, it is also empowered to—

- determine standards for accreditation of nursing courses;
- accredit nursing courses; and
- conduct research into matters relevant to its functions.

The timing of this Bill is fortunate, as it has allowed the inclusion of provisions which accommodate emerging national trends. For example, registration and enrolment will be based on competencies which have been nationally accepted by Australian nurse registering authorities. This will ensure that the qualifications of interstate nurses will automatically be recognised for registration in line with mutual recognition principles. Although every effort has been made to accommodate the principles of mutual recognition in this Bill, it must be realised that this area is still evolving under the auspices of a working party established by the Health Ministers Advisory Council. I am reconciled to making further changes to this legislation in due course to facilitate mutual recognition at the operational level and as agreed to nationally. Whereas there are presently several branches of the register, this Bill makes provision for a single register, and all those who are entered on it will be registered nurses. This is an important change flowing from the movement of nurse education into universities.

Specialist nursing skills acquired after registration receive recognition in this Bill by means of certificates endorsed with an authorisation to practise in the specialist area. Midwifery and psychiatric nursing are specifically provided for and the council may add other specialist categories as the need arises. Limited registration has been included as a new category. This is designed to protect public safety without completely removing a nurse's ability to practise. It will be used in situations in which a nurse is deemed safe to practise within limitations imposed by council. The present cumbersome procedures for accrediting schools of nursing and approving the courses they conduct have been refined in this Bill. There will be a single process for accrediting nursing courses leading to registration and enrolment or to authorisation to practise a specialist skill.

I believe that the two most significant improvements in this legislation are the provisions for—

- the development of a code of conduct; and
- complaints about professional conduct being heard by a professional conduct committee, which will be separate from the council.

One of the council's functions is to determine a code of conduct to serve as a standard for professional practice by nurses, midwives and other persons authorised to practise nursing under the legislation. This is a welcome development. As the code will state positive behaviours as standards to be achieved by practitioners, it represents a more constructive and desirable approach than merely listing the negative behaviours which might lead to prosecution for misconduct as under the previous model. I should point out also that the Queensland Nursing Council will develop this code in consultation with the nursing profession and its key stakeholders at both State and national levels. Such consultation is essential if nurses are to own the code. The newly created Health Rights Commission will also be consulted during this process. I commend to honourable members these provisions for goal-directed professional conduct.

Under this legislation, the council, subject to a referral of a complaint from the Health Rights Commission, will investigate a complaint and then, if it has substance and involves a contravention of the code of conduct, refer it to the professional conduct committee for hearing and determination. This will remedy the present undesirable situation in which the Nurses Registration Board of Queensland both investigates and prosecutes complaints through its officers, then hears the complaint and makes a determination. The professional conduct committee will be completely separate from the council, and will comprise eight members. The chairperson member will be a legal practitioner who will ensure that natural justice is observed during proceedings and who

is specifically responsible for determining questions of law. Additionally, the committee will include six registered nurses and one consumer representative. When convened for the purposes of the hearing, the committee will be constituted by the chairperson and four other members, of whom three must be registered nurses. It is the intention of the legislation that the unprescribed fourth position be filled in the majority of cases by the consumer representative. I view this separation of the investigation and prosecution functions from adjudicative functions as highly desirable.

The Bill contains lengthy provisions for the usual mechanisms such as inspections and appeals. Appropriate provisions have also been made for the staff of the dissolved boards and for staffing the new council. The funding of the Queensland Nursing Council in the short term will be a combination of the arrangements for funding the two existing boards. An appropriation by Parliament from the Consolidated Fund of approximately the same amount presently supporting the Board of Nursing Studies will be paid to the council for up to four years. Fees payable to the council will constitute the remainder of the revenue. It is envisaged that the council will be self-supporting after four years, as is the case in most other States. This move towards financial self-sufficiency wherever possible on the part of professional registration bodies is Government policy.

In presenting the Bill, I wish to acknowledge the assistance that has been given by the numerous groups which have contributed to the development of this legislation, for example, the Queensland Nurses Union of Employees (QNU); the Royal College of Nursing, Australia; the Australian College of Midwives Incorporated; and the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses. Although we have not achieved total consensus on all issues, those groups have willingly provided ongoing assistance in the development of the legislation. This type of cooperation is essential to the effective implementation of the legislation and, indeed, I am heartened by the cooperation I have received from all quarters. It augurs well for the establishment of the Queensland Nursing Council.

This Bill is a progressive piece of legislation. It is one which makes provision for the many changes that are occurring in nursing, and it does this in such a way that I see certain features of it acting as the model for the review of legislation governing other professional registration boards under my portfolio. I commend the Bill to the honourable members of this House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Horan, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.47 to 2 p.m.

#### **ESTIMATES OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1992-93**

**Hon. K. E. De LACY** (Cairns—Treasurer) (2.01 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That the Estimates tabled in this House earlier today be agreed to.”

Motion agreed to.

### **APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2)**

#### **Second Reading**

Debate resumed (see p. 68).

**Mr BORBIDGE** (Surfers Paradise—Leader of the Opposition) (2.03 p.m.): It is appropriate that the Parliament is debating this Government's Budget on Guy Fawkes day because, in relation to this particular Budget, this Government has shown as much respect for the institution as Guy Fawkes did.

**Mr FitzGerald:** At least he went in with honest intentions.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** As the member for Lockyer said, at least he went in with honest intentions. This is the second-bite-at-the-cherry Budget. The Parliament was presented

with a document on 24 August which the Government purported was a Budget. The Government then ran away from it. No sooner did the document hit the House than the Premier shut the place down and prevented debate. No sooner had the Government run away from the so-called Budget than it turned around and undermined its most basic premise. A promise of no new taxes and no increases in taxes and charges, on average, above the CPI, was the basis of the entire document. Yet, one day—I repeat, one day—after the Treasurer dropped the alleged Budget and the Premier closed down the Parliament, the Government announced a massive tax hike in the tobacco licence fee way in excess of the CPI. The fee went from an actual income of \$136.3m in 1990-91 to a projected income of \$324m in 1992-93—a \$187m or 137 per cent increase over two years. That solitary bit of electioneering and deceit leaves this document high and dry. It is revealed as a work of fiction. The Budget was, allegedly, and still is, extraordinarily enough, according to the Government, predicated on the promise of no new taxes and no increases in taxes and charges, on average, above the CPI. Despite what happened in August, the claim remains in the Budget for everybody to see. Yet, every time the bottom line on State-based receipts is mentioned in those documents, they are wrong. There can be no disputing that. Every time there is a percentage representation of the growth of receipts, they are wrong. Every time the promise of no new taxes, and no increases in taxes and charges, on average, above the CPI is mentioned in the text, it is worse than wrong; it is a lie.

In terms of its Budget strategy, this Treasurer and this Government are living a lie. Nobody in Queensland could possibly accept that a Government which, in one 24-hour period, claims its Budget is predicated on no new taxes and no increases in taxes and charges above the CPI could turn around, within that 24-hour period, and suggest that it intended to increase a tax by more than 100 per cent above its existing level and expect people to believe that the two events were somehow separate and somehow unrelated. At the time the Budget was presented the Government knew of its intentions to raise the tobacco tax, and knew that its Budget was false. To suggest anything else is to claim that the Premier let the Treasurer present a Budget which he knew well in advance to be false. I am not sure which interpretation of the Premier's position, and the Treasurer's position for that matter, is the more damning. During the election campaign, it was as if neither had learnt anything. From August through September, the Premier and the Treasurer claimed that the Budget would be represented without one line being changed. That is a distortion which, to any reasonable person, must approximate a deliberate untruth. There are, to anybody who can read, many lines which have to be changed if the Budget is to be anything like an honest and truthful indication of the Government's intentions for 1992-93 and beyond. If the Treasurer needs a set of Budget papers with these lines highlighted, the Opposition will be happy to provide it.

One of the most important messages for the people of Queensland out of this doublecross is the degree to which it reveals a Government drunk on power. In its own mind, it can now get away with anything. It has won its second term. It can display monumental arrogance. It has got to the point where it thinks that it can say one thing one day, another literally the next, and nobody will question the difference. It was not only in relation to the tobacco tax that we saw this chemistry at work in the Budget and in the election campaign. Throughout the election, the Premier and the Treasurer, quite pregnantly, failed to repeat the 1989 promise of no new taxes and no increases in taxes and charges, on average, above the CPI in relation to the current term. I am sure that it was not their then recent brush with the tobacco tax which caused them to recognise caution, because that would imply that this Government has a conscience. Rather, I believe that it was exactly what it seemed to be during the campaign: it was effectively a promise for more new taxes and more increases in taxes and charges above the CPI in the term of this Parliament. Instead of repeating their 1989 promise, the best the Premier and the Treasurer could manage in the campaign was a promise that Queensland would remain the low-tax State. A promise of low taxes is a very moveable feast. It is linked with Labor's feast of the eighties interstate.

I believe that it is now well recognised that the Cains, the Burkes, the Bannons and the Wrans were the Skases and the Bonds of politics. They mortgaged today to pay for tomorrow; they played Monopoly. The tragedy is that, in terms of pain for the taxpayer, the bills of the eighties—as the unravelling disaster in Victoria and Canberra in particular show—stretch deep into the twenty-first century. Labor has indebted not only a generation of Victorians, New South Welshmen, South Australians and West Australians but, by osmosis, a generation of Queenslanders as well. Their debt, to a very real extent, is our debt. When the Premier says he promises that Queensland will remain the low-tax State, we have to now put that claim into the new perspective. During the election campaign, we had the politics of relativity when the Premier and the Treasurer were saying, “Aren’t we going great! Our unemployment rate is 0.5 or 0.7 of 1 per cent better than Victoria’s.” Queensland is the best State; it always has been the best State. But why do we have to prostitute ourselves by comparing this State with the other States and by using the abysmal performances of the Labor Government cot cases in other parts of Australia as a benchmark? They are some of the greatest disgraces in economic management to be found anywhere in the Western World.

“Low” is becoming a very relative term when conservative Governments are forced into increasing taxes to pay for the 1980s. Without doubt, the major task confronting the coalition in this term will be to reveal conclusively to the people of Queensland just how akin to those failed interstate Labor regimes this administration really is. The Premier says that he is different. But is he? Mr Deputy Speaker, I remind you that the Premier said in 1988 before an audience of business people at a function at the Brisbane Sheraton that he would emulate the performance of Cain in Victoria, Bannon in South Australia, Wran in New South Wales, and Hawke and Keating in Canberra. The Premier told the audience—

“Just as Australian business has had nothing to fear under the pragmatic economic management of Bob Hawke and Paul Keating, and just as business has prospered under the economic stewardship of John Cain in Victoria and John Bannon in South Australia, so too will business prosper under a Goss Labor Government in Queensland.”

I am sure the Premier means exactly what he said. When the Premier was going through his formative political years, these were the people he admired—his heroes, his icons, his mates, the lights on the hill for the Queensland Labor Party. He might prefer Nick Greiner’s company nowadays, but his party and his rank and file are still clinging to the old pantheon of heroes. Trying to get Labor away from the big-spending programs of the eighties, which are really only an extension of what Whitlam did in the seventies, is similar to trying to slow down an oil tanker. There is a huge momentum there.

Over the past two years, the spending of the Goss Labor Government has resulted in the growth of the Government’s share of the economy from 14.4 per cent to 16.2 per cent. Obviously, the private sector is picking up the tab for this expansion. As well as bearing the burden of recession and the structural limitations not addressed by the Government, the private sector will again be asked to subsidise bigger Government. As a percentage of gross State product, taxation has increased in the life of Labor Governments in Queensland from 1989 until today from 4.9 per cent to 5.2 per cent; that is, if this Government had kept the low-tax regime of the previous administration in place, business in Queensland would have \$200m more in its pocket today.

This Budget is a continuation of the big-spending Budgets that have been a hallmark of this ALP Government and all Labor Governments, State and Federal. Public sector spending is about two percentage points higher in terms of GSP than it was when this ALP Government first came into office. This was exactly the policy adopted by the failed Cain and Kirner Governments and the discredited Bannon Government in South Australia. An analysis of general Budget performance shows quite clearly that this Government in Queensland has the largest growth in current outlays, in total outlays, and growth in outlays in per capita terms of any State Government to be found anywhere in Australia. The growth in current outlays in the general Budget for 1992-93 is

7.1 per cent. In New South Wales, it is 2.5 per cent. Growth in total outlays, which includes capital outlays, is 9.6 per cent compared to 5.1 per cent in New South Wales. Growth in outlays per capita is 7.3 per cent in Queensland compared to 4.2 per cent in New South Wales.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** In terms of total outlays, the Budget before the House—the 1992-93 Budget—has the dubious status of being the largest spending of its three Budgets, and the biggest of any of the Australian States. I can understand why members of the Government do not want to hear that. That is exactly the recipe for disaster that other Labor Governments have given to every other State in Australia. As I said earlier, total current outlays in this Budget are up 9.6 per cent. In 1991-92 it was 9.3 per cent, and in 1989-90 it was 8 per cent. Without a doubt, it is a big-spending Budget by a Government which has established itself as a big-spending administration. As yet, Labor's big-spending ways have not impacted on this State's ratings. According to Moody's investment service, Queensland ranks with New South Wales as being one of the best-managed States. In its analysis of the Queensland economy, Moody's said that the "only question mark over Queensland's bright outlook would come from a change to the funding arrangement between the Commonwealth and the States." Moody's said that it was not clear that a change in Federal Government funding would not have enough impact to require a rating adjustment.

Queensland, however, receives a larger share of national revenue in Commonwealth grants in proportion to its contribution to the national income tax pool. This is very evident when the Budget papers are examined. Commonwealth payments to Queensland for 1991-92 comprise 48.2 per cent of the State's total revenue. By contrast, in 1989-90 it was 41 per cent. It is increasingly obvious that this Government is relying more and more on its mates in Canberra and on the raiding of hollow logs to fund its increased spending. Following successive Goss Budgets with increases in spending of 7 per cent in the first Budget, 8 per cent in the second, and 5 per cent in the third during the worst recession in 60 years, it is also difficult to believe that revenue has not increased ahead of the CPI.

Labor in Queensland believes, and believes with a vengeance, that, until Queensland has earned its spurs by emulating all the expenditure excesses of the south, Wayne Goss cannot really call himself a Labor leader. When one looks at the facts without the rose-coloured glasses, Labor here does not have much claim to be anything other than another variation on the theme. The Government has employed, and has been employing since day one, a steadily rising tide of refugees. We have people from John Cain's Cabinet Office. We have John Bannon's economics guru. We now have the man who established the Wran Government's public housing scheme—which so recently has been vilified—busily establishing the very same arrangements in Queensland. We have the same preoccupation with public sector expansion and expensive public sector pay deals. We have the same preoccupation with expanding spending in selected areas of Government associated with social justice, and massive spending and work force cuts elsewhere. We have a massive shift from fostering production to fostering consumption and regulation. Now that Kirner is gone in Victoria, doubtless we will see another wave of disaffected and unemployed architects of the wreckage of that State welcomed with open arms in Queensland, where they will be given every available facility. But, of course, we know that they would only ever be employed on merit.

It must be said that the Government, in its first term, was effective in deflecting concerns about its economic management and in prosecuting the view that it is different from those failed Labor regimes interstate. To those who continue to believe that this Labor Government is different and that it has actually learned from the mistakes of its predecessors and avowed and dedicated role models, I will make just a few simple observations and end with a couple of questions for those people. In its first Budget, the Goss Government increased spending by about 7 per cent in an economy that it predicted would grow by 2.4 per cent. The economy effectively shrank. For 1990-91,

growth ended at negative 0.2 per cent. Last year, the Government increased spending by a further 8 per cent—a further 8 per cent—and did so on a forecast growth in GSP of 2.3 per cent. Midway through the year, it reduced that growth forecast to 1.1 per cent but claimed that, by the end of the year, growth in the final quarter was 3.3 per cent.

The Budget now under consideration—Labor's third—involves an increase in spending of over 5 per cent on a growth forecast of over 3 per cent. So, in the space of three years, we have seen very big increases in outlays based on largely very faulty and overoptimistic growth forecasts. Only in the final quarter of the final term did we see growth of any substantive sort, which caught the Government by surprise. The question for the true believers and those not brave enough to be doubting Thomases is simply this: how has the Government been able to support major and compounding—ever-increasing—rises in spending during the deepest recession since the Great Depression without, allegedly, introducing new taxes and without increasing existing taxes and charges, on average, above the CPI? Most normal people would agree that it simply does not add up. It is worth remembering that Cain, Bannon, Wran and Burke also managed to get well past the first term before the truth about how they were really managing their State's affairs became widely apparent. All of them ended their first terms and began their second with the same sorts of accolades that have greeted this administration, which I submit is fundamentally following the same path.

In this term, the Opposition will seek to ensure that it does not take a royal commission to provide the answer to the riddle here. For those who are prepared to watch the Government closely over the new term, there are some particular things to watch. Let us have a look at the public sector work force. In common with Cain, Burke and Bannon, the Goss Government has both dramatically boosted the number of teachers and the number of workers in the health system and boosted their pay. It is doing so in the name of catching up with staffing levels and pay levels that apply interstate. The national average levels of staffing and per capita expenditure that we are now chasing in most areas are the national averages set by Cain, by Burke and by Bannon. We are now chasing helter-skelter the same levels of expenditure that have helped to send Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia to the brink of bankruptcy. Government members cannot argue with those statements. By following the national example, the Government is following the discredited example that has propelled Labor States from one end of Australia to the other to the verge of bankruptcy. The Government cannot have it both ways.

**Mr Johnson:** They can't manage.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** As the member for Gregory says, they cannot manage. Those are the standards that led those leaders, so admired by the Premier, to eventually front up to royal commissions and explain how it was that they had led their States secretly into penury. In this business, Governments cannot have their cake and eat it, too. Governments buy what they can afford, not what they want. Increasingly, the Government is buying what it wants.

In the final stages of the demise of the Labor States, economic witchdoctors were concocting all sorts of arrangements to provide Governments with income when taxation was no longer enough. They had to come up with all manner of harebrained schemes to fund Government when the Labor leaders were so trapped by their rhetoric—principally, by their claim to be sound economic managers—that all manner of mayhem was going on behind the scenes to fuel the coffers. Politically, they could not admit that they had it wrong, so they had to find secret ways of raising more cash. It will be fascinating to see what the Senate inquiry uncovers in respect of the truth of Labor Governments interstate—the real truth, the real secrets that are still today being hidden by Labor's Cain, by Labor's Kirner, by Labor's Bannon and by that discredited and corrupt administration in Western Australia.

**An Opposition member:** And by a Prime Minister.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** And by a Prime Minister, as my colleague reminds me.

**Mr Santoro:** He is going to prohibit him from attending that parliamentary committee.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** That again demonstrates that the Prime Minister will not permit the Treasurer of Australia to appear before a Senate committee. That is why there was a series of financial disasters right across Australia. Enter WA Inc! Enter Tricon! Enter the State Bank of South Australia!

**Mr Johnson:** Enter Pyramid.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** Enter Pyramid, as my colleague reminds me. It really is high time that the watchdogs of this Government, inside and outside this Chamber, redoubled their efforts to find out the truth, because to date the explanations from this Government as to where it has found the money simply do not add up.

**Mr De Lacy:** You can't read. That's the trouble. All you've got to do is read the report.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** We are talking about the Prime Minister not allowing the Australian Treasurer to appear before a special Senate select committee, yet this Treasurer told the *7.30 Report* last night that there will be no PAC inquiry into the Indy Car Grand Prix. The Treasurer has ruled in contempt of this Parliament in regard to \$30m which has gone missing in Queensland, money which was spent in the wrong manner. He said that there is to be no PAC inquiry. That is another example of this Government's standards and the extent to which it is not prepared to defend itself and place itself open to appropriate scrutiny.

**Mr Santoro:** Is it fair to assume that that committee also has its finding orders?

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I think the comment made by the member for Clayfield is correct. If there is not a Public Accounts Committee inquiry into the Gold Coast Indy car race, it will be because the members of that committee have been given their marching orders.

The first thing that we see, and which should most concern Queenslanders, is that over just two years State-generated income in Queensland has grown by just \$3m short of three-quarters of a billion dollars. In that 24-month period, the increase from the actual income of 1990-91 to the projected result of the current Budget is \$747m. Earnings for the Government—and remember that this is the Government which said there would be no increases in taxes and charges over and above the CPI—have been growing, allegedly, at the rate of \$31m a month, or \$7m a week, or an extra \$1m a day, through the recession, without new taxes and, allegedly, without increases in taxes and charges, on average, above the rate of inflation. Footy TAB, the new tax you are having when you are not really having a new tax, because it also involves a service, explains a few million dollars. Poker machines will fund an increase in spending from nothing in 1990-91 to a projected \$44m in 1992-93. There have clearly, in a few cases, admittedly, been greatly increased efforts towards compliance which has led to maximised, if not increased, taxes. But beyond those few ingredients there remains no viable explanation for very large increases in recurrent expenditure during the worst recession since the Great Depression achieved, allegedly, as we must keep on saying, without new taxes and without increases in taxes and charges, on average, above the CPI. One potentially valid explanation is that the Government has simply been lying for the past three years. There is very substantial evidence that this is the case.

The budgeted increase in State revenues from the Goss Government's actual receipts in 1990-91 to the projected income at the end of this financial year of almost three-quarters of a billion dollars represents an increase of 18.3 per cent. In two years, State-based receipts have increased by almost 20 per cent. In that same period, the Brisbane CPI moved just 4.9 per cent in 1990-91 and 2 per cent in 1991-92. The way this alleged miracle was achieved, according to the Budget papers at least, is this: receipts for goods and services are up from \$210m in 1990-91 to a projected \$342m in 1992-93, an increase of \$132m, or 62 per cent. The Government's property income has grown from the actual figure of \$509.5m in 1990-91 to a projected \$689.8m in 1992-93, an increase of \$180m, or 35.3 per cent.

In this area, one of the largest movements was in the income generated from dividends paid by State-run businesses. In 1990-91, the Budget prediction was for \$5m dividends. In fact, rather than being \$5m, they amounted to \$26.2m, an increase of over 500 per cent on the Budget projection. Obviously, a few late calls were made to the likes of Suncorp and the QIDC to come to the aid of the Budget. Even if we take the actual figure for 1990-91, the increased call on the State's Government-run enterprises for dividends proposed for 1992-93 of \$133m represents an increase of over 400 per cent. The call on Government enterprises to support the Budget has also been dramatically increased in relation to the so-called credit enhancement fee, the Government's new name for the fee imposed on Government borrowings on behalf of trading corporations, first imposed on the Queensland Electricity Commission in the 1990-91 Budget. The charge, limited to the QEC in the first instance, brought in \$17.2m and has now been extended across-the-board on Government borrowings by authorities to the tune of a projected \$42.6m this financial year, an increase of almost 150 per cent. When the impact of the dividends and the credit enhancement fee are combined, the total increased demand on Government-run enterprises has gone from \$43.4m in 1990-91 to \$176.2m in two years, an increase of just over 300 per cent. Later, I will have more to say on the Government's approach to the rewards, and the pitfalls, of corporatisation. Repayment to the Government of capital advances is yet another big growth area, with an increase in income from \$26.2m in 1990-91 to a projected \$97.4m this year, an increase of \$71.2m, or 270 per cent. Capital recoveries and financing transactions have also made a marked increase to revenue. Over the two years, they were up \$88m from \$201m to \$290m, which represented a jump of 43 per cent.

The tobacco licence fee, which has already become infamous in relation to this Budget, is also fascinating. It is a magic pudding that will supposedly fund everything from bikeways to rejuvenating schools to jobs, depending on the number of jobs that the Premier or the Treasurer thinks is a good idea to create from one week to another. This new tax being imposed in Queensland is a bottomless cup of coffee, a tax which will fund anything that the Premier or the Treasurer decides it should.

Actual income in 1990-91 was \$136.3m and reached \$158.6m in 1991-92, which was well ahead of the Budget prediction by some \$10m. The increase, according to the Budget papers, was brought about by improved compliance, and according to the 1992-93 Budget as originally presented—and presented again today, allegedly without change—would bring in \$174m. With the post-Budget move to increase the tax, we are looking at a \$187m increase in two years to \$324m. So much for the Budget documents in so far as they deal with the tobacco tax. In percentage terms, the hike from 1990-91 is almost 140 per cent.

Perhaps the most fascinating line in the Budget, in relation to receipts, relates to borrowings. Borrowings in support of the Budget were actually \$5.85m in 1990-91 and were to be nil in support of the 1991-92 Budget, in which they actually amounted to \$28.7m. This financial year, they are projected to be \$106m. That figure represents an increase since 1990-91 of 1 700 per cent borrowings in support of the Budget. The increases that I have outlined account for most of the \$747m in increased revenue that the Government has achieved since the end of the 1990-91 financial year. I will leave it to honourable members to judge for themselves whether such increases leave the Government's promise intact or in tatters, and whether they reflect sound economic management or whether they sound alarm bells.

In the full time allotted, I cannot raise all the matters in the Budget which concern the Opposition, but I will make some observations on what I believe is one of the major danger areas for the Government and the State in this term. The Government has embarked on a program of corporatisation of Government-owned enterprises in line with a now accepted and proper view around the country that improved efficiency in the area will not only deliver better service but also create greater returns to Government. At a time when all State Governments are struggling with a narrow revenue base, corporatisation has become one of the perceived sources of higher revenues without direct increases in taxation. That is the theory. The issue is how one goes about it.

Under the previous National Party Government, Queensland had the best performing public sector enterprises in the nation. For instance, the industrial and management reforms that flowed out of the power strike transformed the QEC from the electricity generator with the worst industrial record in Australia to the one with the best record. The introduction of voluntary employment agreements—which were so reviled by Government members, but they cannot run away from the productivity gains—and the use of subcontractors helped revolutionise that industry. Those measures helped the QEC become the most cost-effective producer of non-hydropower in the country. Those measures have been dismantled by this Government, which nonetheless claims that it is working towards increased efficiency.

**An Opposition member:** Absolute wreckers.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** Absolute wreckers, as the honourable member interjects. The process has the potential to be very dangerous if it is not carried out properly. The Opposition has been concerned from the first that the Government has been more interested in dragging more revenue out of public sector enterprises than it has been about giving them the wherewithal, the capacity, the potential, to generate greater income through access to efficiency measures. The facts so far speak for themselves.

In August 1990, the Government introduced a Green Paper on its corporatisation proposals which indicated an intention to open up Government-owned enterprises to full State taxation, dividend payments and fees on Government loan guarantees. Since that Green Paper, a White Paper has been introduced and various deadlines have been expressed by the Government for the introduction of legislation to establish the framework for corporatisation. Each and every one of those deadlines has passed. Now the Government has set a new deadline of the end of this year. The corporatisation legislation is still not in place. Nonetheless, corporatisation is going on apace without the appropriate legislative framework. The dangers in this course are apparent. This is patchwork administration. This is making policy on the run. This is a Government that has not been able to come to grips with the real issues of corporatisation because its mates at Trades Hall will not allow it to do so. As I outlined earlier, major increases are now occurring in the imposts on the public corporate sector without the benefits of the reforms which would enable them to improve their performance. The result could be disaster.

Because the Government is creaming off revenue, it demands greater slugs from the public corporate sector, thereby forcing it back into borrowings to fund its own future. The Treasurer cannot deny that that is the type of insidious development that occurred under the Labor Government economic wreckers in Victoria and South Australia. The current row over Victoria's borrowings is a case in point. Eventually, the taxpayer pays all the bills through increased charges imposed by the public corporate sector. Those charges are increased to cover the Government's increased claims on revenue. The interesting political point is that when the corporate sector is required to increase its charges, the Government claims innocence. Of course, it is the cause of those increases. This trend has already developed in Queensland.

Another factor that ought to cause alarm bells to ring is the Government's attitude towards corporatisation. According to its White Paper, the Government is allegedly at arm's length from the management of the corporate sector. However, the Treasurer has been prepared already to come in over the top of corporatisation and grab whatever he wants. The Government has a type of mongrel-bred corporatisation—bits and pieces everywhere.

**Mr Beanland:** An excuse to put up taxes.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** It is an excuse to put up taxes and an excuse to make the people of Queensland pay more. An example of such action was when the Treasurer pressured the QIDC to contribute to the Compass float via the Venture Capital Fund, which it manages on behalf of the Treasury. The QIDC declined. However, the Treasurer simply went over the top of the QIDC and seized the money. He said, "This is important for Queensland. I am sorry that you guys do not think it is a prudent financial investment,

but I think that it should happen. It is my money, I am going to take it back, and I am going to put it where I want." That was how WA Inc started, and that was how the disaster of the Victorian Development Corporation started to build up. In those States, the Governments of the day decided to play Monopoly with entrepreneurs, to choose between winners and losers, and to become involved in the private sector. In Queensland, the same problem has occurred with the Indy car race, the true cost of which is still unknown today. It probably cost between \$30m and \$40m, yet we will never know. The Treasurer has said that it cannot be investigated by the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee. Across Australia, the lesson can be learned. When Governments become involved with half-smart entrepreneurs, when they believe that they can be shareholders instead of catalysts, when they believe that they can pick winners and losers, then they are heading for major problems.

**Mr Santoro:** We will eventually catch up with you.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** The Treasurer's time will come. Lately, the Treasurer's attitude has been displayed by his treatment of Metway Bank. He needed money that was not his; he grabbed it, and then tried to blame the previous Government. I have news for the Treasurer: I have been through the Cabinet submissions made by the previous Government.

**Mr De Lacy:** Are you going to table it? I challenge you to table it.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** It will appear in due course.

**Mr De Lacy:** I challenge you to table the Cabinet submissions and the decision. There you are. There is a challenge. You said that you have seen it. Table it.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** Yes, I have seen it. The Treasurer will see it in court.

**Mr De Lacy:** You will not table it.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** The Treasurer will see it in court.

**Mr De Lacy:** You will not table it. I challenge you to table it.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** The Treasurer will see it in court. He has neglected to realise the simple fact that when Metropolitan Permanent Building Society became Metway Bank, because there was no proposal for AFIC before the previous Government, or any other Government around Australia, there was never any suggestion that the building society contingency fund would be wound up. That is the difference.

**Mr De Lacy:** Have you got the courage to table it?

**Mr BORBIDGE:** For the benefit of the Treasurer, I say quite simply that I will make sure that that Cabinet submission rests in the hands of the people who deserve justice. I will not do anything before an Australian Securities Commission investigation or possible court cases that will allow the Treasurer the opportunity to destroy his own defence.

**Mr De Lacy:** You have not got the courage to back up what you are saying.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I am saying——

**Mr De Lacy:** We know what you are saying.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I will see the Treasurer before the Australian Securities Commission and I will see him in court. As to the previous Government—the Treasurer has sought to lie and lie again.

**Mr De Lacy:** Who is lying? You are not game to answer.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** When the Metropolitan Permanent Building Society decided to become Metway Bank, there was no suggestion that a contingency fund would be wound up.

**Mr De LACY:** I rise to a point of order. I move that the honourable member table the Cabinet submission to which he is referring.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I do not have the submission with me.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Palaszczuk): Order! The Treasurer must accept the statement by the Leader of the Opposition that he does not have the documents with him. I believe that the issue of Metway Bank has been canvassed sufficiently.

**Mr BORBIDGE**: Does the Treasurer really believe that I would be stupid enough to allow him to try to get me to table documents that will be used by other people in litigation against him? He is a mug, and again he has proved that.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will withdraw that comment.

**Mr BORBIDGE**: I withdraw that comment. The result of the Treasurer's raid of the QIDC Venture Capital Fund is to effectively make the fund a dead letter. If that is the way the Treasurer is going to behave throughout the sector after corporatisation, Queensland is in deep trouble. This Budget continues the Government's trend of spending up big whilst scrambling in ever-wider circles for more revenue. However, its options are running out. Economic recovery will boost some of the base taxes, particularly payroll tax and stamp duty. Obviously, the user pays system is being widely exploited. In future Budgets, poker machines will contribute more revenue. Clearly, the Government intends reaping ever-larger dividends from the public corporate sector. The crunch can come if the recovery is slower than the Government expects it to be, or if the recovery is short lived.

For the first time in Queensland in decades, we have a Government that is hooked on large annual increases in recurrent spending. The issue for Government is no longer the simple and safe question of, "Can we really afford it?" but, "How can we cover up the fact that we are committed?" Members have seen an example of this with the raid on the Nominal Defendant Fund of \$126m that will be transferred into consolidated revenue. Members witnessed a similar event during the previous year with the raid on the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Fund, when the Government took \$90m from trust funds that had been put aside for specific purposes. Another example is the building society contingency fund.

**Mr Hobbs** interjected.

**Mr BORBIDGE**: Robbers of the first order—as the member for Warrego reminds me. Queenslanders should not make any mistakes about this. What they re-elected in September was a young Labor Government in the mould of all its predecessors interstate. During the election campaign, when the Premier refused to repeat his pledge of no new taxes and no increases in taxes and charges above the level of increases in the CPI, Queenslanders should have read the writing on the wall. This Budget signifies that Queensland's slide has begun.

I shall refer now to a few figures that are very significant in terms of this Government's Budget. Under this Budget the Government's share of the Queensland economy increases from 14.4 per cent to 16.2 per cent. Taxation, as a percentage of gross State product, increases from 4.9 per cent to 5.2 per cent. The sum of \$200m, which would otherwise have been held within the private sector in Queensland, now rests in the public sector. In terms of total outlays, this is the biggest spending Budget of any State, including South Australia, Western Australia, and the discredited Kirner taxation measures and budgetary matters in Victoria. Queensland has now consolidated its position as the biggest spending State Government in Australia.

**Mr De Lacy**: And proud of it!

**Mr BORBIDGE**: The Treasurer says, "And proud of it!"

**Mr De Lacy**: Absolutely proud of it.

**Mr BORBIDGE**: The Treasurer says that he is proud that his Budget is now the biggest spending Budget of any in Australia. What an admission! I do not believe it. The Treasurer has admitted that he is spending more money than Joan Kirner did, and he is proud of it. He has admitted that he is spending more money than John Bannon did, and

he is proud of it. He has admitted that he is spending more money than Carmen Lawrence did, and he is proud of it.

**Mr Cooper** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Crows Nest! This is not the honourable member's speech.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** When will the Treasurer learn? If ever there was a statement that confirmed that Labor in this State is no different from Labor across Australia, then that inane, naive statement made by the Treasurer proves it absolutely once and for all.

**Mr De Lacy** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer will cease interjecting.

**Mr Santoro:** You should ask him to repeat it, just in case Hansard missed it.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I am sure that Hansard heard the Treasurer's interjection to the effect that he was proud to have resided over the biggest spending Budget of any State in Australia. It is now on the record: follow the rest. Members know where their big-spending policies got them. However the Treasurer tries to dissemble this Budget, it contains a massive increase in a tax above the level of increases in the CPI. The Treasurer's next Budget will contain more, because he can raid the trust funds only once; he can raid the Auctioneers and Agents Fund only once; he can raid the Nominal Defendant Fund only once; and he can raid the building societies contingency fund only once. Essentially, the Treasurer is doing this to prop up recurrent expenditure. That is the disaster that now faces the people of this State, because they have a Treasurer who is proudly heading down the discredited road of Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria under Labor, and New South Wales under Labor.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I call the honourable member for Redlands. Honourable members, as the member for Redlands is the first of a number of new members who will be delivering their maiden speeches, I request that all honourable members offer all the courtesies of the House to all those members who will be delivering their maiden speeches.

**Mr BUDD** (Redlands) (2.51 p.m.): It is with great pride that I rise to make my maiden speech in this Budget debate. This is indeed a very unique Budget. It is the first Budget to have been given a mandate by the voters of Queensland before it is passed by the Parliament. I congratulate the Treasurer on putting together a Budget that has been carried by popular acclamation. The Goss Labor Government was re-elected on 19 September because it had demonstrated that it was not only a Government of reform and social conscience, it was also a Government of sound economic management. As the Premier stated on election night, "In 1989, we won on the record of the National Party Government. In 1992, we won on our own record."

Governments are elected not only to govern but also to provide solutions to the problems that confront society. I cannot and will not accept the views of those who say that we will never again have full employment. There are those who argue that the ever-accelerating pace of technological change is not only responsible for eliminating countless occupations but also that those jobs can never be replaced. We need look no further than the historical precedent of the Industrial Revolution, which also eliminated traditional occupations but in its place created many thousands more. Likewise, we must search forward for fresh ideas and initiatives instead of clinging to old and outworn practices. Only if we are prepared to relinquish our hold on the past will we ever be able to grasp fully our future. In this Budget, the Goss Labor Government has demonstrated clearly its determination to grasp that future on behalf of all Queenslanders. It has stated quite clearly its commitment to the creation of jobs—real jobs—both as a long-term strategy and as the primary focus of this year's Budget.

The 1992-93 State Budget provides many initiatives and incentives in job creation. The State Capital Works Program has been increased by a further 19 per cent to \$3.3 billion, which will generate an additional 8 000 direct jobs and an equivalent number of

indirect jobs. Furthermore, over 80 per cent of this record \$3.3 billion to be spent on Government projects will go to private business. The Goss Government has stated firmly that it is in favour of private enterprise and sees the role of the Government in the economy as encouraging private sector development. This has been recognised by providing payroll tax cuts to 6 000 Queensland businesses. The Government is also allowing business to claim full rebate of payroll tax for additional employees who meet the same criteria as the Federal Government's National Employment and Training Program. This Budget recognises one of the most basic of human rights—the right of all Queenslanders to a real job.

I should now like to speak about my electorate of Redlands and some of the areas which I believe need to be addressed. The State seat of Redlands was originally created in 1972. Over this 20-year period, five members have had the honour of representing the electorate. My four predecessors were two Labor and two National Party members. It gives me much pleasure that my election takes the Australian Labor Party to a 3 to 2 lead. I will attempt to give members some idea of the enormous diversity of the Redlands electorate, encompassing as it does part of the Redland Shire and the City of Logan. It includes the high-growth suburbs of Thornlands, Victoria Point and Shailer Park which, like most of the outer metropolitan areas, are populated chiefly by young families. It also includes the still largely semirural areas of Redland Bay. The majority of the land mass in the electorate is covered by the almost virgin bush areas of Mount Cotton, Carbrook and Cornubia, of which I will speak more later. The State seat of Redlands also encompasses the bay islands of Russell, Macleay, Lamb, Coochiemudlo and Karragarra. The small tight-knit island communities have much in common with the isolated north Queensland towns in which I spent my childhood. They lack many of the most basic of services, and even emergency services are staffed entirely with volunteer labour.

Let me use as an example Lamb Island. Lamb Island has a population of under 200 people and there are two emergency services on the island. The volunteer first-aid service and the rural fire brigade are both staffed by volunteers. The volunteer first-aid service is run by Svend Raleigh, the honorary ambulance officer, and Dawn Thomson, a registered nursing sister, along with volunteers. This dedicated band of workers not only attend accidents but also have a transport network through which people with chronic illnesses can be taken to the mainland day or night by water taxi. Their equipment is almost non-existent or, at best, makeshift. Their first-aid kits consist of old sewing boxes, and they lack the most basic of necessities such as two-way radios for person-to-person contact. Their running expenses for items such as telephones, petrol and stationery must all be paid out of the volunteers' pockets.

The situation with the rural fire brigade is even more desperate. The brigade has a total of 28 volunteer firefighters. These officers are required to provide their own safety gear at a cost of \$150 per person. As most of the volunteers cannot afford this amount, approximately 90 per cent of the brigade officers operate with no safety protection whatsoever. The fire truck is a 29-year-old ex-army vehicle equipped with a 4 000 litre water tank salvaged from a chemical factory. But, again, the final indignity is the fact that all running costs for this vehicle—petrol, oil, tyres—must be paid by the volunteers themselves. I should like to acknowledge the work of all dedicated volunteer workers on the bay islands who give freely of themselves and their time to provide their services in a totally honorary capacity.

I would like also to make a special mention of Fred and Dot Fishwick. Fred and Dot are an extremely active couple in their sixties who came to Lamb Island a few years ago to retire. Fortunately for the Lamb Island community, they are doers, not talkers, and their retirement has turned into full-time jobs, with all the work they put into the various organisations. By their actions, they have undoubtedly won the respect and affection of the islanders and they, no doubt, consider this to be an ample reward. But they are not a wealthy couple with unlimited financial resources, and they and the other volunteer workers on the islands should not have to keep putting their hands in their pockets to fund basic services. I certainly intend bringing the plight of these volunteer

organisations to the Minister's attention, and I have no doubt that he will look very closely at what assistance can be given.

One further problem faced by the children of the bay islands and shared by children in the suburbs of Redland Bay and Victoria Point is the travel time involved in attending high school. Three years ago, in his maiden speech, my predecessor, the now member for Cleveland, Mr Darryl Briskey, said—

“I believe it is essential that a State high school be provided for the southern part of my electorate at Victoria Point to cater for the growth in that area and to provide a high school that is closer to the children from the bay islands.”

Three years later, that need is even more urgent. There is no high school between Shailer Park and Cleveland, a distance of some 30 kilometres by the most direct route. When one adds to that the fact that bay island children face a 30-minute ferry ride and then a further 30-minute bus trip, one can appreciate the difficulty they must face doing homework when they finally arrive home.

I should like to raise a further matter dealing with education. Just after I was endorsed as the candidate for Redlands, I was invited to attend a meeting of the multi-age high school lobby group at Kimberley Park. Prior to that meeting, I was not familiar with the concept of multi-age schooling, but I was extremely impressed with the enormous support from parents, children and teachers for the proposed high school and the whole concept of a flexible structure which caters for the needs of each individual child. The whole impetus for a multi-age high school came from the establishment of the Kimberley Park State School which opened as a multi-age school in January 1985 with an enrolment of 147 pupils. This enrolment has since grown to 835 pupils. The system does not guarantee equal outcomes. Rather, proponents of the system claim superior academic results for all children in accordance with their individual potential. The school's programs have gained State, interstate and international recognition.

The school's achievements in the public arena support the principles of the multi-age system. During the past two years, the school has received numerous awards, including environmental, music and sporting awards, as well as academic awards. The school has been extremely fortunate in having as its principal Paul Thompson, whose primary concern has always been to ensure that each child is treated as an individual and allowed to produce his or her best. He is well respected for his dedication and commitment to the education system. Although I appreciate the enormous financial demands placed on this Government and the significant inroads made by the former Education Minister, Mr Braddy, I give fair warning that the establishment of a high school at Victoria Point and a multi-age high school at Shailer Park are two projects close to my heart and ones that I will be pursuing with full vigour in the future.

The areas of Mount Cotton, Carbrook and Cornubia are of national significance. They include not only one of Queensland's most important wildlife habitats but also Australia's most concentrated koala population. Over the last 15 years, local environmental groups have sought the protection of a large area of bushland extending from the Daisy Hill State Forest to Venman's Bushland Reserve Environmental Park. In August of this year, the Goss Labor Government responded to that call with the announcement of the establishment of a 1 230 hectare koala bushland reserve. Those developments constitute the most important initiative in koala conservation since koalas were first declared a protected species. I should like to congratulate Dr Frank Carrick, members of the Koala Council and all other conservationist groups who worked so hard over many years to achieve this result. I should also like to particularly commend the previous Minister for the Environment, the Honourable Pat Comben, for the enormous amount of personal effort that he put into making this project become a reality.

The Liberal member for Clayfield, Mr Santoro, once said—

“Queensland needs someone who is not as fanatical as Pat Comben as Minister for Environment and Heritage.”

I know I speak for the vast majority of Redlands residents and the environmental groups throughout Queensland when I say how grateful we are that the Minister was fanatical and determined to preserve this area for future generations. I have no doubt our new Environment Minister, the Honourable Molly Robson, will be equally fanatical in her protection of our environment and heritage.

I should also like to pay tribute to and acknowledge the debt the community owes to the vision, foresight and generosity of one man who for 40 years has been fighting to preserve this area for posterity—Mr Jack Venman. In 1954, Jack Venman bought 250 acres of land at Mount Cotton for two pounds an acre. In the early sixties, Jack Venman approached a number of Government departments to see about preserving this block forever so future generations could see just what the country used to look like. Regrettably, they were not interested and referred him to the local shire council. In 1971, the land was sold to the Albert Shire Council as trustees for the sum of \$1 and the first meeting of the Venman Trust was held. In 1972, Jack's land was gazetted by the State Government as Venman Park Fauna Sanctuary and officially opened to the public the following year.

As one of the many thousands of people who have enjoyed a picnic in this peaceful and tranquil area, I am extremely thankful that Jack Venman has had the courage and tenacity to stand up to the bureaucrats and developers over the years in order to preserve the Venman Reserve for future generations. I recently had the pleasure of meeting Jack Venman, who is now 81 years of age. He is a grand old man whose love and knowledge of the bush is self-evident in every word he speaks. The declaration of the koala bushland reserve will do much to ensure that his dreams finally become a reality.

It is now appropriate that I acknowledge and speak of some of the things and people that have led me to this place. My first job after leaving school was as a station hand on a large sheep property outside Augathella. It was in many ways the hardest, most demanding period of my life, but one I look on with great affection for the valuable lessons it taught me. I learnt quickly the enormous day-to-day problems people on the land must cope with: the long hours, the heavy physical work, the complete isolation of life without the amenities the people in cities and towns take for granted. I also learnt the ability to stand up for myself and the things I believe in; qualities which will no doubt be very useful to me in this place.

But the most important lessons were those I learnt from the shearers who came out to the property. They were a tough, knockabout bunch of men, always willing to share a joke and a few yarns with a boy away from home on his first job. They taught me the importance of solidarity and the need for working men and women to band together to protect their common interests. They told me about the great shearers strikes and how the Labor Party was originally formed as the political arm of the trade union movement. I have always been grateful for my early introduction to the important role the trade union movement plays in the fight for economic justice. I carried the lessons I learned, through the period of my life when I was employed as a union official for the Australian Postal and Telecommunications Union and through my later association with the trade union movement.

I acknowledge now the gratitude I owe to the members of the Australian Workers Union executive, and in particular to Mr Bill Ludwig, State secretary, and Mr Barry Meiklejohn, State president, for their support and encouragement which has played a large part in my election to this place. They may rest assured I will use my time here to fight for the rights of all Queenslanders but, in particular, the disadvantaged, the deprived and the battlers—and I will not let them down.

I should like to make mention of another great influence on my career, the Federal member for Bowman, the Honourable Con Sciacca. Over the years, I have worked on many of Con's campaigns, and the one thing Con taught me above all else is that a candidate must lead from the front, which is exactly what Con always did. As the president of his Federal executive, I have no doubt that Con will be leading from the

front again in the coming Federal election, and I give fair warning to the Opposition parties: Bowman is Con Sciacca territory.

I should like to also thank my friend and mentor, the member for Capalaba, now Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development, the Honourable Jim Elder. Through all the ups and downs of political and personal life, Jim has always been much more than a friend to me. He has been a constant source of support. It is said that people change after their election to Parliament, but I can state quite categorically that after both his election, and later elevation to the Ministry, Jim is still the same Jim Elder, generous to share credit, staunchly loyal in support of his friends and with the same self-effacing sense of fun. He is truly deserving of the title Gentleman Jim, in every sense of the word.

I should like to thank my campaign director, Mr Ken Hughes, and his wife Kath, both party members of many years' standing. I mention Ken and Kath Hughes together because they are a team and, regardless of which one of them holds the position, both contribute equally to the work.

I must also express my gratitude to all the party members and supporters from both Redlands and my own branch, Vienna Woods, who worked so hard on my campaign. It is these rank-and-file members who are the very heart of the Australian Labor Party. They are not motivated by any self interest. Their efforts and energies are directed solely to keeping the Labor movement strong and ensuring that we who hold elected office continue to strive to reach our ultimate goals.

I should like to mention in particular Maurie Forrest and Topsy Chiverall. Maurie Forrest is a quiet, gentle, unassuming man who has spent a lifetime both in community service and as a political activist. A former Rat of Tobruk, who spent four years as a prisoner of war, Maurie has always been prepared to stand up and fight for what he believed was right, from the struggle for the eight-hour day to the re-election of the Goss Labor Government.

Topsy Chiverall is of the same mould. For as long as anyone can remember, Topsy has been running a cake stall at Wynnum to raise funds for Labor campaigns. Born at a time when equality for women was the dream of a few, Topsy has used her God-given talents in the ways she knows best. At 80 years of age, Topsy is still there every week raising funds, rain or shine. Topsy Chiverall and Maurie Forrest are an example to us all, because through the long hard years the Labor Party spent in Opposition, they never oncer lost hope and they never once gave up the fight. These are the people that I want to represent. They are the reason I sought election to this House.

I should like to acknowledge now the debt I owe to my family: to my brother Roger, who has always been a shining example to me of all that is decent and honest in a man; to my sister Rita, for her unbending sense of integrity which demands of us all that we give nothing less than our best; to my stepfather Claude Moore, for his warmth, generosity and unfailing good humour; and to my dearest friends Alex and Lesley Tocher, for their friendship, through both the best and the worst of times.

Last, but by no means least, to my mother Nina, who has always given me her unfailing love and support. I trust that by my actions as a member of Parliament, I will give her cause to feel as proud of me as I have always felt of her. I am proud to be her son.

Like many of my generation on this side of the House, I was first drawn to the Australian Labor Party by the charismatic, inspirational leadership of Edward Gough Whitlam. During his policy speech in 1969, Gough Whitlam said—

“We of the Labor Party have an enduring commitment to a view about society and it is this—

- opportunity for all citizens;
- the opportunity for a complete education;
- the opportunity for dignity in retirement;

the opportunity for proper medical attention;  
the opportunity to share in the nation's wealth and resources;  
the opportunity for decent housing; and  
the opportunity to preserve and promote the natural beauty of the land.

All of these can only be provided if Governments—the community itself, acting through its elected representatives—will provide them.”

That is also my commitment.

To the people of Redlands and to the Australian Labor Party—I thank you for the opportunity you have given me. And finally, to my wife, Joan, I say only this: everything I do is because of you.

**Mrs SHELDON** (Caloundra—Leader of the Liberal Party) (3.10 p.m.): As I rise to debate the Budget today, let me say at the outset that jobs and economic growth are going to be the main thrust of the coalition in this House. While we are in Opposition and when we are in Government in three years' time, we will devise policies that will lift the foot of Government off the neck of small business. We will clear away the red tape and over-regulation that is already threatening to choke off job opportunities in Queensland.

The Treasurer would be wise to note the recent comments of the chairman of Allgas Energy. Allgas was forced to deal with eight different State Government departments just to try to build an LPG terminal at the Ampol oil refinery at Lytton. To add insult to injury, the company says it was clear from the questions it was asked by the departments that they virtually had no understanding of the gas industry. Allgas has come to the conclusion that the review processes undertaken by the PSMC and others had forgotten one small detail—the needs of business and other customers of Government. The coalition will also be looking at reforming taxation and the industrial relations system to provide real incentives and reward for hard work. The coalition is committed to making Queensland the No. 1 State of Australia—a State that is world competitive and which will network into the enormous economic growth of the Asian “tiger” economies farther north. But, as shadow Treasurer, I will always put people first before economic dogma. We must also not forget that people do not have true freedom if they do not have economic freedom. That freedom should mean economic choice and opportunity—not an economy that is run in the interests of big unions, big bureaucracies and big business. That is the Labor way, and that is why this nation is in the deep economic trouble that it is in today.

**Mr Ardill:** Rubbish!

**Mrs SHELDON:** Just look at the mistakes that Labor has made in doing such a wonderful job down south! While nobody likes to knock Queensland and everyone prefers to point to the great strengths of this State, let us not kid ourselves that there is not a lot of economic pain out there in the community. In the latest Queensland pulse survey, a number of Queensland businesses were asked to describe the current business environment in Queensland. The rabble in the back benches on the Government side should listen to what I am about to say. The Treasurer will not like what he is going to hear. The business environment in Queensland was described by 53 per cent of respondents as “poor” and “very poor”. Only 18 per cent thought business conditions were “good” or “very good”. It is also significant that the survey found that 36 per cent of respondents anticipate that employment levels in Queensland will continue to decline over the next 12 months. This figure compares with 9 per cent who believe that the State's employment level will increase. Those survey results represent a massive vote of no confidence by the business community in the economic stewardship of the Treasurer and his State Labor Government.

**Mr Ardill:** Nonsense.

**Mrs SHELDON:** Those are their words. I forgot that the member for Archerfield is such an economic guru. An indication of the economic pain in the community was

illustrated in a letter I received from Tancred Brothers, one of Queensland's good businesses, pleading for assistance to support any measures possible to stop the closure of the Oxley meatworks. The management desperately wants to avoid the possibility of having to sack 175 people before Christmas.

**Mr Ardill:** They want to sell the land for residential development.

**Mrs SHELDON:** Members of the Labor Government will give those people a good Christmas. Another 25 jobs will disappear by the end of January 1993.

**Mr Ardill** interjected.

**Mrs SHELDON:** I ask the member for Archerfield: what happened to, "Jobs, jobs, jobs"? This will have a devastating effect on families in the Oxley, Inala and Durack areas. It is about time their members of Parliament considered them. It will also have an effect on the Department of Primary Industries personnel, both State and Commonwealth, currently employed at the meatworks. The employees of the meatworks are making a brilliant effort to try to stave off the closure and have raised pledges of nearly \$2m to try to stage an employee buy-out. My information is that this falls \$3m short of what their bankers are requiring. While in a broad sense Queensland is doing well, people are still hurting and families are under enormous pressure.

**A Government member:** They are under enormous pressure.

**Mrs SHELDON:** Obviously, members of the Government do not think they are under enormous pressure. I turn now to the Budget. It is somewhat of a farce to rise today to debate a Budget that was introduced into this Parliament as long ago as August. What was introduced into this House as the so-called Queensland Budget for 1992-93 was transformed overnight into an ALP economic manifesto, so the Government is having a second bite at the cherry. The deceit of this document—and it is deceitful—is clear. On page 7, the Treasurer states baldly in his Budget Speech—

"Once again there are no new taxes and no increase in charges, on average, above CPI."

One has to ask what he has been sniffing. On the very next day, the Premier announced a so-called jobs package that will raise an extra \$160m in tobacco tax. However, it seems that even more of that tobacco tax will go towards more bureaucracy. In last Saturday's *Courier-Mail*, a job paying \$88,000 a year was advertised seeking a senior bureaucrat to oversee the Government's so-called \$150m jobs program. It would seem that, again, more of our tax dollars are going into bigger and fatter bureaucracies.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs SHELDON:** Members of the Labor Government cannot help themselves. The style of deception that we are coming to expect from Labor Governments is endemic. It is significant that this Budget is in the mould of most Labor Budgets—big spending, big taxing. In three Budgets delivered by the State Labor Government, outlays have increased from \$7.8 billion to \$9.5 billion—an increase of more than 25 per cent. That has meant that Labor has had to find an extra \$1.7 billion in taxes to fund that huge increase in spending.

When one examines the Budget papers, one sees that it is not hard to see where the money is coming from. Land tax has risen from \$99m in 1989-90 to \$228m in 1990-91—a 68 per cent increase. We are told by the Treasurer that there will be no increases in State taxes and charges. Through a sleight of hand, land tax is made to look as though it is reducing to \$215m in this year's Budget but, when one reads the fine print, one finds that the Treasurer has cooked the books by reducing Commonwealth payments. Payroll tax—a tax on employment—has risen from \$726m in 1989-90 to \$817m in 1991-92. Regulatory fees will rise by \$63m in the next 12 months—a sign of the growing red tape and charges burden on business in Queensland. Although the coalition clearly welcomes the lifting of the threshold for the payment of payroll tax, the Government, in common with all Labor administrations, has dumped the real issue of tax reform. The fact is that payroll tax is a tax on employment, and there should be reform of

our tax system at State and Federal level. When Fightback comes in, there will be a reform.

**Mr Beattie** interjected.

**Mrs SHELDON:** The Labor Prime Minister, Mr Keating, called the Senate colleagues of Government members unrepresentative swill. That is what Mr Keating called the Labor senators last night—unrepresentative swill. What a great statesman Mr Keating really is!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Palaszczuk): Order! The House will come to order.

**Mr Santoro** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the member for Clayfield.

**Mrs SHELDON:** A number of significant developments since the State election tell us a lot about how Labor does business in Australia. Look at what is happening in Victoria. The credit rating of that once-proud State is being downgraded once again. The new Liberal Government is faced with an annual Budget that now has a \$3 billion deficit, saddled with an overall debt level of approximately \$60 billion. Yet, despite that horrendous financial situation, in its Budget just prior to the State election the outgoing Kirner Labor Government actually lowered taxes. What deceit! The people of Victoria are paying a heavy price for a decade of Labor. They face a tax on their homes, increased registration fees for their motor vehicles, higher tobacco taxes and an array of other taxes and charges to try to turn the debt situation around. We remember that that was Wayne Goss' role model. I quote the Premier. "What John Cain did for Victoria, I will do for Queensland" were the Premier's infamous words. We are seeing it happening. In a few more years, we will have the same mess that Labor brought to Victoria.

In Victoria, the situation is so bad that, in a recent column in the *Australian Financial Review*—which I am sure none of the Government members would read—Senator Peter Walsh, a former Federal Finance Minister, said that the situation could get so bad in Victoria that a bail-out by the Federal Government may have to happen. If that were the case, Queensland taxpayers would be dragged into the Victorian mess. Then we turn to Western Australia, where the full extent of Labor's wheeling and dealing has now begun to emerge. Hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars were lost on mad schemes promoted by Labor mates. Those Labor States all had one thing in common—big Government, big business and big unions all in the same bed, all involved in the most incestuous relationship possible.

In those States, Executive Government ruled supreme. The Parliament was treated with contempt and information was held back or highly manipulated for public consumption. A little like home, is it not? We on this side of the House hold a special responsibility, especially in the uniquely unicameral political system in Queensland, to ensure that this Labor Government does not run off the rails as it has done everywhere that it has been able to win power. We have already seen evidence that the Labor Government is seeking out the hollow logs to balance the books. The rot in Victoria started in the same way. The Labor Government in Queensland first raided the Auctioneers and Agents Fund and then the Nominal Defendants Fund. However, the Government's latest raid on another hollow log just ripe for the picking has brought it into conflict with one of Queensland's most successful companies—Metway Bank. That issue is deeply embarrassing everyone from the back bench to the highest levels of the Government. Not only is what the State Government doing quite morally wrong but also it has become a massive public relations disaster for the ALP. It has turned against the Government not only Metway's 15 000 shareholders but also its 500 000 customers.

The only person who says that it is right is the Treasurer. On that issue, I think that the Treasurer is in for a big fall. When the Government realises the political ramifications of what people are now calling the biggest bank robbery in Queensland's history, there will be a backdown that will leave the Treasurer looking more inept than usual. One only

has to look at the facts to see how the Treasurer has blundered. It is a fact that the Permanent Building Societies Contingency Fund is listed under the heading of "Trust and Special Funds". As most people would realise, when one holds trust funds, it is one's responsibility to act in the interests of those who put the money in trust. Clearly, the Metropolitan Permanent Building Society and Metway are of the same entity. That is clearly stated in Metway's banking licence, which states—

"The identity of the building society is not affected by its incorporation as a public company and the building society is therefore the same entity as the public company."

**Mr De Lacy:** Why don't they take legal action?

**Mrs SHELDON:** That is a quote. The Treasurer is hitting business around the head, asking it to spend more money on legal fees to try to beat off the Treasurer, who is grabbing their money. It is also interesting to read the Treasurer's second-reading speech—

**Mr T. B. Sullivan** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Chermside!

**Mrs SHELDON:** —to the Australian Financial Institutions Commission Bill on 5 December 1991. Mr De Lacy stated—

"The ongoing funding of AFIC will be provided by industry. While the ministerial council will approve AFIC's annual budget, AFIC will be obliged to consult with industry before setting its budget and industry levy and must include the results of these consultations in its submission to the ministerial council."

Clearly, there the Treasurer spelt out that the cost of AFIC would be carried by all the industry, not just a cash grab from Metway Bank, and that there would be a levy. This shows that the Treasurer misled Parliament and the people of Queensland. One really has to wonder at what he is up to here. At a time when this Government is allegedly trying to attract new investment to Queensland, it is locked into a dispute over \$20m that Metway has paid into a building society contingency fund. There are many in the business community who believe that this Labor Government has been waiting to get even with Metway.

**Mr De Lacy:** That bank has not paid a single dollar into that fund.

**Mrs SHELDON:** The Treasurer has been waiting to get even with Metway, and this has been his chance. As I said, there are many in the business community who believe that this Labor Government has been waiting to get even with Metway since it stood up to the Government over its decision to enter into a voluntary employment agreement with its staff. Although the Treasurer may not like to hear that, I can assure him that that is what is being said in the boardrooms of this State. The Australian Investors Association said about the Government's actions—

"The proposed action of the Queensland Government"—

**Mr De Lacy** interjected.

**Mrs SHELDON:** Obviously, the Treasurer thinks that the Australian Investors Association is an organisation to be sneered at. That association said—

"The proposed action of the Queensland Government in refunding contributions to other building societies but refusing to refund the amount to Metway Bank is completely without justification."

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Palaszczuk): Order! The members for Southport and Caboolture will cease their cross-Chamber conference.

**Mrs SHELDON:** The association said further—

"If the boot had been on the other foot and the amount at issue was a debt incurred by Metropolitan and Metway attempted to refrain from payment because the debt had been incurred by Metropolitan, the Government would have rightly

pointed out to them that as the business entity continued, Metway would have to pay the debt.

The Australian Investors Association Limited hopes that common sense will prevail and the Queensland Government will pay to Metway Bank Limited the amount due to it.

The present decision by the Government as well as being grossly unfair and unjustified would do little to help attract investment capital to Queensland and to Australia."

It is wonderful that the Treasurer is promoting this sort of scene in Queensland! The association said also—

"Hardheaded business people would have serious second thoughts about investing in a State where such unfair and discriminatory practices occur."

They are damning words and the Treasurer should heed them. There are 15 000 shareholders in Metway and they have been ripped off to the tune of \$1,533 each.

Nor has the Government's efforts in trying to justify its actions impressed the business press in this State. Under the headline "Metway decision reflects cynicism in government", the publisher and editor of *Business Queensland*, Donald Keough, states that it is more than just coincidental that the way in which the building society contingency funds are to be distributed means that the Government-owned Suncorp Building Society—and now we get to the hub of the matter—will receive almost \$25m. That will extend Suncorp's lending capabilities by an estimated \$200m, giving Suncorp a competitive edge in its market battle with Metway. In the last financial year, Suncorp paid a dividend, or profit, to the Government of \$20m, up \$5m from the year before. With a greater lending capacity, that could go even higher next year.

**Mr De Lacy** interjected.

**Mrs SHELDON:** Keough concludes—I suggest that the Treasurer listens to this—

"The Government has so much conflict of interest, both real and perceived, involved in the fund decision that it would be difficult for any reasonable person to conclude the Government acted fairly and impartially. It has seized \$20 million which the shareholders of Metway Bank have every reason to believe is theirs."

The influential *Australian Financial Review* is even more damning. Its Chanticleer columnist stated in his column yesterday—

**Mr De Lacy:** Austin Donnelly.

**Mrs SHELDON:** I quoted Mr Keough, actually, not Austin Donnelly. That column stated—

"The Queensland Government's decision to expropriate \$23 million in funds from the shareholders of Metway Bank Ltd has shown that the tropical tendency for fishy deals"—

and the Treasurer would know all about this—

"is still alive and well.

Metway's shareholders are being punished twice over the organisation being well managed and highly profitable.

The apparent rationale behind this is that Metway doesn't need the money but most of the building societies in Queensland need the funds to top their low levels of equity capital.

So there you have it, the rules of doing business in Queensland are"—

and Government members at the back of the Chamber should listen carefully to this—

"be successful and a market leader and you will be taxed; be a laggard and you will be rewarded."

That is ALP policy, is it not? I cannot think of a more succinct description of the ALP's political philosophy. There is little doubt that, unless the Government backs down and returns the Metway funds that belong to its 15 000 shareholders, this will go down as Queensland's biggest bank robbery.

In the last 12 months, there has been talk of Queensland becoming the California of Australia. There are certainly attractive elements in this trend when one considers that California has the fifth-largest economy in the world and, just like Queensland today, many Americans migrated to California, a place they saw as offering both economic opportunities and a pleasant climate in which to raise their families. But the dream has turned sour and that could happen in Queensland if this Government continues its negligent attitude to economic growth. In California, the population is growing at a rate of 600 000 a year, which means that it needs to generate 250 000 extra jobs every year. Child poverty rates have also grown by some 500 000 extra children in the past 20 years. To meet the enormous growth in demand for education, California needs to build 22 classrooms every day for the next five years, but has already run out of money. There is an increasing crime problem in California, as the world witnessed in the Los Angeles riots earlier this year, and over-regulation that has led to an absurd level of litigation which is scaring off business.

**Mr De Lacy** interjected.

**Mrs SHELDON:** It is a replica of what the Government is doing here. The Treasurer should just listen. It takes 75 permits, most of them environmental, to start a company in California. Similar warnings have been sounded in Queensland. In a report to the Government last year, a regional planning advisory group stated—

“South-east Queensland has been exceptionally good at creating jobs to match its population growth so that unemployment has been historically low. However, there is no certainty that this will continue.

Employment and population projections for the region indicate that a widening gap could develop between the total number of people employed in the region and the available workforce.

On these projections, a further 493,000 jobs may be required by the year 2011. This equates to approximately 438,000 equivalent full-time jobs.

In the period from 1991 to 2001 some 230,000 additional jobs may be needed without addressing the present 10.6% unemployment”—

so acceptable to the Treasurer—

“in the region.

A large scale Queensland University study of business expectations in 1990 indicated only 48,000 additional jobs may be created”——

Time expired.

**Mr NUTTALL** (Sandgate) (3.30 p.m.): MrPalaszczuk, to begin, may I congratulate you on your election to the position of Chairman of Committees. I ask that you also pass on my congratulations to Mr Speaker on his election to that position. I know that you will both continue to provide the guidance necessary to keep debate in this Chamber at a high and professional level.

As the member for Sandgate, I pledge my loyalty to the people of Queensland and especially to the electors of Sandgate. I place on record my sincere appreciation to the electors of Sandgate. In particular, I thank my campaign team, capably led by Alderman Denise Herbert, my campaign director. I rise to speak in this Chamber as a very proud man, but somewhat humbled by the feats of my predecessor, Mr Nev Warburton. On a more personal level, I publicly thank my family and friends, who provided such tremendous physical and moral support during my campaign. One of the most important things one can learn to rely on is the way in which friends and family always seem to bond together to help out in a crisis. I am not saying that the election ever reached crisis

point, but when you are stepping into the very large shoes of a man such as Nev Warburton, it seems crisis bound.

Of course, in anybody's language Nev Warburton is a very hard act to follow. For the past 15 years, he was the member for Sandgate. For three and a half years, he was Leader of the Labor Party in Queensland. He was a senior Minister in the first Labor Government to be elected for 32 years. Nev and his lovely wife, Fran, have contributed greatly to the progress of the Sandgate area in every possible way. Fran has always been a tireless worker in the community, helping the sick and socially disadvantaged wherever she can. To Nev and Fran—thank you for all that you have done for me personally and for the people of my electorate. My sincere thanks also to the branch members and the campaign team, who all put so much effort into keeping Sandgate in safe Labor hands.

I wish to emphasise my background and the role that I see myself playing as a member of the Goss Labor Government. Many of the big wins for the Sandgate electorate contained in this year's Budget represent the culmination of years of lobbying by Nev Warburton. One of the most welcome initiatives is the announcement of a new \$3m, 24-hour police station. The people of Bracken Ridge have been especially vocal with their concerns about law and order in the area. I am confident that this new station will proceed a long way towards meeting that problem. The design and documentation of the Sandgate Police Station is almost complete and construction is due to commence early next month. The 24-hour station, which is to be located on Brighton Road, will be staffed by 23 uniformed police officers, four detectives and two Juvenile Aid Bureau officers. This boost for local law and order has been made possible because of this Government's commitment to improving the staffing levels of the Queensland Police Service. A record \$452m has been allocated to the Police Service in the 1992-93 Budget. That figure represents a recurrent increase of more than 9 per cent on last year's allocation. As well, a massive \$26.1m was allocated for a capital works program for new and replacement police stations and watchhouses, and \$40 million was allocated to employ an additional 400 operational police officers. I also applaud the change in funding calculations. Under the new funding formula, funds for police will be based on population growth, which will guarantee funding to the Police Service every year.

I am keen to acknowledge the very successful Neighbourhood Watch campaign in the bayside suburbs. I am not sure whether the campaign is unique to that region, but I do know that, over the last 12 months, Neighbourhood Watch has certainly left a mark. I presume that one of the reasons for its success is the high number of active retired residents at home during the day who take their role as neighbourhood watchdogs extremely seriously. They are to be applauded for their efforts in keeping the bayside suburbs on the right side of the crime statistics.

Another very welcome announcement for the residents of Sandgate and Bracken Ridge is the new work on the Deagon Deviation. The completion of the duplication of the Gateway Arterial/Sandgate Road to the Deagon Deviation is expected to be opened to traffic in early December and completed by the middle of December, three months ahead of schedule. The cost of that project is \$11.3m. The pedestrian underpass at Depot Road is to be reinstated and is to be completed by February next year. The Gateway Arterial/Bicentennial Road interchange is also due for completion in February next year at a cost of \$6m. In mid-1993, work is due to commence on the planning and design of the duplication of the Deagon Deviation/Gateway Arterial from Depot Road to Bracken Ridge Road.

A local issue which has been of particular concern is an illegal pedestrian crossing over the Deagon Deviation/Gateway Arterial at Barrett Street. In an immediate effort to overcome this dangerous situation, I am very pleased to say that Queensland Transport is to construct a "security" fence at the end of Barrett Street to try to discourage children from crossing the highway. I particularly welcome this initiative, because the safety of students is obviously of paramount importance. I am sure that this move will be particularly welcomed by the parents of students at the Sandgate State High School.

The Brisbane City Council has also been approached to build an adjacent section of fencing on the northern boundary of Barrett Street to further deter this movement. In the long term, pedestrian access across the Deagon Deviation will be considered as part of a proposal to upgrade the road to eight lanes between Depot and Bracken Ridge Roads in the next financial year.

I am sure that the Sandgate bus/rail interchange redevelopment will also be welcomed by the residents of my electorate. The redevelopment is progressing well and agreement on a layout is being negotiated between the Brisbane City Council, the Sandgate Chamber of Commerce and the State and Federal Governments. An architectural consultant is to be engaged to prepare sketch plans of the proposals. A submission may need to be made to the Commonwealth Government for the approval of additional Australian Land Transport Development funds to cover the property acquisition. Community consultation will commence on receipt of appropriate sketches. I know that the residents of Sandgate and Bracken Ridge will become involved in this great project.

One of the joys of being a member in his first term is the opportunity to be able to focus on local issues, which will continue to be one of my major motivations throughout the years. One of the promises that I have made to my constituents in the Sandgate/Bracken Ridge area is to maintain the fabulous quality of life that they currently enjoy. I am sure that I have the support of not only the local community but also the local chamber of commerce for that goal. I look forward to continuing to push that aim in the years to come.

In the recent past, the residents of the Sandgate electorate have had to cope with having a Minister of the Crown as their local representative. That is not meant to be a negative statement or a criticism. Indeed, many of the big wins contained in this year's State Budget came as a direct result of Nev Warburton's high profile and hard work. However, I must admit that I am looking forward to being able to spend a great deal of time in my electorate and meeting with community groups to ensure that their views are noted and, where possible, acted upon. That might seem a little bit boring to some honourable members who have graced this Chamber for more than a decade or so, but I make no apologies for aiming to listen to and be at the grassroots level of my electorate. I also hope to be able to provide my constituents with an open door policy. I sincerely hope that when any constituent has a problem, whether that problem is professional or personal, that he or she will come to me to seek advice. I also aim to be able to voice local concerns within this Chamber and to provide information to lobby groups within my constituency.

I have a very strong commitment to the trade union movement, having worked for the Electrical Trades Union as a State organiser and for the Trade Union Training Authority as a training officer. I take this opportunity to thank publicly the Electrical Trades Union for all the encouragement and support that I received during the election. It is a great feeling to have that trade union movement background, which I believe makes it so much easier for people—especially the people on this side of the Chamber—to relate to the average working class people. Having been brought up on a staple diet of trade unions and Labor Party principles, I am unashamedly here to represent what I like to think are the grassroots people of my electorate. By that, I mean the sick and the elderly, who live in the Freemasons Home or at Eventide, the young married couples who have settled into the fast-growing suburbs of Bracken Ridge and Taigum, or the middle-aged couples struggling to make ends meet. It is such a diverse electorate that I see myself being extremely busy coping with the many day-to-day problems that face all my constituents.

Previously, I made reference to some of the homes for the aged and the ill that abound in the electorate of Sandgate. It is by no means a reflection on any person within a nursing home, but it is a sad fact that many should not and would not be there if we had a better support system for our seniors. One of the truly worthwhile policies of this Government is the Home and Community Care policy that will provide concrete

support for families wishing to care for older family members themselves. I believe that Government has a definite obligation to protect the family unit at all stages and to not force families to throw their older members into institutions simply because they do not have the resources to care for them.

Another project that is near and dear to my heart is the proposed home security improvement program, which will include the suburbs of Brighton and Sandgate in the pilot scheme. During the election campaign, the vulnerability of some of the older people in our community was really sheeted home to me. I must admit that for me it was a sad sight to see people too afraid to answer the doorbell or to venture out on their own. The home security improvement program will not eliminate those fears, but it will provide support to many through the supply and installation of locks, repairs to broken windows and other safety related measures. That may not be the answer to old people's prayers, but at least the Goss Labor Government will be able to monitor the progress of the pilot schemes and evaluate their value to the community.

I do not wish to convey the impression that the Sandgate electorate is made up of only sick or elderly people, either living in nursing homes or barricaded in the isolation of their homes, because a very substantial slice of the electorate is made up of working parents with preschool and school-age children needing child care. I believe that it is quite significant that the Budget allocation for child care has increased from \$825,000 in 1989-90 to \$12.3m in 1992-93. That allocation will continue to rise. Providing funds for extra child care places is only half the battle. The other half of the battle is providing quality care, that is, ensuring child care centres are licensed, and maintained to an adequate standard. It is pleasing to note that the Goss Government has made child care a priority and has embarked on a realistic long-term plan for Queensland that will see over the next four years another 8 900 new places. As an old union man, I am especially heartened to see the establishment for workers in the industry of a separate award, the State Child Care Industry Award, which came into force during September last year.

One of my constituents handed me a little piece of memorabilia from the 1940 council elections, during which there appeared to be an almighty bunfight over the construction of a wading pool and the subsequent neglect of roadworks. Allow me to quote a verse from a poem which was published as a local resident's contribution to the debate—

“And then - you've noted too, perchance,  
The shell-torn roads in far-off France  
Why go to France? We have them here,  
In the rock road to Sandgate pier!”

We have certainly come a long way since the rocky road to the Sandgate pier. In excess of \$27m worth of roadworks are either close to completion, under construction, or are on the drawing board. The Sandgate electorate, as with the rest of Queensland, has already benefited from this Labor Government in many ways. I look forward to being part of that ongoing enhancement of my electorate and my State, and I look forward to being a member of this Government for the next term, and beyond.

**Mr GRICE** (Broadwater) (3.47 p.m.): Mr Palaszczuk, I add my congratulations to you on attaining the position of Chairman of Committees. I also request you to convey my congratulations to the Speaker.

On Tuesday, when I was sworn in as a member of this Parliament, I took the oath of allegiance. Today, in this my maiden speech in the Parliament, I reaffirm my loyalty to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, as Queen of this nation and of this State. I also reaffirm my allegiance to the noble traditions of parliamentary democracy which we have inherited from a long line of British Parliaments. In Australia we have refined and adapted those traditions, but we should never lose sight of their basic tenets. Four hundred years ago today, Guy Fawkes walked into Parliament with dynamite. I do not come with explosives, but I come with energy, ideas and ideals. I come with a determination to serve the citizens of Broadwater. In essence, the citizens must be supreme.

We are here for only one reason, that is, to represent in the best way that we can the citizens who have sent us here as their representatives—not just the citizens who voted for us, but every citizen in our particular electorates, regardless of race, creed or political affiliation. We are here to listen to what they want from the Executive Government, to listen to what they want our laws to say, and then to act according to our conscience in this House. We all belong to political parties that have adopted manifestos which they believe are in the interests of the majority. That is fine. That is the way that politics has evolved. But none of us can afford to forget that it is ordinary citizens who have sent us here—citizens who might never join a political party. I am proud to be a member of the National Party of Australia, but I give this promise to the people of Broadwater: I will represent them in this place as a member of the National Party, but above all else I will represent them as their delegate to the supreme law-making body in this State. I will represent what I see as their collective best interest.

The parliamentary tradition that we have inherited calls on all of us to be suspicious of the Executive. I promise to be suspicious. It calls on all of us to question and to probe. I promise to do that, no matter what party holds Executive office while I am a member of this Parliament. Don Chipp put it another way when he said that his fledgling party would “keep the bastards honest”. The citizens of Broadwater have sent me here to keep the bastards honest, and I will do that as far as the rules of this place allow me.

When my election was confirmed, a friend gave me some advice that was originally given to the late member for South Coast, Russ Hinze, when he first entered Parliament. The giver of the advice was that old-time Labor stalwart Johnno Mann. The memory of both those giants of Queensland politics has been sullied by lesser men, but I believe that the advice stands the test of time. The Labor man told the new Country Party member that Parliament was the best club of all, because every member is as good as every other member when he gets here. He said the highest—and I suppose that he meant the Premier—is only as good as the lowest—I presume a new member such as me. That is because they all come here as representatives of the people, and they all come to do their best. They all speak with the same authority—that of the people who have sent them.

I represent about 22 000 adult citizens of the Gold Coast, along with their non-voting dependants. Those citizens live in a part of the coast that EARC has chosen to call Broadwater. It is at the northern end of that great tourist mecca, and a little away from the centre of commercial activity. It is a predominantly residential area, but there is significant commercial activity. I am confident that commercial activity will take a quantum leap when the state of the general economy allows the completion of the giant Harbour Town development in my electorate. The average age of my constituents is probably a little above that of constituents in most electorates, because the amenity of Broadwater is attractive to those Queenslanders and some other Australians who are able to enjoy the fruits of retirement. The Broadwater and the nearby Jumpinpin area provide some of the best boating and fishing in Australia. Nature provides the ingredients for a relaxed lifestyle for those who have spent many productive years building this nation and State. At the same time, there is a great environment for bringing up the children who will work for this nation's future.

I have lived in the Broadwater electorate for more than four years, and I intend to go on living there. As a resident, there are things that I know need to be done to maintain the quality of life. Those things were borne out very strongly as I moved around talking to people in the past few years. At the top of the list of worries is the genuine fear that people have in their own homes. Doorknocking during the election campaign made me realise just how many family homes have been turned into fortresses, with locks, steel grilles and the rest. It is a fact that four out of 10 people have modified their lifestyle because they were afraid that they would become victims of crime. That is a frightening statistic. Those people do not live in Kings Cross, and they do not live in St Kilda; they live in middle-class, residential suburbs near the heart of the most important tourist city in Australia. They want and need a 24-hour police station at Runaway Bay, and they want to see more police driving around the streets.

As I said earlier, there is great fishing around my electorate, but that most popular of recreations is also under threat. The professionals must not be allowed to ruin the recreational fishing. I would love to see a ban on net fishing from the head of the Nerang River to somewhere north of Tippler's resort on South Stradbroke Island. The exact line should be left to the experts, but we cannot allow the appeal of the Broadwater for fishermen to be eroded. Visitors to my part of the coast cannot miss the huge growth in the number of people with boats moored in the area. Those moorings will only get busier and busier, and a solution will have to be found soon to the problem of disposing of waste from all those boats. The particular problem of sewerage pump-outs is one that we should treat urgently, for though there is no detectable pollution problem at the moment, we must prepare for the population explosion that continues in that area.

My many years as a professional race driver in Australia, Europe, Great Britain, the Americas and Japan have taught me a few things. The most important was teamwork. A race car driver is seen as a successful achiever, or an unsuccessful competitor. His is a singular face on television involved in a battle with other drivers. When he wins, there is one man with the laurel garland and trophy. In the same way, a politician is seen as a winner or a loser—a single face on the election posters; a single face in the newspaper or on television commenting on some issue. I know that neither of those images is true. In racing, if the lowest person on a team's pecking order fails to tighten a wheel nut properly, the car is not just off the road but it is probably up a tree, as well—with me in it. Every member of the team is vital. And so it is in politics.

I am here as a member of the National Party team in this House, and I know that I am part of a great team. I also know that my team is part of an even bigger one. I take enormous pride in standing here today as a member of the coalition between the National and Liberal Parties. It is a coalition that I have hoped for—one that I thought was essential, long before I decided to stand for election to this Parliament. It has never made any sense to me that parties with basically similar ideals could not stand shoulder to shoulder against the things that Labor had planned for Queensland. I have made no secret of my view that coalition was essential. I now welcome the chance to work with like-minded people for the defeat of a Government which can lead this State only to doom. I am talking about economic doom at the hands of a Premier who stood before business only a few short years ago and promised to follow the John Cain path. We all know where that twisted path led—straight to economic oblivion at the hands of punters with pockets full of taxpayers' cash. But we are already seeing the first tottering steps down that path in Queensland. We all await the result of a \$13m public money punt on Compass, which is still to fly into Coolangatta. We are seeing the public purse bleed as buckets of our money are tossed into an Indy car company snatched from private enterprise and running on secret deals that no real business could ever contemplate. We are already seeing the QIDC operating as a profit-hungry and predatory lender—instead of the incentive lender for small business it was set up to be.

Many thousands of people have moved to Queensland to escape voodoo economics—but they have found a Treasury with enough rattles and feathers to make even Papa Doc or John Cain happy. There is doom on the way through overspending as well. Most public servants have tales to tell about how their department or agency has been broke for a month, or three months, or six months. They all have tales about how Q-Cabs, the Government contractor, has not been paid for months, or about how police cars are kept way beyond the mileage at which they used to be sold. They talk about one department paying another's wages bill. They talk about departments facing even more redundancies to make the Budget stretch a bit further. They also talk about why. They talk about the absolute decimation of upper and middle management—just to make way for a flood of Labor's mates who felt the need to jump ship in Victoria and Canberra. They talk about spending to buy off the interest groups while the real business of government waits. They talk about the endless succession of consultants waltzing through the doors to undertake yet more studies or to produce yet more position papers to get Cabinet out of making decisions. They talk about the millions of dollars spent tarding up the Executive Building to make it more suitable for a new group

of devotees of wood panelling and fine champagne. I hope and pray for divine intervention that may allow this Government to change direction—to permit something of this fine State to be left when the coalition comes to Government in 980 days.

I was born in Maitland, and did an apprenticeship as a pastry cook. I ended up owning my own business, and I have never forgotten the struggle and the sense of achievement that small business brings with it. I have had a 20-year career as a professional race car driver. That career has meant living in Sydney, Melbourne, England, the USA, and Japan. I live in Queensland by choice, having moved here several years ago because of the strength of the local economy and the commitment to a vigorous private enterprise philosophy that existed at that time. We all know the obstacles and tangles of red tape that this Labor Government has put in the way of people seeking to invest in our future. Very little, it seems, can move forward in a Queensland run by academics and social planners. I have to admit, however, that a couple of industries are going through a vigorous growth period—those relying on the exploitation of human frailty. I am talking about gambling, with the Government determined to boost the take from poker machines, and particularly the TAB. I am also talking about prostitution—the business it is too easy to forget was the catalyst for the reform industry in Queensland. Far from being damaged by Fitzgerald, prostitution is flourishing like never before—and it is set for a real explosion, moving to a house near you. The Premier has determined that prostitution—both male and female—should be a cottage industry in the hands of independent businesspersons. Was that why he legalised homosexuality? Which particular cottages does he have in mind for those of that persuasion? I wonder what message I am now to convey from this place to the people of the quiet residential streets of Labrador, Runaway Bay and Paradise Point? Perhaps it is that this Labor Government wishes them to know that the cottage industry of prostitution—of both brands—is set to flourish in their midst, perhaps even with small business start-up grants from the QIDC? None of us should be surprised that the Government wants this degrading industry moved into our suburbs.

The pornographers got the green light as soon as Labor came to power, and we have seen the result with Madonna's young fans lining up to learn all about sexual liberation—porno-style. At about the same time, we had a good example of how Labor's Canberra connection has dropped the ball with regulating the television industry. Many people tuned off Channel 9 at 8.30 when after-dinner viewing featured teams of nubile young things playing beach ball topless. There was worse to come on SBS the same night when we were treated to a close-up demonstration of the techniques of homosexual love. The same Labor philosophy was behind the relaxed liquor laws which said it was okay to drink in the streets. The outcry over that came to little—with the Government now getting ready to put it on local councils to say "yea" or "nay" on that one. Pornography, prostitution, gambling, and drunks in the streets are all part of Labor's gift to our families. The people of Broadwater do not want the gift, and I do not want it.

I am a family man. My wife, Chris, and I have three children, and they are a large part of the reason I am here today. I want to do something about the sort of world that my kids will inherit. I admit to having been the typically apathetic Australian. We sit around the dinner table and complain about what the Government has done to us—or is doing to us, or will do to us. We thump the table about this depression that Labor has foisted on us. Then we have another coffee and go to bed. In the morning, we go to work and do nothing about it. Well, that is over for me. I decided last year that I would put my hand up and see whether there was something I could do about it. Happily, the people of Broadwater decided that I had something to offer. At this point, I would like to quote just a couple of words by Sir Robert Menzies. Of course, Menzies was one of the greatest Australians—a statesman of great stature, whose words have stood the test of time. He once said about the family—

"What is the value of middle class? First, it has a stake in the country. It has a responsibility for homes—homes material—homes human—and homes spiritual.

I do not believe that the real life of this nation is to be found either in great luxury hotels and the petty gossip of so-called fashionable suburbs, or in the officialdom of organised masses.

It is to be found in the homes of people who are nameless and un-advertised, and who, whatever their individual religious convictions or dogma, see their children as their greatest contribution to the immortality of their race.

The home is the foundation of sanity and sobriety; it is the indispensable condition of continuity; its health determines the health of society as a whole."

As he usually did, Menzies got it right. The middle class is the backbone of our nation. It is this group, which goes off to work each day, works hard, builds a home and tries to take care of itself, that is the basis of our society. It is this group which raises children and tries to instil the ethics of honest work and decency which will make our society strong again—if we let it.

Of course, the odds are stacked against it right now. We have a depression which takes away hundreds of jobs each week, and makes people dependent on Governments to survive. We have Governments leading the way in knocking down the old, but worthwhile, values. We have a generation of youngsters who have never had the chance of a proper job. It is our job to stop that rot. We must once again provide jobs for all. We must once again insist on decent standards from our publishers and our telecasters. We must give our citizens protection in their own homes. We must safeguard the good that is left in our cities and suburbs.

In closing, I would like to thank all of those campaign workers who helped me gain office, and who continue to offer their assistance today. I would like to thank my mother, Gladys, who is 87 and with us today. My father died when I was eight, and it was she who instilled in me during those vital early years the simple values of right and wrong. Finally, I thank my wife Chris, daughters Sally and Lucinda and my son Benjamin, who have remained in constant support. Chris has organised our family homes and the kids' schools all round the world as the wife of a professional sportsman—not a simple lot—and she has done it with ease. I like her as much as I love her.

Mr Speaker, in 980 days the people of Broadwater will judge me on the work I have done. They will judge the members of this Labor Government on the work they have not done. I would rather be in my shoes than theirs.

**Mr BARTON** (Waterford) (4.03 p.m.): I am very pleased to make my first speech as a member of Parliament in support of the Budget. This Budget is good for Queensland and good for my electorate of Waterford. The issues which are important to all Queenslanders, addressed in this Budget, are equally important to the electors of Waterford. Those issues relate to the creation of jobs, the management of growth and the provision of services. This is a Budget that looks after the interests of people, particularly those people that I consider to be the backbone of Australia, the ordinary working class people who go to work every day.

The electorate of Waterford forms part of the fastest growing region in Australia. This spectacular growth brings great opportunities, but also some problems. The electorate has a large percentage of low income earners and a significant number of single parent families. Unemployment levels are far too high to be acceptable. The availability of affordable land in abundance is giving the area its rapid growth, but it does bring a number of ongoing problems. The rapid growth means that the provision of services is scrambling to catch up and, certainly, it is difficult in those areas. Those services include: schools, health care, family services and transport. In an area such as Waterford, where there is a high proportion of low wage earners, young families and the single parent families, these services are even more important. Those people require assistance. A great deal has been done already by this Labor Government over the past three years. Stage 2 of the Logan Hospital will soon be opened and Stage 3 is already on the drawing board; expenditure on schools has been increased significantly; planning for new schools and the purchase of strategic land for even further new schools is

under way; and the Logan College of TAFE has seen an ever increasing expansion as it moves to meet the training needs of people in that region. Family services have been improved, as have transport services, particularly the rail system and its continued upgrading as part of the Brisbane—Gold Coast rail link.

This Budget, and the financial measures associated with the tobacco tax announced during the election campaign, will greatly improve those services. Notwithstanding this, a lot more remains to be done. Low income families are struggling to make ends meet. The rapid growth means that as fast as improvements are made to those services to meet the existing need, the demand becomes greater again, requiring even more resources. On the subject of transport, the Waterford electorate has many road systems that may have been adequate when the area was totally rural, but those roads and bridges are now carrying very high traffic flows, and many require upgrading or replacement. One would wonder what the previous National and Liberal Party Governments were doing, because it does seem to me that complaints about those problems have only raised their heads in the past three years. But there are other problems associated with transport. Some people who purchased acreage on quiet country roads now find that they are faced with the prospect of a four lane major roadway at their front door. Naturally, they are not too happy about that, but that is the price of progress. The Gold Coast freeway, which bisects the electorate, is carrying ever increasing traffic flows. The communities on either side of the freeway are still growing rapidly, and there is an urgent need for more overpasses and improved service roads. The alternative is to see the freeway choked up even more, as even more people who are making short journeys are forced to use it. This Budget improves greatly the position on all these issues throughout Queensland, and provides resources which will greatly improve conditions in Waterford. This Budget demonstrates the Goss Government's continuing strong commitment to achieving growth, and its capacity to manage that growth in the interests of Queenslanders. It deserves the support of this Parliament.

This Budget will result in a further improvement in Queensland's business position. Queensland is leading Australia out of the recession. This Budget will encourage more business investment. It will also encourage businesses to increase employment. It lowers further State Government taxes and charges which are already the nation's lowest. By increasing business investment, jobs will be created, living standards can be improved, and community facilities and resources will be improved. The Goss Government is also committed to tripartite business planning. During the last three years, bodies such as the Council for the Economic Development of Queensland and the Export Development Advisory Council and numerous others saw Government, business and the trade union movement cooperate positively and effectively on industry and business development. Improvements were achieved by a process of consultation and cooperation. This Budget provides further support for that process, and will ensure that our State economy grows even faster over the next 12 months in the interests of all Queenslanders.

As a trade union leader, I developed good relationships with business in this State. I was privileged to participate in a great deal of direct business involvement as diverse as financial investments of billions of dollars, the management of large superannuation funds, the management of an international hotel, an aged and disabled persons' hostel, and a consulting business which has given me a great deal of knowledge about business needs, problems and strengths. I intend to use this knowledge as a member of Parliament to the advantage of all Queenslanders. During the past year in the Waterford electorate, I have developed positive relationships with many local business leaders, some of whom are State, national, and international leaders in their fields. I am also very happy to have an electorate with sugar industry involvement, particularly one that is innovative and value adding. I grew up in a sugar-growing area of Queensland and I worked directly in the sugar industry for many years. For virtually the whole of my working life, I have had some relationship with the sugar industry.

The high growth in the south-east corner generally, and Waterford in particular, is very positive for business. It is a rapidly growing market. Business certainly must compete for market share, but there are very few parts of Australia growing as rapidly as this part of Queensland is and increasing the available market as it is. The Beenleigh Chamber of Commerce and local businesses understand this and are playing a very positive role. I will be working very hard to ensure that local business prospers and creates more job opportunities. This Budget will help all of those businesses in that electorate.

The first speech made by me would not be complete without some reference to industrial relations, my involvement in that area having been a very direct one for something like 22 years. This State now has the best industrial relations environment in Australia. Government, business and the trade union movement are working constructively together to achieve growth in Queensland and to improve living standards. Queensland has a responsible and widely respected trade union movement. As leader of that movement in recent years up until my election to Parliament, I like to think that I played some small role in achieving that level of responsibility and respect, and, importantly, the very low level of disputes. The growth being achieved in Queensland and the outcomes predicted in this Budget would not be possible without the constructive industrial relations climate which we have currently. It is now accepted universally that much more emphasis must be placed on enterprise outcomes as opposed to the centralised determination of wages and conditions. I strongly support that change, but in the context of appropriate minimum standards for workers being protected so that employees, through their unions, will have the opportunity to bargain fairly and equally with their employer. Employees in this State have a right to a job which is secure, a job where their safety at work is protected, a job which provides them and their family with a decent standard of living, and—possibly more importantly—a job which provides them with satisfaction while they are at work. As a member of Parliament, I will be making my first priority the achievement and maintenance of those reasonable aspirations of working people.

Members of the Goss Government took very positive steps in creating and maintaining employment during their first term. They had a great deal to overcome because of the climate that existed at the time, but they achieved their goals well. I am confident that this term will see even more cooperation and progress between the Goss Government, this State's great trade union movement, and thinking and caring employers, who are the majority of employers in this State. This Budget sets the scene for making those reasonable ambitions attainable.

Before leaving the subject of industrial relations, I believe that some comment is necessary about the State's Industrial Relations Commission—a body that the Liberal and National Parties are committed to destroying as part of the Fightback package. Those parties are very open about their intention to destroy this State's industrial relations tribunal, as well as the national one. It is my strong view that there will continue to be a need for a strong, independent Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. There is a need to maintain State awards at reasonable standards to protect those employees who, for whatever reason, are not in a bargaining position. The commission also has a crucial role in ensuring that agreements reached at an enterprise level are fair and equitable—contrary to the National Party system of VEAs, when the Industrial Relations Commission supplied the filing cabinet in which the agreements were kept. The Queensland Industrial Relations Commission deserves, and will maintain, my very strong support.

Sadly, in recent days, the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission lost one of its most respected and memorable retired members with the death of George Pont on the weekend. George Pont was one of those giants of men, in every way, who will never be forgotten by anyone who had the privilege of working in conjunction with him. At different times in his career, he was a union official, miner, shearer, canecutter and footballer, who rose to become the State's chief Industrial Commissioner. He never lost his values of fairness and equity. He was a good friend and a man whom all of the

industrial relations community will miss, but never forget, and from whose values each and every one of us in this place could learn a great deal.

The institution of Parliament is very important. The Chamber in which we sit is a splendid example of mixed values—the old and traditional on the one hand, and the new, effective technology on the other. Similarly, our responsibilities as members of Parliament are a necessary mixture of our broad responsibilities to all of Queensland and our direct responsibilities to our own electorates. Those values do not always mix perfectly, but they can be mixed effectively with hard work and, more importantly, goodwill. I am sure that all members of Parliament, from whatever party, genuinely believe that they are taking action in the best interests of their electorates and all Queenslanders. It is my hope that we will all be able to apply our different views in the Parliament in a way that enhances the respect in which the Parliament is held within the community. There are, of course, some issues on which we will never agree. However, it is my intention to work towards ensuring that we do not have division for division's sake. I will seek consultation and cooperation. That is my history in the broader community but, if anybody wants confrontation, I am more than up to that, too.

I am proud and privileged to be elected as a member of this Parliament. I place on record my sincere thanks to all of those people who convinced me to run for Parliament, those who contributed financially to the campaign, and particularly the very many people who worked very hard over the past 12 months to achieve our very solid majority in Waterford. It would take another speech to name and thank them all. I will not attempt to do that. However, it was their victory even more than mine, and I thank them. I am sad that my parents are not alive to see this day, as I know how important this would have been to them. It gives me great satisfaction to have the strong support of my immediate family and extended family, who are strong Labor supporters and who all helped to give me my working class values, of which I am very proud.

Being elected as a member of Parliament has given me a new set of better tools to do an even more important job. To date, I am not finding it a lot different from my role as a trade union official. It allows me to serve the interests of others, particularly those who are less fortunate, or less privileged, and to ensure that they get a fair go and can achieve what they are entitled to achieve. They are the people who are most important. The electorate of Waterford deserves the best representation possible. It had it in the past, as most of Waterford was formed out of the Premier's previous electorate of Logan. It is my intention to ensure that they continue to get the best representation possible. Involvement in the economic management of this State is very rewarding. The Budget is the State's most important economic management document, and I support it.

**Mr LAMING** (Mooloolah) (4.22 p.m.): It is indeed an honour for me to stand here today as the newly elected member for the new electorate of Mooloolah. My first duty is to express on behalf of my electorate my loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen and to the Governor. I congratulate Mr Speaker on being elected to his high office. I know that he will carry out his responsibilities with distinction. To be a representative of the people at any level of government is the ambition of many but the privilege of few. I intend to take seriously the responsibility entrusted to me. In common with everyone in this Chamber, I did not arrive here entirely under my own steam. I must express my thanks to and admiration for my wife, Estelle, who worked so hard with me over the last 12 months. My mother is, no doubt, proud today, especially as my father missed out on a similar honour by just three votes in Victoria in the fifties. To my campaign director, Barbara Carlile, my fellow Liberals, friends and neighbours, I say thank you. They are the unsung heroes of the campaign. I do not, of course, overlook the electors. I look forward to representing all of them, regardless of their political beliefs.

The electorate of Mooloolah was named after the lovely river that flows through it and meets the sea between Kawana and Mooloolaba. It is a river with which I have enjoyed a longstanding environmental association. As well as embracing Kawana and Mooloolaba, the electorate also embraces beautiful Buderim and the small towns of Eudlo, Glenview and, of course, Mooloolah itself. As in several other fast-growing areas,

most of my constituents are from elsewhere and live on the Sunshine Coast from choice rather than chance. There is, however, a surprisingly low average disposable income, no doubt contributed to by a larger than average proportion of retired people and unemployed. Many of the latter have fled from Labor's economically devastated southern States for a better life. I hope that we can help them achieve just that. The huge growth rate has put tremendous strains on all Government and community services. We have a great responsibility not just to match services to populations but to anticipate obvious future trends and to pre-empt them in our forward planning. I look forward to meeting with my other elected associates on the Sunshine Coast to assist in this forward planning in our region.

As Deputy Chairman of the Police for Kawana Waters Committee, I am pleased to see the long-awaited Kawana Police Station under construction at last. With the Kawana residents, I look forward to its 24-hour operation. I will be promoting Buderim as a site for a community police station in the near future. Yesterday, I was encouraged to hear the Government's undertaking that it is "committed to providing a safe and secure community for all Queenslanders". I hope that extra consideration is given to places such as the Sunshine Coast which attract hundreds of visitors on weekends so that effective controls can be maintained at appropriate times in those areas that could become trouble spots, particularly at night.

Education, however, is not faring so well in the area. The rapid growth rate is running the risk of overtaking the valiant efforts of our hard-working teaching staff. New primary and high schools will be essential in the Mountain Creek area within two years to cater for the certain overcrowding in adjacent schools, particularly at the Buderim Mountain State School. I look forward to a visit by our new Minister for Education so that he can address this situation first-hand. I request him to give his earliest attention to this matter.

The electorate of Mooloolah will provide the home for a new Sunshine Coast university. Early planning has been ably undertaken by the Sunshine Coast University Association under the chairmanship of Mrs Allison Kerr-Jones. A campus on the Sunshine Coast has several community advantages. The first would be to the building industry and to jobs. The obvious main advantage, of course, would accrue to young Sunshine Coast high school leavers, most of whom at present have to move to Brisbane or further afield to complete their education. This is not just unsettling to the students but it presents a considerable cost to parents and tends to weaken the family unit structure at too early an age. For this project to be the success that it must be, it is essential that each level of government and the community play their respective parts. The State Government, to its credit, allocated \$1.2m last year for infrastructure purposes. I will be vigilant to ensure that this level of commitment continues. Once again, I intend to work towards a coordinated effort between Federal, State and local authorities to ensure that this project proceeds smoothly and positively.

Although there is no public hospital in the Mooloolah electorate, I look forward to adding my support to my colleague the member for Nicklin in securing the necessary funding to upgrade the Nambour Hospital so as to provide the urgently needed extra 80 beds as outlined in the Sunshine Coast Regional Health Authority strategic plan on page 3, which I draw to the Honourable Minister's attention.

In the area of transport, the Sunshine Coast is fortunate in having a four-lane highway to Brisbane. However, as the area is within commuting distance of Brisbane, further consideration should be given to providing a rail loop through to Caloundra and onwards to Maroochydore. At the very least, the land corridor should be secured now, as it will become increasingly difficult and expensive to purchase that land as time goes by. I know that this has already been rejected by the Honourable the Minister for Transport, but I urge reconsideration in the interests of the commuters of the next century who are, by the way, already on their way through high school. I am pleased to say that I am already involved in negotiations between the Caloundra City Council, the

Department of Transport, the local bus company and the community bus committee to improve local bus services.

One could hardly talk about roads on the Sunshine Coast without mentioning the Sunshine Motorway, or the toll road, as it is unaffectionately known. In 1989, this road provided the backdrop for one of the most blatant broken election promises in recent times—a promise broken by the Goss Labor Government. Sunshine Coast residents responded appropriately at the last election and delivered a complete rout of Labor in the five Sunshine Coast electorates. I commend those voters for reminding all politicians of the cost of broken promises. I can assure Government members that the motorway issue will not go away. I understand that as at 30 June 1992, the total debt had risen to \$159m. I will be very interested to examine the make-up of that debt. More questions will be asked when the annual report of the motorway company is tabled.

My previous comments on areas of major Government responsibility do not even touch on the area of welfare. Many of the new Sunshine Coast residents who come to places such as that lack the extended family support systems that are necessary in times of social adversity. If employment is not found—and quite often it is not—these people find that they are unable to cope, putting increasing strain on both Government and non-Government agencies. While they are not in the category of welfare recipients, my electorate includes a considerable number of self-funded retirees who are finding the going increasingly difficult. Governments must recognise this trend and find ways of ensuring that this deserving group is not disadvantaged in any way.

I realise that I am not bringing a new problem to the attention of the House. However, when one represents an area that has youth unemployment of over 30 per cent, one becomes frustrated with the lack of progress in this area. Unemployment is a community problem and it requires considerable changes in attitudes from Governments, unions, employers and the community. If we harbour any expectation of maintaining faith and respect for our institutions from the youth of tomorrow, it is essential that we tackle and solve this problem. What greater insult can we deliver to our young people than to tell them that their skills are not needed and that their ambitions will not be fulfilled? I do not profess to have all the answers to this complex problem. However, we should mobilise our combined wisdom to find them.

If one examines the functions of our existing parliamentary committees, important as they may be to political theorists, one would have to wonder whether, by the turn of the century, ordinary Queenslanders would have been better served by this Parliament with the establishment of an employment committee. Such a committee would be charged with examining and reporting back to Parliament not about make-work schemes but about the measures needed to give the opportunity to all Queenslanders to share in the responsibilities and rewards of being gainfully employed.

It was an interesting side light that, this year, the environment did not become a major election issue. With so much attention on the economy and jobs—just as there should have been—sometimes environmental considerations are seen as anti-job or anti-progress. I do not subscribe to that view. The Sunshine Coast has a long history of environmental concern, stretching from Pumicestone Passage to the Noosa North Shore. I believe that, with careful long-range planning, progressive environmental and development proposals can proceed hand in hand. Obviously, from time to time, one or the other interest will not be entirely satisfied. However, such is the reality of life. One of the broader environmental challenges of all Governments during this decade will be the provision of water and the treatment and disposal of sewage. Unless this challenge can be met, it may in itself create a limit to the growth of this State. The damming of the upper reaches and the dispersal of effluent into the lower reaches of our rivers is becoming more and more difficult to justify in this environmentally aware society.

A few moments ago, I spoke about parliamentary committees. This brings the focus of my remarks from the electorate to this House. As a new member, how do I see my role? I say at the outset that I am proud to be a member of the Liberal parliamentary team. Under the new coalition agreement, I believe that Queensland will discover a new

political force to be reckoned with and to be trusted with office in 1995. We on this side of the House are sometimes referred to as "conservatives". I am not one for labels. Although I do not reject the term "conservative" out of hand, it is only partially correct. I am prepared to accept, support and initiate change if it is beneficial to those whom I represent. I do not believe, as others seem to, in change for the sake of change. For instance, the Liberal Party believes in Christian traditions, our nation and its flag. It believes in the role of the individual as the basis of a strong and virile nation. A lot is said these days about civil liberties and individuals' rights. I believe that, if more encouragement was given to individuals' responsibilities, there would be far less need to pursue the cause of civil liberties.

It will come as no surprise to hear that the Liberal Party believes in the importance of the family unit. I will do whatever I can in this Assembly to promote that philosophy. Similarly, the Liberal Party makes no apology for being a free-enterprise party. I borrow from Sir Winston Churchill, who stated—

"We must beware of creating a society where no-one counts for anything, save a politician or a public servant, where enterprise gains no rewards and thrift no privileges."

In local terms, this means that we must support the business community. It is the engine room of our economy. This applies particularly to small business in places such as the Sunshine Coast. Small businesses are by far the largest employer of people. It is there that we can contribute most quickly to the problem of unemployment. The Liberal Party's policies of completely abolishing land tax and payroll tax—with Federal assistance, of course—are the policies that this Government should adopt if it is really fair dinkum about reducing unemployment.

It might sound fatuous in this House to say that the Liberal Party believes in democracy, but it would seem that democracy needs to be continuously defined. If it is accepted that power should reside in the people as a whole and be exercised directly by them or their elected representatives, I will be watching closely for excessive Executive Government. By "excessive Executive Government", I mean the formulation of policy decisions by a small clique within the Government without the benefit of full debate in this Chamber by the representatives of all the people here assembled.

In case these remarks may sound commonplace, I assure the House that they are very relevant. Every one of us is aware that politicians enjoy very low esteem in the public's eye. I do not believe that this reputation is entirely fair. However, occasionally, Executive-style Government makes a decision behind closed doors that wipes out any kudos that may have been earned by Governments at all levels over quite a long time. A few moments ago, I referred to one such case, the Sunshine Motorway. I am sure that this is why some of Australia's most capable men and women are reluctant to become involved in the political process. They do not want to be tarred with the same brush. They perceive that most Australians do not trust any politicians. I believe that it is time we started addressing this in the way in which we conduct our affairs. It would be a great tragedy, particularly for our youth, to allow our parliamentary system to lose credibility.

Recently, many changes have been made to this State's electoral system. New boundaries have been introduced, as has optional preferential voting. Perhaps further consideration will now be given to non-compulsory voting. Of all the things that Governments force us to do—most of which are necessary in a civilised society—surely voting is the one thing which could be voluntary without harm to the community. Similarly, I would welcome debate on the restoration of the Legislative Council. Such debate should not be locked up by pre-determined party positions. Representatives should surely reflect the perceived viewpoint of those whom they represent. Such issues which border upon being constitutional should rightly go direct to the people by referendum. In fact, I personally believe that a judicious use of citizen-initiated referendums in certain legislative areas would go a long way towards avoiding the excesses of Executive Government. I believe that this option should also be looked at

with an open mind. It would provide an alternative check on Executive-style Government, particularly in a one-Chamber Parliament.

For me, the reality is to be in Opposition, if only until the next election. Sir Robert Menzies said that the role of the Opposition is to be constructive, judicious and different. I am sure that we on this side of the House will provide a strong opposition to badly crafted legislation, not simply opposition for the sake of opposition. I may even give credit to the Government if such credit is due. In turn, I hope that the Government will give full consideration to constructive criticism from this side of the House.

In summary, I look forward to working, with the best of my ability, towards the efficient provision of the best State Government service as possible for my electorate. I also intend to provide a flow of information between this House and my electorate to ensure that my constituents feel that they are a part of, and not only subject to, the democratic process.

**Mr ROBERTSON** (Sunnybank) (4.40 p.m.): It is indeed a great honour to rise for the first time as the member for the new electorate of Sunnybank. Mr Speaker, I begin by congratulating you on your re-election to the Chair of this House. I also offer my congratulations to the Government on its re-election and I look forward to serving my time as a member of the second Goss Labor Government. The fact that I am able to address the House today is in no small way due to the significant reform program upon which the first Goss Labor Government embarked in 1989. It was this Government's commitment to electoral reform that resulted in the abolition of the gerrymander and its replacement with a far more just and democratic electoral system. The redistribution of electoral boundaries in 1991 was a vital part of this electoral reform process. The new seat of Sunnybank was one of the seats borne out of this distribution.

If those members on the Government side of the House had a sense of pride in 1989 in being part of the first Labor Government in Queensland in 32 years, then it is with an equal amount of pride that I stand before the House today as a member of Parliament representing a seat created out of one of the most significant and fundamental reforms seen in Queensland in decades. Therefore, at this stage it is appropriate that I give recognition to the members of the former seats which, in part, make up my new electorate. Len Ardill, Judy Spence, Laurel Power, Bill D'Arcy and the Premier, Wayne Goss, are acknowledged as members who have all given sound representation to their areas and who have all contributed to my election in Sunnybank.

As the representative of the new seat of Sunnybank, I am deeply grateful to the many people who worked tirelessly and selflessly towards gaining what was an important Labor election victory. In particular, I would like to mention my campaign director, John Park, his wife Penny and children, Anna and Alex, who put up with me and the disruption to family life that a political campaign causes for almost 12 months. To the members of my campaign team, Ian and Anne Smillie, Sybil Ross, Les and Joan Watts, Eddie and Denise Redfern, Rachelle Francis and, in particular, my very good friend Alderman Linda Holliday, I thank them for their support, encouragement, and downright hard work during the campaign. I also acknowledge the support given to me by the members of the Sunnybank branch of the Australian Labor Party. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family, my father Bill, my mother Una, and my sister Lesley for their very special commitment and support over such a long period. I hope that when all of those people who are my friends and supporters read this speech, they will consider that their efforts, commitment and support have been worth while.

I mentioned that the Labor victory in Sunnybank was an important one. It was important in the sense that the voters in Sunnybank not only had a choice between candidates from three different political parties but also, and significantly, they were given a stark choice between style of candidates and their respective political campaigns. I am proud to say that the electors of Sunnybank joined with the rest of Queensland in rejecting the negative, mud-slinging, guttersnipe tactics of the Liberal Party. The electors of Sunnybank saw through the lies and distortions, the personal attacks and innuendos perpetrated by the Liberals at both State and local levels and

gave a resounding "No" to their candidate in Sunnybank, as they did throughout Queensland. Clearly, Queensland electors have said to the Liberals, "We are far more intelligent than you think we are. We deserve to be treated a lot better and we will not support you until you climb out of the gutter and treat us with dignity." However, the Liberals still have not learnt their lesson. The same contempt for ordinary people that the Liberals demonstrated in Queensland by hiring an American campaign director, by importing the worst and most divisive of political tactics, is being repeated by their leaders in Canberra. The relevance of that important point will be demonstrated in the context of the ongoing job creation and industrial relations reform program outlined in this Government's 1992-93 Budget.

As one would expect from a caring, compassionate Government, the 1992-93 Budget focuses upon getting as many Queenslanders as possible a job, given the role and constraints upon any State Government in Australia. However, should the recently announced Federal Liberal Party's industrial relations package—dubiously entitled Jobsack; more accurately described as Jobsack—be implemented after the next Federal election, the success of this Government's Budget initiatives could well be put at risk. One of the central features of the 1992-93 Budget is to use micro-economic reform to facilitate the major initiatives and policy announcements in areas such as industry development and training and employment. A constant feature throughout the major announcements contained in the Budget is that where the need for change has been recognised, that change will be managed by the Government in consultation with the appropriate interest groups.

In building on the Government's Leading State initiatives, the Budget contains a number of important industry development announcements, such as the commencement of a coal export incentive package to boost the competitiveness of Queensland's coal industry; the implementation of an information technology industry strategic plan; increased funding for the Queensland export development scheme, and further assistance to Queensland's important tourist industry, including Government funding for the resurrection of Compass airlines. Such incentives require more than the injection of money by a Government; they require a positive environment in which growth is possible with the minimum disruption to operations. For that reason, the Government has announced in the Budget a proposal to further amend the Industrial Relations Act to provide industry with increased flexibility and workplace agreements relevant to the industry and to individual workplaces. Unlike the industrial relations policy of the federal Liberal and National Parties, the Government's industrial reforms will result in workplace change that will complement the development of new industries, not polarise management and workers. It is about protecting workers' fundamental rights while facing up to the economic challenges of today.

What chance will Queensland have to succeed with its \$6m export incentive scheme if the significant reforms that have already occurred and are continuing to occur on Australian waterfronts are destroyed by an industrial relations system that encourages employers, workers and their unions to tear one another apart on fundamental questions such as award coverage and union recognition? Commendably, the Government has announced that this year some \$3.3 billion will be spent on capital works. More than 80 per cent of that program will be undertaken by the private sector. The last thing that Queensland needs, when workers' awards reach their expiry date halfway through a project funded by the Government, is for disputation to explode as employers and workers battle it out to establish a new workplace contract. Yet this is exactly what is being proposed by the federal Liberal Party and supported, as the Jobsack document states, by its Queensland counterparts.

The Liberals' policy—should they ever be in a position to introduce it—will put at risk the numerous positive incentives for industry development and job creation announced in this Budget and endorsed by the people of Queensland at the recent State election. Not even the draconian penal provisions against ordinary workers proposed by the Liberal Party will stop the polarisation of workplaces that will inevitably occur as a result of its confused and dangerously naive nightmarish industrial relations

policy. I am amazed that commentators are referring to the Liberals' industrial relations policy as "new" and "radical". There is nothing new about what the Liberals propose. All they have done is given it a glossy cover and a trendy name. The principles, however, are almost as old as Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen.

I stand before the House today as a person who has worked in industrial relations and represented workers for almost 10 years, a person who witnessed the tragedy of the SEQEB dispute, the bloody-mindedness of the parties in the Bjelke-Petersen dam dispute, the terror and fear amongst Queensland workers denied fundamental rights of protection due to repressive industrial legislation, and the resultant low standard of wages and conditions for workers and their families in Queensland. I do not want to see those things happen again. We have come too far in the past three years. Yet that is what will occur should the coalition ever be in a position to introduce its policies.

Today, during question time, I was amazed that when the Deputy Premier listed the workers' conditions that had been abolished by the Liberal Government in Victoria, including penalty rates and annual leave loading, a member of the coalition called out, "Good stuff!" What an undisguised demonstration of contempt for the standard of living of ordinary working people. The people of Sunnybank want to share in the job-creation measures announced in this Budget. They want to take advantage of the business incentives and assistance packages; they want to apply for the additional TAFE places; and they want their share of the 2 400 public housing commencements that will begin this financial year. But what chance will they have to take advantage of those initiatives if there is industrial anarchy? What chance will they have if their wages are dramatically slashed and their standard of living is reduced, or if they are thrown out of work if they refuse to accept their employers' terms and no longer have the protection of their award—an award historically determined by an independent umpire that is now threatened with extinction?

The people of Sunnybank, in common with people in the rest of Queensland, want jobs—jobs that are purposeful, secure and can provide a decent standard of living and quality of life for their families. They also recognise the importance of a progressive and stable union movement that has their interests at heart and can represent those interests maturely and effectively before their employers. They want some ownership over their future and their workplace. They do not want to have to rely upon some remote office of the employees' advocate to process their claims for workplace rights through an already congested and impersonal legal system. Industrial relations, like politics, is fundamentally about people. One cannot—as the Liberals are proposing—reduce industrial relations to a simplistic, legalistic problem. To do so demonstrates a complete lack of compassion and understanding towards the needs and aspirations of fellow Australians.

The changes to the Queensland Industrial Relations Act and the amendments foreshadowed in the Budget are creating the right kind of industrial environment—an environment in which industrial disputation is minimal and industry has confidence in its workers; an environment in which all parties recognise the need for change, to improve skills and education and to increase productivity. Importantly, that environment will be created through cooperation, not confrontation. And this is essentially the difference between this responsible, progressive Government and the reactionaries on the other side of the House—the very same reactionaries who want to pay our young people \$3 an hour for the privilege of entering the work force and contributing to the wealth of this nation.

The announcement in the Budget of nearly 20 000 new jobs will be of significant benefit to the electors of Sunnybank, particularly its young people. Sunnybank has 12 schools within its boundaries, including two major high schools, namely, Sunnybank State High School and Runcorn State High School, which are both schools of quality and pride. Since the election, I have had the pleasure of attending academic and sporting awards nights at both those schools and have been impressed by the level of commitment and excellence displayed by the students at those schools. Over 200

students from these schools will leave the secondary education system at the end of this year. The commitment by this Government to increase opportunities to enter the TAFE system, combined with planned job creation schemes, will be of significant benefit to these young people. The 12 schools in the Sunnybank electorate represent a challenge for any elected member. The commitment of the parents, their p. and c. associations, school administrations and teachers ensures that they are constantly striving to improve facilities. Currently, applications for funding for building projects such as the Sunnybank Hills State School assembly hall, the proposed Warrigal Road State School assembly hall and the expansion of the Runcorn State High School shelter, resurfacing of the Kuraby State School tennis courts and additional classrooms for Runcorn Heights State School and Sunnybank State High School are pending or about to be lodged. I hope that, with the positive reforms announced to education funding and expenditure in the Budget, these projects will be realised in the Sunnybank school community during my time as the member for Sunnybank.

The Sunnybank electorate, incorporating the suburbs of Sunnybank, Sunnybank Hills, Runcorn, Runcorn Heights, Eight Mile Plains, Underwood, Kuraby, Stretton and Calamvale continues to grow at a significant pace. A significant part of this growth is the result of new Australians, mainly from Taiwan and Hong Kong, settling in this area. The Taiwanese community in Sunnybank, in particular, has demonstrated a strong commitment to this State and to the local community. I am proud to say that I have established a close working relationship with this growing community through the Taiwan Friendship Association which is located in the Sunnypark Shopping Centre. I look forward to cementing this relationship by doing what I can to assist these new Australians to increase their participation in the local community.

Naturally, as the member of a fast-growing electorate, I am aware that there will be hard planning decisions to be made. However, I am confident that, with the continuing commitment of this Government to community consultation and the environment, we will achieve outcomes that will satisfy the concerns of local communities. Already this preparedness to listen to the community has paid dividends in the Sunnybank electorate. Prior to the election, residents of the Bellmead Street community in Runcorn expressed real concern about the future of a road corridor which dissected their estate. These concerns were relayed to the Minister for Transport who, at my invitation, visited the area and met with local residents. As a result of this inspection, the Minister announced that the road corridor would be relocated away from the estate for the purpose of future road planning. The 300 residents in that area can now be assured about the future of their neighbourhood and get on with their lives.

The Sunnybank electorate contains one of the most significant areas of bushland in the Brisbane City Council area—Karawatha. Much of Karawatha is privately owned and the threat of development eating into this area is a cause for real concern. The Brisbane City Council and, in particular, Alderman Kevin Bianchi have been fighting hard to protect this bushland via the council's bushland acquisition program. Many residents of Sunnybank are concerned about the future of this bushland and have banded together to form the Karawatha Bushland Protection Society. This group of dedicated environmentalists has already benefited from this Government's commitment to protecting our environment through the receipt of a \$750 grant in 1992 from the Department of Environment and Heritage. However, we need to do more if we are to ensure that this bushland is protected now and for future generations. I am therefore amazed that the opposition leader in the council, Alderman Bob Ward, would criticise the council for its borrowing arrangements with the State Government to increase the pool of funds available to buy back bushland in Brisbane. As the alderman for Runcorn, he is well aware of the threat to the future of Karawatha, yet he lacks either the vision or the common sense to realise that the council needs assistance from other levels of Government to protect valuable bushland. His ignorance of the desire by residents to protect their local environment has not gone unnoticed by the people of the ward of Runcorn, and by the people of Brisbane in general.

As you are aware, Mr Speaker, before entering Parliament I was the State secretary and national president of the United Firefighters Union, a union which represents Queensland's 1 700 professional firefighters. It is a proud and effective organisation which has, over the past 10 years, been at the forefront of the debate for change and reform in this vital service. This Government's record of achievement in upgrading the Fire Service is commendable. I acknowledge the commitment by the current Minister for Housing and Local Government whilst he was the Minister responsible for fire services to reform the administration and operation of the service. He achieved much whilst he was the Minister and was prepared to make the tough decisions that the former National Party Government was not prepared to make lest it offended its friends whom it had stacked on the now abolished 81 fire brigade boards in Queensland. I have a continuing interest in the Fire Service and other emergency services. It continues to be a time of great change in these services and I look forward to participating in and contributing to this important area of government.

I have never considered my interest and activities in the fire services to be narrowly focussed. The Fire Service is increasing in importance to our society, particularly in the area of environmental protection. The Fire Service is not just about extinguishing fires or rescuing entrapped persons at motor vehicle accidents. It is also about conducting itself in such a manner that, firstly, prevents fires which may cause significant environmental damage and, secondly, extinguishing fires in a way that minimises the damage to our environment. To achieve these aims the Fire Service must be appropriately resourced and its staff properly trained and educated. The last three years have seen significant progress in addressing these challenges. There is, however, still a long way to go.

In conclusion, let me again say that it is a great honour to represent the people of the Sunnybank electorate. I am proud to represent not just those who gave me their support on election day but all the citizens of my electorate, irrespective of their personal political views. I am indeed grateful to have been given this opportunity to work towards bettering the lives of all Queenslanders. I am fully aware that the position I now hold carries with it significant responsibilities. The people of Sunnybank have put their trust in me. I do not intend to let them down.

**Miss SIMPSON** (Maroochydore) (5 p.m.): While I am probably one of the few—if not the only—speakers to have presented a true maiden speech in these hallowed halls, I remember well the characters and history of this Parliament over the last 18 years. There has been a rich tapestry of colourful characters who have contributed to the strength and uniqueness of this State. Queensland is different, and Queenslanders are different. But it is no sin to aim for excellence and not be tied to the philosophical shirt tails of a debauched socialist Canberra.

I was born a Mallee girl and grew up a proud Queenslander. One could hardly be more a Queenslander after being shoved through a 7-foot-high window in the Bellevue when someone's parent forgot the key. That is something that Mick Veivers could not achieve. I am not a cynic. I stand here because, like my colleagues, I have a bright vision for the future. I have a vision of greater things for my Queensland and for my electorate of Maroochydore. If apathy is the enemy, then cynicism is its best mate, and there has never, never been a cynic who has ever changed the world for the better. I believe that children should not have to endanger their lives merely by walking alone to the corner store, and that women and men should not be living in fear in their homes. Our young people should be free to dream dreams and use their God-given abilities to be the best in worthwhile and fulfilling jobs. Our senior citizens need the assurance that we still honour their contribution to society and that they, and their carers, will not be forgotten. As well, let business people—people who risk failure in order to succeed—be hailed as heroes and encouraged to brave new innovative frontiers. If we want to see a community that fights back against spiralling crime and unemployment, then it is time for the prophets of cynicism and mediocrity to take a hike. For too long, socialist Labor Governments in Australia have institutionalised mediocrity through excessive regulation, taxation and an antiquated union movement and industrial system.

My electorate of Maroochydore is the jewel in the crown of the Sunshine Coast. The Electoral and Administrative Review Commission's choice of a name is a misnomer, because the Maroochydore electorate really covers the Maroochy region. It extends from the Blackall Range. The Maroochy River moves down past Cooloolabin, Yandina, Bli Bli, the north shore areas of Pacific Paradise, Maroola and Mudjimba, and then the more populous centres of Maroochydore, and Mooloolaba. The Maroochydore electorate is a family tourist destination with enviable surfing and swimming beaches. Nearly all of the Sunshine Coast's sugar cane land is located in my electorate. My electorate also boasts the world's largest ginger factory, which has collected an impressive array of export awards. I believe that the experience that this industry has gained in value adding on rural produce makes it an outstanding example for others to follow. As a tourist attraction, it adds a third dimension to primary production and manufacturing. There is so much potential in this area of value adding upon our renewable resources such as those produced by rural industry. We need to make the Government see that the future of committing real funds to this area of research and support is worthwhile. There is a need to make more than just a token gesture.

The Maroochydore electorate not only boasts fine crops that boost our export dollars but also likes its tourists to keep returning. To this end, outstanding local branches of the surf lifesaving movement, as well as the helicopter rescue service, help our tourists to enjoy their holidays safely. The rescue helicopter service operates as the most cost-efficient in Australia and provides medivac facilities to areas far beyond the boundaries of the Sunshine Coast. No tribute can be too high to these heroic operators who often brave shocking conditions to help save lives on the beaches, in the mountains and forests and on roads, as well as from ships at sea. The quality of this service is second to none and the fact that two surf lifesaving clubs in my Maroochydore electorate have also spawned eight Olympians highlights the quality of the service of the rescue organisations in my Maroochydore electorate.

I believe that as a tourism area, the Sunshine Coast needs a massive overhaul of the award structure to give flexibility to employ the young as well as more senior workers. I think it was John F. Kennedy who said that the best form of social welfare was a good job. If the choice was theirs, the vast majority of the 16 per cent of unemployed people on the Sunshine Coast would agree and would willingly opt for a job rather than receive unemployment benefits. The union movement's original aim to protect the worker from exploitation is a valid one, but the passage of time has meant that only a select group of workers benefit from ridiculously rigid awards. In other words, now, the unions—and their political sidekicks—do not represent the non-workers, who are the unemployed.

Excessive regulation is another mark of the present socialist Government in Queensland. Building subcontractors must be wondering why the Government hates them so much. I can tell them why. It is because brickies, plumbers, carpenters and all those other trades people are small businesspeople. By the sweat of their brow, they feed themselves and their families and another level of bureaucracy—yes, bureaucracy, which is Queensland's growth industry and is proudly sponsored by the Labor Government at taxpayers' expense. Under Labor, the Premier's staff has increased by 74 per cent and the Cabinet staff has increased by 2 000 per cent. Money to establish new schools is a lot harder to come by than a Wayne Goss staffer. The Maroochydore electorate has one State high school of 1 400 students, with a projected school population of 2 000 within six years. That is grossly unfair to the students and staff and will turn this school into a sweat shop. Where is the equality of education about which the Government has been talking? A new high school must be built on the coast now if there is to be any hope of avoiding a catastrophe.

When a State Government's top heavy bureaucracy is the major growth area during a recession, other things have to suffer, and that has been the lot of our public hospitals and road network. Significant roadworks will finally be undertaken in my electorate next year, but every single project is running years behind schedule because Labor won Government in 1989. The public has not been fooled. The Kunda Park Road

upgrade was supposed to have been well and truly completed by now. Labor put the project back three years. It has chopped a year off that period, so the completion of the project will now be two years late. The upgrading of the Nambour-Bli Bli road was an election promise of a previous Labor candidate, who went on to win in 1989. The road did not get upgraded, but in 1993, some work of a fairly minor nature is to be undertaken within another electorate in the town of Nambour. The danger points on that road remain.

To rub salt into the public wound, during Labor's first term—after initiating no major road projects in what is now the Maroochydore electorate—the Premier, Wayne Goss, then issued election material claiming to be undertaking major roadworks, but two of the roads were, once again, outside the electorate. However, I am pleased to acknowledge that the Government has put a priority on duplicating the Nambour bypass and removing the black spots which have claimed far too many lives. In contrast to that, the Yandina highway deviation was supposed to be built by 1990, but it has now been put back to 1996. The route has been resumed and notices of resumption have been issued. More than a million dollars in real terms has been spent on shifting numerous community buildings, which all happened substantially in the term of the previous National Party Government. This was done to avoid the road wiping out approximately 20 buildings.

Through another consultative process last year in addition to the 1980 public meetings, the town and district residents again indicated they wanted the road built where it had been planned. In fact, an astounding 43 per cent of households responded to the voluntary survey. The responses were not collected under duress. To gain an understanding of the response to this survey, one has to look only at the 1992 election of people to the Board of Teachers Registration. There was only a 15 per cent response, and that was considered to be good. In the case of the official Yandina highway survey, people posted or returned their survey forms to the post office where the forms were put into a locked ballot box and opened only in the presence of a scrutineer. Prior to that survey being taken, well attended public meetings were held. Debate raged in the newspapers. A scale model was put on display for two months in the town, plus a mosaic—an aerial photograph. Queensland Transport Department documentation on the height and width of the proposed central route was continuously displayed in the town and supplemented at a public meeting by a panel of experts. The official survey was returned with a response of 68 per cent in favour of the resumed central route. I support the findings of this survey of the people. The Minister has also made a decision to uphold the resumed central route.

A more recent survey undertaken by a group with the express interest of changing the resumed route to a bypass route was done without scrutiny and, as it was conducted on people's doorsteps, resulted in considerable confrontation, which is not reflected in the unofficial surveys' dubious results. I have had people coming to me who have signed the forms for this survey but have since found out about the misrepresentations that were used to coerce them into signing, such as their children having to cross a 10-lane bitumen highway in order to get to school and the road being two to three metres higher than the Main Roads documented specifications. In summary, this new highway deviation should be built immediately for the sake of public safety with additional consideration being given to proper landscaping and the establishment of parklands, such as those boasted by Gympie around its museum. Further delay is inviting tragedy.

On the issue of the Sunshine Motorway, I can inform the Parliament that the residents of my electorate are only too aware of Labor's broken promises. In 1989, people went to the polls believing Labor's election promise to remove the Sunshine Motorway tolls. After the election, Labor took away one toll plaza and put back two instead. Next year, the Labor Government will go one worse by making the Pacific Paradise/Marcoola/Mudjimba residents pay for a road that they cannot use or access properly. This will all happen despite Premier Goss having written to these people in a letter in 1989—

“As the most frequent users of the toll bridge, residents north of the river will pay a disproportionate share of the cost of the motorway and Noosa Shire’s proposed new road systems.”

The Government has now ruthlessly abandoned these people who believed them and trusted them. The same area also experienced terrible flooding in February. I believe it is imperative that the Sunshine Motorway Stage 2 be designed in a way that will not complicate flooding problems in my electorate. It is also crucial that work be undertaken in the Maroochy North Shore area to alleviate serious drainage problems which have exacerbated flooding in the area. The people who live in the area are ordinary battlers who do not have the cash to pay exorbitant rate increases. I believe that the Government should consider making a special grant to the council in this area specifically for undertaking major works. The \$2m wasted on the rash sale of the so-called Joh jet by the Goss Government would have gone a long way to starting to fix some of these problems. It would also have funded many small, community-based police stations—which brings me to my next point.

In the Sunshine Coast Police District, breaking and entering offences have soared 216 per cent under the Labor Government. The Maroochydore electorate is still a wonderful place in which to live and to visit, but the police simply need more support. The proposal to introduce shopfront police stations has some merit, but I suggest that a far better community policing initiative would be a return to a decentralised police stations system with community-based cops whom the public know. Smaller police stations located in housing areas where the community knows its local officer and vice versa is the best form of community policing. To achieve this aim, I believe police stations are needed in Bli Bli, Mooloolaba, Pacific Paradise/Mudjimba and Yandina. Police officers also need to know that they do not have to fear CJC investigations when crooks make clearly malicious threats to report them to the CJC. This does not serve justice to the police or to the public.

Recently, the issue of asbestos in school classrooms has been brought to public attention. In view of this, I will be seeking an answer from the Government about whether it is true that an asbestos check is being undertaken in the parliamentary complex with the eventual aim of removing the substance. If this is so, will the Government do so at the expense of enforcing a similar policy within the State Education Department for children in schools? The parents in my electorate would be very interested to know the answer.

In conclusion, I state that I am here to work and to be a servant for my electorate. I am grateful to those who elected me and to those who helped by working with me during the campaign. I look forward to working very hard to serve the people of my electorate without fear or favour and without deferring to people’s political beliefs.

Sitting suspended from 5.17 to 7.30 p.m.

**Mr BENNETT** (Gladstone) (7.31 p.m.): When the former member for the Gladstone region, then known as Port Curtis, rose in this Chamber on 26 August 1976 to deliver his maiden speech, he paid tribute to his predecessor, Martin Hanson, who had tragically passed away. I also rise in this Chamber to pay tribute to my predecessor, Bill Prest, who retired at the last election. Bill served the Gladstone region during 22 years of public life, firstly as an alderman and as Mayor, then for 16 years as the member for Port Curtis. He also served this Parliament as a shadow Minister and Government Whip. On behalf of the people of Gladstone, I wish Bill Prest and his lovely wife, Pat, all the best in their retirement, and I know that he can reflect with pride on his years of service to the people of Gladstone.

I regard it as an honour and a privilege to represent the Gladstone electorate and follow in the footsteps of Jim Burrows, Martin Hanson and Bill Prest. The common thread that ran through those members’ terms of office was the unique level of personal representation that they gave to the electorate. Their monument is the esteem in which they are held by thousands of residents in the Gladstone region, who sought and obtained excellent personal service. They were also men who shared with the vast

majority of the Gladstone community a common vision for the Gladstone region. It is the vision of Gladstone as a modern, high-technology, environmentally friendly industrial city. As Gladstone moves quickly towards the fulfilment of that vision, it is important that we reflect on the hard work and dedication of the Gladstone community leaders who struggled with the most meagre of resources to help ensure the future that Gladstone is on the brink of achieving.

Indeed, Gladstone started its life as a cinderella city, chosen by the British Government as the capital of northern Australia, only to see the colony fail due to poor planning, lack of resources and loss of political patronage. What Gladstone did not lose and has maintained during its 190-year history is the dream of building a strong, economically sound industrial city utilising its splendid God-given asset, the Gladstone Harbour—a harbour only surpassed in its majesty and economic usefulness in Australia by Sydney Harbour. The Gladstone Port Authority, since its inception in 1914, has been a driving force in promoting industry and trade for our region. Its members, over all those years, have always put political and personal rivalries aside and put Gladstone first. In the same cooperative spirit, the local authorities, the Gladstone City Council and the Calliope Shire Council, with few exceptions, over the decade worked hand in hand with the port authority to foster Gladstone's development.

It was during the parliamentary terms of the past three Labor members whom I have mentioned that Gladstone started to emerge from its stagnant economic base. Thirty years ago, Gladstone had a meatworks and a butter factory. Today, it hosts Queensland Alumina, the world's largest alumina refinery; the Gladstone Power Station, Queensland's largest; Boyne Smelters, Queensland's only aluminium smelter; Queensland Cement, whose clinker works is being expanded into a cement works; and ICI and Minproc chemical industries. In all, some 25 per cent of the value-added manufactured goods produced in Queensland originate in Gladstone.

Whilst the years prior to the 1960s were frustrating, with only small results being achieved from massive efforts on the part of our community leaders, the industrial development which commenced in the 1960s brought a new set of problems. Massive construction crews and a lack of social, economic, cultural and sporting facilities turned Gladstone's social fabric on its ear. It was only in the 1980s when the entire community stood up and demanded a better deal that the required infrastructure caught up with the industrial development. Indeed, a new community spirit emerged from that adversity and from the harsh criticism directed at Gladstone by nationwide media. It was a spirit which led the Gladstone community to take great pride in and to put great emphasis on creating a clean, healthy environment for our city.

In this regard, the Gladstone City Council, under the capable leadership of Mayor Col Brown, combined with the newly formed Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Board to rally the community into action. Their efforts have been well rewarded, with Gladstone winning the Queensland Tidy Towns award six times in the past eight years and winning runner-up on the other two occasions. Out of adversity has grown a wonderful community feeling and a clear, positive attitude about the future and, with good reason, Gladstone has a future unmatched in Australia. Currently, well over \$2.6 billion worth of projects are planned for the Gladstone region that are in various stages of feasibility assessment. They are value-added export-oriented industries and include: the Gladstone special steel project; the Boyne aluminium smelter third potline expansion; the magnesium metals pilot plant, an approved joint venture involving Queensland Metals, MIM and the Queensland and Australian Governments; a mineral sands dry mill; a Queensland Cement plant with bagging and palletising facility; and the Southern Pacific commercial demonstration plant for shale oil.

These projects, as they establish, will help Gladstone become Australia's industrial giant—a high-technology industrial city generating wealth for our nation. Already, exports through Gladstone Harbour total over \$2 billion in value per annum, almost 5 per cent of Australia's annual export income. Thirty years ago, our port handled less than half a million tonnes of cargo. Today, it handles 34 million tonnes. The Gladstone Port

Authority has developed a visionary, 50-year strategic plan for the Gladstone port, which will see throughput expand to 88 million tonnes by 2022 and to 107 million tonnes by 2042. This plan extends the number of wharves to 21 in the year 2022. It requires a capital works expenditure of \$400m during the next decade alone. Of course, the Gladstone Port Authority has been and will remain under a Labor Government a unique body. It is the only port authority in Australia that still operates on the wharf and that still operates its own multi-user facility. Indeed, it is the only port authority in the world that operates a major coal exporting terminal. It is also extremely world competitive by all standards of productivity and cost competitiveness, proving that public enterprise does not, by its nature, equate with lack of competitiveness or ineffectiveness.

The Gladstone Port Authority is a wonderful public asset, in which the Gladstone community has great pride. This pride is reinforced by the fact that \$320m of assets of the port authority have been created through surpluses and loans with not one cent of Queensland Government consolidated revenue being sought or given. Those on the opposite side of this Chamber who seek to privatise port authorities in Queensland should be warned that they receive no support at all from the Gladstone community. They will face the most staunch opposition if they attempt to privatise the port authority. When the chairman of the Gladstone Port Authority, Leo Zussino, released the draft long-term strategic plan this year, he stated—

“Gladstone’s future as a major industrial city is only guaranteed if the decision makers of today have the vision and foresight to plan for the long term.”

In Gladstone’s case, this challenge has been capably taken up by the Goss Government.

Very early in its first term, the Goss Government came to appreciate the value of the Gladstone region to the future prosperity of our State. It initiated the Gladstone area industrial land use study, following an initial study jointly funded by the Calliope Shire Council, the Gladstone City Council and the Gladstone Port Authority, to designate large tracts of land suitable for industrial development as a prelude to securing ownership. The study, which is being undertaken by independent consultants Connell and Wagner, is addressing all the economic, social environmental and cultural aspects of a substantial area of land deemed suitable for potential industries for the next 20 to 30 years. As Gladstone is the Goss Government’s chosen major industrial centre of Queensland, this study and its subsequent Government endorsement is of vital importance to our economic future. Leo Zussino, port authority chairman, often points to the example of Kwinana in Western Australia, a 4 600 hectare industrial site based on Western Australia’s deepwater port. Over the past 20 years, successive Western Australian Governments have allowed residential development to occur to the north, west and south of this site. Today, even though the most stringent environmental standards can be set for new industries inside the 4 600 hectare site, public perception is such that every proposed industry is subjected to major public hostility. What fools we as a Government would be not to heed this lesson and ensure that the sparsely populated lands to the north and west of Gladstone are appropriately sterilised to ensure our manufacturing future, not just for the next 30 years but for the next century. It is my firm belief that all suitable industrial lands should be resumed by the Queensland Government now and that surrounding lands be properly designated and controlled to restrict residential development. The landowners in these areas deserve proper compensation and consideration, and I shall continue my representations to the Government in support of this position. But make no mistake, I shall also be making the strongest recommendation to the Government to ensure that the outcome of this industrial land use study results in more than adequate industrial land and appropriate buffers to ensure Gladstone’s very long-term industrial future. I believe that I owe this much to our past community leaders who put so much into the Gladstone vision. My responsibility is to help ensure the prosperity of future generations of Gladstonites, and this can only be achieved through careful long-term planning.

The Goss Government has conducted the Gladstone area transportation study to define future road and rail access and corridors between the resource-rich hinterland,

the industries and the port. Planning for these corridors now and setting them aside can save hundreds of millions of infrastructure dollars in the future. The Government has also heavily involved itself through both the Premier's Department and the Department of Business and Industry in encouraging, facilitating and coordinating industrial projects for our region. It has already facilitated the establishment of the ICI ammonia nitrate and nitric acid plants, the QCL cement plant, the magnesium metals pilot plant and the Stickmakers popsicle and chopstick factory.

The Government is currently facilitating the establishment of the Gladstone special steel plant and the Boyne Smelters' third potline expansion which will provide thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of long-term employment opportunities. The Goss Government has shown its faith in Gladstone by establishing an office of the Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development to coordinate and facilitate industrial projects at a local level. The Gladstone community welcomes these economic planning and facilitation initiatives of the Goss Government for the Gladstone region. The Premier is assured of my electorate's support for his Government's action.

The willingness of his Government to work with the Gladstone community to both protect our environment and help create a high quality of life for Gladstone residents is also appreciated. The Goss Government has established an air-monitoring program for the Yarwun industrial estate and for Gladstone City and publicly releases the findings of this program, something the previous National Party Government continually opposed. Through the Department of Environment and Heritage, it coordinates the Gladstone dust committee, a voluntary group of potentially polluting industries set on the task of reducing dust and pollution in the Gladstone region, even though the air-monitoring program has never recorded pollution readings even close to international standard limits. The Department of Environment and Heritage is supervising and half-funding a Gladstone Port Authority initiated environmental scan of the Gladstone Harbour and adjoining coastal waters as a prelude to the basis for a port authority monitoring program of the harbour environs.

The Goss Government, in its first term, reversed a potential sandmining venture decision for Wild Cattle Island and declared it a national park. The Government also declared national parks at Rodds Peninsula and Curtis Island, giving the Gladstone electorate some 20 000 hectares of national parks. As my electorate extends out to Heron Island over the southern reef sections of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, it can be truthfully stated that Queensland's most industrialised electorate has almost half its area designated as national parks—a proud achievement and a truly magnificent setting for a modern industrial city.

The dedication of the Gladstone City Council and the Calliope Shire Council to the continual greening of our electorate and the provision of high-quality sporting and recreation facilities is, I believe, unmatched in Queensland. These local authorities are to be congratulated on their magnificent efforts. Also, the Gladstone area promotion and development bureau, which has tremendous community support, is to be commended for the superb job it does in promoting tourism and economic development for our region.

The quest to establish a unique twenty-first century industrial city has led the Gladstone community, in conjunction with Gladstone industry and the University of Central Queensland, to seek a centre for engineering excellence in Gladstone. This proposal is already receiving strong support from both the Keating and Goss Governments, with the Federal Government having pledged 50 per cent of funding for the first building. I look forward to an announcement from the Goss Government for matching funding and for an announcement from the Keating Government in support of significant funding for this centre. The Gladstone campus of the University of Central Queensland will provide a unique learning and research facility based upon close cooperation with Gladstone's existing and future industries. It will offer first-year feeder courses plus a centre for environmental management, a centre for plant and process engineering and a centre for high metals manufacturing. I look forward to the

establishment of this facility. I congratulate all those associated with helping to bring this major and significant educational opportunity to fruition.

The Gladstone region is a young region, the average age being 17 years. It is a region with a highly skilled, highly motivated work force which is dedicated to supporting the growth of our economy. It is a region of young families with a strong interest in educational, sporting and cultural pursuits. It is a region in which unions and industry have the same goals in promoting efficient industry and rewarding employment. However, it is a region with some current major problems which must be addressed. The first and all-embracing problem is unemployment with all its related economic and social problems. My commitment to the Gladstone electorate is to work tirelessly to help create employment opportunities for the region's men, women and youth and to work sympathetically with the unemployed and their families to help cushion the impact of their lack of income and dignified work. In this regard, I intend to pursue industrial projects for the Gladstone region at every opportunity. I shall work closely with all the relevant boards, authorities, councils, unions, business and community groups in Gladstone which share and promote this goal for increased industrial development. I shall closely follow and monitor industrial expansion to ensure that infrastructure needs are met and that all Government resources are used to cushion any negative impact. I shall support the protection of the environment. I shall seek to protect workers from exploitation and to help ensure their right to union coverage and a decent standard of living. John Curtin stated—

“Labor stands for the people and opposes those who will take advantage of the people.”

This is a philosophy that I fully endorse.

It is with substantial pride that I stand in this Parliament as a member of the Australian Labor Party. I share my party's vision of a just, prosperous society, offering equal opportunity to all Australians and dignified care and assistance to those who need special assistance to achieve a just place in our society. I stand here also as an individual who supports the dignity of human life. Labor finds its rationale in the defence of the dignity of humanity. Labor believes that democracy is the only form of society which accords with this dignity. I thank the Gladstone electors for expressing faith in me as their representative. I intend to honour that faith with a deep commitment to serve them to the best of my ability and in the tradition of past Labor members of the Gladstone electorate.

**Mr HEALY** (Toowoomba North) (7.49 p.m.): I am privileged to be able to deliver my first speech in this Parliament as the newly elected member for Toowoomba North. I pledge my allegiance and loyalty and that of the constituents of my electorate to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her representative in Queensland, Her Excellency the Governor. May I also congratulate you, Mr Palaszczuk, on your election as Deputy Speaker and also as Chairman of Committees. I ask that you pass on my congratulations to the Speaker, who was once again elected to that high level of office in the Legislative Assembly.

I stand here with great pride, having been elected the member for Toowoomba North and one of three parliamentary representatives of a city that I love so dearly. I was born in the Garden City and proudly boast that I was educated at St Anthony's Convent and St Mary's Christian Brothers College. My parents, Dennis and June Healy, raised two sons: my brother Peter and I. For some 33 years, my parents, along with my late grandmother and grandfather, owned and operated a successful hotel business. I pay tribute to my parents for not only ensuring that their sons received a good education but also, despite the long hours involved in hotel life, managing to train and guide their sons through the formative years of life and provide support and encouragement when needed.

Since 1975, I have worked in media, in particular the radio industry. It is an industry that has seen many changes. Despite corporate takeovers, heavy losses by some companies and staff rationalisation, the industry still remains a vital and vibrant part of

our everyday life. My last 15 years in the industry have been spent with Gold Radio Services Pty Ltd, 4GR, Toowoomba. The station is owned and operated by the Australian Radio Network, a subsidiary company of the Albert family group of companies, which is based in Sydney and has radio stations in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Maryborough, Rockhampton and Toowoomba. I place on record my thanks to Mr Russell Wilson, General Manager of 4GR, Toowoomba, for his understanding, help and guidance not only for the past 15 years but also during the period after my decision to enter political life.

I am very conscious of the trust placed in me and of my responsibilities to the people of Toowoomba North. It is my intention to serve them to the best of my ability during my time in Parliament. To this end, I have resigned my pre-election appointment as radio broadcaster and will devote my full time to my parliamentary and electoral duties. I stress that this representation is for all the electors in Toowoomba North, irrespective of their political persuasions. I make no apology for the abrupt departure of the previous representative of the seat, Dr John Flynn. However, I acknowledge and give credit to the many projects with which Dr Flynn was able to assist Toowoomba during his time in office. The seat of Toowoomba North is indeed unique in many ways. Prior to the election, a swing of less than 1 per cent was needed to wrest the seat from Labor after the previous member had won it when he defeated Mr Sandy McPhie, the National Party member who had held the seat since the election of 1983. Mr McPhie served the seat with distinction and honour, having defeated the sitting Liberal member, Dr John Lockwood, in the election of 1983. My success in winning the seat was due largely to an extremely hardworking campaign team headed by Toowoomba City Council Alderman Mr Keith Beer. I acknowledge the work done by all members of the campaign committee, together with the support of an extremely enthusiastic team of current National Party MLAs who surrounded my seat, including the honourable members for Toowoomba South, Crows Nest, Lockyer, Cunningham and Western Downs.

The City of Toowoomba continues to thrive on its Garden City image, bolstering its economy with events such as the annual Carnival of Flowers, Green Week and Garden Fest, showcasing the city to the rest of Australia. In 1991, a hardworking Toowoomba City Council—headed by Mayor Alderman Clive Berghofer, himself a former State member—planted 15 938 trees and shrubs in parks, gardens and streets, or gave them to new residents, schools, Government institutions and community groups in its ongoing promotion of the Garden City image. I commend the council for several important initiatives in this regard, including the International Gardens Strategy. On the subject of the Toowoomba City Council, in paying tribute to the council administration, may I say that Toowoomba, like most other areas of south-east Queensland, is experiencing high population growth rates.

Local authorities believe that the Government should provide adequate funds to assist in the collection of funds on behalf of the Building Services Division; undertaking action in regard to the Contaminated Land Act; undertaking action in regard to the Heritage Act; management of Arts Council grants; and control and monitoring of noise and air pollution. The devolution of authority to local government from the State has either passed, or is likely to pass, those tasks on to councils. For a long period, owing to State Government policy that external works associated with the forward planning of schools and other State facilities resulting in additional infrastructure costs is still a local government responsibility, councils have also been financially disadvantaged. It is my view, and that of the council, that facilities such as road access, car parking and off-street pick-up and put-down are all integral parts of the development of educational facilities and, as such, should be provided by the Education Department.

Toowoomba is also famous around the nation as the breeding ground of Australia's thoroughbred horse racing industry. This year, the Toowoomba Turf Club saw a 15-year dream come to fruition. I am sure that the Honourable the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing will recall that, on 28 March, he flicked the switch to illuminate the nation's first thoroughbred lighting system at Clifford Park racecourse. Members of the

Toowoomba Turf Club committee and management were indeed proud individuals when approximately 25 minutes later a little known, Kumbia trained galloper, Waigani Drive, won the \$50,000 Toowoomba Cup, and became the first thoroughbred to win a race under lights on Australian turf. The Toowoomba Turf Club continues to thrive with Sky Channel coverage and increased funding from TAB coverage of Toowoomba races.

Another asset for which Toowoomba is famous is education. My electorate of Toowoomba North has one of the city's three State high schools. As well, it boasts excellent State primary schools and many highly credentialled and famous non-Government schools, such as Downlands College, St Mary's Christian Brothers College, Fairholme College and St Ursula's College. In all, 15 educational institutions, as well as the College of Technical and Further Education and State special schools, highlight the importance of education and learning in the electorate. It is unfortunate that the Honourable Minister for Education is not present in the House. I want to raise a subject that other representatives of my electorate have raised previously, and that is the urgent need for a fourth high school in Toowoomba. Prior to the election, the then Honourable Minister for Education made a commitment to the people of Toowoomba that construction of a new high school at Wilsonton would commence in 1994. That new high school would alleviate the overcrowding at the other State high schools, including Toowoomba State High School, which this year had a student intake of 1 560. The people of Toowoomba are sick and tired of waiting. The population growth figures illustrate the need for an additional school, and students deserve a new facility. I urge the Minister to honour the Government's pre-election commitment.

Another key matter that I wish to raise is the growth of the city and the subsequent demand on health services. Although the Darling Downs Regional Health Authority—with a budget in excess of \$120m and a staff of more than 3 000—is doing its best, until proposed and promised new operating theatres are completed at the Toowoomba General Hospital, under the Government's regionalisation plan, patients in the region will still be faced with the prospect of long waiting lists for surgery. In the pre-election Budget, \$609,000 was promised. However, more funding is needed. The future provision of five operating theatres at the Toowoomba General Hospital must be a matter of priority.

Unfortunately, despite Toowoomba's idyllic surroundings, its vibrant business sector and its importance in regional growth, like many other centres, it has a dark side. I refer to the issues of law and order, crime, homeless youth, unemployment and welfare agency needs. As to law and order—during 1991-92, figures compiled for the Toowoomba police district show that 1 600 break and enters were committed. That is an increase of 13.6 per cent from the figures of the previous year. Over a three-year period, it is an increase of 81 per cent. There were 1 200 incidents of property damage, which is an increase of 909 from the previous year—a 32 per cent increase. Motor vehicle theft has increased by 8 per cent. The incidence of serious offences has also increased. Assaults increased by 17.8 per cent from last year, and had increased by 109 per cent since 1988-89. Robbery has increased by 32 per cent from last year. Sexual offences have doubled. In 1991-92, 205 incidents were reported, in comparison with 100 incidents in 1990-91.

Let me say that although those figures are totally unacceptable, I must congratulate the Toowoomba police officers for their exceptional crime clean-up rate. In fact, out of the 808 reported cases of offences committed against the person in 1991-92, including homicide, assault, sexual offences, robbery, abduction and deprivation of liberty, 79.5 per cent of cases were cleaned up. Although that figure is heartening, the overall increase in reported crimes is not. It is my belief that extra resources are needed for crime prevention, both in manpower and facilities. For example, two out of the five staff attached to the Toowoomba division of the Juvenile Aid Bureau deal directly with cases of sexual abuse in outdated and antiquated facilities at the Toowoomba Police Station. Police in Toowoomba rely very much on the support of the community through organisations such as Safety House, Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Stoppers, Motel Watch and Taxi Watch. As well, an innovation called Realty Watch involves people who

work in the real estate industry. Real estate sales representatives network to provide police with information that may lead to the arrest of a perpetrator. However, it is important that police in the region have the resources to handle incidents and are able to respond quickly to public calls for help.

Another area of great concern to me and, indeed, to many welfare agencies in Toowoomba is that of homeless youth and street kids. This view is shared by people such as the Reverend Noel Park of Lifeline Darling Downs and Mr David Lowe from Drug-Arm. In fact, recently in the Toowoomba *Chronicle*, Mr Peter O'Shea, senior welfare officer for the St Vincent de Paul Society, was quoted as saying that children as young as 11 and 12 are turning up for free takeaway meals at the society's James Street hostel. In fact, the average age of homeless people seeking assistance has continued to decrease, and it is not uncommon to have 15 and 16-year-olds appearing there on a regular basis. This problem needs to be addressed urgently.

Finally, I turn to the subject of unemployment. The Toowoomba region, by and large, has been one of the more fortunate areas, with unemployment figures slightly below the State average. Where the Queensland average in September was 10.6 per cent, the average in the Toowoomba region was 9 per cent. This is, however, a 1.3 per cent increase since 1991. Even so, this percentage possibly reflects the growth of Toowoomba in areas such as the building industry and education. It is, however, the area of youth unemployment which is of great concern. The ABS figures for September showed that the youth unemployment rate for the Darling Downs and south-west regions stood at 31.7 per cent—higher, in fact, than that of any other region in the State. Again, I draw the attention of the Government to the pre-election promise of \$100,000 under the youth jobs plan to assist unemployed young people, a \$242,000 promise for the jobs in national parks plan and further payroll tax concessions for small business. These initiatives are needed for Toowoomba to give the unemployed a real chance in the work force.

In conclusion, I again reiterate my pride in being elected National Party member for the seat which has now brought total National Party representation back to the south-western part of the State. I have also felt the historical significance of being part of the first coalition between the National Party and the Liberal Party since 1983, and I believe we can be a strong, effective and hardworking Opposition. I welcome the important part that the Liberal Party will play in its joint commitment with the National Party to win Government in 1995.

I shall end my first speech in this House with a special tribute to my wife, Vanessa, and daughter, Jacqueline, who have given me tremendous support and encouragement in my transition into the State political arena. God willing, I will be able to repay that support—and, indeed, that of all people in my electorate—with a determination for hard work and commitment.

**Mr PYKE** (Mount Ommaney) (8.04 p.m.): I congratulate the Government on its third Budget. On behalf of the people of the electorate of Mount Ommaney, I offer my loyalty to the Crown and I pledge to dedicate my time as Mount Ommaney's elected representative—both within and without this Parliament—to the service of my community and to upholding those fundamentals and principles of equality, fairness and justice which now make Queensland—and our fine country of Australia—the envy of many people.

I thank the electors of Mount Ommaney for having honoured me with the challenging and responsible task of representing our new electorate for the very first time in this the Forty-seventh Parliament of Queensland. In particular, I thank my mother, Mrs Mary Pyke, and my two daughters, Alicia-Maree Pyke and Tanya-Nichole Pyke, for their devoted support over the harrowing years prior to the fall of the former National Party Government and for the considerable sacrifices they made over the past three years in assisting me to campaign to represent my community in this Parliament. I must also thank my key supporters: Ken and Dot Loughran, Stewart Rose, Othman Hamoud, Gordon Mackee, Brian Tovey and the Tovey Family, Wei Xu, Tony Smith, Diana

Leemon, King Chiam and Irene Tan, Chris and Peter Whittaker, Heather Hawker, Tony and Irene Tan, Anne-Marie and Kasey Alberts, Lindy Donovan, John Edwards, Gloria and Peter Thackwell-James, the Fares family, Chek Ling, Vonnie Alaimo, Yvette Teoh and Peter Brereton. And I acknowledge the high standing amongst formerly conservative voters of the Premier and honourable member for Logan, and the Goss Government. I also acknowledge the competence and brilliance of the Labor Party's State campaign director, Wayne Swan, a very capable candidate for the Federal electorate of Lilley. To all of my supporters and friends of all political persuasions and backgrounds who contributed to my being given this opportunity to represent my community, I acknowledge your contribution and express my gratitude to you. You believed in me. That is very humbling and gratifying. Thank you.

My foremost responsibility now is to serve the electors of Mount Ommaney. Formerly the electorate of Sherwood, my perception of the new electorate of Mount Ommaney is that it comprises two geographically separate communities of interest in Brisbane's western suburbs. The heritage suburbs of Sherwood, Corinda, Oxley and Seventeen Mile Rocks constitute the older, more established areas, while the Centenary suburbs of Jindalee, Mount Ommaney, Westlake, Riverhills, Middle Park, Jamboree Heights and Sinnamon Park make up the larger, most recently developed area, which continues to record dramatic growth. I intend to properly and energetically service the needs and concerns of all Mount Ommaney electors by establishing—for the very first time—an electorate office in the Centenary suburbs, while maintaining my support for the older suburbs from a home office at Corinda.

Jobs—and job creation—is the most important issue to the electors of Mount Ommaney. Jobs are linked to the growth of industry and prosperity. Support for small business is a key area of interest to me as the member for Mount Ommaney. I have an important small-business sector to service, and I acknowledge the contribution that small business makes to our State and our country's growth, to our economy and to employment. I intend to provide the greatest support possible to small businesses in my electorate. My commitment to establish a smart business think tank in my electorate is already in train. This initiative is intended to provide dynamic business people in my electorate with opportunities to talk directly to me—and through me to the Government—and for me to be able to inform them directly about Government initiatives, while networking their ideas and themselves. And I commend the Goss Government for making Queensland Australia's leading State, fostering the highest standards of financial and economic management and providing a low-tax regime which gives businesses incentive.

Education is another significant issue in the Mount Ommaney electorate. To its credit, after being elected in 1989, the Goss Labor Government acted quickly and effectively on behalf of the electors of Mount Ommaney—in just three short years, and while the seat was not a Government seat—to correct the substantial neglect of education facilities in the former electorate of Sherwood by the injection of over \$5m into education facilities. Significant amongst this expenditure are the following: the unification and upgrading of the fine Corinda State School on one site, after the school inexplicably remained divided by busy Oxley Road for some 22 years; the completion of a new administration and arts block at the highly regarded Corinda State High School; the building of a superb replacement Special School at Mount Ommaney; the substantial upgrading of the peerless Oxley Secondary College; the provision of additional learning areas and funding for more amenities at the vibrant Middle Park State School; and the major refurbishment of the swimming pool at the lively Jamboree Heights State School. Improving education shall continue to be a priority for me. I am already seeking the construction of a high school within the Centenary suburbs—on a site set aside at Jindalee—to be built within half a decade. And I shall continue to work for the upgrading and refurbishment of all education facilities in the Mount Ommaney electorate.

Community safety is another critical issue to the people of my community, although we enjoy a diminishing crime rate and the knowledge that the Mount Ommaney electorate is one of the safest in Brisbane. I commend the Oxley police on their forward

planning, crime mapping, and thoughtful maximisation of operational resources. And I commend my community for its support for Neighbourhood Watch and Safety House programs. These partnerships between police, the Government and the community are an important factor in keeping my community safe. Provision of a police station in the Centenary suburbs is also firmly on my agenda. I shall continue to seek the construction of a police station on a currently vacant site held by the Police Service at Mount Ommaney as soon as funding can be made available.

Children and young people—particularly the homeless and disadvantaged—have been of special interest to me in my former service to the community as a police officer. I shall remain particularly sensitive to the needs of children and young people in my electorate, and in Queensland. I give my commitment to children and young people that their needs and concerns are important to me. My promised establishment of a young people's council in the Mount Ommaney electorate is already in the planning, and is intended to empower the children and young people that I represent. I seek to give them the ability to speak directly with their State member on a regular basis, for them to be informed by me on a regular basis, and to provide opportunities for youth to set their own agenda within an appropriate framework in the Mount Ommaney electorate. I look forward to working with—and for—the young people. But in the context of mutual respect and co-operation, I ask children and young people in my community to understand how their behaviour can seriously impact on others' lives, and to act with empathy and consideration towards older people. I commend children and young people in my community who are striving to reach their potential in a changing, complex and often difficult world; with particular encouragement for—and pride in the achievements of—those whose endeavours fly in the face of circumstances of disability and special need; or those for whom English is a second language; or those who lack the support of parents who may be absent due to circumstances of family breakdown or financial hardship; or those for whom violence and abuse are conditions present in their homes.

Violence is unacceptable in an equal, fair and just community. No individual or group in our community deserves to suffer violence or abuse. The prevention of violence within my community is firmly on my agenda. But it needs to be said that the majority of violence in our community is male violence. As the former manager and founder of the Queensland Police Service's Women's Safety Project, I have learned much about the problem of male violence which I cannot ignore in my new role as the member for Mount Ommaney. I wish to acknowledge and commend the work of the National Committee on Violence Against Women and the exemplary leadership demonstrated by the Prime Minister, the Honourable Paul Keating, and by the Premier, the honourable member for Logan, in taking a leading role directed at changing prevailing attitudes and values which still serve to perpetuate the serious social problem which is male violence.

Just to underscore the seriousness of this issue, I shall highlight recent research findings in Australia documented in the latest strategy report by the National Committee on Violence Against Women. Men comprise 86 per cent of all murderers, and 90 per cent of those charged with serious assaults and robberies. The cost of hospital care, gaols and to the community at large from family or so-called domestic violence and other criminal violence exceeds \$1 billion a year to the Australian community. Women and children constitute 97 per cent of all survivors or victims of family or domestic violence. More than 24 000 Queensland women are chronically and seriously abused by their male partners every year. As many as one in three women may be expected to be subjected to male violence in a relationship. In 1991, 23 Queensland women were murdered in Queensland, 11 by a male spouse or male former partner. One in five women treated at the Royal Brisbane Hospital Accident and Emergency Department have a history of family or domestic violence. One in five Australians recently reported acceptance of threatening or violent behaviour by a man against his female partner. It is men who are responsible for the greatest proportion of all violence in our community—male violence. Therefore, it is men who must stop it. All honourable men

must follow the lead set for us by the Prime Minister, the Honourable Paul Keating, and by the Premier, Mr Wayne Goss, to eradicate this social disease.

In the past, it has been the members of the women's movement in Australia and in Queensland, and indeed, throughout the world, who have challenged this issue. It is necessary to acknowledge and commend women for getting male violence onto the national agenda. But male violence is not a women's issue—it is a community problem that must be addressed by all community members. It is particularly important that male community leaders be at the forefront of challenging the issue of male violence. All honourable members in this Chamber should be united in our condemnation of male violence and should set an agenda for its eradication from our community. Domestic violence can never be justified and is always damaging to the survivors and to our community. I speak from a sound base of experience on this issue. There is never any justification for any woman, man, child or animal to be beaten or abused. Never! All professionals must be trained to understand this, particularly police, the judiciary, lawyers, doctors and other service providers.

I wish to acknowledge the splendid efforts of workers in the field of family violence, both Government and community workers, with emphasis upon the achievements of the women of the Domestic Violence Resource Centre. It was they who taught me that—

“In seeking to eliminate violence against women it is vital that the primary and most pervasive message be that men's violence against women must end and that such acts of violence will be seriously dealt with by the police and the judiciary. Men must be called to account for their violence, whether in the home or on the street, rather than women simply being called upon to protect themselves against such actions.”

The Domestic Violence Resource Centre's patron is Mrs Roisin Goss, who recently launched the Kiah Bettridge Memorial Fund for children who suffer from the tragedy that is family or domestic violence. To quote from a speech given by Mrs Goss at the recent launch of the fund—

“. . . in 68 per cent of all domestic violence incidents, children are also directly abused, and in 88 per cent of cases, children witness the violence. Children, especially boys, who live with violence can become desensitised by it, believing that violence is a normal part of life.”

I wish to commend the Domestic Violence Resource Centre's initiative in establishing a fund to promote a safer, happier world for children who survive family violence. Funds raised will help provide much-needed counselling and support programs for children and young people whose worlds have been shattered by family violence. They will also finance the provision of resource materials, for use in schools and elsewhere, to heighten community awareness about the tragedy of family violence and its impact upon children and young people.

Kiah Bettridge was a Brisbane child murdered at Camp Hill in early 1991, together with her mother and grandfather, all because her natural father refused to accept the breakdown of the relationship between himself and Kiah's mother. Honourable members, community and business leaders, and ordinary members of the community may wish to join with me in supporting this worthy fund to repair damaged young lives, and to change community attitudes to male violence.

With regard to attitudes, and again from the perspective of having worked as a police officer in the Townsville community, I have witnessed the brutal abuse, marginalisation, and denial of human rights to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in our community under the despicable Bjelke-Petersen regime. Commendably, I know this situation has improved considerably under the Goss Government.

Racism and violence against women and children cannot be tolerated and must cease. Towards that end, I intend to institute two categories of awards in all schools in my electorate to acknowledge and to reward actions by young people which encourage

harmony between peoples of diverse backgrounds and cultures and which prevent violence.

Here I must pause to acknowledge the immense sacrifices made by members and families of police, Government agencies, and community workers who have died or suffered physically and psychologically as a consequence of courageously protecting our community from violence, including one of Queensland's finest, my former colleague the late Brett Hanran. I also acknowledge the Premier's well-founded support of the honourable member for Chatsworth's overall discharge of his duties as Minister for Police and Emergency Services. To date, without including the present Minister, the honourable member for Rockhampton, whom I have not served under, it is my considered opinion that Mr Mackenroth has been, by far, the best and most effective Police Minister under whom I served, from August 1976 when I was sworn in until I resigned on 18 September 1992. I challenge the Opposition to cease using fear-heightening scare tactics on the issue of community safety and crime prevention. Disinformation about crime seriously damages our quality of life by making those who are already fearful, usually our seniors—our older people, our most vulnerable—more fearful, and it discourages community members from seeing their communities as their own, which allows others to take over our streets.

Real crime in Queensland occurred when former National and National/Liberal Governments—not Labor Governments—allowed the tentacles of organised crime to penetrate to the upper levels of a police force degraded by shameful politicisation and starved of funding for effective law enforcement. This should not be forgotten.

On a happier note, the people of Mount Ommaney demonstrate an enthusiastic, real interest in their environment and heritage that I am most pleased to support. In particular, my community wishes to see our natural heritage preserved, and we are grateful to Brisbane's Lord Mayor, Mr Jim Soorley, for rescuing land on the Brisbane River at Westlake to be preserved as public space. We also wish to see the cessation of dredging in the Brisbane River and the imposition of a curfew on Archerfield Airport to prevent low-level flights over our suburbs between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. My efforts to provide those reasonable enhancements to the quality of life for my constituents shall continue. While I am aware of the great responsibility with which the electors of Mount Ommaney have entrusted me, it pleases me greatly to now have the opportunity to represent not only the interests of the people of Mount Ommaney, but also the interests of all members of the Queensland community, regardless of their sex, religious or political views, ethnicity, age, lifestyle, status, or wealth.

Towards that end, I shall strive to continue to live my life both by a tenet taught to me by example by my father, the late Mr Len Pyke, which is, "Treat others the way you would wish them to treat you or your family", and by my own tenet which has stood me in good stead during my campaign to win Mount Ommaney, which is, "Be real . . . and deliver!"

Time expired.

**Mr DAVIDSON** (Noosa) (8.25 p.m.): Mr Palaszczuk, I congratulate you on your appointment as Chairman of Committees. It is with enormous pride that I rise in this House as the Liberal member for Noosa. For those who may now know, let me say that Noosa is a very special part of the Sunshine Coast. I am honoured to have been given the duty by the people of that special region to represent them in this House. The electorate features Cooroy in the north, Eumundi in the west, Coolum in the south, and the main hub of the electorate, Noosaville-Tewantin, Noosa Heads, and Sunshine and Peregian Beaches. I know most honourable members would not admit it, but there are few better areas in Queensland, or in Australia, to represent. I believe that I am the envy of most members of this House. My electorate has great beaches, untouched national parks, a laid-back lifestyle, one of the few unpolluted rivers on the east coast and, of course, the best fishing anyone can find. I have been known a little up there for my fishing. I think it is a skill I will have to use during my time in Parliament. In the first few weeks, I will probably be fishing for clues as to what is going on, but before too long I

know I will be fishing for the facts when it comes to what the Government might be up to.

As a Liberal member of Parliament, I have come to this place with a successful background in small business. Ten years ago, I established Davo's Bait and Tackle in Noosaville, which is now recognised as one of the most successful businesses of its type in Queensland. Over that 10-year period, I have met people from all walks of life. Through talking to these people, I believe that I have gained a valuable insight into what people want from their Government and their politicians. In my time here, I will represent these attitudes and opinions both inside Parliament and in my electorate, because that is why I am here. In fact, that is why all of us are here—to represent the people. No member in this House is more entitled to be here than I am, whether in Government or Opposition, because we all faced the same election on 19 September. For that reason, I will not be taking a backward step in representing the people of Noosa because, like all Government members, I have been given a mandate to do just that—represent the people. It is not a responsibility that I intend to shirk or take lightly. I will expect consultation and cooperation from Government members and Ministers whenever they visit Noosa because, as the elected member for the area, I represent all people at all levels. It has been suggested that people affiliated with the Labor Party will be able to deal directly with Ministers. I will be paying close attention to that matter, and I will raise in this House any instances of that which I find occurring—unless, of course, the Labor Ministers in question are just taking advantage of Noosa's perfect holiday conditions.

It amazes me that members on both sides of this House refer to this House as "this place". No-one I know could relate to the term "this place". Let me say that this is not a place; this is the House of Parliament. This is where people expect us, as their elected representatives, to do what they elected us to do. Let us forget about "this place", and begin referring to "this House" as "the floor of Parliament". This is where the people should be heard. The people in my electorate never refer to Parliament as "that place", and I had never heard the term until my first visit here.

As most honourable members would realise, this is my maiden speech. I won the seat of Noosa at the election with a swing of 16 per cent, despite an almost unbelievable effort by the Labor Party to keep its former member for Cooroora as the representative for the new seat of Noosa. For example, the Premier, Mr Goss, surely visited Noosa more than any other electorate—perhaps even more than he visited his own. In the last two weeks, I was also up against visits by nine Ministers and a massive advertising campaign which was often based on scare tactics and blatant untruths. Mr Goss and all his Ministers made many promises on education, emergency services, job creation schemes, the Government's intention to buy Emu Swamp, and so on. In the near future, I will be writing to the Government to confirm these promises and establish a time frame for when they will be fulfilled. As I have been told and as I see it, it is time that people at all levels of government—mainly the members of this House—accepted their responsibilities and offered their electorates true representation. For too long, we have allowed our constituents to believe that we are out of touch with the man in the street. For too long, politicians have relied on the hope-and-promise trick. Many times I have heard it said by political-type people, "Give them hope". I can tell honourable members that people whom I know on both sides of politics are sick and tired of the old hope-and-promise trick. We cannot expect the public to respect us as parliamentarians, or to respect this House, when we fail to deliver the goods.

People pay Government taxes and charges in the belief that they will get a return in works and services. So often I have seen Governments fail in their responsibility to cater for the people they represent. Roads, education, health and security of lifestyle are central requirements and the expectation of all people in our electorates. It is not my intention to get into the hope-and-promise trick area but, instead, to offer the people of my electorate real value for money from their local member of Parliament. As it is in all electorates, this means striking a balance between what everyone wants and what can be provided. However, what is essential is that, at the very least, Government gives people what they need. A standard of living is not just an election catchcry; it is the right

of all Queenslanders. It must be balanced by the realities of available funds and available resources, but it is still a basic right. If we allow this right to be whittled away, we will find our position on the poll of preferred professions even lower than it is today.

Being a successful small-business operator, I will endeavour during my time in this House to represent all those Queenslanders who operate a business, no matter how small. We must accept that small business is the big employer of Queenslanders. It is my belief that many of those business operators are often burdened unfairly by excessive taxes and charges. It is absolutely essential that we free up small business, promote it and restore the confidence that will ensure that Queenslanders continue to create employment opportunities that come with business. The coalition represents these small-business people, and I will be doing everything in my power to ensure that the Government does not further erode the ability of small business to not only survive but also thrive in Queensland, as it has in the past.

I am proud to be a Liberal and a member of a party which has a philosophical base to which all Australians can relate. The principles that Sir Robert Menzies instilled into the Liberal Party when he formed it 50 years ago are as relevant and as valid now as they were then. The most fundamental of these is our belief in the importance of the individual and the might of individuals to make their way through life without the fear of undue intrusion and intervention on the part of Government. My party believes in encouraging the full potential of individual creativity. I am also proud to be associated with a party which has a real respect for those institutions which have served this nation so well. Not least of those is parliamentary democracy itself, which we all too frequently take for granted. Added to that is freedom of association, freedom of the press and those individual symbols which clearly delineate the soul of the nation. Those are the ideals that I and the Liberal Party will always support. In other words, the philosophical bottom line, my bottom line, is the availability of freedom—not unbridled, destructive freedom, but that freedom which will allow the full development of individualistic human potential.

I take this opportunity to thank all my supporters in the election campaign. I was lucky to have so many friends to help me during my campaign, and for me it was the first time that I had been involved in any sort of election campaign. It was good to have some tough campaigners on my side. Mr Peter Hardie, my campaign director, did a stirring job in ensuring that we did all the right things to win, and his experience played an enormous part in my success. My campaign treasurer, Ian Poole, was a great numbers man and managed to balance the books right to the end. Glen Elmes, with his expertise at promotion and his campaign experience, was also a great help. Liz Aspinell, Jeanie Hall, Jean Denton and Bert Wansley were always on hand to man our office, and their assistance was invaluable. Jeff Nuske was my manpower person, and he was able at all times to get a crew together to doorknock. I had many other helpers and, on election day, we had on the ground 110 people who were absolutely magnificent.

My wife of 20 years, Nicole—who I might say is my first wife—not only was involved in my campaign but also managed our business, often working 70 hours a week. Not once did Nicole complain and at all times she supported me in my endeavours. I take this opportunity to thank her. She is the best mate that I could ever hope for. My children, Mark, Damien and Amy, were also very supportive of their dad as he pushed on to win the election. I love them all, and I thank them very much indeed.

I do not pretend to be a typical politician. I do not even really consider myself a politician. I consider myself a pretty down-to-earth sort of bloke who wanted to make a difference. I intend to make that difference by remaining down to earth and helping the people of my electorate in the only way I know how. That is through hard work and through listening to the people of Noosa. So if I do not come across in this House as a career politician, I am glad. I have no intention of changing. I intend to try to balance growth with the beautiful natural environment of the Noosa electorate. From its perfect beaches to its winding river, natural rainforests and national parks, the Noosa area offers everything for Queensland, Australian and overseas tourists.

The human community of Noosa is as rich and colourful as all our natural beauty. From living in Noosa for many years, I have come to appreciate and admire the dedication and sense of service of so many unselfish people in the Noosa community. I honour those tireless community workers and intend to do all in my power to add my support to their endeavours to realise the full potential of living in the beautiful Noosa region. I repeat that I am honoured to represent the Noosa electorate and intend to be not only the first but also the best possible member for Noosa.

**Mrs ROSE** (Currumbin) (8.35 p.m.): May I begin by congratulating the Government on its third Budget. There are initiatives within the Budget that I know will benefit and please the people of the Currumbin electorate, and it is fitting that I outline some of them. Schools in Currumbin will be in a position to offer safer and sounder education through schemes emanating from the Budget, such as the \$3.3 billion Capital Works Program, the \$60m school refurbishment plan, the Schoolsafe scheme and initiatives designed to lighten the burden on p. and c. groups by providing a greater provision of schools' basic requirements. The Government has been progressive in recognising that an integral part of modern education is the development of computer literacy. Because of that, primary schools in the Currumbin electorate will now gain over 60 computers at the cost of \$140,000.

Payroll tax breaks given to small businesses by adjusting the stipulated threshold will have an important effect on business and jobs in the Currumbin electorate. Indeed, the Budget will not only improve various components of the infrastructure of Queensland. It will also play a twofold role by emphasising the generation of local business and the creation of local jobs. For instance, under the \$3.3 billion Capital Works Program, it is envisaged that 80 per cent of the work generated will go to local contractors and businesses. On 19 September, it was initiatives such as those that appealed to the electors of Currumbin.

I thank honourable members on this side of the House for their support now and during my campaign for election to the seat of Currumbin. I also congratulate them on their election to office for another term. The mandate received by the Goss Government from the people of Queensland on 19 September reflects an overwhelming mood amongst Queenslanders, who believe that there is so much left to do for the Goss Government, after inheriting a decaying Queensland from the Nationals in 1989. I am proud to join the ranks of a Government that has turned Queensland around in just three years and now, in its second term, has been given another overwhelming mandate by the people, which, to my mind, says this to the Government: good work, now keep on going.

I remind honourable members that this is the first time that Labor has held a seat on the southern Gold Coast. The Goss Labor Government has, this year, shown the National Party-led coalition that it no longer has traditional seats. No longer can the National Party-led coalition rest easy in the knowledge that the Gold Coast would be its last frontier. If that is the case, through its performance the Goss Government has taken away from the coalition its core of support from within the community. I welcome the challenge given to me by the people of the Currumbin electorate. I thank them for their support and for the confidence that they have shown in me. I will serve the people of Currumbin with commitment and in this House will not lose my focus on their interests.

The electors of Currumbin have made a decision to be represented by a member of a responsible Government. From this moment on, Currumbin will not be a seat easily taken away from the Labor Government as I continue the Government's theme of consultation, commitment and reform. The people in the Currumbin electorate have made it clear that their representative in this House must listen to Currumbin. By electing me, they have made it clear that they did not want to contribute to the return of an out-of-touch and stagnant National Party-led Government, and they have made it clear that their member should aspire to remain as their member, and not desert them to seek political and personal opportunity elsewhere.

As a member of the Goss Labor Government, I will bring something new to the electors of Currumbin—a willingness to listen, and a commitment to put their interests above personal political ambition. My political aspirations are to be responsible and responsive to the people of the Currumbin electorate. As a member of the Goss Labor Government, I know that I am joining a team that is dedicated to continued and sensible reform in Queensland. This term will see this Government continue to pick up the pieces from the previous National Party Government.

I might now describe the Currumbin electorate by saying that it is one of the most beautiful places I have ever encountered. It stretches from Coolangatta in the south to Palm Beach in the north. Its localities include Kirra, Bilinga, Tugun, Rainbow Bay, Elanora, Currumbin, Currumbin Waters, and the beautiful Tallebudgera and Currumbin Valleys. Residents of each locality display fierce pride in their immediate area. The local surf-lifesaving clubs are usually the place where that pride concentrates. Joe Doniger, who hails from the North Kirra surf-lifesaving club in the Currumbin electorate, is perhaps the most chronicled and gallant surf-lifesaver in the history of our State. As a representative of the people of Currumbin, one cannot underestimate the pride in the local surf-lifesaving tradition and, of course, in our beaches and creeks. The environment of Currumbin is characterised by surf beaches and expansive foreshore, the Currumbin and Tallebudgera Valleys, and finally by that which connects the two, the Tallebudgera and Currumbin Creeks.

I intend to put environmental management in Currumbin high on my list of priorities. On the agenda is the monitoring of effluent levels in both the Currumbin and Tallebudgera Creeks with a view to keeping these levels to an absolute minimum. The Goss Labor Government's clean water plan will play an important role in ensuring that this will happen. Under the clean water plan, physical and biological monitoring of the Currumbin and Tallebudgera Creeks will be undertaken for the first time. This will allow potential problem areas in the creeks to be appraised, and local standards and clean-up programs to be quickly adopted. Clean water standards will be created through the Government's forthcoming environment protection Act. The plan to impose tough polluter-pays fines of up to \$1m will see a greater adherence to the standards for clean water that are established. The environment of the southern Gold Coast is perhaps our most important natural resource. We must preserve it. Currumbin's environment is a major resource to our most significant industry, tourism. That is why I advocate the development of eco-tourism. Currumbin encompasses parts of both the Albert and Gold Coast Shires, and borders New South Wales from Point Danger to the western boundary of the parish of Tallebudgera.

Sharing a border with New South Wales gives rise to a variety of issues unique to Currumbin. Perhaps the most important cross-border issue involves the training walls in the Tweed River built by the New South Wales Government some years ago. These walls are now stopping the natural northerly flow of sand onto Queensland beaches. The result is an erosion problem on the beaches at the southern end of my electorate and a build-up of sand in the mouth of the Tweed River. The most viable solution is to construct a mechanical bypass which would stop sand building up in the Tweed River mouth by allowing it to continue north and so replenish our beaches. I fully support the Premier in his stance on the issue of funding the construction of the sand bypass. The Premier has said that the Queensland Government will fund 50 per cent of the net cost of the project. I will remind honourable members that the New South Wales Government has admitted responsibility for this problem. The Queensland Government, in an attempt to seek a speedy resolution, has offered an equal contribution to funding the solution to this problem. Unless this is done quickly, further damage to our beaches is inevitable.

On the other hand, bordering New South Wales highlights a number of the Goss Government's successes, particularly in the area of business, industry and regional development. Recently, there have been allegations that Queensland has been poaching industry from northern New South Wales. I make no apology for the fact that under the Goss Government Queensland has a more attractive business climate than does New South Wales. The southern Gold Coast offers an alternative to industry because of

payroll tax incentives, cheaper power and a healthy growth rate. When industries see our growth rate of 4.6 per cent over the last year as opposed to New South Wales' 2 per cent, it is only good business sense that leads them to consider establishing their operations on the Gold Coast. A telltale sign of the success of the Goss Labor Government's initiatives in its first term is a 30 per cent increase in the number of people employed in manufacturing on the Gold Coast.

I will continue to support the growth of viable, environmentally responsible industry on the southern Gold Coast. To this end, I welcome lobbying to encourage the growth of the information technology industry on the southern Gold Coast. Information technology is an ideal industry for the future in the Currumbin electorate, as it encourages an expanded and improved skills base in the community, poses no threats to the environment and has a large and diverse market potential. Encouraging the continued growth of business and industry in the Currumbin electorate is one of my priorities. The fact that the New South Wales Government cannot compete with the Goss Government's business and industry initiatives is the reason why industries consider establishing themselves on the southern Gold Coast rather than in northern New South Wales. The budgeted extension to the services of the Queensland Small Business Corporation's operations on the Gold Coast will see further incentives offered to small businesses.

Tourism is, of course, the most prominent industry on the southern Gold Coast. The Goss Government will continue to emphasise the growth of the tourism industry on the southern Gold Coast. An ongoing commitment to lift tourism marketing funding by 13 per cent signals the Government's intention to boost tourism. The return of Compass Airlines to the Coolangatta Airport in the Currumbin electorate signals further tourism growth. The Goss Labor Government has been instrumental in encouraging Compass to return to Coolangatta by providing it with assistance for the establishment of temporary terminal facilities. This demonstrates the Goss Labor Government's commitment to promoting tourism on the Gold Coast. The return of Compass will see increased tourism in Currumbin as many more people from interstate and within Queensland take advantage of its competitive rates. Indeed, tourism is the industry most likely to grow in the short term on the southern Gold Coast. Its growth, however, is dependent on a supply of workers trained in industry-relevant occupations. TAFE plays a major role in the supply of competent employees to meet the increasing demands of the local tourism industry in Currumbin. The Coolangatta campus of the Gold Coast Institute of TAFE continues to offer competency-based courses in tourism and hospitality. Through a staffing boost, the Goss Government will provide for another 180 TAFE places on the Gold Coast.

It is essential that the future training requirements of the tourism industry in the Currumbin electorate are anticipated and met. The Goss Labor Government has met this challenge. By 1994, 56 extra places will be available in the Associate Diploma of Tourism and Hospitality course at the Coolangatta campus of the Gold Coast Institute of TAFE. By ensuring that the Coolangatta campus of TAFE can cope with local demands for trained workers, we will be in a position to place local skilled unemployed in positions that become available in local industry rather than have workers brought in from elsewhere. These are essential steps to take in addressing the problem of local unemployment.

The Currumbin electorate is an area of rapid growth. It is forecast that, by the year 2000, the population of the Gold Coast will grow by as much as 60 per cent. Currumbin will benefit from a planned and sensible approach to development. In the true spirit of committee busting under the Nationals, the Currumbin electorate would have been subjected to a policy of develop first, plan later. The electors of Currumbin have given me a mandate to administer and advocate sensible development through careful planning on the southern Gold Coast. As I have said before, they consider their environment to be their greatest natural resource.

Domestic violence and sexual assault continue to be a problem in all areas of Queensland. I will continue to emphasise the Government's role in educating and shaping community attitudes in relation to violence against women in particular. Crime remains a concern of the residents of the Currumbin electorate. The Goss Government has recognised the need to attack crime. An effective example of this is the Safety Audit Scheme, which is a plan to help local communities reduce crime and improve safety. Successful schemes in the Currumbin electorate such as Neighbourhood Watch continue to be assisted by the Goss Government. Other schemes such as the Women's Safety Project and the Household Security Advisory Service will play an important and integral part in reducing crime.

In this, my maiden speech, I feel it is essential that I extend my thanks to all those who assisted and advised me during my campaign. What was most encouraging for the Labor Government at the September election was the level of community support that emerged for candidates such as myself. My election as the member for Currumbin is attributable not only to the hard work of members of the Australian Labor Party but also to a large contingent from within the local community which emerged to aid in my election and in the re-election of the Goss Government.

Dedication and sacrifice are not unknown to the people I am about to mention. I thank Lee Bermingham, Mike Kaiser and Wayne Swan in particular for their support and advice during my campaign. My former colleagues must be thanked for their support and assistance, which was consistent and plentiful from the very beginning of my campaign. A group of dedicated individuals from within the ranks of Queensland Young Labor were also instrumental in my campaign and, along with the Currumbin branch of the Queensland ALP, I thank them very much. Of course, my sincere appreciation and thanks must be conveyed to my family. Most of all I thank my two sons, Jason and Shaun, and my husband, Ray, for their unquestioned support and commitment. My thanks would be incomplete without mentioning my sincere gratitude to Damien Green for his hard work, professionalism, loyalty, encouragement and endless patience during those last demanding weeks of the election campaign.

The people of Currumbin and the people of Queensland have given the Goss Labor Government a mandate for continued, sensible change. In the next three years, I will endeavour to represent the people of Currumbin with focus and determination. As I take my seat in this House as the member for Currumbin we have, to a certain extent, created history. We have symbolised Labor's advance into regions which, for over 30 years, were considered to be the stronghold of the National and Liberal Parties. To this end, I am proud to take this seat and to remind all honourable members that, by taking this seat, I represent Labor's advances towards becoming the natural form of government in this State.

**Mr MITCHELL** (Charters Towers) (8.53 p.m.): I am proud to reaffirm my loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. I am a proud Australian and Queenslander and I stand to defend the flags of both exactly as they are at this moment. I will have no part of any move to change the symbol of the nation or this State, especially since those moves are made by people who hope to direct attention away from their failures of policy.

This is a proud moment for me, to stand in this Parliament and address my peers. However, it is a moment that is not just for me. It is a moment that I share with the people who stood behind me in the fight to represent the people of Charters Towers in the highest forum in this State. I realise that I have some big shoes to fill. However, I wish to acknowledge the people who are most important to me: my wife Kay, and my three children—Tracy, who is a young woman of 22, my son Rob who is 17 and starting to come to grips with the adult world, and my daughter Peta, who is six. One of the reasons I decided to run for Parliament was to try to secure a better world for my children and for future generations. First and foremost, we are a family, and I intend to use much of my time in this place promoting the interests of the families who live in my electorate, in other parts of Queensland, and in this great nation of ours. My family and

the families of every member of this Parliament are already paying the price of our being members. As a new member, I am beginning to find out what that means. Of course, other members would already know. Already, I have found that when I am away, my wife is the unpaid member for Charters Towers. Because of the time I spend travelling in my huge electorate, my wife must take phone calls, and adopt the role of being both parents to our children. I must add that she is quite happy to undertake those tasks. I am sure that honourable members would agree that the families of parliamentarians do it hard, and they deserve our greatest support.

I must acknowledge the unstinting efforts of my campaign committee. They took a raw political recruit, and achieved a swing of 3.5 per cent, thereby ensuring that the people of the Charters Towers electorate retained a conservative representative in Parliament. Because the redistribution created a seat that was difficult to win, the task of my campaign committee was not an easy one. The experts told us that areas such as Moranbah, Clermont and Charters Towers contained a large number of electors who would vote for the Labor Party. The electorate also contains a wide diversity of geographic and economic interests. It is one of the five huge electorates that were created by the electoral boundary redistribution, and covers approximately 230 000 square kilometres. It takes me six hours to drive from my office in Charters Towers to the far corners of my electorate. It is a credit to George Price, my campaign manager, Joyce Boothby, who is the chairperson of the Charters Towers electorate council, and all the other people involved that we were able to achieve the necessary swing to win the seat of Charters Towers.

I would like to pay tribute to the man who previously represented most of the Charters Towers electorate, the Honourable Bob Katter. His dedication to the people of inland Queensland and his love of the country have earned him a special place in Queensland's history books. Bob Katter and his electorate secretary, Mrs Berneice Gannon are renowned for their services and the care that they have given to the community. I am happy to report that Mrs Gannon will continue to help me serve the needs of the newly enlarged electorate. As most members would know, Bob Katter plans to enter the Federal political field. He plans to replace a Victorian visitor, who is temporarily representing the seat of Kennedy. I know that in his new career, he will have the support of my leader and all the members of the National Party. In fact, I suspect that he has the support of Government members. They are led by a critic of some parliamentarians with Victorian origins.

Another area of the electorate of Charters Towers was represented in the previous Parliament by the honourable member for Keppel, Mr Vince Lester. I know that the people whom he represented as the member for Peak Downs were very appreciative of his efforts, and valued the services provided by his electorate office and his secretary in Emerald. Prior to the election, the Moranbah area of the new Charters Towers electorate was the responsibility of the member for Bowen. The member saw a drastic and urgent need for an electorate office in Moranbah. That need was so great that it exceeded the requirements of the much larger town of Bowen. Consequently, to satisfy that heavy demand, he moved his electorate office and secretary from Bowen to Moranbah.

The people of the new electorate of Charters Towers were represented previously by three members of the Legislative Assembly. They were serviced by three electorate offices and three electorate secretaries. The people of my electorate accepted the dilution of their voting power, as recommended by the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission and introduced by the Labor Government. They trusted that the promise that went with that dilution regarding compensatory services—which were also recommended by the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission—would be honoured. The people of my electorate have kept their side of the bargain. They are normal people who keep their word and honour their contracts. In common with most people, they despise con men, and people who break their word. However, because the second electorate office and other services that were recommended by the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission to offset the isolation experienced by the people of my electorate have not been forthcoming, they have been severely

disadvantaged. They suspect that they have been deceived. They have listened to the stories about the lack of funding, but they have also read about the millions of dollars that have been spent on the Premier's office. They are concerned that Labor has relegated them to the rank of second-class citizens. I want to make the point very clearly that I am not asking for a cent, or the lick of a stamp. However, I ask that the people of my electorate be given the chance to receive a similar level of representation to that which is enjoyed by their city cousins. I simply ask that they be given the services that were recommended by the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission, and which they expected they would be given. The people of my electorate had a bargain forced on them, and they have kept their side of it.

If Governments are ever to earn the respect of the people whom they govern, they must honour their obligations. History has consistently shown that people will tolerate the discipline of Governments that they do not like. However, they will rebel against those Governments that they do not trust. To maintain the integrity of Queensland's Legislative Assembly, the entire package of reforms that were prescribed by the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission must be implemented. To date, the discriminatory sections of the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission package that have been implemented have only multiplied the disadvantages of isolation, distance and communication costs that are experienced by the people of inland Queensland. Those people are the salt of the earth. They are the people who mine, who grow, who process, who transport, and who service Australia's great domestic and export industries. They grow our food, they earn our export income, they produce the fibres for our clothing, they provide the only possibility of real job creation for our children, and they provide our main hope of economic recovery. Those people deserve and need the very same access to their parliamentary member as do their city counterparts.

The electorate of Charters Towers is rich in mineral and fossil fuel deposits. It has a large mining work force maintaining an important industry to the benefit of the whole State. Our mining families are concerned when they see the fate of a significant portion of the income tax that is deducted from their wages. They see fortunes directed to extreme conservation groups, whose main purpose is to close down industries that provide jobs and the family incomes. I can understand their anxiety. In Moranbah, families face a special dilemma when it comes to jobs for their children. Because of the mining company conflict, jobs and/or apprenticeships at the North Goonyella mine, situated about 25 kilometres from Moranbah, can be filled only by residents of Mackay, which is 200 kilometres from North Goonyella. Many of the jobless youth in Moranbah are victims of mining company policy.

The Charters Towers electorate encompasses a large farming and grazing area. The pastoral and agricultural industries are currently experiencing severe drought and have to cope with depressed and corrupted commodity markets. The removal of the reserve price has seen the incomes of wool producers plummet to a quarter of their previous levels. This price and income collapse has effectively eliminated most of the permanent jobs on wool-producing properties. Producers are enduring annual losses of horrendous proportions and severe erosion of their collateral base. A huge proportion of producers are being forced by their financiers into liquidation and bankruptcy. Indeed, as many as a quarter of producers may not survive another year on the land. These days, the banks seem to be taking a softer attitude than they did a year ago, but there is still a great need for a finance provider with a long-term commitment to the primary producer sector. I really believe that the Government has to look at restoring the ability of the QIDC to lend to producers on terms that will give them the ability and confidence to rebuild. The drought will end for sure. I wish that we could be just as certain about the financial crisis facing just about every primary producer in the State. It will not end if this Government continues to treat producers and everybody in rural Queensland the way that it has in the past.

The Queensland Labor Government decided to increase land rentals in most of the grazing areas in the Charters Towers region by 300 per cent. Those rental increases

were imposed at the worst possible time for a pastoral industry that is struggling for its very existence. They were the cruel and heartless act of a Government that simply does not care about people outside its Brisbane stronghold. They were the act of a Government that decided to bleed rural Queensland to pay for the handouts to its own electorates. The Government should remember that those rental increases cannot be afforded. They will accelerate the removal of rural jobs and put more producers in jeopardy of bankruptcy.

So far this year, wool producers in the Charters Towers electorate have had to shoot over a quarter of a million sheep. Our shearers and rural workers are out of work because of Labor Party policies in Canberra and Brisbane. The wool industry has been wrecked by Labor Party Governments that could not care less. That is why so many rural workers are unemployed. To blame New Zealanders or anyone else is false. All land-holders need a guarantee of their rights to occupy their land. Even the Wolfe report, commissioned by this Government, made the point that security of tenure was paramount. This has not happened under the Labor Government. Too many good Queensland battlers have seen their land disappear into national parks for no better reason than the department's greed. Honourable members will be familiar with the Riversleigh land grab. In that case, only a small area was needed to preserve the fossils, but the Government took the best part of a good, productive property, anyway. The same thing has happened in dozens of other cases. To make matters worse, the former property owners have rarely been compensated properly by the Government.

People in my own electorate have asked me why properties are taken at or below market value when that value is artificially depressed at the moment. Anyone who knows anything about the bush would know the effect on land prices of drought and the rural recession. The Government should compensate those people properly by paying the long-term value of their land. We all know that values will improve when the recession ends and we again have a run of good seasons. People fearing resumption have very little incentive to maintain or even improve their properties. While the threat of resumption exists, improvements and maintenance are suspended, reducing the productive capacity of the land. About all that increases then is the spread of feral animals and pest plants. That is a great contrast to the way our producers have looked after the land for generations. It is well recognised in my part of the world that a man depending on the land for a living will take very good care of that land. It is urgent that the Government level with the land-holders whose land it is thinking about resuming. It should reassure the rest, so that they can confidently look after their resources.

The Charters Towers electorate contains 15 000 kilometres of public roads. Only a little over 1 500 kilometres—a pitiful 10 per cent—are sealed. The major northern and southern centres of my electorate are still divided by dirt road. The all-weather connection road between my electorate office in the City of Charters Towers and Clermont is an 825 kilometre round trip via Townsville and Mackay. There is still a lot to be done on inland roads, but the people of Charters Towers are not holding their breath waiting. They know that the voting power in the Parliament has been concentrated in Brisbane, so that is where the spending will be. It is a bit like the Federal Labor Government making sure that most of the money that it spends goes into the Melbourne and Sydney areas, where most of its members are located. The fact that this happens does not make it right, and I will continue to remind my electorate of what is going on. I will continue to tell my constituents that they produce more than their share of the wealth, but they get a lot less than a fair share of Government spending.

Government services and Government jobs in inland towns are an important part of our community. It was witnessing the removal of some of those jobs and services, and the resultant closure of small towns, that first inspired me to seek office. Watching towns die because of the removal of Government jobs and services is a demoralising and frightening experience for the whole of the inland community. They have seen the heart cut out of Government departments such as the Department of Primary Industries. They have seen police strength reduced below the minimum. They have seen cuts in rail services and in just about every other service the Government is meant to provide. Of

course, it is not just the services that we miss; it is also the people who were a vital part of our community. The public servants who lived in our towns belonged to the sporting clubs and service clubs. They sent their children to our local schools and they did their shopping locally. Now that they have gone, there are some very large gaps. Real estate values in some of those towns have been drastically eroded because those who must shift to find work cannot find purchasers or tenants for their homes. I have resolved to do all in my power to halt the current momentum of closure.

Fortunately, Mr Deputy Speaker, a lot of people share my concerns. Many worked hard along with my family and friends to ensure my election success. I thank them for their efforts and assure them that I will honour the trust they have placed in me. With the election over, it is time to get down to the job of properly representing everybody in my electorate. I am a firm believer that a member must represent people whether they supported him in the election or not. An electorate is just an extended community and it is important that every community pulls together for the benefit of every one of its members. I am committed to representing all the people of the Charters Towers electorate whatever their political persuasion, race or creed. They are all great people working for their families and their communities. They deserve a fair share from the Government of the State, and I intend to help them obtain it.

**Mr PURCELL** (Bulimba) (9.11 p.m.): I congratulate the Goss Government on its third Budget. I am just an ordinary bloke and I stand here today with a mixture of pride and humility. More than that, I am very much aware of the challenges that confront every member of Parliament at this time. In my first speech as a member of this House, I want to talk about challenges. Before I do that, I acknowledge and accept the trust and responsibility that the electors of Bulimba have placed in me for as long as I sit in this Chamber. I intend to be here a long time. I will repay the loyalty of the electors of Bulimba with a level of commitment that is no less than the people of Bulimba deserve.

The 1992 State election was fought during hard times for many people. This has created an environment that makes people suspicious of not only new politicians but also long-serving ones. The profession of politician should be an honourable one. It is a challenge to all of us to see that trust in us is well placed. In very recent times, incumbent Governments have felt the outrage of electorates all over Australia. But, Mr Deputy Speaker, not here, not in Queensland. The electors of Queensland, and Bulimba in particular, have kept their faith in the Australian Labor Party and the Goss Government. Neither the Goss Government nor I will let them down.

I am proud and honoured to represent the Australian Labor Party in this Parliament as the member for Bulimba. There is a great Labor tradition in Queensland politics. In no seat is this more true than the seat of Bulimba, which has existed since 1872, or 20 years before organised political Labor came into existence in Australia. Bulimba has for practically all of that time, a period spanning nearly 125 years, elected representatives of the working people. Even throughout the dark days of the Bjelke-Petersen era, the people of Bulimba returned the Labor party to truly safeguard their interests. I will maintain this tradition. Secondly, it is a particular honour to be a member of the Goss Government and therefore to be part of the continuing reform process in this State. The people of Queensland have maintained their trust in this Labor Government to carry on the job, and I am proud to be able to contribute to the hard work that is still before us.

When I consider the political fortunes of my immediate predecessors in Bulimba, I am privileged to be a Government member so early in my political life. Jack Houston was the member for Bulimba from 1957 to 1980 and spent his entire parliamentary life on the Opposition benches. I often think what great things Jack could have done for Queensland and the Labor Party from this side of the House. One of the consequences of the 32 years of conservative Government in this State was the inability of people such as Jack to use their talents and ideas for the good of Queensland. When we study the legacy of the conservative Governments that misruled this State for so long, it becomes pretty clear that it was not talent that kept them in Government. Most of the

real talent that was, or is, in this Chamber was, or is, on the Labor side. Jack and other Labor members like him are good examples of that.

No discussion of the seat of Bulimba, however, is complete without mention of my immediate predecessor, Ron McLean. Ron held Bulimba from 1980 until his retirement this year. During the Goss Government's first term, Ron rose to Cabinet level as the Minister for Administrative Services. He was, in everyone's opinion, a popular and talented Minister. Ron, like Jack Houston before him, was a tireless worker for the people of his electorate. Ron is synonymous with Bulimba. He gave outstanding service to the electorate and was a friend of the working men and women. I intend to follow his example during my time in this place. There are not too many people who have started their careers as an apprentice carpenter in a department such as the old Works Department and who have ended up as Minister in charge of the same department.

Ron did a great job as the member for Bulimba on many fronts. He fought hard for the full use of the river ferry service in the electorate. He worked tirelessly for the upgrading of local schools. Among the many facilities that he was instrumental in getting built in the area was the Babs Shield Senior Citizen Centre. Ron was the perfect example of a good local member. He was involved with and promoted the interests of practically every group in the electorate. On a personal level, we would all agree that Parliament House will be a duller place without Ron. Ron and Anne have moved out of Brisbane for health reasons, and I believe Ron is now putting his carpentry skills to good use. On behalf of the electors of Bulimba, I wish to extend my personal thanks to Ron and Anne for their service to the area and their assistance to me during the recent election campaign. I am sure all members will join me in wishing Ron and Anne all the best for their well-earned retirement.

I have been a trade unionist all my working life and a Labor Party member for 17 years. I believe in what the trade union movement and the Labor Party stand for—a fair go and a say for working people. I wish to place on record my appreciation to the hundreds of members and officials in the trade union movement and the Labor Party branches whose support has got me here. In particular, I wish to thank the branches in the Bulimba electorate—the Bulimba branch, the Cannon Hill/Morningside branch, the Hawthorne branch and the Galloways Hill branch. I also wish to thank the Builders Labourers Federation of which I had the honour to be a member for 22 years and to represent officially for 16 years.

If I tried to thank individually all the people who helped me during the recent election campaign and for the years before that, I would probably offend someone by leaving out a name by mistake, so I will not record them all. They know who they are and have my sincere thanks. But I do wish to place on record my thanks and appreciation to my family—my wife, Margaret, and our children Jennifer, Jacqueline, Gabrielle, Anthony and Daniel, who have supported and understood the long working hours, firstly, during my 16 years as a union official, and now, in my entry into politics.

As a young man I spent some of the hardest and best years of my life working on the land. I have a good idea of what it means to work seven days a week, and the rewards and the heartbreak. Working on the land is not unlike working in the building industry. Both require working with your hands and your back and getting dirt under your fingernails. When I look around this Chamber I am encouraged by the number of Labor members from non-metropolitan electorates. It tells me that the great Labor tradition of representing the country and the city equally is as strong as ever. Labor is the only party that truly represents the interests of all working people. I intend to uphold this tradition as the representative of Bulimba.

I have drawn many lessons from my own experience as a resident of Bulimba, and now as its representative in this Parliament. My family and I have lived in Bulimba for 20 years. We have had a regular involvement in community affairs during that time, including my seven years as president of the p. and f. association and active involvement in a host of local sporting and community groups. All members will appreciate the satisfaction that comes from involvement in community organisations. I

believe it goes a long way beyond the personal satisfaction that one gets out of it. I believe that it is unpaid work at the grassroots that gives real meaning to democracy. One of the things that I will make it my business to do during my career in this House is to champion and help community organisations.

I want to make a couple of general points. In a real way my standing in this Chamber for Bulimba should remind all members that we face great challenges. Bulimba contains, to a greater or lesser extent, all the problems that we on the Government side—in fact, all members of Parliament, irrespective of party allegiance—will have to face here and now, not just in the future. It is about these issues that I want to speak in my first speech in this House. As I see them, the challenges are to maintain employment in Bulimba and throughout Queensland; to preserve the community spirit and our way of life; to have some power over, rather than just putting up with, the impact of development on the character of our suburbs and towns; to allow the people of Bulimba and everywhere real consultation about major Government decisions that affect them; and to achieve a better standard of living for all Queenslanders. We have to do this in the face of the attack on working conditions and living standards that we are now seeing inflicted on the working people of Victoria by the Kennett Government. We have to make sure that we never see anything like it anywhere else in Australia, least of all in Queensland. These are not challenges that I or the Government will be scared of facing.

The essential point to be made is that we stand somewhere between the old and the new Queensland, the old and the new Brisbane. It is on how we manage the transition between the old and the new that we will be judged by our children and the generations that come after them. They are hard questions, but we have to face them head on. I do not want to get stuck on the past, but there are many examples of how these kinds of problems can grow if they are not addressed by Governments. For too long in this State people were ignored if they lived in Brisbane, let alone if they lived in the traditionally less-well-off areas of Brisbane. All of the members on this side of the House have long memories of the bad old days of lack of proper representation for all Queenslanders. Standards of living were allowed to fall to shameful levels in this State. Paper bagfuls of money were being dropped on desks in high places while our schools were lucky if they had any desks at all, and some were allowed to fall into disrepair. Our great State hospital system was left to go to rack and ruin around us while past Governments went on about freedom of choice. In particular, this meant that they indulged in blatant pork-barrelling by putting facilities where conservatives' seats were, rather than where the population was. This was just not good enough. It is this kind of injustice that fires the Labor Party and people like myself and which this Labor Government is determined to fix.

It will take this Government the best part of a decade to fix the problems caused by the years of neglect of our social infrastructure by the conservatives, but we will not be diverted from the job. The costs of rebuilding our hospitals and schools will be high, but the social costs of not doing so are even higher. There is also a great challenge in the fact that the essential character of Brisbane is changing fast. Over 20 years ago, Brisbane was just a large country town. Today, Brisbane is booming—a fast-moving city of the nineties. My own electorate of Bulimba is not immune to these changes. As I said before, it is in electorates such as Bulimba where we face at the local level the big issues that face the entire State.

There are major changes taking place in areas such as Hawthorne, Cannon Hill, Morningside, Murarrie and Hemmant, as well as Bulimba itself. Many professional people are starting to move into what were traditionally working class suburbs and renovating the old Queenslanders. It is great to be discovered. But the long-term residents of the area knew all about the area's secrets years ago. The result of this trend is that we now have a residential make-up of traditional residents, new arrivals and Government housing residents. We are looking at the steady evolution of a new sort of social structure. In my own street I can see the old working class nature of the area changing. I do not think that it is all necessarily bad.

The lesson I learn is that community groups and residents have to work among themselves, but they also have to feel they can work with the Government to make sure that no decisions are made unless everyone understands their impact on our way of life. It would be stupid to deny or to blindly resist the new Bulimba, the new Brisbane and the new Queensland that we can see is taking shape around us. Our challenge is to make sure that the new shape is the one that we believe to be the best. We have to make sure that our social environment stays one of which the average person feels he or she can be part. Let us take housing as an example of this. It would be wrong if increasing real estate values put home ownership out of the reach of wage earners in my electorate. I saw what happened in inner-city areas, such as mine, several years ago when the then Liberal Lord Mayor introduced outrageous rate increases. That is just the sort of out-of-touch decisions that can be made by an out-of-touch Government, whether it is local, Federal or State. I am pleased to say that the Goss Government has stayed in touch with its electorate to a good effect.

It is with this in mind that I congratulate the Government and, in particular, the Deputy Premier when he was Minister for Housing, for the commitment to public housing residents in my electorate and for the new kinds of public housing in this State. Gone are the days of Housing Commission disaster areas. I am one among many who welcomes the continued presence of public housing in Bulimba. I want to see more and more public housing in Bulimba, including hostel-style accommodation for single workers. Being concerned about the less privileged is the mark of a good Labor Government, as it should be of any Government. In these tough economic times, there is all the more need for Government assistance. I look forward to discussing housing issues in Bulimba with Terry Mackenroth, the new Minister for Housing.

While there have been changes in the housing sector, we also face changes in the commercial and industrial sectors of Bulimba. Again, these reflect much broader changes in the nature of our State and our economy that we need to take advantage of, rather than run away from. We cannot, like the boy in the story, stick our collective finger in the dyke and just hope that the flood of challenges will go away. We will all be facing these sorts of issues in our electorates in the next few years. We have to plan now to meet them.

I believe it is really important that we see changes as positive opportunities rather than unbeatable difficulties. Change is a part of everybody's life, but it is how we respond to change that is important. There is no getting away from the fact that local industries, which have employed local families and generated income for the area for years, are no longer offering the security of employment that they once did. This is a fact of life within our community. I will be working closely with industry representatives to make sure they have access to the Government and a say in any decisions which affect their future. Some people put it as a choice of opposites—jobs or the environment. But must there be a choice between jobs and the environment? Creating jobs is the main concern of any Australian Government today. To me, the challenge is to create jobs through sensible, sustainable development. By being more aware of practices, we can make existing businesses better. I know the people of Bulimba want increased employment opportunities in their own area, but they also want to see the local environment and facilities preserved. I recognise both these needs. I do not believe that people have to make a choice between one or the other. They can have both!

It is in this light that I absolutely agree with the Government on its commitment to increasing employment through tourism and to making a better environment infrastructure throughout the State. These are a major part of the Government's strategy to attract to and keep in Queensland high technology and other leading-edge industries. Without them, we will remain just a quarry and a farm, and will always be subject to fluctuations of commodity prices. Mr Deputy Speaker, important though the tourism industry is, it will not solve all our problems. When we talk about the tourism industry, we are talking to a very large extent about the construction industry, which I can claim to know something about. The key to success in all this is good development planning.

I, for one, am delighted to have seen during the Goss Government's first term the beginnings of the State's first rational planning system. It is only through sensible planning that we will get the right answers in cases such as the future proper location of industry. We have to get away from stop-start development, which particularly affects the building industry. I am not just talking about the tradespeople, the subbies and the unionists who are the backbone of the industry, but also the builders who try to do the right thing by their workers and provide regular jobs and pay packets.

I turn now to the challenges of improving our community and way of life. I welcome the Government's commitment to improved facilities in the Bulimba area. These will be successful because we have planned for them. The social infrastructure in Bulimba is ageing rapidly and needs regular Government attention. I am pleased to be able to say that, in response to representations from Ron McLean and me, the Government has recognised this need. Not only has the Government recognised this need, but also the Government is delivering on its commitment to improve our social facilities. In Bulimba, \$2.3m is to be spent on improving the railway stations at Murarrie, Cannon Hill, Norman Park, Hemmant, Doboy and Morningside. We are also improving the Park 'n Ride facilities to give our residents an alternative to sitting in traffic every morning and afternoon. I am also going to do my level best to see that a fair proportion of the funds of the Government's new bikeways plan is spent in and around Bulimba.

We are all too well aware that public transport, pollution, the environment, good clean air and recreation spaces are issues that go hand in hand. The Bulimba electorate is bounded by the Brisbane River. We have rediscovered the river as a potential transport corridor as well as making use of its banks as recreation space for us and our children. I will be speaking to all the relevant authorities about better use of the river for public transport. I am also determined to see the continued regeneration of as much of the river foreshores as possible for recreation space. This land is owned by the people and should be available for use by them. What Bulimba lacks most of all is parks and other recreation space. Driving around the electorate, I see a lot of empty land that I believe is owned by Government departments. It could be put to better use. I will be doing whatever I can to get some of this land released. I am sure that the Minister for Environment and Heritage, Molly Robson, will be a great help.

The Goss Government's commitment to improved facilities in Bulimba is nowhere better illustrated than in the field of education. As a parent, I appreciate the benefits that well equipped and maintained schools can have for children and the wider community. I know that children respond better if they are taught in bright, clean classrooms. For too long, traditional working-class areas such as Bulimba have missed out on funding for basic facilities. Schools in this State were a disgrace. The National Party Government blew its trumpet about opening schools, but never spent enough money on looking after the ones it already had. I will be keeping a close watch on the Government's schools refurbishment plan in Bulimba. A total of \$700,000 will be spent locally on improvements to our schools in terms of painting, floor coverings, new furniture and general repairs. Thirteen of my electorate's schools, including pre-school, primary and high schools, will receive assistance in varying amounts. The great benefit of the Government's school refurbishment scheme is that it will also help to ease unemployment and create income for small business in our area. I calculate that about 670 pay packets will be boosted in my electorate alone by this program. I do not need to spell out the flow-on effect to small business. There is no doubt that providing real jobs is one of the best ways to improve standards of living and family life. Work gives a structure in life, and self-respect. I am proud to be part of the Government that is tackling unemployment head-on with planned and constructive measures rather than taking the easy way out of looking for scapegoats as the conservatives are threatening to do if ever—heaven help us—they gain power in Canberra. The schools refurbishment plan is a real boost to local communities in tough times and shows what democratic Governments can do, and ought to do, for their people.

Finally, I want to say a few brief words on the issue of young people. We have to find real answers for the great problems of homelessness, unemployment, violence and

alienation that seem to affect so many of the people of our cities, and our youth in particular. Every new generation faces new challenges that impose different demands on them. As did the generation which came before them, they start out expecting a lot from us. All too often, their expectations end in disillusionment. We cannot meet those expectations if we as members are not reasonable and honest in our dealings in this Parliament and outside it. We cannot meet those expectations by looking only at the past for answers. Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank you for your indulgence and the indulgence of the House.

Time expired.

**Hon. K. E. De LACY** (Cairns—Treasurer) (9.32 p.m.), in reply: I take this opportunity to thank everybody for their contributions to the debate, particularly those members who made their maiden speeches. I congratulate them all. I was impressed by the quality of the speeches generally. There is no doubt that making one's first speech in this august Chamber is something of a challenge. There is, no doubt, something of an aura about this place. Once one has been here for a while, it is sometimes hard to feel that aura; nevertheless, it is a very important Chamber. It is where the decisions are made and where the legislation is passed that affects the quality of life of all Queenslanders. I could say in a spirit of goodwill that virtually everybody who comes into the Chamber comes in with a sense of idealism, and we do all have something in common. We are all here trying to make this State a better place in which to live. In that sense, I wish all members the very best in their parliamentary careers. I hope that, when those careers are finished, members can look back and say with confidence and satisfaction that they have contributed to a better life for Queenslanders.

I will say a couple of words about the Budget and the response by the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Coalition. I find it much more difficult to say praiseworthy things about those contributions. It seems to me that it was just another chapter in that tired old rhetoric that was rejected resoundingly by the people of Queensland only a few weeks ago. One would have thought that, having got the message a few weeks ago, those members may have been looking to the future in a different kind of way. But, no, it was the same old stuff, the same kind of stuff that the people of Queensland have said comprehensively that they reject. It amuses me somewhat to listen to the Leader of the Opposition. The only criticism that he can make of the Goss Government is that it is going to go bad. He cannot criticise what the Government has done, but he says, "Mark my words, the Government is going to go bad. It is going to be like those Labor Governments somewhere else." I would not want to disillusion honourable members on the Opposition side of the House too much so early in this term. However, if they are going to sit there waiting for the Government to go bad, they will wait in vain. If there is one thing to which the Government is committed, it is responsible financial management—the kind of responsible financial management that is epitomised in the Budget that was introduced two months ago and reintroduced today.

I have a couple of specific comments. The Leader of the Opposition spoke at length about the Government's Budget being the biggest-spending Budget of all the States and implied that spending money is somehow wrong or even that increasing expenditure is somehow wrong. Next week, he will be out there in front of the television cameras criticising the Government for not spending money here, there or somewhere else. My point is that the Government is all about spending money in a responsible way, but only spending money that it has to spend. In that sense, I accept that the Government should not be going into debt to meet its expenditure commitments.

I do not know that it is right to say that the Queensland Government is the biggest-spending Government of all the States. On a per capita basis, many of the other States still have higher levels of expenditure than we have in Queensland. It is true that the Queensland Government has increased its expenditure at a faster rate than has occurred in the other States. However, the Government has always done it within the framework of responsible economic management. The Government has a budgeting framework that

it will not violate and, while it remains within that framework, it ought to be spending money. The Government ought to be attempting to redress or to rectify the underfunding in a whole range of areas that characterised government in Queensland during the past two or three decades. I am not ashamed to stand here tonight and say that, during the past three years, the Government has increased funding for education, for instance, by approximately \$350m per annum in real terms. The Government is rectifying the problems created by the previous Government.

To criticise the Government for spending is missing the point because, even in this Budget, the Government is estimating an underlying surplus of \$283m. That means that, in a real sense, at the end of this financial year, this State will be \$283m in front of the position that it was in at the beginning of this financial year. It seems to me that only two people—that is, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Party—think that this Budget is no good and that the Government's financial management is no good. All commentators—all media commentators, all economic commentators, the international rating agencies, Access Economics, or whoever it may be—universally point to the fact that Queensland is the best-managed State in Australia by a country mile. It is just the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Party who are out of step, nobody else. We await with interest the results of the experiment being conducted in Victoria at present. We will see where that State finishes up in a couple of years' time.

I refer now to increases in expenditure. Over the last three years, under the Goss Government, expenditure in Queensland has increased by 20.6 per cent. During the last three years of the National Party Government in 1987, 1988 and 1989, current outlays increased by 35.1 per cent. If this Government is increasing its expenditure too quickly, what was that Government doing? However, I make the point that, in recent years, the major difference has been the strong growth in capital outlays, which have risen by 45 per cent, compared with a fall of 16 per cent over the last three years of the National Party Government. The Goss Government is investing in real assets which will serve the people of Queensland into the future.

Members opposite made a lot of the increase of 6.5 per cent in spending this year. In the context of 2 per cent inflation, 6.5 per cent does appear to be a fairly big increase in expenditure. However, I make the point that the whole picture needs to be looked at. That spending is inflated by Commonwealth One Nation funding, by the State regional roads program, by the acquisition of gaming machines and by the transfer of disability services from the Commonwealth to the State. These were services carried out previously by the Commonwealth, now transferred to the State, and the funding has now been transferred to the State. However, on the surface, it does increase our expenditure. Net of these items, the increase in expenditure this year is 3.5 per cent, which is below inflation plus population growth.

The other point made by the Leader of the Opposition was that, between 1990 and 1991, State revenue increased by \$747m, or 18.3 per cent. That is true. But in the usual form of the Leader of the Opposition, he took a half-truth and then drew a conclusion which was simply not warranted. He made a lot of invalid comparisons. I will tell honourable members some of the reasons why our revenue has increased to that amount. Some \$43m of the increase is on account of the full-year impact of the bank account debits tax, which was transferred from the Commonwealth to the State. Another \$63m relates to gaming machine revenue and machine rentals, and \$80m relates to increased interest earnings on our superannuation reserves, which is not really a revenue in that sense at all. That money comes in but it goes out again for superannuation payments as they emerge. The fact is that last year the Queensland Investment Corporation had a very good year; it received a 12.8 per cent return. However, all of that factors in to this increased revenue, which apparently upsets the Leader of the Opposition.

Some \$115m relates to hospital fees which were previously recorded in a trust account. We have closed the trust account and transferred that amount to the

Consolidated Fund, and now it shows up in the Consolidated Fund receipts area. It is the same money, but it is in the Consolidated Fund instead of in another fund. That upsets some people who cannot read the Budget papers. Some \$33m relates to the payment of advances made to the South Bank Corporation, and \$40m related to borrowings for the purchase of gaming machines. If all of those factors are taken out, this represents 50 per cent of the increase. In relation to the rest of it, yes, there has been an increase. In the last three years, we have increased our returns from Government-owned enterprises by something like \$150m, but we make no apologies for that.

**Mr Beanland:** It's a new tax, isn't it?

**Mr De LACY:** No. We have increased our returns from Government-owned enterprises. Mr Beanland is upset that the Government has enterprises which are making a profit, and he calls it a tax. Is he saying that "profit" is a dirty word? The Government is making profits on its enterprises and having them returned to it by way of a dividend, yet somehow the honourable member seems to think that there is something wrong with that. Let me say that to the extent that we can improve the profitability of our Government-owned enterprises, we will. We would prefer to get money that way than to take it out of the pockets of the people, as the honourable member's colleagues in Victoria are doing now.

**Mr Beanland:** Electricity went up because of you.

**Mr De LACY:** If the honourable member is referring to the Queensland Electricity Commission and to the extent that it has increased its returns to the Government, I point out to him that the commission has done so without increasing electricity charges. In fact, in the last three years, electricity charges have decreased substantially in real terms. This State is running its enterprises properly. The Government is doing the sorts of things that the so-called business experts opposite could never do. Now that they are sitting on the opposite side of the House, they are bemoaning the fact that we are receiving increased revenue from our Government-owned enterprises.

The balance of the increase in State revenue was a normal increase in revenue which comes from a growing economy and a growing population. I can summarise that part of our Budget by saying that the Queensland Government has a commitment to fiscal discipline and a commitment to social responsibility. Getting the balance between the two is what it is all about. I think the people of Queensland are starting to recognise that this Government has got it right. In fact, I think they did recognise that because, during very tough economic times, the Government was re-elected with the same majority as it had three years ago. Perhaps some members of the Opposition are a bit silly, but the people of Queensland are not silly.

Again, I thank everybody for their contributions to the Budget debate. Next week, the Estimates will be debated and everybody will have an opportunity to learn about what goes on in each of the portfolios of this Government. People never had an opportunity to do that when the National Party was in power. The members of the Opposition have very short memories. When they were in power, they afforded the Opposition of the day none of the opportunities that the Government now affords them. Members opposite went through the election campaign squealing and moaning that they had not had an opportunity to debate the Budget. Now they have an opportunity to debate the Budget. The Government did the Opposition a great service by denying it the opportunity to debate the Budget, because every time members of the Opposition stand up they make fools of themselves. It is universally recognised that the Budget which I reintroduced today is the leading Budget for the leading State.

Motion agreed to.

## PENALTIES AND SENTENCES BILL

**Hon. D. M. WELLS** (Murrumba—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts) (9.48 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill for an Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to sentencing of offenders.”

Motion agreed to.

### First Reading

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

### Second Reading

**Hon. D. M. WELLS** (Murrumba—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts) (9.49 p.m.): I move—

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

For the greater convenience of honourable members, since this Bill has previously been presented to this House, I move that the speech which I table be incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

As members of this honourable House may recall, I introduced a Penalties and Sentences Bill on 6 August which was scheduled for debate on 25 August, but due to this house being dissolved consequent upon elections being called, the Bill lapsed.

I now seek to re-introduce the Penalties and Sentences Bill 1992.

For most of this century, all provisions relating to the imposition and administration of sentences which may be imposed on people convicted of criminal offences have been scattered across a variety of enactments; the Criminal Code, the Justices Act, the Corrective Services Act, the Penalty Units Act and the Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act.

Furthermore, as different sentencing provisions were introduced into different Parliaments at different times, sentencing provisions were drafted in language which was not consistent, resulting in a variety of enactments with inconsistent administrative and enforcement schemes.

As part of this Government's continuing commitment to ensuring that all Queenslanders have a criminal justice system that is comprehensive, consistent and designed to come to grips with contemporary law and orders issues, the penalties and sentences Bill marks a new stage in the modernisation of Queensland's criminal law.

The Bill which I am pleased to present to this honourable House today consolidates all types of penalties and sentences into one enactment, which contains a number of significant reforms in order to meet a rapidly changing Queensland society and which, as far as can be achieved in a criminal statute, is expressed in a uniform and more readily understood fashion than the confusion of enactments couched in archaic language that this Bill replaces.

There are a number of significant reforms contained in the Bill.

For the first time in this State, governing principles are provided to which sentencing courts must pay regard in imposing sentences on offenders.

Sentencing guidelines are also provided by the Bill which will seek to guide the courts of all criminal jurisdictions towards applying common criteria so that a higher degree of conformity and consistency may be achieved in sentences imposed throughout our State.

Various community and professional groups consulted during the development of this Bill expressed considerable support for the consolidation of all sentencing provisions in one Bill and have generally endorsed the governing principles.

Undoubtedly the most controversial reform contained in this Bill is the introduction of a new sentencing option to be called the indefinite sentence.

This will be potentially applicable to any person convicted of a violent offence, a term which also encompasses a number of serious sexual offences.

The indefinite sentence is an innovative but just way of ensuring that violent offenders will not be automatically released back into the community at the end of a fixed period of imprisonment.

Instead, after an offender has been found guilty of a violent offence, provision is made for the sentencing court to consider the risk of serious physical harm to the community if an indefinite sentence was not imposed.

Should a court conclude that an offender does pose such a risk, the court can impose an indefinite period of imprisonment.

Subject to the protection of the appeal process, the only way that an indefinite sentence can be concluded is if the court that passed the sentence itself subsequently determines that the prisoner no longer poses a risk of serious physical harm to the community which justifies retention of the indefinite sentence.

In those circumstances, the court will impose a fixed term of imprisonment instead of the indefinite sentence.

The offender will not automatically be released however, but will be subject to the usual corrective services commission staged release process to ensure effective and fair transitional monitoring of the offender from custody to liberty.

This Government makes no apology for breaking new ground in the criminal law sentencing process to ensure that the Queensland community is given adequate protection from offenders who, having committed a violent offence, pose a risk of serious physical harm to the community at large.

Another reform contained in the Bill is the introduction of an intensive correction order.

Intensive correction is particularly designed to be applicable where, in other circumstances, a period of imprisonment of up to 12 months may be the only other appropriate sentence.

However, the intensive correction order, while not automatically sending the offender to prison, is effectively a sentence of imprisonment which is served in the community and not in a prison.

The order will impose very strict conditions of surveillance and attendance on the offender to ensure that the offender makes appropriate restitution—in one form or another—for the crime committed.

In the event of the offender behaving appropriately under the conditions provided in an intensive correction order, not only does the offender have the opportunity of rehabilitation within the community, the community itself is spared the considerable expense of having a citizen unproductively imprisoned.

Thus this order fills a gap between straightforward community service at the lower end of the scale and imprisonment at the higher end of the scale.

Another significant reform contained in the Bill is the re-introduction of the suspended sentence option.

Originally provided in the criminal code, about twenty years ago the suspended sentence was effectively removed as a viable sentencing tool available to courts.

While there did remain in the criminal code a much diluted form of suspended sentence, it has in practice proved to be ineffective and appears to have largely fallen into disuse.

The re-introduction of the suspended sentence further enlarges the armoury of sentencing options available to courts which may impose a considerable punishment on an offender which stops short of depriving the offender of liberty, employment and effective rehabilitation within the community.

However, should the offender not grasp the chance being offered by suspended imprisonment, and commits another offence during the course of the suspended sentence, the appropriate court is empowered to imprison the offender forthwith. Thus the suspended sentence is a final terrible warning that the courts will now be able to employ reforms have been made to fine option orders to ensure that, as far as possible, a person who has been sentenced to pay a fine will not, as a result of genuine hardship which prevents payment of the fine, be imprisoned.

Criminological studies have shown that a significant number of people held in our prisons are there as a result of fine default.

Not only does imprisonment have an obviously damaging effect on the future and employment prospects of the offender, it costs the community thousands of dollars a year per prisoner.

In order to assist with the rehabilitation of offenders, and to prevent the enormous drain on Queensland's finances, the fine option order has been developed as a means by which, in genuine cases of hardship, a fine may be converted to community service thereby forcing the prisoner to return something of value to the community against which he or she had offended.

Very briefly described, the scheme provided by the Bill requires that a court imposing a fine on an offender must immediately advise the offender that he or she may apply for a fine option order.

If on the offender's application it appears to the court that the offender is unable to pay the fine, or if paid, would impose significant financial hardship on the offender or the offender's family, and the offender is a suitable person to perform community service, the court may impose a fine option order substituting a maximum of ten hours community service for each penalty unit of the fine imposed.

A penalty unit is currently set at \$60.00.

However, in the event that an offender declines to make an application for a fine option order at the time of the court's sentence, but later fails to pay the fine within the time allowed, provision is made to permit the offender to apply to the court, up to and including the point at which a warrant of commitment has been issued and executed on the offender, for a conversion of the original fine into a fine option order.

It is expected that by these provisions an offender who, for one reason or another, has a genuine reason for having failed to pay a fine is not immediately cast into prison without being given, even very late in the process, the opportunity to obtain a fine option order.

Before concluding, there is one reform contained in the Bill which does not strictly relate to sentences but which is of significance.

The Bill seeks to repeal section 299 of the Criminal Code which provides that an offender is not deemed to have killed a victim if the death of the victim does not occur within a year and a day of the cause of death.

Section 299 of the Criminal Code is effectively a restatement of a common law rule which originated when medical science was not sufficiently advanced to determine complex issues of causation of death.

That the rule has outlived its usefulness may be gauged by the following example; a victim is stabbed with an AIDS-infected needle, but does not die until two years later.

Both commonsense and the Queensland community would be outraged if, in such circumstances, the offender could not be put on trial for murder or manslaughter—depending on the circumstances of the case—simply because the victim survived for 2 years rather than one.

Furthermore, the repeal of section 299 brings Queensland into line with all other jurisdictions in Australia which have, or currently are in the process of, repealing similar provisions.

This Bill not only fulfils this Government's pre-election commitments to law and order, but also provides just, and where necessary stern, sentencing options which are logical, consistent and comprehensive.

I commend this Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Beanland, adjourned.

## **QUEENSLAND BUILDING SERVICES AUTHORITY**

### **Disallowance of Regulation**

**Mr SANTORO** (Clayfield—Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party) (9.50 p.m.): On 25 August, the Leader of the Liberal Party gave notice that the Queensland Building Services Authority Regulation 1992 tabled in this House on 4 August 1992 be disallowed. In Mrs Sheldon's absence, I now move—

“That the Queensland Building Services Authority Regulation 1992 tabled in this House on 4 August 1992, be disallowed.”

The State Government has launched another concerted attack on the free-enterprise-based building industry, which has served Queensland so well for the last 100 years. The Building Services Authority Regulation 1992 attacks the foundations of the subcontractor system through Labor's engineered attempts to overregulate the industries. Subbies are the backbone of the Queensland building industry. These regulations will hurt more than 70 000 Queensland subbies, who will now face an unnecessary invasion of privacy, a new layer of bureaucratic red tape and additional fees and charges when they are already struggling under the weight of the recession and a depressed building market. The Government's new charges will hit the smaller subcontractors hard. Individuals must pay a \$95 application fee, plus an annual fee of \$120. Companies, whether they be large or just small family concerns, must pay a \$200 application fee and an annual fee of \$242. This will raise up to \$20m for the Government to help fund its spiralling bureaucracy and will further disadvantage the first home buyer through higher costs.

In fact, at the end of the day, it is the home owner who will pay directly for this new bureaucracy. Builders predict that the compounded costs associated with these charges could add \$10,000 to \$15,000 to the cost of a \$100,000 new home. Is this Labor's idea of stimulating the building industry? Is this how the Government plans to help small business create jobs in the community? Is this how the Government plans to make building a home easier for young married couples, the young people about whom we heard members of the Government, particularly the new members, speak so much this evening? Labor has shown before how it can destroy a previously healthy economy through overgovernment, high taxes and hidden charges. The Treasurer has just stated that this Government is different, but the regulation that the Opposition seeks to have disallowed clearly proves that the Labor Party in Queensland is no different from the Labor Party of other States. This is the latest attempt by this Labor Government to join its failed colleagues in the south in sabotaging free enterprise with overregulation. This Government is sticking its nose in where it does not belong and attempting to fix something that is not broken.

The Opposition cannot argue against and in fact supports the need for a registration system for subcontractors to protect home buyers from shonky operators. Nobody on this side of the House would argue against that. However, once again the State Government has gone overboard. It has created a monster which will turn independent, small business people into employees or, worse still, jobless. The employees will then be forced to join the Building Workers Industrial Union, which the Opposition suspects is the major reason for the introduction of this regulation. That is the real agenda for both the Federal and State Labor Governments. Anyone who has suffered under Labor over the past three years knows that this Government rarely does anything for altruistic reasons. The truth is that members of the building industry, particularly independent subcontractors, have largely avoided unionism. The building industry has operated efficiently and economically without union or other outside interference. Labor and its union bosses see an opportunity to end this position. They see the chance to have the Queensland building industry once and for all dominated by unionism.

In concert with the push by the Federal Government to make subcontractors members of the BWIU, as their status as small business people is stripped away, this State Government legislation will also force them to join unions. In the past—and rightly so—the building industry has rejected those overtures. However, it now faces the impossible task of fighting two levels of government and the might of the union

movement. It seems that the Labor Governments of Australia would rather destroy an industry than let it remain outside union control. That type of attack decries Labor's alleged support for more flexible employment agreements in the workplace. Through the cynical processes of Labor and the unions, independent subcontractors are either sent to the wall or forced to become the employees of builders. In turn, through Labor's long service leave levy, the enforced provision of supervisors for every job, superannuation, workers' compensation and training levies, those builders will face massive new costs. Only Labor would choose the middle of one of the worse recessions on record—"the recession that we had to have"—to attack one of the State's largest industries. To enforce long service leave provisions onto the building industry—as an afterthought, I might add—provides another straw to break the back of the building industry.

It is ridiculous to assume that this legislation will benefit Queensland's building industry. Although the Government claims that it will weed out the shonky operators, it will not. Those shonky operators, who are few in number, provided they pay the fees, will still be able to operate. Meanwhile, legitimate operators are hit with waves of new taxes and charges. Those taxes and charges will send many small subcontractors to the wall. Where will those once independent subcontractors go? They will join more than 130 000 other Queenslanders on Labor's dole queues. As major builders are forced to become smaller in order to cut back on the Government-induced costs, and independent subcontractors are forced to join regulated unions or the ranks of the unemployed, the big losers will be the struggling building industry and the people of Queensland who will be forced to pay more for that great Australian dream, a home.

In the end, Queensland will lose. After 100 years of growth and progress on the back of one of the most efficient building industries in Australia, under these new Labor regulations the future for this industry looks bleak. Some people may have seen the Government advertisements that claim that changes have been made to the regulations and that now everything is okay. Those advertisements are more attempts by Labor to con the subcontractors of Queensland. Although some cosmetic changes have been made to the application forms, subcontractors will still have to pay the charges, they will still have to pay for the supervisors, and they will still face, in total, added costs of between \$600 and \$700 a year.

Whenever Labor wants one of its bogus schemes to sound legitimate, it introduces a dispute resolution process. However, even this so-called dispute resolution process is a fraud. Appeals can still be made through the court system and they can still drag out for several years. I suspect that Labor would cherish that thought. It would cherish watching more businesses go broke. This legislation is an example of Labor's blundering ineptitude in dealing with industries that it does not understand yet still wants to control. The real danger to private enterprise is that, even when the Government does not understand, it still wants to control, and it does not care how much it wrecks. The coalition condemns the Government's attempts to champion the cause of its union boss mates by destroying an industry that has served this State so well. The Government should admit that it is a mistake to introduce these regulations, and it should support the coalition moves to have them thrown out.

This legislation is another example of the inability of the Deputy Premier and former Housing Minister, Tom Burns, to follow through. As we have seen with the swimming pool fencing laws, and now with the subcontractors' regulations, the Deputy Premier is much better at talking about fishing in Moreton Bay than he is at bringing well thought-out and constructive legislation to this House. Generally, his half-baked attempts cause more problems than they solve. This regulation is no exception. No doubt, the Premier has realised Mr Burns' shortcomings as well. After the election, in the Cabinet reshuffle, Mr Burns was removed from his control of the Department of Housing and Local Government.

**Mrs Woodgate:** Perhaps at his own request.

**Mr SANTORO:** Irrespective of how the reshuffle occurred, everybody is happy that the Deputy Premier is no longer in control of that department. We all hear the pathetic displays by the Deputy Premier. He tries to come across as everybody's little mate, as everybody's little champion—whether it is the little mate of the fellow struggling in the bush, or the little mate of the fellow struggling—

**Mr Johnson:** He hasn't got any mates in the bush.

**Mr SANTORO:** I take that interjection from my honourable colleague. I am quite happy to accept that the Honourable the Deputy Premier does not have many mates. In fact, a tangible demonstration of how badly these building regulations have affected the Government is Ray Barber, who lost the seat of Noosa.

**Mr Barton** interjected.

**Mr SANTORO:** The honourable member for Waterford should ask his builder mates at Noosa, the people with whom he had so much to do before he became a member of this place. He should ask those people how their former member, and I stress—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr SANTORO:** Mr Speaker, I am being provoked, but in this case I can honestly say that I do not need your protection from that pack of lightweights from the Government side of the House. They have a long way to go before they make me concerned in any way about what they are saying. However, Mr Barton, Mrs Woodgate and all the other Government members who are interjecting should go to Noosa. I am not having a go at Mr Barber. He was a decent fellow. I am happy to say that he was one of the really decent Labor parliamentarians. However, he had tremendous difficulty explaining at public meeting after public meeting the relevance and the significance of the regulations that we are debating, and how they would assist the building industry. Members of the Labor Party, including the former member for Noosa, had real difficulties in explaining the relevance of the legislation. In the end, informed opinion—

**Mr Johnson:** It is another tax.

**Mr SANTORO:** It is another tax. However, informed opinion in the Noosa area is that this issue cost Mr Barber his seat. I go on record as saying that I am not calling Mr Barber ignorant. I am not suggesting that he is somebody who is easily conned or fooled, but clearly he had difficulty explaining this travesty.

**Mr Beanland** interjected.

**Mr SANTORO:** That is correct. Tom Burns sold the former member for Noosa a dummy, just as Government members are being sold dummies. Eventually, they will go down the same track as the previous member for Noosa. Tonight, I am talking about what this Government is doing to the building industry. As I said, public meeting after public meeting has left the State Government in no doubt as to the impractical and damaging impact that those changes will have on the industry. Those public meetings were also largely shunned by the Government. That is something that this Government

should remember. Those public meetings were shunned by the Minister and the Premier, and by election candidates who walked out of those meetings when they became embarrassed. Of course, there is the exception of one meeting at Noosa at which the Deputy Premier bet an irate subcontractor \$100 that sitting Labor member Ray Barber would easily win his seat despite the backlash against Labor by the building industry on the Sunshine Coast. I hope that the Deputy Premier has paid up on that bet.

**Mrs Woodgate** interjected.

**Mr SANTORO:** The honourable member for Kurwongbah reckons that she has won \$100. I told her yesterday that I always pay up if I lose a bet. I am happy to oblige her in the very near future. If she is really mean, I will even add a little interest for the past six weeks. As I said, I hope that Mr Burns has paid up, because that subcontractor needs every dollar that he can get to pay for this Government's ill-thought-out charges and fees.

The Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast rely on the building industry for thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in income for every resident. Thousands of Brisbane families also rely on that industry. The State Labor Government has treated the building industry with utter contempt over these regulations. The Queensland Liberal Party and the coalition are vehemently opposed to the new regulations and moves this disallowance of regulation motion in the firm belief that, whereas some register of subcontractors is needed, this massive attack on the industry is unnecessary and destructive.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Is there a seconder for the motion?

**Mr FITZGERALD** (Lockyer) (10.03 p.m.): It gives me pleasure to second this motion and support the remarks made by the honourable member for Clayfield.

**Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH** (Chatsworth—Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning) (10.04 p.m.), in reply: Having heard the member for Clayfield, I must say that our Government supports its regulations.

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

AYES, 29

Beanland	Turner
Borbidge	Veivers
Cooper	Watson
Davidson	
Elliott	
FitzGerald	
Gamin	
Gilmore	
Grice	
Healy	
Hobbs	
Horan	
Johnson	
Lester	
Lingard	
Mitchell	
Perrett	
Quinn	
Randell	
Rowell	
Santoro	
Simpson	<i>Tellers:</i>
Slack	Springborg
Stoneman	Laming

NOES, 46

Ardill	Mackenroth
Barton	Milliner
Beattie	Nunn
Bennett	Nuttall
Bird	Palaszczuk
Braddy	Pearce
Bredhauer	Power
Briskey	Purcell
Budd	Pyke
Burns	Robertson
Campbell	Rose
Casey	Spence
Clark	Sullivan J. H.
Comben	Sullivan T. B.
D'Arcy	Szczerbanik
De Lacy	Vaughan
Dollin	Warner
Edmond	Welford
Elder	Wells
Fenlon	Woodgate
Gibbs	
Hamill	<i>Tellers:</i>
Hayward	Pitt
Hollis	Livingstone

Resolved in the negative.

The House adjourned at 10.11 p.m.